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SPECTRUM

SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2021

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CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | VOL. 141 NO. 162 | 16 PAGES | ₹6.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2021-2023 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

/THETRIBUNECHD /THETRIBUNECHD WWW.TRIBUNEINDIA.COM

## Not hiding deaths, report claiming toll 7 times higher speculative: Govt

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

Rejecting as speculative a report in The Economist claiming five to seven times excess deaths in India over and above the official figures, the government today said the country was following the WHO's ICD-10 codes for mortality reporting.

The Health Ministry said it had been transparent in Covid management and in May last, the ICMR had issued guidelines for appropriate recording of Covid deaths in India as per the ICD-10 mortality coding.

As the Congress too sought a judicial probe into alleged excess deaths in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and UP, the

Oppn: Probe deaths in UP, Gujarat & MP



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### REVISED GST RATES

Drug/item	Old rate	New rate
Remdesivir	12%	5%
Tocilizumab	5%	Nil
Amphotericin B	5%	Nil
Testing kits	12%	5%
Medical O2	12%	5%
Sanitiser	18%	5%
Oximeter	12%	5%
Ambulance	28%	12%

government said, "The Health Ministry has regularly emphasised with states the need for a robust reporting mechanism for monitoring district-wise cases and deaths on a daily basis. The states consistently reporting lower

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

### GST cut on Covid drugs, equipment

NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

The GST Council on Saturday slashed tax on Covid-19 drugs, medical oxygen and oxygen concentrators, but ignored the demand for cut in tax on vaccines.

It slashed to nil the GST on tocilizumab and black fungus medicine amphotericin B. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the GST on vaccines remained unchanged at 5 per cent since these were being given free to the people. But finance ministers of Opposition-ruled states submitted notes of dissent. —TNS



FOR THOSE  
SEEKING A  
CAREER  
WITH A PULSE



## War histories to be made public, but many caveats

AJAY BANERJEE

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

With three full-blown wars, a conflict in Kargil and several path-breaking operations like the dramatic capture of Siachen Glacier in 1984 remaining cloaked in secrecy, the Ministry of Defence on Saturday approved a policy on archiving, declassification and compilation and publication of histories of wars and military operations.

The requirement of having war histories written with a clear-cut policy on declassification of war records was recommended by NN Vohra Committee and Kargil Review Committee. The declassifica-

### PANEL TO TAKE CALL ON SENSITIVE OPS

- For past ops, the panel will take a call on case-to-case basis
- It is unclear if papers related to Op Meghdoot (Siachen), Op Bluestar and Op Pawan (Sri Lanka) will be declassified

tion will be done through the history division of the MoD. A committee headed by Joint Secretary, MoD, and comprising representatives of the Services, MEA, MHA and other organisations will compile the histories. The MoD says the committee will be formed within two years of the completion of a war.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

### Badal Sr summoned in Kotkapura case

CHANDIGARH: The ADGP Yadav-led SIT probing Kotkapura police firing has summoned SAD patron Parkash Singh Badal on June 16. Badal was the CM when the police opened fire on protesters in October 2015. The SIT is to ascertain as to who gave the orders to open fire, whether the cops fired in self-defence and if standard operating procedure was followed. —TNS



### NEW BEGINNINGS

Beginning of a secular, federal democratic revolution

Parkash Singh Badal, SAD PATRON

at a joint press conference with BSP general secretary

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Two cops, 2 civilians die in Sopore terror attack

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12 Two policemen and as many civilians were killed and at least three others injured when some militants fired upon security forces in Sopore town of Baramulla district, officials said.

The militants opened fire on a joint party of the CRPF and the police near Main Chowk, Sopore, around noon. Constables Waseem and Showkat succumbed to their injuries.

Sub-Inspector Mukesh Kumar and SPO Danish are undergoing treatment. The injured were rushed to a nearby hospital from where a policeman was taken to the Army's 92 Base Hospital. The security forces



Cop Waseem Ahmad's relatives mourn his death in Srinagar. PTI

have cordoned off the area.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the cowardly act would not go unpunished. —PTI

LASHKAR BEHIND ATTACK: DGP PG

### HP transporters, hoteliers reject relief as 'meagre'

SHIMLA/DHARAMSALA, JUNE 12 The financial package announced by the Himachal Pradesh Cabinet on Friday failed to cheer the pandemic-hit hoteliers and transporters.

Rajesh Parashar, state Private Bus Operators' Union chief, said the "meagre" ₹40 crore package won't be of any help for the transport sector, "facing the worst crisis ever".

Another transporter said the interest subvention scheme won't serve any purpose as their accounts had turned NPA. Similarly, a hotelier said only a handful of hotel owners would be able to avail benefits of the interest subvention scheme. INSIDE

alists have been trying it all.

The migrant workers had left for their native places, mainly in UP, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, around two months ago when strict restrictions were imposed in view of the second wave. They appear to be reluctant to return now, apprehending inconvenience due to the lockdown. "We hired two private buses to bring workers from western UP."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Wages in advance to woo back workforce

RAVINDER SAINI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, JUNE 12

Eyeing to scale up production following relaxation in Covid curbs, industrialists in Rohtak and Jhajjar's Bahadurgarh have been wooing migrant workers back with a slew of sops. From depositing advance in their bank accounts to hiring private buses for their free return journey, the industry

Labour crisis hits Rohtak, Bahadurgarh factories



UNLOCK 2.0: Migrant workers in a bus hired by industrialists. FILE

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# Base eroded, 'faceless' BSP may be of little help to SAD

Both parties facing crisis, pact unlikely to sway Dalit voter, feel experts

VISHAV BHARTI  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

Amid eroded base, credibility crisis and faceless organisation, can the BSP sway Dalit voters in the favour of Shiromani Akali Dal? Experts have their doubts.

As Punjab has the highest percentage of Dalit population among all states, it saw the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) as a new hope in 1990s. The party won nine constituencies in low-voting Assembly elections in 1992. The party had again put up a good show in the 1996 Lok Sabha elections, when it polled around 12 per cent votes in alliance with the SAD.

But after the SAD joined hands with the BJP in 1997, not much options were left for the BSP and since then, it played the role of a spoiler for other parties, especially the Congress. The party had been contesting all 117 constituencies in the state, which would often benefit the SAD. Even doubts were raised about BSP chief Mayawati's seriousness about the party in Punjab. As a result, the party kept on losing promising leaders to the SAD or Congress.



## VOTE SHARE DOWN TO 1.5%

- The BSP's vote share fell to 1.5% in the last Assembly elections from around 12% in the 1996 LS poll when it was in alliance with SAD
- It has been 25 years that the party has not sent even a single leader to the Assembly
- It had won nine constituencies in the 1992 Assembly polls, but after SAD joined hands with the BJP in 1997, BSP played the role of a spoiler for other parties, especially Congress

## OPPORTUNISTIC ALLIANCE, WON'T LAST

**It is a desperate attempt by the Akalis to save their existence. This opportunistic alliance is not going to last long, as had happened in the past.** Sunil Jakhar, PPCC CHIEF



Finally, AAP gave a major blow to the BSP in the last Assembly elections by sweeping away its cadre as well as the base. As a result, the party came down to 1.5 per cent vote share and it has been 25 years that the party has not sent even a single leader to the Assembly. Experts had started looking at the BSP as another 'Left party' in the state.

Experts feel that the SAD-BSP alliance is not going to make much difference as

far as electoral politics is concerned as both parties have been dealing with their own crisis.

"The BSP was facing an existential crisis and at the lowest point in the history, the SAD was finding it difficult to survive," says Prof Jagrup Sekhon, former professor of political science at GNDU, Amritsar.

He said the past practice revealed that the BSP had been acting as a sleeper cell of the BJP. "Whenever there is need, they awake them. However, the local leadership of the party has its own explanations for the past decisions," he said.

BSP state president Jasvir Singh Garhi said after the SAD formed a pact with the BJP, they were left with no other option but to go solo in the past elections. "We have always longed for an alliance but the situation was never in our favour," he said.

Dr Pramod Kumar, an expert on electoral politics, looked at the development as "pragmatically" positive. "It sends the right signal as one party represents Dalits, the other upper castes. So, it fades caste fault lines," he added.

The police have registered a case against Prem Garg, a BJP leader (former district secretary of the party) and an active RSS associate, for allegedly sexually exploiting a Dalit girl in the Budhlada area of Mansa district following a complaint by the victim's sister. The girl, in her mid-20s, had tried to commit suicide.

The victim's sister in her complaint mentioned that Garg, a municipal councilor of the Budhlada Nagar Council and a BJP leader, had taken pictures of the girl in compromising positions and blackmailed her to establish physical relations with him, else he would release her pictures on public platforms.

The victim had allegedly consumed poison in a bid to end her life, but her family managed to admit her to a hospital where she is undergoing treatment.

Surendra Lamba, SSP, Mansa, said, "We have registered a case against the accused under Sections 354, 306 and 116 of the IPC and other relevant Sections of the SC/ST Act. I have deputed a DSP-rank officer to investigate the matter following which, if need be, we will make an arrest." — TNS

## BJP leader booked for sexual assault

MANSA, JUNE 12

The police have registered a case against Prem Garg, a BJP leader (former district secretary of the party) and an active RSS associate, for allegedly sexually exploiting a Dalit girl in the Budhlada area of Mansa district following a complaint by the victim's sister. The girl, in her mid-20s, had tried to commit suicide.

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Navjot Singh Sidhu's hoardings have come up alongside those of Capt Amarinder Singh's in Abohar.

## Capt missing on Cong's 'Mission 2022' hoardings

MUKTSAR, JUNE 12

Amid a political crisis in the state Congress, some hoardings of 'Mission 2022' of the ruling party have come up in Malout town in which both Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and PPCC chief Sunil Jakhar are missing. Strangely, a big photograph of former PPCC chief-cum-MP Partap Singh Bajwa can be seen along with a picture of Rahul Gandhi on the hoardings.

Besides, the photos of former PMs Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, AICC chief Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are placed on the top of the hoardings. On this, Baljit Singh Chahal, spokesperson of the PPCC, said, "The Congress workers of Malout and Lambi



A Congress hoarding in Malout.

Assembly segments have installed these hoardings with my photo on it. Basically, the Congressmen in these constituencies are feeling sidelined. We are not against any leader. But it is a fact that Capt Amarinder Singh, after contesting the Assembly election from Lambi, did not come here for even once. The party leadership did not even appoint any representative of the Lambi Assembly segment." — TNS

## SAD mocks Sidhu's separate billboards

ABO哈尔, JUNE 12

A hoarding of Navjot Singh Sidhu put up near another Congress hoarding carrying the picture of Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has raised eyebrows in PPCC chief Sunil Jakhar's hometown Abohar.

Rajinder Deepa, an SAD ticket aspirant from the constituency, said the Akalis had formed a poll alliance with the BSP, further enhancing their chances to win the 2022 election and by putting up such hoardings of Sidhu and sidelining the ones with the Chief Minister's photo, the Congress leaders had confirmed that they were a divided house and the patch-up exercise had completely failed. The situation suited the Akali Dal, he claimed. — OC

## Don't politicise sacrilege cases, parties urged

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, JUNE 12

Representatives of various Sikh organisations have unanimously decided to boycott parties using desecration cases for furthering their political cause in the next Assembly elections.

They took the decision during a virtual seminar attended by over 100 Sikhs from India and abroad today.

Sikh bodies to boycott those 'misusing' issue

## SHO slaps vendor in Bathinda, suspended

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, JUNE 12

Talwandi Sabo police station SHO Avtar Singh has been placed under suspension after a video of him slapping a fruit vendor went viral on the social media.

The Station House Officer, along with some policemen, was seen on the roadside when he repeatedly slapped the vendor without provocation. Assistant Sub-Inspector Buta Singh, accompanying the SHO, too slapped the vendor.

In the past, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh had issued a warning after videos of police officials thrashing people surfaced on the social media.

Move after video goes viral on social media

Action has been initiated against him as well.

SSP Bhupinder Singh Virk said after receiving the video, he placed the SHO under suspension as such behaviour was unacceptable.

In the past, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh had issued a warning after videos of police officials thrashing people surfaced on the social media.

## Probe rules out drug angle in kabaddi coach's murder

Protesters block highway for third day

was registered against five persons by name and 15-20 unidentified persons.

He said during investigation, it came out that the cause of the clash between the two groups was the alleged theft of roosters by some of the accused from the house of Harvinder's paternal uncle.

In the probe, it had been established that there was no drug angle or rivalry due to

any drug-related issue in this incident. No drug-related FIR was registered against any of the accused from the village. On the basis of the statements of witnesses and videos, more accused have been nominated in the case taking the total accused in the FIR to 18.

The SSP said a special investigation team had been constituted. Disciplinary action had been taken against head constable Manpreet Singh and two Punjab Home Guard personnel for dereliction of duty. — TNS



AAP workers protest in Mansa on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## AAP waves black flags at Dharamsot

TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Scholarship 'scam': Minister says already given clean chit by panel

indicated him in an inquiry.

They asked Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh to remove him from the Cabinet. Later, Dharamsot said the committee set up by the CM had already given him a clean chit.

In Bathinda, AAP members staged a protest and burnt Dharamsot's effigy. Party MLA Rupinder Kaur Ruby said amid mudslinging between the Centre and state government, the future of 2 lakhs SC students was in jeopardy. She dared the government to release a white paper on the matter so that "truth behind the scam could come out in the open for everyone to see".

## Jobless teachers protest 'lathicharge', to step up stir



Unemployed teachers burn the effigy of the state government in Sangrur. TRIBUNE PHOTO

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, JUNE 12

To protest against the alleged lathicharge during their protest in Patiala on June 8, unemployed members of five different unions under the banner of the Joint Front of Unemployed staged a protest in Sangrur and burnt the effigy of the state government on Saturday.

"On June 8, we had gone to gherao the residence of CM Capt Amarinder Singh in Patiala to protest against the failure of the state govern-

ment in giving us jobs, but the police lathicharged us. We will not lift our protest till we are given government jobs," said Sukhwinder Singh Dhillwan, president, BED and TET-Pass Union.

They started a protest march from Singla's residence and burnt the effigy of the government on the main road. "Our meeting has been fixed with the senior authorities on June 14. We have decided to again gherao the residence of the CM in Patiala if the government fails to accept our long-pending demand for jobs," said Dhillwan.

Justice Bahri added.

The Bench, during the course of hearing, was told that the applicant-petitioners were not able to register themselves as the examination fee of Rs 3,000 per department for the general category was on the higher side. In all, posts in nine departments had been advertised.

Gupta added a public notice dated April 27 was issued by the Punjab Public Service Commission after the issuance of advertisements to reduce the examination fee. A decision was also taken to have joint competitive examination for all nine departments and to refund the excess fee paid by other candidates. — TNS

## Day after weapon seizure, police trace supply route

AMRITSAR, JUNE 12

A day after the seizure of a huge quantity of automatic foreign-made weapons by the State Special Operation Cell (SSOC), the Punjab Police are trying to ascertain the route from where the weapons were smuggled into India.

A preliminary probe pointed out that the weapons were smuggled from Pakistan for carrying out terrorist activities in Punjab. The prime suspect, Darmanjot Singh, aka Darman Kahlon, has links with banned terrorist organisations like the Babbar Khalqa International and Khalqa

Hunt on for courier who delivered weapons



The sources in the SSOC said the police were on a manhunt to nab the first

## Man who helped gangsters nabbed

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

The Punjab Police today arrested a Haryana-based man whose credentials and documents were used to hire a flat for hiding slain gangsters-turned-drug smugglers Jaipal Bhullar and Jaspreet Singh, alias Jassi, in Kolkata.

The arrested person has been identified as Sumit Kumar, a resident of Meham in Haryana. The development came three days after Jaipal and Jaspreet were neutralised by the STF West Bengal Police after they fired on a police party when they raided their flat in Kolkata.

His ID used by Jaipal to rent flat in Kolkata

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Counter Intelligence and Organised Crime Control Unit (OCCU), Amit Prasad said they had managed to nab Sumit, a close associate-business partner of Bharat Kumar, who helped Jaipal and Jaspreet in escaping from Morena, Gwalior, and arranged a hideout for them in Kolkata, after they killed ASIs Bhagwan Singh and Dalwinder Singh of the Jagraon police at the grain market, Jagraon, on May 15. — TNS

## HC allows candidates to take SDE recruitment test



denied participation in the selection process merely on the ground that they had not registered themselves.

"Since the examination is now scheduled for June 15, direction is given to the petitioners to participate in examination after getting themselves registered and depositing the fee as per public notice dated April 27 by June 11. Thereafter, they will be allowed to participate in the examination,"

## A first, all Bhikhi residents jabbed

PAYAL, JUNE 12  
All eligible beneficiaries of Bhikhi village in Ludhiana have been vaccinated, claimed DC Varinder Sharma.

Officials led by ADC (D) Sandeep Kumar and SDM Mankawal Singh Chahal, besides the elected members of the village civic body, were recognised for the effort during a function held here today.

The village panchayat has thus emerged pioneer among civic bodies eligible for a special grant of Rs 10 lakh, announced by CM Capt

Village to get ₹10 lakh special grant

Amarinder Singh earlier for achieving the target. MLA Lakhvir Singh Lakha said it was due to the efforts of the ground-level healthcare workers and the panchayat members that all 905 eligible beneficiaries of Bhikhi village were persuaded and vaccinated. The SDM said the target was achieved due to coordinated efforts of officials led by tehsildar Vikasdeep Singh and BDPO Gurvinder Kaur, who were now out to get vaccinated all residents of other villages too. — OC

## Remove GST on all Covid items, demands Manpreet

Flays bid to get revenue from furnaces for crematoriums

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

Calling the Covid-19 crisis a once-in-a-century calamity, Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal today said the GST's Group of Ministers (GoM) should stop acting like a "shahenshah" of yesteryears and instead let compassion speak through its decisions.

Stating that all Covid-related goods must be zero-rated during the pandemic, he,



Manpreet Singh Badal, Finance Minister

### COVID METER

Cases	979
Critical	195
Active	14,064
Deaths	56

### DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Amritsar	99	6
Ludhiana	92	2
Jalandhar	91	2
Bathinda	79	3
Hoshiarpur	75	3
Total	5,86,947	15,503

the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha has been excluded from the GoM," he said.

He also urged the Chairperson to operationalise the position of Vice-Chairper-

son of the GST Council. "It should also have its own secretariat and it should be empowered to adjudicate on a dispute resolution mechanism where there are divergent views," he said.

Criticising the attempt to garner revenue from furnaces for crematoriums, he said this category should be even above the exemption category. "Is this how the Centre wishes to collect revenues?" he asked.

"The imposition of GST on Covid-preventive materials, starting with GST on vaccines and items such as masks, PPEs, sanitisers, medical grade oxygen, testing kits, ventilators, bipap machine, and pulse oximeters among others reflect insensitivity and lack of compassion," he said.

He cautioned that the attempt to pick and choose exemptions on the grounds of inverted duty structure or cheaper imports would end up destroying the very foundation of the GST.

## 'Harassed' at school, 17-year-old hangs self

MOGA, JUNE 12  
Depressed over alleged harassment by sports teacher and principal's daughter, a 17-year-

old girl of a school at Mehra village in the district has died by suicide, the police said today.

SI Lakhvir Singh said in a

suicide note, the girl, a Canadian citizen, accused her sports teacher Amandeep Singh Chahal and principal's daughter of driving her to suicide. Her body was found hanging from the ceiling fan of a room at her grandfather's house. — TNS

## To eradicate menace, consider declaring child marriage void: HC

SAURABH MALIK

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



Order on plea by minors in live-in relationship

Thought's case" has already given a suggestion to the Centre and the state government to follow the decision of the State of Karnataka, which declared child marriage void ab initio through an amendment....

This suggestion of the SC was given in 2017. But the same is yet to attract the attention of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh," Justice Bajaj asserted.

He also made it clear that a previous judgment on the protection issue did not take into consideration the petition's maintainability. The assertion came after the petitioners' counsel argued that there was no physical intimacy between the petitioners till date as they were waiting to attain the

statutory marriageable age. As such, the relatives had no right to interfere in their life. In support of his arguments, the counsel placed reliance upon HC decisions.

Justice Bajaj asserted the judicial pronouncements relied upon by the petitioners were not applicable to the present case. Despite noticing that the girl was a minor in the judgments, the maintainability of the petitions, without proper representation of the minor girl, was not examined.

Also, the Supreme Court's latest order dated June 4 was not applicable to the present case.

Justice Bajaj added the girl, only 14 years and eight months old, was a minor. The boy, just over 20, was representing her, claiming himself to be the next friend of the minor. The writ petition was not signed by any of the petitioners. In support of the pleadings, only the boy's affidavit was filed. The entire blame was put on the girl's natural guardians. He was already accused in case of kidnapping the minor.

## Wife drowns in canal, man held

AMRITSAR, JUNE 12

A woman drowned after her husband allegedly pushed her and their 17-year-old daughter into the Uppar Bari Doab Canal near Bohru village on Saturday.

The victims were identified as Manjit Kaur (45) and Payal (17), both residents of Sultanwind village. A fire brigade

### Body of 17-yr-old daughter untraced

team and divers from the Harike barrage fished out Manjit's body, while there was no trace of Payal. The police have arrested Manjit's husband Ashok Kumar for murder, said Chatiwind police station SHO Manmeet Pal Singh, adding that Kumar, who used to do a menial job, suspected his daughter of having an affair. — TNS

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## Capt counters edu rank charge

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12  
Ridiculing the Delhi Deputy CM's allegation of a political conspiracy of the Centre and Punjab Government on the issue of school education ranking, CM Capt Amarinder Singh today termed it a clear case of the AAP crying foul in the face of its imminent wipeout from Punjab in the 2022 Assembly poll.

Reacting to Sisodia's allegation of a 'secret pact' between PM Narendra Modi and him, the CM said the AAP leadership was so obsessed with electoral politics that it saw poll conspiracies even in something as basic as school education.

"Come to Punjab and I will show you our schools," said Capt Amarinder to Sisodia, adding that the revamp of the state's schools was an exercise undertaken by his government as a top priority, and the Performance Grading Index released by the Union Education Minister recently reflected the success of those efforts. — TNS

## DELHI SCHOOLS EXPOSED

Sisodia's desperation is understandable as the rosy picture of Delhi schools portrayed by AAP has been exposed. Vijay Inder Singh, EDU MIN



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# Villagers clash with cops as youth dies after 'police torture'

SUMEDHA SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**GURUGRAM, JUNE 12** High drama was witnessed at Badkali village of Punhana here as residents clashed with the police and set their official vehicle on fire after the death of a local youth, allegedly due to torture by the Faridabad police.

Terming the allegations as baseless, the Faridabad police said the youth, identified as Junaid (22), was already a kidney patient. He along with others was detained for questioning in connection with an OLX fraud case and was released hale and hearty 12 days ago.

After the youth died at his home this morning, villagers took the body to the Hodal highway and staged a dharna. On getting information, the Nuh police reached the spot and asked the villagers to remove the body and restore traffic.

However, the situation turned tense when some protesters pelted stones at cops and damaged their vehicles. A virtual curfew was imposed at Punhana, with markets shut and tension gripping the area. The protesters were roaming in the streets till the filing of the report.

Family members of Junaid alleged that he was illegally detained without any FIR by the Faridabad police. He was brutally



A police vehicle which was set afire by protesters at Punhana on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

**WAS AMONG 6 DETAINED IN OLX FRAUD CASE**

- Deceased Junaid (22) of Badkali village, Punhana, and five others, including notorious criminal Shahid, were detained in connection with an OLX fraud case
- While Junaid and four others were released after questioning, Shahid remained in custody
- The deceased's family, however, alleged that he was brutally tortured and had not been keeping well since
- The youth's uncle alleged that Junaid's brother had paid ₹70,000 to cops to secure his release

**PLAN TO DISRUPT PEACE**

He was neither illegally detained nor tortured as is being alleged. The allegations and the protest is aimed at disrupting peace in the area. Faridabad police

thrashed in custody and they had to bribe policemen to secure his release.

"His brother paid Rs 70,000 to policemen to secure his release. He had not been keeping well since then and had swelling in feet and injury on back. We consulted a local doctor, but his condition suddenly worsened and he died due to internal

injuries," alleged Junaid's uncle Suleman.

The youth's family claimed that Junaid along with five others was going to a wedding in Rajasthan when he was detained from the border in connection with an OLX fraud.

"He was neither illegally detained nor tortured as is being alleged. His brothers and brother-in-law were

involved in a cyber economic fraud and nabbed following a complaint. We picked up everyone, including notorious criminal Shahid. We questioned them and except Shahid, all others, including Junaid, were allowed to go. The allegations and the protest are aimed at disrupting peace in the area," read a statement issued by the Faridabad police.

## 172 acres of Khori forest land encroached: Report

BIJENDRA AHLAWAT

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**FARIDABAD, JUNE 12**

With as many as 5,158 residential constructions, the ground status report, prepared by the Municipal Corporation Faridabad (MCF), has found a total land area of 172.10 acres under illegal occupation at Khori-Lakkadpur village here designated as forest land.

The MCF is to demolish all constructions here within six weeks in compliance with the recent order of the Supreme Court.

While the residential structures, which include pucca and kutch houses, are spread over 57.98 acres, these are said to be 33.69 per cent of the total land area.

With 430 constructions in the mixed land use category, the colony has 36 religious buildings and five educational institutions. A total of 80 shops (commercial) and two industrial units have also been found, along with around 877 vacant plots, according to the report prepared on the basis of the drone survey and imagery of the area.

A total of 32.06 acres is occupied by road network, it is added. The religious units include as many as 23 temples, 12 mosques and one church. Among the residential units,



Policemen at the entrance to Khori village. PHOTO: RAKESH KASHYAP

**RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES SPREAD ON 58 ACRES**

The residential structures, which include pucca and kutch houses, are spread over 57.98 acres. With 430 constructions in the mixed land use category, the colony has 36 religious buildings and five educational institutions. Eighty shops (commercial) and two industrial units have also been found along with 877 vacant plots.

only 1,968 houses have been found as pucca, while the rest are either semi-pucca or kutch. Three schools and all religious units are of pucca structure, it is added.

"Though the total units of all types of land use has been found to be 6,063, the population of the colony is expected to be not more than 30,000," said an official of the MCF.

Though no incident of protest by locals was reported today, it is learnt that some residents have either

started shifting or have already moved their valuables to houses of their kin in other localities and Delhi. Many are likely to relocate in the next couple of days, as the demolition is imminent and could take place next week, said sources.

Meanwhile, Jitender Kumar, an HCS officer, who has been appointed Joint Commissioner, MCF, has also been designated as competent authority to tackle the issues related to encroachment and demolition on the MCF land.

## Woman's body found hanging from shower rod, spouse booked

PANIPAT, JUNE 12

A 31-year-old woman was found hanging from the shower rod in the bathroom of her house in Model Town here early this morning. The police have booked three persons, including her husband, mother-in-law and father-in-law, for allegedly murdering the woman. The deceased was identified as Rachna, wife of Bhavesh Chawla.

After getting information

**FACED HARASSMENT, ALLEGES FATHER**

- Purushottam Mehta of Nilokheri, father of the deceased, in a complaint to the Model Town police, said his daughter had got married 10 years ago.
- He alleged that the father-in-law of his daughter, Shyam Sunder Chawla, had assaulted her two days ago.

from the police control room, cops reached the spot and found Rachna hanging with the shower rod. The door of the bathroom was found locked from inside. The police opened the door and recov-

### Three held in ATM theft case

PALWAL, JUNE 12

Claiming to have cracked the ATM theft case of Rs 36.54 lakh within 24 hours, the district police have arrested three persons in this regard.

An amount of Rs 27 lakh was also recovered. SP Deepak Gahlawat said while two of the accused, Neeraj and Mithun Kumar were employees of SIS Cash Service Private Limited, which had been given the contract of loading money into the ATM by the bank, the third accused, Bharat, was a friend of Neeraj. — TNS

ered the body and sent it for post-mortem examination.

A case has been registered against the husband, father-in-law and mother-in-law under Sections 302, 354 and 34 of the IPC. — TNS

### Boy succumbs; kin suspect honour killing

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**HISAR, JUNE 12**

The family of a 19-year-old youth, Shiv Kumar, who died during treatment at the medical college in Agroha town of Hisar, suspects foul play in the matter and alleged that it could be a case of honour killing.

The police said that Kumar, a resident of Surya Nagar, had eloped with a girl of the same locality on June 2. The police traced the duo from Delhi and handed them over to their families.

In her statement, the girl maintained that she had gone to her relatives' place on her free will. The family members of the youth refused to take him back.

The police stated that the youth had gone to stay with a friend after the family's rebuff. He fell from the terrace of his friend's house, resulting in injuries. He was rushed to a hospital.

Mandeep Singh, SHO, said that an uncle of the victim suspects foul play and had pointed a finger at the family members of the girl.

## Locate missing farmer or face protest: Jind residents to admn

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Hasn't returned home since Jan 26

**HELPLESS, MOTHER ISSUES APPEAL**

"I kept my family going when I lost my husband 14 years ago. But the disappearance of my son has broken me. All my efforts to find a clue about his whereabouts have remained unsuccessful till now. I appeal to the administration to help me locate my son. Santosh Devi (65), MOTHER OF BIJENDER SINGH

But there is no clue of him after that," Raj Singh, another farmer from Kandela, said.

Singh alleged that the government was not taking interest in locating the missing farmer. "He might be in jail or in some hospital with injuries. Even if some mishap has occurred, the family should be given a satisfactory reply. The village is upset with the government's apathetic attitude on the issue of locating him," he alleged.

BKU state spokesperson Chhaju Ram Kandela said that they have searched for Bijender at police stations in Delhi and Haryana. But the administration will let the villagers know about the location and status of the farmer," he said.

Deputy Commissioner Aditya Dahiya said that the family members and other villagers met him over the missing farmer. "I will talk to the Superintendent of Police and take appropriate action in the matter. The administration will let the villagers know about the location and status of the farmer," he said.

## SKM panel to look into complaint of verbal abuse

JHAIJAR, JUNE 12

A five-member woman committee of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) would look into a complaint regarding the verbal harassment of a woman during her volunteer stint at the Tikri border.

The woman had posted

messages on Twitter in this respect.

"Committees have been formed at all protest sites to look into the redress of any related complaints and to prevent any occurrence of harassment or any other violation. In the current case, a

formal complaint has been given to a five-member all-woman committee at the Tikri border. 9818119954 is the phone number where related issues can be raised," said a press note issued by the SKM leaders on Saturday. The SKM reiterates that it respects the rights of women protesters, wants their safety protected in all ways and welcomes their active participation in the current movement. The SKM has already stated that it will maintain zero-tolerance to any violation of safety. — TNS

## State logs 426 cases, 45 die

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

The state recorded 426 new Covid cases on Saturday while 45 persons succumbed to the virus. The active caseload stands at 5,186, of which 3,512 are in home isolation. A total of 944 persons recovered from the infection.

Meanwhile, 74,654 persons were inoculated today. Of these, 68,167 got their first dose while 6,487 received the second jab. — TNS

**Covid Meter**

COVID METER		
Cases	426	
Recovered	944	
Active	5,186	
Deaths	45	
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Sirsa	36	4
Hisar	40	8
Fatehabad	34	2
State total	7,651	8,949

## GST cut on ambulances

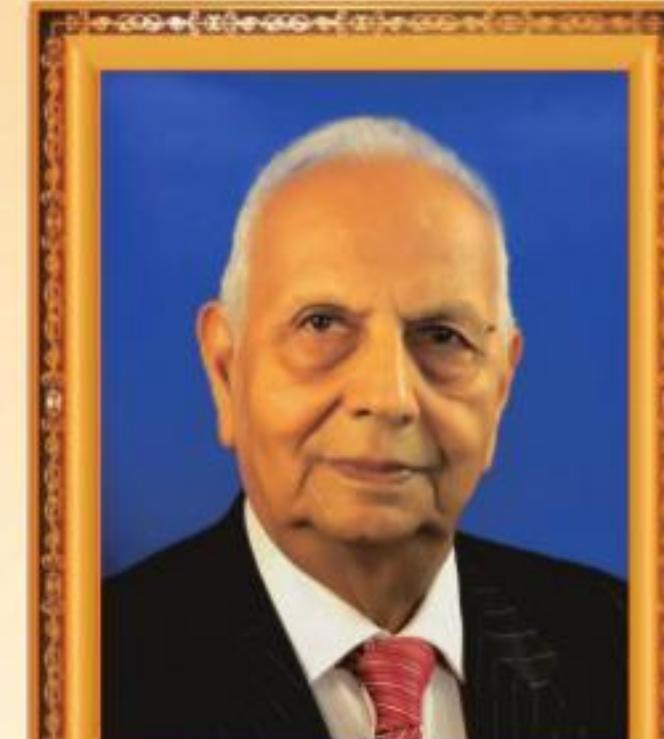
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

State Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala today said the Centre had reduced the existing 28 per cent tax on ambulances to 12 per cent.

Dushyant, who also holds the portfolio of the Excise and Taxation Department, gave this information through videoconferencing after attending the GST Council meeting held under the chairmanship of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The Deputy CM said the GST Council had accepted all suggestions of a six-member committee of the Group of Ministers, which was constituted to determine the GST on Covid-related items. Haryana had made two suggestions — extending the time limit for the exemption of GST rates on Covid goods and reducing the existing tax on electric crematoriums. — TNS

### Prayer Meeting



22-02-1928 to 11-06-2021

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you about the sad demise of our beloved and respected

### Shri Harbhagwan Singh

Please keep him in your thoughts and Join us in prayers from your home

Considering the pandemic situation,  
Virtual meeting will be held on Monday, 14th June 2021

Time: 4.00-5.00pm

(https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9646120705,  
Zoom Id : 9646 120 705, Passcode : 2020)



Deeply Mourned by

Mrs. Adarsh (Wife)

### Daughter & Son-in-law

Anita Chaudhry & Deepak Chaudhry

### Son & Daughter-in-law

Arun Walia & Renu Walia

Arvind Walia & Anita Arvind

Grand Children and Great Grand Children

# Govt package fails to cheer traders

LALIT MOHAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

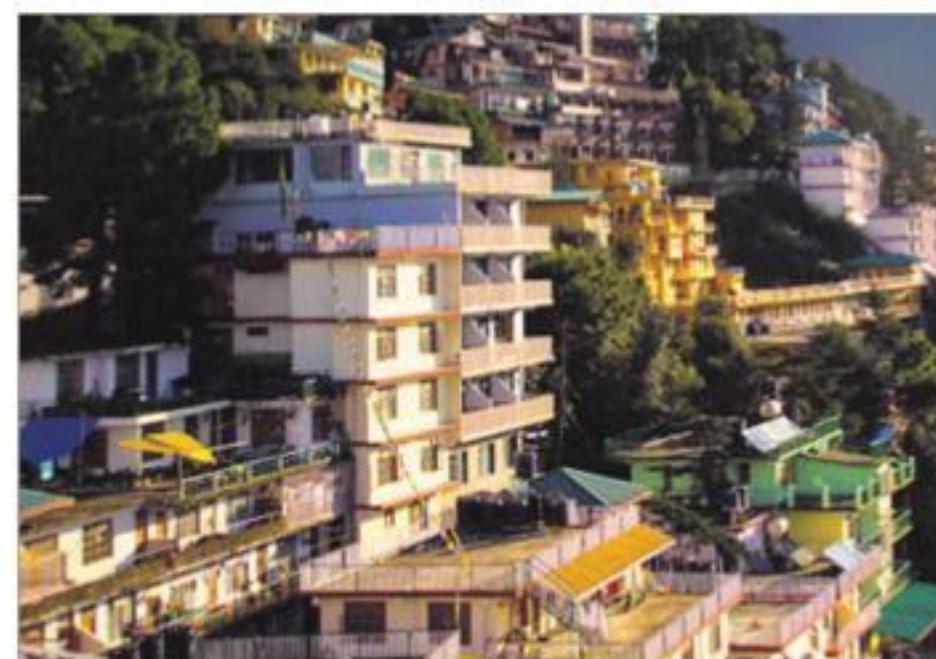
DHARAMSALA, JUNE 12  
The financial package, approved by the Cabinet yesterday, has failed to cheer hoteliers and transporters in Kangra. Most of them doubt that it will benefit the traders, hit by the pandemic.

Prem Kumar, a transporter, said the government had announced an interest subvention scheme. Under the scheme, the government would subsidise the interest on fresh loans. Most transporters would not be able to take its benefit because their accounts had become non-performing assets (NPAs).

As per RBI guidelines, no bank can give loans to persons whose accounts have turned NPAs. They would not be able to raise fresh loans, Prem Kumar said.

Hoteliers said last year also, the government had announced an interest subvention scheme for them but in the Kangra region, less than 10 hoteliers could draw its benefit.

Ashwani Bamba, president of the hotel and restaurant association of Dharamsala, said most banks were not giving



Most hotels in Dharamsala owe property tax worth lakhs to the MC. Hoteliers have urged the government to waive the entire tax.

ing additional loans without a guarantee and collateral. Cooperative banks last year were offering additional loans to hoteliers at 11 per cent interest rate, which was high.

If the government was willing to give subsidy on interest to entrepreneurs, it should ensure that the banks give additional loans to businessmen without any collateral or guarantee, Bamba said.

Hoteliers said had the government waived their annual renewal fees to be paid to pollution control, tourism and other departments, it would have been a

better financial help.

They said most hotels in Dharamsala owed property tax worth lakhs of rupees to the municipal corporation. The hotels had remained closed for a year and are in no position to pay property tax. The government should have waived the entire tax.

Taxi operators are alleging that the government is charging annual registration charges and a licence fee despite the fact that they hardly had any business in the first two years. If we do calculation, the bus operators will get a monthly relief of just Rs 1,000 for two years," he said. — TNS

## ₹40 crore relief eyewash, say pvt bus owners

SHIMLA, JUNE 12

Private bus operators are not happy with the Rs 40 crore package announced by the state government for the transport sector. As such, they may not end their strike anytime soon. "We are not pleased with the government's offer. The Rs 40 crore package is a mere eyewash," said Rajesh Parashar, president of the state Private Bus Operators' Union.

"We held a meeting of the union today and passed a resolution expressing our dissatisfaction with the government's announcement. We will hold a meeting with our district units on Sunday, and then decide our future course of action," said Parashar.

"The announcement to provide a working capital of Rs 2 lakh as bank loan is of no use. The government is providing relief on interest in the first two years. If we do calculation, the bus operators will get a monthly relief of just Rs 1,000 for two years," he said. — TNS

# Storm wreaks havoc on apple orchards

Tribune Reporters

SHIMLA/MANDI, JUNE 12

A severe storm damaged apple and stone fruit crops in upper Shimla on Friday night. The storm starting after midnight uprooted several apple trees, and blew away anti-hail nets.

"The damage in the Jubbal-Kotkhai area is huge. We have been assessing the losses since morning. In my panchayat alone, 500 to 700 trees have been uprooted," said Kaushal Mongta, a Zila Parishad member from Saraswati Nagar, Jubbal. "We have never suffered such a damage in the past. Small-time orchardists particularly have been finished," he said.

The Baghi-Ratnari area, too, was hit by the storm. "We were yet to come to terms with the losses suffered because of snowfall and a hailstorm in April. And now, Friday's storm caused extensive damage," said Satpal, a resident of Ratnari village. "High-altitude areas above 7,000 feet have been affected the most. Trees have been uprooted, anti-hail nets blown away and most of the fruit has dropped to the ground," he said.

According to an estimate prepared by the Horticulture



Apple trees uprooted in Friday night's storm in the upper Shimla area. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Department, the apple growers

had suffered losses to the tune of more than Rs 250 crore due to the snowfall and a hailstorm in April. The losses suffered because of Friday storm are also massive. The government should give relief to the growers at the earliest," said Mongta.

In Mandi district too, considerable damage was caused to agricultural and horticultural produce. Besides, 36 houses and 33 cobs were damaged partially. The major damage was witnessed in apple orchards of Karsog and Sundernagar area. Field staff of the Horticulture and Agriculture Department are assessing the losses.

## Transformers damaged, electricity supply hit

PRADESH State Electricity Board (HPSEB) have suffered heavy damages. Electricity poles, too, were damaged as trees fell on supply lines.

The power supply remained suspended in many parts of the region. The technical staff of the HPSEB was working round the clock to restore the supply. Official sources said several transformers and electric installations were totally destroyed by lightning. These are being replaced or repaired. — OC

## 370 new cases, 17 deaths

SHIMLA, JUNE 12

As many as 370 Covid cases were reported in the state today, taking the tally to 1,98,313. Besides, 17 persons died of the virus in the past 24 hours. Four deaths were recorded in Shimla, two each in Kangra, Mandi, Solan, Chamba and Sirmaur and one each in Una, Hamirpur and Kullu.

The highest 116 cases were reported in Kangra, followed by 60 in Mandi and 24 in Shimla. — TNS



Officials oust nomads from the bird sanctuary near Nagrota Surian on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## Virbhadra's condition stable

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JUNE 12

The Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) and Hospital administration has said the condition of former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh is stable and he is recovering.

The Congress leader tested positive for coronavirus again on Friday at the IGMC where he had been

recuperating from diabetes and heart and kidney-related ailments for over a month.

"Doctors are constantly monitoring his condition. He is being given oxygen through an NRM mask and his oxygen level is 99 per cent," said IGMC Medical Superintendent Dr Janak Raj. "His blood pressure and sugar levels are also under control," he added.

## State Institute for Advanced Studies in Teacher Education

(An autonomous institute of teacher education established by Govt. of Haryana)  
(Formerly known as Prarambh School for Teacher Education, Jhajjar)

Model School Building, Opposite Govt. PG Nehru College, Jhajjar (Haryana) - 124103

[Recognised by NCETE, New Delhi under innovative category and affiliated to MDU Rohtak]

Admission Notice (Batch: 2021-25)

State Institute of Advanced Studies in Teacher Education (SIASTE), Jhajjar is an innovative teacher education institute established by Govt. of Haryana in 2013. The institute seeks applications for admission to following programme for 2021-25 batch:

1. B.A. B.Ed. (Four Year Integrated Programme) - 30 seats

2. B.Sc. B.Ed. (Four Year Integrated Programme)-70 seats (divided equally among Maths and Biology groups)

The admissions to institute will be made on the basis of merit list of Common Entrance Examination (CEE-2021) conducted by National Council of Education Research & Training (NCERT) and coordinated by Regional Institute of Education (RIE) Bhopal. The admission process consists of two parts viz:

- (i) Appearing in CEE-2021 conducted by RIE Bhopal under NCERT.
- (ii) Participation in counseling process of institute (to be initiated after declaration of result of CEE-2021) with valid CEE-2021 score.

Therefore, eligible candidates interested in taking admission to institute are advised to appear in CEE-2021 by submitting the application at link: [www.cee.ncert.gov.in](http://www.cee.ncert.gov.in) during 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The CEE-2021 is scheduled to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021 with test centre at major cities across the country. The successful candidates of CEE-2021 will have to apply to institute for participating in counseling process for admission to SIASTE. The schedule for counseling will be available on institute website [www.siasste.org](http://www.siasste.org) once after declaration of result of CEE-2021.

The relevant rules of NCETE, Govt. of Haryana, Maharishi Dayanand University Rohtak and NCERT regarding admissions will be applicable. The prospective candidates are advised to keep in tune with the CEE-2021 and institute website regularly for more details regarding eligibility conditions, reservation, counseling schedule, any change/amendment in schedule etc. It shall be sole responsibility of candidates/parents to complete all process on time and institute will not bear any liability to inform the individual candidates. In case of any difficulty candidates may approach the following helpdesk:

RIE Bhopal Ph. No.: 0755-2661467, 0755-2661468

E-mail: [cee2021help@gmail.com](mailto:cee2021help@gmail.com)

SIASSTE Jhajjar Ph. No.: 9729626484, 9039663738, 8901148887 (whatsapp)

E-mail: [siassteadmissions2021@gmail.com](mailto:siassteadmissions2021@gmail.com)

Director

## POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE-2021-22/08 ALLOTMENT OF SHOPS/SITES

Sealed tenders are invited for licensing out built up Chemist Shop at Emergency Block for sale of medicines, drugs and surgical items at PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh. Tender form containing all terms and conditions can be seen and downloaded from PGI website <http://pgimer.edu.in>. Website: <http://pgimer.edu.in> DI-4291 DIRECTOR

## POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

TENDER NOTICE-2021-22/07 ALLOTMENT OF SHOPS/SITES

Sealed tenders are invited for licensing out certain shops/sites at Emergency Block for sale of medicines, drugs and surgical items at PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh. Tender form containing all terms and conditions can be seen and downloaded from PGI website <http://pgimer.edu.in>. Website: <http://pgimer.edu.in> DI-4292 DIRECTOR

## ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL UNCHI BASSI

PO: Lamin, Tehsil: Dasuya, District: Hoshiarpur (Pb.) E-mail ID: [armyschoolclub@gmail.com](mailto:armyschoolclub@gmail.com), Tele : 01883-292936

Sealed tenders are invited from interested agencies/firms/dealers for following categories:-

Sr. No.	Category	Remarks
1	Contract for outsourcing of 4 x Security Guards with weapons	Last date for submission of tenders is 22 June 2021 by 1500 hrs through Regd Post or can be dropped in sealed tender box kept at Mill Stn Gate along with a DD of Rs 100/- in favour of Army Public School Unchi Bassi. Tenders will be opened by the Board of Officers in the presence of vendors at 1100 hrs on 23 Jun 2021. No separate information will be sent. For details please visit school website <a href="http://www.armyschoolunchibassi.org">www.armyschoolunchibassi.org</a> DI-4290
2	Contract for outsourcing of 2 x Multi Tasking staff & 2 x House Keeping Staff (Male/Female)	
3	Registration of Vendors	

## PUBLIC APPOINTMENT

CHANDIGARH COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, PEC CAMPUS, SECTOR 12, CHANDIGARH

One vacancy each of Assistant Professors in Art and Assistant Professor in Architecture is to be filled up on contractual basis for one year or till the post is filled up on regular basis through Union Public Service Commission, whichever is earlier is invited on the prescribed proforma from the candidates fulfilling the following requirements:-

Qualification:- Essential:-

### Assistant Professor in Architecture

- i) Bachelor's degree in Architecture from recognized University or Institution

And

- ii) Master's degree in Architecture with first class either in Bachelor's or Master's degree from recognized University or Institution

Only candidates with valid registration of the Council of Architecture (CoA) under the provisions of the Architects Act, 1972 are eligible.

### Assistant Professor in Art

- i) Bachelor's degree in appropriate branch of Fine Arts (Applied Art, Painting and Sculpture) from recognized University or Institution.

And

- ii) Master's degree in appropriate branch of Fine Arts (Applied Art, Painting and Sculpture) with First Class either in Bachelor's or Master's Degree from recognized University or Institution.

Note: A. The candidates who wish to apply for the above post may visit the College website: [www.cca.edu.in](http://www.cca.edu.in) for the application format and details.

B. Candidates are requested to check the College website for further updates.

C. List of eligible candidates to be called for interview shall be displayed on College website and College Notice Board. No individual letter shall be sent to the eligible candidates for interview.

General Instructions: The vacancies advertised are provisional and liable to vary (increase or decrease) by the user department.

Applications complete in all respects must reach in the office of Principal, Chandigarh College of Architecture, PEC Campus, Sector 12, Chandigarh: 160012, on or before July 09, 2021 by 05:00 p.m. Applications received after due date or incomplete or without testimonials will be rejected straightway.

In case the candidate is working in government/semi-government organization he/she should bring "No Objection Certificate" from his/her present employer failing which he/she will not be allowed to appear for interview. The candidate should attach the self attested copies of Educational Qualification, DOB, Experience, CoA Valid Registration etc.

For appearing in the interview the candidate will not be paid any TA/DA.

Sd/- Principal

Chandigarh College of Architecture.

## MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

## PUBLIC NOTICE



## ON RESIDENTIAL LANDS & BUILDINGS FOR THE ASSESSMENT YEAR 2021-22

BY 30.6.2021 & GET 20% REBATE

& 10% ON COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

By Cash (Online)

► 30.6.2021

By Cheque / Demand Draft

► 25.6.2021

It is notified for the information of the General Public that the last dates for depositing Property Tax / Service charge on Commercial, Industrial and Institutional lands and buildings as well as residential lands and buildings for the assessment year 2021-22 is 30.6.2021 and thereafter on or after 01.07.2021, the assesses depositing Commercial property tax as well as residential property tax will be charged 25% extra over and above the prescribed rates plus interest @ 12% PA

**INDIRA GANDHI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL, SHIMLA**  
ROGI KALYAN SAMITI, IGMC, SHIMLA, HIMACHAL PRADESH  
Office: Shimla-171001, India  
Phone: 0177-2883221, Fax: 0177-2658845  
Website: <https://www.igmcshimla.edu.in>  
Email: [msigmc-shi-hp@gov.in](mailto:msigmc-shi-hp@gov.in)  
Tender Ref. No. RKS(MS-Samiti)-Laundry/2021-282.

Date: 04-06-2021

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

E-tenders are invited FOR PROVIDING MECHANIZED LAUNDRY SERVICES IN IGMC & HOSPITAL & KNH, SHIMLA (HP) ON INSTALL, OPERATE & REMOVAL BASIS from the bidder who should be registered as a Society, Firm or Company who have experience in providing in house mechanized laundry services in Central/State Govt. Establishment/Autonomous Bodies/Corporations/Hospitals as detailed in tender document. The detailed tender document can be viewed and downloaded from website: <https://htptenders.gov.in>, from 04-06-2021 to 25-06-2021 up to 1.00 PM. The Last date and time for submission & uploading of filled in tender documents is 25-06-2021 upto 01.00 PM, and will be opened on same day at 02.30 PM. All subsequent corrigendum, modifications and clarifications in respect of this tender will be published only on aforesaid websites only. The bidders are advised to visit the aforesaid website regularly. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tender offers without assigning any reason.

**Sr. M.S.-Cum-Member Secretary,**  
**RKS IGMC & HOSPITAL, SHIMLA.**  
DPR/HP/1498

**WESTERN RAILWAY****E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No.S/22/2021 Date 09.06.2021**

S.N.	Short Description of Items	Quantity	T.O.D.
583	Filter Element	648 Nos.	21.06.2021
584	Stainless Steel Air Refresher	1350 Nos.	25.06.2021
585	Acetone,AR,Quality	665 Ltrs.	28.06.2021
586	Stranded Annealed Copper Jumper Wire	4500 Mtrs.	28.06.2021
587	Battery Operated LED Based Torch Light	3000 Nos.	28.06.2021
588	Pad for Secondary Suspension	3400 Nos.	28.06.2021
589	Machined Bogie Frame Asyly.	6 Nos.	28.06.2021
590	Brake Gear Pin	14128 Nos.	28.06.2021
591	Modified Elastomeric Pad for Casnub bogies	64680 Nos.	28.06.2021
592	Metal Bonded Rubber Pad for Side Bearer	561 Nos.	28.06.2021
593	Packing for Side Bearer	2666 Nos.	28.06.2021
594	Cast Steel Bolster Complete	11 Nos.	28.06.2021
595	Complete Asyly. Of Swing Door	186 Set	28.06.2021
596	Transceiver VHF Digital DMR Hand Held 5 W	1251 Nos.	30.06.2021
597	Clean Silica Sand Free From Clay.	1355 MT	01.07.2021
598	POH Kit for ELGI Make WRA Compressor	17 Set	01.07.2021
599	Traction Transformer	2 Set	01.07.2021
600	Primary Brake Beam Asyly.	28 Nos.	01.07.2021
601	Jelly Filled Quad Cable Size 06 Quad 0.9 mm Dia.	565 KM	02.07.2021
602	Set of Must Change Item	75 Set	02.07.2021
603	Measuring and Monitoring Relay	142 Nos.	02.07.2021
604	H.C. Thermoplastic Polyester Elastomer	941 Nos.	02.07.2021
605	Crowned Gear Coupling	8 Nos.	02.07.2021
606	Outer Spring (Motor Truck)	143 Nos.	02.07.2021

Corrigendum:- Please visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://ireps.gov.in) for corrigendum issued to following Tenders: Sr. No. 406 / 415 V ac 3 phase tower AC system of Tender Notice No. S/18/2021 dt.12/05/21 due on 01.06.2021 is postponed to 21.06.2021.

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://ireps.gov.in) and [www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in).

For Principal Chief Materials Manager

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**EXCISE & TAXATION COMMISSIONER HIMACHAL PRADESH**

Block No. 30, S.D.A. Complex, Kasumti, Shimla-171009

12th June, 2021

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

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It is notified for the information of general public that the applications for Renewal of retail sale licensed outlets of Country Liquor (L-14/L-14A), retail sale licensed outlets of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (L-2) and retail sale of Country Fermented Liquor (L-20B) are invited in the State of Himachal Pradesh for the year 2021-22 on the terms and conditions as prescribed in the Announcements of Excise Allotments for the year 2021-22. The liquor vends shall be allotted by way of Renewal. For detailed Terms and Conditions relating to allotment of vends please refer to the Announcements of Excise Allotments for the year 2021-22 which are available on the official Website of the H.P. Excise & Taxation Department i.e. [www.hptax.gov.in](http://www.hptax.gov.in).

Sr. No.	Name of District	Venue	Date and Time of renewal of liquor vends
1.	Sirmaur	O/o DCSTE Sirmour at GST Bhawan, Distt. Sirmour, H.P.	
2.	Kulu & Lahaul	O/o DCSTE Kulu, H.P.	
3.	Solan	O/o DCSTE Solan, H.P.	
4.	Nurpur	O/o DCSTE Nurpur at Jachh, Distt. Kangra, H.P.	16.06.2021 to 18.06.2021
5.	Mandi	O/o DCSTE Mandi, H.P.	10.30 AM to 5.00 PM
6.	Shimla	O/o DCSTE Shimla, H.P.	
7.	Bilaspur	O/o DCSTE Bilaspur, H.P.	
8.	Chamba	O/o DCSTE Chamba, H.P.	
9.	BBN Baddi	O/o DCSTE BBN Baddi, Distt. Solan, H.P.	
10.	Una	O/o DCSTE Una, H.P.	
11.	Kinnar	O/o ACSTE Kinnar, H.P.	
12.	Hamirpur	O/o DCSTE Hamirpur, H.P.	
13.	Kangra	O/o DCSTE Kangra, H.P.	

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

Endst No. 7-82/2021-EXN- Dated 12 -06-2021 DPPR/HP/152

**WESTERN RAILWAY- RATLAM**

**E-TENDERS FOR THE CONTRACT OF****LEASING OUT SLR SPACES**

E-Tender Notice No.: C78/1/Leasing of SLR, Date: 10.06.2021. The Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Western Railway, Ratlam Invites E-tenders for the contract of leasing out SLR spaces for a period of 5 (five) years in Luggage Compartment of following Trains from Registered Leaseholders (in category ('A' or 'B') over Ratlam Division of Western Railway detailed below "Separately" for compartment wise & train wise).

Sl. No.	Train no.	Station	Days of service or Days of space available	Space Available (In Tone)	Reserve Price per trip per 4/3.9 Tone (in ₹)	Scale
		From To	FSLR I FSLR II RSLR I RSLR II			
01	09329/ 19329	Indore Udaipur	Daily 4 - 4	4,168/-	P	
02	09313/ 19313	Indore Rajendra Nagar	Mon, Wed 4 - -	15,176/-	R	
03	02415/ 12415	Indore New Delhi	Daily 3.9 - 3.9	13,870/-	R	
04	02962/ 12962	Indore Mumbai Central	Daily 3.9 - 3.9	11,089/-	R	
05	08233/ 18233	Indore Bilaspur	Daily - - 4	8976/-	P	
06	02911/ 22911	Indore Howrah	Tue, Thu, Sat 4 - -	25758/-	R	
07	09321/ 19321	Indore Rajendra Nagar	Sat 4 - 4	22000/-	R	
08	02919/ 12919	Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Katra	Daily - - 3.9	24155/-	R	
09	01704/ 11704	Dr. Ambedkar Nagar	Mon, Wed, Fri 4 - -	5687/-	P	
10	09305/ 19305	Dr. Ambedkar Nagar	Thru 3.9 - 3.9	30,420/-	R	
Total no. of SLR			15			

Note :- (A) This is an Electronic Tender (E-tender) and bids / offers shall be submitted online through IREPS Portal. Required information and documents are available on IREPS Portal (i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)). Submission of manual bids/offers against E-tender is not allowed, and any manual/bids/offer received shall be summarily rejected. (B) Cost of tender form Fee ₹ 1,000/- per SLR Compartment should be paid online through IREPS. (C) Portal and acknowledgement slip of payment must be attached with the offer/bid. (D) EMD ₹ 1,00,000/- per SLR Compartment should be paid online through IREPS Portal and acknowledgement slip of payment must be attached with the offer/bid. (E) Date & time of closing & opening of Tender - 09.07.2021 (Friday) at 15.00 hrs. & 09.07.2021 (Friday) at 15.30 hrs. (F) If date of Tender opening is declared as holiday due to unforeseen reason, the same will be accepted & opened at the same time on the next working day. (G) The tender inviting authority may, at his discretion, extend the deadline for submission of tenders by issuing an amendment/corrigendum, in that case, all rights and obligation of the tender inviting authority and the tenderer previously subject to the original deadline will thereafter be subject to the deadline as extended. Bidders(s)/Tenderer(s) are advised to keep in touch with e-tendering portal [https://www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for updates/amendments/corrigendum.

Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial)  
Ratlam Division, Western Railway

SNP - 57

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# LeT behind attack, militants identified: DGP

Politicians condemn terror attack, term Sopore killings wanton and cowardly act

Srinagar, June 12

The Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was behind the attack on security forces in Sopore in which two cops and as many civilians were killed, J&K DGP Dilbag Singh said on Saturday.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a wreath-laying ceremony for the two slain police constables, Singh asserted that the perpetrators had been identified and would be brought to justice very soon. He said it was a Sopore police team on Covid duty that came under attack.

He said initial indicators have led to the identification of the outfit, and a follow-up on that is on. "The forces have launched an operation in the area, and we are hopeful that we will soon bring to justice the perpetrators of the crime... As per our information, LeT is involved in it, and we have almost identified the militants in the attack, but we will not share their details yet," the DGP said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha tweeted that the perpetrators of the violence were the enemies of humanity and such a despicable and cowardly act would not go unpunished.

National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah said such attacks must be condemned without reservation. "The government must

**'STOP SUCH ACTS'**

**PDP:** Our souls have been scarred for decades now by such wanton acts of violence

**Congress:** The attack in Sopore is a mindless and shameful act committed by the militants

**BJP:** Terrorism has no place in Kashmir and the killing is a barbaric and cowardly act

**J&K Apni Party:** It is heart wrenching. The senseless violence has ravaged society

**NC:** Such attacks must be condemned without reservation. Such incidents must be stopped



Security personnel patrol after the militant attack in Sopore town, near Srinagar, on Saturday. PTI

An injured civilian being taken to a hospital; and (right) kin mourn the death of constable Waseem Ahmad in Narbal, Srinagar. PTI/REUTERS

ensure a stop to such brutal loss of lives" the NC said on its official Twitter handle.

The PDP tweeted that "our souls have been scarred for decades now by such wanton acts of violence".

J&K Prades Congress

Committee (JKPCC)

said the attack was a mindless and shameful act committed by the militants.

BJP's J&K spokesman

Altaf Thakur



**NRI**

27/ 5'-4" beautiful girl working in Australia seeks suitable match 9110-8989. (CL21021628)

**PQM from USA/ Canada based for slim, fair, V. smart & intelligent, convent educated Punjabi Khatri girl, 32 years, 5'-4½" working as Project Scientist in Los-Angeles, M.Sc with Ph.D from USA, decent family. Caste no bar. Early marriage, PR for Canada & GreenCard are in advance stage. +91-98775-59124. (CL21020660)**

Alliance invited from well-settled decent cultured Khatri Hindu family for our daughter 25 Dec 1991, 9.47 am, Ludhiana, height (5'-9"), fair complexioned, (BHM) Graduate with MBA, residing in Ludhiana moving to Canada shortly. Caste no bar. Boys settled in Canada only contact 7087-8259. (CL21016309)

**Suitable UK based match for unmarried Hindu Vaishnavi US born girl, 47 years, 167cms., Medical practitioner. Contact via e-mail: nn3033@yahoo.com (CL21018809)**

**Suitable professionally qualified match for Jat Sikh beautiful, UK citizen girl, born Jan. 1984, 5'-3", M.Sc. Psychology (Patiala University), Practising Privately in England, issueless divorcee. Contact: 9814673114. (CL21019809)**

Wanted clean shaved well qualified USA/Canada match for Jat Sikh girl, 47 years old, 167cms., Medical practitioner. Contact via e-mail: nn3033@yahoo.com (CL21018809)

**Match for Hindu Punjabi Khatri beautiful, fair girl, September 1989, 5'-4", convenient educated, M.Com, PG from London, UK involved in family business, expecting Canadian PR shortly, from status, rich/ affluent, business family looking for well qualified, well-settled boy. Contact or WhatsApp 93270-38175. (CL21020506)**

**Preferred UK settled qualified match for Kambaj Sikh girl 1993 born, 5'-3", B.Tech. CSE from India, Masters in UK in CSE, now working in UK in reputed Software Company on Residency Visa. Parents Doctors settled in Chandigarh. WhatsApp 98883-78355. (CL21020681)**

**Suitable qualified alliance for 1986 / 5'-3", BDS MAS Arora Sikh girl Vancouver settled Canadian PR Canada preferred. 98764-21733. (CL21020824)**

**NRI match for SC girl, Nov. 1990 born, 5'-6", BDS (Dental Doctor). 96463-21407. (CL21020828)**

**Qualified well-settled match for Sikh Khatri girl Ph. 5'-5", 35, Prof. PR in process. 94643-41382. (CL21021268)**

**Engineer/ Doctor match for Ramgarhia-Dhiman girl, 9000001. Req well educated match caste no bar. 70675-80283. (CL21021728)**

**Beautiful/ fair, 26 yr Odia girl, Brahmin but has non-veg. Tech from ITI Kanpur, 5'-5", 72 kg. job in Tata Elxsi as Senior Ex. needs suitable groom having good education and good job in Cent/ State Govt./ Puc preferably in Mumbai/ Pune/ Bangalore/ Hyderabad or in foreign countries like USA, UK, Canada, Australia. New Zealand may contact in 97661-41863/ 91463-37958. (CL21021904)**

**Professionally qualified match (preferably Engineer, Doctor or CPA) for Arora Sikh beautiful girl 34/ 5'-2.5", pure vegetarian legally divorced (issueless) working in Senior position as Cloud Architect in big MNC USA. \$1.45 lac per annum. Green card in process. Religion/ Upper caste/ clean shaved no bar. Only USA working/ settled match required. drashadevi317@gmail.com +91-94163-84162. (CL21022063)**

**Looking Doctor match for USA citizen girl (Chauhan), 01-06-1991, 5'-5", doing fellowship in Hospitalology. Contact: 89860-18811. (CL21022260)**

**Match for NRI (Canadian PR) Saini Sikh girl born September 91, 5'-4", fair. In IT field family based at Mohali. Mob: 94173-62850. WhatsApp: 98552-41069. (CL21022361)**

**SM4 Canadian Citizen Dhiman girl, 26.04.93, 5'-1½, M.E. Chem Engg., Area Manager at Amazon, Calgary (Canada). Preferred cleanshaven boy from Canada. Upper caste no bar. Contact +1(403)926-1251. (CL21022393)**

**Beautiful slim girl, 1991/ 5'-3", B.Tech, MBA, PR Canada awaiting. Preferred PR/ highly status/ qualified. WhatsApp: 80546-86933, 97808-98038. (CL21022405)**

**Sikh (Chauhan) girl Jat, 1993, 5'-6", B.Tech now in Toronto (Canada) PR applied. Presently working with Amazon. Preferred NRI. Family must in India. U/C no bar. 94633-13014. (CL21022416)**

**Match for Sikh Khatri girl, American citizen, beautiful, slim, 1987, 5'-2", Cosmetology done. WhatsApp: 98887-87435. (CL21022467)**

**Canada PR Hindu Arora Radha Swami girl, 25 Dec. 1992, 5'-3", B.Tech+ Master Degree, Job Quality Assurance Analyst (QA) in Toronto. Required pure vegetarian, well-qualified Hindu Arora boy in Canada, Toronto. Ontario PR or on work permit. 98889-15925. (CL21022527)**

**September 87, Chandigarh, 5'-3", B.Tech., MBA (Finance) CFA (US) financial analyst Vancouver (Canada PR). 96194-64279. (CL21022529)**

**Canadian PR beautiful Hindu Arora girl, 1993, 5'-7", Post-graduate working in recent Canadian Company, earning \$ 1.5 lakh PA. 98559-68470. (CL21022057)**

**SIKH KHATRI/ARORA**

**SM4 Sikh Khatri girl, 11 Aug. 1985, 5'-6", B.Com., working MNC Noida as Senior Associate Process Developer, 6.5 lakh PA. 98559-68470. (CL21022057)**

### SIKH

**Suitable match for Ramdasia Sikh girl, 5'-3", 88 born, B.A., LL.B., Assistant Manager in IDBI Bank. Tricity preferred. Mobile/ Whatsapp: 94160-20124. Email: jeetsimran9000@yahoo.com (CL21017041)**

**Kambaj Sikh beautiful girl 31, 5'-6", B.Tech, MBA, Job IT Park Panchkula. Rural/ Urban property, Preferences Cleanshaven Tricity Sikh Khatri, Arora, Ramgarhia. Tat welcome. 99964-76706. (CL21020664)**

**Required suitable match for Ramdasia Sikh girl, 1993 born, 5'-4", doing Govt. job as Science Teacher. Preferred only from Chd. Mohali, Zirakpur, Panchkula. Contact: 78886-32963, 95178-53072. (CL21020876)**

**Match for Chahang/ Bahti Sikh girl, M.Sc. Physics, B.Ed., PTET, CTET qualified. 20.03.1994, 5'-2", private teaching job. Father Govt. Railways employee, brother teaching job in Army School. 75894-20459, hardhircf@gmail.com (CL21020713)**

**Suitable match for Lobana Sikh US girl, 26/5'-5", Computer Science and Pharmaceuticals degrees, working in govt. hospital. 98883-11228, 98761-20993. (CL21020855)**

**Seeking well educated Ramdasia Sikh (Jaluba) boy for beautiful Sikh girl, 1989 born, 5'-5", B.Tech (CS), LLM (PU Chandigarh) preparing IIT. Father retired Manager, Mother Class-I Officer. Contact (after 5.00 pm) 9880-92920. (CL21020894)**

**Qualified match for Nai Sikh beautiful, fair, slim, M.Tech, Sep. 87 (looks young) 5'-4" girl, doing job. Mohali. Father retd. Gazetteed Officer having Urban property. Agriculture Land. Upper caste no bar. 96460-44022. (CL21020995)**

**Suitable qualified match for Arora Sikh 25, 5'-6½", sober, beautiful, tall, slim, intelligent girl. B.Com (Hon's), Topper DU Delhi, M.Com SRCC New Delhi, pursuing CPA (USA), doing job in MNC Gurgaon. Hindu family are also welcome. Contact: 98885-52544, 98150-25254. (CL21021048)**

**Suitable match for Canadian PR Julaha Sikh girl, B.Com, Tech. Food Technology, 11.10.1993/ 5'-5", working at Brampton as Quality Assurance Supervisor, Toronto based boy preferred. Caste no bar. Contact at 81465-00528. (CL21021069)**

**Seeking suitable match for Software Engineer, Canadian PR, beautiful and homely Sikh girl, unmarried, 5'-3", 88 born, unable to conceive. Divorcee or widower with kids also accepted. Contact: +1(437)970-2013 or email: rskurs0410@gmail.com (CL21021164)**

**SM for fair, smart Ramdasia Sikh girl 30/ 5'-1", MCA, M.Sc., BA, 90564-60308. Preference Tricity. (CL21021724)**

**Hindu Dhiman unmarried girl, 1981, 5'-1", M.A. B.Ed. Teacher, 981560-7276. (CL21020982)**

**Ramgarhia Dhiman girl 1990, 5'-6", MBA, Government permanent job, pure vegetarian family. Preferred Tricity. 95923-50260, 90410-15937. (CL21021158)**

**Ramgarhia girl, Govt. Bank Officer, 11.10.1992, 5'-2". Only vegetarian boy. Contact 98142-763917. (CL21021293)**

**Match for Sikh Khatri girl, PR Canada 1988, born, 5 feet, MBA. Custard boy in Canada preferred. Contact: 85579-24262. (CL21021621)**

**27/5"-2", M.Tech. job in Sydney, beautiful Chandigarh based girl. Wanted Sydney settled boy family from Chandigarh Tricity preferred. 99888-77071. (CL21021679)**

**USA Citizen 1993, 5'-5", MS Engg. Wk. in Facebook \$150,000. Req well educated match caste no bar. 70675-80283. (CL21021728)**

**Beautiful/ fair, 26 yr Odia girl, Brahmin but has non-veg. Tech from ITI Kanpur, 5'-5", 72 kg. job in Tata Elxsi as Senior Ex. needs suitable groom having good education and good job in Cent/ State Govt./ Puc preferably in Mumbai/ Pune/ Bangalore/ Hyderabad or in foreign countries like USA, UK, Canada, Australia. New Zealand may contact in 97661-41863/ 91463-37958. (CL21021904)**

**Professionally qualified match for Kambaj Sikh girl 1993 born, 5'-3", B.Tech. CSE from India, Masters in UK in CSE, now working in UK in reputed Software Company on Residency Visa. Parents Doctors settled in Chandigarh. WhatsApp 98883-78355. (CL21020654)**

**Ramgarhia girl, 1991, 5'-5", M.Com, B.Ed., IBM from Canada. Looking for handsome boy. Contact: 98153-54316. (CL21020673)**

**25, 5'-4", MBA, Financial Analyst Australia. PR. Ramgarhia girl. Want suitable match 76104-42416, 92855-65267. (CL21020860)**

**Well settled turbaned, non-drinker match from tricity only for Ramgarhia Sikh fair, beautiful 25, 5'-3", M.Sc (Fashion Designing), MA (Final Arts) Mohali girl. 82477-63917.**

**Match for Ramgarhia, Dhiman girl, December 1994, 5', MBA, B.Com, Pursuing MCA, PSU, Required. Father Govt. Employee. Contact: 98320-00035. (CL21022617)**

**Match for Toronto work permit Bhatia Sikh girl, Feb 1990, 9.47 am, 5 feet, WhatsApp: 89685-10782. Bureau excuse. (CL21022664)**

**Match for Hindu Punjabi Khatri beautiful, fair girl, September 1989, 5'-4", convenient educated, M.Com, PG from London, UK involved in family business, expecting Canadian PR shortly, from status, rich/ affluent, business family looking for well qualified, well-settled boy. Contact or WhatsApp 93270-38175. (CL21020506)**

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**Suitable qualified alliance for 1986 / 5'-3", BDS MAS Arora Sikh girl Vancouver settled Canadian PR Canada preferred. 98764-21733. (CL21020824)**

**NRI match for SC girl, Nov. 1990 born, 5'-6", BDS (Dental Doctor). 96463-21407. (CL21020828)**

**Qualified well-settled match for Sikh Khatri girl Ph. 5'-5", 35, Prof. PR in process. 94643-41382. (CL21021268)**

**Parents of 94 born, fair, 5'-4", Ramgarhia-Dhiman girl, B.Sc., B.Ed., studying in Canada. Younger brother in Canada. Invite proposals from Canadian PR/ work/ visa/ student visa, non-turban boy. Send biodata to 964438334. (CL21020654)**

**Ramgarhia girl, 1991, 5'-5", M.Com, B.Ed., IBM from Canada. Looking for handsome boy. Contact: 98153-54316. (CL21020673)**

**25, 5'-4", MBA, Financial Analyst Australia. PR. Ramgarhia girl. Want suitable match 76104-42416, 92855-65267. (CL21020860)**

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**Match for Toronto work permit Bhatia Sikh girl, Feb 1990, 9.47 am, 5 feet, WhatsApp: 89685-10782. Bureau excuse. (CL21022664)**

**ARORA**

**Wanted a suitable match for Arora** girl Nov. 87 born, 5'3", Ph.D., working as Asst. Professor. Contact: 94669-49211, 94667-78000. (CL21021672)

**Status match for vegetarian Punjabi Khatri** beautiful girl, 5'3", M.Com, 21.5.1994, 01.58 am, Chandigarh. Package 5 lakh. Father Senior Class-I Officer. Family income 50 lakh. WhatsApp 98886-91061. satshamji@gmail.com (CL21021698)

**SB4 beautiful qualified 1989, 5'5", Amritsar based family, working in Delhi.** M: 88473-11953. (CL21021757)

**Well-established Industrialist family** seeks a match for their beautiful daughter age 25, height 5'1". Education - Masters in Interior Decoration, looking for a settled Industrialist/businessman boy. Contact No. 98120-20812. (CL21022304)

**Hindu Arora beautiful, slim girl** 05.05.1995, 5'7", 8:21 am Ferozeepur, B.Tech., working MNC package 12 lakhs, seeking Punjabi vaishno MNC working boy. Contact 81467-25500, 98727-2510. (CL21022389)

**KHATRI**

**Suitable match for Converted Khatri** beautiful MCA non-manglik girl, 5'4"-7" 1989 born, Software Developer, 10 LPA, Panchkula based family. 98551-55764. (CL21022665)

**SM4 well settled Highly qualified** non manglik beautiful Punjabi Khatri girl, 34-, 5'4", working in Gurugram. # 98155-59315, 79733-96359. (CL21015438)

**Doctor/ Civil Service/ Engineer** match for girl doing MD, 10.08.89, 3:00 pm Chandigarh, 5'-3". Cast no bar. 98055-37606. (CL21020381)

**Well educated, settled match for** beautiful, slim, Punjabi Hindu Khatri girl, 25%, 5'-6", M.E. Computer Science (Thapar University), working as Research Associate. 7888713006. (CL21020508)

**Suitable match for Khatri (Bhatia)** girl, school graduation Delhi, Working MNC, Gurgaon. 28/ 5'-4%", 98100-52346, 98159-89100. (CL21020542)

**Match for Khatri girl 8.1.1996,** 10:15 pm, 5'-4", working IT Company, Pune. Preferred pure vegetarian, IT working. Send profile after kundli match. WhatsApp 90341-75928. (CL21020597)

**Suitable match for Hindu Khatri** girl, 01.09.93 (11:55 am. Patiala), 5'-3", MCA. 9779582622. (CL21020957)

**Match for Khatri, non manglik,** vegetarian, slim, Fair, beautiful girl, 27-10-1992, 13:45 pm Yamuna Nagar, 5'-5", B.Tech pursuing MBA (Finance), Deputy Branch Manager in ICICI (Ludhiana). 82800-46534, 9736-72146. (CL21022396)

**Match for Khatri girl 8.1.1991,** 10:15 pm, 5'-4", working IT Company, Pune. Preferred pure vegetarian, IT working. Send profile after kundli match. WhatsApp 90341-75928. (CL21020597)

**Suitable match for Hindu Khatri** girl, 01.09.93 (11:55 am. Patiala), 5'-3", MCA. 9779582622. (CL21020957)

**Match for Khatri, non manglik,** vegetarian, slim, Fair, beautiful girl, 27-10-1992, 13:45 pm Yamuna Nagar, 5'-5", B.Tech pursuing MBA (Finance), from Chandigarh based Doctor's family. Tricity employed preferred. Match kundli send bio-data & photo. Marriage Bureau excuse. 98961-54977. (CL21020747)

**Well respected believing in family values, Punjabi family at Hansi, seek alliance for their beautiful, fair daughter, 27 yrs. 5'-4", B.Pharm, MBA, working in R&D at Chd., prefer well settled like minded family. WhatsApp 87085-30109/ 93107-95022. (CL21020752)**

**Well settled Businessman/ SRV match for beautiful, slim Khatri girl, born 90, MBA. Prefer Tricity. Father well established Businessman.** 86990-12573. (CL21020760)

**Employed vegetarian match for** Hindu Khatri M.Tech. girl 5'5", 15.09.93, 5:05 pm, Ropar. Govt. job at Mohali. Tricity nearby preferred. 94788-97540. (CL21020871)

**SM4 diabetic type-I Hindu Khatri** girl, 5'-4", 08.02.1996, B.Tech CSE, working in Mohali. Mob: 94784-02059. (CL21020915)

**Manglik /Non-manglik well settled** employed match for Hindu Khatri girl, Govt. Bank Officer, 29, 5'-4", M.Tech. Govt. Officer preferred, 81463-66772. (CL21020919)

**Seeking suitable match for Hindu Khatri girl, DOB 03.12.1993, M.Com, CFA, working with PWC preferences, business family location Chd. Tricity educated. Contact: 92165-59120.** (CL21020966)

**Hindu Khatri Anshik Manglik** girl B.Tech, 5'2", 13.08.1990, 10:30 am Chandigarh. Send biodata/ photograph, WhatsApp 98762-20698. (CL21021105)

**Beautiful Khatri girl 14.1.1995,** 5'-1", 4 pm, Com. job in MNC (Chandigarh). Preferred Tricity. 96460-60116. (CL21021117)

**Khatri Manglik girl 16.8.90/5'-7",** Dob Hoshiarpur, 9 a.m. B.Tech. in CS, seeking for veg boy, good job/business. 98550-50800. (CL21021303)

**Wanted a teetotaler, vegetarian, qualified match for Hindu Khatri girl, July 1991, 5'-4%", 15.09.93, 7 am, Delhi, 5', Punjab Govt. job, 45000 pm. M.Ch/M.D/ preferred. Upper caste welcome. 98120-76674, 98123-41777. (CL21022696)**

**Sood girl 5'-6", M.Sc., B.Ed.** 30.10.1995, 3:05 pm. 98883-90262, 94176-78443. Caste no bar. (CL21021672)

**Status match for vegetarian Punjabi Khatri** beautiful girl, 5'-3", M.Com, 21.5.1994, 01.58 am, Chandigarh. Package 5 lakh. Father Senior Class-I Officer. Family income 50 lakh. WhatsApp 98886-91061. satshamji@gmail.com (CL21021698)

**SB4 beautiful qualified 1989, 5'5", Amritsar based family, working in Delhi.** M: 88473-11953. (CL21021757)

**Well-established Industrialist family** seeks a match for their beautiful daughter age 25, height 5'1". Education - Masters in Interior Decoration, looking for a settled Industrialist/businessman boy. Contact No. 98120-20812. (CL21022304)

**Hindu Arora beautiful, slim girl** 05.05.1995, 5'7", 8:21 am Ferozeepur, B.Tech., working MNC package 12 lakhs, seeking Punjabi vaishno MNC working boy. Contact 81467-25500, 98727-2510. (CL21022389)

**KHATRI**

**Suitable match for Converted Khatri** beautiful MCA non-manglik girl, 5'4"-7" 1989 born, Software Developer, 10 LPA, Panchkula based family. 98551-55764. (CL21022665)

**SM4 well settled Highly qualified** non manglik beautiful Punjabi Khatri girl, 34-, 5'4", working in Gurugram. # 98155-59315, 79733-96359. (CL21015438)

**Doctor/ Civil Service/ Engineer** match for girl doing MD, 10.08.89, 3:00 pm Chandigarh, 5'-3", Cast no bar. 98055-37606. (CL21020381)

**Well educated, settled match for** beautiful, slim, Punjabi Hindu Khatri girl, 25%, 5'-6", M.E. Computer Science (Thapar University), working as Research Associate. 7888713006. (CL21020508)

**Suitable match for Khatri (Bhatia)** girl, school graduation Delhi, Working MNC, Gurgaon. 28/ 5'-4%", 98100-52346, 98159-89100. (CL21020542)

**Match for Choudhary Dogra girl** 22 May 1989, M.Sc. Nursing, Ph.D., Lecturer AIIMS Delhi. 7625-95887, 94179-92789. (CL21021824)

**Suitable match for Nov. 1986 born, Himachali Khatri MBA girl, 5'-4", Senior Manager in PSU Bank. 98167-53541. (CL21021902)**

**Employed match around Chandigarh** for beautiful NM girl MA (Psych), B.Ed. 12.08.1989, 09:45 pm, 5'-4", working Rajput College. WhatsApp 87085-21862. (CL21022070)

**Suitable match for beautiful, very talented, hardworking, fair, slim Khatri girl, 5'-3" 1988, M.Phil, Ph.D, UG/CET clear. Regular Govt. job Assistant Professor Patiala. Contact: 70091-01048. (CL21022378)**

**Suitable match for 1993, 5'2", Post Graduate girl from high status landlord business family.** 99150-26059. (CL21022659)

**Suitable match for Hindu Khatri girl, 01.09.93 (11:55 am. Patiala), 5'-3", MCA. 9779582622. (CL21020957)**

**Match for Khatri, non manglik,** vegetarian, slim, Fair, beautiful girl, 27-10-1992, 13:45 pm Yamuna Nagar, 5'-5", B.Tech pursuing MBA (Finance), Deputy Branch Manager in ICICI (Ludhiana). 82800-46534, 9736-72146. (CL21022396)

**Match for Hindu Khatri Manglik girl** 1992, 5'-0", Ph.D. Chemistry, USA. Qualified industrialist also welcome. 98550-93529. (CL21022441)

**Match for Khatri girl 9.12.1991,** 12:40 pm, Ferozepur, 5'-5", BCA, M.Com, B.Ed., 94633-81422. (CL21022476)

**SM4 Khatri girl, M.Sc. (Chemistry)** M.Ed. (NET), 5'-2", 30.8.1985, Ferozepur. 94785-08324. (CL21022248)

**Match for Punjabi Khatri girl,** 02.12.1990, 5'-3", Medical Laboratory Technology Graduate (Punjab University), presently working in NABH certified hospital, status family settled in Panchkula. Email: wizhivibes02@gmail.com , 98880-15399. (CL21022513)

**SM4 Khatri girl MA, B.Ed. Teacher** at Ludhiana package 7 LPA. 24.12.1983, Chandigarh 11.30 a.m., 5'-10", 98156-05301, 97791-05301. suren52@gmail.com Caste no bar. (CL21022559)

**Medico match for Khatri beautiful girl** 5'5", Dec.1993, born Ambala, persuing MD Microbiology from Govt. College Haryana. Well settled Doctors family. MD/ MS / M.Ch/DM preferred. Upper caste welcome. 98120-76674, 98123-41777. (CL21022395)

**Khatri girl 1989/ 5', MBA (Finance/Banking), Deputy Branch Manager in ICICI (Ludhiana). 82800-46534, 9736-72146. (CL21022396)**

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**Match for beautiful fair sim,** April 86, MBA, highly reputed business family, preferred business of same status. Marriage bureau excuse. Contact: 97796-96569, 98554-43310. (CL21021590)

**Match for Khukraini Punjabi** beautiful girl, 5'-5"/August 93/ B.Tech. Working in MNC Pune (IT Company), good package. Preferably Tricity only. Contact: 98551-15777. (CL21021625)

**Well-settled good personality match** for 79 born, Chd. working girl. Looks much younger. WhatsApp 62807-36559. No bars. (CL21021648)

**Match for Khukraini Punjabi** beautiful girl, 5'-5"/August 93/ B.Tech. Working in MNC Pune (IT Company), good package. Preferably Tricity only. Contact: 98551-15777. (CL21021625)

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**PROPERTY FOR SALE**

**Original booking Flats/ Commercial Properties in reputed Companies New Chandigarh/ Mohali/ Zirakpur/ NCR Delhi (Discount available).** Arora (HSAS) Retd. # DLF R28406/ Showroom 50-51 Sector 17-A, Chandigarh. Package 5 lakh. WhatsApp 98886-91061. satshamji@gmail.com (CL21021496)

**One/ two kanal facing park Sector 8,** 34, 35. Four kanal 8, 9, Chandigarh. Shaleen Ent. 98881-21133. (CL21000264)

**Direct deal corner modern 2 kanal house** (1250 gaj), prime location, in Defense Sector, Chandigarh. Genuine buyers only. 98149-67149. (CL21019775)

**Chandigarh going very cheap showroom huge parking** Sector 40-C, (Direct deal). Immediate sale. 98149-67149. (CL21019780)

**Chandigarh direct deal corner 4-5 kanal house**, prime location facing park, Sector 2, 4, 8, 10, 27, 28. Genuine buyers. 98149-67149. (CL21020361)

**Wanted 1 kanal/ 2 kanal old/ new kothies** Sector 8, 10, 11, 16, 18, 21, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, direct deal. Immediate settlement. 9814

**PLOT FOR SALE**

**Available/Plots all Sizes**  
Ecocity/ DLF/ Officer Society New Chandigarh, 98787-09884. # R2B406. (CL21011797)

**Mohali industrial:** 4330 yard B-Road newly built shed, 4.25 Lakh rent coming from 60%, rest with owner, Phase-7, Royal Castle: 98767-60000. (CL21020736)

**Mohali Gilleo industrial:** 1, 2, 4 kanal B-Road East facing, excellent locations, Royal Castle: 98767-60000, 98787-80000. (CL21020737)

**Mohali: 12 marla Sector 89,** North facing, excellent location, near 200 feet road, Royal Castle 98767-60000, 98767-60006. (CL21020776)

**Mohali: 16 marla Sector 79,** 100 ft., 79-80 dividing road, for Doctor, Architect, Lawyer, Royal Castle 98767-60000, 98787-80000. (CL21020777)

**Aerotropolis LOI: 500,** 300, 200, 150 residential & 200, 100, 60, 25 commercials, Royal Castle 98767-60006, 98787-80000. (CL21020779)

**Available: 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 &** 12 Marla Plots and Houses in Sector-76 to 80 Good Locations Reasonable Price, Orbit Estates 9878200042, 9915534500. (CL21022277)

**4 Marla B-road, 8 Marla Facing Park,** 12 Marla Single Line, Sector-88-89, Mohali, Orbit Estates-872883540, 8968799143. (CL21022284)

**Please contact for sale & purchase of plots in Aero City, IT City & Aerotropolis.** Yogesh Chopra 98720-99999. (CL21022474)

**Available all sizes plots Sectors 76 to 80 JPL Sec. 82/ 88/ 89 Aerocity/Ecocity ITCity, Rama Properties Rera approved: 98140-42827. (CL21020482)**

**EcoCity 1 New Chandigarh 100, 200, 400, 500 sqyd plots for sale.** Allied Realty 98551-22199, 98551-16644. (CL21020524)

**4, 6 marla corner facing park HUDA Pimpore Sector-30** registry case. Confirm deal, 92161-60038. (CL21020530)

**6, 8 marla facing park corner side B-Road confirm HUDA deal Sector-30 Pimpore, 92161-60038.** (CL21020531)

**DLF Hyde Park New Chandigarh 250, 350, 500 sqyd plots for sale.** Allied Realty 98551-22199, 98551-16644. (CL21020543)

**Hot sale one kanal plot, park facing Sector 66 Beta IT City Airport road.** End users Contact: 98160-02388, 98154-40088. (CL21020727)

**Signature City: 125 sq. yds corner facing park, 100 sq. yds corner, 100 sq. yds East facing near IT City and Aerotropolis. Low investment bright future.** 87250-15131. (CL21020767)

**Janta Industrial Sector 82 Plots:** #1000 (facing park) #1211 (B-Road) #295 (B-Road) #645 (B-Road) #481 (25% constructed) #111 (66 sq.yard) 1 kanal Panchi. Owner 98151-07112. (CL21020768)

**Mohali Industrial: Available 2 kanal (corner + B-Road) Phase-7, 2 kanal (B-Road) Phase-9, 2 kanal Gilleo & Landchester, 2 kanal Sector 82, 1 kanal (B-Road) Phase-8-B, 1 kanal (B-Road) Phase-9, 1 kanal corner Gilleo, 98151-07112. (CL21022270)**

**EMAAR plots 544-SY corner, facing park plot in Sector 105, 390-SY corner, facing park plot in Sector 108, 300-SY plot in Sector 109. Available Villa, Bungalow, house, flats & floors. Buy/ sell all kind of EMAAR properties. Call 91868-97777. (CL21022736)**

**PLOT WANTED**

**Get maximum price for all sizes of plots Sec. 76 to 80 JPL industrial 82/88/89 Aerocity/Ecocity/ITCity Mohali. Rama Properties Rera approved 98140-42287. (CL21020483)**

**Unitech/ Emaar MGF/ Ireo/ DLF/ Omaxe 250, 300, 350, 400, 500, 1000 sq. yard.** 98142-17001. (CL21022385)

**LAND FOR SALE**

**Aerotropolis lands: 1, 2, 4 kanals/ acres, Block- E, F, G, H, Best investment.** Royal Castle 98767-60006, 98787-80000. (CL21020781)

**4.25 acre commercial land 250 ft. front on Rajpura Ludhiana 6 lane National Highway NH-1/ GT Road near McDonald's/ Rajpura Havelli, Village Patarsi Fatchgarh Sahib, 9736-83891. (CL21022271)**

**4.25 acre prime land 500 feet front on Chandigarh- Ludhiana, 6 lane National Highway Morinda.** 97973-36863. (CL21021575)

**Land deals in Zirakpur, Derabassi, Dapper, Tricity, residential, commercial and agriculture, fair deal.** 98766-10603. (CL21018829)

**6.5 Acre Agriculture Good Land for Sale at Distt. Sirsa (Haryana).** Contact 91462-29700. (CL21020432)

**10 marla 2 pair plots Sector 123, Sunny Enclave, 10 marla plot TDI Sector 110-111, flat 3 BHK, ground/first/second floor TDI Sector 110-111. 98142-11143. (CL21022206)**

**Sector 71, Mohali:- 130 sq. yards double storey house, facing North East in Sector 71, Mohali. Contact Owner 98728-67987. (CL21022215)**

**100 sq. yard B-Road Sector-89, Mohali. 300 sq. yard facing park Sector 108. 96465-28601. (CL21022220)**

**10 marla plot for sale in Sector 94, JPL Mohali. Rate 35.000 per sq. yard.** 98154-11677. (CL21022235)

**Plots near IT City Mohali @ 17,990/- per sq. yard.** Gated township on upcoming highway. Immediate Registry. 96463-37070. (CL21022387)

**Mohali- 100, 150, 200, 300, 400, 500 sq.yd. plots corner/ facing park/B-Road in Aera City & IT City. Raman Estates: 98889-98877. (CL21022401)**

**Mohali:- LT. City (100 sqyd) plot # 988 (80 feet road), Sector 66B, Raman Estates: 98889-98877. (CL21022462)**

**1 corner freehold plot 367.67 sq. yards 4104, Dugri Road Phase 2, Urban Estate, Ludhiana.** 94636-54065, 94636-54064. (CL21022449)

**Mohali:- Emara- MGF 12 marla plots Sector 105- 109, 6 marla Sector 79. Buyers contact: 098720-77099. (CL21022510)**

**4 marla facing park plot for sale in Sector 27, Panchkula.** Contact: 90414-44492. (CL21022539)

**200 sq.yd. plot at prime location, Dhakoli (@ 52 Lakh). Call: 76965-51999. (CL21022541)**

**Confirm/blocked plots/LOI in upcoming Aerotropolis Mohali also all over New Chandigarh, Dhillon: 98722-11221. (CL21022552)**

**356 gaj plot in Wave Estate dimensions 85, Mohali F Block single lane dimensions of plot 40' by 80' near park near market best location. Contact: 99881-11318. (CL21022595)**

**Janta Land: 2 kanal plot corner, B-Road, front packet, Sector 66A. Empire Estates: 99167-60000, 93763-0005. (CL21022600)**

**Confirm/blocked plots/LOI in upcoming Aerotropolis Mohali also all over New Chandigarh, Dhillon: 98722-11221. (CL21022552)**

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While its first-ever harvest in the country is only now being eagerly awaited, hing or asafoetida has always been intrinsic to Indian cooking **FOOD page 12**



As *The Family Man's* second season gets record viewership, here's a look at what impels its makers Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK to create clutter-breaking cinema **ENTERTAINMENT page 13**



Peggy Mohan's 'Wanderers, Kings, Merchants' tells a story of language and its fascinating process of mixing and adaptation through time **BOOKS page 14**

**I**t is now only a four-hour journey by road but 50 years ago, the Akhaura to Dhaka march that redrew the map of South Asia and rewrote its military history took us 13 tumultuous days. After a brilliant 72-hour operation at Akhaura, the enemy's formidable stronghold — defended by a battalion of their elite 12 Frontier Force and elements of 12 Azad Kashmir, supported by tanks, artillery and air service — wilted, and whatever was left of them were in retreat.

The credit for this remarkable victory goes to 311 Mountain Brigade Group, commanded by Brig RN Mishra. The operation was a brilliant success, with 4 Guards, commanded by the dashing and inspirational Lt Col Himmeth Singh, infiltrating the enemy lines, and the lead company, commanded by Maj Chandrakant Singh, repulsing a counter-attack of infantry and tanks. Maj Chandrakant earned an instant Vir Chakra for his brave leadership.



As a young Major, I was in command of 5 Independent Armoured Squadron (63 Cavalry), equipped with PT-76 tanks. In early November, the squadron had been ordered to assist the 61 Mountain Brigade in infiltrating behind Lalmalai Hills in Comilla, 63 km west of Agartala. We had done all the reconnaissance and coordination to execute the operation but, after a change in plans on November 28, the squadron was tasked to move with the infiltrating column with 4 Guards on the night of December 1. We had no time to reconnoitre and gather terrain and enemy obstacle layout along our route. It was therefore no surprise that on the night of our infiltration, we were caught in a cleverly laid anti-tank ditch on the fringes of Akhaura. 4 Guards, ahead of us, was wading through deep slush. A ditch is no obstacle for the infantry but for the tanks, it is designed to separate the infantry from the tanks.

After a night spent in recovery under intense enemy artillery fire, and faced with a relentless assault from the sky by the enemy Sabre jets next morning, we recovered in time to assist 18 Rajput, commanded by the gallant Lt Col Ashok Verma, in a successful day attack on the enemy defences guarding the Akhaura railway station. Earlier, a masterful frontal closing-in operation by 10 Bihar, commanded by the ever-cheerful Lt Col PC Sawhney — with lethal fire support provided by 65 Mountain Regiment, ably led by Col DS Bahl, and with the 57 Mountain Artillery Brigade fire support under Brig Jangi Bawa — the enemy was pulverised. Attack by infiltration was an unorthodox plan. It worked. For us, the start could not have been more propitious.

#### ROUTED PAK BRIGADE ON THE RUN

The momentous fall of Akhaura triggered a hasty retreat by Pakistan's 27 Infantry Brigade towards Meghna river. The tank squadron and 4 Guards were in hot pursuit. Having captured the enemy advance defences at Talashahar, 4 Guards were ordered to break contact with the enemy and assemble at Brahmanbaria in anticipation of a new task, as yet under active consideration. Breaking contact with a withdrawing enemy in battle amounts to having the

**Former Western Army Commander Lt Gen SS Mehta (Retd)**, who commanded a tank squadron that rolled into Dhaka as a greenhorn, remembers the epic battles beyond the brief

# March to free Dhaka



The masterstroke of crossing the Meghna river bypassing ground opposition is a classic example of an operational manoeuvre exercised targeting the enemy mind. It created shock and awe, a term now fashionable in Western capitals. The prospect of a captured Dhaka galvanised everyone up and down the security establishment. It saw Team India at its historic best. Indira Gandhi's statement — 'Dhaka is the free capital of a free country' — exemplifies 20th century's most successful humanitarian intervention against genocide surmounting all odds

#### WAR DESPATCHES

Sidney Schanberg, the Pulitzer Prize-winning correspondent of *New York Times* who rode into Dhaka with us, had this to say: "I don't like sitting around praising armies. I don't like armies because armies mean wars. But this (Indian) army was something. They were great all the way. There never was a black mark... I lived with the officers and I walked, rode with the jawans — and they were all great. Sure some of them were scared at first — they wouldn't be human if they weren't. But I never saw a man flinch because he was scared. There was a tremendous spirit in the Indian Army and it did one good to experience it."

<< The 5 Independent Armoured Squadron (63 Cavalry) making a victorious entry into Dhaka. Troops of assorted units and some correspondents can be seen atop tanks.



<< The writer, Lt Gen SS Mehta, then a Major (right), with Lt Col Himmeth Singh, CO of 4 Guards, in the eastern sector during the 1971 war.

PHOTOS:  
BAYERISCHE  
STAATSBLIBLIOTHEK  
MÜNCHEN/STERN-  
FOTOPARCHE/JAY  
ULLAL

marsh-free entry route into the river. My aerial sorties helped me to mark out small islands in the river which would allow me to make short hops. The entry and exit points to the islands were laterally separated by miles. My idea was to move from island to island — island hopping, as it were. We hopped countless times and crossed.

#### TEAM INDIA

The masterstroke of crossing the Meghna bypassing ground opposition is a classic example of an operational manoeuvre exercised by a military commander targeting the enemy mind. It created shock and awe, a term that has now become fashionable in the Western capitals. The prospect of a captured Dhaka galvanised everyone up and down the security establishment. It saw Team India at its historic best. It led to the march of a column, infantry, tanks and guns straight into the heart of the centre of gravity.

Further, as part of the teamwork at Delhi and Kolkata, 2 Para, commanded by the daredevil Lt Col KS Pannu, was on standby to paratroop at Targail with a column of 1 Maratha under Lt Col KS 'Bulbul' Brar gliding down from Tura in Meghalaya for a link-up.

The Navy was punishing Karachi with missiles from ships, accompanied with Petya Class frigates. The Air Force, master of the skies in the East, having successfully flown an infantry battalion across the Meghna, was targeting the Government House at Dhaka where Pakistani options to surrender or fight till the last were perhaps under discussion.

At that stage, we did not know which of the two options was finding favour. Leaflets were dropped over enemy emplacements, in which Pakistani soldiers were exhorted to surrender lest they should fall into the hands of those they had tormented — the unfortunate Bengalis of East Pakistan.

Having said that, I was not sure of the 'how' part of the operation. I was a greenhorn and thank God for it! Greenhorns get smitten by commanders whose reputation and charisma settle for nothing less than the best. My answer had to be a 'Yes sir'; and so it was. The speed of the water current in the Meghna was in double digits in knots. I don't know exactly what it was, but I could see the flow was very swift. As the rivers get closer to the Bay of Bengal, they pick speed and the current is much stronger than what the PT-76 tanks could negotiate in a near perpendicular crossing across two banks, which is often the battle requirement when the opposite bank is held. Fortunately, in our case, the far bank was not held by the enemy. Anticipating that I would have to exit downstream of my entry due to the speed of the water current, I requested for a helicopter to do a reconnaissance of the river. It was granted. Not satisfied with the first sortie, I asked for a second sortie and that too was approved. In the meantime, my trooper leader, Lt Raj Khindri, assisted by the locals, had reconnoitered the home bank and found a

into play and India was supported with repeated vetoes by the USSR at the United Nations Security Council. Our diplomats were also fighting Bhutto's canards at the UN. The administrators were gearing up for a temporary governance structure in the captured territory of East Pakistan, till Bangladeshis themselves took over. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her colleagues held their nerve amidst intense rumours of intervention by the powers beyond.

This sort of seamless synergy is an assured recipe for success. There were tasks cut out and delivered on all fronts — military, diplomatic, political, strategic, operational and tactical. It is this synergy that enabled the capture of Dhaka after Sagat's breathtaking Meghna river-crossing manoeuvre. I learnt early in my service that initiative is not only a trait, it is a duty.

#### MUKTI BAHINI

In 13 days, 75 million were rescued from possible genocide; it emphasised the totality of victory; shock and awe with little or no collateral damage; a historical moment to be recorded in the archives of military history in India, and across the world. It was a lesson in the inextricable linkages between grand strategy and conflict-termination objectives. Unless the two are co-terminal, victory remains but a mirage.

In 50 years since, we have witnessed numerous military interventions where the absence of appropriate, thought-out conflict-termination objectives has resulted in face-saving withdrawals. If Dhaka had not been addressed, and its surrender not achieved, one more mirage would have been added to this ever growing list.

The Mukti Bahini kept the wheel turning, keeping the momentum in our favour. In today's age we talk about battlefield transparency rendered possible by sensors, radars, artificial intelligence and satellites. In 1971, battlefield transparency was, whenever possible, provided by the Mukti Bahini. Their presence and their will to fight for a just cause made an outstanding contribution towards the capitulation of the enemy before the Joint Command.

Indira Gandhi's statement in Parliament — 'Dhaka is the free capital of a free country' — exemplifies 20th century's most successful humanitarian intervention against genocide surmounting all odds.

PHOTO BY THE  
THEN ADC TO  
LT GEN SAGAT  
SINGH, (LATER  
MAJ GEN)  
RANHIR SINGH



Our Corps Commander, Lt Gen Sagat Singh, could have stopped, having achieved his objective.

However, his lifetime experience of combat told him otherwise. For him, an opportunity beckoned.

He had Dhaka in sight. He knew it was the strategic centre of gravity.

#### THE MASTERSTROKE

With the bridge blown, our Corps Commander, Lt Gen Sagat Singh, was at the proverbial dead end. History is replete with instances when in a battle situation there is an unanticipated pause — because of one's own actions, or that of the enemy's. The former gives you food for thought; the latter invariably provides you a fleeting opportunity. Our GOC could have chosen to defer the advance and draw comfort from having completed his assigned task. However, Sagat's lifetime experience of combat told him otherwise. It served only to stoke the flame within him. For him, an opportunity beckoned. He had Dhaka in sight. He knew it was the strategic centre of gravity, the focal point — although it was beyond his brief. His experiences of the past intuitively brought a glint in his eye. He later described that day as the most exciting of his life. He could not let a brilliant opportunity go unad-

enemy on the ropes, yet not delivering the knockout punch. However, this is where experience and military judgement take over. At the tactical level, such a direction seemed strange; however, at the operational level, as it later turned out, the stage was being set for a bigger blow — Dhaka.

18 Rajput and 10 Bihar continued their relentless drive towards the bridge. This reinforced the enemy perception that our objective was to capture the bridge intact. Both battalions reached within 300 yards of

# Favourite spice we never grew


**FOOD TALK**

PUSHPESH PANT

**H**ING is said to have travelled to Europe from Afghanistan with the phalanx of Alexander's army when it returned after the death of the great conqueror. The Romans knew it, but used it only for the purposes of exorcism. By Renaissance, the exotic ingredient was forgotten. Most people were put off by the strong smell that lingered on the breath long after one had consumed it. Iranian scientists like Avicenna were aware of its therapeutic properties. Ancient Persians called it the 'Food of Gods', but, strangely, none used it in their kitchen.

Western descriptions of *hing* aka asafoetida have not been flattering. In the culinary literature, it was derisively referred to as 'devil's dung' or a bit more politely as 'stinking gum'. The resinous sticky excretions from the root of this tuber exude a strong smell that most prefer to identify as stench. To our mind, this is the classic case of giving the dog a bad name and hanging it.

Our eyes were opened, or to be precise, nostrils tantalised and the palate titillated to the pleasures of *hing* by our late friend, Hindi poet Kamlesh. He had just returned from the strife-torn Kabul and brought back with him a kilogram of the best quality stuff, risking his life and limb as he searched for it in the hazardous bazaars. He was cooking a simple, yet sublime, lunch for himself and the house was redolent with a strange fragrance. When we got curious, he quipped that it shouldn't have been difficult for a foodie to identify. To cut a long story short, that was the day we discovered the difference between pure and adulterated *hing*. Adulterated isn't the right word though. What we mean is *hing* diluted by blending it with flour. This is what is usually sold in the market for use in the household kitchen as *bandhaani hing* under different brand names. Even this needs to be handled with care as use of more than just a pinch of *hing* can mar a well-made dish!

Pure *hing* has a translucent crystalline form and it almost shines like a gem. Admittedly, it has a very strong overpowering smell and has to be kept in containers with tight-fitting lids, lest it rub off on any companion on the shelf. However, in the hands of a master, it releases an aroma no less alluring than saffron.

Indians have for millennia valued *hing* for its medicinal properties. According to time-tested ayurvedic prescriptions, it is an effective digestive, carminative, aperitif that reduces flatulence. *Hingashtak choorna* combines asafoetida with seven other ingredients to come up with a desi 'fruit salt powder'. This has provided the inspiration for *hing goli* encountered at many a pickle and chutney shop. This reminds us of the *aam ka sukha*

While *hing* or asafoetida has been intrinsic to Indian cooking, its first-ever harvest in India is only now being eagerly awaited



*hing wala achaar* that is best relished with day-old pooris or flaky *parantha* at room temperature. This is a UP specialty and the best we ever tasted was at a Baniya friend's house in Agra. After peeling the unripe mango, the stone is removed and the thinly sliced fruit is then pickled sans oil with salt and a touch of red chilli powder. Cooked in the sun, it is simply divine.

Purveyors of *chaat* rely on it to prepare the *panni* or *golgappas*. And can one imagine Rajasthani *kachori* without *hing*? The Jains and Marwari communities have traditionally eschewed the *tamasik* garlic. *Hing* is substituted to provide the same sulphur notes.

Folk wisdom tells us that *hing* should be used in tempering of lentils and vegetables that are hard to digest or to alle-

viate the distress caused by changing seasons. *Maash* lentil is a prime example of this. Many other lentils become better after a *hing-jeere ka tadka*. Ditto for *aloob dom* and its cousins like *hing jeere ke aloo* and more. There are a few recipes in the Kashmiri Pandit *wazwan* that rely only on *hing* to bring out the natural flavours of the main ingredient, for example *haak* and *kadam saag*. Chillies, dried red or fresh green, certainly play the second fiddle.

Let this not convey that *hing* is a reliable friend only for the vegetarians. In Kashmiri Pandit cuisine, it is one of the trinity — *hing*, *saunf* (fennel seeds), *sauath* (dried ginger powder) — that makes the *roganjosh* come alive.

*Hing* is indispensable in everyday cooking in South India. *Sambar*, *rasam*

and pickles register its presence subtly. It is a favourite with the Gujaratis, who, like Marwaris, are largely vegetarian and fond of dishes prepared from gram flour (considered hard to digest) and are exceptionally fond of deep-fried snacks.

Ironically, though India is the largest consumer of *hing* in the world, the plant was never cultivated at home. Good quality *hing* was imported from Afghanistan and more recently from Iran and Central Asian republics. Now, however, attempts have been made to grow *hing* in Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti regions of Himachal Pradesh from saplings developed from seeds imported from Iran. As we await the first harvest, the excitement is rising. Will the new chapter in the story of *hing* conclude with unimagined crowning glory?


**CONSUMERS BEWARE!**

PUSHPA GIRIMAJI

Ads cannot promise what they don't deliver

I have been losing a lot of hair recently and on seeing the advertisement of an oil that promised to stop hair fall and promote growth, I bought it despite its high price. However, I was dismayed on using the oil for two months. It neither stopped my hair fall nor promoted growth as promised. Besides losing the hard-earned money that I spent on it, I also felt great disappointment at the results and want to take action against the manufacturer. What kind of relief can I seek before the consumer court?

Under the Consumer Protection Act, you cannot only ask for withdrawal of the offending advertisement, but also request the court to direct issuance of 'corrective advertisement'.

In other words, the court can ask the manufacturer to issue fresh advertisements to neutralise the effect of the misleading advertisement. The court can also direct the manufacturer to issue these corrective advertisements for the same length of time the false advertisements were published or aired. I always feel that this is a highly deterrent provision against false and misleading advertisements because the manufacturer will have to spend a huge amount of money on advertisements that actually show him and his product in very poor light.

In addition, you can ask for refund of the money spent by you on the oil, besides compensation for the disappointment and mental anguish suffered by you. You can also ask for costs of litigation.

Under the new consumer protection law, you can also lodge a complaint against the product and the advertisement before the Central Consumer Protection Authority. It has wide-ranging powers to deal with such advertisements and can not only order withdrawal of such advertisements, but also impose heavy penalty on the manufacturer. It can even sentence an offender to undergo imprisonment for up to two years. Under the new law, even an endorser is liable.

Can you quote a recent consumer court decision in a matter such as this?

On December 29, 2020, the Thrissur (Kerala) District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission awarded compensation of ₹20,000 to a consumer on a complaint similar to yours. His allegation was that on seeing an advertisement of an ayurvedic hair cream endorsed by Malayalam film actor Anoop Menon, promising luxurious hair growth in six weeks, he bought the oil. But even after using it for seven weeks, he found no positive change.

The Commission directed Dhatri Ayurveda Private Ltd, the manufacturer of the hair cream, as well as the endorser, Menon, to pay ₹10,000 each to the consumer for making false claims. The Commission also directed the chemist who sold the oil to pay ₹3,000.

According to the order of the Commission, the complaint goes back to 2012 when the complainant bought the oil on seeing the advertisement featuring the Malayalam actor. It said: "Hair growth is guaranteed. Just within six weeks, the result will be three-fold." When questioned, the actor admitted that he had not used the hair cream and was under the impression that he was promoting a hair care and protection product.

Criticising the actor for endorsing a product without checking the veracity of the claim, the Commission not only asked him to pay ₹10,000 to the consumer, but also warned him against promoting a product in future without ascertaining the truth of the claim.

The Commission also dismissed the argument of the defendants that the package insert warned that the effectiveness of the oil may vary from person to person. Pointing to the minute print of the brochure, the Commission said that it needed a magnifying glass to read that. (Francis Vadakkann Vs The Proprietor, A-One Medicals, CC NO 345 of 2012)

## Redefining North Indian breakfast menu

Come to think of it, breakfast options in the region are limited to *paranthas* and *pooris*. However, essentially mid-morning dishes, these are never perfect for an early breakfast. A little playing around with local ingredients can offer various choices though

VIBHA SHARMA

If you are one of those early risers who want to partake of a "light" slice of North India for breakfast, chances are you will be left disappointed. Venture out into the market and there is a high probability that you will mostly be greeted by fried stuff — either *chhole-bhature* or *pooris* of various kinds with *chhole* or *aloob*; stuffed *paranthas* are the only other item easily available on the breakfast table. However, since these delicacies are a little too heavy on the stomach, we would rather call them brunch options. This means there is almost nothing

### Weighing in on lighter options

- **Rolls:** Mothers have always handed over rolled *paranthas* to kids rushing to school. These rolls could be made from *moong dal*, *besan*, *sooji* or *oats*. Serve with chutney.
- **Namkeen dalia:** With lots of seasonal vegetables and nuts for crunch; served with mint chutney.
- **Missi roti or daal wala paratha:** Make them paper thin and soft and top them with Punjabi mango pickle masala. Unlike their *parantha* incarnations, these are much lighter and can be enjoyed a while after they have been cooked.
- **Buns:** Punjabi *tadka paneer bhurji* in soft buns.
- **Variety of chaats with various boiled legumes:** Chickpeas, black grams, kidney beans, black eyed beans, soyabeans, there are options galore. Tamarind chutney and mint chutney add a sweet and sour taste and freshly chopped onions, tomatoes and coriander leave a feel of freshness.



PHOTOS BY THE WRITER

ing to satiate one's hunger if one is looking out to do so before mid-morning.

Now, contrast this with the buzzing activity on South Indian streets in the wee hours of the day, when the aroma of curry leaves and filter coffee emanates from every crevice and corner. It seems southern states have aced their food game when it comes to offering stomach-friendly options early in the morning. And wayside eateries called *darshinis* deserve a big credit for being a game changer in the breakfast scene in these states. These are self-service restaurants that usually offer no or very limited seating facility. This helps in making the

menu affordable, while cutting down on the expenditure on salaries of serving staff, furniture, etc. All *darshinis* follow the pay-first-eat-later model and their main focus is to serve quick, tasty and efficiently produced local food at reasonable rates.

Coming back to North India, even in our homes, the usual breakfast options are *paranthas*, punctuated at times with *pooris*. This makes one wonder how and when did these items become such a significant part of our morning meal? According to food historian Pushpesh

Pant, *paranthas* came to India with the Mughals. "The concept of breakfast was never there in India. There was just 'do joon ki roti', two square meals a day. And the early morning meal would be leftover *roti* from dinner the day before," says Pant, whose next book, to be published by Niyogi Books, is on breakfasts in India.

Agriculture has always been the mainstay in Punjab and its neighbouring states and the cuisine here has always been greatly influenced by the farming community. Pant says those heading out into the fields to work wouldn't have bothered to cook a fancy breakfast. "Lunch would be brought to the fields by women from home, which was theme of a beautiful film ('Uski Roti') by Mani Kaul," he says.

However, as *paranthas* became part of life, very logically, almost all seasonal vegetables began to find easy entry as stuffing. Same is true for pulses too. A permanent part of dinner here, leftover *dal* found, and continues to find, perfect refuge in the *paranthas* the following morning.

These high-calorie mid-morning meal options are, and have been, perfectly suitable for labour-intensive farming work. With time, as a section of natives is moving away from farming, food requirements are undergoing a change too. Isn't it time to bring in some lighter-on-stomach breakfast options to match equally light physical work?

# Men behind *The Family Man*

NONIKA SINGH

@BajpayeeManoj coming to a Netflix series! We love that you are a part of this family, man. # Ray

**C**AN there be a bigger compliment than a rival streaming platform referring to your series to promote their own? That is the power of *The Family Man*, whose season 2 right now streaming on Amazon Prime has viewers in a thrall, critics in overdrive and social media in frenzy. Few series have received this kind of attention where viewers want to dissect every single plot detail, understand every conceivable twist and turn and are already agog with anticipation about the third outing of the series.

As *The Family Man's* second season acquires record viewership, surpassing its successful first season, here's a look at what impels its makers Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK to create clutter-breaking cinema



As an unusual family, the young Ashlesha Thakur, Manoj Bajpayee, Priyamani and Vedant Sinha have again struck a chord with the audience in *The Family Man*.



Unlikely spy & terrorist: Sharib Hashmi as JK Talpade & Samantha Akkineni as Rajalekshmi 'Raji' Sekaran.



## HOW IT GOT BIGGER AND BETTER: RAJ AND DK

"We were fascinated with the idea that our spy would be more indigenous, grounded and a family man. We met many real-life officers and discovered that they are like all of us, only their jobs are way more important."

"*The Family Man* season one was what one would call a sleeper hit. We were aware of the curse of the second season. Considering the weight of expectations and anticipation, we knew what we were up against. Thankfully, the story was written way before the release of season one and a good chunk had been shot too. With Suparn Varma on board to direct a few episodes and Tamil actors – each outperforming the other – the family grew bigger and better."



Raj Nidimoru (L) and Krishna DK  
"The only constant we believe in is change. We would love to jump on to various genres and up our game in the same genre and do something more than expected."

Unsurprisingly, its lead actor, an immensely grateful Manoj Bajpayee, pens a note of gratitude. Its makers, directors, producers, writers, Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK, stand overwhelmed.

So who are these men behind *The Family Man*, who have found a desi spy in a simple unassuming family man, almost an antithesis to the suave martini-sipping Bond? Well, Raj and DK, as the duo is popularly known, are two Telugu boys, software engineers, who migrated to the US and decided to switch lanes more than a decade ago. If 12 years ago, nobody was ready to give them a chance, today their company D2R Indie is eager to give talent-

ed aspirants a platform.

In case you are still wondering what made Netflix tweet in favour of their series, their Telugu film *Cinema Bandi* has become the most popular film on Netflix, compelling the makers to tweet, "Here's to Indie films". Of course, their track record has always been stellar, especially in terms of critical acclaim. Their film *Shor in the City* won plaudits, even if it did not set the box office on fire. Whatever may be the BO verdict, clutter-breaking content has always been their USP. Be it the zombie film *Go Goa Gone* or *99*, their cinema has always treaded the untried path.

Of course, it is with *The Family Man* that they truly struck gold, some would say found their metier and, undeniably, the much-deserved place under the sun. Spy genre isn't new to the world or India; undercover agents have been the leitmotif of many films in India. But as the series dropped in 2019 without much fanfare and with an unlikely choice of a hero to play a spy, it totally eclipsed the much-hyped Red Chillies production *Bard of Blood* which released at the same time. Like its disarming hero Srikant Tiwari, who is as fallible as sharp, lies through his teeth, clued into the world and clueless about the goings-on inside his house, the series grew upon you

beguilingly. Soon, it became a top contender, sweeping many an award function.

Second season, which dropped after a gap of two years, has surpassed viewership figures of the first season by leaps and bounds, an over-joyous Sharib Hashmi aka JK Talpade shares, "Would you believe it, fans are telling me how they have watched the season 2 thrice over in just a span of a week." As he is going through laudatory messages, "If Srikant is the heart of *The Family Man*, you are its heartbeat," he can't deconstruct the success of *The Family Man*, "for there is no formula really".

But on Raj and DK's vision, he has a whole lot to say. First and foremost, he

shares, "They are actors' directors who know when to give a free hand and when to pull the strings. At no point do you feel there are two directors on the sets, and this time, there were three. Suparn Varma was such a welcome addition. The lightness of touch that pervades *The Family Man* is discernible on the sets and shooting is so much fun." The same thought is echoed by Abhay Verma (Kalyan), "For them, comfort and happiness of the cast and crew come before shooting." Sharib, while recalling his audition for the web-series when his character was a Basu and not a Talpade, agrees that inclusivity comes naturally to the makers who would go to any part of the country to cast the right actors. He says, "When was the last time you saw such beautiful Tamil actors in a mainstream Hindi project?" Sunny Hinduja (Milind of *The Family Man*), who calls them the dynamic duo, dittoes, "Only they can bring the diversity of our entire nation in one show."

Of course, the series which stars Samantha Akkineni, a popular heroine of Telugu and Tamil cinema, has also brought them censure for depicting her in deep shades of brown. They have tried to dodge the criticism and justified it by insisting that after all it's a Tamil actor playing a Tamil part. Besides, like her agile body language and training in martial arts, complexion is part of Samantha's role as warrior Raji. While the 'brown face' controversy might stick somewhat, the makers have miraculously escaped another contentious debate which at one point threatened to flare into a full blown standoff. Prior to its release, the series ran into troubled waters for its perceived anti-Tamil bias. Now, it is being hailed for its sensitive and nuanced portrayal of Tamils. The character Chellam Sir (Udhayabhanu Maheswaran), who appears only for 15 minutes in the show, has gone viral. The possibility of a spinoff around him, a concept so far associated only with mega international shows like *Game of Thrones*, is in the air. Suparn Varma, who directed five episodes and is part of the writing team, however, has not committed to anything, not even whether Chellam Sir will be part of the third season, though the fine actor is open to both.

Whether the hype around *The Family Man* is justified or is it mere hoopla, there is no denying that Raj and DK have a universal appeal. While Sharib may not be a part of their next-web series starring Shahid Kapoor, he is confident we can only expect more edgy and quality stuff from the duo. As Talpade, who escapes many a brush with death, he would have easily died on screen. For if Raj and DK deemed it fit to kill his character, it had to be a killer move. To die for, that's exactly what their actors and fans believe the duo is creating.

# Lines drawn on land, in hearts

SAIBAL CHATTERJEE

**S**AMARTH MAHAJAN'S *Borderlands*, the filmmaker's second feature-length documentary, trains the spotlight on those who live on or near India's frontiers. While the film is expressly about the lines that separate one country from another, it is just as much about ruptures that geographical demarcations cause within society and in the depths of the human heart. Mahajan, whose own roots are in Dinanagar, Punjab's northernmost town, places personal narratives front and centre in a cinematic essay that delivers vivid portraits of six individuals whose existence is inextricably linked with the nation's borders.

In an observant and illuminating documentary, Samarth Mahajan, who has his roots in Gurdaspur, examines six ordinary lives shaped by India's many borders

Conflict, infiltration and nationalism are themes that usually dominate films about geographical boundaries. But these aren't central to Mahajan's sharply observant, illuminating cinematic essay. It reveals how lines drawn on land impinge upon personal identity and the imagination of individuals.

Mahajan, a mechanical engineering graduate from IIT Kharagpur, made the National Award-winning documentary *The Unreserved* in 2017. It examined the lives and struggles of train passengers who travel in general compartments.

The same empathy is on full view in *Borderlands*, crowdfunded by more than 550 contributors from 10 nations. The film had its World Premiere at DOKfestMunich in May, where it played in the Horizonte competition, before airing online as part of the New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF, June 4-13).

Among the people *Borderlands* homes in is the filmmaker's mother. These passages add up to an intimate portrait of a homemaker inseparable from the routine that her 24x7 role as wife and mother has imposed upon her.



Deepa (top) lives in a Pakistani migrant settlement in Jodhpur; and Dhauli (above) felt caged in when a fence was erected between India and Bangladesh.

The only man portrayed in *Borderlands* is Imphal-based filmmaker Surjakantha. Living not far away from the India-Myanmar border, he throws light on Manipur's turbulent contemporary history. He explains why it is essential for him to use cinema to tell "our stories".

Mahajan tells one story of his own and it features his mother, Rekha Mahajan. She was born not very far from the India-Pakistan border. She was married into a family that also lived near the line that separates the two nations. But she had never seen the Wagah border, a few kilometres away, until her filmmaker son decided to film her and delve into her life.

Mahajan peels off many layers—personal, familial, social and transactional—as Rekha reveals her innermost feelings on camera, in the bargain mirroring the lot of countless Indian women who abandon their ambitions

and desires at the border where domestic responsibilities kick in.

He does an equally effective job of delineating the other characters. One such is Dhauli. She lives in Nargaoon on the India-Bangladesh border. Many years ago, she left her ancestral home and accompanied her husband to India. The notion of home continues to be hazy in Dhauli's mind. She pines for her parents and siblings. The anguish of separation lingers. Rekha's pain is no less palpable. She laments the monotony of her life, a sense of loneliness, and a feeling of emotional weakness. Dhauli, on her part, complains that she felt caged in when a fence was erected between India and Bangladesh. She says she hasn't managed to reconcile herself to missing the birth of her younger sister in Bangladesh. She would have loved to be the first to hold the girl in her arms. But borders do not respect emotions.

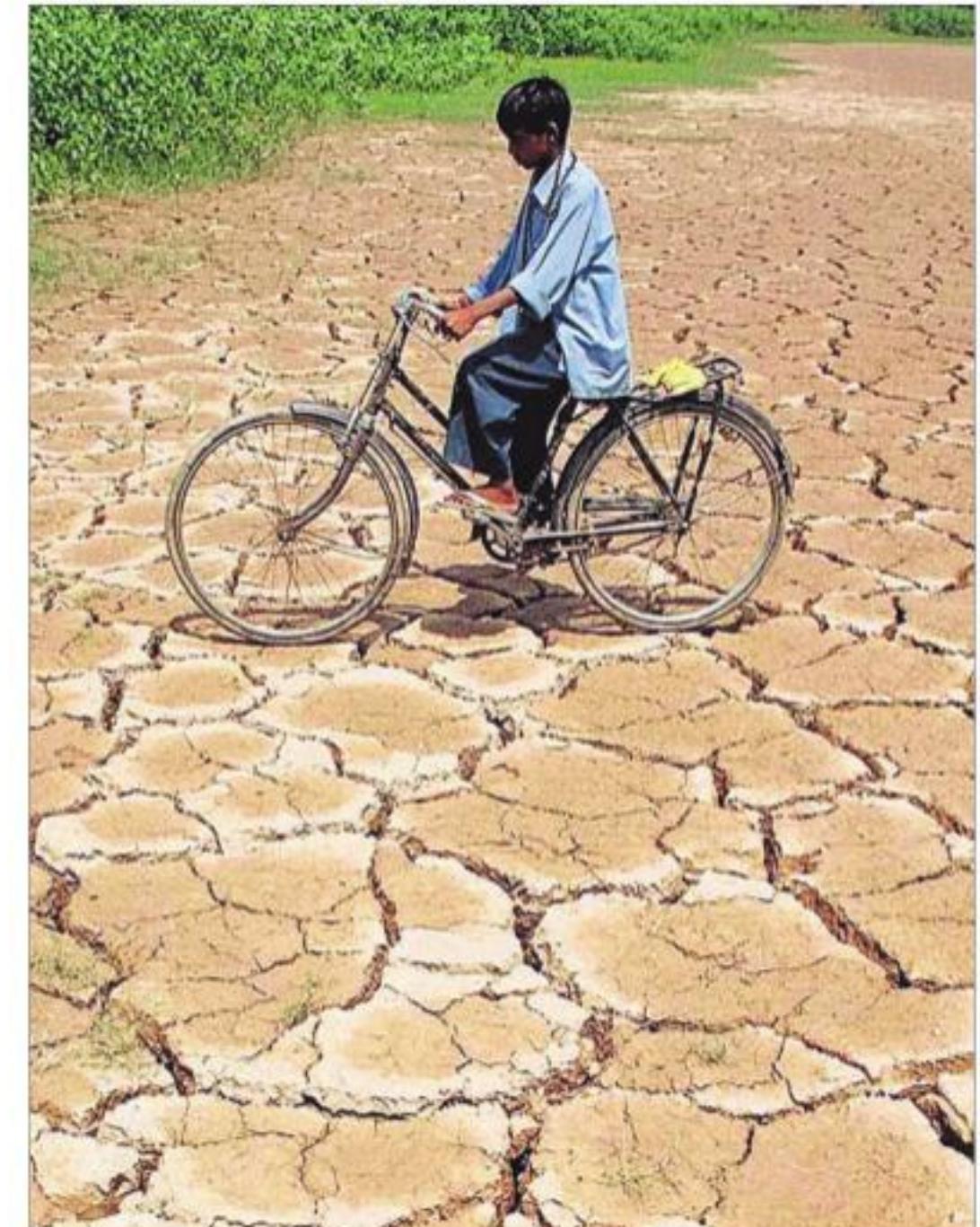
Life has been infinitely more painful for Noor, a trafficked Bangladeshi girl, who lives in a Kolkata shelter home. The film closes up on faces when the characters speak, recording every glint, every grimace and flash of emotion. However, given the nature of her story, Noor's face stays off camera. Still in her teens, Noor has seen more than her share of emotional upheavals—betrayal, violence, love, separation—but she clings on to the hope that she can rebuild her life and reclaim all that she's lost.

At the other end of the spectrum is Kavita, who works at a border check-post in Birgunj, Nepal. Her job is to prevent trafficking of girls. Kavita and Noor exist on two divergent sides of a criminal trade that exploits vulnerable women and porous borders. But one is as spirited as the other.

An occasional dash of humour enlivens the story of Deepa, who lives in a Pakistani migrant settlement in Jodhpur. It isn't easy adjusting into a new environment. She aspires to be a nurse. In Pakistan, the medium of education was Urdu and Sindhi. In India, Kavita has to learn Hindi to complete her studies. The move across the border has altered Deepa's life for good, but she is determined to soldier on, the costs notwithstanding.

## CAPTION CONTEST 1309

A TRIBUNE PHOTO



Entries are invited to suggest a caption for the above photograph. The caption should only be in English, witty and not exceeding 10 words, and reach Spectrum, The Tribune, Chandigarh, 160030, by Thursday. The best five captions will be published and

awarded ₹300, ₹250, ₹200, ₹150 and ₹100, respectively. Each caption must be accompanied by a clipping of the caption contest and its number. Photocopies of the caption photo will not be accepted. Please mention the pin code in your address.

You have a camera or a phone camera? Click and send us a picture for the caption contest. The selected picture will be used for Caption Contest. Mail the high resolution picture (jpg format) at [captionpics@tribunemail.com](mailto:captionpics@tribunemail.com)

## Selected entries for Caption Contest 1308

June 6 issue (see photo)

- An eco-friendly drive — Avneet Kumar, Amritsar
- Stable companions — Neeraj Sabharwal, Chandigarh
- The smile gallops — Vijay Kumar Punj, Panchkula
- Knight riders — Aditya, Saharanpur
- Free rein — Kavita Ahuja, Ludhiana



# Language, land and the people

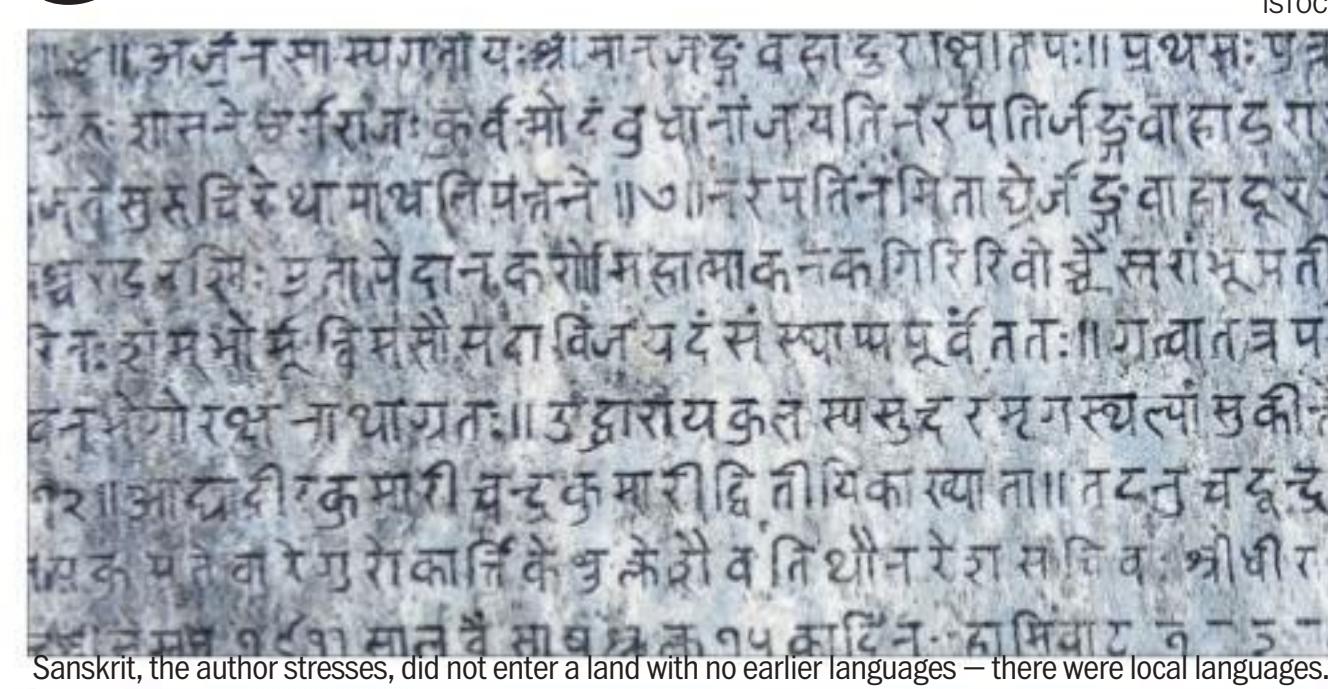
PUSHPINDE SYAL

**P**EGGY MOHAN'S book tells a story of language, which is that of a fascinating process of mixing and adaptation through time. Language, in its very existence and evolution, resists the notion of purity, and linguistic archeology and genetics are connected in telling us that linguistic purity, like racial purity, is an improbable idea.

The history of Indian languages, like many languages spread over the globe, shows that the infusions from one language to another are intertwined with the histories of earlier people and later settlers, 'a fusion between people that got mirrored in the language they made'. This approach towards language looks at the evolution of languages as a process through time — this is called 'diachronic' — rather than the study of the form of the language, which is 'synchronic' (though both are related — in studying language forms, we find 'code-switching', which is how bilinguals alternate between two languages in their speech).

The process involves structural changes in languages, such as in the grammar and sound system and these reveal the trajectory and relationships that develop between languages. Each language has a DNA made up of intertwined strands, revealed through forensic investigation, and supported by historical evidence.

In the chapter on the hidden story of



Sanskrit, the author stresses, did not enter a land with no earlier languages — there were local languages.

Sanskrit, the veil is drawn back on the discovery that Sanskrit and Dravidian languages intermingled in the pre-Rig Vedic time and through the Vedic era, traced through markers such as the cropping up of a series of sounds in Sanskrit which were not originally in its sound system, but entered later through 'other' languages, that is, the languages of the earlier people. These people, though conquered, retained their speech habits, their language forming a 'substratum', which refers to the base of those languages that continues and interpenetrates the 'invading' language, resulting in mixed forms which then develop into new languages. Loan words may be brought in, but the unique substratum remains.

The point is that Sanskrit did not enter a land of people who had no earlier languages — there were local languages, the languages of what Mohan calls the 'little people'. Later, mixed languages emerged,

accepting parts of Prakrit and Sanskrit (e.g. words, word endings), but retaining a lot of their base in sounds and grammar.

This is not so far-fetched as it might seem. If we hold on to the idea of a 'proto Indo European', we can also consider the notion of a 'proto-Sanskrit,' or 'ur-Rig Vedic Sanskrit' which changed with layers of some of the Dravidian languages becoming part of its structure. To develop these ideas, Mohan draws on the work of the linguist Madhav Deshpande, who himself had to face stiff resistance to his presentation of evidence of the interface between Sanskrit and Dravidian languages. Continuing the metaphor from genetics, it is indeed the case that languages become genetically modified as they travel through time and space with their 'bearers', i.e. their native speakers.

Language is divided unevenly in societies — there are important gender divides and class divides. The male pre-

dominance of an invading language, combined with power, holds sway, while the local languages become languages of the home, of the females, of 'mothers'. In that sense, Sanskrit is more the 'father' than the 'mother' as it is fancied. Mohan also describes the unexpected twists and turns that show the pace of movement from Persian to Uzbek to Turk to Urdu, following the conquerors and their descendants that traversed these lands. Not only Amir Khusro, but Ghalib's father's family was from Samarkhand, the poets whose language reveals the extraordinary world of the fusion of thought and culture that we inherit.

The lucidity and straightforwardness of Peggy Mohan's argument enables this story-telling in a gripping narrative, strengthened by the author's credentials as a researcher and teacher of linguistics in the United States and India. The story is not about Sanskrit alone — it moves through the growth of Indo Aryan languages, West Indian creoles, European languages, Urdu/Hindi and Indian English, the last being a hybrid grass growing in the smooth lush grass of English, like the notorious 'congress grass'.

The 'wanderers, kings and merchants' of the title may include the scholars and the poets. The wonderful history of languages in many parts of the world, told with such feeling, displays the range of processes of dialect formation, diglossia, pidgins, creoles, and how it happens — through cultural domination, migration, mixing, and importantly, through the tenacity of humans to stick to their language until it ends with their own extinction.

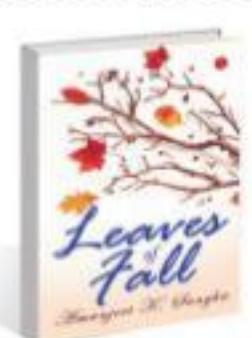
## BACKFLAP

**P**OWER, Press and Politics' is an insider account of the workings of the Indian media, across mediums and languages. Deriving from his experience of 50 years, Padma Shri awardee journalist Alok Mehta brings us stories he was witness to. How was godman Chandraswami exposed despite the tantric guru's close association with prominent leaders and media barons? How did the fodder scam in 1990 come to fore? How did the correspondents reveal murky arms deals, such as the Bofors scandal? Is 'paid news' the new normal in Indian media? What were the political pressures on senior editors like Vinod Mehta and Kuldip Nayar that led to their resignation? There is all this and a lot more if you are interested in knowing how the Indian press fared as the country progressed, how it was muzzled from time to time and how it survived.



**POWER, PRESS AND POLITICS**  
by Alok Mehta.  
Bloomsbury.  
Pages 440. ₹799

**A**COP writing poetry may sound a tad incongruous but after reading this lovely collection of poems by Amanjeet K Sungha, one is bound to change this stereotypical perception. In 'Leaves of Fall', Sungha takes you on a gentle stroll into her world of love and surrender, of reflection and hope, of journey and destination and everything in between. The poems, divided into five parts — Of Hope, Of Life, Of Love, Of Loss and Of Her — are beautifully illustrated. The title poem offers some lovely imagery: *'They feel her presence/In the sound of their feet/And in the yellowness of her being.'* 'She Walks Alone' is a reproach to the male gaze that has not wavered, whether it was Draupadi or the woman in the street now. Her poetry is simple yet offers some powerful thoughts.



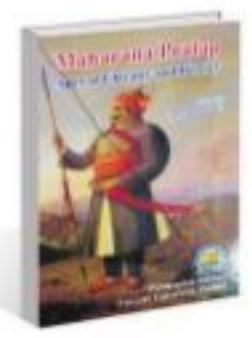
**LEAVES OF FALL**  
by Amanjeet K Sungha.  
Rupa.  
Pages 141. ₹295

**A**s casual as strolling on a gravelled pathway/in a close-by parkland, words cycle towards/me on my inner track where ideas lap dance/with a tumescent dash. The first draft is born... The first poem from Sanjeev Sethi's fourth poetry collection, 'Bleb', offers the perfect peak into his poetry. The first draft and first thought lead to many more, becoming poems as they evolve. In this case, the verses are really short ones. Known as 'wee poems', these ought to be less than 10 lines. The poems seem like conversations, perhaps ruminations would be a better word to explain them. The Mumbai-based poet, who has been published in several countries, delves into inequality, daily rigmarole, separation, intimacy, pain across the 31 poems in the anthology.



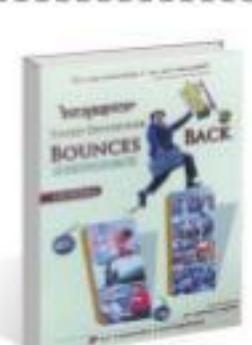
**BLEB**  
by Sanjeev Sethi.  
Hybridreich.  
Pages 38. £3 (₹300 approximately)

**M**AHARANA PRATAP, the great scion of Mewar, is remembered for his indefatigable martial spirit against Mughal Emperor Akbar. During the late 16th and early 17th centuries, he was the torchbearer of freedom for the contemporary ruling states in Rajasthan as also across India. Raising a toast to him is this compilation of articles by scholars such as Manohar Singh Ranawat, who writes on the warrior king's image in Rajasthani literature; Surjeet Singh Lee on his heroic tradition in Punjabi culture; Anju Suri on the border dispute between Patiala and Jaipur; among others. The author, in charge of Maharana Pratap Chair and head of the Department of History at Punjabi University, says the ruler was an inspiration for the provincial dynasties to remain independent. The book is a perfect tribute.



**MAHARANA PRATAP: APEX OF CHIVALRY AND HEROICS**  
Edited by  
Mohammad Idris.  
Punjabi University.  
Pages 182. ₹500

**A**t the outset, the author dedicates the book to all those who scored above 95 per cent but were still not at the very top, thus remaining out of the prestigious cut-off lists. The book is also for those who scored a high 80 per cent, but became victims of the evaluation system that dubs them as mediocre. Highlighting the faults in our education system while narrating the story of an ordinary boy — in this case, the author himself — with the extraordinary ability to bounce back is 'Beqasoor: Third Divisioner Bounces Back'. Verma pens an honest account of his life through good and bad times in simple language. Translated by Abhilash Nayak, it is a story of early setbacks and ultimate triumph, backed by unyielding hard work.



**BEQASOOR: THIRD DIVISIONER BOUNCES BACK**  
by IB Verma.  
Pages 214. ₹595

## Surviving life's storms with lessons from Mt Everest

**T**Hese life lessons are not entirely new but when you are in the presence of the world's highest peak with the sole aim to reach there, five decades' worth of these lessons get reinforced in a 43-day Everest expedition, where the level of risk and uncertainty is the highest," says corporate honcho Aditya Gupta, who scaled the Everest at 50. He has recently come out with a coffee-table book, '7 Lessons from Everest: Expedition Learnings for Life & Business'. The lessons — Passion + Preparation = Performance; The Power of Focus; Scale Need Not Scare You; One Step at a Time; Expect the Unexpected; Make Friends with Fear and Time is Oxygen — helped him surmount not only the Everest, but worked for him in real and corporate world alike.

For him, adventure is not about seeking the adrenaline rush but the experience and confidence it gives you to not just survive any storm but thrive in. Life may have been back to normal for this guy, but the fact that he could scale Everest has left him with the courage to face anything now.

The book has some stunning visuals of the Everest and also documents the travails and joys that mountaineers experience en route. — TNS

## When winds of success, desire, lust and love sway

CHANDNI S CHANDEL

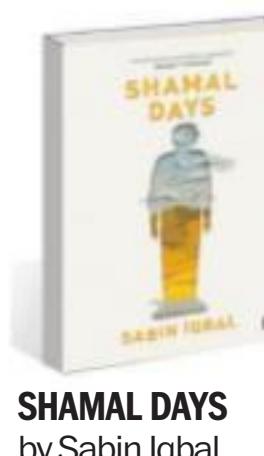
**I**N the backdrop of the ongoing Israel-Palestine truce, Sabin Iqbal's 'Shamal Days' becomes relevant as it delves into many issues — politico-religious turmoil which tweaks ordinary lives, as exemplified in misery-laden West Asia, lonely lives of expatriates, dynamic newsrooms, broken families, incomplete marriages, love, deceit, wit and secrets.

The protagonist, Abbas, a Malayali bachelor in his 40s, is the editor of a newspaper in an imaginary country in the Gulf. His loneliness stings him constantly and he goes into a flashback with riveting details of the handsome life in his youth, and lessons learnt from aberrations emanating from pre-meditated plots being hatched in his personal and professional life, and knowingly but unwillingly walking into the traps.

'Most men are custodians of secrets and practitioners of lies' is a frequently repeated line that magnifies his weakness. The ease of accepting whatever comes his way, failing to say 'No'... 'No' to corruption, 'No' to illicit sex, 'No' to acquiescing to everybody's demands. Abbas realises that in the absence of a family around, he is not able to discern right from wrong.

Shamal, 'the winds of bad omen', signifies miseries of expats in West Asia. The book is pregnant with stories of lust, multi-ethnicity, poor-rich divide, religious imbroglios and West vs East debate. Once they cross their country's borders, lives of migrants oscillate between hope and despair, emotional insecurity and monetary gains, loss of identity and cultural amalgamation at the new place.

Coming from a senior journalist who has worked in India and the Middle-East, the book can serve as a good manual, in the most entertaining way, to budding journos to get a peek into their future work profile.



**SHAMAL DAYS**  
by Sabin Iqbal.  
HarperCollins.  
Pages 316.  
₹399

put a kibosh on our suffering.

How do we relieve our stress? By 'transferred pain' — thinking about others' pain to forget or escape our own pain. Going through the novel, the reader realises all of us do that. It leaves us with questions about the veracity of love, trust, hope in the midst of debauchery.

Iqbal's writing is lyrical, spruced up with self-created poetic phrases exuding inherent intellect and in sync with the times. He constructs the narrative in a manner which takes you to heightened delight and leaves the reader thinking what next. His lucid description of the feel of the environment at that moment completes him as a writer who has used all tools in his storytelling kit to maintain his grip on his readers.

The idiomatic phrases — 'oriental charm with occidental manners', 'reality was as hard as cold hammer', 'night had begun to age' — are what distinguish this novel from the otherwise similar series on Netflix or other OTT platforms.



PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

## Legends from a timeless institution

SEEMA PATHELA SACHDEVA

**N**O success or achievement in material terms is worthwhile, unless it serves the needs or interests of the country and its people, and is achieved by fair and honest means."

These words have been extracted from a memorable letter that JRD Tata wrote in 1965 in response to a query from a Kolkata schoolteacher, KC Bhansali, seeking to know the guiding principles that had governed the grand patriarch's life. The letter is extraordinary not because it was in reply to an ordinary request, but because it is these very principles that have

inspired generations of Tatas.

For every Indian, the name Tata is synonymous with the history and growth of the country — the two, at times, seeming inseparable. While words like 'Make in India' have become fashionable today, many visionaries from the business house saw this as the way forward for the country to progress. Setting up the country's first steel plant, first airlines (Tata Airlines later became Air India), first cancer hospital, first silk farm, first Indian car, world's slimmest watch, one of the world's fastest supercomputers, first national centre for performing arts, establishing the country's first institute of science, besides many more firsts, have been the Tatas' contribution to nation-building.

Be it a pension gratuity fund for employees, a creche at the Empress Mills in Nag-

pur, or making a provision for accident claim fund in times when employee welfare schemes were unheard of, people came foremost in Jamsetji's vision.

Harish Bhat, who has been a long-time employee of the Tatas and is currently the brand custodian of one of its companies, brings alive heartwarming tales like how Jamsetji Tata successfully convinced the leading consulting engineer Charles Page Perin to start a steel factory in an underdeveloped country in 1902, how in a prestigious flying competition, a good deed led to a lifelong friendship between JRD and Aspy Engineer, how Dorabji and Meherbai's 'jubilee diamond' saved the Tata Group, the challenges that came Ratan Tata's way when he set out to manufacture India's first indigenous car, etc.

The book is dotted with anecdotes and

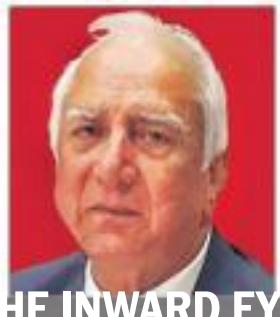
vignettes that fill one with amusement. For instance, JRD Tata's toilet roll inspection in the airlines, astronaut Kalpana Chawla carrying a photograph of the patriarch's inaugural mail flight on her first mission into space or the *Tata Patter* magazine puncturing egos of innumerable MPs, ministers and the company's directors with its sarcasm.

While the 40 feel-good stories, which at times read like a hagiography, take you down memory lane into the world of the legendary Tatas like Jamsetji, Dorabji, JRD, Lady Meherbai, these also pay tribute to illustrious names like Sumant Moolgaokar, Nani Palkhivala, Darbari Seth, Russi Mody, Xerxes Desai, Nevill Vincent, Bobby Kooka and Dr John Matthai, who have been associated with the over 150-year-old conglomerate.



**#TATA STORIES: 40 TIMELESS TALES TO INSPIRE YOU**  
by Harish Bhat.  
Penguin Random House.  
Pages 224.  
₹599

# Democracy faces headwinds



THE INWARD EYE

GURBACHAN JAGAT

Why do even elected leaders tend to move away from democratic norms? Is dictatorship better? Churchill said it best: 'Many forms of government have been tried, and will be in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect... Indeed, it is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time'. Democracy offers us a voice, a vote.

Dictatorships, none of these and also open doors for loss of liberty and perhaps life

*In Congress, July 4, 1776. The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America... We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness — that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."*

**T**HIS was the vision of the founding fathers of the USA. However, although it says "all men are created equal", yet at the time of writing this Declaration, there were millions of African Americans who were slaves and worked on the farmlands of the South. They were not treated as human beings and were made to do all the jobs that white Americans avoided, on the farms or in the households.

They were not allowed to move freely or use government transport — it took a century and more for them to use public transport and sit where they wanted to. "Deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed" — the blacks did not have the right to vote. Even women did not have the right to vote. It was after very long struggles that they got the right to vote, women in 1918 and black men in 1870. Even today, equality does not exist and a wide chasm divides the blacks and whites. The Trump years have reversed the process of integration and encouraged white supremacists. Trump rose to power on a divisive agenda whose fires he stoked during his tenure and continues to do so now. He has successfully sold his claim that the election was "stolen" from him and he has a solid base which believes it. He almost mounted a coup when he encouraged the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

Meanwhile, the attacks on the blacks have increased, random attacks on schools, malls, etc, have increased and purchases of various weapons have gone up exponentially. The whole situation is bleak, and the US appears to be sitting on a volcano which may erupt anytime.

Simultaneously, a more sinister development is taking place, i.e. the Republican-controlled states are trying to change the electoral laws in such a way so as to make it difficult for the minorities to vote and thus cut the Democrats' base. Efforts are on to bring in laws enabling the state legislatures to overturn the election results. President Biden realises the challenges faced by democracy and has appointed the VP to devote full attention and time and lead the fight against anti-democratic forces. He is undertaking a tour of European countries and the UK, where he is going to draw strategies to bring all the democracies together to unitedly face the anti-democratic forces.

I have devoted so much space to the US because we all looked up to it as the beacon of liberty and freedom and the fountainhead of all democracy. The US stood up for democracy in the world but at the same time supported dictators in Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. This was to support their strategic and economic interests, and they have waged many wars to safeguard them.

During the Cold war period, the world was quite neatly divided between the Soviet and Western blocs — between dictatorships and democracies. Even after the fall of the Berlin wall, although many Soviet bloc countries broke away from the Soviet Union, the only change was that dictatorships replaced communist rule. Although some of them joined NATO, and some remain under Russian influence, wherever elections were held, the dictators crushed all Opposition, even in the face of results adverse to them. The short point is that communism collapsed and strong men took over, and the US, Russia and China made deals with them. Democracy was nowhere and only front organisations representing freedom of speech, religion, media, etc, continue to make some noises.

Even Vietnam, the Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan (chaos reigns) are governed by democratically "elected" dictators. Voters are intimidated, polls are rigged and other strong-arm tactics used.

The UK and western Europe continue to be democracies, even here there are growing rightist movements which spell danger to democracy.

This is a very brief bird's-eye view of the state of democracy in the world. The question arises as to what is the reason for this: why do even elected leaders tend to move away from democratic norms? Why does a man tend to gather as much power as he can, legally, illegally or by subterfuge? The family is the first place where autocratic trends are observed. These continue in the workplace and finally spill over into areas of governance. One of the most fundamental obstacles in the way of an enlightened democracy is lack of a proper educational system. We are still not exposing our students to modern ways of learning and thinking.

Western societies are more open in this regard, especially their educational system which encourages thinking and research. We, on the other hand, do not welcome questions in the classroom and our educational system is geared to learning by rote — because of this, our universities hardly produce any worthwhile research whereas the same students do wonders when they go to the USA, UK and European countries. They even win Nobel Prizes and many are heading very important multinationals and others are engaged in cutting-edge research. We will have to overhaul our system, encourage discussion and dissent and heavily fund research in universities, if we wish to become a power house of research and democratic values.

In most democratic societies where discussion and dissent are not encouraged, the tendency for the leadership is to move towards unilateral decision-making. Transparency in governance decreases and accessibility to the public becomes less. The leader becomes more isolated and starts depending heavily on the armed forces, police and the administration setups. These coteries become increasingly loyal as they come to share some of the power and perks. Sometimes even political militias are raised to mobilise or intimidate the masses. All of

these combine to make a solid platform for the leadership, which having secured its space becomes more brazen and bold in its actions. As in the case of Trump in the US, he may try to subvert the Constitution and democracy itself. This can be stopped or slowed only by the collective will of the people. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

I have not talked of our country because it is also open to the same ills as other democracies. In addition, we have a carryover from thousands of years — our caste system. In spite of the superficial efforts of successive governments to undo the injustice this system has done to millions of people throughout history, we have only perpetuated it. The caste system is the foundation of the divide and rule system which the British perfected and we have followed in our education system, employment system and elections. The British added to this by nurturing the Hindu-Muslim divide and we have built upon it for electoral purposes and for settling centuries' old scores. We have weakened democratic processes and democracy itself.

Where do we go from here? We have seen that democratic values are not encouraged at home, in society or in the government. Is dictatorship better — dictatorship of one man or one party? I cannot do better than to go back to that wise old man — a consummate politician, a wily fox in war, a great historian — Sir Winston Churchill. He says, "Many forms of government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time."

I cannot agree more — in this system, you and I have a vote, we have a voice, we have our views. In dictatorships, we would have none of these and also be open to loss of liberty and perhaps loss of life.

— The writer is ex-chairman of UPSC, former Manipur Governor and served as J&K DGP

## Degeneration gap



TOUCHSTONES

IRA PANDE

isolation become easier to handle. Naturally, such relationships lack depth and emotional involvement and so the sense of loneliness and isolation is enhanced rather than reduced as we reach out to more and more 'virtual' friends.

The addiction to phones is a case in point. There is not a single young person I know who does not carry a phone everywhere — even to the loo! The fear of losing out on information (no matter how trivial and inane) is so acute that many sleep with their phone in their hand. Is it any wonder then that the mobile phone has destroyed family conversation in the evenings or around a table?

I find the millennials more concerned about what is happening in some remote island in the Caribbean than in their own neighbourhood. They have forgotten how to greet people because they can't emote until they send an emoji on a phone. Look around you and see how many young people make the time to talk to their parents, siblings or relatives in a day.

Then compare it to how many times they have communicated with unknown strangers that day and you will figure out what I am trying to say.

I could go on and on but my limited point is that this is the generation that we are leaving our planet to. These atomised souls who cannot articulate a single thought that has not come out of a WhatsApp post or some other form of social media will one day decide how to take the world forward. The patience to wait and let life take its normal course is another casualty. Constant stimulation only reduces the threshold to suffer boredom and routine tasks. On the other hand, my generation that grew up without all this, not even a TV, has infinite patience as compared to them.

We are accustomed to the fact that most things happen in their own sweet time, so wait without fidgeting or cursing an app that won't open or a person who likes to talk at length. I swear I will never make fun of the uncleji who takes time to warm his mental batteries before answering a simple question: after all, he grew up when there was no electricity. Delays infuriate the young: they want everything now and will walk away if the phone is put on hold. Instant gratification, whether of food or entertainment, has blown away the joy of waiting for life's pleasures. Above all, it is depleting the earth's resources at a frightening pace.

The millennials have done some tremendous work in the sphere of technology and wealth generation: I hope they spend some time now on building human bridges destroyed by greed and selfishness. Sharing the vaccine with poorer countries is a good starting point. Let some good come out of this wretched virus.

## All-too-known face among Pak PoWs

MILITARY MATTERS  
WG CDR JS BHALLA (RETD)

Recalling the surreal encounter at Kolkata two months after the 1971 war

**C**APTAIN KARAMJIT SINGH SODHI, a retired merchant navy officer, was a junior navigating officer in 1971 when he joined MV Andaman, a passenger ship of the Shipping Corporation. In February 1972, when MV Andaman was berthed in Kolkata, they were asked to prepare themselves for embarking the next morning on an important mission. As the ship sailed out, they were told that they were on a mission to bring back Pakistani Prisoners of War (PoWs) from Bangladesh to Kolkata.

The war had ended two months back but fear was writ large on many faces because it was known that the Pakistanis had mined

the approach to Chittagong harbour. The vessel arrived at Chittagong safely and with the help of the local pilot, they went up to Karnaphuli river, which was strewn with the remnants of bombed and sunk merchant ships — a testament to the brave actions of the Indian Air Force and pilots of INS Vikrant.

In the evening, Sodhi went out for a meal and saw the local population raising slogans of "Indian-Bangla Bhai Bhai".

No rickshaw-wallah or restaurant owner accepted any money from him. It was the valour displayed by the Indian armed forces that generated respect in the hearts of the local population, he thought.

The following day, 1,500 PoWs, escorted by the Army, were brought to the ship. Officers up to the rank of Major were assigned the space meant for lady passengers in the ship. The senior officers were kept in the ship hospital, which could accommodate about 10 of them. The PoWs cooked their own meals in the galley while senior officers were brought to the officers' mess and were served the same food as the ship officers.

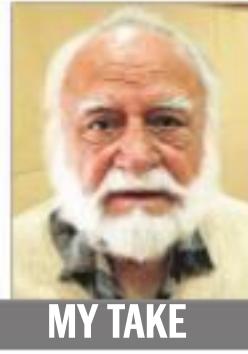
When the ship berthed at Kolkata's King George dock, an Army Colonel took charge and went through the list of the PoWs. He wanted to meet the senior-most officer, who was of the rank of Commodore. Sodhi was detailed to

bring the Commodore from the ship hospital.

When the Colonel saw the Commodore, both of them saluted and addressed each other as "Sir". They shook hands with moist eyes but neither could utter a word; their body language indicated that they knew each other.

Later it was revealed that before Independence, the Colonel was a cadet in the same training institute where the Commodore was an instructor. At the time of Partition, the two had gone on separate paths but MV Andaman had brought them face to face once again, though this time their loyalties, like the circumstances, were all too different.

## Why tackling mental health needs to be prioritised



MY TAKE

RAHUL SINGH

Pandemic has seen a big increase in the number of those who are mentally disturbed: they need counselling, psychiatric help

**T**HE ailments connected with mental health have been with us for centuries. The pulls and pressures of modernisation have brought them to the fore in advanced countries. Fortunately, psychiatrists and psychologists are available there for treatment and counselling. But even in less developed nations, there are plenty of mentally ill people, usually untreated and uncared for. In India, there are far too few trained psychiatrists. There is also a great reluctance to go to them because of the common perception that those who do so "must be mad". The result is that many resort to so-called "godmen", most of them charlatans. Some are far worse — outright criminals. Asaram Bapu and Gurmit Ram Rahim are just two who were caught and mercifully jailed. There are plenty of others, roaming free, fleecing their gullible followers.

However, these "godmen" do provide comfort and solace to a large number of Indians, and even to foreigners, that organised religions fail to do. Strange as it may sound, they are, in my reckoning, the psychiatrists of India, though they know nothing about psychiatry. They are canny enough to identify the insecurities of

their followers and exploit those insecurities. Surprisingly, they attract high-profile celebrities as well, right up to prime ministers. Indira Gandhi was closely linked to Dhirendra Brahmachari, PV Narasimha Rao to Chandrashekhar, the Beatles had transcendental meditation guru Maharishi Mahesh Yogi (they got disillusioned with him later). The brilliant constitutional lawyer, Nani Palkhivala, was an ardent devotee of Sai Baba, as is the cricket great, Sunil Gavaskar.

Mental health issues are often genetic. Many families have a streak of mental instability that gets passed down through the generations. I had an eccentric great grandfather who liked writing letters to Queen Victoria. One of his grandsons (my uncle) was mentally challenged, and a great great granddaughter (my cousin's daughter) died by suicide while studying for PhD at Oxford. The dividing line between eccentricity and mental illness is blurred, as is that between bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. One can merge into the other over time. Perhaps the most famous schizophrenic was John Nash, the American Nobel Prize winner on whom a wonderful film, 'A Beautiful Mind', was

made some years ago. He was constantly haunted by imaginary demons.

Mood swings and depression are also common mental issues. Fame is no insulator of depression, as the confessions of Bollywood superstar Deepika Padukone have revealed. In the case of Parveen Babi, one of the great film beauties of her time, depression and schizophrenia turned into a more severe mental illness, bordering on insanity. But few would have thought that sportspersons could be similarly afflicted. Just the other day, Naomi Osaka, the 23-year-old Japanese tennis player who is the world's richest female athlete, stunned the sports world by withdrawing from the French Open after winning her first round.

She said she had been suffering from bouts of severe depression since 2018, the year she had won the US Open, defeating the legendary Serena Williams in the final. In that match, the audience had vociferously rooted for Williams. That, along with the press conference that followed, had evidently traumatised Osaka. So much so, she dreaded being asked tough questions by the media. Which is why she announced that she would not address the traditional post-match press conference at the French Open

(for which she was heavily fined). This led to her subsequent withdrawal from the tournament. There is now intense speculation over her participation in Wimbledon. Could we be witnessing the end of the tennis career of a great sporting talent, mainly due to her inability to handle mental issues? If she doesn't want to face the media, surely she has the right to refuse. Since we are on tennis, one of the best players India has produced, Premjit Lal (he took the great Rod Laver to five sets at Wimbledon), after being quite normal, suddenly descended to the depths of despair in the last years of his life, leaving his many friends and admirers saddened and uncomprehending.

Indian TV is also being targeted by some in the social media for its coverage of the pandemic. Hundreds of bodies floating down the holy Ganga, hasty burials on the riverside, overflowing crematoria, lack of hospital beds, patients struggling to breathe from lack of oxygen — all this has been graphically, and perhaps sickeningly, shown on various channels. One Facebook post labelled such coverage as a "second pandemic", this time a mental health one. Reporters and anchors were called "ghouls" who were "disrespecting the dead

and violating the last sacred moments of the departed". The post had more supporters than detractors. Clearly, most social media viewers don't approve of the unsparring TV coverage of the pandemic, however honest it may be. Admittedly, these images could have troubled many, particularly the young and more sensitive. However, reality can sometimes be ugly and repulsive. Should one excuse it completely, as if nothing has gone wrong? And yes, the pandemic has seen a big increase in the number of those who are mentally disturbed; they need counselling which their parents are probably not equipped to give. Millions have suddenly lost their jobs and livelihood, while still in their prime. They, too, need some kind of help. There has been much talk about the inadequate health infrastructure in the country. That certainly needs much more investment and urgent overhaul. But let's not forget mental health, which has been ignored and neglected for far too long.

— The writer is a veteran journalist

