

GANGULY BACK IN HOSPITAL  
WITH CHEST PAIN SPORT

BEARS RUN AMOK ON D-STREET  
BUSINESS

SASIKALA OUT OF JAIL AFTER  
FOUR YEARS BACK PAGE

## Farmers' leaders Ugrahan, Rajewal among 37 booked

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27**  
The Delhi Police have named 37 union leaders in 25 FIRs lodged in connection with the violence that took place during the tractor parade by farmers. The police said they would investigate their role.

Several of them were reportedly part of the negotiations with the government. Those named included Yogendra Yadav, Darshan Pal, Gurnam Singh Charuni, Rajinder Singh, Balbir Singh Rajewal, Rakesh Tikait, Buta Singh Burj Gill, Joginder Singh Ugrahan and Satnam Pannu. They have been charged with attempt to murder, criminal conspiracy, assault on public authorities, use of deadly weapons, inciting violence, vandalism and robbery.

Addressing the media, Commissioner of Police SN Shrivastava accused the leaders of breaching the agreement signed for getting permission for holding the rally.

"We maintained restraint as we wanted to facilitate a peaceful parade. The union leaders did not honour any of the terms," he said.

"All those who have already been named in the FIRs will be summoned as accused to join the investigation. More



Farmers clash with the cops in New Delhi on Republic Day. PTI

### CHARGED WITH MURDER BID, INCITING VIOLENCE

Yogendra Yadav, Darshan Pal, Gurnam Singh Charuni, BS Rajewal and other leaders have been charged with attempt to murder, incitement to violence and vandalism.

### TWITTER SUSPENDS OVER 550 ACCOUNTS

A day after violence, Twitter said on Wednesday it had suspended more than 550 accounts engaged in spam and platform manipulation.

### 394 COPS HURT, 30 VEHICLES DAMAGED: OFFICIALS

The Delhi Police claimed 394 of its personnel were injured — some of them in ICU. The damaged property included 408 barricades, four X-ray machines, 30 vehicles and six containers.

than 390 policemen were injured. We are verifying video clippings and CCTV

and drone footage to identify the culprits. More cases will be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## March off, unions regret Red Fort incident

Claim plot to defame stir | To observe fast on Jan 30 | Returning farmers stoned at Gharaunda

RAVINDER SAINI AND PARVEEN ARORA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**TIKRI/SINGHU, JANUARY 27**  
The Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Wednesday expressed regret over the "Red Fort incident" on Republic Day during the tractor parade. Announcing that it had put off the march to Parliament on February 1, the SKM said that farmers across the country would observe fast on the death anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, on January 30.

"The incident at the Red Fort where some persons participating in the tractor parade unfurled the flag of a particular religion hurt the sentiments of the people of the nation. We regret the incident even though we had no role in it. But as we had given the call for the tractor parade, in which lakhs participated, we express regret for the shameful incident," said Balbir Singh Rajewal, one of the members on the seven-member SKM committee, after a marathon meeting at Singhu that lasted over five hours.

He and other members blamed the government for hatching a conspiracy to defame their peaceful protest. "We will expose the conspiracy by the govern-



Farmers at Karnal highway on way back home. TRIBUNE PHOTO

### DOORS FOR DIALOGUE STILL OPEN: JAVADEKAR

The Centre has sent out feelers to farmers saying doors for talks were still open. Minister Prakash Javadekar asked, "Who has ever said doors for talks are shut?"

### DELHI VIOLENCE A GOVT CONSPIRACY, SAYS OPPN

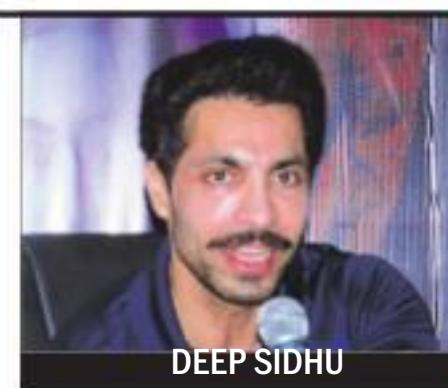
The Congress-led Opposition has alleged the Delhi mayhem was a govt conspiracy to discredit the agitation and questioned how the protesters could reach Red Fort.

### 2 UNIONS PULL OUT OF STIR

BKU (Bhanu) and All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee have withdrawn from the stir.

### NET BAN EXTENDED IN HRY

Haryana has extended suspension of phone services, except voice calls, in Sonepat, Palwal and Jhajjar districts for 24 hours.



DEEP SIDHU  
Deol's former aide blamed for violence

**NEW DELHI:** Gurdaspr Singh Deol's former aide, Deep Sidhu, who has been blamed for instigating protesters and leading them to the Red Fort, was summoned by the NIA in connection with a case against the Sikhs for Justice.

Sources, however, said that no fresh action had been initiated against him so far. The SFJ is accused of funding anti-India movement in the country and abroad. —TNS

al questioned the working of the Delhi Police, asking: "How could the protesters enter the Red Fort which is a high-security area?" Most farmers, gathered at Singhu and Tikri for the tractor parade, returned on Wednesday. Pelted with stones on the Gharaunda flyover, a group of farmers chased the miscreants, parking their tractors on the highway, disrupting traffic.

EDIT: DAMAGE CONTROL

ment in coming days. We obeyed the route plan given to us by the police but encountered barricades.

Members of the Punjab Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee stood ahead of these barricades to 'sabotage' our protest. Sangharsh Committee members and Deep Sidhu are responsible for what happened at the Red Fort," Rajewal told the media.

Yogendra Yadav and Gur-

nam Singh Charuni said the protest would continue and more farmers would join in soon. The SKM, an umbrella body of agitating farmer unions, claimed several of their members were still missing. "FIRs have been registered against innocent farmers too. It was a conspiracy to weaken the brotherhood between the farmers of Haryana and Punjab," the SKM leaders alleged. Rajew-

al questioned the working of the Delhi Police, asking: "How could the protesters enter the Red Fort which is a high-security area?" Most farmers, gathered at Singhu and Tikri for the tractor parade, returned on Wednesday. Pelted with stones on the Gharaunda flyover, a group of farmers chased the miscreants, parking their tractors on the highway, disrupting traffic.

EDIT: DAMAGE CONTROL

## Khushiyon ki shuruat aur zindagi bhar ka saath



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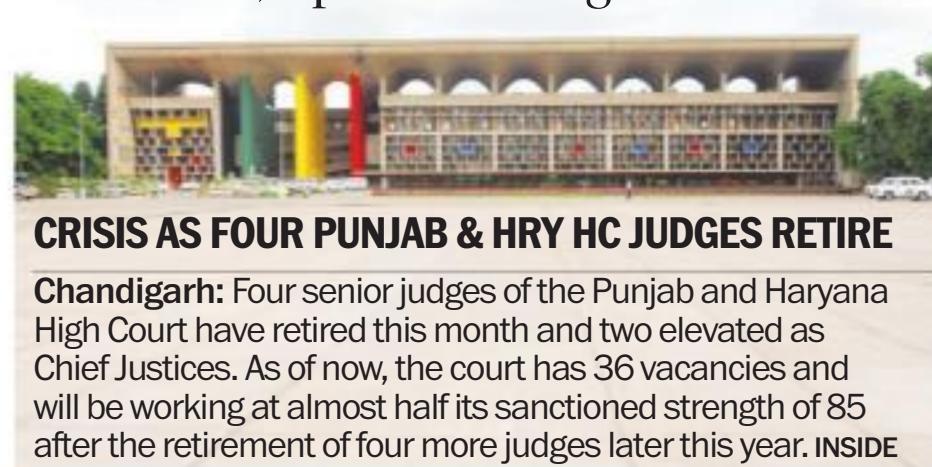
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## Judges' names yet to be cleared, SC irked

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Concerned, top court wants govt to fix timeline



### CRISIS AS FOUR PUNJAB & HRY HC JUDGES RETIRE

**Chandigarh:** Four senior judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court have retired this month and two elevated as Chief Justices. As of now, the court has 36 vacancies and will be working at almost half its sanctioned strength of 85 after the retirement of four more judges later this year. INSIDE

the recommendations.

Pointing out that recommendations sent by the high courts of Bombay and Alla-

habad in May-June 2020 were hanging fire, it said in many cases government took more than a year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Covaxin shots 'effective' against new UK strain

**NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27**

Made-in-India Covaxin works against the Covid strain circulating in India as well as the new UK mutant, a research has shown.

The landmark peer-reviewed research by ICMR scientists shows the mutant will not escape the grip of ICMR-Bharat Biotech made Covaxin, currently being used in the national Covid vaccination drive.

"This dispels all uncertainties around whether or not Covaxin will work if the virus mutates," says the research. Sera collected from Covaxin recipients neutralised the UK variants, the scientists say. —TNS

### SC stays HC's 'no skin contact, no abuse' order

**NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27**

The Supreme Court today stayed a Bombay High Court order acquitting a man accused of child abuse on the ground that groping a child's breasts without "skin-to-skin" contact didn't amount to "sexual assault" under the POCSO Act.

A Bench headed by CJI SA Bobde also stayed the acquittal of the accused after Attorney General KK Venugopal said the judgment would set a dangerous precedent. The Bench allowed the Attorney General to file a special leave petition against the January 19 verdict of the HC. It also issued notices to the state and the accused.

## Wife elopes, man kills 18 women

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Murders over 24 yrs by Telangana serial killer

accused started killing women after his wife eloped with another man.

Kumar said Ramulu, a labourer, was picked up in connection with a probe into the murder of

two women in Jubilee Hills area here. Arrested in a joint operation by Hyderabad and Rachakonda police, he was found to be involved in 16 other cases of murder.

Ramulu had escaped from the Erragadda Mental Hospital prison in 2011 while undergoing life imprisonment in another case.

No SC interim relief for 'Tandav' makers

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to grant interim protection from arrest to the makers of web series 'Tandav' in connection with FIRs against serial killer Maina Ramulu (45), Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar said the

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Har Pal Aapke Saath

# Condemn violence, but stand by farmers: CM

Urges the Centre to listen to protesters and repeal the three contentious agricultural laws

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 27

Condemning the Republic Day violence in Delhi, especially at the Red Fort, Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Wednesday termed it an insult to the nation and said it had brought shame to the country and weakened the farmers' agitation.

He, however, made it clear that he continued to stand with the farmers as the agricultural laws were wrong and against the country's federal ethos.

Stressing that the Red Fort was a symbol of Independent India and thousands of people had laid down their lives for freedom, the CM said

Mahatma Gandhi had fought the entire war of Independence with the weapon of non-violence. "My head hangs in shame at what happened in the national capital on Tuesday." Even as he demanded action against the perpetrators, who he said were not farmers but misguided youth indulging in symbolism, Capt Amarinder said such problems would continue to take place if the Centre fails to listen to the public.

A government for the people and by the people cannot ignore the will of the people, he said, adding that the performance of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre would not be acceptable in the

## BRING PERPETRATORS TO BOOK

The Delhi Police should probe and take action against the perpetrators. The Centre should also probe the involvement of any political party, while making sure that no farmer leaders are unnecessarily targeted or harassed by the police.

Capt Amarinder Singh, CHIEF MINISTER

next elections to a majority in a country where 70 per cent of the population was of farmers.

The BJP should realise that stability and secularism, encompassing all minorities, was the key to the inclusive growth of the nation, Capt Amarinder added.

Reiterating that the farm laws would be death knell for the economic empowerment of future generations of the protesting farmers, the CM said private corporates were even now functioning in Pun-

jab and could continue coming into the state without destroying the established system of the MSP, arthiyas and the public distribution system.

Meanwhile, Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) chief Sunil Jakhar said the violence was a pre-planned act of the BJP-led government that facilitated the movement of 'wrong elements' to the Red Fort so that it could succeed in undermining the genuine cause of farmers. "The BJP seems to have succeeded in diverting attention from the core issue as evidence clearly suggests that Deep Sidhu was planted to foment trouble by trying to give the stir a communal colour. How-

ever, the farmers' cause is bigger than any other cause of any union or party."

Blaming the BJP government and the Delhi Police for targeting the peaceful protesters than those responsible for the violence, Congress Rajya Sabha MP Partap Singh Bajwa said: "The masterminds of Tuesday's incident should be thoroughly probed and an action must also be taken against those proven to be close to the ruling dispensation." He said the FIR against the farm leaders was an attempt to malign and misdirect the public and to paint the protest movement as violent or anti-national.

# Unions give call to boycott 'traitors'

Tribune News Service

## PEACEFUL STIR WILL CONTINUE: UGRAHAN

Our peaceful protest at the Tikri border will continue. We know that political parties are hatching conspiracies to derail our protest. It's a big fight that can only be won with peace not violence.

Joginder S Ugrahan, BKU (UGRAHAN) CHIEF

Punjabi University must tell how much share all of them got from that. The slogans of 'Deep Sidhu and Lakha Sidhana murdabad' echoed in the pandal at Singh. He said the history would not forgive the traitors for backstabbing the farmers.

Dr Darshan Pal of the Kranikari Kisan Union said the organisations that joined hands with Deep Sidhu would be punished. He said they would take decision in the kisan morcha meeting.

Farmer leader Gurnam Singh Chaduni said whatever happened on Tuesday was BJP sponsored. He also chanted the slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Inquilab Zindabad' amid massive response from people.

## Trail of support



Farmers take out a tractor rally against the agricultural laws in Amritsar on Tuesday. VISHAL KUMAR

## 2 protesters run over near Amritsar

Tribune News Service

AMRITSAR, JANUARY 27

Two women were killed while three others injured when a tractor-trailer ran over them near Vallah here on Tuesday.

The victims were going to participate in a protest against the farm laws.

The deceased were identified as Narinder Kaur and Simarjeet Kaur of the Vallah area. The injured are under treatment at Sri Guru Ram Dass Hospital.

## MUKTSAR FARMER DIES IN ACCIDENT

A farmer, Yadwinder Singh (24), from Barkandi village of Muktsar, who had gone to take part in the tractor parade in Delhi, died in a road mishap in Hisar on Tuesday evening. He was returning to his village when a car hit his tractor.

Passersby nabbed the tractor driver, Sukh Lal Singh, and handed him over to the police.

Kewalbir Kaur, president of Sri Sukhmani Sewa Society, was also injured in the incident. She said some persons reached at the protest site while they were waiting for children and teachers of Government Primary School at Vallah to join the stir. Suddenly a tractor came and hit the women and dragged them to a distance.

Narinder died on the spot while Simarjeet succumbed at the hospital, said Sanjiv Kumar, Vallah SHO.

## Farmer ends life in Bathinda

BATHINDA, JANUARY 27

A farmer from Malwala village allegedly ended his life by consuming a poisonous substance on Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as Baljit Singh, 42, who was under debt. He is survived by his wife and two children.

As per residents of the village, due to the debt that ran in lakhs of rupees, Baljit was under mental stress for past few months. After getting the post-mortem done, the police handed over the body to family members.

The BKU (Kranikari) demanded the debt waiver, Rs 10 lakh compensation and a government job to one of the family members. — TNS

## R-Day events setback to stir: Experts

### REINVENT STRATEGY

People will be cautious in supporting them, till farmer unions reinvent their strategy... even if it is a conspiracy, it will affect the outcome. Unions will have to counter this immediately.

Parmod Kumar, DIRECTOR, IDC

<< Farmers at the Tikri border on Wednesday. PTI

Morcha has immediately dissociated itself from the errant organisations, it has had an adverse impact on the movement. Farm unions will have to use all democratic instruments to once again restore their image as peace-loving protesters, so that they can restore their own bargaining power with the government," he says.

Dr Lakhwinder Singh, another eminent economist, says even as the voice of farmers — their version of how the events unfolded and the persons responsible for the violating the law — was throttled, the social media played the role of spreading their narrative. "But this has come as a setback. The narrative that has been created by the miscreants will have to be countered effectively," he said.

## How Deep Sidhu & Co hijacked march

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 27

Despite being shunned by farmer unions at various stages of the ongoing agitation, actor-turned-activist Deep Sidhu had been attempting to take a leadership role in the movement for the past many months.

A day ahead of the tractor march by farmer unions, he was seen campaigning on the Outer Ring Road in Delhi. The position taken by the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, which is not part of the 32 farmer organisations, of not sticking to the original route, along with the BKU (Kranikari), gave Deep Sidhu the opportunity to create trouble.

On Monday, a group led by Deep Sidhu took over the main stage at Singh, and along with gangster-turned-activist Lakh Sidhana, announced they would hold the march "inside Delhi". "They formed a five-member



Protesters march during the tractor rally from Tikri. S CHANDAN

### SHAMEFUL & UNFORTUNATE: VILLAGE PANCH

Deep Sidhu has been misleading farmers, especially youngsters, ever since the protest began. His yesterday's act is shameful and unfortunate.

Jagdeep Singh, PANCHAYAT MEMBER OF ACTOR'S NATIVE UDEKARAN VILLAGE

committee as well," said Rajinder Singh Deep Singh Wala, vice-president, Kirti Kisan Union.

They had a plan ready by Tuesday morning. "They started a march of their own much before the official one began, and positioned their 'henchmen' in large numbers at a road turning

towards central Delhi. From there, they directed other tractors towards the Red Fort," said farmer leader Balbir Singh Rajewal.

Volunteers deputed by the unions did try to intervene, but they were outnumbered. "I tried to request them not to do that but they insulted me as well," said Rajewal.

Around a month ago, during a meeting of the 32 farmer unions, one of the leaders had termed Deep Sidhu and Lakh Sidhana as "enemies of this struggle".

During the last Lok Sabha elections, Deep Sidhu was campaigning for BJP's Gurudas candidate Sunny Deol, and had even posed with PM Narendra Modi. He was accused of being an "RSS agent" by farmer unions in Punjab.

The 'Shambu morcha', as the actor called it, had been receiving "live streaming" support from some pro-Khalistan channels.

Around two weeks ago he wrote to the unions, expressing his desire to get associated with their platforms. However, the plea was rejected.

Meanwhile, Deep Sidhu posted a video on his Facebook page, saying, "We have only hoisted the Nishan Sahib at the Red Fort while exercising our democratic right to protest."



Farmers protest during BJPs Shwai Malik's visit to AIIMS in Bathinda. PHOTO: PAWAN SHARMA

## MP Shwai faces protesters' ire

Tribune News Service

BATHINDA, JANUARY 27

Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha member Shwai Malik, who arrived at AIIMS here to inaugurate a new CT scan machine, faced agitating farmers on Tuesday.

As soon as they got the information about the BJP leader's visit to Bathinda, a large number of farmers, led by Jagbir Singh Jhumka, a district committee member of Bhartiya Kisan Union (Ekta-Ugrahan), marched to the AIIMS and started protesting.

In a resolution, the party cautioned the Centre against using these incidents as an excuse to scuttle the genuine demands of the farmers. — TNS

### Ex-BJP MLA attractor rally

AOHAR, JANUARY 27

By leading a cavalcade on the eve of Republic Day tractor march, former legislator Arjun Siyag has left the BJP leadership in a tizzy.

Siyag, who had won on BJP ticket from Aohar constituency in the Vidhan Sabha polls in 1985, himself drove a tractor that led scores of trailers loaded with essentials on Monday evening to contribute to the free kitchen being run at the Delhi border. His supporters also released pictures in which Siyag was found interacting with farmers. — OC

## Tarn Taran youth who hoisted flag at Red Fort has no separatist link: Cops

TARN TARAN, JANUARY 27

Jugraj Singh, a youth from Wan Tara Singh village of Tarn Taran, who hoisted the Nishan Sahib at the Red Fort, has no separatist or criminal background, the police said.

His father Baldev Singh was an expert in putting up Nishan Sahib at gurdwaras. Jugraj often assisted his

father in the task.

His grandfather Mehal Singh (90) said they had never been associated with any separatist movement. Jugraj must have been among the first group that reached the

## SAD slams violence

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 27

The SAD on Wednesday condemned the violence in New Delhi on Republic Day.

The SAD core committee said it resolved to maintain "strong and unwavering commitment to peace and communal harmony," it said after an emergency meeting of its core committee.

In a statement, the party said it stood opposed to the use of violence in any form by anyone. "We are firmly of the

view that Punjab and the country can progress and prosper only through preserving the atmosphere of peace and communal harmony," it said after an emergency meeting of its core committee.

In a resolution, the party cautioned the Centre against using these incidents as an excuse to scuttle the genuine demands of the farmers. — TNS

# NIA to probe Balwinder case

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE



## KILLED IN OCTOBER 2020

**Shaurya Chakra awardee Balwinder Singh Sandhu** was shot dead by two unidentified men in the early hours of October 16, 2020, at the residence-cum-school run by him in Bhikiwind of Tarn Taran district.

## MOVE AFTER MHA DIRECTIONS

Considering the gravity of the offence and its inter-state and global ramifications, the MHA directed the NIA to take up the probe into the case. In compliance with these directions, the NIA has re-registered the case and taken up the probe. **NIA**

given by wife of the deceased Jagdish Kaur, they added.

"During the peak of terrorism in Punjab, Balwinder Singh and his family had fearlessly fought terrorists. For this fearless fight, the Government of India awarded him the Shaurya Chakra

in 1993. Besides Balwinder Singh and his wife Jagdish Kaur, his elder brother Ranjit Singh and his wife Balraj Kaur had also received the Shaurya Chakra," a senior NIA official said.

During the initial investigation by the Punjab Police, it

was revealed that the killing was executed under a conspiracy hatched by Pakistani-based terrorist Lakvir Singh Rode and his handlers in Pakistani intelligence agency, ISI, the officials said, adding that the killing was executed through Sukhmeet Pal Singh, alias Sukh Bhikariwal, of Bhikariwal village, Kalanaur, Gurdaspur, a gangster-turned-terrorist.

"Considering the gravity of the offence and its inter-state and international ramifications, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) directed the NIA to take up the investigation into the case. In compliance with these directions, the NIA has re-registered the case and taken up the investigation," the anti-terror probe agency said in an official statement.

# Exempt teachers from poll duty, Edu Dept urges DCs

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, JANUARY 27

The School Education Department has urged all deputy commissioners-cum-district election officers (DCs-cum-DEOs) in the state to spare school teachers from poll duty.

The department secretary wrote to all DCs after many teachers were put on the duty for elections to eight Municipal Corporations, 109 Municipal Councils and nagar panchayats. While the voting for the local bodies election is scheduled on February 14, a large number of teachers have already been deployed on the poll duty.

Claiming that schools had reopened for offline classes

'Presence in schools more important for benefit of students'

only on January 7 after remaining shut for the past about nine months, it said the teachers be spared from the election duty for the benefit of the students.

Krishan Kumar, secretary, School Education Department, said sparing the teachers from the election duty was more relevant in view of the 'Mission Shat Pratisht' for 2020-21, aimed at empowering schools to achieve 100 per cent results despite the pandemic in the state.

This mission was launched

by the Chief Minister on November 7, last year.

At the time when the teachers' presence in the schools is of utmost importance for the students for their better performance in the final exams to achieve 100 per cent results, it is better if the non-teaching staff be assigned the election duties, read the secretary's letter.

It is better if the teachers be exempted from poll duties so that they can continue to conduct offline classes in the last three months of the academic year.

Last week, over 100 teachers and heads of various government schools in the district were assigned the election duties. —TNS

More Dera Bassi farm samples test +ve for bird flu

MOHALI, JANUARY 27

Samples from one more poultry farm in Behra at Dera Bassi have tested positive for bird flu.

Mohali DC Girish Dayalan tweeted, "Case of avian flu confirmed by the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal, at a poultry farm in Dera Bassi. The sample was collected as part of ongoing surveillance. Culling will be done as per norms."

Evergreen Poultry Farm with 45,000 birds is 2 km away from the Alpha Poultry Farm where bid flu was detected a few days earlier. Samples of four dead birds were sent to the Northern Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in Jalandhar, which further sent them to the NIHSDA, Bhopal, for confirmation. —TNS

## 11 arhtiyas booked for 'objectionable' remarks on traders

BATHINDA, JANUARY 27

Arhtiyas staged a protest outside the Nehianwala police station at Goniana Mandi, after a case was registered against 11 of them for allegedly using objectionable remarks against traders in the community two days ago.

Notably, in a video clip that had gone viral on social media, a section of arhtiyas allegedly used objectionable remarks against traders in which they had asked them to support the farmers' stir.

Acting on a complaint submitted by members of the traders' body, the police have booked 11 persons under Sections 153A and 505 (2) of the IPC. The SHO didn't respond to repeated calls while efforts were on to strike a compromise between the two groups. —TNS

## Gangster held in murder case

FATEHGHAR SAHIB, JANUARY 27  
The Sirhind police have nabbed a dreaded gangster, identified as Gagandeep Singh, alias Gagan, a resident of Jhangian Kalan village.

GS Sikand, SHO, Sirhind police station, said the police got information that a gangster was roaming near the Chawla restaurant chowk, GT Road, Sirhind. He said the police immediately cordoned off the area and as per the information on his clothes, he was intercepted. He tried to flee, but he was overpowered.

The SHO said as per the preliminary interrogation, he revealed that he was associated with Jagu Bhagwanpuria and Sukh Bhikhariwala group and had committed many crimes along with this gang. He said he had murdered NRI Kulwant Singh, a resident of Jodhe village. A murder case was registered at



Gangster Gagandeep Singh in custody of the Sirhind police.

## MAN ARRESTED WITH ARMS, DRUGS IN ROPAR

**Ropar:** The district police claimed to have arrested an aide of a notorious gangster, Dilpreet Singh Dhahan, here on Wednesday. Dhahan had already been arrested by the Chandigarh police, following an encounter in July 2018. Ropar SSP Akhil Chaudhary said three pistols, two live cartridges and 25 gm of intoxicant powder were recovered from Davinder Singh of Lodhipur village. He has three criminal cases registered against him. TNS

the Beas police station, where he was declared a PO.

The police said he had admitted that he was there on a mission and had conducted a recce of the area. The police recovered eight live cartridges from his possession. — OC

## Capt: Need for well-defined policy on China

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 27

Given China's long-standing expansionist agenda, the Indian Government should have a clear and well-defined policy on its hostile neighbour, CM Capt Amarinder Singh said on Wednesday, warning that talks with Beijing alone would not lead anywhere.

While he hoped India got the better of China in the latest skirmish at Naku La on January 20, the CM, himself an ex-Army man, said India needs to improve and strengthen its military might. This incident, after the Galwan valley, shows that China hasn't backed off, and has no intention to do so, from its expansionist policy.

The need for a strong military in the face of such threat at the border cannot be over-emphasised, he said. — TNS

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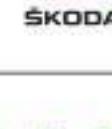
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**LOST & FOUND**

**I. Amarjeet Singh s/o Sarup Singh,** Development Officer, The Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd., Chhoti Baradari, Patiala, declare that I had lost cover Note No. Motor 721858, 721874, 779580, 779581, 792536, 792552, 792570, 792739, 792107, Misc 228378 on 20.01.2021. Anybody who finds, misused these will be responsible for legal action. Sr. Branch Manager (CL20089046)

**I. Sukhwinder Singh s/o Soma Singh,** Administrative Officer, The Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd., Chhoti Baradari, Patiala, declare that I had lost Cover Note No. 31-CHD-4-92053 on 19.01.2021. Anybody who finds, misused, they will be responsible for legal action. Sr. Branch Manager (CL20089053)

**I. Leela Krishan s/o Mohan Ram s/o Ward No. 11, Ellenabad (Sirsra) declare that old Deed No. 3998 of my home has been lost at Ellenabad on 20.01.2021 if found please contact: 94162-23624. (CL20089218)**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**We, Amit Kumar s/o Lt. Sh. Dharmavir and Pritam Kaur w/o Amit Kumar s/o # 44, Jarnail Enclave, Phase-2, Zirakpur, Distt. SAS Nagar, Mohali (Punjab) declare that our son Vinay Kumar and his wife Sarita are out of our control. We disown them from all our moveable/immovable property. We shall not be responsible for any of their act and anybody dealing with them shall do so at their own risk.** (CL20088956)

**I. Simranpal Singh s/o Harminder Singh r/o H.No. 58, Highland House Building -Coop Society, Baltana, Zirakpur, Distt. SAS Nagar, Mohali have changed my name to Simranpal Singh Bedi.** (CL20088996)

**I. Rajiv Kumar Verma s/o Amarnath # 967, Phase-10, Sector-64, Mohali, SAS Nagar, Punjab have changed my name to Rajiv Kumar.** (CL20088998)

**I. Bhawana w/o Sh. Vishal Manro,** resident of H. No. 509, Ward No. 24, Peer Khana Road, Khanna, District Ludhiana have changed my name from Bhawana to Palak Manro. (CL20089036)

**I. Sahid Khan S/o Sh. Wahid Khan R/o Ward No. 4, H.No. 130/2, Manali, Tehsil Manali, Distt. Kullu, Himachal Pradesh have changed my name to Shahid Khan. All concerned note.** (CL20089096)

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

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

**I. Jatinderjit Singh s/o Kesho Kirpal Singh H.no. 20, Professor Colony, PAP Lines Jalandhar have changed my name to Jatinderjit Singh Tak.** (CL20089151)

**I. Sukhpreet Singh Kahlon s/o Dial Singh,** Village Bassarpura, PO Balpuri, Tehsil Batala, Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my minor daughter name from Jasreet Kaur to Jasreet Kaur Kahlon. (CL20089172)

**I. Pawandeep Kaur w/o Sukhpreet Singh Kahlon,** Village Bassarpura, PO Balpuri, Tehsil Batala, Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my name to Pawandeep Kaur Kahlon. (CL20089173)

**I. Manisha Rani D/o Rajinder Kumar R/o # 13, Dayal Bagh Ambala Cantt have changed my name to Manisha W/o Jai Rana, After marriage. Concerned note.** (CL20089183)

**I. Seema Devi d/o No. 14491845N, MOHinder Singh s/o Village Jhullar, PO & Tehsil Shahpur, Distt. Kangra H.P. declare that my name and Dob wrongly entered as Sima Devi, 22.11.1989, whereas my correct name and Dob is Seema Devi, 24.11.1989. Concerned note it.** (CL20089241)

**I. Dinesh Harchand s/o Sh. Davinder Singh r/o Basoli Road, Rakkar Colony, Tehsil and District Una, HP declare that my correct name is Dinesh Harchand instead of Dineshwar Harchand. Concerned note of.** (CL20089295)

**I. Himanshu s/o Som Nath Dawar r/o H.No. 333, Sector 8, Part-2, Karnal, Haryana, have changed my name to Himanshu Dawar.** (CL20089159)

**I. Atinder Singh Jasowalia S/o Surjeet Singh R/o 246F, Ground Floor, Silver Birch, Omaxe, New Chandigarh, Distt. SAS Nagar have changed my name to Atinder Singh.** (CL20089131)

**I. 13614264A, Ex. NK Chain Singh s/o Inder Singh r/o Village Samkehar, PO Jhonka, Ratiyal, Tehsil Jawai, Distt. Kangra, HP declare that my daughter name and Dob wrongly entered as Kimmie, 25.11.1989. Whereas her correct name and Dob is Anuradha Devi, 26.11.1989. Concerned note it.** (CL20089152)

**I. Neeraj Chandel son of JC-422909M Sub. Jarail Singh r/o VPO, Dubhetta, Tel. Nangal, District Ropar (Punjab) Pin-140124 declare that my name has been wrongly mentioned as Niraj Chandel in service record of my father. It may please be corrected as Neeraj Chandel vide affidavit dated 27 Jan. 2021 before Notary Chandigarh.** (CL20089122)

**I. Baljit Kaur w/o Dharman Pal Blassi r/o 133, Mayur Vihar, 48-A, Chandigarh declare that my son Vishavpreet Singh his wife Monika Dhillon & their son Aryav Dhillon are out of my control. I disown them from all my moveable/immovable property. I shall not be responsible for any of their acts and anybody dealing with them shall do so at their own risk.** (CL20089125)

**I. Service No. JC613200M Rank Nb Sub Hom Bahadur Thapa Magar s/o Tul Bahadur Thapa Magar of Unit Acc.trg.college & Centre Panchmari declare that in my Army service records my son's name mistakenly entered as Nirmal Thapa but his correct name is Nirmal Thapa Magar. All concerns please note.** (CL20089144)

**COURT NOTICES**

**(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)**  
In the Court of Ms. Renuka Rani Civil Judge (Junior Division), Phagwara.

Lachman Prasad s/o Banaras Prasad r/o Gali No. 17, Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar, Khotran Road, Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala.

Versus Vijay Kumar s/o Kashish Nath s/o Joginder Ram, r/o Onkar Nagar, Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala & Ans.

CNR No.: PBKPA0-000398-2021 Next Date: 16.02.2021

Suit for possession by way of specific performance.

Publication issued to:

Defendants No. 1 and 2.

1. Vijay Kumar s/o Kashish Nath s/o Joginder Ram, r/o Onkar Nagar, Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala.

2. Keshav Ram s/o Bachha Ram s/o Khokhar Ram r/o Onkar Nagar, Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/ respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 16.02.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to:

https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district\_notice&district=kapurthala

Dated, this day of 21.01.2021.

Sd/- Renuka Rani Civil Judge (Junior Division), CL19152512 Phagwara.

**(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)**

In the Court of Sh. Ranjan Kumar Khullar Additional Principal Judge Family Court, Garhshankar.

Arshdeep Singh aged 28 years son of Sukhdev Singh r/o Village Binjon, Tehsil Garhshankar, District Hoshiarpur.

....Petitioner

Versus Desire Michelle Hansen wife of Arshdeep Singh d/o Hansen r/o Village Binjon, Tehsil Garhshankar, District Hoshiarpur at present 21015 Cypress Avetts Hayward CA.

....Respondent

Petition u/s 27 of Special Marriage Act 1954 for dissolution of marriage by decree of divorce between the parties.

CNR No.: PBHOF3-000411-2019 Next Date: 19.02.2021

Publication issued to:

Desire Michelle Hansen wife of Arshdeep Singh d/o Hansen r/o Village Binjon, Tehsil Garhshankar, District Hoshiarpur at present 21015 Cypress Avetts Hayward CA.

....Petitioner

Versus Arshdeep Singh d/o Hansen r/o Village Binjon, Tehsil Garhshankar, District Hoshiarpur at present 21015 Cypress Avetts Hayward CA.

....Respondent

For details logon to:

https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district\_notice&district=hoshiarpur

Dated, this day of 15.01.2021.

Sd/- Additional Principal Judge Family Court Garhshankar, CL20088555

**(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)**

In the Court of Sh. Jaginder Singh Civil Judge (Jr. Division-2), Phagwara.

Harbans Kaur w/o Joginder Singh r/o Village Khera, Tehsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala.

Vs.

Gurmukh Kaur w/o Jarnail Singh r/o Khera, Tehsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala and others.

CNR No.: PBKPA0-000733-2018 Next Date: 16.02.2021

Application for passing final decree

Publication Issued to: Lt.'s of Defendant No. 2, Kuldip Kaur d/o Joginder Singh r/o 13114 2nd Av, Surry, B.C. Canada, 2b, Manjit Kaur d/o Joginder Singh r/o 1166, Upper Thanes Dr. Woods Tock on N4T0L3, Toronto, Canada, 3c, Rashpal Singh d/o Joginder Singh r/o



## Speaker accepts Abhay's resignation

**CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 27** Senior INLD leader and Ellenabad MLA Abhay Chautala today resigned from the Assembly over the farm laws. Speaker Gian Chand Gupta accepted his resignation.

Abhay rode a tractor to the Vidhan Sabha complex to hand over his resignation to the Speaker to express solidarity with protesting farmers.

Later, taking to mediapersons, Abhay dared JJP MLAs, who had staked claim on the legacy of his grandfather Devi Lal, to resign from the Assembly in support of farmers.

He said he would embark on a statewide tour, especially of Assembly segments where MLAs had pledged support to farmers. Abhay (57) was the only INLD legislator in the 90-member House. —TNS

## Case against 2K in Palwal

**PALWAL, JANUARY 27** More than 2,000 persons have been booked for violence during the tractor march on the highway near Gadipti village on Tuesday. No arrest has been made so far.

The clash occurred around 12 pm, when a convoy of tractors and other vehicles of farmers reached near Softa village, where the police had put up barricades on the highway to prevent the movement of the tractors towards Delhi.

Around 400 tractors and 2,500 persons were present at the point of clash, which is located close to the Palwal-Faridabad border. —TNS

# Day on, cops put up barricades, beef up security at Tikri border

**RAVINDER SAINI**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

TIKRI, JANUARY 27

A day after the farmers' tractor parade spiraled into chaos in parts of the Capital, protesters at the Tikri border were seen discussing the prevailing situation in groups.

The Delhi Police have put up barricades to block the Rohtak-Delhi highway and beefed up security in the area. Earlier in the morning, the farmers gathered at the main protest site and staged a day-long dharna. Popular Punjabi artistes, including Kanwar Grewal, Sonia Mann and Harf Cheema, sang motivational songs.

Though the protesters seemed worried over yesterday's incident and the registration of FIRs against their leaders, they are confident of winning the battle. They claim the agitation will go on with the same zeal and enthusiasm until their demand for the repeal of the three farm laws is fulfilled.

"The Delhi violence will not affect our agitation in any manner as it was a conspiracy to defame the farmers. Everything has been exposed and the public knows the reality. Our protest will continue as usual. The tractor parade has not only shown our power, but also mounted pressure on the Centre," claimed Gurcharan Singh from Mansa (Punjab).

On Tuesday, the protesting farmers removed the barricades at Tikri at 9 am and entered Delhi.

The tractor parade continued peacefully as hundreds of volunteers were on duty to manage the vehicular movement. Dressed in traditional attire, women from Haryana danced on folk songs while the youth sat atop tractors, jeeps



Farmers during their agitation at the Tikri border on Wednesday. PHOTO: SUMIT THARAN

### PUBLIC KNOWS REALITY

“The Delhi violence will not affect our agitation in any manner as it was a conspiracy to defame the farmers. Everything has been exposed and the public knows the reality. Our protest will continue.

Gurcharan Singh, MANSA FARMER

and cars decorated with the Tricolour, balloons and flowers.

Meanwhile, Rajender Arya Dadupur, president of the Bharatiya Kisan Majdoor, Naujawan Union, termed the Delhi incident as unfortunate.

All of us are responsible for the violence as it was our duty to stop the protesters from going towards wrong routes, but we failed to do so,” Dadupur added.

## Numbers dip at Singhu

**PARVEEN ARORA**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SONEPAT, JANUARY 27

A day after the tractor parade turned 'violent' in the national capital, the mood at the farmers' camp was one of disappointment even as the numbers of those at the protest site went down considerably.

The number of protesters reduced significantly compared to those present here over the last two days since they had come to participate in the parade.

Meanwhile, at Singhu, farmers condemned the 'shameful' act by the 'mob' and 'blamed' the Union Government's intelligence failure.

They were hopeful that the incident would not have any

adverse impact on their protest. "We did not come to unfurl a flag at Red Fort, but to get the three laws repealed. I condemn the incident. It is a conspiracy of the government to defame the peaceful protest. The area near the Red Fort always remains under high security during Republic Day and Independence Day. How did the government let the unfortunate incident happen?" said Trilochan Singh Sandu of Moga.

Jugraj Singh of Ferozepur district said the incident should not have happened, yet the protest would continue with the same spirit. He blamed intelligence failure for the 'unfortunate' incident.

# Delhi-Jaipur highway cleared

**RAVINDER SAINI**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**REWARI, JANUARY 27**

Around 1,000 farmers from Punjab and Rajasthan camping on the Delhi-Jaipur highway since January 3 shifted their dharna to the Shahjahanpur border in Rajasthan today after a panchayat of more than 10 villages served them a 24-hour ultimatum to clear the highway. The panchayat, presided over by Masani village sarpanch Capt Lalaram Yadav, was held in the district's Dungarvaas village. It discussed the situation arising out of the road blockade.

"Because the highway was blocked, heavy vehicles plied on village roads. As a result, water pipelines and roads have been damaged. Villagers are facing the problem of water shortage. The panchayat was organ-



Protesters have shifted from Masani barrage in Rewari to the Shahjahanpur border in Rajasthan. TRIBUNE PHOTO

ised against this backdrop," Yadav said, adding residents of Dungarvaas, Masani, Jonavaas, Titarpur, Niganiavas, Kharkara, Rasgan, Jeetpur and Nikhri were present at the panchayat.

After the meeting ended, a delegation of villagers

## Toll plazas resume on e-ways

**TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

**AMBALA, JANUARY 27**

At the Saini Majra toll plaza, farmers ended the siege in the afternoon, but took charge of the toll plaza later and said they would continue to protest.

Farmer leader Gurnam Singh Chamukalan said, "When police reached the toll plaza in the afternoon, the number of farmers were fewer. Outnumbered, they lifted the dharna. As we received information about the development, we reached the toll plaza and took charge again."

In Ambala, the police tried to persuade farmers protesting at a toll plaza near the Shambhu border to lift the dharna. Farmers, however, refused.

BKU (Charuni) district vice-president Gulab Singh said, "We will continue to camp at the toll plaza until the farm laws are withdrawn. The authorities may try to remove farmers forcibly from toll plazas."

**LANGAR SEWA ENDS**

- Members of gurdwara committees on Wednesday ended the langar sewa on the NH-44 following an appeal from the Karnal administration

- The decision was taken following a visit by Karnal DC Nishant Kumar Yadav, who asked longer organisers to end their sewa as there were reports that tension might escalate

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Sd/- Rajinder Mohan Singh Chhina  
Ph: 0183-5013525 Hon. Secy. Khalsa College Charitable Society, Amritsar

**PROJECT DIRECTOR CUM CHIEF ENGINEER, PMU,  
JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG, MANDI-175001 HIMACHAL PRADESH,  
NOTICE INVITING E-PROCUREMENT BID**

Project Director-cum-Chief Engineer, PMU, Jal Shakti Vibhag, Mandi-175001 Himachal Pradesh, India behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites the online Lump Sum Contract bids on turnkey basis from the eligible bidders of Indian Entity as well as NDB member countries through online bidding system on or before 25th February 2021 at 11.00 AMIST(GMT + 5:30 Hrs) on the site <https://htenders.gov.in>

Sr. No.	Description	Estimated Cost	Bid security	Time	Cost of Form
1	M1 Package Engineering, procurement, construction, testing, commissioning, trial run and operation and maintenance of various components of Lift Water Supply scheme to PC habitations under Jal Shakti Suri Division Rewalsar for Part of Bahl Block of Mandi District (H.P) for ultimate capacity of bringing 2.00 MLD potable water (16 hours of pumping) from 3 Nos. tube wells at Drahla Bagla to 36 census villages of 12 panchayats in single package on "Turn-key job basis" including trial run defect and liability period and running and maintenance of the entire scheme for 5 years.(Cost of running and maintenance shall be paid separately)	Rs. 3982.53 Lakh Equivalent to \$ 54,1808 in USD	Rs 39.82 Lakh Equivalent to \$ 54,184.08 in USD	24 Months including all season but excluding trial run and 5 years O&M	Rs 2500 only Equivalent to \$34.01 in USD

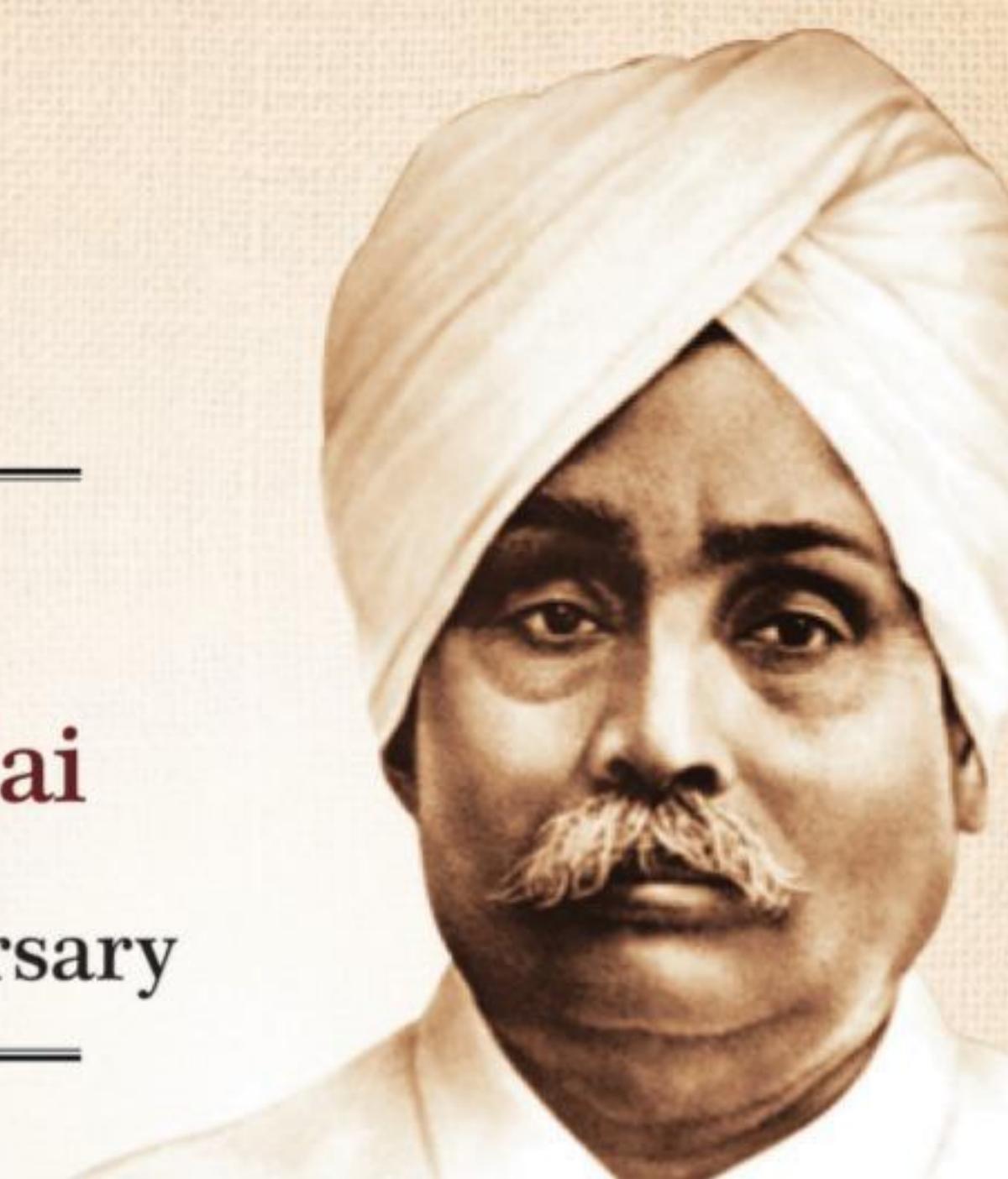
Last date of filling/uploading the tender through e-tendering: 25/02/2021 upto 05:30PM.

The tender form and other detail and condition can be obtained from the website <https://htenders.gov.in> or from office of Project Director Cum Chief Engineer, PMU, Jal Shakti Vibhag, Mandi-175001 Himachal Pradesh/Jal Shakti Division Baggi upto the date specified above.

Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Division, Baggi.



*Remembering*  
The Punjab Kesari  
**Lala Lajpat Rai**  
on his  
**156<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary**



**Punjab Chief Minister  
Capt. Amarinder Singh**  
leads the people in paying  
glowing tributes to  
the legendary freedom fighter and  
doyen of the Swadeshi Movement

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

# The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

## Damage control

Farmers should accept moratorium & calm frayed nerves

THIS is the centenary year of Gandhi's non-cooperation movement, which descended into communal violence in Malabar, and later caused the murder of 22 Indian policemen at Chauri Chaura in February 1922, forcing the Mahatma to call off the movement. The overwhelming response to his satyagraha across the nation did not deter him from correcting the dangerous mistake of violently pitting Indians against Indians. No popular struggle can become successful if it turns hateful and brutal towards one's own countrymen, whether in uniform or otherwise.

We witnessed hooliganism, vandalism, violent clashes and death on our Republic Day, transforming a peaceful protest for a just cause into a dirty display of mindless bravado and brawn. What was achieved was the desecration of the farmer's movement against the three farm laws; and the farmer leaders remain discredited. All through the two-month-long agitation, the protesters had shown exemplary restraint and had controlled the younger elements from breaching the elders' commitment to the tenets of non-violence. How did things go so completely out of hand? There are various theories doing the rounds, but the police ought to take a fair share of the blame for letting the vandals reach Red Fort and enact the unseemly drama of violating the sanctity of the ramparts from where the national flag is raised every Independence Day.

Some thugs have twisted the sacred into the profane; whose thugs are they? Who incited them? Why didn't the farmer leaders or the government get to know this plan of disruption? These questions will haunt us for some time now. Meanwhile, the farmer leaders should accept the moratorium announced by the government and bring the temperature down. Even now the farmer leaders can seek a longer suspension of the laws and reciprocate it by an equal period of suspension of the protest. If the government does not keep its word, the protesters are free to resume their agitation. It is imperative that frayed nerves need be calmed; and agent provocateurs and saboteurs are not given an opportunity to repeat the performance on February 1.

## Racist abuse in Sydney

Exemplary punishment must for offenders

C RICKET Australia has confirmed that Indian cricketers suffered racist abuse at the Sydney Cricket Ground during the third Test of the recent series, and has yet again issued an apology to the players. It has also reaffirmed its resolve to identify and punish the spectators who were responsible for hurling racist abuse on Indian cricketers Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah. Tracing them, it seems, is turning out to be a difficult task. The persistence of Cricket Australia, and the investigation by the New South Wales police, are heartening — they show to the players and spectators that the authorities are determined to stamp out the hideous monster of racism from cricket.

Last year, a report by a university in Florida suggested that incidence of racist abuse of sportspersons has been declining worldwide. This can be traced to the zeitgeist, the spirit of the times — as different societies and racial groups rub against each other regularly, a greater tolerance is fostered. This can be most dramatically seen in the case of Australia — in 1985, when India and Pakistan played in the final of a cricket tournament in Melbourne, a banner in the stands mocked them thus: 'Bus Conductors vs Tram Drivers!' Only 18 years ago, Australian player Darren Lehmann had the temerity to publicly call Sri Lankan cricketers 'black c\*\*\*s'. Yet, we're not moving fast enough — in 2007, spectators at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium called Australia's Andrew Symonds a 'monkey'. Two years ago, Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed called South Africa's Andile Phehlukwayo a 'black man'. Racism is not going anywhere in a hurry.

As can be seen from contests even in same-ethnicity groups, sport is tribal in nature, and this 'war minus the shooting' often incites both fans and sportspersons to act in obnoxious ways. The efforts to make sports arenas nice and welcoming spaces for all are often in conflict with the tribalism inherent in sport. Yet, spectators and sportspersons must be, through harsh punishment if needed, made to follow modern rules of respectful engagement with each other. Punishment to those who abused Indian cricketers in Sydney would send out a strong message in this regard.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

If you make 10,000 regulations, you destroy all respect for the law. — Winston Churchill

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

# The Tribune.

LAHORE, FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1921

### The Behar Provincial League.

IN a recent issue, we published a telegram from Patna stating that a political organisation of those who were opposed to the change in the Congress creed and to the non-co-operation resolution was about to be formed in Behar and that a circular had been issued to that effect over the signatures of Messrs. S. Sinha, Hasan Imam and several other prominent citizens. Since then, another telegram has been published announcing that the League has been actually formed with Mr. Hasan Imam as President and Mr. Sinha as Secretary. The new organisation, the telegram adds, has been started with the object of the attainment of full responsible government by India as a member of the British Commonwealth. Finally, it is stated that the League will not form a part of the All-India Liberal Federation. As the action taken by the Behar leaders is not only important in itself but is likely to find imitators in other parts of the country, it is worthwhile trying to find out what it really means. It is with this object in view that we put the definite question to the organisers whether the formation of the League means that they are going to cut themselves off from the Congress or only that they are henceforth to form a separate party, distinct alike from the non-co-operatives and the moderates. If the second is the case, their action is intelligible. Once differences have arisen, no purpose is served. The first, however, would only make for weakness, and we have a right to expect that men of patriotism like Mr. Hasan Imam, who only the other day presided over a special session of the Congress, and Mr. S. Sinha, who has always been one of the most active and prominent Congress leaders, will declare that its object is the attainment by India of self-government outside the Empire; or it can arise if and when the Congress commits itself to a course of conduct which can only lead to the severance of India from the Empire.

# Fixing the financial sector

Regulation of NBFCs must remain minimal, but effective



SUBIR ROY

SENIOR ECONOMIC ANALYST



IN THE DEEP: While leading NBFCs like IL&amp;FS have gone under, Yes Bank and Lakshmi Vilas Bank have been in serious trouble. PTI

THE serious problems afflicting the Indian financial sector have been highlighted in recent years by the collapse of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) which make up the space of shadow banking, as also the troubles of some banks. On the one hand, leading NBFCs like IL&FS and Dewan Housing have gone under, and on the other, Yes Bank and Lakshmi Vilas Bank have been in serious trouble.

As an economy grows and gets more sophisticated, it must be enabled by a financial sector that moves apace. So, the financial sector needs to be fixed. As the banks are already intensively regulated, central banker RBI has come out with a discussion paper on how it wishes to tone up the regulation of NBFCs.

The key issue to remember is that adding to the regulatory load does not necessarily lead to a better and more orderly functioning of a sector. Excessive regulation stifles innovation and an economy does not grow beyond a point unless new types of institutions and products emerge. So, the regulator has to keep in mind that regulation, as it evolves, must remain as minimal as possible, while remaining effective. It is against this yardstick that the new regulations proposed by the RBI must be judged.

The importance of the NBFCs in the financial system can be gauged from the kind of companies which come under this umbrella. These include housing finance companies (the biggie in this is HDFC), infrastructure finance companies (IL&FS was the kingpin among them while it lived), infrastructure debt funds (those which pool investors' money and

lend to infrastructure projects), core investment companies (those which invest in companies) and stand-alone primary dealers, that is those who operate in financial markets on their own account, not just to executing orders of their clients but trading to take up speculative positions.

The RBI has gone in for NBFC regulation based on scale — the smaller the size, the more minimal the regulation. At the bottom comes the base layer which will have about a thousand companies. Above it comes the middle layer which includes both non-deposit taking and deposit-taking companies. These companies are considered to be 'systemically important'.

An entity is considered systematically important when a development in it can affect the entire financial system. For example, if an NBFC of any size gets into trouble and depositors in it start to fear about the future of their deposits, then fewer sections of the public will come forward to put their savings in NBFCs, even though that would earn them higher interest. On the other hand, if a large NBFC

which has considerable borrowing from a bank runs into trouble, it puts the bank into trouble also.

On top of it comes the most important upper layer which will have around 25 to 30 companies. Importantly, these NBFCs will face about the same kind of regulation as banks. These have been described as 'systemically significant'.

Thereafter at the apex comes the top layer which right now is empty. The RBI's plan is that it will transfer individual NBFCs in trouble into this category and design specific (bespoke) regulatory provisions for them. These will be considered to be those which bear 'elevated systemic risk'. If you look at banks, the NBFCs in this category will be similar to banks that have been subjected by the RBI to 'prompt corrective action' — set your house in order right away.

The regulation will address three issues. It will try to prevent regulatory arbitrage, that is firms trying to take advantage of loopholes in regulations so as to go around regulations which they find unfavourable for their business. This they do by

But even while the RBI lays down a lot of written rules, they are only as good as the supervision which needs to find out if the rules are being followed. For this, it has to critically have its ears close to the ground and listen to the financial gossip!

restructuring transactions. Additionally, they also go in for financial engineering — use quantitative tools of analysis to find systemic loopholes which offer a line of opportunity for a new kind of business. Perhaps most importantly, regulations also try to fight geographical relocation. An NBFC may decide that there is a lot that it can do if it is not a domestic but an overseas company. So it goes ahead and floats a firm in an overseas tax haven which remains a de facto dominant investor in the domestic firm and goes ahead and does business which the domestic firm would not be able to do.

Perhaps the biggest danger that NBFCs pose is through their interconnectedness with banks. A bank finds that it needs more deposits, so it has an NBFC under it to pay higher interest and garner additional deposit. The NBFC then places some of its funds with the parent bank. Conversely, the NBFC finds that it needs funds which are not forthcoming as the average risk averse investor will rather save with a bank and not an NBFC as the latter are not covered by deposit insurance. The parent bank then lends funds to the NBFC under it so as to on lend. The NBFCs can get over 50 per cent of their funding from banks.

This is where the systemic risk comes in. If an NBFC with large borrowing from one or more banks gets into trouble and is unable to repay the bank(s) on time, then the banks can get into trouble. When this news spreads, then other banks can start pulling in the loans they have given to the NBFCs as a way of playing safe. And before long, there can be a liquidity crunch in the financial sector as a whole. There is what we call the domino effect — what the regulator needs to avoid at all costs.

The regulation will address three issues. It will try to prevent regulatory arbitrage, that is firms trying to take advantage of loopholes in regulations so as to go around regulations which they find unfavourable for their business. This they do by

## Hope & resilience in trying times

WG CDR JS BHALLA (RETD)

I AM an octogenarian volunteering as a teacher in a government school in Chandigarh, which despite its limitations, provides education to the poorest of the poor. Quarantined at home for months, the teacher in me missed the school, and the students. After a long, forced hibernation, I was longing to be back with my students, for I regard teaching as my passion.

It was a pleasant morning when I drove down to the school after more than six months of house arrest. I entered the school wearing a mask, now a part of my attire. I climbed the floors and proceeded to my class,

pausing at the door for a few seconds. I was meeting the new batch of class XII for the first time after they had been promoted from class XI during the pandemic.

'Good morning, sir,' they greeted in unison as I entered the class. I curiously looked at the truncated strength of students, clad in masks. Moving in between the rows, I asked them to share their experience about the lockdown. In the relaxed ambience, a girl picked up the courage to narrate her story.

'Sir, I had a shocking experience of Covid-19. My working mother developed severe neck pain during the pandemic. It took 24 hours to obtain a medical pass for visiting a doctor,

The treatment for cervical pain did not give her any relief. We shifted her to a hospital where she was declared to be suffering from bone cancer. I was shaken. Why it had to be my mom?' The pandemic had nothing to do with her mother's illness but the intervening period had seen her mother lose her life.

As the girl struggled to hold back her tears, I remained silent, weighed down by her pain on the very first day of the class that I had volunteered to take after the break. As adults, we have had to make adjustments to face the changed circumstances created by the virus, but even young children have been hit hard, constrained into virtual

classrooms, mixing with friends and other outdoor activities taking a backseat. It will take adjustment of a different kind to cope with the changed reality in which the grownups can only play a facilitator, intervening when needed, while watching the transformation forced by the circumstances. The personal tragedy has given the girl the fortitude and determination to take on the world, but the open space that the school provides may also help her connect, alleviating the pain to some extent. For adults in the autumn of their lives, nothing could be more joyful than watching the spring blossoms, especially after the rigour of a harsh winter.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Disservice to cause

What Deep Sidhu has done is highly condemnable and unforgivable. He has not only brought discredit to the peaceful farmers' movement, but has also done disservice to the innocent and compassionate supporters of the movement. Above all, he has done disservice to the Sikh community which was yet struggling to come clean out of the malicious government propaganda. Sikhs, like all other communities in the world, love their religion, but they also love their country. Deep Sidhu and all the misguided youth should not have been allowed to leave the Red Fort. Why were they not arrested there and then?

LALITA JAGMOHAN SINGH, BY MAIL

#### Why no security?

Refer to the Red Fort incident and the unruly mob; the incident raises many questions: One, why did the Delhi Police allow these marchers passage other than the one decided upon? The video shows that while the protesters were fixing flags, there was no security around. It points to the connivance of the police or the lack of effective control. However, the incident should not be given a communal colour as the intention of the farmers was to conduct a peaceful tractor march.

GURMIT SINGH SAINI, MOHALI

#### 'Andolan' hijacked

As the nation was celebrating its 72nd Republic Day, protesters brandishing sharp-edged weapons, deviating from the designated routes, and driving tractors amok proved that the peaceful 'kisan andolan' had indeed been hijacked and misused by the anti-national forces. These hooligans are riding on the coat-tails of innocent farmers to serve their vested interests. They need to be put behind bars before they further push the entire nation into a chaotic state of anarchy.

UPANT SHARMA, PANCHKULIA

#### Citadel breached

It is shocking to observe that on Republic Day, some goons under the cover of kisan agitation breached the precincts of the Red Fort, a symbol of the country's citadel. While such an act is to be deplored, how was it allowed to happen? It is a sure failure of the police and intelligence authorities. There was no police at the Red Fort to stop the goons from hoisting a religious flag. Alas, it could have been prevented. Earlier, the Fort had a garrison battalion of the Army, but it was the ASI who got it vacated in order to preserve the monument. And lo and behold, they have handed it over to the goons for anti-national activities on a platter. The perpetrators of this

heinous crime must be brought to book at the earliest.

COL MAHESH CHADHA (RETD), BY MAIL

#### Deplorable act

The unfortunate happening on the precincts of the Red Fort is unprecedented in the annals of living memory. Miscreants in the guise of farmers unfurled the flag of a particular religion on the rampart of this historical monument where hitherto only the Tricolour used to be hoisted. Nothing can be more deplorable than this act by some misguided persons. The blame for this horrendous act lies squarely on the shoulders of farmer leaders. Unnecessarily, a chance has been given to the government to label this agitation as that of 'Khalistani' and anti-national elements. Such repugnant acts can only be seen as the beginning of the end of an otherwise very peaceful agitation.

BALBIR SINGH KAKKAR, UK

#### HC order stayed

A perpetrator of child sexual abuse was not held guilty by the Bombay High Court under the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, just because there wasn't any skin-to-skin contact. The Act does not mention disrobing as a factor in the crime of child molestation. This is a matter of violating the bodily integrity of the victim. There should be no ambiguity in child abuse cases, and loopholes, if any, must be plugged at once. It is praiseworthy that the Supreme Court has stayed the High Court order and issued a notice to the Maharashtra Government, besides permitting the Attorney General to file an appeal against the January 19 verdict of the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court.

PS KAUR, BY MAIL

#### Message lost

The farmers' unions planned the unique idea of a tractor parade in Delhi to showcase their concerns in the form of a tableau. Working hard for a disciplined parade, it was a setback for them when an extremist group became violent

Letters to the Editor, typed in double space, should not exceed the 200-word limit. These should be cogently written and can be sent by e-mail to: Letters@tribunemail.com

# President Biden's foreign policy priorities



LUV PURI

JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR

**T**HE flurry of appointments following the swearing-in of Joseph Robinette Biden Jr as the 46th President of the United States of America provides enough cues of the new administration's foreign policy orientations. There will be less shrill rhetoric and more space for diplomacy, though a complete reversal on many issues is impossible due to the structural limitations of the domestic and international systems.

There is enough literature, including articles by President Biden and his team — as many were in think tanks, fellows in various academic institutions or working for various lobbying firms in the past four years — to parse through, to make an assessment of the US foreign policy. In terms of appointments, there is a broad premium on experience, domain expertise, familiarity with the President and the expectation that the appointees will hit the ground running.

Among the heads of 15 executive departments who are Cabinet members, the most important name for the outside world is that of Antony John Blinken, who had served as the Deputy Secretary of State from 2015 to 2017 under President Barack Obama and has now been given the charge of Secretary of State. Closely affiliated to the Democratic establishment through his biological father, who was the US ambassador to

Hungary, Blinken grew up in New York and Paris, where his stepfather reportedly had deep connections with the French political elite. Born to Jewish parents with native fluency in French, he has repeatedly affirmed his strong belief in transatlantic relationships that the US crafted after World War II through NATO and other arrangements.

Nowhere is there greater relief than in France and Germany, the two countries whose political leaderships had frequent disagreements with President Trump on a host of issues. The combined power of the US-Europe alliance gives a crucial leverage to the two on tricky global issues, like the multi-faceted China challenge, Russia or engaging with various aspects of the Middle East's peace and security issues.

At a practical level, both France and Germany have considerable weight because of different reasons. Germany, apart from being the economic power of Europe, is the fourth largest spender in the UN. It works in unison with the US in various parts of the world, particularly on Afghanistan. France is known for its diplomatic and military capabilities in its erstwhile colonies in Africa as well as some countries in the Middle East.

The selection of former US ambassador to the UN and journalist Samantha Power, who shares an Irish Catholic background with Biden, as the head of USAID — responsible for administering civilian foreign aid and development assistance — is a recognition of her passion and also demonstrates a strong push to renew the US commitment to international aid, particularly in Africa. Those who have followed her role as the US ambassador to the UN, including Security Council briefings on issues in Africa and the violence perpetuated against



ASSESSMENT: There will be more space for diplomacy under Joe Biden, though a complete reversal on issues is impossible. REUTERS

Middle East and Asia are the two foreign policy theatres which will immediately test

**President Biden. The Indo-Pacific strategy, firmed up during the Trump era, enjoys a bipartisan consensus with the knowledge pool in Australia, Japan, India and the US already at work on how to continue to make this a functional, multi-dimensional deterrence mechanism against China's overzealous militaristic designs.**

the Rohingya in Myanmar, know that her respect for human rights is a strong component of her diplomacy and there is little beating around the bush in her crispy delivery.

The appointment of the US ambassador to UN, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, a known expert on Africa with more than three decades as a career diplomat, makes her one of the most qualified leaders in that role. According to the New York-based International Peace Institute, in 2018, over 50 per cent of the Security Council meetings, 60 per cent of its outcome documents, and 70 per cent of its resolutions with Chapter VII mandates concerned African peace and security issues.

The Middle East and Asia are the two foreign policy theatres which will immediately test President Biden. Bringing back Iran to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) will involve a number of steps, including rebuilding the trust with the Iranian leadership that got severely hit after the decision taken by the Trump

administration to withdraw from the nuclear deal which was followed by the 2020 assassination of Qasem Soleimani.

Though there is little scope for a complete revision in the overall Middle East strategy, a withdrawal of support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen is expected as the situation has caused a humanitarian crisis and embarrassment to the US. Facilitated by the Trump administration, the accords between Israel and Bahrain, and Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) carry some weight, but there is little expectation of a major breakthrough on thorny issues like Israel-Palestine. Internal détente within the relatively richer Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries has already taken place as Saudi Arabia decided to end the 2017 blockade of Qatar.

Coming to Asia, President Biden mentioned in his 2020 March-April article in *Foreign Affairs* that "China can't afford to ignore more than half the global economy. That gives us substantial

leverage to shape the rules of the road on everything from the environment to labour, trade, technology and transparency, so they continue to reflect democratic interests and values."

The China policy seems to be predicated on acknowledgment that China's economic and even population size cannot be ignored and decoupling from China is impossible. At the same time, the Indo-Pacific strategy, firmed up during the Trump era, enjoys a bipartisan consensus with the knowledge pool in Australia, Japan, India and the US already at work on how to continue to make this a functional, multi-dimensional deterrence mechanism against China's overzealous militaristic designs.

Overriding all this will be an interplay of domestic factors that will continue to impact President Biden's foreign policy orientations. The progressive component of the Democratic Party's base dominated by millennials and Generation Z will be keen that the human rights component of the US diplomacy is more visible. This will be counterpoised by the fact that 74 million Americans voted for former President Trump and are more insular on issues of foreign policy.

Several issues, like the much-needed immigration reforms that could quickly give citizenship to about 11 million people without legal status, majority of whom are from different countries in Central Asia, will be pursued with caution to avoid backlash from the conservatives in the mid-term elections that are two years from now. The political priority will be to have Democratic Party's control of Congress and Senate, given the present 50-50 balance in the Senate and the razor-thin, six-vote Democratic Party majority in the House, and this reality will directly impact the foreign policy impulses.

## Covid-19 vaccines, drug trials hold out hope



KK TALWAR

FORMER DIRECTOR, PGIMER

**T**HE year 2020 shall be remembered as the year of Covid-19, a viral disease which affected and shook the whole world in less than three months. The world still does not know exactly how this virus originated in the city of Wuhan in China in December 2019; the highly contagious nature of the virus was also not realised by the local experts and the WHO, and thus, effective preventive steps like restrictions on travel were not taken initially to control its spread globally.

This fast-spreading viral disease diversely affected society all over and was declared a pandemic by the WHO in March 2020. Though most of the patients are mildly symptomatic, 15-20% are moderately to severely symptomatic. Many precious lives were prematurely lost as there was no definite treatment to cure this disease. The helplessness of the medical community understandably terrified the people.

Realising the lack of a medical solution, lockdowns were imposed in most countries to control its spread. This certainly helped to control the initial spread and gave time to strengthen hospital care facilities to face this unusual health crisis. But of course, the lockdowns and other restrictions caused serious collateral damage to the economy and the social system. Many lost their jobs and livelihood. The photographs of migrants travelling hundreds of kilometres on foot to their far-off homes because of the loss of jobs still send shivers down the spine. The subsequent



SAFETY NEEDED: Quick approval of vaccines for coronavirus has created mistrust. REUTERS

restrictions imposed for control of spread of this virus still continue to affect the social and business activities of the country. The mental agony of those who contracted this virus and their families is unimaginable.

Since then, the medical community has worked tirelessly to understand this disease and find medical solutions. But all these efforts until now have failed to find the right medicine to prevent or effectively treat this disease. Of course, growing understanding of the pathogenesis and course of the disease has helped to adopt some therapeutic approaches which have saved some patients in the absence of any effective anti-viral drug.

Not surprisingly, the innovative and heroic efforts of the medical

researchers to find new effective drugs and vaccines have produced results. A few effective vaccines, based on their safety and efficacy studies, have been granted emergency use authorisation (EUA) approval. Two vaccines — from Pfizer and Moderna — based on the new mRNA platform, have been approved in the UK, US, and other parts of Europe. The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine has also been approved in the US and the UK. In India, the Oxford and the Bharat Biotech vaccines have also been approved. These vaccines have presently been approved for EUA in view of the limited experience of their long-term safety and effectiveness.

The Russian and Chinese vaccines have also given approval in their respective countries. Many more vaccines are under study and only time will tell which vaccine proves to be ideal for this disease. All the approved vaccines need two doses, varying from 14 to 28 days for the second one. Normally, it takes nearly a decade for the approval of a vaccine, but all this has presently happened in 10 months, highly creditable for medical scientists. This ensures the biggest hope of 2021, to control this pandemic. But this unprecedented speed to approve the vaccine has generated mistrust regarding the safety and long-term immunity protection. The initial data does ensure safety, but how long the immunity passport lasts, we shall learn only with time. The only precaution is to avoid certain categories like the young (below 18 years), pregnant women and those with an allergic background. The general instruction to observe a vaccinated person for 30 minutes in the hospital is to handle such rare allergic reaction.

Though the vaccines are expected to control the spread of the disease, recent observations detecting significant mutations (UK and South African variants) in the virus have raised concern about the effectiveness of the available vaccines for the mutant strains. This has caused immense distress at a time when the availability of vaccine has brought comfort and hope to society. Still, it has been emphasised that these mutations do not affect the efficacy of the presently approved vaccines. The variant strains have been shown to be

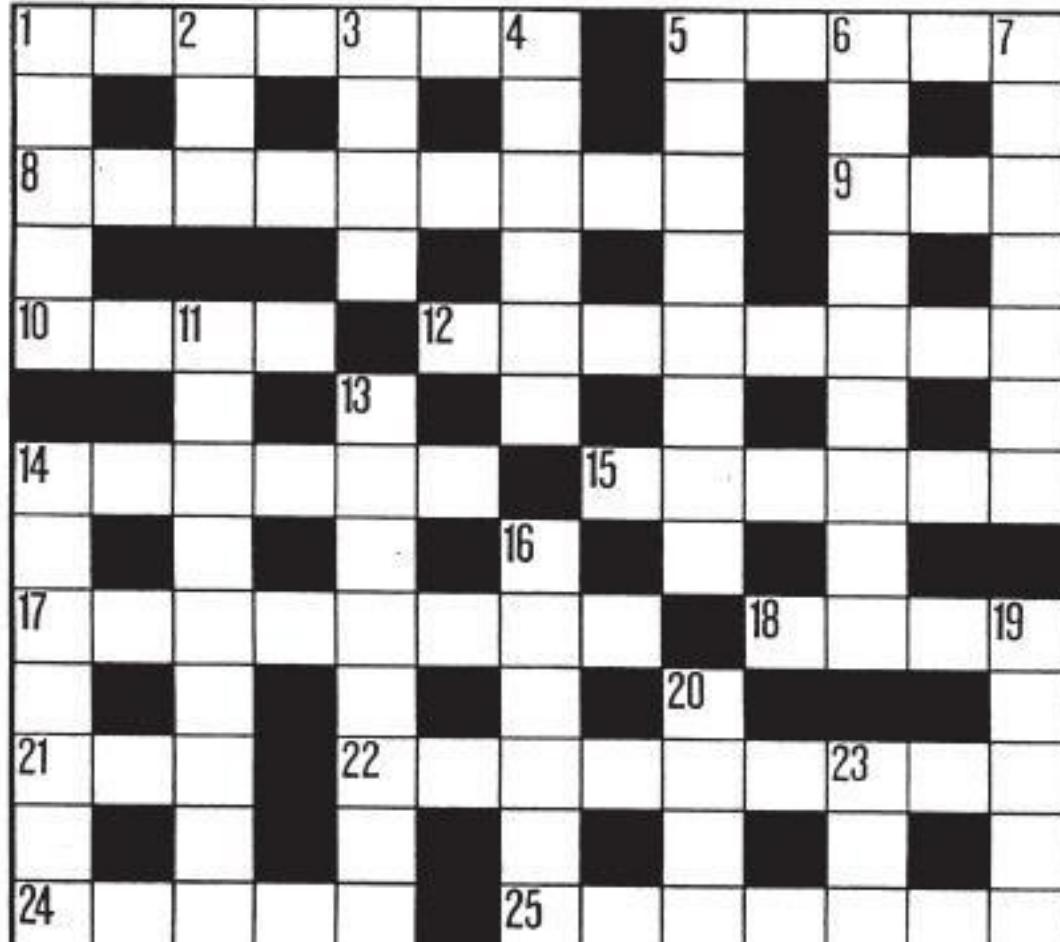
more contagious, but it is not clear if these are more pathogenic. Needless to say, we need to be cautious about any future pathogenic mutations.

Efforts to produce effective antiviral drugs are on. New anti-viral drugs like Umifenovir and Sofosbuvir, which are going through phase 2 trials, appear promising. IL6 receptor antagonist viz Sarilumab and Tocilizumab are being evaluated and found promising in severe Covid-19 cases (in Cytokine storm). Similarly, JAK inhibitors like Baricitinib and Ruxolitinib are also being evaluated and have shown promising results in severe Covid cases. Another approach of infusing a monoclonal antibody cocktail (neutralising antibody combination) has also been shown to control deterioration from moderate to severe state. Their phase III trials are still on. Thus, we hope to have an effective antiviral drug, IL 6 inhibitors and monoclonal antibody, to treat these patients.

Thus, 2021 offers new hope and optimism over having an effective drug in the near future in addition to a vaccine to control this pandemic.

Till the vaccines are freely available and over 60% of the population is inoculated, which will result in herd immunity, we need to be cautious and take preventive steps. The protective measures for Covid-19, including the use of a mask, social distancing, hand hygiene and avoiding closed and crowded places, need to be adopted as our social vaccine to save ourselves from the coronavirus.

### QUICK CROSSWORD

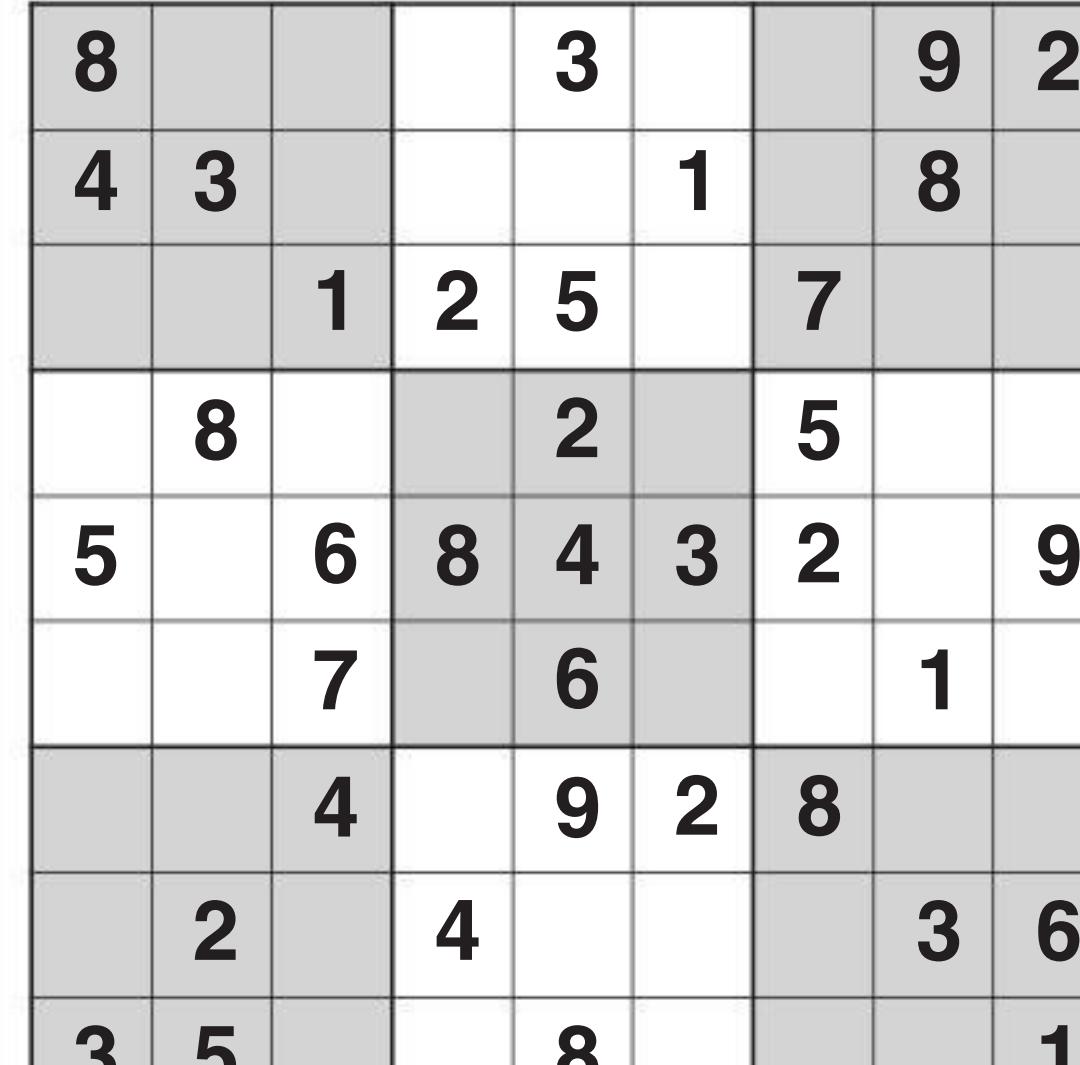


YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Sapphire, 5 Club, 9 Utter, 10 Furious, 11 Make ends meet, 13 Allure, 14 Ignite, 17 Stand a chance, 20 Balance, 21 Noise, 22 Elbe, 23 Dead heat.

Down: 1 Soul, 2 Pitfall, 3 Horse-trading, 4 Refine, 6 Loose, 7 Besotted, 8 Cross-grained, 12 Passable, 15 Incline, 16 Accede, 18 Ad lib, 19 Feat.

### SU DO KU



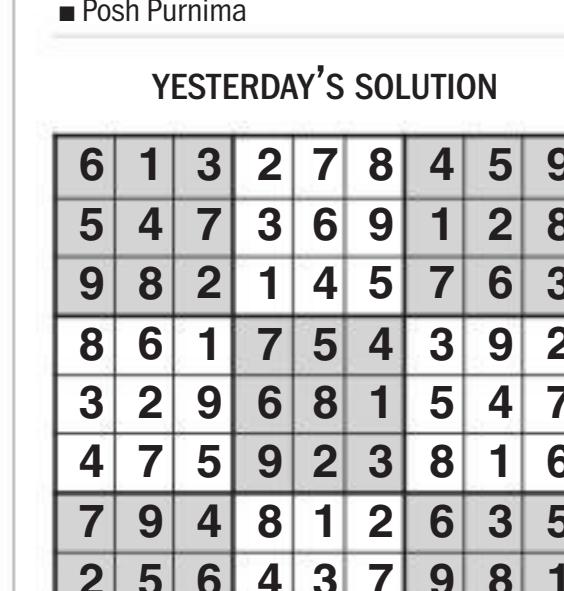
V EASY

### CALENDAR

JANUARY 28, 2021, THURSDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Magh Shaka	8
■ Magh Parvishtha	15
■ Hijri	1442
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 15, up to 12.46 am	
■ Priti Yoga up to 7.24 pm	
■ Pushya Nakshatra up to 3.51 am	
■ Moon in Cancer sign	
■ Posh Purnima	

### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



### FORECAST

SUNSET: THURSDAY 17:55 HRS

SUNRISE: FRIDAY 07:16 HRS

Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Rainy	Foggy
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CITY MAX MIN

Chandigarh	18	06	○
New Delhi	21	04	○
Amritsar	19	02	○
Bathinda	19	02	○
Jalandhar	19	04	○
Ludhiana	20	04	○
Bhiwani	19	05	○
Hisar	19	05	○
Sirsia	19	04	○
Dharamsala	16	03	○
Manali	11	-02	○
Shimla	15	04	○
Srinagar	06	-02	○
Jammu	20	06	○
Kargil	-09	-16	○
Leh	-09	-19	○
Dehradun	23	07	○
Mussoorie	14	03	○

TEMPERATURE IN °C

**NOTICE FOR FIXED DEPOSIT**

Haryana Labour Welfare Board, Bays No. 29-30, Sec-4, Panchkula intends to invest an approximate amount of Rs. 1 Crore to Rs. 35 Crores either in Fixed Deposit or in savings Account on dated 05.02.2021 for one year. All the banks empanelled for transacting Government business vide letter No. IF/CC/RO/FUNDS/2013/2657 dated 05.11.2013 are requested to submit rates of interest for various Slabs for the aforesaid amounts, in the name of Welfare Commissioner, Haryana in a sealed envelope on or before 12:00 Noon on 05.02.2021.

Sd/- Accounts Officer,  
For Welfare Commissioner, Haryana.

PRDH/2235/11/2021/1568/31/4

**DAKSHIN HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM  
GENERAL INFORMATION**

All the generals are informed that Shri Sukhbir Kamboj, Executive Engineer of Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam, remained suspended since 2018 has been dismissed from the Nigam's services under the DHBVN Employees (Punishment & Appeal) Regulations, for being found guilty for undue benefits to the contractor after investigation.

Sd/- Managing Director,  
DHBVN, Hisar

**HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION**  
**Bays No. 67-70, Sec.-2, Panchkula - 134151**  
**(Website: www.hssc.gov.in)****PUBLIC NOTICE****NOTICE TO THE CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF ART & CRAFTS TEACHER, AGAINST ADVT. NO. 06/2006, CAT. NO. 22 OF EDUCATION DEPTT. HARYANA AND PHARMACIST OF HEALTH DEPTT. HARYANA AGAINST ADVT. NO. 15/2019, CAT. NO. 05.**

Reference Haryana Staff Selection Commission Written Examination (OMR Based) Notice Dated: 28.12.2020 & 30.12.2020 which was published in various Leading Newspapers of Hindi & English and also uploaded on the Commission's website for holding the written Examination for the Post of Art & Crafts Teacher, against Advt No. 06/2006, Cat No. 22 and Pharmacist of Health Deptt. Haryana against Advt. No. 15/2019, Cat. No. 05 for which the written examination is to be held on 31.01.2021 Sunday (Morning & Evening Session).

It is for information of all concerned Candidates that they can download their Admit Card from 27.01.2021 onwards.

Sd/- Secretary,  
Haryana Staff Selection Commission,  
Panchkula.

Place:- Panchkula

Dated:- 25th January, 2021

Plot No. 2A, Sector-28A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh 160002  
Phone: 0172 2651561, 2657472 CIN: U51219CH1966SGC002630  
www.punjabagro.gov.in

**NOTICE INVITING BIDS****Bid Number-1**

Tender bids are invited from eligible bidders for the project/works detailed in the following table:

Name of Equipments	Earliest Money (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Approx. Rate (in Rs.)
Setting up Microbiology section and installation of equipment on turnkey basis at Mega Food Park, Ladhawal, Ludhiana, Punjab.	Rs. 25,000/-	45 days	To be furnished by the bidder

Last date for submission of online bid is 11.02.2021 up to 11.00 AM. Technical bids will be opened on the same day at 2.00 PM. Date for opening of financial bids will be intimated after evaluation of technical bids. Details of the tender can be downloaded from <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. For any clarification, please send an email at testinglab.mfp.palc@punjab.gov.in, bhupinder.singh28@punjab.gov.in or contact us at: 9914500655, 9779264221

General Manager, Mega Food Park

**Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions  
Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances****National Awards for e-Governance 2020-21****NOTICE INVITING NOMINATIONS**

With a view to recognize and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives, the Government of India presents National Awards for e-Governance every year.

Nominations are invited from Central Ministries/Departments, State/UT Governments, Districts, Local Bodies, Central and State PSUs, Academic and Research Institutions (whether government or non-government) for consideration in 6 categories as per eligibility criteria detailed in the Award Scheme.

Modalities for sending nomination along with Guidelines and other details of the Award Scheme are available on the Department's website [www.darpg.gov.in](http://www.darpg.gov.in) / [www.nceg.gov.in](http://www.nceg.gov.in). All nominations are to be submitted online as per details given in the Award Scheme. Nominations sent by email/hand/post/courier/fax or any other form of hard copy shall not be taken into cognizance.

Last date for submission of Nominations:- **26.02.2021**.

Contact Details: Ms. Vibhuti Panjwani, Under Secretary (e-Gov), Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, 5th Floor, Sardar Patel Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi — 110001. email: [vibhuti.panjwani@nic.in](mailto:vibhuti.panjwani@nic.in); Tel. +91-11-23367966.

davp 32101/11/0002/2021

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA****TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH.	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP./AUTH.	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/E-MAIL
1	THE KARNAL COOP. SUGAR MILLS LTD., KARNAL	INSTALLATION OF GREEN HOUSE AND POLY NET HOUSE OF TISSUE CULTURE LAB	28.01.2021 25.02.2021	2 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0184-2283167 karnalsugarmill@gmail.com
2	HSAMB, PIPLI, KURUKSHETRA	RE-CONST. OF L/R FROM JOGI MAJRA TO GHILLOUR MAJRI ROAD IN M.C., LADWA + 1 OTHER WORK	27.01.2021 09.02.2021	49.01 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01744-231420 xenkk2019@gmail.com
3	HARYANA STATE HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, PANCHKULA	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER STORAGE TANK OF SIZE (60FT X 50FT X 10FT) AT COE FOR FLOWER CULTIVATION AND SEED PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY AT MUNIPUR, JHAJJAR	CLOSING DATE 04.02.2021	EMD 9000/-	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2587570 jdhn-hry@nic.in
4	M.C., SONIPAT	ESTIMATE FOR REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING SEWER LINE AT GANDHI CHOWKADAR NAGAR INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BRICK MASONRY MANHOLES & OTHER CONNECTED WORKS UNDER M.C. SONIPAT	CLOSING DATE 19.02.2021	81.02 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	cemsconepat@gmail.com
5	HSAMB, HISAR	SITE OF AC AND OTHER ACCESS OF REST HOUSE IN NGM BHIWANI + 3 OTHER WORKS	25.01.2021 15.02.2021	41.61 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9812100311 xenelectchiar2018.hsamb@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

**2 AROs suspended for dereliction of duty**

**NURPUR** The State Election Commission has suspended two Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) for dereliction of duty during the counting of votes for the posts of pradhan of gram panchayats. — OC

**Active Covid-19 cases fall below 300 mark**

Only 50 hospitalised, less than 50 cases reported daily

**Tribune News Service****RECOVERY RATE 97.5%**

SHIMLA, JANUARY 27

The active Covid cases have fallen below 300 with around 50 patients in hospitals. After a spike in October-November last year, Covid cases have been declining. On an average, less than 50 cases are being reported daily with only one or two deaths.

Amitabh Awasthy, Secretary (Health), attributed the decline in the cases to the strict adherence to social-distancing norms. "If the trend continues, the active cases can soon be in double digits," he said. He added that the recovery rate stood at 97.50 per cent and active cases percentage was only 0.7 per cent.

"There are 296 active cases in the state with about 40 being admitted to three medical colleges in Shimla, Mandi and Kangra. You can imagine the number of Covid patients in other hospitals across the state," he said. He added that the

Health Department was closely monitoring the situation, especially in view of the fact that there were big gatherings and celebrations during the panchayat elections.

Almost close to 4,000 testing is being done every day, the figure has come down slightly due to holidays. Sources said if the number of cases remained below 50 daily, the testing could also be reduced after February 15. However, the department would not take any chances and wait till February as it apprehended that the gathering during the elections could lead to some increase in the cases.

Awasthy said that the department was endeavouring to achieve the target of 70 per cent vaccination of healthcare workers.

**3 trekkers rescued in Hamta area****OUR CORRESPONDENT**

KULLU, JANUARY 27

Three tourists, who had gone for trekking in Hamta area near Manali, were rescued by the police in the wee hours today.

Shahid (32) and Imran Khan (22) from New Delhi and Rehan (12) of Rajasthan set out on a trek without a local guide and wandered into the jungles yesterday.

They lost their way in the snow-covered forest and were left stranded. Kullu SP Gaurav Singh said the control room at Manali Police Station received information at night that some tourists are stranded in the forest near Hamta. He said that a team led by head constable Rajesh left for Hamta area and conducted search operations with the help of local people throughout the night in Saithan, Pandu Ropa, Dam site, etc.

The team was able to spot the stranded tourists in a forest, about 2 km below Saithan, in the wee hours today. They were brought them back safely to Manali.

The SP urged the tourists to visit the high mountainous areas only when weather conditions were favourable and that too with the help of trained local guides.

**R-Day honour for 2 officers****Lt Gen Shukla awarded PVSM**

SHIMLA, JANUARY 27

Shimla lad Capt Sachit Sharma of the Assault Engineer Regiment was the Contingent Commander of BLT T-72 tank

for the Republic Day parade in New Delhi. The tank carries a bridge of span 20 metres.

A passout of St Edwards School, Shimla, in 2012, Capt Sachit completed his Civil Engineering from Jaypee University of Information Technology, Solan, in 2016. His father Dr Manoj Sharma is Additional Director, Himachal Tourism, and his grandfather TR Sharma was an IAS officer.

Meanwhile, the President

conferred on Inspector General Dev Raj Sharma the prestigious Tatratshak medal for the distinguished service.

Sharma hails from Sanjauli and is posted as Dy

Director General (Tech) of the Indian Coast Guard Eastern Sea Board. The flag officer had also been awarded Tatratshak medal for the meritorious service in 1997. — TNS

Western Sector. He assumed the charge of GOC-in-C, ARTRAC, on May 1, 2020. The General is involved in restructuring the training pedagogy of the armed forces. — TNS

**Nadaun artisan gets Padma Shri****DINESH KANWAR**

HAMIRPUR, JANUARY 27

Artisan Kartar Singh Sonkhle, who created miniatures of historical buildings and celebrities in glass bottles, has been awarded Padma Shri by the Union Government in the category of art, as announced on the evening of January 25.

A retired pharmacist from the Health Department, Sonkhle has been awarded Padma Shri for his exceptional skill of making miniatures in bottles with bamboo sticks. Some of them include busts of former President late APJ Abdul Kalam Azad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Eiffel Tower, Shimla Church etc. He is at present living at Nauhangi village in Nadaun



Kartar Singh Sonkhle

Is known for making miniatures in bottles with bamboo sticks

subdivision of the district. Sonkhle, while speaking to mediapersons at his residence, said that doing exceptional things was his hobby and he tried to create miniatures of buildings and humans in bottles about 20 years ago. He added that it was quite difficult in the beginning but practice helped him attain perfection. He said a local NGO first acknowledged his art in 2017 and he was conferred with the Hamir Gaurav Award. He was later called to participate in an exhibition organised by the state government in Shimla.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

PRDH/13/2021/100/1560/I/31/4

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

PRDH/13/2021/100/1560/I/31/4

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PRDH/13/2021/100/1560/I/31/4

FOR FURT





## Ganguly in hospital

KOLKATA, JANUARY 27 Sourav Ganguly, former India captain and the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), was rushed to a hospital here today after he complained of uneasiness and chest pain last night. His condition is stable now, doctors said.

"Sourav Ganguly, 48, has come for a checkup of his cardiac condition. There is no change in his parameters since his last hospitalisation and his vital parameters are stable," a hospital statement said.

According to sources at the hospital, Ganguly has undergone an echocardiogram test. He will undergo an angiogram test tomorrow, doctors said.

Ganguly reported chest pain yesterday night and as he continued to feel unwell even today morning, his family members decided to shift him to the hospital.

Ganguly had suffered a blackout while working out at his personal gym earlier this month. Ganguly had undergone an angioplasty before being discharged from the hospital on January 7.—PTI

# Argentina edge out India 3-2

India concede two late goals against world No. 2 side

BUENOS AIRES, JANUARY 27 The Indian women's hockey team put up a valiant fight before losing 2-3 to world No. 2 Argentina in a thrilling match here. This was India's first match with the national team after matches with Argentina's junior and B teams.

Goals from Sharmila (34th) and Gurjot Kaur (40th) helped India move ahead after the hosts had scored in the 25th minute through Micaela Retegui. However, Argentina came up with back-to-back strikes in the final quarter through Augustina Gorzelany (50th) and Granatto Maria (57th) to eke out the win.

Argentina put No. 9 India on the back foot early in the match, earning a penalty corner in the sixth minute, but goalkeeper Savita made a splendid save to ward off danger.

Argentina continued to



push for opportunities all through the second quarter too, creating PCs in the 21st and 23rd minutes but India's defence held firm.

It was Retegui who put the home team ahead in the 25th minute with a swiftly converted goal. After the halftime break, India made a strong comeback, playing in a disciplined structure,

closing the gaps in the 25-yard mark, and not allowing Argentina to make easy forays into their circle.

The forward-line, in the meantime, hunted for goals and succeeded in the 34th minute when Navjot Kaur set up young forward Sharmila to make the strike. Though Argentina earned a PC in the 38th

minute, India did well to hold the home team at 1-1.

In the 40th minute, India's lone drag-flicker Gurjot Kaur set up a crucial 2-1 lead with a powerfully struck goal.

In the following minutes, both India and Argentina traded a PC each, but none managed to convert. It was eventually a penalty stroke awarded to Argentina in the

### We were close: Coach

"We were close to a win but against an opponent like Argentina, you have to stay concentrated till the final hooter. The biggest take away from this match is to keep up the consistency in all four quarters," said chief coach Sjoerd Marijne.

"After we scored 2-1 lead, we were in a few situations where we could have stayed calmer and try to increase the goal-difference by scoring more," said Marijne. "Against a team like Argentina, you have to lead by more than a goal to secure a win else they will catch-up. These are valuable lessons for us, and this is what we would like to improve in the next game," he added.

Sharmila scored the equaliser in the 34th minute.

## SHIMLA JAL PRABANDHAN NIGAM LIMITED

### Water Distribution Division

Mail: agmwd.sjpnl4@gmail.com Tel. 0177-2920015

### Notice Inviting Tender

Sealed item rate offline tenders on form 6 & 8 are hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from the eligible registered contractors in any department/Government undertaking of appropriate class for 14 Nos. works. Details i.e. name of works terms and conditions are available on SJPNL website [www.sjpnl.com](http://www.sjpnl.com). The tender forms can be had from this office against cash payment (Non-refundable) up to 04.02.2021 till 04:00 PM.

Additional General Manager  
Water Distribution Division, SJPNL  
US Club Shimla-171001

DPR/HP/680

## Haryana State Rural Livelihoods Mission

### SCO-19, 1st & 2nd Floor, Sector-16, Panchkula.

Telephone No. 0172-2587590,

E-mail ID: ceohsrlm@gmail.com

Website: [www.hsrlm.gov.in](http://www.hsrlm.gov.in)

### Notice Inviting Proposal for E-marketing

We invite the Proposal for e-marketing from the established NGOs/Societies/Institutions/firms or reputed individuals who are in the business of e-marketing. They will assist us in e-marketing of products of Self Help Groups. They may submit their proposals introducing themselves through registered mail/e-mail/in person before 31.03.2021 (one A4 page in legible handwritten or typed in Hindi/English). They may be called to discuss the way for further activities.

Sd/- Director General, R.D.-cum-CEO, HSRLM, Panchkula.

PRDH/1096/11/4/2021/1563/31/4

MSTY पालन विभाग, हरियाणा में आउटसोर्सिंग

पॉलिसी-II के अंतर्गत स्टाफ की नियुक्ति हेतु सूचना

मस्त्य पालन विभाग, हरियाणा में मस्त्य अधिकारी के 35 वित्त पदों को एक वर्ष अथवा नियुक्ति तक जो भी पहले हो, आउटसोर्सिंग पॉलिसी-II के अंतर्गत भारत जान प्रस्तुति है, जिसका विवरण एवं शर्तें निम्न प्रतर हैं :

क्र.	पद	पदों की संख्या	अनिवार्य योग्यताएं	नियुक्ति का स्थान
1.	मस्त्य अधिकारी	Gen. ESM	- 14 1. B.Sc. Zoology or B.F.Sc. (Bachelor of Science in Fishery Science) as one of 02 elor of Fishery Science)	मस्त्य पालन विभाग, हरियाणा के किसी भी क्षेत्रमें कायालाल में
	श्रेणी-III	EWS	- 04 the subject as its equivalent	
	वेतन	SC	- 05 2. Hindi upto Matric standard	
	35400/-	SC ESM	- 01 3. Age Limit 17 to 42 Years.	
	प्रति माह	SC Sports	- 01 laxation in age as per Govt. instructions.	
(Fixed)	BCA	BC ESM	- 03 structions.	
	BCB	BCB ESM	- 01 Note : Candidate possessing the 02 Degree of M.Sc. Zoology with specialization Fish & Fisheries or	
	BCA	BCA Sports	- 01 M.F.Sc. will be preferred.	
			Total = 35	

अतः इच्छुक उम्मीदवार दिनांक 05.02.2021 को सभ्य 04.00 बजे तक निचे स्तर पर उपस्थित होकर अपने दस्तावेज़ सुझाव कायालाल बैज़ नं. 31-32, संकर-4, पंचकुला में जमा कर सकते हैं। ये पर्याप्तान्तर्गत अधिकारी आधार पर भर्ती जाने हैं तथा इनकी सेवाएं किसी भी समय विनाकारी नोटिस के समाप्त निम्न प्रतर हैं :

नोट : उम्मीदवार सूचना मस्त्य पालन विभाग, हरियाणा, पंचकुला की वेबसाइट [www.harfish.gov.in](http://www.harfish.gov.in) पर भर उपरोक्त है।

PRDH-1041/11/2/2021/1548/31/4 निदेशक, मस्त्य पालन विभाग, हरियाणा, पंचकुला

## Punjab enter semis; Advantage Pak after Alam ton

### HP, Haryana lose

#### SYED MUSHTAQ TROPHY

AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 27

Punjab knocked defending champions Karnataka out of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy after a nine-wicket win in the quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, India captain Virat Kohli and senior batsman Rohit Sharma retained their No. 1 and 2 positions, respectively, in the ICC rankings for ODI batsmen. Among the bowlers, pacer Jasprit Bumrah remained at the third spot.

PUNJAB  
Man City roar to summit, West Ham in top four  
If their Premier League title rivals hoped the absence of injured Kevin De Bruyne might slow down Manchester City's charge they were left disappointed yesterday as Pep Guardiola's side annihilated West Bromwich Albion 5-0 to go top. It was City's 11th successive win in all competitions. West Ham's fourth successive league win, a 3-2 victory at Crystal Palace, moved them above Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool. Arsenal avenged Saturday's FA Cup defeat by Southampton to beat the Saints 3-1 – their fifth win in six league games moving them up to eighth. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV  
ISL  
HYDERABAD VS BENGALURU  
STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

EPL  
TOTTENHAM VS LIVERPOOL  
STAR SPORTS 1:45AM (FRIDAY)

BADMINTON  
BWF WORLD TOUR FINALS  
STAR SPORTS 9:30AM

early but Prabhsimran Singh (49 not out) and Mandeep Singh (35 not out) took the team home.

**Solanki shines**  
Tamil Nadu defeated Himachal Pradesh by five wickets. After restricting HP to 159/9, TN rode on Baba Aparajith's unbeaten 52 to overhaul the target in 17.5 overs. Vishnu Solanki helped Baroda pull off a heist against Haryana, with a 71, which included a six off the game's final ball, to fire his team into the semifinals. Baroda first restricted Haryana to 148/7 before Solanki hammered four fours and five sixes in his 46-ball unbeaten knock to get his team over the line after 18 runs were needed off the final over.

In reply, Punjab lost opener Abhishek Sharma (4) better in training before I came here," Srikanth said. "I had my chances today, I could have won from 17-16 in the third. Main motto for me is to play as many matches as possible, because I haven't been winning matches over the last two years. So, I really want to play matches with the top-eight players."

Olympics silver medallist Srikanth, who had won the title in 2018, will next play home favourite Ratchanok Intanon, who had handed her a humiliating defeat last week, while Srikanth, ranked 14th, will face fourth seed Wang Tzu Wei of Taiwan on Thursday. —PTI

KARACHI, JANUARY 27 Fawad Alam's third Test century put Pakistan in charge on the second day of the first Test against South Africa today. The 35-year-old Alam hit nine fours and two sixes in a patient 109 off 245 balls, compiled in just under six hours, to help his team reach 308/8 at stumps.

Faheem Ashraf also scored a fluent 64 off 84 balls as Pakistan opened up a first-innings lead of 88 runs on a slow wicket. He and Alam shared a stand of 102 for the seventh wicket. At stumps, debutant Nauman Ali was 6 not out and Hasan Ali, who was bowled by Keshav Maharaj off a no-ball late in the day, was unbeaten on 11.

Alam, who bats in an unorthodox style and exposes all three stumps to the bowler, was out in the last

session when he flicked a ball from Lungi Ngidi (2/55) straight to midwicket. Pakistan was in trouble overnight on 33/4 after South Africa had been skittled out for 220 on an eventful first day when 14 wickets fell on an uneven wicket.

But Alam showed a lot of determination to keep the Proteas at bay. The home team went close to dismissing him for 35 just before lunch when Dean Elgar failed to hold onto a sharp low catch in the slips.

Alam had long been ignored by Pakistan after scoring a debut Test hundred against Sri Lanka in 2009. He finally got his chance against England last year and the left-handed batsman made his second Test century, 11 years after his first, against New Zealand last month. —AP/PTI

## Sindhu, Srikanth lose openers

#### WORLD TOUR FINALS

BANGKOK, JANUARY 27

Top Indian badminton players PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth fought their hearts out before suffering close defeats in their respective Group B opening matches at the \$1.5 million HSBC BWF World Tour Finals here today.

A week after a demoralising defeat at the Thailand Open quarterfinals, world champion Sindhu produced a much-improved performance but still lost to world No. 1 Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan 21-19 12-21 17-21. It was Sindhu's 16th defeat to Tzu Ying in 21 meetings. "It was a good match,

there were no easy points. In the third game I came back and it was just one point difference at one stage. I broke my racquet strings twice (during rallies) and that made a difference," Sindhu said. "It's a tough group. I have to give 100 per cent."

**Srikanth beaten**  
Former world No. 1 one Srikanth too squandered an opening game advantage, losing 21-15 16-21 18-21 to world No. 3 Anders Antonsen of Denmark in a grueling 77-minute contest.

"I can't say I'm happy with the way I played today, because I was playing much

better in training before I came here," Srikanth said. "I had my chances today, I could have won from 17-16 in the third. Main motto for me is to play as many matches as possible, because I haven't been winning matches over the last two years. So, I really want to play matches with the top-eight players."

Olympics silver medallist Srikanth, who had won the title in 2018, will next play home favourite Ratchanok Intanon, who had handed her a humiliating defeat last week, while Srikanth, ranked 14th, will face fourth seed Wang Tzu Wei of Taiwan on Thursday. —PTI

#### DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Website: <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

#### SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Dated 23.01.2021

#### SECURE ONLINE SUBMISSION OF TENDERS

E-tender on Agreement basis are hereby invited on behalf of the Governor of Punjab for 2 Nos. works for concrete lining of Kandi Canal Stage-I through our website [https://eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in) from approved and eligible Contractor/Agencies registered with Punjab Irrigation Department and only those L&C Societies who are registered only with Punjab PWD (B&R) Department as per notification of Punjab Govt. Department of Co-operation (Co-operation-I Branch) No. 76/27/2014 dated 02.10.2014 bidding process as per detail given below:

#### Bidding Process

Events	a) Starting	Dated	Time



<tbl

# India only major economy to see double-digit growth in 2021: IMF

Says farm laws fine, but govt must provide social security net

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

## 'PROTECT THOSE WHO CAN BE IMPACTED'

Farm laws have the potential to represent a significant step forward for agricultural reforms in India. But the govt must properly protect those who can be impacted during the transition to this new system. **Gita Gopinath, IMF CHIEF ECONOMIST**



ing they have the potential to represent a significant step forward for agricultural reforms in India. But the government must properly protect those who could be impacted during the transition to this new system as well as strengthen the social safety net, said IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath. She was basically reiterating the observations by IMF spokesperson Gerry Rice on January 15.

"The measures will enable farmers to directly contract with sellers, allow farmers to retain a greater share of the surplus by reducing the role of middle men, enhance efficiency and support rural growth," she said.

The net may require further strengthening so as to ensure that the job market can accommodate those that may be impacted by the reforms.

"And of course, the growth

benefits of these reforms will depend, critically, on the effectiveness and the timing of their implementation, so need to pay attention to those issues as well with the reform," her colleague Rice had observed.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has also commended India for decisive action to deal with the pandemic and its economic consequences. She felt India had scored higher than the average for emerging markets on both monetary policy and fiscal policy side.

Revising its figures, the IMF said in 2020 the Indian economy is estimated to have contracted by 8 per cent. China is the only major country which registered a positive growth rate of 2.3 per cent in 2020.

# Tourism Minister asks ASI to submit report on Red Fort raid

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27**  
Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel has asked the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for a report on the "dramatic incidents" that took place in the iconic Red Fort on Tuesday.

Patel also asked for registration of FIRs with the police for action against those involved in the pandemonium in the high security area of the fort.

In a tweet, Patel said, "Visited the Red Fort this morning with the secretary, ministry of culture, and the ASI Director General. Asked for immediate submission of a report and for mandatory registration of FIRs against the miscreants."

Patel had on Tuesday strongly disapproved the invasion of the Red Fort by



A damaged police jeep; and (below) vandalised ticket counters on the premises of Red Fort. TRIBUNE PHOTOS: MUKESH AGGARWAL



protesting farmers. "The Red Fort is a symbol of the dignity of our democracy. The protesters should have left it alone. I strongly condemn their action. It is sad and unfortunate," he had tweeted.

The national capital saw unprecedented scenes on Tuesday as scores of farmers agitating against the three controversial farm laws entered the historic fort after bursting through with their tractors barricades and roadblocks erected by the police.

## BRIEFLY

### India pledges \$1.5 lakh for UN peacebuilding

New Delhi: India has announced a pledge of \$1.5 lakh for the UN Peacebuilding Fund so that the international community could look at peacebuilding in a more focused manner, said India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador TS Tirumurti said. India said normalisation of relations between Israel and Arab nations has the potential to provide necessary momentum for resumption of direct negotiations between Israel and Palestine. TNS

### Govt hikes MSP of milling copra by ₹375 per quintal

New Delhi: The government on Wednesday approved an increase in the minimum support price (MSP) of milling copra by Rs 375 per quintal and ball copra by Rs 300 per quintal to boost farmers' income. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the MSPs of copra for 2021 season. TNS

## New US Defence Secy Austin dials Rajnath

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Blinken have spoken so far with close allies.

During the telephonic conversation, both reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen Indo-US defence cooperation and strategic ties. "They also discussed bilateral, regional and global issues," Singh said in a social media post about the 20-minute conversation.

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## Airshow: Copter making ability to be on display

**NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27**

India will showcase its helicopter making ability at the Aero India (from February 3 to February 5) in Bengaluru and set an 'India Pavilion'. India is one of the seven countries in the world with the capability to produce and support helicopters throughout the life cycle.

Aiming to depict the journey and potential of indigenous copter making ability, the India Pavilion will be business-centric and customer-focused and will showcase the indigenous flagship products operating in military and civil sectors. Maintenance, repair and overhaul abilities for copters are available in India and future technology will be showcased. —TNS



## NEW UNLOCK GUIDELINES

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- All activities permitted outside containment zones, except a few which will be subject to strict adherence of SOPs
- All types of exhibition halls will be permitted, for which a revised SOP will be issued
- On international air travel, the Ministry of Civil Aviation may take a decision in consultation with MHA

## Apex court stays summonst Tiwari in defamation suit

**NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27**

The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed the summoning of Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari, the saffron party's MLA Vijender Gupta and others on a criminal defamation complaint filed by AAP leader and Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

**Sanjiv Bhatt's plea deferred**  
Convicted in a three-decade-old custodial death case, sacked IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt will continue to be in jail for the time being as the Supreme Court on Wednesday once again deferred hearing on his plea to suspend the life imprisonment awarded to him. —TNS

## Sasikala released from prison after four years

**BENGALURU, JANUARY 27**

Expelled AIADMK leader VK Sasikala was released on Wednesday after serving four-year imprisonment in a corruption case here.

The formalities for her release were completed at the state-run Victoria Hospital, where she is undergoing treatment for Covid-19 infection, which she had contracted a week ago, along with her sister-in-law

J Ilavarasi. "She has been formally released," Parappana Agrahara Jail Superintendent V Sheshamurthy said.

She will remain at the hospital for another three days as mandated under the Covid-19 protocol though she is now asymptomatic and her symptoms have reduced.

"As per protocol, she will be discharged on 10th day (January 30) if she is asymptomatic and free for oxygen support for at least three days," the hospital said in an official bulletin. —PTI



Was in prison since Feb 2017 in connection with ₹66-cr assets case

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