

The Sunday Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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DECISION TO END DURBAR MOVE INSENSITIVE: PDP J&K

WHAT HALLMARKING MEANS FOR GOLD BUYERS, SELLERS, ARTISANS SPECTRUM

ITALY, SPAIN ENTER EURO SEMIFINALS BACK PAGE

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SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2021

Cong, BJP trade charges as France starts judicial probe into Rafale fighter jet deal

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, JULY 3
The Rafale fighter jet issue returned to the centre stage on Saturday with the BJP and Congress trading barbs after French prosecutors launched a probe into alleged corruption in the Rs 59,000 crore (7.8-billion euros) deal between India and France.

A French judge has been appointed to lead a judicial investigation, French media house Mediapart has reported. It said the "highly sensitive probe" into the inter-governmental deal (for purchase of 36 jets by India) was formally opened on June 14.

The media report cited the financial crimes branch of the French public prosecu-

MACRON, HOLLANDE'S ROLE UNDER LENS: MEDIAPART

The issues surrounding the actions of former French President Francois Hollande, who was in office when the Rafale deal was inked, and current President Emmanuel Macron (then Finance Minister) are being probed.

₹59,000 cr

Deal signed between India & France in 2016 for 36 jets

CHARGES BEING EXAMINED

Corruption | Influence peddling Money laundering | Favouritism Undue tax waivers



tion services, the PNF as having confirmed the move yesterday in France. The investigation was focussed on alleged crimes of corruption,

influence peddling, money laundering, favouritism and undue tax waivers surrounding the deal, the report said.

The judicial magistrate will

CONG CALLS FOR JPC PROBE

If France can probe the deal along with the role of its ex-Prez Hollande and sitting Prez Macron, why can't India, where deal originated, have a JPC probe? Congress

BID TO WEAKEN INDIA: BJP

The way Rahul Gandhi is behaving, it will not be an exaggeration to say he is being used as a pawn by rival companies. It's a bid to weaken the country. BJP

also examine questions surrounding the actions of former French President Francois Hollande, current President Emmanuel Macron (the then

Finance Minister) and Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (then Defence Minister).

Based on previous news reports by Mediapart, a French anti-corruption NGO, Sherpa, had filed a complaint with the authorities concerned.

In 2019, PNF former head Eliane Houlette dismissed an initial complaint filed by Sherpa, justifying her decision to preserve the interests of France," the media report said.

Two years later, her successor Jean-Francois Bohnert has decided to support the opening of a probe.

"In 2019, PNF former head Eliane Houlette dismissed an initial complaint filed by Sherpa, justifying her decision to preserve the interests of France," the media report

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SC had ruled out corruption, given clean chit in 2018

SATYA PRAKASH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 3

The Congress may be feeling vindicated at the appointment of a French judge to lead a judicial investigation into alleged "corruption and favouritism" in the Rafale jet deal with India, but the Supreme Court has already put the controversy to rest.

In its December 14, 2018 verdict, a three-judge Bench led by the then CJI Ranjan Gogoi had dismissed a petition seeking probe into India-France deal for procurement of 36 jets, holding there was no commercial favouritism and occasion to "really doubt the decision making process" warranting setting aside of the contract.

On November 14, 2019, it had dismissed petitions seeking review of its verdict, saying they were

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AAP workers break barricades near CM Amarinder Singh's farmhouse at Siswan during a protest over power cuts. TRIBUNE PHOTO: VICKY

III-conceived Badal era PPAs under review: CM

Tribune News Service

LEGAL STRATEGY SOON

CHANDIGARH, JULY 3
Facing criticism from within his party as well as the Opposition, Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday said the "ill-conceived" power purchase agreements (PPAs) with private thermal plants signed by the SAD-BJP government were being reviewed and his government would soon announce a legal strategy to counter the PPAs that had burdened the state exchequer.

Capt Amarinder Singh

formulated to save the state from further financial losses. Of the 139 PPAs signed during the SAD-BJP government, 17 were enough to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Dhami is next Uttarakhand CM

Swearing-in today | 45-yr-old youngest to hold office



CHALLENGES AHEAD

- Dhami takes over at a time when the party is gearing up for the Assembly polls early next year
- The 45-year-old MLA from Khamti inherits a pile of problems from his predecessors
- A Covid-hit economy, suspended Char Dham yatra & fake testing scam are challenges to grapple with

BJP BETRAYED PEOPLE'S TRUST

The BJP's lust for power has plunged the state into political instability. Instead of serving people, it is busy distributing power and changing CMs like toys. Congress

Singh Nagar district, the "terai" region dominated by farmers, mainly from the Sikh community, and the epicentre of the anti-farm laws protests in the state. He is only the second BJP CM from the Kumaon region.

Dhami is believed to be close

to former CM and currently Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Dhami will be the third BJP CM during its present regime after Trivendra Singh Rawat and Tirath Singh Rawat. —TNS

Compliance by Fb, Google, Insta big step: Prasad

NEW DELHI, JULY 3

Union Minister for Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad on Saturday praised Google, Facebook and Instagram for publishing their first compliance report on voluntary removal of offensive posts as per new rules governing social media.

Incidentally, he used Twitter, which is still to comply with instructions, to convey his message. "Nice to see social media platforms like Google, Facebook and Instagram following the new rules," he tweeted. He called it a "big step towards transparency".

Meanwhile, Twitter on Saturday informed the Delhi High Court that it is finalising the appointment of a new resident grievance officer in India. —TNS

Govt speeds up policy to plug e-com loopholes'

NEW DELHI, JULY 3

After seeking to tame foreign social media giants with the IT Rules, 2021, the Centre will be seeking to check the "predatory instincts" of their e-commerce peers.

The long-delayed plan to issue clarifications to ensure that fair trade practices are followed in the FDI policy for e-commerce sector is being fast-forwarded owing to distress among the ruling party's core base of small shopkeepers and retailers, who have been hit hard by lockdowns.

The clarifications would ensure that neither should e-commerce firms become part of the transactions nor should they promote any product.

Sources said the extent of the clarifications might not be as deep as those sought by the pro-RSS Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT),

DEEP DISCOUNTS UNDER SCANNER

- The rules aim at ensuring that e-commerce MNCs operate only as a marketplace to connect buyers and sellers
- Such firms won't be allowed to promote select sellers and offer deep discounts

which claimed to represent country's 8.5 crore small traders and shopkeepers.

The Centre has sought to keep small traders and shopkeepers politically aligned with the BJP by promising them Rs 3,000 per month pension and including them in the SME sector for availing benefits.

They continued to bleed because of lockdowns and deep discounts offered by e-commerce companies. —TNS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Ph 3 trials show Covaxin has 78% overall efficacy

Tribune News Service

GATHERING NORMS EASED IN HIMACHAL

Shimla: The Himachal Government has announced more relaxations in restrictions following



decline in the positivity rate to 1.3 per cent.

Now, a maximum of 250 persons can attend outdoor functions, while 150 persons can participate in functions held indoors. INSIDE

the placebo group. The efficacy was 93.4 per cent in severe symptomatic cases. Safety analysis demonstrated that adverse events were similar to placebo with 12 per cent of subjects experiencing commonly known side-effects and less than 0.5 per cent feeling serious adverse events.

Covaxin demonstrated 63.6 per cent protection against

Baddi firm gets nod to produce Sputnik V

SOLAN, JULY 3

The state drug licensing authority on Saturday gave approval to Panacea Biotech to manufacture Sputnik V at its Baddi facility, the first Covid vaccine to be manufactured in Himachal Pradesh.

The firm was earlier inspected by the officials of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation and the State's Drug Control Administration earlier. Deputy Drug Controller Manish Kapoor said the first batch of Sputnik V doses produced by Panacea Biotech would be shipped to Russia's Gamaleya centre of epidemiology for quality control. INSIDE

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Covaxin demonstrated 63.6 per cent protection against

A motorcyclist drives on a waterlogged road after rain in New Delhi. PTI

12% DEFICIENT RAINFALL IN PB

- After surplus rain in the early stages of the season, the western monsoon over the region has slipped into the negative zone
- Cumulative rainfall is less by 17% in Himachal, 12% in Punjab and 8% in Haryana

ED arrests journalist in money laundering case

MUKESH RANJAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 3

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) today said it had arrested freelance journalist Rajeev Sharma under the criminal provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with a case relating to his alleged involvement in the leak and supply of sensitive information to Chinese intelligence officers.

Officials said, after the arrest, which took place on July 1, Sharma was produced in a special local court here,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

HP plans special e-vehicle zones

SHIMLA, JULY 3

The Himachal Government plans to promote electric vehicles by creating zero or low-emission zones in Shimla, Baddi, Dharamsala and eco-sensitive areas at all tourist destinations where only battery-operated emission-free vehicles will be allowed.

The Himachal Electric Vehicle policy is in the process of formulation. With prices of most electric vehicles being on the higher side, the government is keen on providing some subsidy or incentives, but this might be difficult in view of the severe financial constraints being faced by the state. INSIDE

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F'bad, Charkhi Dadri govt schools see 12% rise in admissions

RAVINDER SAINI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, JULY 3

Government schools across Haryana have recorded 7 per cent more Class I-XII admissions compared to last year. The top achieving districts are Faridabad and Charkhi Dadri with an increase of 12 per cent, followed by Panchkula at 10 per cent.

Compared to 21.78 lakh students in the previous academic session, 23.35 lakh students have enrolled themselves up to July 2 this year. Around 1.57 lakh more

students have sought admissions in government schools this year even as the admission process is still underway.

Rewari is at the bottom with 2 per cent admissions while the count is 4 per cent for Rohtak, Sirsa and Mahendragarh districts.

Faridabad had a total of 1,08,748 students last year, a count that has gone up to 1,22,005 this year, an increase of 13,257. The corresponding figures for Charkhi Dadri are 35,091 and 39,315, a rise of 4,224 students. Similarly,

TOP 3 DISTRICTS

DIST	INCREASE*	%
F'BAD	13,257	12
DADRI	4,224	12
P'KULA	5,948	10

DIST	INCREASE*	%
REWARI	1,557	2
ROHTAK	2,608	4
SIRSA	5,129	4

*Difference in 2020, 2021 admissions | 1.57 lakh more admissions across Haryana

Sources said the state authorities had given every district a target to increase the number of students in government schools. Jhajjar, Rewari and Mahendragarh were asked to ensure at least 10 per cent more admissions. Among the three, Jhajjar has registered the highest increase of 6 per cent. Rewari had a total of 63,978 students last year while the number has now risen to 65,535, up 1,557. Mahendragarh has registered an increase of 2,208, Rohtak 2,608 and Sirsa 5,129, the sources said. Jhajjar DEEO Diljeet Singh said the count had gone up following door-to-door surveys and motivation programme for parents conducted by schoolteachers.

Amid power cuts, farmers reduce area under paddy cultivation

Say not enough water, saplings already sown face risk of damage

AJAY JOSHI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, JULY 3
Delayed monsoon, water shortage and poor power supply have added to the woes of farmers. Many have even reduced the area under paddy cultivation to avoid crisis.

Sukhdev Singh Atwal (65), a farmer from Charke village in Bhogpur, has sown paddy in just 10 acres from this year against 15-20 acres in the past.

"Our fields have started developing cracks. There isn't enough water for irrigation. So, instead of increasing the area under paddy, I preferred to reduce it. Even the saplings already sown are on the risk of getting damaged if there isn't enough water," he said.

He isn't the only one to do so. The entire district has seen a dip in paddy plantation this year. As per the Agriculture Department, around this time last year, 1.75 lakh hectares were covered under paddy (including



Youth transplant paddy in a field in Nawanshahr. FILE PHOTO

HIGH INPUT COST A WORRY

» The cost of running the generator is ₹300 per hour. How would I have managed to irrigate all my fields? Reducing the area seemed to be the only option. Charanjit Singh, FARMER

22,000 basmati). However, due to electricity shortage, the area has been reduced to 1,31,800 lakh hectares.

Sukhdev fears if he doesn't get enough power to operate motor pumps, his crop may get damaged. "Since the beginning of the sowing season, we

have been getting electricity for just four hours. It's just for the past two days that we are receiving uninterrupted supply of six hours," he said.

Charanjit Singh (80) from Jandusingha has been farming for the past 40 years. He said: "This is for

the first time that we are facing shortage of water to this extent."

Having brought down the paddy cultivation area to 20 acres from 25 acres, he said similar water deficiency was faced around five years ago. "The cost of running generator is also Rs 300 per hour. How would I have managed to irrigate all my fields? Reducing the area seemed to be the only option," Charanjit said.

Malkiat Singh (50) from Daulatpur village has also reduced the area to 25 acres. Last year, he sowed paddy in 40 acres. "The fields have already developed cracks. I fear that my 5-7 quintals of produce will either get damaged or will be of poor quality. Due to the fungus in the fields, there is high possibility of discolouration of the produce. We don't even have enough water to irrigate maize and sugarcane," he rued.

Agriculture officer Naresh Gulati said most of the farmers were waiting for monsoon to sow the remaining paddy saplings. depended upon others tagging along in case the need arose. She alleged Sukhbir's family availed of medical bills and sight-seeing tours from the state exchequer.

Coming to her husband's defence, she said Sidhu had left his Rs 30-crore job for the state and their rental income from showrooms also stopped during the Covid-19 pandemic. PSPCL sources said there was no anomaly on part of its staff in the power bill amount. Sidhu's mansion situated in a private township on the city outskirts had a 60 kW connection with an LTCT meter. The meter gave accurate reading, they said. —TNS

Navjot refutes SAD charge on pending bill

AMRITSAR, JULY 3

Dr Navjot Kaur Sidhu, wife of Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu, has rubbished allegations of SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal that the Amritsar MLA had not paid the power bill of their house in time.

In a video message today, she launched a counter-offensive against Sukhbir, claiming the SAD chief did not carry money during travel and

Meter reading accurate, claims Powercom

depended upon others tagging along in case the need arose. She alleged Sukhbir's family availed of medical bills and sight-seeing tours from the state exchequer.

Coming to her husband's defence, she said Sidhu had left his Rs 30-crore job for the state and their rental income from showrooms also stopped during the Covid-19 pandemic. PSPCL sources said there was no anomaly on part of its staff in the power bill amount. Sidhu's mansion situated in a private township on the city outskirts had a 60 kW connection with an LTCT meter. The meter gave accurate reading, they said. —TNS

Suspense over Badal's poll plans

Ex-CM in touch with party leaders, cadre via phone



MAY BECOME OLDEST LEADER TO CONTEST

■ Parkash Singh Badal will probably be the oldest politician in the country if he contests elections

■ He will be 94 years and three months old if elections take place in February 2022

■ At 93 years and six months, he is still the most active politician

party patriarch.

While *The Tribune* could not contact Badal, Harcharan Bains, principal political adviser to the SAD and close aide of Badal, said: "Badal sahib has kept his plans to himself. He is likely to contest the elections but the decision would be his. Though knowing Badal ji, he will go by the party's decision."

Party insiders said Badal would lead the party campaign. SAD spokesman Daljeet Singh Cheema said: "The decision to contest or not would be his, but one thing is sure that he will lead the campaign."

Despite his age and ill health, Badal is reportedly active over the phone, talking not just to senior leaders, but also to their sons and even grandchildren. Besides, he recently got a list of Youth Akali Dal activists to talk about the party's hopes from them.

Badal's name still seems to carry weight for the SAD's fortunes. The party faced quite an embarrassment when its hoardings in Ludhiana did not include his photo. After criticism, the party is ensuring it uses Badal's photo on all posters.

Sites auctioned during Akali regime: Minister

CHANDIGARH, JULY 3

Rubbishing allegations of illegal mining made by SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal, state Mining Minister Sukhbir Singh Sarkaria on Saturday termed these as desperate attempts to gain the lost political ground in the state.

In a statement issued here, Sarkaria said the illegal mining sites visited by Sukhbir in Hoshiarpur district were auctioned in the previous SAD-BJP regime. He said there were several attempts by some people to continue illegal mining, but the department acted swiftly against them.

Alleging that Akalis looted the Punjab through sand mafia, Sarkaria said under the Badal regime, the state exchequer was receiving revenue to the tune of Rs 35 to 40 crore annually, which had now increased 10 fold.

"Sukhbir knows that the transparency ensured by the

Congress government in mining activities will become an issue in the Assembly poll," said the minister, adding that Sukhbir was making "useless" visits just for "political" motives.

Sarkaria said the Congress government had framed terms and conditions for contractors, who were earning good income besides supplying sand at affordable rates to people. A spokesperson of the Mining Department said the sites visited by Sukhbir had been allotted through e-auction to Prime Vision Industry Private Limited, 312, 3rd Floor, Vishal Chamber, P-1, Sector 18, Noida, and no illegal mining and machinery was found at the sites. —TNS

Light rain brings cheer to Malwa paddy growers

BATHINDA/MUKTSAR, JULY 3

Cloudy weather and light rain on Saturday brought smiles on the faces of farmers, who had been worried as their crops had started drying up due to a long dry spell in the region. Showers decreased their dependency on tube wells to irrigate their fields.

Reports indicated that various parts of the region were lashed with light to moderate rain today, giving farmers the hope of saving their kharif crops, especially paddy, cotton and green fodder, which were severely affected by the dry spell.

Gurmeet Singh of Bathinda said: "Rain has come as a much-needed respite amid rising temperature. We hope our cotton fields will be saved now."

Farmers had been protesting the closure of canals and irregular power supply for the past few days. "We were facing trouble in irrigating the fields.



Now, the rain has reduced our worries for at least two days. It will also help in the speedy growth of the paddy crop," said Mukhtiar Singh, a farmer.

Dr GS Romana of the Regional Research Centre of the Punjab Agricultural University said today's rain would benefit all kharif crops.

Residents also welcomed the sudden change in the weather. "In the past week, hardly anyone visited the market. Now, as the weather is pleasant, we hope to get some business for the next two-three days," said a shopkeeper in Muktsar. —TNS

Mining mafia hand in glove with state govt, says Sukhbir

MUKERIAN, JULY 3

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal today asked Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and Cabinet Minister Sukhbir Singh Sarkaria to disclose which rules permitted excavations up to 200 feet to extract sand, adding that land along several villages in the constituency had been ravaged by the sand mafia in connivance with the police.

Walking for a few kilometres around Dhamian, Sandhwan and Bringali villages after the mining mafia allegedly dug in trenches to restrict the movement of vehicles, Sukhbir said "such kind of tactics cannot stop the SAD from exposing the mafia whose links reach up to the Chief Minister as well as the All India Congress Committee".

'Illegal excavation' in 3 Mukerian villages



Sukhbir Badal at a mining site in Mukerian on Saturday.

He said even though more than 10 villages had been ravaged by the mafia here, the government was least concerned. "Even today the local police facilitated the illegal miners by informing them about the visit in advance so that they could flee from the spot. The

mafia is so brazen that they dug up trenches to ensure we could not reach the spot where illegal mining was being done," Sukhbir alleged.

The SAD president said it was shocking that even though rules permitted excavation till 10 feet, the sand mafia had done excavations till 200 feet which had resulted in the formation of a lake in the area with groundwater seeping up.

Meanwhile, SAD workers staged a protest at Bagharpura town in Moga district against "illegal" mining being done in the area allegedly at the behest of Congress leaders. The SAD workers also blocked the highway for about 2 hours by raising slogans against Capt Amarinder Singh and local Congress MLA Darshan Singh Brar. —OC

SIT records panthic leader's statement

FARIDKOT, JULY 3

Probing the six-year-old incident of police firing on protesters, the SIT of the Punjab Police on Friday recorded the statements of several persons, including 'panthic' leaders Panthpreet Singh and Rupinder Singh Panjgrain, both key witnesses to the Kotkapura police firing incident of October 14, 2015.

In his statement, Panthpreet Singh alleged on October 14, 2015, the police used teargas shells, caneharged people and fired in the air at a chowk in Kotkapura to disperse peaceful protesters. —TNS

BC leaders ignored: Cong MLA to Sonia

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MAY COST PARTY

» I had raised the issue of BC leaders being sidelined. The anger may cost the party dear in the forthcoming Assembly elections. Surjit Singh Dhiman, AMARGARH MLA

gress government.

"During my recent meeting with senior Congress leaders in New Delhi, I had raised the issue of Backward Class leaders being sidelined. The anger among BC leaders may cost the party dear in the forthcoming Assembly elections," he warned.

Dhiman said the Congress had always taken care of all communities and he was hopeful the leadership would take a sympathetic view of his letter. "But if no action is taken, we will call a state-level meeting of leaders from the community to take a call on our future course of action," added Dhiman.



A woman had a close shave after a fire broke out in her moving car on the NH-62 near Abohar on Saturday

Gagandeep Kaur (32) was going to meet parents at Nohar, Hanumangarh, when the rear of the car caught fire

Unaware, she kept driving, prompting locals to chase and stop the car. Soon after she got out, the car was gutted oc

Sand vendors protest 'assault' by truckers

AOHAR, JULY 3

Small sand vendors today staged a sit-in at Burjumahar Chowk on the Abohar-Fazilka stretch of NH-10 over an alleged attack by truck drivers.

The protest led to lining up of vehicles on both sides of the road. This caused problems to commuters.

City-I police in charge Baljit Singh reached the spot along with a team. Leading the dharna, Raju Middha said half-dozen truckers were not allowing them to do business and had attacked four members of the Reta Bajri Union in the past 10 days. He said

truck drivers were forcing small vendors to purchase gravel and sand at a higher price from them. "We lodged a complaint with the police, but nothing happened. So we decided to block the highway," union members said.

On the other hand, members of Truck Operators' Union met police officials and demanded a ban on unauthorised plying of tractor-trailers. —OC

MLA's gunman 'slaps' panchayat member, villagers protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FAZILKA, JULY 3

Residents blocked the Fazilka-Abohar road in Khuri Khera village today to protest the visit of Fazilka Congress MLA Davinder Singh Ghubaya. They alleged his gunman allegedly slapped a member of the panchayat. Ghubaya had gone to the village to inaugurate some development works

Davinder Ghubaya refutes charge, blames Oppn

gunman allegedly slapped him. The enraged villagers sat on a dharna and demanded action against the gunman. Ghubaya told *The Tribune* some workers of Opposition parties tried to hamper his visit as he carried out several development works in the village.

He refuted the allegation of anyone being slapped.

Senior police officials visited the dharna site and assured the villagers of action after which they lifted the protest late in the evening.

Notably, Davinder's father and former MP Sher Singh Ghubaya had to face the ire of farmers during his visit to Ladhuwa village in Fazilka district on June 30.



Residents stage a dharna on the Fazilka-Abohar highway on Saturday.

Need to deal with bootleggers firmly: HC

HOOCH TRAGEDY Says they've eaten into roots of society, don't deserve leniency

SAURABH MALIK

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, JULY 3

Calling for an iron-hand approach to deal with illicit and spurious liquor trade, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has made it clear that releasing the accused on bail in hooch tragedy cases would leave society with little reason to cheer.

Turning down the bail plea of an accused in a case registered in Tarn Taran, Justice Harnaresh Singh Gill ruled: "If such persons are released on bail, they would further decay the very system of society and their such acts would render society full with widowed women, orphaned children, and old and infirm parents with full of woes and sorrow tales."

The matter was placed before Justice Gill after an accused sought regular bail



The 2020 hooch tragedy had led to a massive outcry. FILE

BAIL PLEA TURNED DOWN

- Justice Harnaresh Singh Gill turned down the bail plea of an accused in a case registered in Tarn Taran on August 2, 2020
- He says: "If released on bail, such persons would render society full with widowed women, orphaned children, and old and infirm parents with full of sorrow tales."
- The accused was also involved in another case after a number of persons either died or lost eyesight due to illicit, spurious and poisonous liquor supplied by him

in an FIR registered for causing hurt by means of poison, criminal conspiracy and other offences on

August 2, 2020, at the City police station in Tarn Taran under Sections 328, 272 and 120-B of the IPC, and

the provisions of the Punjab Excise Act.

The state counsel submitted the accused was also involved in another case registered at Tarn Taran after a number of persons either died or lost their eyesight due to illicit, spurious and poisonous liquor supplied by the accused, such as the petitioner. The hooch tragedy had led to a massive outcry.

Justice Gill asserted the greed of the accused was to earn money at the cost of lives of innocent and poor people. If anyone played havoc and committed brutality of killing people through passive modes for mere monetary benefits, the person did not deserve any leniency for snatching from others the right to live with dignity. The person was required to be dealt with an iron hand.

Justice Gill added the

petitioner was accused of a gruesome crime against society at large. The modus operandi and the mens rea behind preparation of spurious country-made liquor with the objective of selling it to people from the underprivileged sections of society was a well-thought-out design. It had eaten into the very roots of society. One could not lose sight of such hooch tragedies reported in the recent past from different parts of the country, all leading to deaths of several persons from the marginalised sections of society.

"As the people used to substance go berserk under the allurement of the liquor being cheap, none can speak of their prudence, at the dangling moment of addiction. It is this state of these hapless people, which is taken benefit of by the people like the petitioner," Justice Gill asserted.

Vax team's 'laxity' leaves beneficiaries in lurch

KARAM PRAKASH

Tribune News Service

PATIALA, JULY 3

Unable to download the vaccine certificate, a 25-year-old student, who had received his first shot in May, discovered that he had never been registered for the inoculation by the health officials.

Now, he has been asked by the health officials to get himself registered on the Covid portal afresh although without getting a jab. Consequently, he, for no fault of his, will have to wait for the next three months to get the second dose of Covishield.

The said beneficiaries, Ramanjot Singh (name changed), a student of Panjab University, said, "I had given the correct details during the vaccination. Initially, I was informed by the health officials that I will get a message soon. However, no vaccination message has been received so far."

He is not the only person who has been facing a dilemma. In another case of carelessness on the part of the vaccination team, a medical officer of the Health Department had

WILL LOOK INTO MATTER

■ This must be an isolated case. Beneficiaries should make sure that their entry has been uploaded before leaving the vaccination centre. However, I will look into the matter. Dr Parveen Puri, Patiala Assistant Civil Surgeon

already been fully vaccinated in February; however, the portal is still showing the said doctor partially jabbed.

A 25-year-old girl who got the jab at a health centre on June 26 is unable to find the record and is, therefore, in a dilemma whether she should get registered again or wait further. The girl has to go abroad for studies and is running from pillar to post.

A doctor of the Health Department said, "Usually, officials, owing to the huge rush at the mega vaccination camps, note down the details of the beneficiaries but forget to upload the entries on the portal. Consequently, such problems arise."

Record 5.5L jabbed, highest in a day

Ldh tops with 82,667 doses, followed by Hoshiarpur's 77,930

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, JULY 3

After reporting a dip in the number of people being vaccinated over the past one week, the state under the "Mega Vaccination Drive" today administered the highest 5.5 lakh doses in a single day.

According to the data of the health department, in the last seven days (June 26 to July 2), the state administered 5.94 lakh doses. However, in the previous week (June 19 to June 25), the number of doses administered was 6.47 lakh. However, after the decline, the state set a new record on Saturday.

In a statement, Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu said the government for the first time received 6,84,240 doses of Covishield and 61,100 of Covaxin in a single installment late on Thursday evening. "After receiving the vaccine, the government prepared a roadmap of 'Mega Vaccination Drive' to cover a minimum of 5 lakh persons in one day," he said.

Sharing the district-wise data, Sidhu said Ludhiana led all districts by administering 82,667 doses, followed by Hoshiarpur (77,930) and

COVID METER

Cases	172
Critical	101
Active	2,538
Deaths	16

DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Ludhiana	26	0
Jalandhar	24	1
Patiala	15	0
Bathinda	13	2
Amritsar	12	1
Total	5,96,265	16,103

Jalandhar (62,000).

Pointing out the "disparity" while supplying the vaccine to states, the Health Minister said the government had been preparing to cope up with any emergency, but less supply of vaccination from the Centre was hitting the drive hard.

Currently, 4.8 per cent of Punjab's eligible population was fully vaccinated. The state has administered 71.7 lakh doses of vaccine in the past four months. In break-up, 61.5 lakh people have been given the first dose and 10.2 lakh have been given both the doses.

Among districts, Ludhiana tops the chart with 7.7 lakh doses, followed by Jalandhar (5.3 lakh), SAS Nagar (5.2 lakh), Hoshiarpur (4.3 lakh) and Amritsar (4.1 lakh).

Divulging details about the supply of vaccine last week, the Health Minister said Punjab received only 79,550 doses of Covishield on June 24, 79,540 on June 25 and 31,580 doses of Covaxin on June 29. The stock of Covishield remained almost nil from June 27 to July 1, which slowed down the vaccination drive. The number of Covid vaccination has been decreased from 1,14,655 on June 22 to 17,704 on July 1 in the state.

Expressing concern over the third wave, Sidhu said the government had been preparing to cope up with any emergency, but less supply of vaccination from the Centre was hitting the drive hard.

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11 'linked' to fake call centre case nabbed in Mohali, Delhi

NIKHIL BHARDWAJ

Tribune News Service

LUDHIANA, JULY 3

The ongoing probe by the Ludhiana police in connection with the fake call centre scam has led to the arrest of 11 more persons. The arrests were made by multiple teams of the Cyber Cell and CIA-1 Ludhiana during raids in Mohali and New Delhi.

PART OF LDH MODULE

- The suspects were linked to the Ludhiana fake call centre busted recently, said Ludhiana Police Commissioner Rakesh Agrawal
- They provided financial, technical support such as fake bank accounts, hawala channels, contacts of US/UK/Canada citizens and training

being used at the Mohali-based fake call centre as well, whereby the suspects, posing as tax/insurance authorities, used to call unsuspecting citizens in other countries and committed financial frauds.

The victims were asked to transfer money to bank accounts in their respective countries. The money was further transferred to India through hawala channels or cryptocurrency. Bitcoin wallets of the suspects were

being confiscated and frozen.

The ADCP said raids were conducted in the Chattarpur area of New Delhi, from where suspect Vaibhav Gupta was apprehended. He was the technical backbone of the module, providing software, server, call dialler, calling minute, troubleshooting support, etc. to the Ludhiana-based module.

Gupta used to receive regular monthly payments for his services. "Since a majority of the payments by the suspects was made and received through hawala channels, raids were conducted in Ludhiana, leading to the arrest of Sachin Patel, hailing from Gujarat, from the Sham Nagar area and Rs 27 lakh in hawala money was recovered," said ADCP Bhatti.

Investigations in the case suggested the accused had bought multiple flats in posh localities of Ahmedabad from the proceeds of crime.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short term Sealed item rate tenders on forms 6 & 8 for the below mentioned works are hereby invited from the contractors of appropriate class enlisted with the Jal Shakti Vibhag so as to reach in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division No. I, Shimla - 9 on or before 13.07.2021 up to 3.00 P.M. The tender shall be opened on same day at 3.30 P.M. in the presence of the intending contractors or their authorized representatives who wish to be present at the time of opening of tenders. The tender forms and term and condition can be had on submission of Earnest Money and the production of valid registration in Jal Shakti Vibhag and registration under GST Act, from the office of the undersigned during working hours up to 12.07.2021 payment of cost of form. The earnest money shall be in the shape of NSC/FDR or Saving Bank Account of Post Office/Time Deposit of H.P. State Co-Operative Bank or any other Nationalized Bank duly pledged in the name of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division No. I, Shimla - 9. The offer shall remain open for 90 days. Conditional tender will not be accepted. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons. If it happens to be holiday on the date of opening of tender, then the tender shall be opened on the next working day.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	E/Money	Time Limit	Cost of Form	Mode of Tender
1.	LWSS Gharog Ghandal in G.P. Shakrah, Tehsil & Distt Shimla HP (SH:- Connectivity of storage tank to NLU campus at Ghandal and protection to storage tank thereof)	Rs. 2,97,990/-	Rs. 5960/-	3 Months	Rs. 250/-	Offline
2.	Providing water from Saini Khad to Ghargh Ghandal to leftout villages/Panchayats viz Shakrah, Devnagar, Okhroo, Totu, Chaili etc under Jal Shakti Sub Division Ghanahatti in Tehsil & Distt Shimla HP (SH:- Connectivity of various junctions under JSV section Totu under JJM)	Rs. 4,94,595/-	Rs. 9900/-	6 Months	Rs. 250/-	Offline
3.	Providing water from Saini Khad to Ghargh Ghandal to leftout villages/Panchayats viz Shakrah, Devnagar,					

National panel for action against child welfare units of Bhiwani

BHARTESH SINGH THAKUR

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



COPS' ROLE ALSO TO BE PROBED

◆We have passed strictures against the police too. Their role has also come under scanner in a local court order, dated June 25, in a prostitution racket case, where the victim was sent to customers. **◆**Jyoti Bainda, CHAIRPERSON, HSCPCR

native of her village Roshan Ali brought her to Delhi on the pretext of providing her a cleaning job on March 30, but handed her over to a man who abused her.

A woman, Usha, brought her to Charkhi Dadri and allegedly forced her into prostitution. As per an FIR, dated April 3, she said that once "madam" (Usha) sent her with two men who molested her, but let her off after she raised her voice. The next time, she was sent to a hotel, where she was raped. However, she escaped and with the help of passers-by reached police station, following which a case was registered.

During the medical examination, the victim was found two-and-a-half-month pregnant and her abortion was carried out at PGIMS,

Rohtak, in April.

The victim said that during a counselling session on May 7 at Bhiwani Child Care Institution, counsellor Hari Krishan "uncle" of DCPU, Bhiwani, asked her objectionable questions. After the HSCPCR intervened, an FIR was registered on May 22 under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against him. He has been put under suspension now.

"An unnecessary hurry was made by the police for the bone ossification test of the victim in this case to prove that she was a major. Whereas the ossification test in the prostitution case had already established that she was a minor," said Bainda.

She added, "It has also come on record that a member of the CWC Bhiwani, Legal Prohibition Officer DCPU Bhi-

wani Manoj, and an assistant professor of MNS Government College are allegedly involved in forcing the girl to change her statement in the name of counselling sessions. We have recommended action against them. Manoj was arrested too." The victim was later shifted to a Sonepat shelter home on May 29. On June 25, the court passed strictures for carrying out the test identification of Usha when the victim was Covid positive and was not in a position to identify her.

Only a customer has been arrested so far in the prostitution case, while three accused, including Usha, are yet to be arrested. As per the FIR, the victim has claimed that Usha has 15 girls for running prostitution racket.

The victim's parents are yet to be traced. —TNS

21 cases registered for 'illegal sale' of land at Khori village

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDABAD, JULY 3

The police have registered 21 cases in connection with the "illegal sale" of land at Khori village in the Aravalli area.

It comes following the demand raised by local residents and leaders of various political parties, who sought legal action against officials and property dealers, who sold the land to innocent buyers and hid the fact that it came under the PLPA Act.

Some of the accused have been identified as Anangpal; Satish; Aman; Kalu; Tejvir; Taslim; Gaurav; Tej; Babu; Master; Kallam; Guruji and Parvin. No arrest



Residents shift their belongings out of the village. FILE PHOTO

has been made so far.

The police said the investigation was underway and the accused would be arrested after the identification process was over. However, describing it as a face-saving exercise, MLA (NIT) Neeraj Sharma asked who would identify and book administrative officials, who failed to check illegal constructions in the protected Aravalli belt for the past three decades. —TNS

COVID METER

Cases	52	
Recovered	98	
Active	1,234	
Deaths	13	
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Palwal	10	0
Bhiwani	7	1
Gurugram	6	0
State total	7,691	9,474

13 succumb to virus in 24 hrs

CHANDIGARH, JULY 3

With 13 deaths and 52 fresh cases, the Covid tally in the state reached 7.69 lakh on Saturday. Two deaths each were reported in Hisar and Panipat, and one each in Karnal, Panchkula, Yamunanagar, Sirsa, Bhiwani and Jhajjar. —TNS

Three club owners booked

GURUGRAM, JULY 3

Three

club

owners

booked

for

keeping

their

premises

opened

beyond

10 pm.

Another raid was conducted by ASI Satish Kumar in King Club located in JMD Regent Arcade at 11 pm and where a party was going on. The police booked its owner Harkesh. The same team also checked Elite Club at 11 pm. Owner Shyambir has been booked. —TNS

Charuni expels farmer leader Navdeep, father

AMBALA, JULY 3

of misappropriating funds.

In a video released by the committee late last night, BKU's (Charuni) Yamunagar president Sanju Gundiana said, "Some union activists attempted to break the barricades in Panchkula on June 26. Jai and Navdeep had also abused the union leaders during the march. To investigate the matter, a five-member panel was formed which sought explanation from Jai Singh and Navdeep. —TNS

Ahead of CM's visit, farmers remove BJP flag

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, JULY 3

The situation remained tense on the Railway road here ahead of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's visit here this afternoon, where he was scheduled to chair a district-level party meeting.

Some farmers protested against the BJP flags at Jassa Singh Ramgaria Chowk on the railway road. They not only removed these, but also hoisted the Tricolour there. Two farmers were detained, but after opposition by other

CM says govt ready for dialogue, but no conditions

farmers, they were released. "We want to ask the administration whether the National Flag is more important or the BJP's," said Jagdeep Singh Aulakh, member, state core committee, BKU (Charuni).

On the farmers' issue, the CM said that the government was always ready for dialogue, but dialogues on conditions were not possible.

The Chief Minister exhorted the office-bearers of the party to take the policies of the party and the government to the public. He referred the workers as the backbone of the party.

On former Chief Minister's OP Chautala's release from jail, he said it would have no impact.

Woman marrying father of 2 not entitled to maternity leave: HC

SAURABH MALIK

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 3

A woman who marries a father of two is not entitled to maternity leave, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has held.

The judgment, blurring the distinction between step and natural mother for the purpose of granting maternity leave, is currently under the Supreme Court scanner and will come up for hearing on September 7. Notices have already been issued to the employer and other respondents in this regard.

Taking up the plea by a nursing officer, the High Court Bench of Justice

JUDGMENT UNDER SUPREME COURT SCANNER

The judgment, blurring the distinction between step and natural mother for the purpose of granting maternity leave, is currently under the Supreme Court scanner and will come up for hearing on September 7. Notices have already been issued to the employer and other respondents in this regard.

Jaswant Singh and Justice Sant Parkash observed that Rule 43 of Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972, made it clear that maternity leave could be granted to a woman government servant only if she had less than two surviving children. The bench

her husband. But she could not deny the fact that she was now their mother. As such, the petitioner already had two surviving children. "Any child born to her is to be considered a third child."

The woman had initially moved the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) for quashing orders whereby her request for maternity leave was turned down and con-

verted into earned leave. Directions were also sought for sanctioning maternity leave by treating the newly born as her first child and to regularise the leave period.

The tribunal was told that it was her first marriage, while her husband had tied the knot for the second time after the death of his earlier wife. But the tribunal on January 29 rejected her plea for maternity leave from June 4, 2019, to November 30, 2019, compelling her to move the HC.

Assisted by counsel Dhiraj Chawla, the bench asserted that the petitioner's claim that the child born to her was required to be treated as her first for the purpose of maternity leave was not admissible under the rule.

The bench added that the petitioner admittedly got the names of the children born from the first wedlock of her husband entered in the office record and availed child care leave on several occasions.

"We are of the considered view that CAT has rightly observed in the impugned order that "...for all practical purposes, the applicant has two surviving children. As such, any child born to her now can only be considered as a third child," the bench asserted, adding that it did not find any perversity or illegality in the impugned orders.

Hisar girl to represent nation in paralympics

DEEPENDER DESWAL

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, JULY 3

Asian gold medallist Ekta Bhatnayak, a resident of Hisar, is set to represent the country in the Tokyo paralympic games in category F51 of the club throw event.

Ekta, a resident of Urban Estate locality in Hisar, is serving as an HCS (allied) officer in Haryana. She ranks top in her category in Asia. She was selected after the trials in Delhi on Friday.

Vowing to keep up her form to win a gold, Ekta says that it has been her dream, like every athlete, to represent the country in the greatest show of sports on the Earth. "Hard work has transformed this wish into reality. Now, I am focused in the pursuit of a gold medal for the country," she says.

After completing schooling, Ekta aspired to be a medical student and also joined the coaching class in Delhi. However, a mishap on August 4, 2003, involving a truck overturning on a vehicle she was travelling in near Kundli on the Delhi-Haryana border changed the course of her life.

While six other students



Ekta Bhatnayak

were crushed to death, she suffered quadriplegic spinal cord injury and became wheelchair bound ever since.

Not losing hope, she resumed studies after spending several months in a hospital. She cracked the HCS examination after completing her graduation in 2013 and got herself posted as an assistant employment officer in Hisar.

Her father, Dr Baljeet Singh Bhatnayak, a horticulturist, has stood by the decision of Ekta when she decided to turn to sports. Ekta started practicing under Amit Saroha, an Arjuna awardee para-athlete, in Sonepat in 2014. She later rose to emerge as the top ranked club thrower event and won the gold medal Asian Para Games in Jakarta.

2 yrs on, Sonepat youth awaits justice for wife's brutal murder

HONOUR KILLING JUSTICE AWAITED

MUKESH TANDON

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SONEPAT, JULY 3

Ritu, a resident of Khandrai village, was allegedly killed by her parents on September 7, 2019, for marrying against their wishes. Since her husband Arjun (23) of Garhi Hakikat village has kept silence and awaiting justice for his wife.

"I want justice for my wife Ritu and I believe in law. They (her parents) will have to face for what they did to her," says Arjun.

"We had accepted Ritu, but her family members were against her marriage with Arjun. They killed their daughter and even attempted to kill my son," says Arjun's mother Sunita.

She adds that although the culprits are behind the bars, they always fear for their son's life and other members of the family.

Mehar Singh, father of Arjun, said, "We don't want anything, whatever



Arjun, along with his parents, at Garhi Hakikat village.

the law decides, will be acceptable to us."

Arjun had been living at his maternal uncle's house at Khandrai village and pursuing a course from the local ITI when he fell in love with Ritu, who lived in their neighbourhood. After a year of their relationship, they decided to tie the knot and eloped from their house in July 2019. On August 8, they got married in a temple at Sector 43 in Chandigarh and came back to Arjun's home.

Recalling the incident, he said Ritu asked him to take her to Gohana, where her brother met them. Her mother and sister also arrived there and took her away.

After some time, her brother Sandeep along with two of his friends came to him on a motorcycle and told him that they had killed Ritu. They also tried to kill him with a sharp-edged weapon, but he managed to escape.

As per the police, the girl's neck was slit with a sharp-edged weapon. Her body and neck were found lying separately in a room at her native place. The police booked her father Umed Singh, brother Sandeep, his friends Ajit, alias Jita, and Bunty, mother Samo Devi and sister Anjali under Sections 302, 120B and 34 of the IPC.

Later Samo Devi and Anjali were excluded from the case during investigations. The police filed a chargesheet in the case on November 15, 2019. The case is pending in a Sessions Court and all accused are currently in jail.

260 PGTs for Sanskriti schools

CHANDIGARH, JULY 3

Haryana government has issued directions to select 260 postgraduate teachers (PGTs) for English medium Government Model Sanskriti Senior Secondary Schools in the state and ensure their joining by July 6.

Sharing more information in this regard, an official spokesperson said the 260 teachers would include nine PGTs for Biology, 17 for Computer Science, 76 for English, 68 for Hindi and 90 for Mathematics. —TNS

Forester suspended for not acting on plaint

YAMUNANAGAR, JULY 3

A forester was suspended for allegedly not taking action on a complaint lodged against illegal mining on forest land.

A departmental inquiry was also marked against forester Dinesh Yadav, who was posted in Kot block falling under

Kalsia forest range, Chhachhaura, Yamunanagar district. He was transferred from Yamunanagar to Kurukshetra district.

"Forester Dinesh Yadav was suspended and transferred to Kurukshetra district from Yamunanagar district," said

Sushil Kumar Sharma, Range Officer of Kalsia forest range, Chhachhaura.

Now, 250 permitted at outdoor functions

Curbs eased For indoor events, 150 persons allowed

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JULY 3

The state government has announced more relaxations in restrictions following the decline in the positivity rate to 1.3 per cent. Now, a maximum of 250 persons can attend outdoor functions such as marriages and 150 persons can participate in functions held indoors.

In indoor or covered areas, a maximum gathering of 50 per cent of the capacity with the cap of 150 persons will be allowed, henceforth. In open spaces, a gathering of maximum 250 persons will be allowed but in strict adherence to norms such as wearing of masks, thermal scanning, social distancing and use of hand wash or sanitisers.

The government has also



acceded to the request of the Army Recruitment Office to allow the recruitment of youths in the Army and para-military forces through a common entrance exam. Also, with a decline in Covid cases, the Army, police and the Forest Department will also be allowed to hold recruitment rallies with strict safety protocols in view of large gatherings that such events witness.

Kullu, Bilaspur, Sirmaur and Solan district have the

positivity rate of less than one per cent, while the case fatality rate of the state stands at 0.6 per cent. The test positivity rate of the state is 1.3 per cent with Mandi district having the highest positivity rate of 4.3 per cent. At present, 170 patients are admitted to various hospitals, and out of these 124 patients are on oxygen beds and 46 in the ICU. There are 2,609 oxygen beds and 275 ICU beds available in the state.

115 new cases, one death

SHIMLA, JULY 3

As many as 115 Covid cases were reported in the state today, taking the tally to 202,555. Besides, one persons died in Kangra in the past 24 hours, the district witnessed 25 cases. — TNS

COVID METER

	+VE	DEATHS
Active	1,446	
Positive	202,555	
Deaths	3,466	
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Bilaspur	12,728	78
Chamba	11,283	142
Hamirpur	14,390	254
Kangra	45,929	1,032
Kinnaur	3,260	38
Kullu	8,940	154
Lahaul & Spiti	2,717	17
Mandi	27,223	391
Shimla	25,238	599
Sirmaur	15,341	210
Solan	22,225	311
Una	13,325	241
Total	2,02,555	3,466



AJCB machine being used in the Chandratal wildlife sanctuary.

Chief Conservator of Forest. The sources allege that the JCB machine was used in the core area of the sanctuary. "The place is an internationally recognised Ramsar site and no activity that disturbs the fragile nature of the area should be carried out".

Hardev Negi, DFO (Wildlife), Kaza, said that a kucha road from Manali to Chandratal exists. "The PWD gets an annual budget for the

Baddi firm gets approval to produce Sputnik V

AMBIKA SHARMA
TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, JULY 3

The state drug licensing authority today gave approval to Panacea Biotech to manufacture Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V at its Baddi facility. It will be the first Covid vaccine to be manufactured in Himachal.

Deputy Drug Controller-cum-Licensing Authority Manish Kapoor, Baddi, said, "Panacea Biotech was today given the approval to manufacture Sputnik V vaccine at its Malpura-based facility in the Baddi industrial area".

Interestingly, the firm was jointly inspected by the officials of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation and the State's Drug Control Administration earlier. It had sought permission on



Ist batch to be sent to Russian centre for quality control

form CT-23 to manufacture the vaccine from the state licensing authority.

The first batch of Sputnik V produced by Panacea Biotech here will be shipped to Russia's Gamaleya Centre for quality control. The company had earlier announced plans to produce test batches of three million vaccines here. Sputnik V has added another feather to its cap.

nik V at a time when the fear of the third Covid wave is looming large will help vaccinate more people. The Russian Direct Investment Fund has partnered with several leading Indian pharmaceutical companies, including Panacea Biotech, to manufacture the vaccine in India.

The Drug Controller General of India had granted the emergency use authorisation to Sputnik V on April 12 on the basis of the clinical trials. The vaccine demonstrated an efficacy rate of 91.6 per cent in the interim analysis of the phase-III trial.

The pharmaceutical industry has remained at the forefront of manufacturing key Covid drugs such as Remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, tocilizumab, favipiravir, etc. Sputnik V has added another feather to its cap.

e-booking begins for Keylong buses

ABHINAV VASHISHT

KULLU, JULY 3

Tribal Development Minister Ram Lal Markanda today launched the online booking service of the HRTC for the Keylong depot in Lahaul and Spiti district. He said the seats in the buses of the Keylong depot of the HRTC could now be booked online from any part of the country. He added that tourists as well as local residents would be facilitated through this facility.

The minister flagged off a deluxe Volvo bus on the Keylong-Delhi route, launched for the first time. He said that the commuters would

be able to travel comfortably on the 684-km Keylong-Delhi route. He added that the long distance interstate bus services from other states would be extended up to Keylong in the near future.

Markanda said the potential of tourism in the Lahaul valley had increased after the opening of Atal Tunnel. He added that the Volvo buses would provide a fillip to the tourism industry and Lahaul and Spiti would make a mark as a special place on the world tourism map.

The minister also flagged off an ordinary bus service from Manali to Chandertaal. He said tourists would have an economical option to visit the panoramic Chandertaal.

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Chief Medical Officer, Una, District Una (HP)

DPR/HP/2080

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No. AIMS/E-1/2021/2382 Dated: 3.7.2021

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महानगर दूरसंचार भवन Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan,

ज.ला. नेहरू मार्ग (ओल्ड मिटो रोड), नई दिल्ली-110002

J.L. Nehru Marg, (Old Minto Road), New Delhi-110002

Subject: Registration of consumer organisations with TRAI.

Applications are invited from the consumer organisations working for the interest of consumers for registration with TRAI under "Registration of Consumer Organisations Regulations 2013" dated 21.02.2013 in selected states.

The detailed information is available on TRAI website at

<https://www.trai.gov.in/consumer-info/telecom-consumer-groups>.

Interested organisations may send their applications along with requisite documents to the Joint Advisor (CA).

The last date for receipt of application form is 03.09.2021.

davp 06218/11/0001/2122

Mumbai tourist killed in Kullu road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KULLU, JULY 3 A tourist from Mumbai was killed when the vehicle he was driving fell into a 300-metre deep gorge near Lari Kot on the Jana-Bijli Mahadev forest road yesterday.

Kullu SP Gurdev Sharma said Ajay Singhvi (34) came to Manali on July 1 and went to the Jana waterfall and then to Bijli Mahadev yesterday. He was alone when his vehicle

met with an accident and died on the spot.

The SP said the police reached the spot and took the body into their custody and informed his relatives. The body would be handed over to the relatives after the post-mortem. A probe was under way.

The unmetalled road to Bijli Mahadev is risky to commute. It is used by tractors and pick-up vehicles to fetch agricultural produce of farmers.

Expect rain, storm till July 7: Met dept

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JULY 3

Widespread moderate to heavy rain occurred at many places, causing a drop in the mercury and Naina Devi was the wettest with 66 mm rain.

The local MeT office has issued the yellow warning of thunderstorm and lightning at isolated places in mid and lower hills on July 4, 6 and 7 and predicted rain and thunderstorm in mid hills from July 4 to 9 and rain or snow in higher hills on

July 4 and July 5 to 8.

Bangana and Bilaspur received 41 mm and 37 mm rain, followed by Berthi 35 mm, Mehere 32 mm, Jubbarhatti 27 mm, Bijahi 25 mm, Dharamsala 24 mm, Kasauli 19 mm, Shimla 18 mm, Nahan, Kandaghat, Dehra Gopipur and Shilaroo 17mm, Gaggal and Sujanpur Tihra 16 mm and Solan and Kasol 15 mm.

Minimum temperatures dropped by four to eight degrees and Narkanda was the coldest in the

region with a low of 8.5 degree, followed by Keylong 8.9 degree, Kalpa 11 degree, Kufri 10.9 degree and Shimla 12.9 degree.

Una was the hottest during the day with a high of 37.8 degree, followed by Bhuntar 35.3 degree, Sundernagar 33.8 degree, Shimla 25.2 degree and Keylong 19.4 degree, seven degree below normal.

The region received 96.1 mm average rain during the monsoon season from June 1 to July 3 against the normal rainfall of 115.5 mm, a deficit of 17 per cent.

Naina Devi wettest with 66 mm rain; Narkanda coldest at 8.8 degrees C



State to promote e-vehicles, create zero emission zones

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JULY 3 Concerned over high vehicular emissions, Himachal plans to promote electric vehicles by creating zero or low emission zones in Shimla, Baddi, Dharamsala and eco-sensitive areas in all tourist destinations where only battery-operated vehicles will be allowed.

The Himachal Electric Vehicle policy is being formulated. The state has around 19 lakh registered vehicles, including nine lakh two-wheelers. As the prices of most of the electric vehicles are high, the government is keen to provide some subsidy or incentive but this may not be possible due to severe financial constraints it is facing.

NUMBER OF VEHICLES IN HP

TYPE	TOTAL
Motorcycle, scooter	

INDIAN RAILWAYS
DIESEL LOCO MODERNISATION WORKS
PATIALA - 147003
Tel: 2396000, 2396001 Fax: 91-0175-2306413
NOTICE INVITING ELECTRONIC TENDERS

On behalf of President of India Principal Chief Materials Manager/DMW/Patiala invites tenders in electronic form for following items:

e-Tender Notice No. 12 ET/2021-22

S.N.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender Closing date.
1	20209469A	Auxiliary Material - 38	15 Kgs	19.07.2021
2	01212304	S.S. Tube and Double Ferrule Fittings	118 Set	20.07.2021*
3	01212487	Double Row Self aligning spherical Roller Bearing	864 Nos.	30.07.2021**
4	01212457	Axle Box Housing (Finish Machined)	903 Nos.	27.07.2021*
5	02213006	Search Light Fitting	140 Nos.	21.07.2021
6	01212348	FRP Observation Dome	120 Nos.	19.07.2021
7	01212444	FRP Window Assembly	2668 Nos.	20.07.2021
8	01212313	Bogie Bolster arrangement	248 Nos.	03.08.2021*
9	02211952	Needle Roller Bearing	725 Nos.	23.07.2021***
10	02213002	Electrical steel Sheet	300 MT	19.07.2021***

Tender Closing Time 15:00 Hrs.
Item marked with * is reserved for procurement from ICF approved Firms, Item marked with ** is reserved for procurement from RDSO approved Firms. *** is reserved for procurement from CLW approved Firms.
The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website <http://www.irps.gov.in> or <http://www.indianrailways.gov.in> for detailed description of items & other terms and conditions of tender document. Please note that tenders can submit their quotations only through <http://www.irps.gov.in>.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER Punjab Remote Sensing Centre (PRSC)

(A Government of Punjab Enterprise)
PAU Campus, Ludhiana — 141004

PRSC, Ludhiana intends to invite bids from Domestic OEM or Authorized Distributors/Dealers of Domestic OEM through E-Tendering under Two Bid System i.e. Technical Bid and Financial Bid for supply of High-Resolution Field Portable Spectroradiometer on e-Procurement portal of the Government of Punjab i.e. <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

The detailed terms & conditions of the tender can be downloaded from e-Procurement portal of the Government of Punjab i.e. <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> or PRSC website www.prsc.gov.in

Note: The tenders will be accepted through e-Tendering only. Any further communications will be done through e-Tendering site in the form of addendum/corrigendum.

Sd/- Director

Centre of Excellence
Govt. Degree College Sanjauli, Shimla-6
Tel. No. 01772640332, E-mail: principalsanjuli@gmail.com
Website: gcsanjuli.com

Tender/Auction Notice

It is for the information of General Public that old store/Rain shelter block of this college shall be dismantled through Public Auction on dated 10.07.2021 at 11:00 a.m. The auction shall be held on as is where basis in the premises of Centre of Excellence Govt. College Sanjauli, Shimla-6.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

Bid shall be released in favour of the Higher Bidder. Bidder shall have to deposit the full amount of the bid with this college on the spot. He shall not be allowed to dismantle either or whole part of building until full amount of the bid is paid by him. For more clarification he/she may contact at Phone No. 0177-2640332. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any bid without assigning any reason.

Sd/- (Dr. C.B. Mehta)
Principal,
Centre of Excellence,
GDC Sanjauli, Shimla-6.

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG "NOTICE INVITING TENDER"

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Solan invites tender notice on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors/firms for the following work through offline process:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost	Ernest Money	Time of Completion	Cost of form	Last date of tender form submission	Divisional office upto
1.	Improvement & up gradation of DWSS to Solan Town from Giri River (SH- C/O wire crate (Gabion Structure)) so as to reach in this office on or before 09.07.2021 up to 11:00 a.m. and will be opened on the same day at 11:30 a.m. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives if any. The tender forms can be had from this office against cash payment (Non-refundable) on any working day up to 08.07.2021 till 04:00 p.m. The application for the issue to tender form will be received up to 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. up to 08.07.2021. The form can also be downloaded from Departmental web site www.hphip.org . Opening of tenders shall be considered as next working day in hand on above specified date.	4,22,366/-	8,450/-	One month	250/-	06.07.2021 up to 5.00 P.M.	
2.	Improvement & up gradation of DWSS to Solan Town from Giri River (SH- C/O wire crate (Gabion Structure)) to protect the percolation well No. 2 near Temple) Job No.1.	4,05,734/-	8,150/-	One Month	250/-	-do-	
3.	Improvement & up gradation of DWSS to Solan Town from Giri River (SH- C/O wire crate (Gabion Structure)) to protect the percolation well No. 1 near pump house) Job No. 1.	4,18,747/-	8,400/-	One Month	250/-	-do-	
4.	Improvement & up gradation of DWSS to Solan Town from Giri River (SH- C/O wire crate (Gabion Structure)) to protect the percolation well No. 1 near pump house) Job No. 2.	4,05,734/-	8,150/-	One Month	250/-	-do-	

The tenders forms and other detailed can be obtained from website <http://www.hphip.org>

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Solan
HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

DPR/HP/2078

DPR/HP/229

JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA
LONGOWAL (SANGRUR)
01672283576

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from registered manufacturer/wholesaler/dealers/firms through Registered Post only for the supply of 01) Dry Rotation, 2) Washing & Ironing, 3) Rewinding of electrical items, 4) Spare Parts of Computer/Laptop Hardware & AMC of Computer/Laptop, 5) AMC of RO System and material, 6) Bedding Items, 7) Tuck Shop, 8) Toilet item, 9) Stationery Items, 10) Shoes & Chappals, 11) Hardware & Plumbing, 12) Uniform items, 13) Electrical Items, 14) Confectionery Items, 15) Vegetable & Fruits, 16) Stitching of Uniform for the session 2021-22.

The tender forms along with terms and conditions can be obtained from Vidyalaya office on any working day through Demand Draft only for Rs. 300/- in favor of Principal, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Longowal, Distt Sangrur payable at Longowal. The tender form can be downloaded from the Vidyalaya website [https://navodaya.gov.in/nvs/nvs-school/Sangrur/en/home/](http://navodaya.gov.in/nvs/nvs-school/Sangrur/en/home/) and cost of tender and EMO can be deposited through Demand Draft in favor of Principal Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya , Longowal, Distt Sangrur payable at Longowal and separate Demand Draft of Tender cost and EMO in separate envelopes. The last date to receive the tender (through Registered Post only) is 26.07.2021 up to 4.00 p.m.

The tenderers have to submit samples of non-branded items along with tender form. There will be a separate tender document for each item of supply. The tenders will be opened by the Purchase Advisory Committee of the Vidyalaya on the next day i.e. 27.07.2021 at 11:00 A.M. in the office of the Principal, in the presence of the members of the PAC. Tenderers or their authorized representatives are also free to attend the Tender opening process. The conditional incomplete and late received tenders will not be accepted. The committee reserves the right to approve/reject any tender in full or part without assigning any reason.

Sd/- PRINCIPAL,
JNV LONGOWAL.

Tribute paid to jawan killed in encounter

SRINAGAR, JULY 3

The Army on Saturday paid tribute to Havildar Kashiray Bammanalli, who was killed in an encounter with militants in Pulwama yesterday.

In a solemn ceremony at Badamibagh Cantonment, Chinari Corps Commander Lt Gen DP Pandey and all ranks paid homage to the gallant soldier on

behalf of the proud nation," an Army official said.

He said Havildar Bammanalli, 37, was part of the anti-militancy operation at Hanjan in south Kashmir. Militants fired indiscriminately upon the forces when they were conducting searches in the area. Bammanalli belonged to Ulkkal village in Karnataka. —PTI

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online e-tender on lump sum/items rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Palampur on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the Contractor/Firm of appropriate class.

Name of Work	Estimated cost	EMD	Cost of tender
Work No.1 :- Annual repair and maintenance of Sewerage Scheme Palampur Town in Tehsil Palampur District Kangra (H.P.) (SH- Operation and maintenance of complete sewer network, manholes, flushing tanks and sewerage treatment plant 0.351 MLD for three years).	Rs. 86,43,417/-	Rs. 1,18,940/-	Rs. 800/-

Last date of filing/uploading the tender through e-tendering 09.07.2021 upto 11.00 AM and the same will be opened on 09.07.2021 at 11.30 AM. The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website, www.hphip.org and www.hptenders.gov.in:

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE/PTI

SRINAGAR, JULY 3

President of the PDP Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday termed the ending of the 149-year-old practice of Durbar Move as an "insensitive" decision, maintaining its economic and social benefits outnumbered the expenses incurred for moving of the offices during summer and winter.

"GOI's recent decision to stop the Durbar Move is penny wise and pound foolish. Its economic and social benefits outnumber expenses incurred for moving the capital during summer and winter. Quite obvious that such insensitive decisions are taken by those who least care for J&K's welfare," she wrote on Twitter.

The CPM also questioned the Union Government over ending the 149-year-old biannual Durbar Move in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mohammad Yousef Tarigami, MLA in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, said the move to jettison the tradition of Durbar Move had created confu-

Mehbooba terms ending Durbar Move insensitive

FOOLISH STEP

GOL's decision to stop the Durbar Move is penny wise and pound foolish. Its economic and social benefits outnumber expenses incurred for moving the capital during summer and winter.

Mehbooba Mufti, PDP CHIEF

CPM QUESTIONS TOO

Where will the Raj Bhawan function from? As and when elections are held in J&K, from where will the Assembly operate and the CM and his Council of Ministers work?

MY Tarigami, CPM LEADER

sion amid the pandemic.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's announcement that the administration has completely transi-

tioned to an e-office, after which the 149-year-old biannual Durbar Move was no longer needed, has left several questions unanswered," Tarigami said.

After the announcement, the administration on June 30 also asked Darbar Move employees in Jammu and Srinagar to vacate their accommodations. They have been given 21 days to vacate.

"Where will the Raj Bhawan function from? As and when elections are held in J&K, from where will the Assembly operate and the CM and his Council of Ministers work?"

Where will the Raj Bhawan function from?" he said.

Tarigami asked the government to come up with a proper plan and mechanism as to how it intended to operate the Civil Secretariat and its affiliated offices.

Ph 3 trials ...

FROM PAGE 1 asymptomatic Covid-19 and 65.2 per cent against the SARS-CoV2, B.1.617.2 Delta variant," Bharat Biotech chairman Krishna Ella said. "Covaxin was well tolerated and the Data Safety Monitoring Board has not reported any safety concern related to the vaccine. The overall rate of adverse events observed was lower than that seen in other Covid-19 vaccines.

The safety profile of Covaxin is now well established, based on inactivated vaccines technology," company statement said.

Importantly, no licensed SARS-CoV-2 vaccine has so far reported efficacy against asymptomatic infection in a randomised controlled trial. Covaxin is the first to do so.

ICMR Director General Balram Bhargava said, "Covaxin works well against all variant strains of SARS-CoV-2. The successful development of Covaxin has consolidated the position of Indian academia and Industry in the global arena."

Bharat Biotech is undertaking additional clinical trials to establish Covaxin safety and efficacy for children aged 2 to 18 years. A trial to determine the safety and immunogenicity of a booster dose is also in process.



ED arrests journalist...

FROM PAGE 1 other unknown persons was being generated through 'hawala' by Mahipalpur-based (an area in Delhi) shell companies that were run by Chinese nationals Zhang Cheng (alias Suraj), Zhang Lixia (alias Usha) and Quing Shi, along with Nepal national Sher Singh (alias Raj Bohara)," the ED alleged.

A number of other transactions with various Chinese companies and some trading firms in India are also being examined by the agency.

"These Chinese companies were acting as a conduit for the Chinese intelligence agencies to provide remuneration for persons like Sharma, who indulged in criminal activities," the ED said. Sharma also received money through "benami bank accounts" with a purpose of concealing his involvement in criminal activities, it added. The ED case is based on a Delhi Police FIR filed under the Official Secrets Act (OSA) and various sections of the IPC against Sharma last year, after which he was arrested by the special cell on September 14, 2020.

Ill-conceived Badal...

FROM PAGE 1 cator to the state's power demand, he said, adding that the remaining 122 were "inexplicably" signed. He appealed to the people to use power judiciously and cooperate with the government in overcoming the "temporary" crisis, saying against a supply of 13,500 MW, the demand last week had touched an unprecedented 16,000 MW, propelling the PSPCL to purchase 7,400 MW from outside the state — 1,000 MW more than what was purchased last year. The CM blamed the present power crisis on the Talwandi Sabo Power Plant that has shut one of its units. A notice has already been issued to the plant. It has been warned of a heavy penalty. Earlier in the day, the police used a water cannon to disperse AAP workers forcing their way to "gherao" the CM's residence at Siswan to protest against the frequent power cuts across the state.

CALENDAR

JULY 4, 2021, Sunday

- Vikrami Samvat 2078
- Shaka Samvat 1943
- Aashadh Shaka 13
- Aashadh Parvishade 20
- Hijri 1442
- Krishna Paksha Tithi 10, up to 7.56 pm
- Sukarma Yuga up to 12.23 pm
- Ashwin Nakshatra up to 9.05 am
- Moon in Aries sign

MATRIMONIALS

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

PCS SDM girl 1990, looking for high rank Officer, Doctor, upper caste welcome. 94634-87508. (CL21028206)

MAHAJAN

Well qualified suitable match (Preferably Shimpla H.P. based Govt Officer or Businessman) for Himachali Mahajan girl 5'-4", May 1989 born. LLB, LLM. Working as Officer in H.P. Govt Shimpla. Upper caste welcome. 7018245936, 9857777999. (CL21028487)

PQM 4 slim smart fair Mahajan girl, October 90, 5'-3". B.Com, CA, CPA (USA). Working in MNC, Gurgaon, package 17 Lac. NRI also preferred. 98885-13667. (CL21030174)

Suitable match for Mahajan girl Nov. 1982 (B.Tech.+MBA), working MNC, decent well educated family. Upper caste no bar. 95969-78788, arungupta7272@gmail.com (CL21030295)

Required suitable match for 93 born girl, IELTS clear 7.5 Band. Preferred well settled boy in Canada. 99157-5537. (CL21030341)

AGGARWAL

Suitable match for Garg girl, B.Tech., 30.04.1990, 13:40, Ludhiana. Working in Bangalore, package 20 LPA plus. 78883-70294, 70586-1965 (CL21028535)

Very beautiful, fair, vegetarian, CA, Aggarwal, 5'-4", 15.03.1990, high status educated industrialist family of Panchkula. Upper caste welcome. Chandigarh, Panchkula, Mohali family only, 98143-34856. (CL21029982)

Match for Rajput Anshik Manglik Feb. 1986, 5'-2" approx. Dr. D.P. Environmental Engineering (Civil Engg.) Asstt. Professor (Sr. grade) in reputed University Dist. Solan. Parents well settled in Tricity. Upper caste welcome. Contact: 094173-62986, rameshrashap@yahoo.com. (CL21030225)

SM4 Singh Manglik very beautiful slim fair girl 5'-3", 23 yrs. BBA of Naraingarh. 98960-85464. (CL21027721)

Match for Aggarwal girl, 1985/ 5'-7", Ph.D. private job. Preferred Govt. job. 94631-3764. (CL21030005)

Garg girl Govt. Maths Mistress, 11.10.1992, 11:45 pm, Tapa, 5'-0". Preferred Govt. Employee. 77176-29877, 89688-33166. (CL21028194)

Suitable match for Manglik Goyal girl, April 96, 5'-4", M.Sc. Maths, GATE (2019). B.Ed., CTET (2021). Business family. Tricity preferred. 98150-72581, 98580-00081. (CL21028309)

Singh girl 5'-4", 11 August 1994 birth time 18:10. RBL Assistant Chandigarh. WhatsApp particulars 94173-15265. (CL21028574)

Professional, highly qualified match sought for fair beautiful Aggarwal girl, 51'-5", MBBS, Indian born, UK passport, permanently resident in UK. Caste no bar. WhatsApp: +447974366403. (CL21028603)

Divee Bansal Beautiful B.Tech Girl 27.09.1987, 5'-4.5", 11:18 AM, Barnala, Kotak Mahindra Bank. 98181-54856 (CL21028831)

Fair Mittal girl, 5'-2", 5.7.1998 Patiala, pursuing MBA. Required non-alcoholic, vegetarian serviceman or businessman. 99884-43699, 94175-59913. (CL21028935)

Aggarwal Manglik girl, 5th March 1994, 5.29 pm, Patiala, 5'-8", BBA, MBA. Preferred Business family. Contact No. 98766-26016. (CL21028947)

Working match for CA girl, 5.55 pm, 18.10.1992, Ambala Cantt, 5'-5", working in MNC Bangalore, package 11 LPA. 94163-04837. (CL21028091)

Professional qualified match Asstt. Professor University, M.Sc. Physics, Ph.D. Science, 28.12.87, 5'-3". 9463213422. (CL21028181)

Professional, highly qualified match for beautiful fair, Punjabi girl, 51'-5", required industrialist, family of Ludhiana. Decent marriage. 98146-96202. rahlubansal17@yahoo.com (CL21029898)

Status Aggarwal manglik girls, 1996, MBA 5'-5", 1994, M.Com, 5'-1". Required industrialist, businessman big city. 84271-23150, 86993-72414. (CL21029910)

Bansal girl 5'-3", 16.12.1994, 3.15 p.m., Dabwali, qualified B.Sc. B.Ed., PTET, CTET, Govt. Job boy, lecturer or equal in Ludhiana, Patiala, Tricity, send biodata with photo. 97283-81370. (CL21029928)

Suitable match for Garg girl 18.4.1990, 12.05 am, at Sangrur, 5'-5", Govt. employee. Patiala. Contact: 98680-79316. (CL21029933)

Beautiful Manglik Garg girl, 26.7.1995, 11.30 am, Chandigarh, 5'-4", M.A. Ed. C-Tet preference Tricity. 98880-14740, 83605-50463. (CL21029939)

Match for beautiful, cultured, highly qualified M.Com., Bansal girl 5'-4" Jun 1993, Mohali. Seeks well educated boy from established family. Tricity preferred. 80540-28100. (CL21029993)

Govt. Bank employee, 5', 13.12.1989, 2.25 pm, Chandigarh. Seeking Govt./ MNC employed match. Contact: 98553-99755. (CL21030008)

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

Advertisement:

Classified: 0172-2670257, 2670338, 2670258

E-mail at: classified@tribunemail.com

Display: 0172-2670256, 2670342

E-mail at: advt@tribunemail.com

Circulation: 0172-2670319, 2670250, 2670442

Email at: neindcirculation@tribunemail.com

Match for Hindu Khatri girl, 28 Nov. 1994, 12:24 pm, New Delhi, 5'-4", B.Com. (Delhi University), 2 years Diploma Fashion Designing. Running own designing studio. Father businessman, Ludhiana. Businessman preferred. 81464-22500. (CL21029127)

Slim, fair, Khatri girl, MBA, working, 20.11.1983, 5:04 pm, Ludhiana, 5'-4". 76960-75885. (CL21028622)

Suitable match for Jindal girl, 30.12.1991, 8:35 am, 5'-2", B.Com, Gohana (Haryana), 1 month divorce. 98147-00568. (CL21030056)

Suitable match for Garg girl, August 1993, 7:07 am, Sangrur, 4'-11", M.Tech., Computer Science (Lonawala) 98142-82017. (CL21030073)

PQM for beautiful, slim, fair Jindal girl, Anshik Manglik, 5'-4", B.Tech. July '94, working MNC Noida. V.Good package. Status family. M: 98140-71061. (CL21030091)

Suitable match for non-Manglik Goel girl 11.2.1993, 7:30 pm, Jalandhar, 5'-3", fair, B.Tech. working MNC Gurgaon, package 14 Lakhs. 94630-33890, 94634-82648. (CL21030177)

Suitable match for Goel Manglik girl 13.11.1986, 9:22 p.m., Nahau (H.P.), 5'-3", MCA, working Infosys Company (Canada) IT professional boy required. 97298-92601 (Ambala). (CL21030185)

Aggarwal (Garg Gotra) girl 5 Feb. 1990, 5 feet 8 inch, MBA, CS reputed family from Bhiwani (Haryana). Contact 93125-90092. (CL21030189)

Aggarwal 1983, 5', SBI Officer, Chandigarh, issueless divorce. Upper caste no bar. Required Govt. employee Tricity. 94663-67420. WhatsApp 84478-48732. (CL21030193)

PQM for Doctor (Endodontist) Garg girl 35, 5'-2.5", working as Associate Professor in University and consultant in various clinics. Upper caste no bar. Ph. No.: 62835-04639. (CL21030197)

Singh beautiful girl Manglik/ Non-manglik 12.08.1989, 5:00 am, Narwana, 5'-4", BA, LLB, LLM, MBA. practice as Advocate at Punjab & Haryana High Court Chandigarh. Father reputed businessman. Status family. Only Tricity. 98554-04236. (CL2103227)

Match for Jindal girl, 28.6.1992, 5'-3", 6.02 am, Kurukshetra, B.Tech, Ph.D computer Science, IIT Delhi. Working Intel, 25 lakh, looking for pure vegetarian tettotaller Aggarwal boy. 97804-62402. (CL21030229)

Suitable match for Arora girl 13.01.1993, 9:05 hrs, A.M., Roop, Punjab, 5'-4", BA, LLB, LLM, MBA, CS, working Infosys Company (Canada) IT professional boy required. 97298-92601 (Ambala). (CL21030252)

Suitable match for Arora beautiful girl Dec. 1984/5'-3", MA, M.Ed, 7 years teaching experience seeking businessman or serviceman, preferred area Haryana, Chandigarh. Contact: 98173-41139, 90506-07358. (CL21029927)

Match for young, beautiful, Bhatia Khatri girl, divorced, having 6 years daughter, 5', 25.09.1987, Graduate. Preferred Ludhiana, Chandigarh. 92560-11578, 98158-21248. (CL21029930)

Match for Jindal girl, 28.6.1992, 5'-3", 6.02 am, Kurukshetra, B.Tech, Ph.D computer Science, IIT Delhi. Working Intel, 25 lakh, looking for pure vegetarian tettotaller Aggarwal boy. 97804-62402. (CL21030229)

Suitable match for Hindu girl December 94, 5'-1", working Pharmaceutical company Panchnukha, kundli no bar. 99716-32112, 90412-28284. (CL21030245)

Match for Arora girl 24.2.1993, 10:35 a.m., Roop, Punjab, 5'-4", working in Accenture at Gurgaon as Sr Software Developer. Handsome salary package, preferably IT professional both in India or abroad. 94171-28674, 7968-75757. (CL21029995)

Suitable match for Hindu girl December 94, 5'-1", working Panchnukha, kundli no bar. 99716-32112, 90412-28284. (CL21030245)

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Suitable match for Hindu girl December 94, 5'-1", working Panchnukha, kundli no bar. 99716-32112, 90412-28284. (CL21030245)

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YADAV

Match for slim beautiful Hindu Rai girl, 12th, 5'-0", 10.03.1993, Mother's Government service, Chandigarh. 98723-26756. (CL21030168)

SCHEDULED CASTES

Suitable match for Chamar issues divorcee girl, 83 born, 5'-2", Sr. Manager Bank. Mob: 98761-82088. (CL21028140)

POM for Rambodia Sikh Australian citizen girl, Aug. 82, 5'-6". M.Tech (CSE), working as Software Engineer in Govt. Department in Australia. WhatsApp: 78371-01904. (CL21028231)

Professionally qualified match for Ramdasia Sikh girl, B.Tech, M.Tech (CSE), July 1984, 5'-4", working IT Company. Govt. service/ MNC/ NRI preferred. Contact 98775-05406. (CL21028241)

Hindu Prapti girl 03-07-97, 5'-7", 5/21, 7M Pathankot. Ms Agriculture Job in IFCCO. Father Retired From Defence 96473-31494. (CL21028479)

Bhagat girl, 1986, 5'-3", Teacher, MA, B.Ed. seeks suitable match Amritsar. 98775-60232. (CL21028639)

Suitable match for working Punjab Govt. Clerk, 5'-2", 23.11.1992, B.Com, Kanjoji girl (Dhobi) Preferred Tricity. WhatsApp 94177-55477. (CL21029868)

Suitable match for very beautiful slim Megh, Bhagat girl, 5'-4", birth June 89, BDS (Dentist) job in Pvt. hospital at Jalandhar, any good looking & smart Doctor, Engineer, professional, permanent job holder or settled businessman can be considered. Jalandhar, Ludhiana. 84271-72890. (CL21028327)

25, 5'-4", M.Tech. Job in Australia beautiful PR girl. Want suitable match 74402-95669, 79099-01303. (CL21028347)

Suitable match for Ravidasia/ Chamar beautiful, B.Com girl, 5'-0", 30, well educated family, vegetarian/ Radhasoami, Tricity preferred. 93162-32211. (CL21028410)

Professionally qualified/ Govt. Medic match for beautiful SC girl, 32, 5'-1", Clinical Psychologist from NMHANS. Own practice, well placed family. Cal/ WhatsApp 96460-65359. (CL21029941)

Hinda girl BA/ML.Edu fair Aug 88/5'-2", preferably Chandigarh, Tricity, sushakdar32@gmail.com 84345-18635. (CL21029951)

Suitable match for Kabir Panthi girl 6/ 1992, 5'-2", B.Sc. Nursing job in PGI from 5 years. 97801-74542. (CL21030017)

SM for Himachali SC (Chamar) girl, Aug. 1989, 5'-2", M.Pharmacy. Preferred well educated Himachali boy, working (Govt/ PSU/ MNC). Contact: 85808-65584. (CL21028497)

Match for Hindu Gudhar girl, 5'-2", Advocate, height 5'-7". August 1996, preparing for judiciary. Parents both Gazetted Officer, reputed and well-settled family, seeking Class-I Officer, professional qualified, NRI, well-settled family. Castle no bar. WhatsApp 98884-33880. (CL21028445)

Ramdasia Sikh girl, Nov. 89, 5'-4", Govt. job RA (Class B). Preferred Tricity Govt. employee. 70159-78026. (CL21028473)

SM for Himachali SC (Chamar) girl, Aug. 1989, 5'-2", M.Pharmacy. Preferred well educated Himachali boy, working (Govt/ PSU/ MNC). Contact: 85808-65584. (CL21028497)

Match for Ramdasia Bhotia girl, employed girl (Mohali), 27-28, 5'-3", fair, B.Tech, MBA (Punjabi University). Father Pilot Officer. Vegetarian Radhasoami preferred. M: 81465-67302. (CL21028541)

Match for Hindu Goswami girl 14.08.1990, 5ft4inch, working as Nursing Officer at Rajindra Hospital Patiala (PB Govt.). Well settled Mansa family. Preferred Govt. job Patiala 62832-34923. (CL21030107)

Qualified, Govt. service/well established, vegetarian, Punjab based match for Nai Sikh smart cultured girl 1991/5'-2", Radhasoami MA, B.Ed, Teaching convent school, Amritsar. 99888-22710. (CL21030143)

Suitable match for Prajapati Sikh girl, June 1994, 5'-2", Graduated in Masters of professional Accounting, working in MNC at Melbourne. Preferred PR/ Citizen only. Send bio-data with latest pictures on WhatsApp: +614930-62365. Marriage bureau please excuse. (CL21030194)

SM for Hindu Kumbar girl 96 BDs, 5'-3", 7.5ms, 94.170-29592, Father Govt. Service. (CL21030386)

MISC

Wanted Central Civil Services/ Doctor/ IIM match for Prajapati girl 30 yrs, 5'-4", Indian Economic Service Officer, Alumnus SRCC, DSE. Caste no bar. Interested may respond at sgnjkjbm@gmail.com 98915-03104. (CL21028106)

Suitable match for Chandigarh girl, 24.12.1989, 6.24 am, Dharamsala, M.Tech, settled at Sunam Punjab. Mob: 62398-36600. (CL21028247)

Hindu Prapti girl 03-07-97, 5'-7", 5/21, 7M Pathankot. Ms Agriculture Job in IFCCO. Father Retired From Defence 96473-31494. (CL21028479)

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SM for Himachali SC (Chamar) girl, Aug. 1989, 5'-2", M.Pharmacy. Preferred well educated Himachali boy, working (Govt/ PSU/ MNC). Contact: 85808-65584. (CL21028497)

Match for Hindu Gudhar girl, 5'-2", Advocate, height 5'-7". August 1996, preparing for judiciary. Parents both Gazetted Officer, reputed and well-settled family, seeking Class-I Officer, professional qualified, NRI, well-settled family. Castle no bar. WhatsApp 98884-33880. (CL21028445)

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SM for Hindu Kumbar girl 96 BDs, 5'-3", 7.5ms, 94.170-29592, Father Govt. Service. (CL21030386)

DIVORCEE

Match for Brahmin beautiful divorced issueless girl, July 1989, 5'-3", B.Sc. Nursing. America settled. Preferred well educated boy. 94643-63332. (CL21028625)

Ramdasia Sikh girl, 28/ 5'-4", BE (IT) from PEC. Lecturer (IT) regular Class-I in Govt. Polytechnic Engg College. Only SDO/ PCS/ Class-I Jalandhar and Mohali. 94173-17139. (CL21028640)

Qualified match for Jan. 89, 5'-4", Ramdasia Sikh girl, PhD (Agri), Agriculture Development Officer Light Phulwarhi. 94175-07692. (CL21028752)

Suitable match for beautiful girl 5'-5" Oct. 91, B.Tech. with MBA working as Manager Scale-2 in Nationalized Bank, settled in Mohali. 79860-72027. (CL21028834)

Ramdasia Sikh girl, 28/ 5'-4", BE (IT) from PEC. Lecturer (IT) regular Class-I in Govt. Polytechnic Engg College. Only SDO/ PCS/ Class-I Jalandhar and Mohali. 94173-17139. (CL21028640)

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Match for Aurora girl, 85 born, 5'-1", Govt. job in Haryana, have a eight year old girl child. Preferred Haryana. Ph: 70155-60508, 94668-96784. (CL21028597)

Compatible match for Jat-Sikh 45, 5'-5", slim, beautiful, Ph.D. Professor, earning 24 LPA. Highly educated family. 94658-08433. (CL21025915)

Match for BAMS Doctor Ravidasia girl 5'-3", 20th Feb. 1987, working Pvt. Hospital. Radhasoami family. WhatsApp 94635-91896. (CL21029447)

Majhi Sikh Balmiki for beautiful girl, Nov. 1988, 5'-5", LLB, M.Lib. PCS (J) Aspirants. 98889-32877. (CL21029752)

Highly placed in job/business issueless Agarwal match for 1982 born short marriage divorced girl employed MNC Gurgaon. 94165-48999. (CL21028919)

Sikh divorcee girl, 34/ 5'-4", Govt. job. Preferred Govt. employee near Tricity contact 985527322. (CL21028493)

Hindu Ramgarhia divorcee girl, 5'-4", 22 July 1985, 9:58 am, Nawansher, MBA (HR). Parents one. Younger brother. 98889-88081, 94178-65249. (CL21028682)

Match for Prajapat divorcee girl, 36/5'-3", MA, B.Ed, no child, caste no bar. Preferred Doaba/Majha. 94654-5524. (CL21029277)

Ludhiana based beautiful Khatri Hania 1990 born, 5'-5", divorcee girl with 4 years son double MA, B.Ed, required well settled business/ working boy. 89309-99936. (CL21029857)

Suitable match for beautiful girl, 27/5'-4", M.Sc, B.Ed, Govt. Teacher, caste no bar. 83493-90672. (CL21029886)

Suitable match for Hindu Ravidasia girl, 1991, 5'-4", M.Com preferred Tricity area. 88376-03387. (CL21029992)

Match for Ramdasia Sikh girl, 24.04.2001, Band 6, height 5'-4", visa awaiting. Caste no bar. 96460-62511. (CL21030129)

Ravidasiya girl, 24.04.2001, Band 6, height 5'-4", visa awaiting. Caste no bar. 96460-62511. (CL21030129)

Looking for a professionally qualified match for beautiful Hindu Rai girl, 12th, 5'-0", Govt. job in Haryana. Community, 10.05.1989, 5'-2", BDS, M.B.A. Hospitalization, own Clinic posh area Panchkula. 98780-99936. (CL21029857)

Suitable match for beautiful girl, 27/5'-4", M.Sc, B.Ed, Govt. Teacher, caste no bar. 83493-90672. (CL21029886)

Parjapati Sikh girl, 91/ 5'-3", Punjab, Govt. employee (Non transferable), required suitable educated, Govt. employee preferred. 98739-74174, 95015-05960. (CL21030209)

MBBS, BDS, MDS, M.Tech match for Canada PR. Ravidasia girl 1987, 5'-5", MDS (Pedodontist). 85569-61382. (CL21030030)

Suitable match for slim girl, 1993 born, 5'-3", MA, B.Ed., CTET, Postgraduate, PGDM, Tally. WhatsApp: 94179-36323. (CL21030119)

SM4 beautiful convent educated girl, Postgraduate, DoB 03.02.1988, 9.44 am. Shimla born, 5 feet. Preferred mother after marriage. Caste no bar. Cont: 98166-55272. (CL21030184)

NRI

Preferably Canada PR qualified match for Haryanvi Jaat girl, 13/02/89, 5'-1", MBA, PR. French teacher in Canada. Gotra Dalal, Kadian and Kalkhanda, family belongs to Jhajjar Haryana. Presently settled in Delhi. Contact: 80761-43481, 98181-56765. (CL21028106)

Suitable match for Chaubhary girl, 24.12.1989, 6.24 am, Dharamsala, M.Tech, settled at Sunam Punjab. Mob: 62398-36600. (CL21028247)

Suitable match for Punjabi girl, 24.12.1989, 6.24 am, Dharamsala, M.Tech, settled at Sunam Punjab. Mob: 62398-36600. (CL21030083)

Suitable match for Manglik girl, 24.12.1989, 6.24 am, Dharamsala, M.Tech, settled at Sunam Punjab. Mob: 62398-36600. (CL21

CLASSIFIEDS

The Sunday Tribune

CHANDIGARH | SUNDAY | 4 JULY 2021

PROPERTY FOR SALE



10 Marla triple storey renovated

Sector 40, 8 Marla triple storey old Sector 22-B, below Market price. 98146-63320. (CL21030313)

Jalandhar City: New Jawahar Nagar, excellent location, 14 marla, double storey, East, park facing.

98723-8189. (CL21028059)

12 marla facing park, triple storey house Sector 28, Chandigarh.

Altus/ DLF/ Omaxe/ Eco-I/ Eco-II, plots/ kothies/ commercial. Hardik 78833-73520, Ravi 98881-11888. (CL21029890)

Kothi one kanal single storey Sector 7, Plot one kanal Phase XI, Mohali.

98144-10897. (CL21029894)

13.5x45 showroom site in my Royal Plaza adjoining TDI South Extension

Sect. 11, 109, Mohali @ 45 acres facing 60 feet Masterplan Road, FARI 3 allowed. Call Realtybaat. 98141-02655. (CL21029912)

15x60 double storey with basement

newly built showroom near D-Mart Peermuchalla, Sector 20, Panchkula.

98148-09595. (CL21030097)

Avail 12% on commercial properties

on Airport Road with lease guarantee,

price starts from 35 Lacs onwards,

also get appreciation. Call: 98140-

07478. (CL21029940)

2 kanal kothi/ plot Sector 6, 7, 8, 17,

M.D.C. Sector 4, Panchkula for sale.

Gupta Associates, SCO 176, Sector 17C, Chandigarh. 98146-10571 DM

Associates. (CL21030322)

12 marla new under construction floors ground floor with

lift Sector 44, 12 marla second floor with lift Sector 15. Garg 98146-10571 DM

Associates. (CL21029949)

Chandigarh prime location vacant

two bay showroom, Sector 17C,

suitable for jewellery showroom,

branded clothes showroom etc.,

basement, ground floor 1st to 4th floor

with lift for 8 persons, fire works

done, fully renovated for sale full or

floorwise. Both side opening/parking.

Gupta Associates, Showroom 176,

Sector 17C, Chandigarh. 98159-

04681. (CL21029986)

1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9 kanal kothis for sale

Chandigarh, 1.5 kanal old kothi Sector

16, 2 kanal Sector 15, 16, 18, 21, 27,

28. Gupta Associates, SCO 176, Sector

17C, Chandigarh. 98159-04681. (CL21029989)

Chandigarh one kanal single storey

house Sector 10. Reasonable price,

Confirmation with Shree Properties:

98140-35506. (CL21028295)

Chandigarh showroom (front stairs)

freehold Sector 7, 19. Vacant possession

authorization with Shree Properties

98140-35506. (CL21028300)

MORNI HILLS

Honest, Expert & Transparent

Advice on Investing in

PLOTS, LAND, COTTAGES

(BOUTIQUE) in Morri Hills

for Discerning Clients.

NAND 98140-33277

ESTATE 99888-99131

CL21030360

Chandigarh one kanal B-road

kothies Sector 21, 34. Shree Properties

98140-06264. (CL21028302)

Wanted available all sizes kothies

full/ floorwise in all Sectors

Chandigarh, Rama Properties 98140-

42287, 97804-18830. (CL21028367)

10 Marla house Ground Floor

Sector 7-C, Chandigarh. Broker

excuse. Posh area. Contact Vineet

99156-41233. (CL21028429)

8 Marla Duplex Kothi & 6 Marla

Plot (Facing Park) Aerocity Mohali.

M.No. 87239-04777. (CL21028433)

HIG (R) ground, corner, freehold,

vacant low price Sector 45-A,

Chandigarh. Gill Real Estate. 98141-

07575. (CL21028593)

3 kanal 2 kanal house prime location

Sector 8-9, Chandigarh. Garg Estates

98140-06183. (CL21028612)

1 kanal house Sector 8, 10, 11,

21, 34, 36 Chandigarh. Garg Estates

98140-06181. (CL21028613)

Land about 4 acres can be used for

school/ housing project, Farm house/

at Zirakpur. Village Singpura on 65

feet mettle road. Contact- 98159-

7529. (CL21028620)

14 marla second floor corner 70%

covered in Sector 37, Chandigarh.

97805-63620. (CL21028628)

7, 8, 10 marla house full or floorwise

in Sector 18, 19, 20, 37, 38, 40. 97805-

63620. (CL21028665)

8 marla full house and brand new

floors for sale in Sector 22, 20,

Chandigarh. Contact: Gourav Grewal.

98238-21563. (CL21030326)

Ready to move 1 kanal builder

floors in Sector 11. Chandigarh. With

good specifications. Contact: Delhi

Punjab Real Estate. 95011-21600.

(CL21030328)

One kanal plot (25% builtup)

B-road for sale in Sector 69, Mohali.

Best suitable for professionals

can be converted into Nursing Home.

Suraj Builders. 95923-44444.

(CL21029999)

Invest in fastest growing

commercial with good returns in

Tricity (Chandigarh) starting 40 lakh.

Contact: 84275-00136, 98724-22621.

(CL21030240)

5 marla full house for sale in Sector

22, Chandigarh. contact: Gourav

Grewal. 98238-21563. (CL21030331)

1 kanal brand new floors for

sale in Sector 21, Chandigarh.

Contact: Gourav Grewal.

98238-21563. (CL21030332)

14 marla stilt plus 4 under

construction/ facing park floor

for sale in Sector 10, Panchkula.

Contact: Kulwant Grewal: 98144-

4410. (CL21030334)

One kanal house Sectors 8, 11,

Chandigarh. Contact: delhi

Punjab Real Estate: 98724-

07701. (CL21030336)

BUILDING FOR SALE

2500 Sq. yds. 28000

built-up in Industrial Area

Ph. 8B, Mohali, Opp.

District Court. Prime

location. Ideal for Hotel,

Hospital, IT Industry.

98789-83566

CL21030217

Mohali: Commercial Showroom,

prime location, ample parking,

Ground / Basement Vacant,

Phase-11. Throwaway price. 99143-

27641. (CL21028223)

Chandigarh: Showroom Two Bay

rented, prime location Sector-9,

Madhya Marg. Genuine customers

only. 99143-27641. (CL21028224)

8 marla triple storied house, Canadian pattern '39 West', next to

Chandigarh (Sector 12). Prestigious

location. For details: WhatsApp:

94173-23666, 94177-70213. (CL21028238)

633 Sq. Yards Corner New

luxurious Duplex House. Fully</p

AUCTION NOTICE

This is for general information of the public about B grade non seed paddy seed 86.94 qts and soybean seed 4.55 qts and mash 0.10 qts left after grading of seed produced at Govt. SMF and procured from registered growers of Mandi Distt. During Kharif, 2020 shall be put to open auction at Central Seed Store, Bhangrot, Distt. Mandi by the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Mandi Distt. Mandi on dated 07.07.2021.

The interested bidders may inspect the material at Central Seed Store, Bhangrot, Distt. Mandi on any working day during the office hours, after the publication of the notice. The bidders shall have to deposit a sum of Rs. 10000/- as an earnest money before the commencement of auction. Other terms and conditions will be announced at the time of auction. DPR/HP/2025

LAND WANTED

Wanted agriculture lands near New Chandigarh, 15 acre, 25 acre, 50 acre + only genuine seller. Contact Hello Hi Bhateria: 94170-09175. (CL21030001)

SALE/RENT/LEASE

528 sqyd factory for sale/ rent in Derabassi, Mohali, Punjab. 99156-06900. (CL21030173)

FLAT FOR SALE

3 BHK BSNL Society Sector-50 Chandigarh, Corner Three Side Open car parking. Orbit Estates-8728885540, 988972231. (CL21029477)

Facing park 3 BHK + servant apartment, heart of Mohali with lift and two covered car parking. Starting price 90 lac. Call: 98157-67928. (CL21029564)

Urgent Sale 2 BHK Scoity 104 B, Sector-20, Panahkula. 94178-69442. (CL21030072)

3 BHK corner Drawing Dining attached drawing bath room, Kitchen, 1895 Sq. ft. 6th Floor. Registry case. Nirmal Chaaya, VIP Road, Zirakpur. Possession ready. Contact 99067-77333. (CL21028180)

Wanted/ available CHB flats all categories Sectors 38 West to 63 Societies flats Sector 48 to 51 Chandigarh. Rama Properties 98140-42827, 97804-18830. (CL21028532)

Two BHK corner flat, 2nd floor, near Manav Mangal School, Phase-10, Mohali. 98880-10851. (CL21028532)

Four BR three toilets three balcony DD kitchen third floor. Army Flats 44-A. Genuine buyer. Vacant, broker excuse. 99155-78244. (CL21028651)

Independent luxury, king size 3 BHK 1785 sq. ft. dining drawing, open kitchen attached bathroom, covered park facing, 2 balconies, rear park facing, drive from Zirakpur Bus Stop 5 km adjoining Sector 20, Panahkula, Victoria Height 4th floor, Peer Muchhala. Contact only genuine people. 98134-74245. (CL21028754)

1 Bedroom 710 sq.ft. and 3 beds flat 2200 sq.ft. drive in at Shimla, beautiful view & location. Contact: 89680-00077, 76964-00002. (CL21029551)

3 BHK, first floor, facing park, covered parking, freehold society Sector 50, Chandigarh. 93176-77077. (CL21029718)

Mohali society flat 3 bedrooms, drawing dining ground floor Gurugram Bahadur Sector 70, Gurumannat Real Estate 99881-05577, 90411-40194. (CL21029845)

Mohali Pent House 3 bedrooms drawing dining duplex facing park facing North East. Rishi Apartment Sector 70, Gurumannat Real Estates 99881-05577, 90411-40194. (CL21029847)

2450 sqft flat in Uppal marble, front block, Manimajra Chandigarh. 99885-2528. (CL21029879)

MIG ground facing big park 38 West, MIG second Sector 51, LIG second Sector 49. Ravi 98881-11888, Hardik 78836-73520. (CL21029885)

Flat 3 BHK Ivory Towers, MIG Super all floors Sector 70, Mohali. 98144-10897. (CL21029896)

Available 2 BHK, 3 BHK luxury floors ready to move in Mohali. Call 93165-27646. (CL21029900)

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Wanted pre leased properties with good return up for sale upto 20 Cr. Immediate settlement. Please Call Bakshi 98039-00039, 93161-33009 theservicesconsortium@gmail.com (CL21030294)

Available for rent 2nd floor commercial showroom in Sector 7, Panchkula. Contact Owner: 98559-14741. (CL21030098)

2250 sqft. second floor for rent in Sector 10, Chandigarh. 99880-90999. (CL21030269)

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Long before India began exporting yoga to the world, Indian mugdars or wooden clubs had created a sensation in the United States and England

ARTS page 12



Brig Hardev Singh Kler and Brig Anand Sarup were among the seven Brigadier-ranked officers awarded the Maha Vir Chakra during the 1971 war on the eastern front

TRIBUTE page 13



AS Bhasin's book underlines the need to open the archives to convince Indians that the position taken by India has not been rational and that China was not altogether perfidious

BOOKS page 14

The new gold standard



Hallmarking of gold jewellery became mandatory from July 1. Here's a look at what it means for buyers, sellers & artisans

SEEMA PATHALA SACHDEVA

THREE years back, Surinder Arora, a government employee in Chandigarh, became a victim of jewellery fraud when he went to a jeweller to exchange the ornaments he had bought from him about 10 years back. The jeweller flatly refused to exchange or buy it back saying that the piece had an impurity of 30 per cent. Arora couldn't take any action against the jeweller since he had misplaced the bill. "I paid a heavy price for my carelessness. When I bought the jewellery, there was no way of knowing if the gold I was buying with my hard-earned money was pure or not. I'm happy that the hallmarking of gold jewellery has become mandatory. This will help to take action against those doing mischief," he says.

Kavita Sharma, who is getting married next month, has her own reasons to feel happy about the hallmarking of gold jewellery. "Due to the Covid norms, we have cut down the number of ceremonies and guests. This has reduced the massive expenditure on banquet halls, catering and decoration, thus leaving us with more funds to buy jewellery. With the hallmarking of jewellery becoming mandatory, we'll be assured of the quality of gold, wherever we buy it from," says Kavita, who is based in Jalandhar.

The hallmarking of gold jewellery started in 2000 but had been voluntary till now. With effect from July 1, it has become mandatory for all jewellers to sell hallmarked jewellery. According to the World Gold Council, India has four lakh jewellers, though unofficial figures put the number at nearly 5.5 lakh. Out of these, nearly 45,000 have been certified, according to www.manakonline.com, the official website of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

The move intends to bring more transparency and accountability into the industry which contributes a major chunk to the Indian economy. According to a report of the IBEF (India Brand Equity Foundation), as of January 2021, India's gold and diamond trade contributed 7.5 per cent to the country's GDP and 14 per cent to the country's total merchandise exports. One of the largest in the world, the country's gems and jewellery industry contributes 29 per cent to the global jewellery consumption.

While the move is being appreciated for the transparency it will bring to the manufacturing and buying of the yellow metal, concerns are also being raised over the feasibility of the move as well as the HUID, (or the Hallmarking Unique Identification Number) that each piece of hallmarked jewellery is required to be stamped with.

THE GOOD & THE BAD OF IT

Of the 718 districts in the country, hallmarking has been made compulsory in only 256 that have Assaying and Hallmarking Centres (AHCs). It will be mandatory to have HUID on each and every jewellery article.

According to Anil Talwar of Talwarsons in

WHAT IS Hallmarking

HALLMARK is an official mark used as a guarantee of purity or fineness of precious metal articles. According to BIS, "Hallmarking is the accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metal in precious metal articles."

It is now mandatory for gold jewellery and artefacts of 14K, 18K and 22K to be hallmarking. Steps have been initiated for amendment to Indian Standards that would permit hallmarking of other caratages too.



The new hallmarking stamp: BIS logo, purity and fineness and six-digit alphanumeric HUID

Chandigarh, "The move will bring the much-needed transparency to the selling and buying of gold jewellery, besides bringing Indian jewellery at par with global standards. There are, however, some serious concerns that need to be addressed."

Says Talwar, who was the co-chairman of the Gems and Jewellery Committee of the FICCI (2011-2017) and also represented the country in its 'Make in India' initiative, "Besides the minuscule number of hallmarking centres compared to the number of jewellers in the region, there are problems that the HUID can create."

He explains another security issue, "The purpose of HUID is to help the BIS keep track of the entire transaction. While this will make the system more transparent, this will also leave open my jewellery to many security risks. The BIS portal is in public domain. The details of jewellery, which has already changed hands four to five times before reaching my showroom, will remain under public eye till it is sold to the final buyer."

Akshay Verma of Verma Jewellers in Solan adds, "Since all jewellery will have to be hallmarking and with no AHCs close by, the nearest being 60 km away in Chandigarh, many local jewellers would prefer to buy jewellery that is already hallmarking. This will affect the business of local *karigars*, many of whom are already moving to places like Kolkata in the hope of getting more work there. We get a lot of our jewellery made from local *karigars*. Eventually, we won't have any good artisans left in the region."

Sameer Jain and Nipun Monga of Chandigarh Assaying and Hallmarking Centre, one of the four BIS-recognised hallmarking and assaying centres in Chandigarh, agree that the entire process will bring more accountability to all stakeholders but they have reservations about other issues. "Hallmarking of each precious artefact takes around five to six hours. The tagging of every article with HUID will be much more time-consuming since every item will have to be weighed individually. Under the new system, our logistics change completely and we'll have to increase our workforce. The hallmarking charges of ₹35 per piece, fixed as per the BIS hallmarking regulations of 2018, won't help us recover the cost. Out of this, a royalty of 10 per cent goes to BIS."

"Also, soon HUID will start from the first point of sale. This is likely to impact the business of AHCs in cities where jewellery reaches after exchanging hands three to four times. Since 80 per cent of the jewellery production takes place in the South, the business centres in the North will suffer. There's also no clarity on hallmarking of jewellery with *kundan*, *jadau* and *polki*," they say.

HIMACHAL'S PECULIAR PROBLEM

The hill state has around 4,000 jewellers, but there are only two operative AHCs, one each in Kangra and Mandi. In other districts that do not yet have any hallmarking centres, both the jewellers and *karigars* (goldsmiths) are at a loss.

Atul Tangri of Tangri Jewellers, secretary of the Jewellers Association, Shimla, and president of the Sarafa Swarankar Sangh, HP, says, "Presently, we go to AHCs in Chandigarh to get our jewellery hallmarking. With the six-digit alphanumeric HUID on each article, the process will become even more time consuming. Then there are more issues that need to be factored in. Opening an AHC requires an investment of nearly ₹60 lakh. With the government providing 90 per cent of the funds to set up an AHC, the person starting the centre invests merely ₹6 lakh."

How do I trust, say my 3-kg gold jewellery, with someone who has so little at stake? Leaving my jewellery at the AHC overnight is also very

risky, especially if I am not sure if the AHC has the required logistics to keep so much jewellery safely."

He adds that the purpose of HUID is to help the BIS keep track of the entire transaction. While this will make the system more transparent, this will also leave open my jewellery to many security risks. The BIS portal is in public domain. The details of jewellery, which has already changed hands four to five times before reaching my showroom, will remain under public eye till it is sold to the final buyer."

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According to Bhupinder Kumar, a goldsmith in Shimla, "Earlier there were eight to 10 persons working at my workshop but with most jewellers getting fancy hallmarking jewellery from Delhi, Ambala and Chandigarh, our work has reduced drastically. Already, it is difficult to make the ends meet, and if this continues, we might have to leave this work and do something else."

Ruing the fact that unlike jewellers' associations, there is no such platform that can take up the cause of artisans and craftsmen like him, he adds, "A hallmarking centre close to the district is important to save the livelihood of local craftsmen."

Goldsmith Dinesh Negi, who lives in Theog, too, agrees that a hallmarking centre in the district will encourage local artisans to remain working here. Negi comes from a family that has been making traditional Himachali jewellery for generations. According to him, "Traditional jewellery, which is already being made in 22K gold, is made and crafted only in Upper Shimla, Rohru and Rampur. The demand for this jewellery will remain unchanged but it'll also have to be hallmarking."

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT SAYS

Allaying fears of artisans and small jewellers, Satish Kumar, Scientist 'F' and Regional Hallmarking Coordinating Officer (Northern Region), BIS, says, "Contrary to these fears, hallmarking will be beneficial to small jewellers since their products will be at par with big brands that are selling hallmarking jewellery. It will also not affect the artisans since they don't have to get any jewellery hallmarking if they are working for a jeweller."

He adds that hallmarking will not affect any old jewellery lying at home. Like earlier, one can take it to a jeweller to exchange it. About the fears regarding the feasibility of HUID, he says, issues have been sorted out and if more crop up, these will be handled by BIS. The aim is only to bring more accountability and transparency, he adds.

And that is what one hopes for as a revolutionary new system is being put to test, amid many concerns.



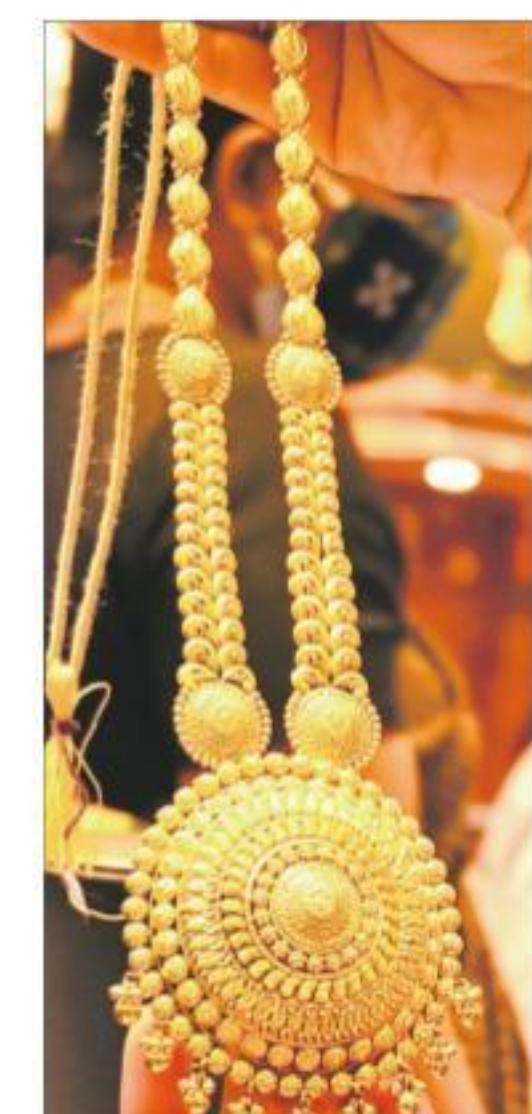
YELLOW METAL SHINES BRIGHT

Covid-19 has impacted most sectors of the economy, but according to jewellers, this market bounced back as soon as the lockdown ended.

"People were buying jewellery irrespective of the record-high prices of more than ₹54,000 (22K) that the yellow metal reached in August last year. There was a slight panic in the market when people were selling some gold during the initial Covid days but soon this trend changed and we had new purchases coming," says Anil Talwar of Talwarsons.

"The first quarter (Q1) last year was a total washout but the Q2 comeback was prompt. We recovered 92 per cent of our revenue," adds Ramesh Kalyanaraman of Kalyan Jewellers.

"The resilient gold jewellery industry saw a massive jump after the lockdowns ended, particularly during the marriage season," says Harinder Singh of Sham Jewellers, Chandigarh.



It is mandatory for hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts of 14K, 18K and 22K. Steps have been initiated for amendment to Indian Standards that would permit hallmarking of 20K, 23K and 24K as well.

TRIBUNE PHOTOS: PRADEEP TEWARI & STOCK



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Eastern sports, western bodies

In the 19th century, Indian muddars or wooden clubs were a sensation in America and England

These clubs act like an incantation. You cannot touch them, you cannot lift them for the simplest exercise, without causing strength to flow into every member of your body as naturally and irresistibly as water into the conduit... New systems of muscles seem to shoot out from your shoulder-blades, enabling you to do, almost without effort, what you could not dream of doing before.

— American Educational Monthly, in praise of Indian Clubs'. 1864

"Neglect the body; impoverish the mind. To those, who say they have no time for exercise, we heartily recommend the Indian clubs, which, in connection with a daily walk of a few miles, will be just exactly what is required to secure physical perfection and muscular strength."

— Sim D Kehoe, The Indian Club Exercise. 1866



ART &
SOUL

BN GOSWAMY

LONG before India began exporting yoga to the world, as it does today, there were Indian seasons of fitness in the United States, and they centred around those wooden clubs — *mudgars* as they are called at home — which wrestlers here had been exercising with for centuries. These clubs have been a part of life here, finding place even in paintings of musical modes, like the Desakhy Ragini, where while wrestlers are seen 'with top knots of hair standing on end, long arms held back, and making resounding sounds with the slapping of body', we see *mudgars* lying on the side waiting to be picked up in the next moment and whirled around in aesthetic moves. The story, however, of how these Indian clubs — as they came quickly to be named — reached those distant shores and turned, almost suddenly, into a sensation is truly fascinating.

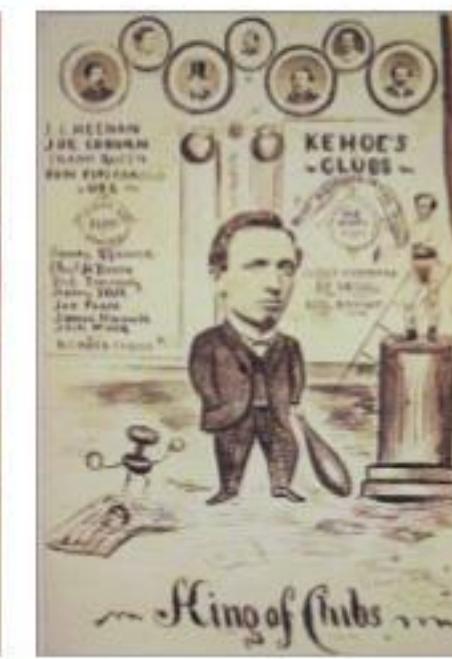
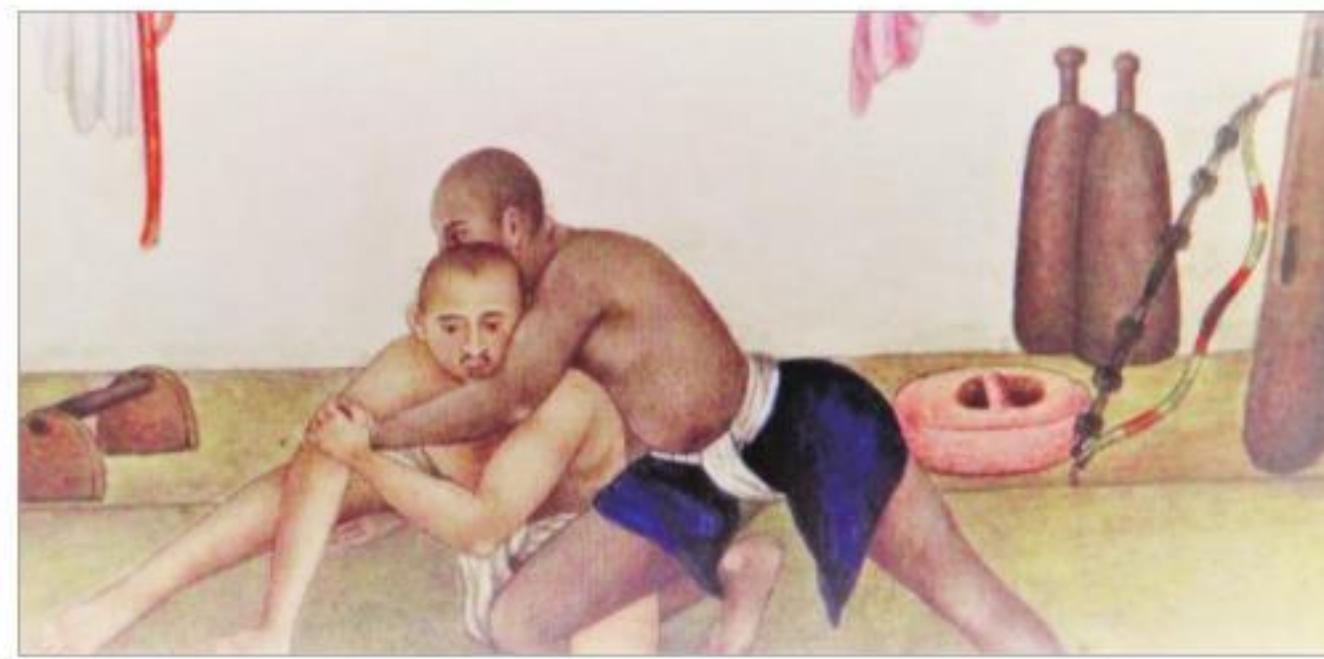
It can be traced, as has been done by researchers, to the second quarter of the 19th century when these clubs, as an accessory of physical exercise, travelled to England from India. *British Manly Exercises* by Donald Walker, published in 1834, is believed to be the earliest reference book on the subject of 'club swinging', the *mudgars*, being named as 'Indian clubs', finding prominent mention in it. Some Englishmen in the service of the East India Company had seen the 'graceful motions and good physiques of wrestlers swinging heavy clubs' in India,



FIGURE 9.

and took them back to England while returning. Back home, where sedentary lifestyles were taking root in the wake of the industrial revolution, the need to achieve and preserve good health was being felt — as in Germany, where at this very time *turnvereins* had gained immense ground, the word literally meaning 'unions or associations for gymnastics' — and these Indian clubs became one of the tools of 'restorative arts' which aimed at bringing the body into an optimal state of balance, 'compensating the effects of modern life'. The clubs, made somewhat lighter than the Indian clubs, were introduced in the British army in 1850, one reads. From a little later, there are photographs of some army officers watching Indian soldiers wielding these clubs and exercising with them.

In England, a key figure in the popularisation of 'club swinging' was 'Professor Harrison', known widely then as 'the strongest man' in the country. His enviable physique was proof, it was believed, that exercising with the clubs was indeed effec-



(Clockwise from left) An old photograph of Indian soldiers demonstrating with Indian clubs as their officers look on; poster for the sports festival in Cincinnati, 1909; Carte de visite of Sim Kehoe, 'King of Clubs'; Indian wrestlers; detail from a Tashrib-al Aqva series folio, 19th century. Notice the Indian mudgars standing at the sides.

tive. Among the people who saw him — the year was 1861 — with admiration bordering on disbelief was a young man, Sim Kehoe, from the United States. He was eventually to become the person who took the clubs, worked on their design to make them a little lighter, and turned them into a household name, while setting himself up as the 'King of Clubs'. With typical American flair he advertised himself and his products relentlessly, featuring 'corseted ladies and muscular athletes' along with a caricature of himself, promoting clubs with adjustable weights. Tapping into the YMCA vein, he borrowed the name 'Muscular Christianity', while gaining support from men of great prominence, including the redoubtable General, Ulysses Grant. To the General, fresh from his great victory in the Civil War, Kehoe sent with his compliments a set of Indian clubs, which were graciously received. "I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt," the General wrote back, "of a full set of rosewood Dumb-Bells and Indian Clubs, of your manufacture. They are of the nicest workmanship. Please

accept my thanks for your thus remembering me, and particularly my boys, who I know will take great delight as well as receive benefit in using them." With endorsements like this, Kehoe had put 'his muscle-building clubs into the hands of the average American'. As someone who was documenting the history of the Indian clubs in America observed: "In a country that was still largely unsettled in a cultural sense, the various health promotions and fads attempted to instill a sense of moral order as well as physical." The Civil War had just ended, and the nation was beginning to reflect about its 'national purpose'. Without health and fitness, that purpose could not be achieved.

This extraordinary wave of enthusiasm, fed in part by the German-inspired 'turn' associations which were more active in some states or regions than others, lasted for several decades, but it did not last forever. For when the times began to change, and more modern gadgets and 'gyms' made their appearance, the wave began to recede. In one respect, however, it had made a deep

impact: women had begun to take to the exercise in large numbers because of the ease with which it could be done in privacy, away, in other words, from prying eyes. It is not that public festivals ceased to be. In fact, there is a report from the city of Cincinnati in 1909 about 'thousands of people gathering at the Carthage Fairgrounds on the nubby dusty infield of the racetrack, to watch groups of women clad in long dresses, each holding in her hand an Indian club, making a series of intricate, graceful movements, swinging the clubs up from their sides and around their bodies, crisscrossing the clubs in patterns that emphasised coordination and discipline'.

This, of course, was different from the way, much earlier, in England where suffragettes, agitating to get the right to vote, such as E Sylvia Pankhurst, carried their Indian clubs, along with long hatpins, when clashing with armed police. The clubs, it was reported, proved particularly effective in getting police horses to abruptly sit down, dismounting the bobbies, and knocking off their helmets'.

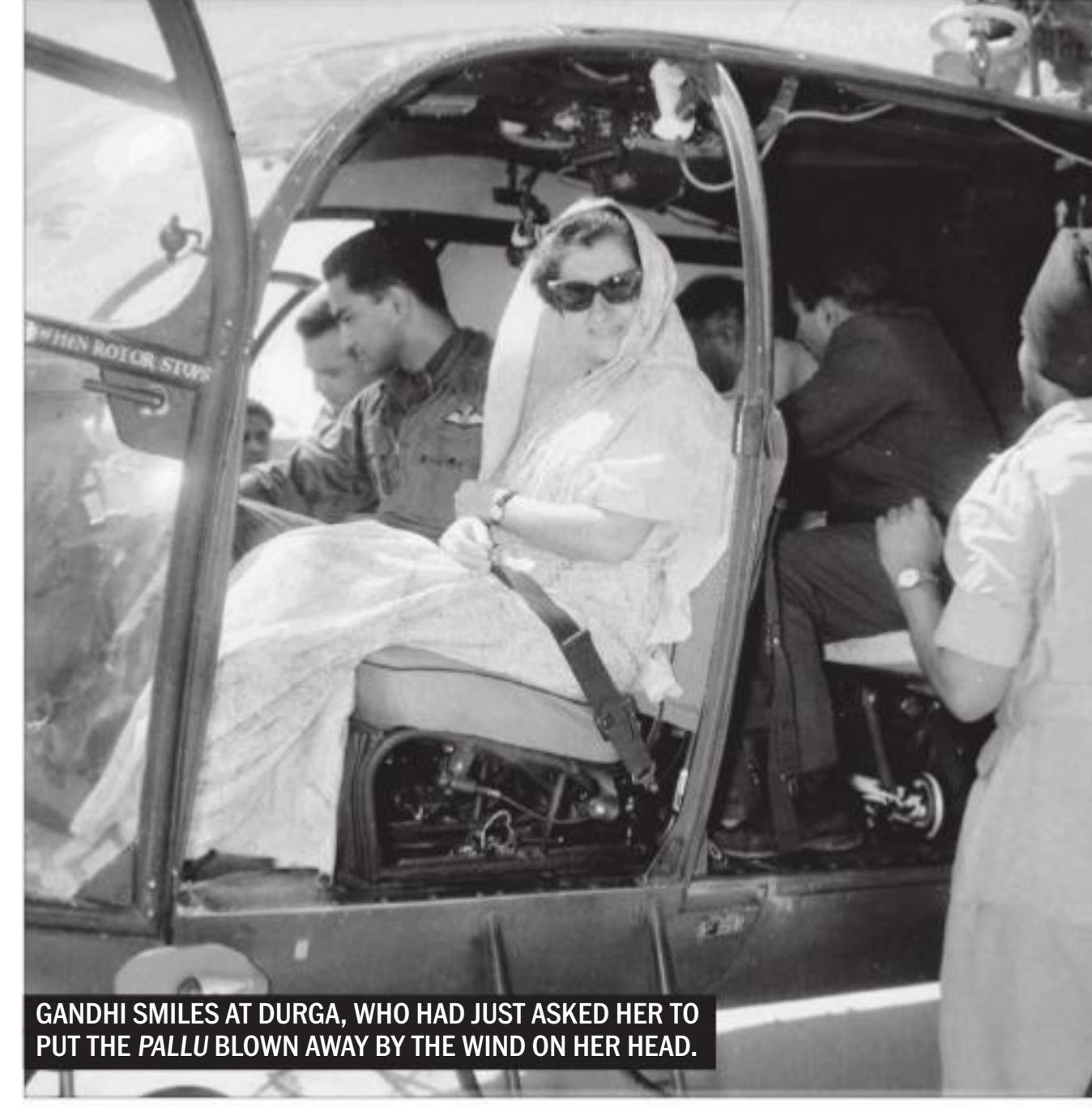
For whom PM Indira Gandhi posed

SARIKA SHARMA

THE then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was on her way to Shimla, boarding the helicopter, when a lanky young photographer requested her to keep the *pallu* of her saree on her head and pose for a picture. Gandhi obliged, smiling into the camera. When she saw the photographs later, she loved them, her office requesting for a negative. "She likes the one of her alone and wondered if it is possible to get the negative of it..." wrote Amie Krishna, her Additional Private Secretary, in a letter dated July 8, 1967. But the photographer declined. Shamsher Bahadur Durga was not the one to give in to awe; he knew that the negatives were a photographer's only asset. And he kept them safe with him for more than 40 years, only sharing them with the Panjab Digital Library (PDL) a decade ago when it offered to archive them. He died at 91 last month.

This photograph was taken during MS Randhawa's tenure as the Chief Commissioner of the Union Territory of Chandigarh. And Durga had been handpicked by him after seeing his work as an audio-visual aids officer with the Punjab government. "Durgaji was Randhawaji's blue-eyed boy," gushes his wife, Harinder.

Durga was stationed in Chandigarh after PEPSU merged with Punjab in 1956. When Randhawa came here as its Chief Commissioner, he noticed Durga's photography and requested the Punjab government to spare him for Chandigarh for some time. He then tasked Durga with documenting the new city; the new heroes it was discovering in the likes of Milkha Singh; the new cultural and educational sites com-



GANDHI SMILES AT DURGA, WHO HAD JUST ASKED HER TO PUT THE PALLU BLOWN AWAY BY THE WIND ON HER HEAD.



MILKHA SINGH



AMRITA PRITAM, GURBAIKHS PREETLARI, MS RANDHAWA

the possession of the family, but the photographs he clicked have been saved for posterity. While reading Randhawa's memoir, 'Aap Beeti', London-based writer Amarjit Chandan realised that an important chronicler of Chandigarh and Punjab had faded from memory — of both the government and the public. He began looking for Durga, soon getting in touch with him. True to his nature, Durga had kept safe not just all the negatives, but also the cameras and bulbs he used. Chandan introduced Durga to Davinder Pal Singh from the PDL. Over 500 of his photographs have now been digitised and the equipment donated to the PDL.

Singh says Durga's photographs include rare shots of Chandigarh during developmental stages. "These photos capture forts and miniatures of the area, as well as the scenery and architecture of the time. There is also a collection of candid and staged pictures of Randhawa with Indira Gandhi, Zakir Hussain, Balwant Gargi, Amrita Pritam, Gurbaikhs Preetlari, Mulk Raj Anand, Shiv Kumar Batalvi, among others." His favourite, however, are photographs of Qila Mubarak in Patiala. "The frescoes are in a bad shape today, but when Durga clicked them in the 1970s, they were fine. The photos will, some day, help in restoration," he says.

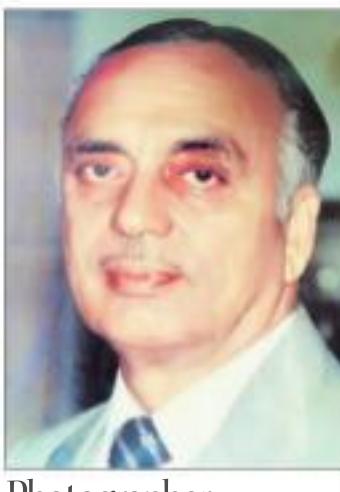
For the family, what mattered most was his simplicity. AL Fletcher, the first Vice-Chancellor of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, wanted him to join him; Randhawaji wanted to take him to PAU, offering to set up a camp office in Chandigarh if he wanted to be home; Giani Zail Singh wanted to take him to Delhi when he became President. But he wanted to be in Chandigarh," Harinder remembers. Durga's daughter, who moved in with her parents last year, has only now realised how organised he was. Every important communication, even from 50 years ago, lies in his almirah. Perhaps the quality of an ardent chronicler.

ing up — among them Chandigarh Museum and the Rose Garden, which Randhawa was instrumental in developing. Durga would accompany him on his official and unofficial tours also — extensively documenting life in Kullu valley.

Durga started out as a photographer but gradually went back to making documentary films, something he had first learnt while training in Pune under KB Godbole and the British filmmaker Herbert Marshall, who had stayed in India in the 1950s

and '60s. Needless to say, Durga went on to excel, winning a National Award for his film, 'Sri Hem Kunt Sahib', at the 32nd National Film Festival in 1988. He also presented his film on Sobha Singh, 'Profile of a Painter', at the Indian Panorama (1988) organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals. Architect and art critic SS Bhatti called him 'perceptive and sensitive'. Complimenting his editing ability, he added that he had "a poetic sensibility to express his pictorial ideas in evocative visual symbols and metaphors".

The documentary films he made are not in



Photographer
SB Durga (1930-2021)
was one of the earliest
chroniclers of
Chandigarh and a
National Award-
winning documentary
filmmaker

MVCs for senior commanders

LT COL DILBAG SINGH DABAS (RETD)

CHAKRA awards are associated with the bravery displayed in the face of the enemy. During war, the senior-level commanders' primary role is planning of operations based on overall strategy and for that they need not be personally facing the enemy. They perform the most challenging tasks by formulating operational plans sufficiently simple and flexible for the junior commanders and leaders to execute.

A military operation seldom proceeds as planned because the enemy's reaction can never be factored in since his representative wouldn't be on board while planning. During execution, the senior commanders follow minute-to-minute progress of the battle and should the execution get stalled or even boomerangs, take on-the-spot decisions to ensure success. They are not just responsible but also accountable for the successes as well as failures. By shouldering such huge responsibility, and being accountable for the outcomes, are they any less Virs or Maha Virs?



Brigadier Hardev Singh Kler, AVSM, and Brigadier Anand Sarup are among the seven Brigadier-ranked officers awarded the Maha Vir Chakra during the 1971 India-Pakistan war on the eastern front.

Brig Kler, a third generation soldier, belonged to the illustrious Kler family of Kakrala Kalan near Ludhiana. His father Captain Chhajja Singh earned the Order of British India (OBI) award during the Second World War. Hardev, his second son, carried forward the legacy earning the Ati Vishist Seva Medal in the 1965 India-Pakistan war and the Maha Vir Chakra during Operation 'Cactus Lily' in 1971, thus becoming the highest decorated Kler in the family.

After graduation from Gordon College, Rawalpindi, Hardev was commissioned into the Corps of Signals in 1948. At 19, he was the youngest Indian to have been commissioned into the British Indian Army. After five mandatory parachute jumps as a volunteer, he was given an option to permanently get seconded to the elite Paratroopers Brigade. Hardev,

Brig Hardev Singh Kler and Brig Anand Sarup were among the seven Brigadier-ranked officers awarded the Maha Vir Chakra during the 1971 war on the eastern front

now a Captain, declined the option, and not without considered reason; Captain Chhajja Singh, his father, had earned all the laurels as a dedicated Signalman and young Hardev preferred following in the footsteps of the senior.

During the 1965 war, Hardev, as Lieutenant Colonel, for his distinguished wartime services rendered during 'Operation Gibraltar' was awarded the AVSM, a rare honour for a Lt Col.

During Operation 'Cactus Lily', Hardev Kler, now a Brigadier, while commanding 95 Mountain Brigade in the eastern theatre, boldly led the advance with Dhaka as the terminal objective. By December 8, the brigade under his command contacted Jamalpur, strongly held by Pakistan's 93 Infantry Brigade. The fortress Jamalpur, though encircled, held on even after Brig Kler, through a messenger, urged Lt Col Sultan, the head of Jamalpur Garrison, to surrender. The reply by the Pakistani Col showed that despite the chips going down steadily, the morale of the Pakistani commanders was far from down. Sultan sent back a defiant reply, enclosing a bullet in his letter. The letter reproduced below surely deserves a place in military history.

*Dear Brig,
Hope this finds you in high spirits.
Thanks for the letter.*

We here in Jamalpur are waiting for the fight to commence. It has not started yet. So let us not talk and start it. 40 air sorties, I may point out, are inadequate. Please ask for many more.

Your remark about your messenger being given proper treatment was superfluous. Shows how you underestimate my boys. I hope he liked his tea. Give my love to Mukti.

Hoping to find you with a sten gun in your hand next time, instead of the pen you seem to have so much mastery over.

*I am, your most sincerely
[Col Sultan]*

Col Sultan, however, was unaware of the

fact that when he dispatched the letter, with a 9 mm live bullet enclosed, the 95 Mountain Brigade Group was sitting behind him south of Jamalpur.

During the final assault on Jamalpur by 1 Maratha Light Infantry, Brig Kler advanced along with the forward platoon of the Marathas, with a loaded sten gun in hand. But he could not show to his counterpart that though a Signalman, he was equally proficient in handling the small arms, since on the night of December 10/11, Col Sultan along with Brig Abdul Qadir Khan, Commander of 93 Pakistan Infantry Brigade, together with 31 Baluch had pulled out of Jamalpur and took defences at Tangail 9 km in the rear.

Throughout, Brig Kler remained close to the leading troops and ensured the execution of his plan, without breathing on the neck of the commanding officers.

In recognition of his bold planning, execution and personal conspicuous bravery, Brig Hardev Singh Kler, AVSM, was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra. The citation reads:

"Brigadier Hardev Singh Kler, AVSM, was commanding a mountain brigade on the eastern front. He led the advance of his brigade from Jamalpur up to Turag river. During all the actions in the advance, Brig Kler was personally present with the leading troops and directed the operations with complete disregard to his life. By personally going into the thick of the battle, he provided great inspiration to his troops who had laid siege behind enemy positions south of Jamalpur. Under his command, the brigade inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy and captured 379 prisoners as well as large quantities of weapons and ammunition."

His son, Flight Lieutenant DJS Kler; also fought the war in the eastern theatre and in the same sector — quite unusual for father and son fighting on the same front.

Brigadier Anand Sarup's father Khem Chand was a Viceroy Commissioned officer (present day Junior Commissioned Officers), but Anand aspired to be an Indian Commissioned Officer.

After Senior Cambridge from King George's Royal Military College, Jalandhar, Anand cleared the Indian Military Academy entrance test. Despite communal tension prevailing in Punjab as a fallout of Partition, he made his way from Jalandhar to the Services Selection Centre at Meerut as a stowaway in a vehicle carrying a British Colonel's luggage. After successfully clearing the selection process, Anand joined the Academy and was commissioned into 8 Gorkha Rifles in 1949.

Just before the 1971 war, Anand Sarup, now a Brigadier and Commandant of the Counter Insurgency & Jungle Warfare School in Mizoram, was handed down the command of an ad hoc establishment named 'Kilo Force' created with two regular modified infantry battalions (31 Jat and 32 Mahar, present day 12 Jat and 15 Mahar) from Mizo Hills, 4th and 10th East Bengal Battalions, 92nd BSF battalion, one CRPF battalion, one Mukti Fauj battalion, an artillery mountain regiment, Mujib artillery battery and a BSF Post Group.

Within a fortnight of the raising of the ad hoc force, after intensive yet planned joint training, Brig Sarup welded 5,000 to 6,000 men under his command into a cohesive fighting force. At the outbreak of war, 'K' force was launched into the battle from its firm base in Mizoram near East Pakistan border.

After declaration of the war on December 3, the Kilo Force surged forward. After winning over some hard skirmishes en route, the hot pursuit got stalled at Feni town, which was strongly defended by two enemy companies. Feni was a tactically important road and rail route to Chittagong harbour and needed to be captured

to cut off the harbour from the rest of East Pakistan. Based on a reconnaissance report, Brig Sarup formulated a bold plan and by December 6, Feni was captured.

The force also captured and occupied Karrehat and Zoranganj by December 8 and commenced its advance to Chittagong. To speed up the capture of Chittagong, Kilo Force was reinforced with 83 Mountain Brigade under the overall command of Brig Sarup. After fighting through and clearing Kumarighat held strongly by two enemy companies, 15 Baluch and 25 Frontier Force, Kilo Force reached Faujdahat on the outskirts of Chittagong on the night of December 13/14 when operations were suspended.

At Faujdahat, the force, under the dynamic leadership of Brig Sarup, intercepted the enemy's withdrawal and captured almost a battalion size of Prisoners of War and a great amount of arms and ammunition. The aggressive role played by the 'K' force contributed a lot in the Indian Army's comprehensive and early victory on the eastern front.

During the entire operation, Brig Sarup, for his bold planning, outstanding leadership and conspicuous bravery, was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra. The battle account on his award reads:

"Brigadier Anand Sarup was allotted the task of organising and launching into battle an ad hoc force for engaging the enemy at Pathanagar and in the area north of Feni town in eastern theatre. He organised and trained this force in a very short period and the troops under his command fought gallantly during the battles at Feni, Nazirhat, Kumarighat and Faujdahat. During the operations, Brig Sarup was constantly on the move, well forward with his troops, directing the operations. Under his leadership, the capture of Feni isolated the Chittagong harbour, which negated the war effort of Pakistan to a great extent. Capture of strongly held Kumarighat defended locality was truly the hallmark of the bold and innovative planning by Brig Sarup and equally bold execution by the troops under his command."

Both the Maha Virs superannuated as General Officers.

To make the wartime decorations for the middle and senior-level commanders appear more realistic and down to earth, during IPKF operations in Sri Lanka in 1987, Yudh Seva Medals (Yudh Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal and Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal) were instituted. The aim was to acknowledge the wartime distinguished services rendered by them, the services that carry a huge burden of responsibility and accountability irrespective of their not being in the face of the enemy.



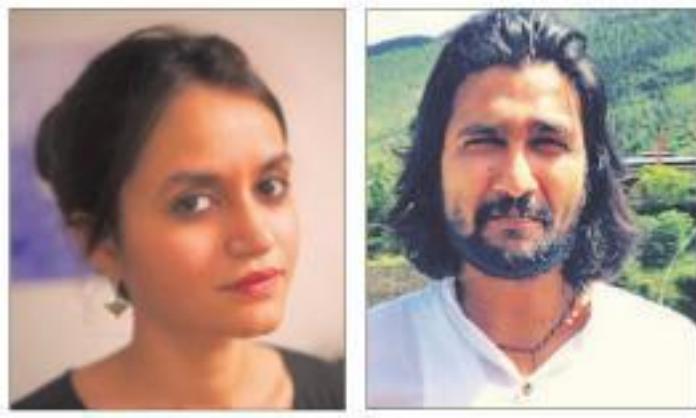
The MVC recipients: Brig (later Maj Gen) HS Kler and (right) Brig (later Lt Gen) Anand Sarup.

The Indian trio in Cannes

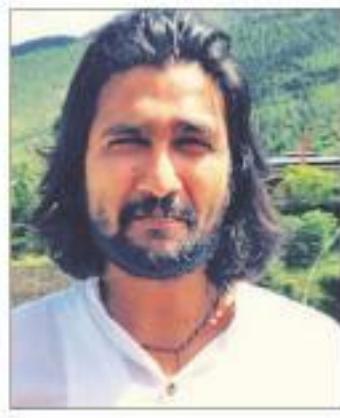
SAIBAL CHATTERJEE

AFTER a year that saw the announcement of a full complement of films but no physical screenings, the Cannes Film Festival is back with its 74th edition, amid a slew of Covid-19 protocols in place.

The Indian subcontinent — which is in the 'red' zone, posing a challenge to industry professionals and scribes from the region who intend to make the trip to the French Riviera



Payal Kapadia



Rahul Jain

Three filmmakers from India, one of them in the Official Selection, will be in Cannes Film Festival with essays that explore the fractious times we live in



A poster of Suman Sen's 'Eka' (Solo)

— has two titles in the Official Selection. Bangladeshi filmmaker Abdullah Mohammad Saad's 'Rehana' is in the Un Certain Regard sidebar; Indian documentarian Rahul Jain's 'Invisible Demons' screens in the special Cinema for the Climate section.

'Invisible Demons' is a 70-minute documentary about the grave repercussions of the indis-

criminate urban expansion of Delhi and the impact of polluted air and water on the most vulnerable segments of the megacity's population. "It is high time that films about the realities of climate change are given a platform," says Jain, who grew up in Delhi and acquired an MA degree in Aesthetics and Politics from the California Institute of the Arts. "I do not like being labelled. I see myself as a young filmmaker who is reacting to the world around me."

He says he is excited that "the cat is out of the bag and the film is going to play in Cannes". He is keen to see how much 'Invisible Demons' communicates with the audience in Cannes, which begins from July 6.

The parallel Directors' Fortnight 2021 includes Mumbai-based Payal Kapadia's first fiction feature, 'A Night of Knowing Nothing'. Scripted by the director with Himanshu Prabhat and lensed by 'Laila Aur Satt Geet' cinematographer Ranabir Das, the film is far removed from the Indian entries that the quinzaine has programmed in the past decade ('Gangs of Wasseypur', 'Ugly', 'Raman Raghav 2.0', all helmed by Anurag Kashyap).

The synopsis of 'A Night of Knowing Nothing' reads: "A university student writes letters to her estranged lover while he is away. Through these letters, we get a glimpse into the drastic changes taking place around her. Merging reality with fiction, dreams, memories, fantasies and anxieties, an amorphous narrative unfolds."

This isn't Kapadia's first appearance in Cannes. In 2017, the FTII alumnus was at the world's premier film festival with 'Afternoon Clouds', which featured in the Cinefon-

dation short films competition.

Directors' Fortnight has a history of selecting films that go on to win the Camera d'Or, the prize for the best first film screened across the different sections of the Cannes festival. On that list are Jim Jarmusch's 'Stranger Than Paradise' (1984), Mira Nair's 'Salaam Bombay!' (1988), Jafar Panahi's 'The White Balloon' (1995), Naomi Kawase's 'Suzaku' (1997), Bahman Ghobadi's 'A Time for Drunken Horses' (2000) and Anthony Chen's 'Iloilo' (2013). This year, our eyes will be on Payal Kapadia's 'A Night of Knowing Nothing'.

Kolkata-born Suman Sen, the third Indian filmmaker in Cannes this year, is in La Fabrique Cinema, an Institut Francais-sponsored mentoring programme for young directors, with his debut feature 'Eka' (Solo). "We are now one draft away from the shooting. The intention is to wrap up (the funding negotiations), so I'm staying over in Paris after the Cannes festival. The pandemic situation permitting, we want to start filming in mid-2022," says Sen, who has been in advertising for 15 years.

Set in Kolkata, 'Eka' explores the degeneration of the social fabric of India. The filmmaker says: "The film reflects the time I have lived in for the last couple of years: a time of hatred, intolerance and violence." Sen recently completed the short film 'The Silent Echo', set in Nepal. 'Eka', an Indo-Bangladeshi-French venture backed by Arifur Rahman of GoopyBagha Productions, is one of 10 projects selected for La Fabrique Cinema.

In the Marche du Film (Cannes Film Market), the National Film Development Corporation (NFFDC) will present seven projects looking for co-producers and financiers. The slate includes 'Moving Bangladesh', a film produced, among others, by Arifur Rahman.

The other NFFDC projects in this year's Cannes Film Market are Prantik Basu's 'Dengue', Anjali Menon's 'Rasa', Nepalese filmmaker Pasang Dawa Sherpa's 'Kukiro Pariko Sahar', Paromita Dhar's 'Last Time on Earth', Rishi Chandra's 'Ghol' and Subhadra Mahajan's 'Second Chance'.

CAPTION CONTEST 1312



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

Selected entries for Caption Contest 1311

June 27 issue (see photo)

- Kids online, vendor offline — Varendara Singh Saini, Mohali
- Walking booth for sweet tooth — Ranjana Thapar, Ambala Cantt
- Much cry little wool — Veena Kapoor, Derabassi
- Carrying his own cross — Neeraj Sabharwal, Chandigarh
- Light purse is a heavy curse — Priyanka Arora, Sangrur



Archival insights into Tibet, China & Nehru

SANDEEP DIKSHIT

AT a time when the Chinese "perfidy" is again on display on the borders, AS Bhasin's book touches squarely on these frontiers and is a timely reminder that educating the public opinion about the correct position is the only way to resolve the issue.

Based on archival material which Bhasin delved into during 30 years with MEA's Historical Division, followed by nearly 30 more years of academic research, his earlier five-volume compilation of India-China archival material forms the grounding of this book. The backend material could not have been more solid.

Some of the developments revolving around Nehru have been analysed threadbare earlier. But here, Bhasin brings out in a more complete glare Nehru's inconsistencies and his continued failure to read the Chinese mind, even when it was not as inscrutable as assumed.

To begin with, it was not Red China that had designs on Tibet. Nor was the 1914 Simla Agreement that we assume permanently fixed the boundaries — McMahon Line — between India and Tibet/China ever agreed upon by Beijing. Bhasin provides acute insights into what really went on and the picture



The author brings out in a more complete glare Nehru's (seen here with the Dalai Lama) inconsistencies and his continued failure to read the Chinese mind, even when it was not as inscrutable as assumed.

is not pretty from India's point of view.

Nehru was mesmerised by the heights of the Himalayas and did not feel the need for defensive measures as he assumed them impregnable from military assaults. But did his advisers offer sound advice? The record is mixed.

Bhasin writes of TN Kaul, one of the negotiators of the China-India agreement

on Tibet, having an affair with a Chinese woman all through the four months of talks. And on completion of the talks, he was audacious enough to seek two months' leave, ex-India, for a honeymoon when already married.

The frequent hobnobbing by India's senior diplomats with their US and British counterparts also did not go

unnoticed by the Chinese. At one point, Bhasin reveals how MEA Director General Girija Shankar Bajpai informed the US ambassador of a secret note he had sent to Nehru on Tibet! The cross-over Indian diplomats from the British civil service seem to have inherited the jaundiced Anglo-American eye towards communists, for at one point a top Indian diplomat tells his US counterpart that New Delhi will not allow Moscow's influence to expand! The dependence on the Anglo-American alliance was too costly.

If not Nehru, his diplomats ought to have picked up signals about the Chinese position on Tibet during the Asian Relations Conference in 1947. We are told it was an unqualified demonstration of Asian solidarity. But archival material points to the Chinese, then ruled by Kuomintang, strongly resenting the invitation to a Tibet delegation and taking serious objection to a map showing Tibet outside China.

The Tibetans were not entirely guileless. A delegation under trade cover led by senior noble Shakappa Richardson hobnobbed more with US embassy officials to prepare landing fields in Tibet for a revolt. Then there was Kalimpong, where it was widely believed that the CIA was helping Tibetans to funnel arms supplies.

Among so many tomes on Tibet, where does this book fall? It skirts the oversimplification by Neville Maxwell (India to be blamed) at one end and Bertil Lintner

(China wanted to teach India a lesson) at the other. It is closer to Ananth Krishnan's 'India's China Challenge', which also argues that on the basis of very little revelation about the actual facts from Nehru's time, in the Indian public's mind, China's very presence in Tibet is illegitimate. As Bhasin provocatively points out, PLA's armed foray into Tibet closely resembled the Indian Army's takeover of Hyderabad state.

While playing up Nehru's role in promoting third world solidarity, Bhasin does miss out on a much more active role by China that leads to the impression of Beijing having no friend in the world. If China did not acknowledge Nehru's claim to have helped China to the UN seat, it is also because India was not the only country that was making that demand. To the Chinese, these platitudes may have seemed hypocritical when juxtaposed against the continuous gun running to Tibet, the pro-western outlook of its diplomats and the hobnobbing of the Tibetans with the Americans — at one point, accepting their advice not to go to Beijing to negotiate despite Nehru's express orders.

The book more than ever underlines the need for a meaningful exercise to be conducted to open the archives to convince Indians that the position taken by India has not been rational and that China was not altogether perfidious, as is made out to be.

Reluctant lovers, a nation in turmoil

A FRAGILE story of reluctant commitments, 'Keeping in Touch' begins with the protagonist Keteki, a charming Oxford graduate in her late thirties, meeting Ved, an investment banker, travelling to Guwahati, at Heathrow airport.

The novel weaves a story of these two people who meet by chance and fall in love in a long-distance relationship spanning London, Mumbai, Jorhat and Guwahati. In the past few years, Ved had given up on love; physical intimacy was all he indulged in. However, he could not escape the charm of Keteki, the Assamese curator. Across the next one year, she was going to teach him that nothing exists in vacuum.

The story of her own life is marked by abuse as a child by a relative, her parents' separation, the boarding school convenient for the now-divorced parents, a cook her own age at her favourite uncle's house.... This uncle had lived in their midst, but remained obscure. Yet, Keteki had only known him, Joy mama, in her childhood.

People who live through difficult times are not always easy, including on themselves. Toxic bachelor Ved travels to Assam to check a bulb manufacturing factory. Interestingly, the name of the factory is Lucifer, soft golden light. He makes love to Keteki under that light. It seems as if the goddess bewitches him to navigate human relationships so alien to him. The calm seems to disappear as the goddess gets angry at Keteki making love to Sumit, another lover.

And when she travels to London to participate in an exhibition, she realises that she is texting and flirting with Ved. Is she just "keeping in touch" or falling in love? The last she had sampled this emotion was at Oxford, with a white man who had abandoned her.

However, this is not just a love story but an intricate political saga of contemporary times. The author has interwoven a layered narrative that reminds of the dark times as she takes us back to the 1970s, the Emergency and then brings the spotlight on the rising intolerance in the country.

Amid the chaos of human emotions, Ved decides to rent his flat in London and move to Assam to keep in touch with Keteki, the elusive woman who has many lovers and layers to her womanhood. Keteki means a bird, a not-so-beautiful bird, but a trickster. It leaves its babies in others' nests and tries to sound like a bird of prey so that the other birds leave it alone. Anjali Joseph has written an outstanding novel. An excellent read.

— Jasmine Sandhu Sandhawalia

Facile re-imagining of Maharashtra's past

M RAJIVLOCHAN

IT frequently comes as a surprise to nationalists that nations are all artificial constructs. They are created by a bit of allurement, a bit of seduction and a large amount of coercion. Great nations learn to hide the coercion by providing services.

That of course hasn't happened in Maharashtra, where people were and remain some of the least served among the states of India. Even linguistically, there are at least four major language regions in Maharashtra even though only one is currently forced on everyone in the guise of a linguistic identity.

The belief that there is a nation, all-loving, all-accomplished, and has visionary 'leaders' continues to seduce people. The latest to be seduced is Girish Kuber, who goes about reconstructing the history of 'MahaRashtra', duly legitimised by a sword-carrying Shivaji on the cover and a long lament about the Maratha who might have been Prime Minister.

Facile re-imaginings of the past such as this one are problematic. One-dimensional authors are condemned to hide much in order to justify their subject. For example, the greatest achievement of Yashwantrao Chavan, the Maratha leader alluded to earlier, lay in saving his political skin in 1960, by succumbing to separatists lest they take over the mantle of leadership. In contrast, faced with an equally fierce separatism in Punjab, Kairon was able to hold his own against the pressures from Delhi, sideline all his competitors and ensure the existence of a united Punjab, all because he was able to earn the goodwill and respect of the people of Punjab. In Delhi, Chavan's stint came to sorry end because while Indira Gandhi had a special connect with the people of India; Yashwantrao Chavan barely had the support of anyone.

Shivaji's tragedy was that he was around as a sovereign ruler for a period of just five years and 10 months. Too little a time to set up either a nation or a state system. His heirs and successors were ousted from power by the Brahmin Pesh-



RENAISSANCE STATE: THE UNWRITTEN STORY OF THE MAKING OF MAHARASHTRA
by Girish Kuber.
HarperCollins.
Pages 240.
₹599

BACKFLAP

THE story of Tata is also the story of the making of a modern India. After getting their start in the cotton and opium trades, the Tatas, a Parsi family from Navsari, Gujarat, ascended to commanding heights in the Indian economy by the time of independence. Over the course of its 150-year history, it spun textiles, forged steel, generated hydroelectric power, and took to the skies. It also faced challenges from restive workers fighting for their rights and political leaders who sought to curb its power. While there have been several books on Tata recently, this one is touted to be its first study 'by a professional historian', Mircea Raianu.

AN ORDINARY LIFE: PORTRAIT OF AN INDIAN GENERATION
by Ashok Lavasa.
HarperCollins.
Pages 316. ₹499

From darkness to light

HARVINDER KHETAL

THE ILLUMINATED' is an engaging tale of separate, but parallel, journeys of self-discovery of Shashi and Tara — a mother-daughter duo — as their lives are torn asunder by the extenuating circumstances that they suddenly find themselves in. With very little and a rather anti-climatic direct interaction between the two ladies, the common thread binding them is the emotional upheaval caused by the loss of the family's anchor: the gigantic patriarch Robi Mallick.

The author, Anindita Ghose, manages to keep Robi, the highly successful architect, in the shadows as she brilliantly shines light on the evolution of the very ordinary, but strong-minded and passionate, female characters that populate her novel. Even the other macho male character, AD, pales into insignificance despite Tara being totally consumed by his love.

Keeping the reader pinned is the insightful delineation of the curve as the characters are inexorably drawn to paths less travelled. This is no mean achievement for an author's first work of fiction.

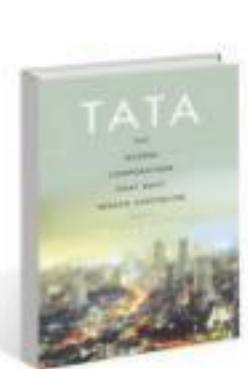
Their inner turmoil arises from views conflicting not with just one another but also the world. It leads them to that decisive 'illuminating' moment — when enlightenment dawns of the importance of living the one known life that they have in the manner that the each of them deems best for herself, shorn of pretence or societal expectations.

The streak of independence and of cleaving off the regressively patriarchal social norms is best depicted in the unconventional career choices that Shashi and Tara pursue. Not for them the easy and magnetic option of a luxurious, carefree existence, off their opulent inheritance. Like Shashi says: "When your Baba died, I realised I had given no thought to what I want to achieve while I'm alive. I always thought it was too late, but then I spent decades in that feeling."

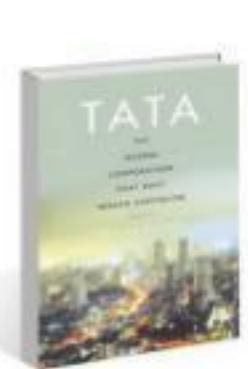
The portrayal of Tara's profes-



THE ILLUMINATED
by Anindita Ghose.
HarperCollins.
Pages 312.
₹599



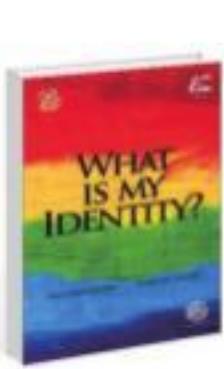
TATA: THE GLOBAL CORPORATION THAT BUILT INDIA
by Mircea Raianu.
HarperCollins.
Pages 292. ₹699



THE world is mainly inhabited by ordinary people leading simple lives. Their stories remain unheard, preserved in households, narrated in families as tales of inspiration, as vindication of certain lasting values that survive in every society and keep us connected with the unseen forces that govern us. 'In An Ordinary Life', former Election Commissioner of India Ashok Lavasa tells one such warm story, that of his father, Uday Singh, who served as the moral compass in his life. The genesis of this book lies in a diary that his father had begun writing four years before his death. The book is imbued with the wisdom of an earlier Indian generation and its way of life, which is both unique and universal at the same time.

HIS LILA
by Surindra Lal.
Authors Press.
Pages 101. ₹295

AFTER penning books on physics for most part of his life, Surindra Lal, a former principal of Multani Mal Modi College in Patiala, has now ventured into poetry. 'His Lila' is a collection of 62 poems that celebrate the devotion to the Divine in myriad ways. 'Love-Laughter' is a compilation of 71 poems, showcasing various aspects of love. The language is simple, as is the thought process. In an attempt to stick to rhyme and metre, quality and creativity seem to have taken a backseat. But then Lal admits in 'Author's Note' that he is hardly aware of the nuances of English language and least about forms and norms of poetry and these poems are an emotional upsurge.



WHAT IS MY IDENTITY?
by Apoorva Kinra and Pareena Singh.
Shreeram Law House.
Pages 216. ₹373

IT has been three years since Section 377 was termed 'unconstitutional' by the Supreme Court, but the LGBTQIA+ community is still fighting for acceptance. 'What Is My Identity?', written by two law students from Panjab University, aims at developing and enhancing people's understanding of the community. Starting with basic issues like understanding sexuality, the authors attempt to bring the lives and plights of the members of the community, especially in the Indian society, into the general conversation of the masses. They also want readers to wrap their minds around the correct terminology when communicating with the LGBTQIA+ people.

Displacements, past & present



GUEST COLUMN

GURVINDER SINGH

'But have you ever heard a story in which the evil person trumps at the end?' The boy thought for a while before replying. 'No,' he said, 'but before they lose, they harm the good people. That is what I am afraid of.'

— From Nadeem Aslam's *'The Blind Man's Garden'*

MY father breathed his last on May 28. Unable to cope with Covid's onslaught on his lungs, he slipped away unconscious on a ventilator. He would have turned 77. Born in 1944 in Kamoke, a town north of Lahore, he was nicknamed 'Baagi' after the rebellious spirit of freedom fighters. Foreboding the events of 1947, the Sikh family moved to Amritsar just before Partition to avoid forced displacement. But fate would have it otherwise. On a day when my grandfather was away in Kamoke on a work trip, a mob set their mixed faith neighbourhood's Muslim homes on fire. And it is anybody's guess, people of which faith(s) would have set fire to the Muslim homes in Amritsar. And they would have known that fire does not discriminate between walls belonging to people of different faiths, the way a virus does not differentiate between the religion of one's lungs.

Her house on fire, my grandmother picked up my three-year-old father and his five-year-old sister, collected her valuable jewellery and escaped to the terrace. Jumping across parapet walls, she fled to safety and reached the Golden Temple where crowds fleeing the sectarian violence had taken shelter. She feared for her husband as news of violence around Lahore was coming in. But fortunately, my grandfather managed to reach Amritsar safely, only to find his home and neighbourhood torched.

With a sinking feeling, he started a search for his wife and two children through the city's lanes. Like everyone, he also reached the Golden Temple to look for them. What a relief it must have been for all of

them to reunite in its precincts. The move to Amritsar to pre-empt communal violence did not work out.

The family lived an unsettled life for the next few years. First Shimla, then Gwalior and Ganganagar, where grandfather did odd trading jobs, before finally settling in Delhi, where he struggled for many years to set up his own business.

Flash forward to the first few days of November of 1984. Mobs wielding sticks and torches roamed the streets of Delhi, targeting Sikh homes to avenge the killing of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh security guards. Sikh men, irrespective of their age, were dragged out from their homes and burnt alive. Houses were torched. Living in fear, my parents along with me as a 10-year-old and my younger brother saw menacing mobs from behind closed curtains on the otherwise deserted street. Smoke arose from the locality's gurdwara, its marking pole with the religious flag ferociously shaking and brought down. Our apartment was locked from the outside by our Hindu neighbours to protect us, even as young men from the neighbourhood stood vigil to prevent anyone from entering our apartment complex. A few had climbed the terraces with stones to thwart any approaching mob. With telephone lines snapped, there was no way of knowing what had befallen our extended family living in other parts of Delhi. My parents could only pray that everyone was safe. A few days later when there was a semblance of sanity, another reunion with the family. Another sigh of relief. Another narrow escape from communal menace.

We are now a mixed family of Sikhs and Hindus and I would not call anyone of us remotely conservative or orthodox. None of us wear our religion on our sleeves. None of us are into any regular religious practice, though not averse to an occasional ceremony if tradition calls for. Yet, I have seen a crucial

and significant difference in our attitudes towards the politics of religious majoritarianism that has swept our country since 2014. Many Hindu members of my extended family and their friends, except a few rare individuals, look the other way when it comes to the right wing's programme of hatred, othering and alienation that minorities face in India today. They are silent over militant Hindutva's quest for branding India a 'Hindu Rashtra', as opposed to the secular republic deemed in our Constitution. Not just deemed, but thriving in our land of diverse beliefs since centuries, even in the face of extreme provocations, like Partition itself. In the absence of any first-hand experience of Muslim society, they have gathered a not-so-favourable impression of Muslims from the binary of Hindu-Muslim narratives that the mainstream electronic media feeds them daily. Not just the sustained attack on minorities, they are mute even over the not-so-hidden design to convert India into an autocracy, destruction of democratic institutions and free speech, promotion of unscientific beliefs, the failing economy and the ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor.

The litany is long. As the second wave of the virus swept across the country, Modi and his cohorts were busy in an aggressive electoral battle to wrest states where their party has never ruled. Add to that the advancement of the Kumbh Mela at Hardwar by a year on the advice of priests and astrologers. A gathering of a few hundred Muslims at a religious centre in Delhi last year at the beginning of the first wave of Covid was labelled a 'super spreader' and 'corona jihad' by the same corporate controlled electronic media which has remained silent over the gathering of lakhs of pilgrims at the Kumbh, when there was full awareness of the dangers of Covid and a second wave had been predicted.

Is it needless to say that the extreme distress and lakhs of deaths due to Covid have happened due to the ruling dispensation's goals that have nothing to do with people's welfare? Goals that are only about stamping an abstract identity on its people in the name of religious nationalism and a glorification of the past?

As my father fought the virus in the ICU, a mix of Hindu and Muslim doctors and caregivers looked after him in his last days. They started fondly calling him 'Baba' because of his wavy white hair and beard. 'Baba' as an expression belongs to no particular community. In some parts of the country, it's the word for father. It's also a phrase for addressing a holy or a wise old man. 'Baba' survived the communal viruses of 1947 and 1984, but succumbed to a virus that the skewed priorities of the 'rulers' have let run havoc through its people. Should I be thankful that he at least died a dignified death in a hospital with the best possible infrastructure, when scores of others died waiting for basic healthcare? That we managed to electrically cremate his body without a painful wait, when scores of others who could not even afford a basic cremation for their dead drowned them in a river, to be carried away by its waters?

I can only pray and hope that people who continue to turn a blind eye to all that Modi's regime stands for, pause and consider. For the vast section of our population which continues to be in thrall of their leader's histrionics, there is enough melodrama in Indian movies to experience that. We need leaders who have empathy for the weakest and value every human life. And for such leaders to emerge, we all need to rise above meaningless identities. And let the sacrifice of my father, like that of millions of others of all faiths, not go waste.

— *The writer is a National Award-winning filmmaker*

Imran, a sad parody of his younger self



GOOD SPORT

ROHIT MAHAJAN

tion in biology — hormonal depletion — or psychology, i.e. age effect due to increasing fear of mortality? Maybe both. It's perhaps this that brought him to the *dargah* of Baba Fariduddin Ganjshakar in Pakpattan, where he met his future wife, Bushra Bibi, a Sufi *pirni* known as Ms Pinki in the region. It is maybe religiosity that makes him admire Turkic invaders and call Osama bin Laden a martyr.

Or maybe, it's his political compulsions that make him play to the gallery in a deeply religious country.

Whatever the reason, the Old Khan has become a sad parody of the Young Khan, who had the self-control to hang out with women in 'vulgar' clothing without jumping at them.

When a western journalist recently asked him about his being vocal about 'Islamophobia' in the West and silence on the atrocities on the Uighur Muslims in China's Xinjiang province, he said: "Whatever issues we have with the Chinese, we speak to them behind closed doors."

Soon after that, Imran spoke



publicly — perhaps under pressure from Beijing — to Chinese journalists, whom he told: "Because of our extreme proximity and relationship with China, we actually accept the Chinese version." The implication is that if China had not been investing heavily in Pakistan, he may have paid heed to the overwhelming evidence about the 're-education' of the Uighur Muslims by China. No more "behind closed doors" speaking to China, then?

Ageing gracefully

Talking of ageing gracefully, let's discuss Roger Federer, who isn't losing much grace a month before his 40th birthday. Returning to Wimbledon two years after losing the final to Novak Djokovic, Federer is still finding his feet following two knee surgeries last year. In his first two matches at Wimbledon, which he won, at times he looked vulnerable as never before. But also evident were beauty and grace, which distinguish him from his two great peers, Djokovic and Rafael Nadal. Their numbers may vary when they're done, but as greats, they stand together: Djokovic has the best mental strength, Nadal the best physical strength — and Federer has beauty.

The journalists who knew him in the Britain of the 1970s and 1980s relate stories about his philandering. What has changed now? Is the explana-

My homage to all the *fauji* mothers



MILITARY MATTERS

BRIG VIVEK LALL (RETD)

A REGIMENTAL Police Havildar Major (RPHM) in a Rajputana Rifles battalion epitomises the most sterling qualities of a senior non-commissioned officer. He is of very sound integrity, is disciplined and has quite a precise understanding of all that happens in the battalion. Responsible for enforcing good order and regimental discipline as well as security of the battalion base, the RPHM has the ears of the Subedar Major (seniormost among all ranks other than the officers), the battalion's Second-in-Command and the CO, directly and often separately.

The RPHM while I was deployed in Kashmir as a young infantry officer in the 1990s was precisely that. A mature soldier with quite an impressive personality, he also nurtured the trademark Rajputana Rifles moustache, which makes our soldiers appear quite imposing.

The RPHM also appeared to have had genuine concern for me. Once when I was on leave, I got home just in time to see him get up sheepishly after a cup of tea with my mother.

He told me about some walnuts he had brought for us and then quickly left, leaving me surprised. I understood his discomfort only when my mother confronted me. Apparently, in typical 'Sholay' style, he first told my mother about how sincere an officer I was. He built an image of me being intelligent and was very complimentary about my performance in training courses. He told her that these qualities would certainly take me to senior ranks. But then, he added that all that would not work for me if I continued to drink and smoke, something which good officers do not do. In good measure, he told her I was a good leader when it came to operations against terrorists, and though young, I led from the front. But then he also said that I was putting my life at risk.

For someone like my mother, who had no idea about the Army or operations, because I did not communicate too well and certainly did not want her to worry, this would have been quite a shock. But, true to her stoic character, she took it all very calmly. She only said that the RPHM

appeared a very sensible person and that I should heed his advice.

Her strength became a realisation much later. She too went through the emotional roller coaster of my numerous field postings. As a young school-going boy, when I was leaving for the NDA, the only thing she said was, "Why don't you consider options other than joining the Army?"

There were no telephones, she could not read, but she certainly understood how far I was going and what it would mean for the future, much better than I did. For the next over three decades, I only travelled home on vacations to be greeted with much happiness and my favourite food on arrival, but also with uncomplaining tears on departure. She had no idea about what I did and I could never build upon what the RPHM had told her about our operations. But she watched every news report she could about Kashmir, Pakistan and China, always worried about my safety. The only thing she asked of me was to be careful and to look after myself. It is

only when I took early retirement that I realised what she might have been going through. Other than my wife, she was the happiest. For the first time, she told me how worried she had always been and expressed relief that I would not go to those dangerous areas again.

The only other thing that she asked of me was to live my life with integrity. As I grew in rank, she would often repeat herself, asking me to not do anything wrong even if it meant having less money to spend. I think I learnt more about officer-like qualities from her than during my training.

I have no doubts about her great strength of character. She withstood long separations without any complaint, managed her life herself till as long as she could, and never asked anything for herself. In remembering her, I pay homage not just to her but to all the strong and silent *fauji* mothers who quietly pray for the wellbeing of their children, accept their absence as a matter of fact, and ask for nothing in return.

Our daughters want to choose their destiny, will they be able to?



IMMORTAL FOR A MOMENT

NATASHA BADHWAR

I WAS a teenager when I looked at the newspaper one morning and saw a photo of three sisters who had died by suicide by hanging themselves from the ceiling fan in their home in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. The younger sisters were closer to my own age. The photo had been clicked before the bodies were taken down — the girls were suspended in mid-air, their necks broken, their faces recognisable. The image has been impossible to forget.

The accompanying text narrated a story of the family's economic struggle and their anxiety over their inability to arrange dowry for their daughters' marriage according to community norms. The young women had executed a suicide pact to relieve their parents of the socio-cultural burden of raising daughters in a society where they are perceived as an encumbrance and a potential risk to the honour of the family.

It was a wake-up call I was not prepared for. It was one I would have to learn to reckon with.

If I was growing up in modern India that was determined to shake off the multiple oppressions of gender, caste, and economic oppressions, then how could young women like me find themselves so desperate that they were unable to imagine a life where they would be able to transcend the shackles of familial expectations? Why did they not feel the agency to fight to live? Why was there no social support system that could hand-hold them out of their distress and show them possibilities that existed?

It was the 1980s and the news had shaken me at a deeply personal level. I cut out the photo and news report from the paper and stuck it in my diary. That diary is still lying in a cupboard in my home, reminding me that I owe it to young persons to support them when they are at the end of their tether.

Decades have passed, and I am now a parent of teenage daughters. They browsed the news last week and saw the stories of two Kashmiri women, Manmeet and Dan-

meet, who recorded videos of themselves in which each one speaks with articulate confidence that she has married a Muslim man against the wishes of her Sikh family, and she stands by her right to make an independent choice for herself. A third video surfaced of a woman called Khadija, formerly known as Viran Pal Kaur, who asserted that she had married and converted to Islam out of her own free will.

"People who are trying to spin our stories as cases of 'love jihad' are trying to break the brotherhood between Sikhs and Muslims in Kashmir," says Khadija, who has asked for police protection for her husband and herself.

Sikh organisations claimed they were approached by the distressed families and as protests mounted, the SGPC chief, while coming out strongly against the alleged forcible conversion, said though they tried to convince the girl to convert back, she "did not relent and as such we will not force anything on her".

Going by the videos, the young women have trudged a long way in asserting their right to choose their destiny and taking responsibility for their actions.

Yet these stories are in the national news because socio-political barriers that seek to use gender and religious identity against young Indians have not backed down, even in 2021. Two of the three women have returned to their families, apparently with the backing of the state police and community leaders.

Images of Manmeet, remarried to a Sikh man within a day and brought to Delhi, are circulating on the same social media platforms that host her own video asserting that her family is harassing her. Her husband, Shahid Bhat, is in jail, even though the couple has shared court documents to prove the legality of their marriage.

How do we explain this act of controlling the life choices of young people — their decisions of who to love and marry

— to our own sons and daughters? How do we allow the state to indulge in such acts where the police enable the separation of a legally wedded couple?

Our development indices may show that India has progressed in the 75 years of being an Independent country, but we continue to perpetuate toxic ideas of community honour and manipulative, dysfunctional family systems that prey on our own children, even those who have turned adult.

"A casteless society can be built only by inter-caste and inter-faith marriages," writes Kawalpreet Kaur, a young lawyer, in a Facebook post, reminding us of the progressive values enshrined in the Constitution of our country. India's daughters are speaking up for themselves and everyone else. If the rest of us cannot stand by them, the least we can do is get out of their way.

— *The writer is a filmmaker & author: natasha.badhwar@gmail.com*



Cops detain protesting SP workers in Prayagraj on Saturday. PTI

BJP wins zila panchayat poll, SP alleges rigging

VIBHA SHARMA
Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, JULY 3 Following days of high drama laced with claims, counter-claims and allegations between the two main contenders—the BJP and the SP—the saffron party today registered a thumping victory in the Uttar Pradesh zila panchayat elections.

Ahead of the high-stake elections in the state next year, the beleaguered ruling party received a shot in the arm by winning 46 of the 53 posts, the elections for which were held today. Earlier, the BJP won 21 seats unopposed after several Opposition candidates switched over and withdrew from the contest, leading to allegations of “kidnapping and use of force” against it by the SP. With this, 67 of the 75 candidates backed by the saffron party and its ally Apna Dal won, including in the prestigious Gorakhpur and Varanasi. Main rival in UP the Samajwadi Party, could manage only one RLD one and others two.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath called it an indication of the people’s confidence in ‘sushashan’ of the ruling BJP. Congratulating winners, Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya tweeted “kaho dil se, 2022 pe bhajapa phir se”. Incidentally, “kaho dil se, Akhilesh

WINS 67
OF THE 75 SEATS

PM PRAISES YOGI

The glorious victory of BJP is due to the blessings of people. The credit for this goes to the policies of CM Yogi.

Narendra Modi,
PRIME MINISTER**BJP USED FORCE**

To convert its defeat into victory, the BJP got the voters kidnapped, used force with the help of police to stop them from voting.

Akhilesh Yadav,
SP PRESIDENT

phir se” is also the slogan of SP.

Crying foul, Yadav charged the BJP with “making a mockery of the elections”, alleging that the party “kidnapped” voters and used “force” with the “help of police and administration to stop them from voting”.

Political analyst Sudhir Panwar, who is also associated with the SP said: “The BJP’s massive victory was in confrontation with people’s mandate in the panchayat elections in April.”

Federer fights into 4th round, beats Norrie

LONDON, JULY 3 Sixth seed Roger Federer entered the fourth round of Wimbledon Championships with a nervy and topsy-turvy performance against Britain’s Cameron Norrie on Saturday, winning 6-4 6-4 5-7 6-4 after a slump in the third set.

Federer needed one break each in the first two sets to go 2-0 up, but he got broken at 5-6 in the third set to hand Norrie a lifeline. The two players exchanged breaks midway in the fourth set before Federer broke Norrie for the second time in the fourth set and served out the match from 5-4 for his 104th win at Wimbledon. Earlier, Australian Nick Kyrgios retired from his match with Canadian 16th seed Felix Auger-Aliassime due to an abdominal injury, with the pair locked at one set apiece. Kyrgios won the opening set 6-2 but the 26-year-old, playing in only his third tournament since the Covid-19 crisis shut down the Tour last year, needed medical treatment in the second and called it quits after Auger-Aliassime won the set 6-1.— Agencies

BRIEFLY

NEW DELHI

First-Class cricket back, Ranji from November 16

The BCCI has announced that the domestic First-Class and age-group cricket will resume in the forthcoming 2021-22 season. The Ranji Trophy, domestic cricket’s biggest tournament, begins on November 16. However, the Irani Cup, the inter-zonal Duleep Trophy and Deodhar Trophy will not be played this season too. In all, BCCI has scheduled 2,127 matches across all divisions for the 2021-22 season. The Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 will start on October 20. TN

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WHO: Global situation highly fragile

Says Brazil's weekly cases have surpassed those of India's

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 3

The global number of new Covid-19 cases over the past week was over 2.6 million, a similar number compared to the previous week, but deaths continued to decline settling down at the lowest weekly mortality recorded since November 2020, WHO's latest analyses of the pandemic shows. Brazil overtook India as the lead contributor of weekly new Covid cases.

The highest number of new cases was reported from Brazil (5,21,298 new cases; a 3 per cent increase over the past week), India (3,51,218; a 12 per cent increase), Colombia (2,04,132 new cases; 5 per cent increase), the Russian Federation (1,34,465; a 24 per cent increase), and Argentina (1,31,824 new cases; an 11 per cent decrease).

More than 57,000 deaths were reported in the past week, a 10 per cent decrease as compared to the previous



ALPHA VARIANT DETECTED IN 172 COUNTRIES

Cases of the Alpha variant have been reported in 172 countries with two new countries added in the last week; Beta in 120 countries (one new country), Gamma in 72 countries (one new country) and Delta in 96 countries (11 new countries).

In its weekly analyses, the world body flagged Delta variant, designated as a variant of concern, as the most dominant mutant with evidence of increased transmissibility.

COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST CASeload

BRAZIL	INDIA	COLOMBIA	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION	ARGENTINA
5,21,298	3,51,218	2,04,132	1,34,465	1,31,824

week. Globally, Covid-19 incidence remains very high with an average of over 3,70,000 cases reported each day over the past week. The cumulative number of cases reported globally now exceeds 180 million and the number of deaths is almost 4 million.

Although at the global level, trends in cases and deaths

have been declining over the recent weeks, the world body said that well into the second year of the pandemic, “the global situation remains highly fragile”. “There is significant variation by region, by country and within countries. In all WHO regions, there are countries reporting sharp increases in cases and hospitalisations. Over the past 18 months, substantial progress has been made towards ending the acute phase of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the combination of more transmissible variants, increasing social mixing and sub-optimal vaccination coverage will delay the end of the pandemic,” warned the WHO.

ED issues fresh summons to Deshmukh

NEW DELHI, JULY 3

The ED today said it issued fresh summons to former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), asking him to appear before it for questioning on July 5 in connection with a case of alleged corruption and extortion.

Officials said this was the third notice to the NCP leader for deposing before the investigating officer (IO) in the case. He has been asked to record his statement on Monday, they added. —TNS

Conversion case: ED raids in Delhi, UP

NEW DELHI, JULY 3 The ED today conducted searches at six locations in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh in a money laundering case linked to alleged religious conversion of some deaf students and poor people in UP. Officials said raids were conducted at the office of Islamic Dawah Centre and the house of the main accused Mohd Umar Gauhar and his associate Mufti Qazi Jahangir Alam Qasmi in south Delhi’s Jamia Nagar area. In UP, raids were conducted at the offices of Al Hassan Education and Welfare Foundation and Guidance Education and Welfare Society in Lucknow. —TNS

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