

SC NOTICE TO OLI GOVT OVER
PARL DISSOLUTION WORLD

CONTAINER SHORTAGE TO HIT OUTPUT,
FEAR AUTOMAKERS BUSINESS

HALF-TRUTHS: MAMATA ON
KISAN SCHEME BACK PAGE

Oppn misusing stir, claims Modi; give laws a year, Rajnath appeals to farmers

Protesters firm, want ordinance to make support price a legal right

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH, DEC 25 Prime Minister Narendra Modi today made another attempt to reach out to the protesting farmers on the three agricultural laws even as he accused the Opposition of misleading the farmers for petty political gains.

Interacting virtually with farmers from across the country while transferring Rs 18,000 crore into the accounts of around nine crore farmers under the PM-Kisan scheme, he said, "The government is always open to talks, but the discussions must be based on facts."

The Sanyukt Kisan Morcha, a joint forum of farmers' organisations protesting at the



Farmers protest at the Ghazipur border near Delhi. MANAS RANJAN BHU

7 US LAWMAKERS WRITE TO POMPEO OVER FARM AGITATION
ONLINE CAMPAIGN TO SOLICIT NRI SUPPORT LAUNCHED

Delhi borders, said it would meet on Saturday to take a call on the offer. It said instead of interacting with a handful of farmers through video-conferencing, the PM should have visited Singhur or Tikri borders to address the farmers and resolve their issues.

"The PM today said rumours are being spread on MSP and farmers are being misled. Why can't the government come out with an ordinance to make MSP a legal right?" asked Harinder Singh Lakhowal, BKU (Lakhowal) general secretary.

Union Minister Rajnath Singh, meanwhile, appealed to the farmers to try the new laws as an "experiment" for a year or two and in case these

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

No corporate
can grab your
land: Shah

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 25

No corporate can snatch away a farmer's land as long as Narendra Modi was the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday, asserting that the provision of MSP would continue and mandis won't be shut down.

At a PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi event in Kishangarh village of Delhi, Shah said if farmer's unions felt that any provision of the three new farm laws was against their interests, the government was ready to discuss and consider it with an open mind.

Shah blamed the Opposition, including the Congress, for spreading lies about the MSP and other provisions of the laws. — PTI



Protesting farmers try to breach a police barricade in Bathinda on Friday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: PAWAN SHARMA

Punjab farmers gherao BJP leaders, disrupt functions

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MORE EX-SERVICEMEN
LEAVE FOR DELHI

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 25

Amid the stalemate, farmers in Punjab on Friday stepped up their agitation, not allowing BJP leaders to hold functions in memory of Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth anniversary. In Jalandhar, Bharti Kisan Union (Rajewal) activists held a protest outside the residence of former Cabinet Minister Manoranjan Kalia. Several farmers received minor injuries as they tried to breach the police barricade outside Kalia's house.

In Bathinda, farmers disrupted a function at Amrik Singh road, forcing the BJP workers to flee. A video of the incident went viral on the social media.

While in Malout the farmers closed the gate of a hall where a BJP function was being held, a huge crowd comprising farmers and members of the Punjab Students Union surrounded the farmhouse of BJP leader Iqbal Singh Lalpura at Kalwan village in Ropar. The protesters later targeted a private telco's tower at Jhajj village, snapping the power supply. Similar reports were received from Kotkapura and Fazilka.

Led by union vice-president Kirpal Singh Mussapur, Bharati Kisan Union (Doaba) activists in Phagwara gheraoed local BJP leaders who had gathered at a hotel. They raised slogans against the Modi government and Union Minister Som Parkash.

**6 JD(U) MLAs join
BJP in Arunachal**

ITANAGAR, DECEMBER 25

The JD (United) received a major jolt in Arunachal Pradesh, with six of its seven MLAs shifting allegiance to the ruling BJP, a bulletin issued by the state Legislative Assembly said.

The lone MLA from the People's Party of Arunachal, Karodo Nyigyor, has also joined the saffron party. The development comes a day ahead of the announcement of the panchayat and municipal poll results. The JD(U) MLAs who switched sides are Talem Taboh (Rungong constituency), Hayeng Mangfi (Chayang Tajo), Jikke Tako (Tali), Dorjee Wangdi Kharma (Kalaktang), Dongru Siong (Bomdila) and Kanggong Taku (Mariyang-Geku), the bulletin said. — PTI

**Water level 53%
below normal in
Punjab dams**

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 25

The water level in major reservoirs across the northern region remains low this year, with the present storage being 53 per cent below normal in Punjab and 25 per cent below normal in HP.

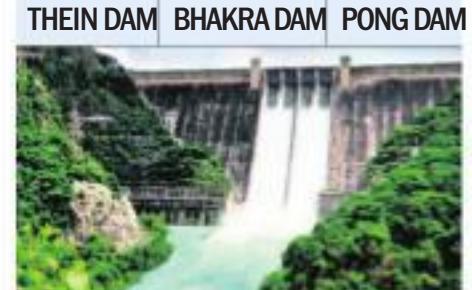
The current water level in the Thein Dam reservoir on the Ravi in Punjab is 498.35 m against the upper limit of 527.91 m with the available storage being 0.567 billion cubic meters (BCM), according

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

AVAILABLE STORAGE

24% 47% 49%

THEIN DAM BHAKRA DAM PONG DAM



AICC ignoring MPs' protest in Delhi, says Jakhar

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 25 Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar has taken exception to the fact that no senior AICC leader has visited Congress MPs from Punjab who have been sitting on a dharna at Jantar Mantar here.

"Everyone keeps talking

about strengthening the cause of farmers, but the AICC has been ignoring its own MPs who have been protesting here for days now. No senior leader has met Congress MPs Ravneet Bittu, JS Gill and Gurjeet Aujla," Jakhar told *The Tribune* today. On Thursday, the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad spoke of how Congress RS members staged a nightlong dharna near Gandhi's statue after the farm Bills were "undemocratically" passed in the Upper House. Reacting to

it, Jakhar said, "You are talking of Rajya Sabha MPs but why not go and meet your own party MPs from Punjab who have been agitating for farmers at Jantar Mantar? AICC leaders by not supporting Punjab MPs in this protest are falling in BJP's trap." — TNS

One-time fee for Hry job exams over 3 yrs

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BANDA: A 45-year-old Dalit man was beaten up in a village in Banda district of Uttar Pradesh on Friday allegedly by people who objected to his using a government-installed handpump, the police said. The victim has lodged an FIR over the incident. — PTI

DDC members to take oath on Dec 28

NEW DELHI: The J&K administration plans to hold swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected members of the District Development Councils (DDC) on December 28 even as the race to form the council governing structures intensified. INSIDE

Rajinikanth rushed to hospital for BP

HYDERABAD: Superstar Rajinikanth was on Friday admitted to Apollo Hospital here as he was suffering from severe blood pressure fluctuations. He was shooting for a movie here for the past 10 days. The actor has tested negative for Covid-19. — PTI

for Arjuna, Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand awardees every month

for Arjuna, Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand awardees every month

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

150 troops in Delhi for R-Day test positive

Vaccine rollout: Dry run in Punjab, Gujarat, Andhra, Assam next week

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 25

More than 150 Army troops, who are in New Delhi for the forthcoming Republic Day Parade, have tested positive for Covid-19, even as the country prepares to hold the first dry run to test readiness for the vaccine rollout.

The troops who tested positive have been isolated and are being medically managed. They are part of the contingents slated to march down the Rajpath on January 26. The parade is on for now and there is no proposal to not have the marching contingents.

The troops have come from

COLD STORAGE FACILITY

■ The present system consists of 85,634 cold storage (2 to 8°C) equipment across 28,947 points

■ The current capacity can cover vaccination for first 3 crore target beneficiaries

COVID-19 CASES INDIA

COUNT	1,01,46,845
RECOVERED	97,11,834
FRESH FATALITIES	336
TOTAL DEATHS	1,47,992

WORLD

TOTAL 7,99,83,707

RECOVERED 5,63,38,561

DEATHS 17,53,506

GUJ QUOTA STIR LEADER HELD FOR B'DAY BASH AMID PANDEMIC

various locations across the country. They travelled to New Delhi in the last week of November. All of them underwent Covid test and 150 of

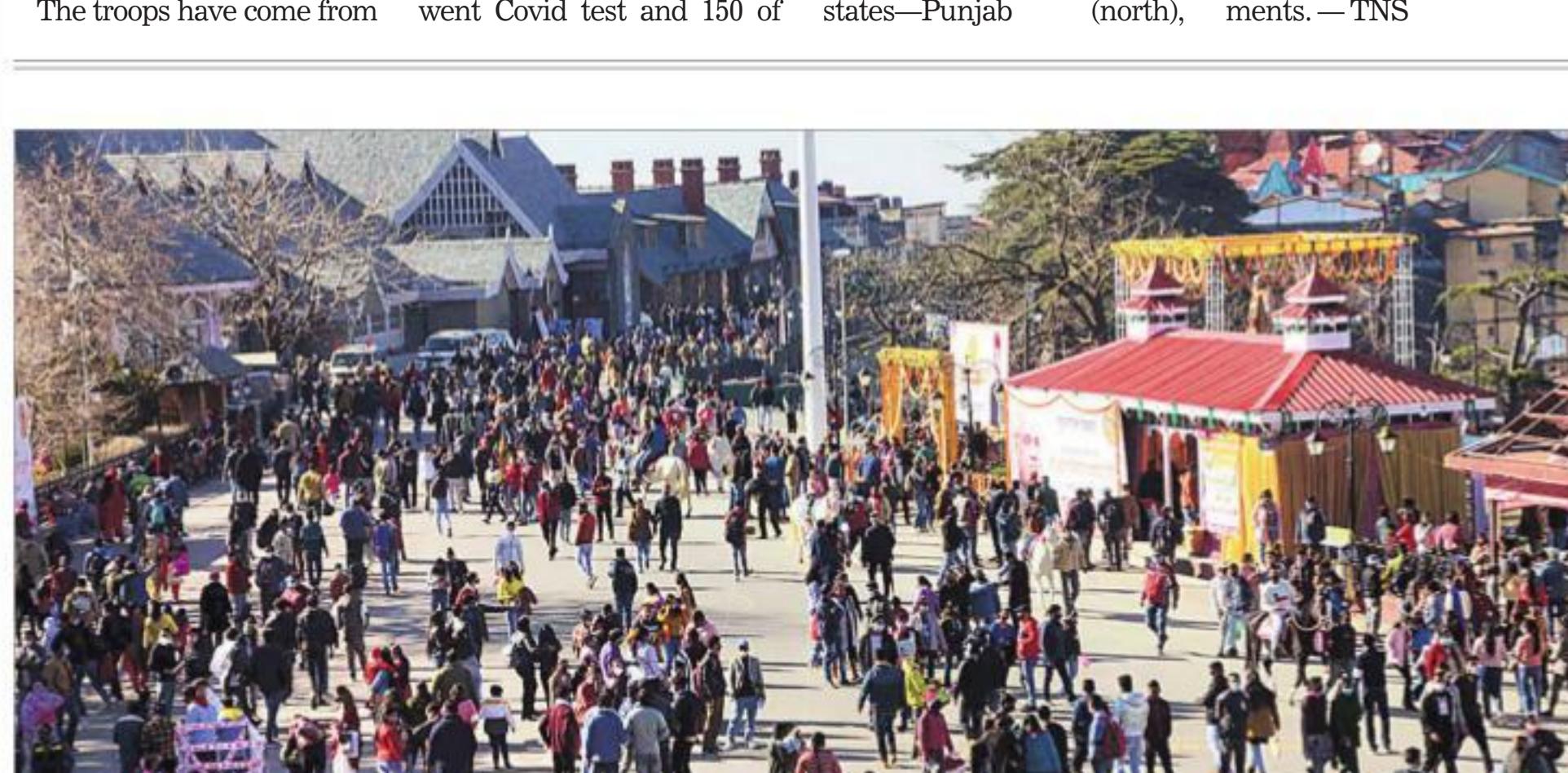
them have tested positive.

The vaccine dry run is scheduled to be held on December 28 and 29 in four states—Punjab (north),

Gujarat (west), Andhra Pradesh (south) and Assam (northeast). Each state will plan the trial in two districts and five sessions across district hospitals, community and primary health centres, urban sites, private health facilities and rural sites.

The idea is to prepare for parallel administration of the vaccine at multiple locations, once a vaccine is licensed.

The trial will test the efficacy of India's digital vaccine delivery platform Co-WIN and of the cold storage and transportation arrangements. — TNS



Norms given go-by as tourists throng Shimla

Few visitors wearing face masks, rue locals

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 25

Social distancing norms were thrown to the winds as tourists thronged the 'Queen of Hills' on Friday to celebrate Christmas and New Year. The hotels were packed to capacity even as the town's Mall Road, Lower Bazaar and The Ridge saw crowds of merrymakers.

President of the Shimla

Hotel and Restaurant Association Sanjay Sood said it was owing to the relaxation in the night curfew and permission to shops to open on Sunday that there had been a surge in the tourist numbers.

"Few are wearing face masks. Despite the Covid pandemic, it seems like a carnival," observed a local resi-

dent, rather anxiously. Many tourists parked their vehicles along the roads, leading to congestion, despite the heavy police deployment to ensure there were no traffic jams.

Shimla SP Mohit Chawla said on an average 50-55 challans were issued for flouting the face mask norm. He said eight police teams were in the

Fazilkalad Gill makes Test debut today

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 25 Three years after making his First Class debut, Shubhman Gill gets to play his first Test for India in Australia on Saturday. It has been a meteoric rise for the Fazilkalad-born youngster who has ticked almost every box in the junior cricket to make a place in the senior team. From making a record 351 runs in the Punjab inter-district U-16 tournament to becoming the Player of the Tournament (372 runs) in the 2018 U-19 World Cup, to becoming the youngest Indian to score a First Class dou-

FIRST-CLASS CAREER

2,270 runs in 23 matches at an average of 68.78



SHUBHM GILL

ble-hundred against WI-A in Trinidad and Tobago in 2019, Gill has been a proven performer in every step of his short cricketing career. Twice, in consecutive years (2013-14, 2014-15), he was adjudged the best junior cricketer of the year by the BCCI.

His childhood coaches say

Gill's sincerity towards his passion makes him a standout player while teammates know him as a very career-conscious cricketer. Gill is said to have consciously charted his domestic career on the lines of Virat Kohli, comparing his scores with Kohli's, tournament-by-tournament. — PTN

Farmers disrupt BJP events on ex-PM's anniv

Protesters lathicharged outside Kalia's house in Jalandhar | Venue ransacked in Bathinda

Tribune News Service

JALANDHAR/BATHINDA, DEC 25 Farmers today held protests across the state even as the BJP held programmes to celebrate former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary.

In Jalandhar, several farmers received minor injuries during a standoff between them and the police outside the residence of former Cabinet Minister and BJP leader Manoranjan Kalia. As the farmers attempted to break through the barricades, the police used force in which some of them incurred minor injuries. During the commotion, the turbans of some leaders also came off.

DCP, Jalandhar, Gurmeet Singh, said: "We were just trying to prevent protesters from entering the BJP leader's house. The turbans came off during the struggle which ensued while we were trying to stop them."

Farmers also gheraoed a venue where a programme was being held to commemorate the late Prime Minister. They later headed to the BJP office, which had been cordoned off by hundreds of police personnel, and held a peaceful protest. "We shall gherao BJP leaders' house tomorrow and protest the Prime Minister's Mann Ki Baat address on Sunday," Amarjit Singh, youth leader of the BKU (Rajewal) said.



Policemen jostle with a farmer in Jalandhar; and members of farmer unions protest outside the residence of Patiala BJP president Harinder Kohli. TRIBUNE PHOTOS



COMPLETE ANARCHY IN STATE: CHUGH

There's complete anarchy in Punjab. BJP workers are being assaulted. Attacks were engineered on me and state BJP president Ashwani Sharma. Punjab is moving in the direction of becoming like West Bengal. Tarun Chugh, BJP GENERAL SECRETARY



WON'T STOP PROTESTING

Farmers are protesting in bone-chilling conditions in Delhi and BJP leaders are busy celebrating. We will not stop our protests until the BJP-led Union Government repeals the farm laws. Motu Singh Kotra, BKU (EKTA UGRAHAN) LEADER

SIT-IN AT PATIALA BJP CHIEF'S HOUSE

Patiala farmers started an indefinite protest outside the residence of BJP district president Harinder Kohli, demanding his resignation over the farm laws. Meeting farmers, Kohli said: "The Union Agriculture Minister along with other senior leaders have already reached out to farmers. But I will demand from the high command to find a solution at the earliest."

In Bathinda, farmers ransacked the venue where BJP workers were celebrating the birth anniversary of Vajpayee. Kotkapura town of Faridkot also, farmers disrupted a programme of BJP workers.

In Muktsar, farmers held a peaceful protest outside a hotel here where the BJP activists held a programme. A large number of police personnel were deployed there and no untoward incident

took place. The farmers took out a protest march in Muktsar town, removed the hoardings of some private companies from some grocery shops. They also lodged a protest in front of a grocery shop owned by the family of BJP's Muktsar district president Rajesh Pathela.

In Malout too, the farmers protested outside the BJP's similar event. They even closed the gate of the hall, where the programme was being organised. Later, the police helped the BJP activists to come out from the hall. In Fazilka, the BJP celebrated the late PM's birth anniver-

sary amid the protest. Farmers forcibly shut an insurance company's office. In Ropar, farmers and members of Punjab Students Union gheraoed the farmhouse of BJP leader Iqbal Singh Lalpura at Kalwan village. Later, they snapped the power supply to a telecom tower at Jhajj village.

Don't vandalise mobile towers: CM to protesters

Tribune News Service

POWER SUPPLY SNAPPED

Ferozepur: Farmers on Friday snapped the power supply to four more mobile towers in Zira subdivision. They also got two malls, a departmental store and a showroom shut.

ding employees of telecom service providers. Stressing such actions were not in the interest of Punjab and its future, he requested the farmers to reciprocate by ensuring that the battle for justice does not cause any problems to people.

He said such actions would adversely impact his government's efforts to attract more investment in the telecom sector as part of its recently announced New Telecom Guidelines 2020, which was aimed at improving telecom connectivity in the state.

Hundreds of ex-servicemen under the banner of the Punjab Ex-Servicemen Security Guards' Union on Friday left for the Delhi border in various vehicles from Mehta chowk town of the district to support the farmers' stir.

"We also belong to the families of farmers and are going to Delhi to support our brothers in their fight against the Central farm laws. We will stay there and offer all possible help," said Pargat Singh, general secretary of the union.

Local BKU Ugrahan leader Harjeet Singh, who is also an ex-serviceman, said more of us would leave for Delhi in coming days. "Today, the first batch has left while many more are preparing to leave as we know it well that to save our country, we must support farmers," Harjeet added.

Farmers raise slogans as they depart for Delhi to participate in the protest, in Amritsar. VISHAL KUMAR

Bathinda taxi union announces rent waiver on cabs

Meanwhile, another batch of farmers from Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Tarn Taran on Friday head-

ed for the Kundli border. Under the banner of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee (KMSC), at least

25 tractor-trailers left from Amritsar's Golden Gate under the leadership of Sawinder Singh Chautala,

Dhol marches to drum up support for stir

SANGRUR, DECEMBER 25

Preparations are on across various villages in the district to mobilise residents for the December 26 and 27 march to the Delhi border in support of the protesting farmers.

"Dhol marches" and meetings were organised and announcements made through gurdwara public address system today as farmers readied their modified trailers and other vehicles.

"Our village has decided to cook 'sarson da saag' tonight in each house to take it to the Tikri border on Saturday. There are many houses where two members are already at the protest site, while two more members would leave on tomorrow," said Harjinder Singh, BKU (Ugrahan) Bhawanigar block president.

Many women said they were going without ration as their relatives at Tikri had said there was enough stock. —TNS

Movement will act as catalyst of change for youth, says Patar

Tribune News Service



WITNESSING HISTORICAL EVENT

The fact that youth are witnessing this historical movement in front of their eyes will certainly pave the way to alter their mindsets and subsequently how they lead their lives. Surjit Patar, POET

tions to follow. The insensitive approach of the government will not be tolerated by them anymore."

"Half the battle has already been won but now, divisive forces are at play. The wisdom lies in staying connected and united in the face of adversity to take the struggle to the next level," he said. Kavita Krishnan, CPI (ML)

leader spoke on the topic 'India's mass movements in contemporary times and its future'. She said, "The farmer movement that started from Punjab has paved the way for it to become a mass movement in the country. Winning or losing does not matter. What matters is the strong message that such mass movements send."

Meanwhile, poet Jangan Singh (85) from Jhorda village in Ludhiana is also busy writing poetry at the

Wounded farmer pens poems on struggle

APARNA BANERJI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

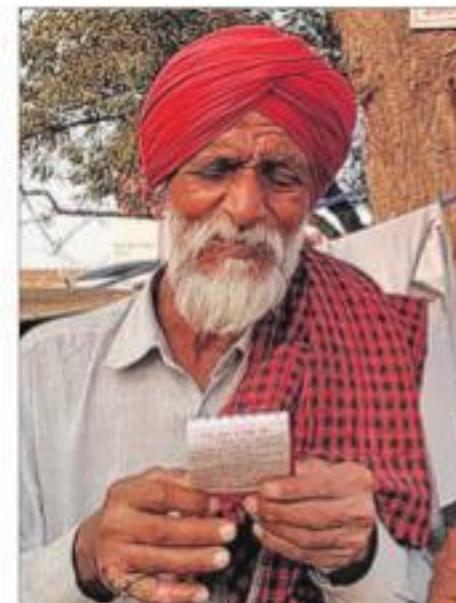
SINGHU, DECEMBER 25

"Inquilabi khanda di dhaar naulon tikhii, mehnat kash lokan khatir larna painaa ae, Madho Das to Banda Bahadur Singh banna painaa ae, chup kareyan ton nahio sarna (Revolution is sharper than a sword. We have to fight for the workers. We have to become Banda Bahadur Singh from Madho Das. Silence won't help)," chants 61-year-old Jugral Singh as he nurses a wound on his right hand's little finger.

Caused by a tear gas shell that brushed past his hand on December 26, the day residents of his Jattha village reached the Singhu border, the wound hasn't deterred Jugral, who has been busy penning poetry from his new abode in a trolley.

Among the first farmers to reach at the Singhu border, Jugral comes from Acharwali village, which is known for its martyrs.

Meanwhile, poet Jangan Singh (85) from Jhorda village in Ludhiana is also busy writing poetry at the



Jugral Singh was hurt by a tear gas shell

Singhu border. He says, "Pehlan tote ch painda si, satiyan keha gaddi ch pao - buzurg banda. Haar ke menu pakki rajai banake diti. (I was sleeping on tattered rags. But my union made a warm quilt for me. Now I live in a tent.)"

"I am not moving from here as long as the Central Government doesn't repeal the contentious agriculture laws and ensure we get the right MSP on all crops," he signs off.

Pinnis keep protesters warm

SUKHMEET BHASIN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, DECEMBER 25 Several villages across Punjab are cooking and sending wholesome food every day for the protesting farmers at the Delhi border. Amid dropping temperatures, desi ghee and khoya pinnis are keeping the protesters warm at Delhi.

Residents of Naruana village have prepared 10 quintals of khoya pinni for the protesting farmers. Even, the womenfolk are ensuring men and children, who are away from homes, get their daily quota of pinni to keep them warm as they spend day and night in the open.

One pinni with hot milk is believed to keep a person healthy and warm amid the dropping temperatures. "A large number of elderly people are part of the protest and the pinnis are specifically prepared keeping their health in mind," said farmer leader Harpreet Singh.

He said: "It's our small contribution to the farmers' protest. We will continue to help our brethren till this issue reaches its logical conclusion."

Earlier, Amrik Singh Sandhu from Talwandi

PM blatantly lying on laws: Farm leaders

SANJEEV SINGH BARANA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing the nation today, once again proved that he was ruling by spreading lies. Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) (Rajewal) president Balbir Singh Rajewal said while talking to *The Tribune* today. He was responding to the address by PM Modi earlier during the day, attempting to allay farmer fears that private firms might grab their lands under the new laws enacted by the Centre.

Rajewal said, "If a PM's political personality is laid on the foundation of blatant lies, no country can run smoothly," referring to Modi's arguments that corporates would be no threat to farmers' lands. "What Modi utters is blatant lies," he said.

Responding to the part of Modi's speech that "farmers will enter into an agreement for finished products and not for land", general secretary of BKU (Ugrahan) Sukhdev Singh Kokrikalan said, "Here begins the trap laid out to capture farmers' lands. We know that more than 85 per cent of farmers in the country have less than four acres of land. In the first step, the corporate will manipulate the market where farmers will get only what they are given. They will not get the deserving price. This will lead to the already-suffering farmer plunge into

AAP PROTESTS IN HOUSE

AAP leaders and MPs Bhagwant Mann and Sanjay Singh on Friday protested against farm laws in the Central Hall of Parliament in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

NO FARMERS' BAAT: CONG

The PM's message to farmers was nothing more than a "dreamer's paradise", said Congress leader Sukhjinder Randhawa. He said the PM was not listening to the "Mann ki Baat" of farmers.

Deeper financial crisis. Ultimately, this category of farmers will be forced to sell their land to the same corporate."

Denying the argument of the government that farmers had no fear of losing their land, farm leader Rajinder Singh said, "If the Prime Minister is so sure, why does he not talk to us? It is because he knows we will counter his lies. We have the facts to prove him wrong."

General Secretary of BKU (Dakunda) Jagmohan Singh said, "Perhaps, Modi is the first Prime Minister who lies so blatantly. We have already shown on the basis of facts how our land will be taken away. We met the Union Ministers four times but they did not have any reply. The people of the country have understood that the government is lying."

Bathinda taxi union announces rent waiver on cabs

Meanwhile, another batch of farmers from Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Tarn Taran on Friday head-

ed for the Kundli border. Under the banner of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee (KMSC), at least

25 tractor-trailers left from Amritsar's Golden Gate under the leadership of Sawinder Singh Chautala,



Youth prepare pinnis at Naruana village in Bathinda. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Bathinda residents distribute Amritsari naan along with chhole among protesters

of pinnis to the national capital on December 5.

Several other villages from Sangrur and Ropar districts dispatched tonnes of jaggery to Singhu and Tikri borders.

Covid recoveries surpass cases in 24 hrs ₹6.8 cr study grant for upper primary students

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 25
The number of Covid patients, who have recovered in the state, is higher than that of infected persons.

Against 320 new cases

reported in the state in the past 24 hours, 412 persons recovered on Friday. The number of active cases too has come down to 4,707.

However, nine persons suc-

cumbed to the disease today, three each in Amritsar and Jalandhar, and one each in Ludhiana, Hoshiarpur and Patiala. The death toll is 5,269, while 1,64,821 persons have

been infected so far.

The maximum number of cases reported on Friday were from Mohali (48), followed by Ludhiana (43) and Patiala (40). — TNS

FARIDKOT, DECEMBER 25
The State Council of Educational Research and Training has released Rs 6.80 crore to purchase geometry sets, maps and other study material for

6,18,723 students of Classes VI to VIII in government schools. Released at the rate of Rs 110 per student, the funds will be used for learning enhancement programme in

English, social study, mathematics, science, Hindi and Punjabi subjects for upper primary students.

Maximum beneficiaries are in Ludhiana district (62,241),

followed by Amritsar (50,410), Patiala (43971), Jalandhar (38,636), Sangrur (36,657), Gurdaspur (35,641), Fazilka (35,893) and Bathinda (33,849) among others. — TNS



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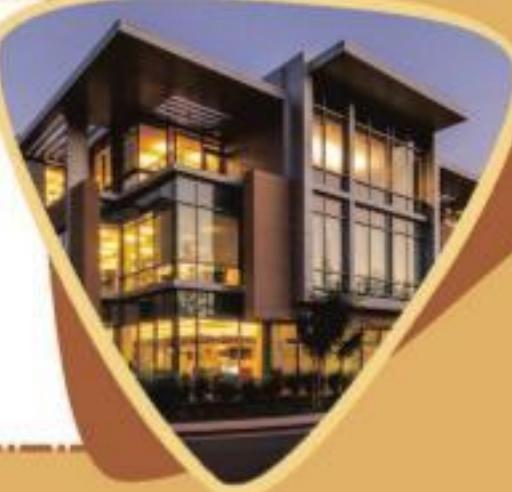
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Open general category posts to be filled first, rules HC

Issue norms to agencies undertaking direct hiring, Pb, Hry & UT told

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 25

In a judgment liable to change the way vacancies are filled by the state agencies in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has laid down the procedure for undertaking direct recruitment process to avoid a similar controversy in future. It has, among other things, made it clear that open general category posts would be filled first from the joint merit list.

Justice Harsimran Singh Sethi also asked Punjab and Haryana Chief Secretaries and UT Home Secretary to issue specific guidelines to all recruiting agencies on filling the advertised posts in various categories while undertaking direct recruitment process. Justice Sethi also made it clear the settled principles of law were required to be kept in mind.

In his order, Justice Sethi ruled the process of filling



DEVIATIONS CAUSED ANOMALIES

- Justice Harsimran Singh Sethi said the process of filling posts in reserved categories was to be undertaken only after all posts in the open general category are filled on the basis of merit
- Deviation from the process created anomalies and that unnecessary litigations was "avoidable" if agencies followed proper procedure in accordance with settled principle of law

posts available in various reserved categories was to be undertaken on the basis of merit secured by the reserved category candidates in the selection process only after all posts in the open general category were filled.

Referring to a high court

judgment in the case of "Parminder Singh and others versus the State of Punjab and others" decided in December 2017, Justice Sethi added a bare perusal of the law cited clearly showed all candidates, irrespective of the categories in which they had applied,

were first of all eligible to be appointed purely on the basis of merit against the posts advertised in the open general category. The process of filling posts in the reserved categories was to be undertaken thereafter out of the remaining eligible candidates belonging to various reserved categories as per their merit.

Justice Sethi added deviation from this process created anomalies and unnecessary litigations. It was "very much avoidable" in case the recruitment agencies followed proper procedure for appointment in accordance with the settled principle of law.

"Let appropriate instructions, as detailed, be issued for being followed meticulously without any fail while undertaking process for direct appointment to the various available posts by the recruiting agencies throughout the States of Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory of Chandigarh," Justice Sethi added.

Stone-crushing units at 2 Mohali villages sealed

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 25 As part of efforts to curb illegal mining in the state, the Punjab Government has sealed stone-crushing units at two villages—Mubarikpur and Handesara—of Mohali district for not producing the valid documents.

A spokesperson said in order to contain illegal mining in the state, the mining department was taking stringent steps at various levels involving the police and PESCO, adding it was already in the process of introducing technological interference.

He said the National Green Tribunal, in its December 10 orders, observed a number of stone crushers had failed to submit complete data in reference to material procured/processed and power consumed. "It has been pointed out that the possibility of procurement of material in an unaccounted manner by the stone crushers cannot be ruled out in view of illegal mining in the immediate past," he added.

The spokesperson said the government had decided to expedite the monitoring of crushing units that were not working in compliance with the Punjab Minor Mineral Rules, 2013, and stone crusher policy of the state.—TNS



Priests offer prayers at Gurdwara Fatehgarh Sahib to mark the beginning of the Shaheedi Jor Mela.

Devotees throng gurdwaras as Shaheedi Jor Mela begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FATEHGHAR SAHIB, DECEMBER 25

The three-day annual Shaheedi Jor Mela held to commemorate the martyrdom of the younger Sahibzadas of Guru Gobind Singh began here today with religious fervour and ceremonies.

On the first day, a sea of devotees was witnessed at gurdwaras and long queues were seen at Gurdwara Fatehgarh Sahib and

Gurudwara Jyoti Swaroop Sahib. More than 10 lakh devotees are expected to pay obeisance.

On the opening day, the SGPC organised gatka, painting, essay-writing, kavishri and bhajan competitions among students at Mata Gujri College, Fatehgarh Sahib.

Meanwhile, the World Cancer Care Charitable Society, England, in collaboration with Sri Guru Granth Sahib World Univer-

sity, Fatehgarh Sahib, organised a cancer care camp under the supervision of Dr Kulwant Singh Dhariwal. Dr Prit Pal Singh, Vice Chancellor of the university, inaugurated the camp. He said the objective of the camp was to spread awareness among the masses, especially the youth, so that they could be guided and inspired by the martyrdom of Mata Gujri, Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh.

Illicit liquor seized, seven held in Mansa

BATHINDA, DECEMBER 25

The police today recovered 457 bottles of illicit liquor of a Haryana brand and 250 litres of 'lahan' in Mansa district. Seven persons allegedly involved in bootlegging were arrested and booked under various sections.

Mansa SSP Surendra Lamba said: "As part of a drive against drugs and bootlegging in the district, an operation was conducted and the district police recovered a cache of illicit liquor."

The police, after getting a tip-off, conducted a raid and nabbed two persons with 35 cartons of illicit liquor in a car. After interrogation, another suspect was arrested. Two of the accused were minors who were produced before a local court, which sent them to a juvenile home in Faridkot. —TNS

Norms violated while hiring 1,558 head teachers, says HC

SAURABH MALIK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Meritorious candidates suffering unnecessary litigation'

IRREGULAR ACT

The irregular act on the part of the recruitment board has led to a situation where 779 posts in the open general category could not be filled and 226 posts remained unfilled due to unavailability of recommended candidates. HIGH COURT

Justice Sethi asserted.

The second irregularity by the recruitment board was to take up the selection process of all 1,558 posts simultaneously, rather than first filling up all the posts of open general category. The outcome of the illegal/irregular action was that selection and appointment till date could not be finalised, creating unnecessary litigation.

"The posts remained unfilled in the open general category due to this irregular process of recruitment by the board and followed by the respondent-department.

Now, unfilled posts in the open general category are being filled by the respondents by transferring the reserved category candidates, who are higher in merit and already appointed in the reserved category, to the open general category, to satisfy the requirement of law and to rectify their mistake," Justice Sethi added.

Before parting with the case, Justice Sethi asserted no ground was made out to interfere with the process of shifting the candidates from reserved categories to open general category to undo the illegality/irregularity by the recruitment board in the appointment/selection is at the initial stage.

ferent categories was the first irregularity committed by the recruitment board. Eligible candidates, twice the number, should have been recommended.

"This irregular act on the part of the recruitment board has led to a situation where total 779 posts in the open general category could not be filled and 226 posts remained unfilled due to unavailability of recommended candidates. A large number of candidates out of 779 recommended by the recruitment board either did not participate in the process, left the selection process halfway or were found ineligible..."

Rap for dist consumer forum chief, member

KULDIP BHATIA

LUDHIANA, DECEMBER 25

In a rare move, the State Consumers Disputes Redressal Commission has reprimanded the presiding officer of the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission KK Kareer and one of its members Inderjit for an alleged delay in deciding pending cases, setting up more than one Bench against the rules and altering orders pronounced in various cases after these were uploaded on the website.

In the course of hearing of an application filed by the legal heirs of Late Sham Singh seeking appropriate action against the commission president and members for non-compliance of state commission's orders of July 23 and November 23 in light of the order dat-

ed May 20, 2015, of the national commission in favour of the petitioner, the Principal Bench of the state commission presided over by Justice Paramjit Singh Dhalwal termed it a 'serious matter'.

In his orders pronounced on December 23, the state commission took serious note of the allegations levelled by the petitioners that presence of different

members (of the commission) in different cases taken up on the same day created an impression that two Benches of the district commission for execution of sale deed of a residential plot allotted by the Ludhiana Improvement Trust to the deceased under locally displaced person (LDP) category on the basis of orders made by the National Consumer Disputed Redressal Commission.

mission observed: "No sanction has been accorded by this commission that two Benches are set up at district commission (in Ludhiana) and the commission has no power to set up benches as appears to have been done. It needs to be probed and examined. It appears to be against the settled principle of law and propriety, which judicial discipline demands."

The case pertained to an execution application filed by legal heirs of Late Sham Singh with the district commission for execution of sale deed of a residential plot allotted by the Ludhiana Improvement Trust to the deceased under locally displaced person (LDP) category on the basis of orders made by the National Consumer Disputed Redressal Commission.

GST case: Two bank employees booked for forgery

LUDHIANA, DECEMBER 25

A day after making the eighth arrest in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) fraud amounting to Rs 393 crore, the Ludhiana CGST Commissionerate today said it had filed an FIR against a manager and an assistant manager of a local bank branch on charges of forgery, fraud, cheating and abetment to an offence.

The two bank officials were booked after they

admitted to having allowed the wife of the main accused in the multi-crore racket to operate his bank locker, a day after he was arrested in the case on November 11, said a senior CGST Commissioner officer.

He said during the course of the investigation, the evasion wing of the commission found that the bank accounts and locker of accused Sahil Jain maintained in Capital Small



Finance Bank Ltd, Sunder Nagar, Ludhiana, were shown operated by the accused on November 12 at 12.15 pm, whereas he was arrested under the CGST Act, 2017, and remanded in judicial custody on November 11. Jain was the main accused behind creating 23 bogus firms leading to a GST scam involving an income tax credit (ITC) fraud of Rs 393 crore.

Finance Bank Ltd, Sunder Nagar, Ludhiana, were shown operated by the accused on November 12 at 12.15 pm, whereas he was arrested under the CGST Act, 2017, and remanded in judicial custody on November 11. Jain was the main accused behind creating 23 bogus firms leading to a GST scam involving an income tax credit (ITC) fraud of Rs 393 crore.

The branch manager admitted to having directed the assistant manager of the branch to allow Yashita to operate the locker after making the entry and forging Sahil's signature in the locker operation register maintained in the bank," said the officer. He said Yashita was a partner in a number of such firms involved in the issuance of bogus bills and passing on fake ITC. —TNS

"The branch manager admitted to having directed the assistant manager of the branch to allow Yashita to operate the locker after making the entry and forging Sahil's signature in the locker operation register maintained in the bank," said the officer. He said Yashita was a partner in a number of such firms involved in the issuance of bogus bills and passing on fake ITC. —TNS

₹10 lakh grant for Ferozepur church

FEROZEPUR, DECEMBER 25

Ferozepur MLA Parminder Singh Pinki today announced a grant of Rs 10 lakh for the historical St Andrew's Church. Pinki said he wanted to do something for the people. "I will make sure that the amount is provided to the church as soon as possible," he said.

Father Morgan, the priest of the church, thanked the MLA for the initiative.

Vijay Goria, chairman, Youth Samson Brigade, and Yakub Bhatti, president, Youth Congress, said the announcement had come as a "double delight" for the people belonging to the Christian community. The St Andrew's Church, situated in the cantonment area, is one of the oldest churches in India. —OC

Large gatherings banned, vegetable prices go south

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUKTSAR, DECEMBER 25

Amid restrictions on large gatherings in view of the Covid pandemic, vegetable prices have come down sharply. Radish, cauliflower and turnip are selling for Rs 1-2 per kg in the wholesale market. Similarly, potato, peas and tomato are being sold for Rs 10-13 per kg.

Ramesh Kumar, a wholesale vegetable seller, said, "The prices have come down due to a glut-like situation. Vegetables in large amount are used during weddings and 'bhog' ceremonies. However, there are hardly any marriage functions in the ongoing month of 'Poh'. Besides, there are restrictions on gatherings



at condolence meetings. We hope the situation improves by mid-January." Some vegetable growers have even started growing their produce to cow shelters. An employee of the local market committee said vegetable growers and sellers were suffering huge losses. "Even vendors are selling vegetables at throwaway prices," he said. Gulshan Bhatia, a marriage palace owner, said, "The prices of dry fruits have also come down, which otherwise go up during winter."

Missing 'saroops': Activists to gherao ministers' houses

AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 25

Contesting the disappearance of 328 'saroops' of Guru Granth Sahib, Sikh activists today announced they would gherao the residences of all state ministers and Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha as no criminal action was taken by the authorities against the accused, who were indicted by an Akal Takht-appointed probe panel.

Activists of the Sikh Sadbhawna Dal and Gurduara Akal Bunga have accused in the murder case in which the police had moved for their extradition in August 2019. The organisations released the next schedule of protests outside the residences of 12 ministers. The residence of Tripti Rajinder Singh Bajwa will be gheraoed on December 28 and that of Sukhbir Singh Sarkaria on December 30. —TNS

Rulda murder: Police expect speedy extradition of 3 from UK

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 25

The Punjab Police are upbeat at the arrest of three alleged pro-Khalistan elements in the United Kingdom following India's extradition request in the 2009 Rashtriya Sikh Sangat chief Rulda Singh's murder case. The three, all UK nationals, were identified as Gursharanbir Singh Wahiwal, Amritbir Singh Wahiwal and Pyara Singh. They are accused in the murder case in which the police had moved for their extradition in August 2019.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), probing a series of targeted killings in Punjab in 2016-17, had also submitted a chargesheet against Gursharanbir. "As per our investigation, Gursharanbir is one of the most active supporters, funders and planners of violence in the Khalistan movement. He had come to India to carry out Rulda's murder and later trained in Dubai the accused in the targeted killings case, especially of Rashtriya Swamsevak Sangh (RSS) Punjab vice-president Brig Jagdish Gagneja," said a

senior police officer. While Rulda was murdered in 2009, the extradition case was moved in 2019 after strong evidence was found against the accused, said the officer.

Gursharanbir and Amritbir are known as Wahiwal brothers in the terror network and are said to be the top functionaries of the Khalistan movement. Police officials said they were in league with slain terrorist Harminder Mintoo and Harmeet Singh, alias Happy, who ran a terror network from Pakistan and was killed last year. They are also related to Jaggi Johal, another UK citizen, currently under arrest in Punjab for his alleged role in the targeted killings. —TNS

ACTIVE NETWORK

We are hoping for an early extradition. The three are running the most active terror network and causing bloodshed in Punjab. POLICE OFFICIAL

"As per our investigation, Gursharanbir is one of the most active supporters, funders and planners of violence in the Khalistan movement. He had come to India to carry out Rulda's murder and later trained in Dubai the accused in the targeted killings case, especially of Rashtriya Swamsevak Sangh (RSS) Punjab vice-president Brig Jagdish Gagneja," said a

Cavalcade of MoS stopped, MLA shown black flags

Tribune News Service

KARNAL, DECEMBER 25

Continuing their opposition to the visit of BJP-JJP leaders in their areas in support of ongoing agitation against the three farm laws, farmers today stopped the entry of Minister of State for Women and Child Welfare Kamlesh Dhanda in Kalyat and JJP MLA from Guhla Cheeka Ishwar Singh in Cheeka of Kaithal district.

Farmers allegedly tried to stop the cavalcade of Dhanida when she was going to attend a programme in Kalyat. However, the police foiled their bid and helped the cavalcade pass safely amid anti-government slogans. Dhanda was not available for comment.

Meanwhile, farmers entered DAV College in Cheeka where Ishwar Singh was chairing a programme on Good Governance Day and raised slogans against him and the government.

Carrying black flags, they demanded the MLA to take

Farmers gherao MLA's residence in Cheeka, want him to quit

the support back from the government or quit as the MLA. The police quickly took away the MLA, but farmers kept chasing him till he sat in his vehicle.

Thereafter, farmers gheraoed the residence of Ishwar Singh in Cheeka and reiterated their demand. However, the MLA was not at his residence. Singh said the farmers were demanding his resignation from the post of the MLA and wanted him to withdraw support to the government.

"I had completed my speech when farmers reached. I tried to pacify them and told that the farm laws had been passed by the Centre in Parliament, not by the state government in Haryana Assembly. My resignation would not help in repealing the laws, but farmers were adamant," Singh told *The Tribune* over phone.

Farm leaders meet today to discuss fresh talks offer

Say surprised that PM admits flaws, but not ready to repeal laws

SUSHIL MANAV

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 25

The Sanyukt Kisan Morcha, a joint forum of farmers' organisations, will meet on Saturday to take a call on the response to the fresh letter received from the government and decide the future course of action.

Leaders of farm bodies from Punjab huddled together on Friday to discuss the issues, including PM Narendra Modi's speech during his video interaction with farmers of some states. "We will intimate leaders of the joint forum of organisations of our decisions. The final decision will be taken by the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha," said a farm leader.

Harrinder Singh Lakhawal, general secretary of BKU (Lakhawal), said the farm unions were surprised that while the PM and Agriculture Minister had admitted that there were flaws in the new laws and were ready to amend these, they were not ready to repeal these. "The PM said that rumours were being spread that MSP would go after the



'GOLGAPPA LANGAR' AT SINGHU BORDER

■ A group of seven firemen from Rania fire station in Sirsa distributed free "golgappa" langar at Singhu border on Friday and the stock was over within half an hour

■ Fireman Davinder Singh said: "We were sitting free and the 'golgappa' seller was desperately looking for customers. A child was looking at the seller

new laws. We say if this is merely a rumour, the government should immediately come up with an ordinance to make

but he had no money. We immediately decided to purchase the stock and started the sewa (community service)," he said

■ "Golgappa" seller Mohammad Salim said: "Everything is free here at the langars and these people (firemen) bought my entire stock for ₹1,000, which is more than what I expected."

MSP a legal right," he said. He said the statement that APMC mandis would not be affected with the new laws was not cor-

rect because when private mandis would come up, APMC mandis would not be able to survive amid competition.

"There will be no tax in private mandis while market fee and rural development fund are charged in APMC mandis. Private mandis will give extra benefits to farmers initially and once APMC mandis die their own death, farmers will be left to the mercy of private mandis," he added.

Lakhawal said it was surprising that while thousands of farmers were sitting on the Delhi borders with their families in the extreme cold, the PM chose to speak to a few farmers through video-conferencing.

Reacting to the PM's speech, Jagmohan Singh, another farm leader, said it was ironical that the PM thought that farmers who had organised such a big movement were illiterate and misguided. Yudhvir Singh, national general secretary, BKU (Tikait), "We understand that the letters being sent for offers of talks are merely to show to the SC so that the government can say it was sincere for talks, not farmers."

Charuni alleged that farmers have been facing cruelty under the BJP-JJP government in Haryana. He said farmers would continue to oppose BJP-JJP leaders in the future also. The BKU president also condemned the registration of FIR against farm-

Charuni rejects Dy CM's offer to mediate

Tribune News Service

CONG ATTACKS MODI

KARNAL, DECEMBER 25

Bhartiya Kisan Union (Charuni) president Gurnam Singh Charuni on Friday rejected the offer of Haryana Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala to mediate between the Centre and the farmers.

He said they don't need any mediator. "Where was he (Dushyant) when the farmers were lathicharged and FIRs were registered against them,"

said Charuni at Bastara toll plaza. He had come there to take stock of the farmers' protest of making passage through the toll plaza free.

Chautala had on Thursday batted for the resumption of dialogue between the farmers and the Centre to break the deadlock. He also urged the farmers to give concrete suggestions. Besides, he offered to mediate between the Centre and farmers if it helped resolve the issue.

Charuni alleged that farmers have been facing cruelty under the BJP-JJP government in Haryana. He said farmers would continue to oppose BJP-JJP leaders in the future also. The BKU president also condemned the registration of FIR against farm-

ers and their arrest in Ambala and said that it was unfortunate that FIR has been registered against the farmers who were only showing their resentment to the CM.

On the disbursement of Rs 18,000 crore to nine crore farmers of six states by the PM under the PM Kisan scheme, he termed it alms. He said if the Centre ensures MSP as recommended by the Swaminathan Commission, then there would be no need to transfer money in this manner.

About the future course of action of the farmers' body, he said presently, they have decided to make passage through toll plazas free for three days till December 27.

No toll for motorists as farmers picket plazas

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 25

On a call by various unions, farmers picketed toll plazas across the state on Friday, allowing commuters to pass without paying, which caused losses to these companies. The farmers announced that they would continue their protest at toll plazas till December 27.

In Karnal, farmers reached the Bastara toll plaza on NH 44

and Peont toll plaza on the Karnal-Jind NH 709-A. They staged dharna at both toll plazas. BKU (Charuni) president Gurnam Singh Charuni visited Bastara and exhorted farmers to continue their protest peacefully without harming anyone. "There will be no toll in Haryana for three days. Thousands of farmers are protesting at all toll plazas in the state," he said.

In Panipat, BKU activists



A toll plaza in Karnal on Friday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: SAYEED AHMED

BKU president Kuldeep Balana reached the Dahan toll plaza on the Panipat-Rohtak NH 71-A to protest.

In Ambala, activists gathered at the Shambhu toll plaza on NH 44, Saini Majra toll plaza on the Hisar road and Thana toll plaza at Pehowa in Kurukshetra.

"Farmers have been protesting in a peaceful manner. We will camp here till Sunday night. Vehicles

will continue to move freely without paying toll and there will be no blockade," said BKU (Charuni) Ambala vice-president Gulab Singh.

Farmers also staged dharna at toll plazas in Sirsa and Jind districts. Hisar Kisan Sabha chief Shamsher Singh Nambarad said farmers would remain deployed at the toll plazas in Hisar on the Delhi road, Rajgarh road, Chandigarh road and Sirsa road.

Karnal arthiyas keep mandis shut

Tribune News Service

KARNAL, DECEMBER 25

To register their protest against the I-T raids on the premises of the arthiyas in Punjab were only an act of revenge, which will not be tolerated," said Rajnish Chaudhary, president, Karnal Arthiyas Association.

He said the government should accept the demands of farmers instead of using the bandh call of the arthiyas to harass the arthiyas.

Rajesh Arora, another commission agent, said the government had been using all methods to break the farmers' agitation and raids on the premises of arthiyas in Punjab were a part of that.

Brajrang Das Garg, president, Haryana Pradesh Veopar Mandal, condemned the raids in Punjab and claimed that the bandh call of the arthiyas was a move to show solidarity with the farmers. He said it was a historical bandh by the arthiyas of Haryana.

Campaigning ends in Ambala



AMBALA, DECEMBER 25

Campaigning for the Ambala Municipal Corporation (MC) elections came to an end on Friday evening. Political parties left no stone unturned to get their message across and reach out to the voters.

From deploying senior party leaders, road shows and social media streaming of events, parties and candidates did everything to grab the voters' attention. Polling will be held on Sunday.

As many as six candidates are in the fray for the post of Mayor — Dr Vandana Sharma (BJP), Meena Aggarwal (Congress), Amisha Chawla (HDF), Shaktirani Sharma (HJP), Jolly (BSP) and Gurmeet Kaur (Independent). Veena Dhal, who filed papers as an Independent, later extended support to Shaktirani. As many as 101 candidates are in the fray for 20 seats of the MC.

On the last date of campaigning, BJP north-east Delhi MP and famous Bhojpuri singer Manoj Tiwari held a road show in support of BJP



BJP MP and Bhojpuri singer Manoj Tiwari during a roadshow in Ambala City on Friday. PHOTO: PRADEEP MAINI

BJU CAMPAIGNS AGAINST BJP

BJU (Charuni) on Friday distributed pamphlets in Ambala City appealing to the voters not to cast their vote in favour of BJP candidates. The union in its appeal has alleged that the BJP government has introduced three black farm laws to benefit certain businessmen and the laws are not only against farmers but also small traders and general public

candidates in Ambala City. He appealed to the public to elect BJP's mayoral and councillor candidates.

He said, "The BJP believes in delivering all its promises. Our leaders are working tirelessly for the development of the nation. Some opponents are trying to stop us but we will not stop at any cost. I am confident that the people of Ambala will elect BJP candidates in the election."

Meanwhile, BKU (Charuni) activists showed black flags to

Close contest between Cong, BJP-JJP likely

PANIPAT, DECEMBER 25

The high-voltage campaigning for Sonepat MC poll — scheduled for December 27 — ended today evening.

The campaign was marked by a blitzkrieg between BJP-JJP and Congress mayoral candidates here. The residents expect a tough contest here for the mayoral post.

People at city chowks, shops and public places could be seen busy in discussion about the mayoral elections. Some are praising the Congress while others are backing the BJP-JJP.

Rajesh Arora, Vishal of Hem Nagar, Rohit of Housing Board colony and Kuldeep of Sector 14 were standing at a juice corner in Hem Nagar talking about the Mayoral post.

They said that in the beginning, the Congress had an edge but in the past 3-4 days, the campaign for BJP candidate Lalit Batra got a boost. "We expect a close contest," they said.

Gaurav and Kunal of Tara Nagar said that the position of the BJP mayoral candidate had got better in the past five days. The people have made up their minds, but they are keeping their choice to themselves, said Kunal. — TNS

सदा अमर रहेगा अस्तित्व आजादी के दीवानों का

People of Haryana pay homage to Shaheed Udham Singh on his Birth Anniversary

December 26, 2020

Govt. of Haryana

“Shaheed Udham Singh fought with valour in every difficult time. He sacrificed his life for the freedom and dignity of the Nation. His courage inspires us to face every situation with bravery.”

- Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

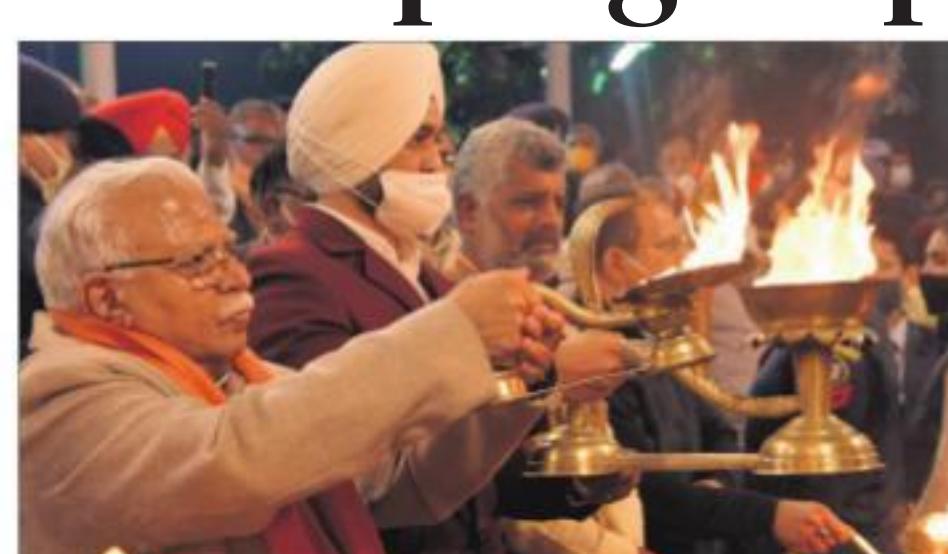
Over 2 lakh lamps light up K'shetra



Tribune News Service

KURUKSHETRA, DECEMBER 25

Nearly 2.25 lakh earthen lamps were lit on the banks of the Brahma Sarovar to mark 'deepotsav' on the occasion of concluding ceremony of



Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar performs 'aarti' at Brahma Sarovar in Kurukshetra on Friday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

fifth edition of International Gita Mahotsav here today.

Over 30 social and religious organisations came together to light the 'diyas' at the Brahma Sarovar and other tirthas here. Sky lanterns were also released on the occasion.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar performed the aarti and offered traditional 'Deep Daan'. The CM said: "Deepotsav was organised here for the first time and over 2.25 lakh 'diyas' were lit."

Wear mask & keep social distance.

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

5,500 health staff to get vaccine first

SOLAN, DECEMBER 25 As many as 5,500 health workers will be vaccinated against Covid in Sirmaur district in the first phase.



Admin takes note of lapses in Mandi-Pandoh road work

Tribune News Service

MANDI, DECEMBER 25 The district administration has taken a serious note of lapses in safety standards during the ongoing four-lane construction work on the Mandi-Pandoh stretch of the Chandigarh-Manali highway. SDM, Mandi sadar, Nivedita Negi said the project director, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), had been directed to ensure that the construction company adhered to the safety standards.

Pruthi said since cases of primary contacts of a Covid positive person to get himself tested. Besides, people exhibiting influenza-like symptoms, who are identified during random sampling under the active case finding campaign, would also have to give their samples for testing.

The administration has taken serious note of damage to some passenger vehicles due to the falling of stones on the road. Apart from this, commuters are facing long traffic jams," she said.

The SDM said the project director has been asked to direct the construction company to deploy manpower in the danger zone round the clock and make proper arrangements for lights. A JCB should remain deployed on the spot.

Hamirpur lad runs 900 km to create Covid awareness

DINESH KANWAR



HAMIRPUR, DECEMBER 25 City lad Narendra Attri, a national player, has run over 900 km to create awareness about Covid among the people of the state. He has covered over 400 villages in various districts, including Hamirpur, Mandi, Una and Kangra, so far. Attri told *The Tribune* that when many social organisations were doing their best to help people during the pandemic times, he decided to educate people on how to stay safe from the virus. Besides, he distributed masks and sanitizers among needy people.

He said that his mission was not only to educate people on Covid, but also the youth

about drug abuse. He added that he had formed an organisation 'Youth Empowerment and Social Service' (YES) to help and motivate the youth towards social service and keep them away from drugs. Attri said that YES had started programmes, like 'Say No to Drugs' and 'Fight Against Coronavirus'. He said he had covered a population of over 5 lakh during the 900-km run and it would continue.

STATE TRACKER

Samples tested	7,22,290
Recovered	48,774
Active cases	4,347
Positive cases	54,058
Deaths	890

Arabic movie gets two-day int'l Shimla film fest rolling

Tribune News Service

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 25

The sixth edition of the International Film Festival of Shimla (IIFS) commenced today with the screening of "I Am Gonna Tell God Everything", a short film in Arabic directed by Dev Pin (United States), through the

virtual medium. In his inaugural speech, Pushp Raj Thakur, festival director, said 136 films from 32 countries were shortlisted in four different categories, including feature films, short films, documentaries and animations, for the two-day film festival.

VS Kundu, former Director General, films division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, said the IFFS was the only international festival organised in northern India.

Rajesh James, who is an award winning documentary filmmaker from Cochin, Kerala, said India's regional cinema was producing good films.

Hoteliers elated as tourists rush to Manali

Room occupancy in some hotels goes up to 100%



Tourists at The Mall in Manali on Friday. PHOTO: JAI KUMAR

DIPENDER MANTA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, DECEMBER 25 Hoteliers of Kullu-Manali were elated as room occupancy in hotels surged up to 80 per cent for Christmas. A large number of tourists thronged Manali today to celebrate the Christmas festivities.

Hoteliers were complaining of lack of business as there was a sharp decline in the arrival of tourists in Kullu-Manali since March after Covid-19 outbreak. But with the opening of the Atal Tunnel for traffic on the Manali-Leh national highway, the influx of tourists has increased.

Earlier, room occupancy in Kullu-Manali hotels was merely 30 per cent. Many tourists had cancelled their bookings after the imposition of night curfew in Kullu district. The hoteliers were apprehensive that their business would take a big hit on Christmas.

Budhi Prakash Thakur, a hotelier in Manali town, said, "I am delighted that room occupancy is 100 per cent in my hotel and I am expecting good business even on the New Year as well. The Covid-

19 had hit the tourism industry hard since March. The state government should lift the night curfew completely.

It should intensify police patrolling during night hours to check offenders if there is any mass gatherings."

Anup Thakur, president of Hoteliers Association Kullu-Manali, told *The Tribune*, "The

influx of tourists for Christmas is beyond expectations here in Kullu-Manali today. The average room occupancy in hotels of Kullu-Manali has gone up to 80 per cent while in many hotels it is 100 per cent".

"To avoid the spread of Covid infection, the hoteliers of Kullu-Manali have decided to avoid mass gathering at a

single place and asked the visitors to follow the directions strictly as devised by the government", he added.

He said that there was adequate snow at the Solang valley and Sissu near the Atal Tunnel towards the Lahaul valley and tourists can have a nice time. On the other hand,

LIFT NIGHT CURFEW
I am delighted that room occupancy is 100 per cent in my hotel and I am expecting good business on the New Year as well. The government should lift the night curfew completely.

Budhi Prakash Thakur, a hotelier

'FOLLOW COVID NORMS'
Hoteliers of Kullu-Manali have decided to avoid mass gathering at a single place and asked the visitors to follow the directions strictly.

Anup Thakur, president, Hoteliers Association Kullu-Manali

tourists, who arrived here in Manali for the Christmas celebration, were a little bit disappointed. They were expecting a white Christmas which was not the case.

Manish Singh from Delhi said that they were expecting a white Christmas here in Manali, but the weather remained dry.

Vajpayee changed India forever: CM

Tribune News Service

18-feet statue built at a cost of ₹1.08 crore



Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur along with Governor Bandaru Dattatreya after unveiling the statue in Shimla on Friday. PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 25 Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur today unveiled the statue of the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the historic The Ridge, Shimla, on the occasion of his 96th birth anniversary.

Addressing the 'Atal Samiti Samarth' on the occasion of 'Sushashan Divas', the Chief Minister paid tributes to former Prime Minister and said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a statesman and a great personality who, due to his politics of principles, emerged as a statesman with national appeal.

The Chief Minister said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a legendary and visionary leader who defined the highest values of leadership and his contribution for the development of the country would be remembered for the years to come. Vajpayee was an orator par excellence who had ability to cast a spell on the audience.

He said that Vajpayee as Prime Minister of the country (1998 to 2004) changed India forever in many aspects. He is credited with reviving India's glory in the global economy. It was due to the strong will power of Vajpayee that India became a nuclear power. It was due to the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), a vision of Atal Bihari Vajpayee

that rural road connectivity gained pace and almost all the panchayats of the state were connected by roads.

Thakur said that the unveili-

ng of his statue was a tribute to this great son of mother India. This 18-feet statue constructed by spending an amount of Rs 1.08 crore was a

token of love and affection from the people of the state towards the great statesman.

He said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee shared special connect with Himachal which he fondly called his 'second home'. Despite his busy schedule, Vajpayee would never miss an opportunity to visit Himachal to spend a few days at his home in Prini village near Manali. He enjoyed the green environs, met villagers over their small little demands and held poetry sessions.

Later, the Chief Minister inaugurated a blood donation camp. He also wished the people of the state, particularly Christians, a happy Christmas.

Live telecast of the address of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the nation was also shown on the occasion. The Chief Minister also released a book titled 'Atal to Atal Hai' written by noted writer and poet Dr Inder Singh Thakur on the life of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. While appreciating the efforts of the writer, the Chief Minister said that the book would provide the readers a glimpse of life and works of great statesman, leader, thinker and poet.

Meanwhile, the state BJP was celebrating the occasion as Good Governance Day.

Floral tributes were paid to the former PM at the state BJP office.

Ex-PM always prioritised development, says Governor

Tribune News Service

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 25 Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had the ability to take forward all ideologies in the interest of the country, which is required for a strong democracy.

This was stated by Governor Bandaru Dattatreya while presiding over 'Sushasan Divas' organised by Himachal Pradesh University here today to mark the birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister.

He said Vajpayee was committed to liberal thinking and democratic ideals and was in favour of good governance based on morality, sensitivity and transparency, and that's why December 25, his birth anniversary, was celebrated throughout the country as 'Sushasan Diwas'.

Dattatreya said, "I got a chance to work closely with him. I was the Urban Development Minister in his government. He believed that the construction of four-lane highways and strengthening of rail, air and waterways should be given due priority as these shall boost the economy and fast-track the development of our country."

U-20 Ice hockey c'ship at Kaza from Jan 27

Tribune News Service

MANDI, DECEMBER 25 The ice hockey under-20 national-level championship will be held at Kaza from January 27.

Harjinder Singh Jindi, general secretary of the Indian Ice Hockey Federation, said to promote winter sports in Lahaul and Spiti, a national-level championship would be organised at Kaza. He was at Kaza to inaugurate the training camp of the ice hockey, which will continue till March.

He said 165 youths of Lahaul and Spiti were being imparted training. The selected youths will be sent to Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir for advance coaching.

Additional District Commissioner (ADC) Gyan Sagar Negi said the state government was promoting winter sports at Kaza where an ice-skating rink had been made.

Keylong coldest at minus 9.9°C

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 25

Parts of Himachal Pradesh shivered under sub-zero temperatures on Friday, with Keylong being the coldest place in the state at minus 9.9°C, the Met centre here said.

The mercury is likely to dip further with rain and snowfall predicted at isolated places over the state for two days starting Sunday, according to the weatherman.

Tribal district Lahaul-Spiti's administrative centre Keylong remained the coldest place in the state at minus 9.9°C. Shimla Met Centre director Manmohan Singh said. Kalpa in Kinnaur district recorded a low of minus 2.8°C and Manali in Kullu district recorded a minimum temperature of minus 0.4°C, he added. Kufri and Dalhousie recorded a minimum temperature of 3.5°C and 3.7°C, Singh said.

The mercury settled at 4.1 degrees Celsius in Shimla, he said. Una was the warmest place in the state at 21.6 degrees Celsius. — PTI

Proposal to build washing yard at Amb Andaura rly station

RAJESH SHARMA

UNA, DECEMBER 25

A

washing line for coaches is being mooted at the Amb Andaura railway station in Una district, a move which will not only save revenue, but also avoid the daily movement of long-distance trains to the Nangal railway station for washing.

Sumit Sharma, member, North Zone Consultative Committee, said prior to 1990, the Delhi-Ambala-Chandigarh railway line terminated at Nangal and there was no train to Una district.

In 1990, the Una railway station was commissioned and train services were extended to Una.

The 14-km-long Nangal to Una railway line was extended by 60 km till Daulatpur Chowk in Una district and the Amb Andaura station is located midway on the track.

However, trains have to travel back to Nangal every day for washing and then return to Daulatpur Chowk for the return journeys to Delhi, Nanded Sahib and Jaipur. Further, he said work to extend the track by another 15 km till Mukerian in Punjab to link it with the Jalandhar-Jammu broadgauge line was underway.

He said while the train services had been extended till Daulatpur Chowk, trains had to travel back to Nangal every day for washing and then return to Daulatpur Chowk for the return journeys to Delhi, Nanded Sahib and Jaipur. Thereby, a 150 km to and fro journey to Nangal for washing is being undertaken needlessly by the trains, he said.

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PRABHAT GOYAL

Loving memories

With sorrow we share with you the demise of our beloved Prabhat Goyal, a special soul who spread smiles. Shradhanjali Sabha will be held at Arya Samaj Mandir, Sector 7 B, Chandigarh on 27 December, 2020 (Sunday) at 3.00 pm. Keep the departed soul in your heart to bless him. Scan QR Code to join the prayer online. Meeting ID: 934 0723 9406 | Passcode: 555622

In Grief

Shashi Goyal
w/o Late Dr RN Goyal (Dadi)
Sudarshan Sodhi

w/o Late S. Amarjit Singh Sodhi (Nani)

Puneet Goyal IAS (Father)
Esha Goyal (Mother)
Noor (Sister)
All Relatives & Friends

epepaper.tribuneindia.com

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People offer prayers at the Holy Family Catholic Church in Srinagar on Friday. PTI

Covid restrictions make Christmas a low-key affair

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 25

Christmas was celebrated in Kashmir on Friday with religious fervour as devotees held special prayers for peace and prosperity in the union territory.

However, the celebrations were a low-key affair due to the Covid-related restrictions. The biggest gathering in the Valley was held at the Holy Family Catholic

Church at Moulana Azad Road in the heart of the city, where members of the Christian community, including women and children, assembled to celebrate the birth anniversary of Jesus Christ and held special prayers.

The church, decorated with colourful bunting and balloons, wore a festive look.

Among the believers were a few tourists who

joined the locals on the auspicious day and prayed for peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir and the world over.

The Christmas celebrations this year were held in compliance to Covid protocols as devotees wore masks and maintained social distancing and followed other standard operating procedures. — PTI

PDP leader booked for 'manhandling' BJP worker

JAMMU, DECEMBER 25 Senior Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader and former legislator Surinder Choudhary has been booked for allegedly manhandling a BJP worker in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, the police said on Friday.

A video of PDP workers led by Choudhary barging into a shop and beating a BJP worker, Ripu Daman, in the Nowshera area has gone viral on social media, prompting the police to take action.

A case has been registered against Chaudhary and investigation started, the police officials said. Daman has been hospitalised following the attack, they said. BJP leader Vibodh Gupta condemned the assault on the party worker and said the PDP leadership had "lost the mental balance out of frustration". Surinder Choudhary has crossed the limit and he will surely be punished as per the law of land, he said. — PTI

Amid horse-trading charges, Inds emerge kingmakers in Kashmir

Newly elected DDC members to be sworn in on December 28

ADITI TANDON

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 25

The Jammu and Kashmir Administration has planned a Monday swearing-in for the newly elected members of the District Development Councils even as the race to form the council governing structures intensifies.

The Tribune has learnt that the administration has sounded off deputy commissioners to be ready for the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected DDC members on December 28.

He said the ruling BJP's claim that the democracy had won in J&K was a sham, as candidates of the winning alliance were being coerced into supporting the saffron party and its "subsidiary J&K Apni Party"

BJP'S CLAIM ON DEMOCRACY A SHAM

■ National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah launched a scathing attack on the J&K administration on Friday, accusing it of facilitating horse trading

■ He said the BJP's claim that the democracy had won in J&K was a sham, as candidates of the winning alliance were being coerced into supporting the saffron party and its "subsidiary J&K Apni Party"



vice-president, Omar Abdullah, launched a scathing attack on the J&K Administration on Friday, accusing them of facilitating horse trading.

He said the ruling BJP's claim that the democracy had won in J&K was a sham, as candidates of the winning alliance were being coerced into supporting the BJP and its "subsidiary J&K Apni Party" in the Valley."

"Shame on this administration for playing partisan poli-

ties to curry favour with the ruling party and their stooges. These parties couldn't win seats so now they are using money, muscle, threats and government coercion to make up the numbers. So much for "democracy has won", "Omar Abdullah said today. He also took to Twitter to post the photograph of Yasmeen Jan, who won from Imamsahib in Shopian on a National Conference ticket, but joined the Apni Party today.

"This picture explains why

our leaders in Shopian district are being put under preventive arrest by the police. The J&K Police and the administration are facilitating horse trading and defections. The woman shown here in this picture joining the BJP's B-team contested and won elections on an NC mandate," said Omar.

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration has a clear majority in six districts of the Valley while Srinagar is likely to go to J&K Apni Party, which has won three seats but might muster the support of seven independents to get a majority among 14 seats.

In Shopian, Bandipur and Baramulla, independents are key, plus PAGD constituents, including the NC, are now alleging that their winning candidates are being forced to "cross over" to benefit the J&K Apni Party.

New Year revellers head to 'white' Valley

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 25

Undeterred by the intense cold wave sweeping through the Valley, scores of adventure sport lovers and new year enthusiasts have been rushing to Kashmir as minimum temperatures across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh remained below the freezing point on Friday.

The New Year enthusiasts are thronging the famous ski resort of Gulmarg as the minimum temperature dipped to minus 5.6 degrees Celsius.

Huts, huts and other accommodations are all sold out at the ski resort as the authorities are engaged in ensuring comfort for the arriving tourists. The weather office has not forecast any significant snowfall till the end of December, but the ski resort is already covered with a thick blanket of snow. In Pahalgam, tourist arrivals have enlivened the otherwise sleepy meadow. Minimum temperature is Pahalgam was minus 5.9 degrees Celsius on the day, while Srinagar recorded a minus 4.3 degrees Celsius.

Leh town of Ladakh was at minus 12.6 degrees Celsius, Kargil at minus 16.4



TOURISTS THROG GULMARG SKI RESORT

- Hotels, huts and other accommodations in Gulmarg are all sold out
- The minimum temperature at the ski resort dipped to minus 5.6 degrees Celsius

degrees Celsius and Drass at minus 25.3 degrees Celsius as the night's lowest temperatures.

The 40-day long harsh winter period of 'Chillai Kalan' is passing through the Valley and Ladakh. Jammu city recorded 6.3 degrees Celsius, Katra 6.2 degrees Celsius, Batote 1.7 degrees Celsius, Bannihal minus 0.2 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah minus 0.8 degrees Celsius as the day's minimum temperatures. — IANS

Militant's aide held in Pulwama

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 25

Security forces have arrested a militant associate and seized a hand grenade from his possession in Pulwama district, the police said on Friday.

Acting on an input, security forces conducted a search of a

residential house at Syedabad village in the Tral area of the south Kashmir district, a police spokesman said. He said during the search, a Chinese-made hand grenade, concealed in a plastic jar, was seized from the premises.

A case has been registered and further investigation into the case is on, he said. — PTI

284 new cases, one death in J&K

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 25

The owner of the house, Amir Ashraf Khan, has been arrested and shifted to the Tral police station, the spokesman said.

A case has been registered and further investigation into the case is on, he said. — PTI

Of the fresh cases, 140 were from the Kashmir division and 144 from the Jammu division, they said.

The Jammu district recorded the highest number of new cases at 96, followed by 65 in Srinagar. The

number of active cases in the union territory stands at 3,414, while 1,14,353 patients have recovered so far, the officials said. The latest fatality in the union territory was reported from Kashmir, they said. — PTI

दी डीसीटेर जिला सरिवारी दृष्टि उत्पादक मुठोंनीअन लिम्स डीसीटेर
केंद्रीयमंडल साथार आम अनलाइन
मध्ये निर्माण दृष्टि उत्पादक मुठोंनीअन लिम्स डीसीटेर द्वारा आम अनलाइन जैसे विधियां नाची नेटिस अठासा भवित्वे 30.12.2020 लाई निर्माण दृष्टि विकास सो, मुख्यमंडल विकास देश दृष्टि ग्रहण 22.01.2021 दिन मुठोंनीरवार मध्ये 11.00 वार्षे मिलक मुठोंनीअन डीसीटेर देश दृष्टि विकास होवेगा। डिपटी सरकार मेनेजर, दी डीसीटेर जिला सरिवारी दृष्टि उत्पादक मुठोंनीअन लिम्स डीसीटेर।

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE PR. COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX-1,
Aayakar Bhawan, Rishi Nagar, Ludhiana**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applications are invited from service providers for providing under mentioned services in the O/o Pr. Commissioner of Income Tax-1, Ludhiana:-

(A) Data Entry Operator Services

Copy of the tender documents can be downloaded from the website www.incometaxindia.gov.in or www.incometaxchandigarh.org

The application form along with the necessary documentary evidence should be uploaded online mode only on e-tendering portal www.tenderwizard.com/INCOMETAX upto 06:00 P.M. on 30.12.2020. No other mode of application for tender will be entertained.

ITO(HQ). (Admn.)
Room No. 204, 1st Floor
O/o Pr. Commissioner of Income Tax-1,
Aayakar Bhawan, Rishi Nagar, Ludhiana

PUNJAB STATE SPORTS COUNCIL

(Punjab Govt. Undertaking)

SCO. NO. 116-117, SECTOR-34 A CHANDIGARH

TELEPHONE NO.-0172-2606400. 2668794

E-mail ID: directors@punjab2018@gmail.com & sportsxen@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Secure Online Submission of Tenders

No. 423 Dated 24.12.2020

Online tenders on item rate basis as per the DNIT are invited on two bid system (Technical bid & Financial Bid) for the following works:

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Last Date of online submission of Bid	Opening of bidding Documents	
			Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	Providing & Laying of FIH approved Global Category Hockey Turf (unfilled) with cast in situ 15mm shock pad along with allied Civil Works at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Stadium Ferzepur, (Punjab). E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 06 Dated 24.12.2020	15.01.2021 at 11.00 a.m.	15.01.2021 at 04.00 p.m.	To be intimated on the website
2	Providing & Laying of FIH approved Global Category Hockey Turf (unfilled) with cast in situ 15mm shock pad along with allied Civil Works at Village Marar, Distt. Gurdaspur (Punjab). E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 07 Dated 24.12.2020	15.01.2021 at 11.00 a.m.	15.01.2021 at 04.00 p.m.	To be intimated on the website
3	Providing & Relaying of FIH approved Global Category Hockey Turf (unfilled) with cast in situ 15mm shock pad along with allied Civil Works at Surjit Hockey Stadium, Burton Park, Jalandhar, (Punjab). E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 08 Dated: 24.12.2020	15.01.2021 at 11.00 a.m.	15.01.2021 at 04.00 p.m.	To be intimated on the website
4	Providing & Laying of FIH approved Global Category Hockey Turf (unfilled) with cast in situ 15mm shock pad along with allied Civil Works at Dhaduke, Distt. Moga, (Punjab). E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 09 Dated: 24.12.2020	15.01.2021 at 11.00 a.m.	15.01.2021 at 04.00 p.m.	To be intimated on the website

For detail of works other terms & conditions & tender documents, the bidders can login to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

For participating in the above e-tendering process, the bidders shall have to get themselves registered with <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and get user ID, Password Class-3 Digital Signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering process Detailed Notice Inviting Tender and other terms & conditions are available on website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> in all payments regarding purchase of bid document i.e. tender form fee processing fee & earnest money shall be strictly through Online mode (e-payment only) bidders are advised to open a Banking Account with core Banking Solution Branches (with NEFT/RTGS facility)

Note:- Any corrigendum/addendum to the DNIT shall be uploaded to website only.

Sd/- Er. Sanjay Mahajan,
Executive Engineer (C),
Punjab State Sports Council, Chandigarh.

DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH AND MEDICAL EDUCATION, PUNJAB (Medical Education Bhawan, Sector 69, Mohali) NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-Tenders are invited on or before 14.01.2021 for the rate contract of Medical gases for additional requirement due to COVID-19 for Rajinderha Hospital, Patiala and Guru Nanak Dev Hospital, Amritsar as per terms and conditions of the tender.

The tender document containing detailed terms & conditions may be downloaded from the E-procurement website of the Punjab Government i.e. <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

For further details, corrigendum, addendums, clarifications, important dates, etc. concerning the project, the bidders are requested to visit the websites referred above on regular basis. No separate advertisement shall be published in newspaper.

DPR/Pb/161 Sd/- Director, Research and Medical Education, Punjab.

TENDER NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

Online tenders on percentage basis (above or below or at par the DNIT amount) for the below mentioned work are invited from the eligible contractors as per eligibility criteria of the SBD.

Name of the Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money
Strengthening of road from Sector junction 67/68-79/80 upto Kharar Banur Road, S.A.S.Nagar.	Rs. 984.95 Lac	Rs. 14.85 Lac

Tender Processing Fee : Rs.5,900/- Period of Completion : 6 Months

Online availability of tender for bidding Last date & time for submission of online bids

From To Date & time of opening of tender in O/o Superintendent Engineering (C-1), GMADA, Room No. 4

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Unrest in Nepal

India must keep an eye on China's moves

THE political crisis in Nepal, triggered by the sudden dissolution of Parliament by the President on the recommendation of Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, has elicited contrasting responses from its neighbours India and China. While India has described the developments as the Himalayan nation's 'internal matter', China has been quick to make an intervention. Chinese ambassador Hou Yanqi has already met President Bidya Devi Bhandari and the ruling Nepal Communist Party's (NCP) executive chairman PK Dahal, better known as Prachanda. The power tussle within the NCP has intensified this week, with Prachanda removing Oli from the posts of the party's parliamentary leader and chairman. The Oli faction, in turn, has ousted Prachanda from the executive chairman's seat.

Political and economic stability in Nepal matter a lot to China as it has invested billions of dollars under its ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which includes the Trans-Himalayan Multidimensional Connectivity Network — an economic corridor that consists of several major infrastructure projects. Moreover, in 2018, China had apparently played a role in the merger of Nepal's two communist parties which were then led by Oli and Prachanda. Regarded as a pro-China leader, Oli had riled India earlier this year by redrawing the country's political map, laying claim to the Indian territories of Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani. The brazen move had impacted relations between New Delhi and Kathmandu at a time when tensions were running high at the India-China border.

The current turmoil comes amid India's efforts to restore friendly ties with Nepal through recent visits to that country by Army Chief Gen MM Naravane and Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla. Though India is not keen to meddle in Nepal's affairs, it can't afford to let a scheming China undo all the confidence-building measures. New Delhi should keep a close watch on Beijing's moves and at the same time assure Nepal of its unstinting support, no matter which way the wind blows.

Keeping track of travellers

Contact tracing needed to rule out Covid repeat

THE detection of a new coronavirus strain in the United Kingdom has come with its own set of challenges for India. It has led to the cancellation of flights from that country amid the New Year festivities and raised doubts over the proposed visit of the British PM for the Republic Day function. Then there is the task of tracking the travellers who have moved to different states upon their arrival, crucial to containment and surveillance. While the government has clarified that the new mutant strain has so far not been detected in the country, contact tracing and screening are imperative to rule out a recurrence of the disease that has tested the limits of the healthcare system. Sharing the list of passengers with the states may be the right thing to do, but the problem gets compounded with details of close contacts not always forthcoming and the absence of channels of communication due to passengers travelling to remote and rural areas after landing.

Institutional quarantine being recommended in case of the new strain will not help matters because of problems like inadequate availability of hospital beds and the burden it puts on the people economically. Amid apprehensions about the new strain, which is more transmissible, being drug-resistant, the government has clarified that it will not impact vaccine development and that the jab will be equally effective in this case too. But the government has not come out with the exact roadmap for rolling the vaccine out and plans still appear to be nebulous, with pricing and efficacy yet to be spelt out.

With many countries imposing fresh lockdowns to check transmission, safeguards are needed to prevent any exigency. Night curfew had been imposed in some states but has been relaxed after protests. Restrictions on social gatherings though continue as a safety measure, but all this only impede a return to normalcy. Reviving the economy will require that no more shutdowns are imposed and for that prevention, rather than the remedy, will hold the key.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I have to live for others and not myself: that's middle-class morality. — George Bernard Shaw

ON THIS DAY...50 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

CHANDIGARH, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1970

Appeal to the Sovereign

"IT is not enough for a government to be doing well; it must also (to adopt an aphorism) be seen or at least thought, to be doing well," writes a political pundit in London's *The Times*. He also adds: "If a government is thought to be doing badly, then, arguably, it is doing badly for all practical purposes." This holds good not only for Mr. Wilson's government and Mr. Heath's government but also for the government of Mrs. Gandhi. A committed judiciary would make nonsense of the concept of law and the judicial process. A judiciary cannot change its commitment to rendering justice under the law and the Constitution to suit the political commitments of governments which may change with every general election or even sooner by defections in its ranks. Mrs. Gandhi acted very swiftly when the Supreme Court struck down the Bank Nationalisation Act by bringing its provisions into conformity with the law. She had the choice of going to the polls on this issue, but discretion prevailed over the promptings of valour. This time, however, there has been a noticeable dragging of feet. The Union Law Ministry is reported to have advised that in view of the Supreme Court's judgment, privy purses can now be abolished only by treating them as property and providing adequate compensation for their abolition. But her leftist supporters would not be enthusiastic about this. They want the right to property itself to be abolished. The property is a fundamental right, and after the Supreme Court's ruling in the Golak Nath case, no fundamental right can be touched by Parliament. In the opinion of the Law Ministry, only a constituent assembly can do it. But there is nothing in the Constitution to show how a constituent assembly can be called or constituted. Therefore, if Mrs. Gandhi goes to the polls it has to be on this specific issue of a constituent assembly.

Middle class takes a hit

Of every 100 employees who earned salaries last year, 21 have lost their jobs



AUNINDYO CHAKRAVARTY

SENIOR ECONOMIC ANALYST

WILL 2020 be remembered as the year when the 35-year dream run of the Indian middle class finally ended? There have been other years, too, especially in the immediate aftermath of the global financial crisis of 2008, when the middle class faced tough times. This time, however, it is different. The Covid-induced recession has hit the middle class, including the affluent part of it, the worst. And it appears that there's no going back from here.

For starters, let's look at salaried jobs, that key source of income for the middle class. CMIE data tells us that in 2019, there were about 8.7 crore salaried employees in the country. That was about 22 per cent of the total employed population. In November 2020, that number has dropped sharply to about 6.8 crore. That means, out of every 100 employees who earned regular salaries last year, 21 have lost their jobs.

Even if one takes the data for March, which saw one week of lockdown, there's been an 18 per cent drop in the number of salaried employees in India. In fact, the last six months before the lockdown was already bad for the salaried class, compared to 2016, the year that CMIE began its employment surveys. If there were 100 salaried employees in 2016, that number dropped to 97 in the last two quarters of 2019-20. So, things were already bad before Covid, the pandemic only made it much worse.

Even where people didn't lose jobs, they took pay cuts. At times, their salaries were delayed by weeks. This resulted in the middle class eating into a big part of their savings. The recent Mood of the Consumer survey



REALITY BYTE: 2021 may well be a tougher year for the middle class. TRIBUNE PHOTO

The middle class is too scattered and small to constitute a vote bank. Modinomics has no interest in it.

by LocalCircles, released earlier this month, shows that 68 per cent of households saw a decline in their savings in the past eight months. The survey suggests this happened because families had to use their bank balances to run their homes. Although the survey covers all income groups, it most likely paints an accurate picture about what happened in middle class households as well.

The RBI's consumer confidence index also confirms this picture. The latest data for November suggests that 63 per cent of the consumers saw a drop in their income this year. This number is the worst in the lockdown period, which puts paid to optimistic stories about economic recovery. RBI's survey data on employment is no better. In November, nearly 80 per cent of respondents said their employment situation had worsened compared to the same period last year. This is marginally better than the 82 per cent in September, but it is still the second worst level in the lockdown period.

And at a time when the wallet is tight, households are also facing high prices. The RBI survey tells us that

nearly 90 per cent of people think that prices of things are higher right now than they were a year ago. This perception of inflation is the highest it has been since January.

If the middle class doesn't have jobs, and is using its savings to meet expenses, it is obvious that it will be unable to spend on big-ticket purchases. CMIE writes that before the lockdown, about 25-30 per cent households indicated that they will buy consumer durables. That figure dropped to 12.5 per cent in May, at the peak of the lockdown. It rose to 7.4 per cent in October.

This was borne out by reports of the big jump in the production of cars, the smart recovery in the sale of consumer durables and the record delivery volumes reported by online sites. Economists started seeing 'green-shoots' everywhere and began talking of a faster-than-expected recovery. Sceptics were more circumspect, arguing that the festival numbers were driven by pent-up demand and inventory build-up rather than an actual recovery in consumption.

Sales data from November proved the sceptics right. Car sales faltered, while two-wheelers did badly. CMIE

survey data on household planning to buy consumer durables showed a drop in November, instead of picking up further from October. This suggests that the hype about the festival season was a blip, instead of being a trend.

One reason that we haven't seen a complete collapse in consumption is that the middle class spent much less on leisure and travel this year and ended up 'saving' that money. Some of it went into funding bigger purchases. Another key reason was that corporates saw record profits in the September quarter. Without that more jobs would have been lost in the organised private sector, and we would have seen an even bigger loss of income.

But things might be changing for the worse now. One key reason that corporates were able to improve their profit margins was the sharp drop that took place in the price of raw materials and inputs. This was mostly because China, which guzzles inputs from across the world, was growing at a much slower pace this year. Commodity prices have begun to rise as the global economy begins to recover and China returns to top gear. This will increase raw material costs for India Inc and force it to tighten its belt to ensure it retains its profit margins.

The RBI seems unlikely to cut interest rates any further or increase liquidity any more. That means corporate India's cost of finance could also increase. So, the only cost that it can still hope to reduce is its wage bill. This will need companies to sack more people, increase workloads and cut pay. That means, 2021 could well turn out to be an even tougher year for the middle class.

The middle-class problem is that it is too scattered and small to constitute a vote bank. Modinomics has no interest in it. Instead, the Modi-BJP concentrates on numbers from the poorest of the poor and funds from Big Business. Only a wider political realignment can help the middle class find a way out of its troubles.

A guilt outing during Covid times

RAMA KASHYAP

NOT even once did we cross the *Laxman rekha* and remained confined within the four walls of our home during the first two months of the lockdown. All the items of daily use, including medicines and groceries, were ordered and delivered at our doorstep, quarantined at the designated corner before being put to use.

At a time when positive cases were minimal, threat perception was at its maximum. There was so much fear of the lurking danger that even after outside movement was permitted for limited hours, there was a sort of inertia, hesitation to step out of the house. We had to muster courage even for

going out to the neighbourhood park for a walk. A hurried round and we would rush home before the hooter. The sound of hooter gave me an eerie feeling, bringing back childhood memories of December 1971 at Jalandhar when dreaded sirens would blow at any time during the day and night to warn of a possible aerial attack. The same fear, but the enemy is invisible this time.

Considering the seriousness of the situation, we — a retired couple in the early 60s — have been following the guidelines strictly, taking all precautions. Now, there is hardly any restriction, yet our outing, by and large, remains limited to the nearby park for a walk. Despite the pandemic fatigue set-

ting in, we have been adhering to no travelling, no socialising, no eating out regime.

We have remained confined to our home, but for one indulgence, a guilt outing. It was a wedding that my husband and I attended after seeking consent from our children. A case of role reversal! In these unprecedented times, children are the ones taking a call on the movement of their parents.

It was weird getting dressed in a sari, adorning jewellery and wearing make-up after months. I was all decked up; however, the final accessory was the mask without which I could not step out. Temperature checked, hands sanitised, names tallied from the guest list, we stepped into the hall of a

five-star hotel. Oh my God! So many formalities, as if we were boarding an international flight! Even inside the hall, the scenario was so different from the usual wedding scene, just a handful of guests. No customary hugging, just a distant *namaste*. The most conspicuous were the customised masks matching the dresses of the wedding guests.

Well, that was the first and the last social gathering we attended in the past nine months of the pandemic, that too with restraint. It is only in a world free of Covid that we will be able to indulge in festivity with gay abandon. I hope and pray for the early launch of the vaccine. Till then, it's better to exercise restraint and take precautions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Justice ensured

The editorial 'A Christmas gift' aptly castigates those standing by their co-believers convicted of a heinous crime. It is saddening when institutions blindly support such individuals. Any killing is antithetical to religion. Due justice has been ensured in the case despite pressures to scuttle the prosecution. Being on a high social pedestal is one thing but succumbing to baser instincts is quite another. The onus for exposing criminals hiding behind hallowed cloaks lies on society as those standing by them do disservice to God too.

LALIT BHARADWAJ, PANCHKUL

Gender data hub

Recently, the government of Kerala and the UN decided to collaborate to establish the country's first gender data hub. An MoU has been signed for this. Officials of the UN Women also held a meeting with Kerala's Minister for Health and Social Justice, KK Shailaja, in Delhi to discuss the broad framework of the co-operation. The gender hub is built on the goals that were established through an international conference on gender equality held in 2015. The goals were to collect, analyse and use more nuanced data and to inform policy formulation in the manner that will highlight women's rights.

This can indeed prove to be a new beginning for women.

VIHAAN GUPTA, UJJAIN

Jaitley's statue

Reference to 'Bedi quits over Jaitley statue', while Bedi and Jaitley had their issues, the former India captain has a point when he says that sports stadiums should highlight the sportspersons and not the administrators. Bedi has rightly protested against the Delhi and District Cricket Association's decision to install a statue of the former Union minister at the Ferozeshah Kotla stadium. In fact, it is quite bizarre that Jaitley, a former DDCA president, should get a statue at the Kotla. World over, sports stadiums are adorned by statuettes and photographs of athletes; the practice holds true for cricket as well.

Administrators should not overshadow the sportspersons.

PS KAUR, VIA EMAIL

Room for dissent

Reference to 'Govt sends fresh invite, farmers reject'; the issue seems to have reached a dead end as both sides are unprepared to yield. While farmers have displayed an exemplary conduct and successfully warded off attempts to undermine their principled position, the government's apathy is evident to the public at large. The highest court itself has abstained from judging the legality of the Acts and has only suggested a temporary freeze. Our democracy has of late been leaving no space for dissent. In the given situation, farmers are left with no option but to make the fight political.

PANKAJ, KALKAJI

Positivity at its best

The protests by the farmer unions to repeal the farm laws may bear fruit or not, but something positive comes out of these protests. The starting of a community school at Singhu border is one such point. The surprising thing is that the volunteers are not only teaching the kids who are a part of the protests, but also of the migrant workers. The request by the unions to the youth to shun liquor is another positive side of the protests, maintaining a constructive attitude in the face of adversity is laudable. Positivity has been at its best during these farmers' protests.

BIR DEVINDER SINGH BEDI, SANGRUR

Scholarship for SCs

Apropos of 'In new SC scholarship norms, Centre's funding rises to 60%', some changes made by the cabinet will help a large number of students from the SC category get education in the next five years by scholarships. It is expected to act as a support system for those wishing to go pursue education. But funding should be done only after proper evaluation, so that it can be used for the purpose of education rather than being used incorrectly.

JASMINE KAUR, CHANDIGARH

Let's not allow lies to derail farm reforms



HARDEEP S PURI

UNION MINISTER FOR HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS AND CIVIL AVIATION

for the welfare of Sikhs. The grand celebration of the 350th Parkash Parv, wiping tears of the 1984 riot victims, establishing Chairs for Sikh studies in foreign universities, showcasing Sikh heritage to the world, upgrading the infrastructure of places such as Sultanpur Lodhi, connecting places of Sikh pilgrimage through special trains and empowering Sikh youth through scholarships have been some of the measures undertaken in the past six years.

The budget of the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has gone up more than six times in the past six years. Prime Minister Modi has implemented the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee to increase MSP to 1.5 times the cost of production. In fact, the amount spent on procurement at MSP went up by 85 per cent in 2014-19 compared to 2009-14. MSP has risen in the range of 40-70 per cent for all major crops in 2020-21 in comparison to 2013-14. Even this year, procurement of paddy at MSP in Punjab has been 25 per cent more than last year and 20 per cent more than even the procurement target for this year. Till date, over Rs 1,10,000 crore has been transferred directly to the accounts of farmers through the PM Kisan Yojana and Rs 87,000 crore paid as crop insurance to farmers against a premium of merely Rs 17,450 crore.

Despite such incontrovertible evidence and several assurances by senior leaders, including the PM, fear and anxiety are being spread among our brothers and sisters that MSP will go and mandis will be destroyed. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

In 1950, the Indian agriculture sector contributed around 52 per cent to the nation's gross domestic product (GDP), while employing nearly 70 per cent of our entire population. As of 2019, the sector still employed nearly



REAPING DIVIDENDS: The transformative reforms are intended to put more money in the farmers' pockets. TRIBUNE PHOTO

The govt has repeatedly requested the farmers to talk and help resolve any of their concerns. States will be allowed to impose taxes on the mandis and even though the govt has made time-bound dispute resolution mechanisms, we

have also agreed to give access to civil courts in case of disputes. The cobwebs of lies and misinformation are now being removed and the truth is becoming apparent to our hard-working farmers.

42 per cent of our total population but contributed only 16 per cent to the GDP, while experiencing a year-on-year growth rate of just 2 per cent.

A 2018 study by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development showed that 52.5 per cent of all agricultural households were indebted with an average debt of \$1,470 (around Rs 1.08 lakh). This happens while 30 per cent of our agriculture production continues to get wasted due to a lack of proper cold chain infrastructure. These factors make up for a quintessentially inefficient supply chain. As a result, consumers do not have a choice of products, wastage is high and prices are highly volatile. At the same time, the Indian farmer is subjected to the vagaries of climate change, markets, middlemen and lack of essential infrastructure.

The UPA government, with Sharad Pawar as the Agriculture Minister, had set up three high-level committees to make recommendations on reforms in the sector. Parkash Singh Badal, the then

Punjab CM, was the chairman of one of the groups. The CMs of Haryana and other northern states were members. Narendra Modi, the then Gujarat CM, was the chairman of one of the other groups.

Para 5.13 of the committee's report had mentioned: "The market for agricultural produce must be immediately freed of all sorts of restrictions on movement, trading, stocking, finance, exports etc. No monopoly, including that of APMCs or corporate licensees, should be allowed to restrict the market. The concept of farmers' markets, where they can freely sell to the consumers directly, must be promoted. The use of the Essential Commodities Act should be made only in times of emergency and it must be decided in consultation with state governments."

Leading agriculture economists have also recommended these reforms, allowing our farmers to sell their produce in the open market. Even the Congress party's several manifestos in the past have explicitly called for these reforms.

Some Indian states have also adopted and implemented these reforms on their own over the years—for example, Bihar, where the agriculture growth average is 6 per cent compared to the national average of just 2 per cent.

The question then arises, why is there so much opposition? Fundamental and transformational reforms are by nature disruptive. Beneficiaries of the existing inefficient systems have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo, so a pushback from them is natural. The resistance put up by the 'Bombay Club' against the fundamental economic reforms introduced to unshackle the Indian economy in 1991, is an example.

Today, Opposition parties in the country have been marginalised in electoral battles. With a paucity of substantial issues to turn their political fortunes, the vital agriculture reforms have been the targets of incessant misinformation, lies and instigation by these parties.

The government has repeatedly requested the farmers to talk and help resolve any of their concerns. States will be allowed to impose taxes on the mandis and even though the government has made time-bound dispute resolution mechanisms, we have also agreed to give access to civil courts in case of disputes. But we must not allow misinformation campaigns to derail these transformative reforms which intend to put more money in the farmers' pockets.

Mark Twain said a lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes. The truth finally does, however, triumph. The cobwebs of lies and misinformation are now being removed and the truth is becoming apparent to our hard-working farmers. As we remember the valour and sacrifice of Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh on this day, we need to introspect.

Death penalty no magic bullet to curb rape cases



SANKAR SEN

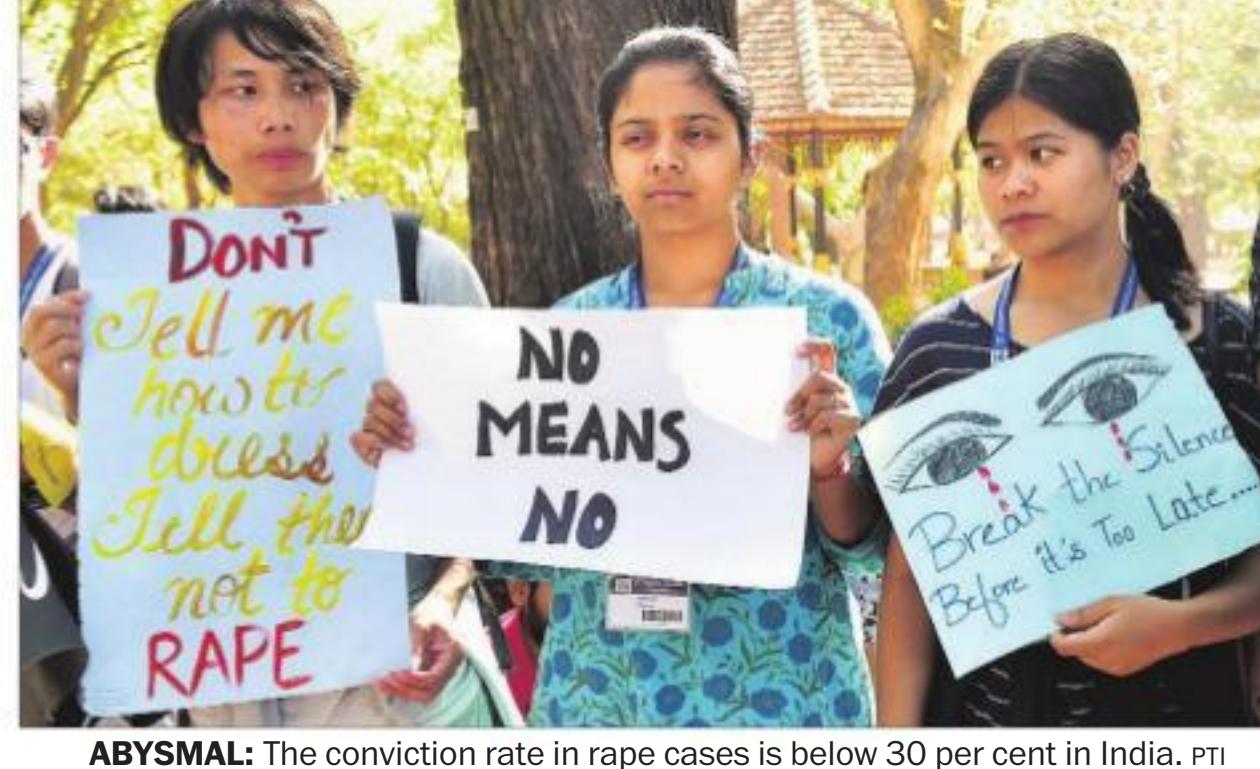
EX-DIRECTOR, NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY

Law enforcement officers and criminologists are of the view that the real deterrent against crime is certainty and not severity of punishment. Death penalty for rape will not curb this grave crime against women unless there is an improvement in the justice delivery system, removal of institutional prejudices against women, and gender sensitisation of society. Unfortunately, Indian society still remains steeped in a patriarchal culture.

THE Maharashtra cabinet recently approved the draft of the Shakti Criminal Law Bill which provides for death penalty for serious offences such as rape and child abuse. The Andhra Pradesh government is also reportedly enacting a law containing a similar provision of death penalty for rape. This brings to the fore the question whether death penalty will act as a deterrent against growing incidence of rape in the country. Will the fear of death scare and deter the rapists?

There is no doubt a surge in rape cases across the country. Delhi has earned the dubious sobriquet of being the 'rape capital'. According to the Annual Crime Report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 32,033 rape cases were registered in India in 2019, as against 33,356 in 2018 and 32,599 in 2017. This slight drop in cases in 2019 was perhaps due to the fact that data from West Bengal was not available. Ironically, the perpetrators of these heinous crimes were found to be related or known to the victims.

The number of cases registered by the police represent only the tip of the iceberg. As per a conservative estimate, about 20 per cent of the crimes under various heads go unreported or unregistered. But even these suppressed and minimised crime figures do not conceal the fact that there has been a substantial escalation of crimes against women, particularly rape. This is mainly due to the uproar in the media, demanding immediate action against the perpetrators, as well as vigorous campaigns by the civil



ABYSMAL: The conviction rate in rape cases is below 30 per cent in India. PTI

society and willingness of the victims to report such crimes. These factors are responsible for improved reporting and registration of cases.

Admittedly, whenever an alarming case of rape is reported, there is outpouring of public sympathy for the victim and a shrill cry for retributive justice. Political leaders, eminent personalities and social activists demand nothing less than death penalty as if that is a magic bullet which will eliminate all dastardly crimes against women. Therefore, after Unnao and Kathua rape cases, there was a predictably loud public uproar and the Central government brought in an ordinance providing for death penalty for the rapists. The demand was stridently voiced by political leaders, including the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Earlier, after the 2012 Nirbhaya rape case, the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 2013 was enacted, amending the IPC, POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act and the Indian Evidence Act, prescribing death penalty for rape. However, the prevalent popular notion that fear of death will scare the rapists and reduce incidents of rape is perhaps not tenable and requires a close, hard look.

Admittedly, there is an ominous possibility of the perpetrators killing the victims or committing violence on them in order to avoid identification. Further, the judges dealing with such cases would require watertight evidence before convicting an accused in a rape case where the punishment is death. Moreover, finding flaws in the

police investigation will not be difficult. As most of the rape cases are reportedly perpetrated by close relatives and acquaintances, with death penalty looming large, the victims will be under tremendous pressure from the kin not to report such cases, resulting in huge suppression of cases.

The other apprehension is that under the existing criminal justice system in the country, tough laws are likely to operate more against the weaker and poorer sections of society, who cannot engage expensive lawyers and perforce have to rely on legal help provided by the State.

Law enforcement officers and criminologists are of the view that the real deterrent against crime is certainty and not severity of punishment. Today, the country sees 88 cases of rape a day but the conviction rate is below 30 per cent.

Therefore, for controlling and curbing crimes of rape, some practical steps are called for. Knee-jerk reactions, like provision in law of death penalty for rape, with a view to catering to the public outcry for tough justice, is not the remedy. First, it is necessary to get an idea of the magnitude and dimension of the crime as most cases of rape remain unreported because of the stigma involved. This phenomenon is not only prevalent in India but also in other countries. A Crime Victim Survey in Australia revealed that only 32 per cent of the victims reported sexual assault. A similar survey (2016) in the US shows that only 23 per cent of rape cases were reported to the police. Instead of only relying on police figures and statistics, crime victim surveys are necessary

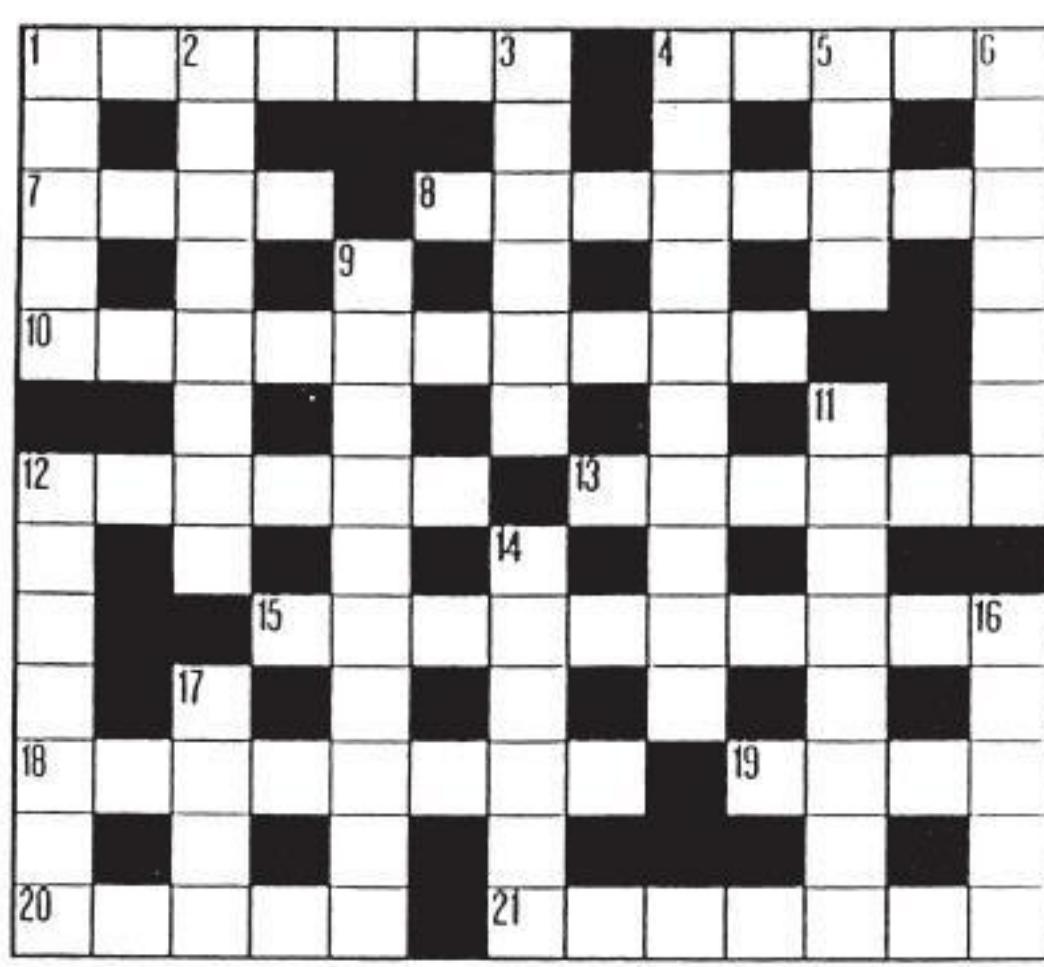
to get a clear idea of the magnitude of the crime before fashioning proper strategies. A crime victim survey in the NCR, conducted by the Institute of Social Sciences, revealed lack of public trust in the police.

Thus, investigation and prosecution of cases must improve. Acute shortage of women police officers, trained in sympathetic and supportive interviewing techniques, affects the police investigation. Though chargesheets are filed in 80 per cent of the rape cases, there is a high rate of acquittal due to delay in trials, witnesses turning hostile and poor prosecution. Though some special courts have been set up to expedite trial of rape cases, they often fail to quicken the pace of justice delivery due to paucity of judges.

The Justice Verma Committee, set up after the Nirbhaya case, did not recommend death penalty for rape but in a subsequent law passed by Parliament, death sentence was included. Only a few countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan and Bangladesh, have death penalty for rape in their statute books. There is no adequate evidence to show that this had a deterrent effect.

Admittedly, death penalty for rape will not curb this grave crime against women unless there is an improvement in the justice delivery system, removal of institutional prejudices against women, and gender sensitisation of society. Unfortunately, Indian society still remains steeped in a patriarchal culture and has not yet learnt to respect women.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Hard-pressed, 9 Oculist, 10 Rapid, 11 Heed, 12 Ravenous, 14 Liable, 16 Beaten, 18 Taciturn, 19 Muse, 22 Elite, 23 Guarded, 24 Beg to differ.

Down: 2 Azure, 3 Dais, 4 Ritual, 5 Sorcerer, 6 Exploit, 7 To the letter, 8 Odds and ends, 13 Ill-treat, 15 Ascribe, 17 Frigid, 20 Undue, 21 Waif.

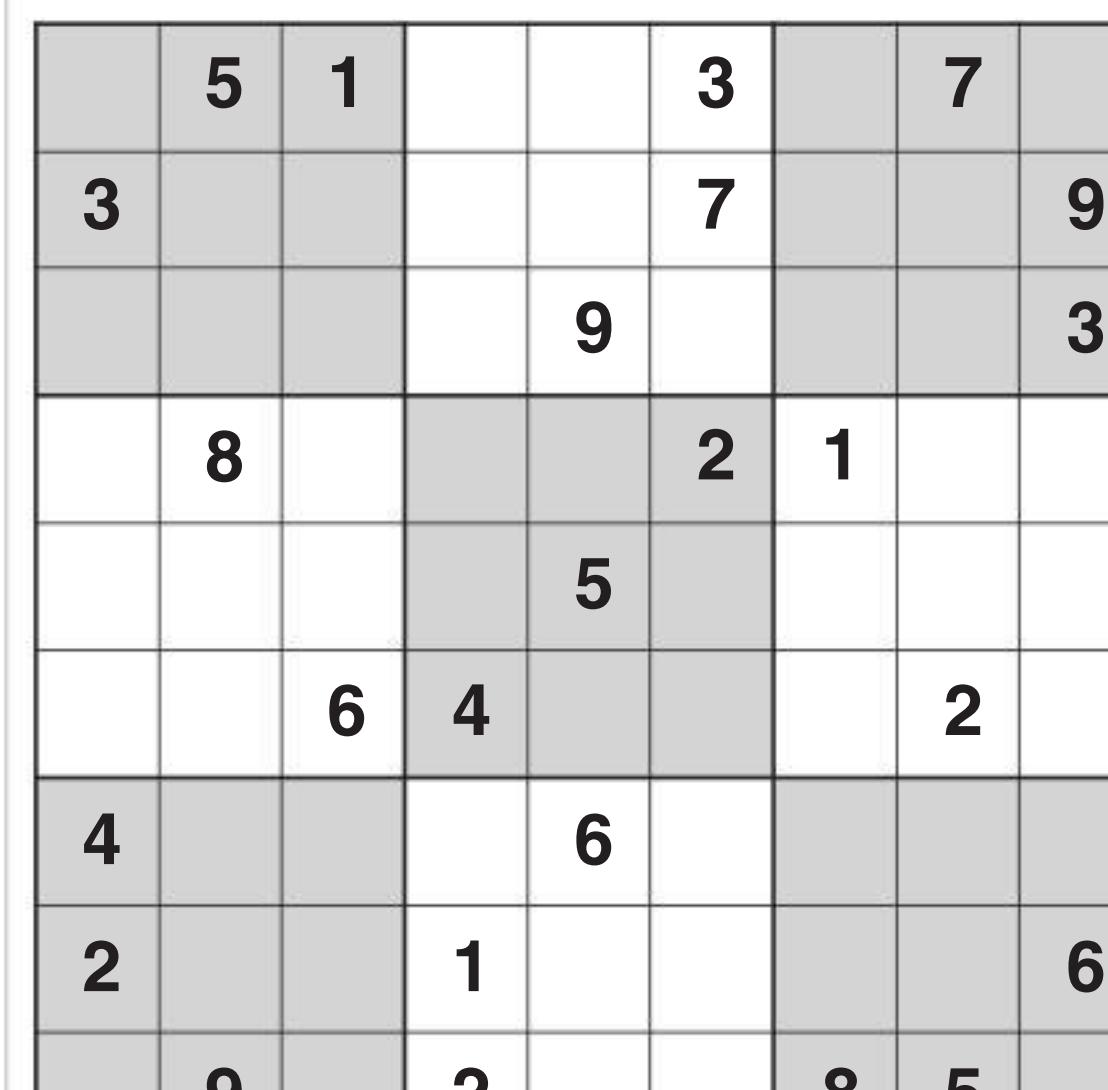
ACROSS

- 1 Highest in rank (7)
- 4 Great strength (5)
- 7 Encourage earnestly (4)
- 8 Greek Trojan War hero (8)
- 10 Grounds for argument (4,2,4)
- 12 Ice cream with fruit etc. (6)
- 13 Acceptably (6)
- 15 Engaged in spying (10)
- 18 A manual (8)
- 19 Hidden drawback (4)
- 20 Swindler (5)
- 21 To praise (7)

DOWN

- 1 Small firecracker (5)
- 2 Italian violin virtuoso (8)
- 3 Other than (6)
- 4 One's own best interests (4,6)
- 5 Very strong wind (4)
- 6 Bear witness (7)
- 9 Within reach (10)
- 11 Administrative district (8)
- 12 Slide unsteadily (7)
- 14 Supremely courageous (6)
- 16 Unbending (5)
- 17 Warm and comfortable (4)

SU DO KU



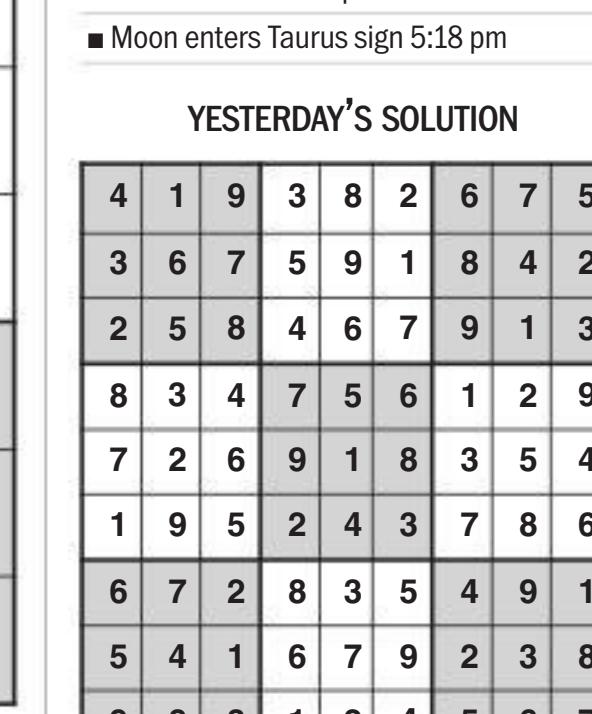
HARD

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 26, 2020, SATURDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Posh Shaka	5
■ Posh Parvishtha	12
■ Hijri	1442
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 12, up to 4.19 am	
■ Siddha Yoga up to 3.24 pm	
■ Bharni Nakshatra up to 10.35 am	
■ Moon enters Taurus sign 5:18 pm	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



FORECAST

SUNSET: SATURDAY 17:28 HRS
SUNRISE: SUNDAY 07:19 HRS



CITY MAX MIN

Chandigarh	21	05
New Delhi	21	04
Amritsar	18	03
Bathinda	23	04
Jalandhar	21	03
Ludhiana	22	03
Bhiwani	21	06
Hisar	22	03
Sirsia	22	05
Dharamsala	15	06
Manali	10	01
Shimla	16	03
Srinagar	09	-03
Jammu	20	06
Kargil	-05	-14
Leh	-07	-17
Dehradun	22	05
Mussoorie	16	06

TEMPERATURE IN °C

MATRIMONIALS**BRIDES WANTED****SAINI**

Saini Sikh boy 1991, 5'-7", M.Tech, (CSE), working in USA MNC, No green card holder. Family settled in USA. +1405933951. (CL20076631)

Suitable match for Saini boy, 6'-3", 1989, MCA, working IT company Mohali. Contact: 98151-91501. (CL20075993)

Australian PR Saini boy, 1990, clean shave, 1990/ 5'-9", M.Com, Sikhs, girl in India/ Australia. Boy currently in India. Upper caste welcome. 70870-39563. (CL20076175)

Match for handsome Saini boy, 32, 5'-2", Research Assistant Italy. Simple family educated girl preferred, 9463660093. (CL20076178)

Gursikh handsome 26-08/ 92-5'10", M.Tech employed MNC Noida, salary 9 LPA. Mobile: 62807-7234. (CL20076231)

Saini businessman and landlord age 48 want high family educated widow, case no bar. 89014-07066. (CL20076412)

Saini boy, 30/ 5'-9", Graduate, working in Multinational Company, looking for girl Initiative for Mohali: 98148-57406, 90417-84905. (CL20076748)

M4 Hindu Saini boy, 18.01.1990, 09:30 am, Patiala, 5'-8", M.Tech, Officer in Canara Bank. Employee preferred. Upper caste welcome. Mb. No. 97795-86381. (CL20077160)

Match for Hindu Saini boy, 86 born, Senior Manager in Government Bank, fair, 5'-9". Upper caste no bar. Marriage bureau excuse. Whatsapp - 98780-12085. (CL20077372)

SM for 91 born Hindu Saini boy, 5'-5", B.Tech. Branch Manager Punjab National Bank. Upper caste no bar. 78379-57450. (CL20078061)

RAJPUT

Suitable match for Mair Rajput 21.04.1992, 6' boy, B.Tech, (CSE), working as a Software Developer in Mohali. rajputasadev9@gmail.com 98729-47628. (CL20076828)

Rajput Thakur, 5-9", September 1994, B.Tech PEC Chd. Senior Project Engineer (PSU), Father GZed Officer Patiala, seeks educated girl from respectable family. Upper caste no bar. 94172-97945. (CL20076866)

Govt. Employee Chandigarh 29.07.1990/ 5'-5", Himachal Rajput. Preferred Govt. job. Working girl: 98153-59388. (CL20072040)

Professionally qualified match for unmarried veg boy, Ph.D Germany working B'lore 1979, 6', 42 LPA, send BHP, srajput24@gmail.com, 78921-21314, divorcee excuse. (CL20072820)

Suitable match for Rajput boy, 29/ 5'-10", Class-I Gazetted Officer (HP Govt.), HP based Doctor/ Lecturer girl preferred. 97369-83089. (CL20076075)

Rajput Thakur Shepia Talwara Sanspur Terrace based District Kangra boy 5'-8", 08.11.1989 born, 10.15 p.m. Kangra, B.Tech, Mechanical, working in Pvt. Company at Parwanoo. 98163-30134. (CL20076083)

Match for Garhwali Rajput Rawat boy 28/5'-7", B.Tech Computer Science, MBA, well settled family, 98886-15923. (CL20076284)

SMF Shimla based Rajput boy 1988/5'-5", NM, only son, fair, slim, handsome, vegetarian, teetotaller, B.Sc., BDS. Dr. doing own clinic. Preference: Dr./Vet. Dr./Bank Officer/Lecturer/C-1 Officer in HP Govt. job. No dowry, UCNB. Marriage bureau please excuse. Contact - Whatsapp: 94180-37585. (CL20076300)

Professional handsome Rana boy, 1991, 5'-7", B.Tech., Software Engineer, work visa Germany, seeks professional Rana girl. Father retired Govt. job. 94660-65171, 82953-5680. (CL20076326)

Suitable match for Mair Rajput boy, 34/ 5'-10", BCA, GNM, MBA Health Care, Job as Male Nurse. Required PR/ Govt. employed girl. Contact 9988151876. (CL20076361)

Match for Himachali Rajput boy 1984 born, 5'-10" M.Sc. MCA HMD Australian Citizen working I.T Company Australia (legally separated within two years) preferred. Family settled Mohali. 98781-23137. (CL20076373)

Match for Himachali Rajput boy December 1990, 5'-11" M.Sc. LLB LLM Govt. job Chandigarh. Family settled Mohali. 0172-4068854. (CL20076375)

Suitable match for Hindu Kashyap boy Rajput boy Nov. 1991, 5'-8", B.Tech, MBA/PGPM, Manager bank. Preference working girl. 7087182766. (CL20076840)

Daoba Sikh Rajput boy 1989, 5'-11", B.Tech, Govt. Job. Seeks educated girl. Contact: 6284783917. (CL20076455)

Kashyap Rajput Behal November 1991, 5'-6", Govt. employee at Jalandhar. Preferred for Govt. Employee girl. 81463-81182. (CL20076471)

Educated girl required for Sikh Tonk-Kashtriya, talented boy, 29/ 5'-11", Officer in Govt. Bank. 7085021835. (CL20076833)

Suitable match Manglik/Non-Manglik Tonk-Kashtriya boy B.Tech, 5'-10", 21.11.1994, working MNC Noida, Package 12 LPA. Prefer Punjabi girl working at Noida, Delhi. Gurugram. 84270-31122. (CL20077149)

Tonk Kashtriya handsome, vegetarian boys want Govt. employed or Eligible slim, tall, beautiful brides, elder 1991, 5'-8", B.Tech, contactual service, Taggar/ Rattan, younger 1993, 5'-11", MBA, Govt. service, educated, reputed family. 94783-65802. (CL20077425)

Sikh Rajput (Chouhan), 28/ 5'-9", Govt. Officer Patiala boy Required Govt. job. Well educated tall girl. 9855234674. (CL20076588)

Gursikh Kashyap Rajput boy 1994, 5'-6", B.Tech. Govt. job. Required beautiful, Govt. job girl (Sikh). 83607-98467. (CL20076598)

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: 0172-2670419 or

E-mail at: circulation@tribunemail.com

Advertisement: 0172-2670257 or

E-mail at: classified@tribunemail.com

Display: 0172-2670256 or

E-mail at: classified@tribunemail.com

adpaper@tribunemail.com

DOCTORS/ENGINEERS

Suitable match for 1990/ 5'-8", Handsome MD Homeopathy & Asstt. Professor from Doctors family Running Homeopathic Medical Centre Successfully at Chandigarh. 8427812201. (CL20075951)

Tall very slim beautiful MBBS or P.G. Medico girl for very handsome Hindu Khatri Orthopaedic Surgeon 5'-9", 26.08.85, 3.16 a.m., Ludhiana. Working as Consultant. No bars. 98155-74644, 98720-36916. (CL20076333)

SM4 well settled & well qualified Aggarwal boy 32, 5'-9", Multiple business, own hospital (NABH), handsome commercial properties, 7 digits monthly rental income. Very high status reputed family. Doctor/ CA/MBA preferred. WhatsApp: 98145-30129. (CL20076099)

Gursikh Khatri handsome boy Dec. 89, 6' MDS (OMFS), own clinic, Father Retd., mother Govt. Officers. Well educated family. 84277-24869. (CL20076196)

Beautiful Doctor girl for handsome, 29, 5'-8", Sikh Tonk-Kashtriya MBBS Doctor boy in Paramilitary. Caste immaterial. 098727-88036. (CL20076224)

Hindi Kashyap Rajput, 15.10.88, 5 a.m. at Sirhind. Web Developer (IT Sector) 58000 salary. 94642-52878. (CL20076224)

Suitable match for Kashyap Rajput boy 30 yrs., B.Tech., MBA, working in private company at Mohali. 2 brothers younger is studying. Both have their own cars. Own houses at Shimla & Chandigarh. Father ret. Sr XEN. Mother is Principal in Govt. School near Shimla. Grandfather retired Class I Officer from HP Govt. WhatsApp: 98143-90543. (CL20076325)

Suitable match for Agarwal boy, Nov. 1992, 5'-7", MBBS, MD Radiodiagnosis. Doing job in Chandigarh. 97804-74243, 62397-59674. (CL20076357)

Arora Khatri Gursikh Doctor M.D. Community Medicine, Major Rank Pune 5'-9", 1989 Bathinda Based, Salary 1.75 Lakh monthly. 88376-19610. (CL20076444)

Suitable match for Kamboj Hindu boy 88/5'-10", Clerical job, resident near Talwara. 70095-20420. (CL20077350)

Match for Rajput boy 20.01.1991, 6'1"- B.A., Patwari in Punjab Govt. Preferred working girl, caste no bar. Cont. No. 62803-48529. (CL20077353)

Suitable match for Kashyap Rajput boy 29.10.1990, 4.5 pm, Amritsar, 5'-9", MBBS, Anaesthesia trained, running own Hospital. 94655-65494. (CL20076483)

Suitable match for Hindu Khatri Doctor boy September 1992, 5'-3", MBBS MEM running Medico Complex including Hospital, Pharmacy & Pathological Lab. 98764-33738. (CL20076506)

Medico Match (BAMS) for Chaudhary Himachali boy B.Tech, 02.07.91, 5'-9", Posted as JA SBI Bank. Father Doctor, having own Clinic Jalandhar. Mobile 9041470890, 01812256791. (CL20076509)

Medico match for smart Aggarwal boy MBBS, DO, DNB (Ophthalmology), 5'-11", 12/09-88, Parents Doctor Contact 98960-15805, gautaphospital90@gmail.com (CL20076521)

Equal qualified match for fair, teetotaller Aggarwal boy, Nov. 78, 5'-8", DNB (Anaesthesia), divorcee. Status family. 98143-67196. (CL20076655)

Suitable match for Hindu boy 29/5'-6", PCMS Doctor (MBBS). Father running hospital. Property in Gisupura (Loh.) Seeking for Medico (MBBS/PCMS) beautiful match. Contact: 79735-30059. (CL20076678)

Manglik/ Non-Manglik Medico Aggarwal match for Bansal handsome boy, 11.04.1988, 01:08 pm, Ludhiana, 6', MD (Medicine), Senior Resident. 62397-76174. (CL20076695)

BAMS, MBBS, MDS, match for MDS (Endodontics), 1989, 5'-11", Bansal boy. 98130-77861. No dowry. Parents BAMS. Upper caste no bar. (CL20076758)

Match for Chandigarh based Sambyal Himachali Merchant Navy Officer 29.09.1986, 1.10, 5'-9", boy. 98151-09151, 98787-39051. (CL20076703)

Manglik Rajput boy B.Tech. Regular Govt. service August 1988, 5'-6", suitable qualified, only genuine Himachali Rajput. 94180-86460. (CL20077675)

AHLUWALIA Ahluwalia boy, August 91/ 5'-9", MBA Finance, no demand. Requirement & educated girl. 77040-1516. (CL20076377)

Ahluwalia handsome & fair boy, 1992, 6'-0", MBA, working MNC Gurgaon, handsome package, own house and agricultural land - Cheeka, preference: working girl, upper caste no bar. Contact: 93064-90732, WhatsApp: 99110-43041. (CL20076726)

JAT PQM for Jat boy, 29/ 6', US citizen, Commissioned Officer USA Army, studied India/ USA. Looking for a beautiful, well cultured girl. Email: rajender183@gmail.com. Cell: 9712946013 (USA). (CL20077431)

Suitable match for Jar boy, 5'-8", 27 years, settled at Zirakpur with parents. B.Tech, serving at Mohali. Mob: 84279-45192. (CL20075879)

TONK-KASHTRIYA Wanted beautiful, slim, tall, educated girl for Sikh Tonk-Kashtriya, fair, handsome, well educated, 1994 born, 5'-8", BA LLB (Hons), LLM Advocate in High Court Chandigarh. From Educated, Affluent Business family, only son, Multiple Residential, commercial and agriculture properties in Dual Cities, well established businesses successfully running. Contact with recent pictures and biodata. WhatsApp: 98147-00945, 98850-24569. (CL20076314)

Sikh Tonk-Kashtriya boy, 5'-5", 1991, Central Govt. Employee seeking for a educated homey girl. M 9888241361. (CL20076719)

Educated girl required for Sikh Tonk-Kashtriya handsome, talented boy, 29/ 5'-11", Officer in Govt. Bank. 7087182766. (CL20076840)

Suitable match Manglik/Non-Manglik Tonk-Kashtriya boy B.Tech, 5'-10", 21.11.1994, working MNC Noida, Package 12 LPA. Prefer Punjabi girl working at Noida, Delhi. Gurugram. 84270-31122. (CL20077149)

Tonk Kashtriya handsome boy, vegetarian boys want Govt. employed or Eligible slim, tall, beautiful brides, elder 1991, 5'-8", B.Tech, contactual service, Taggar/ Rattan, younger 1993, 5'-11", MBA, Govt. service, educated, reputed family. 94783-65802. (CL20077425)

Sikh Tonkshtry boy, 1990, 5'-5", Tech. Lecturer. Educated girl required. Employed preferred. 94631-54887. (CL20077262)

Suitable match for Tonk Kashtriya boy from Ropar, 5'-8", 01.09.1988. Working as Sr. Design Er. 98770-36877. (CL20077417)

Tonkshtry boy, 1990, 5'-5", Tech. Lecturer. Educated girl required. Employed preferred. 94631-54887. (CL20077262)

SM for Sikh Tonk Kashtriya divorce Manglik boy 76, 5'-8", MNC job BE, MBA. 98730-95615. (CL20076654)

Non Manglik for BAMS/Engineer and Advocate 5'-7", 26.11.1989, 10:08 pm. Father (Saggu) Senior Advocate & mother (Singla), running own eye clinic, Ludhiana. Younger sister pursuing MBBS. Cast no bar. 94171-95605. (CL20078039)

MD Paediatrics, 34, 5'-9", working a reputed 18 LPA, looking Medico and Non Medico girl, 82698-39838, 98933-22756. (

CLASSIFIEDS

Suitable qualified match for Saraswat Brahmin boy, Patiala, 01 Oct. 1991, 1:58 p.m., 5'-7", B.Tech., MBA, working in MNC, 6239019366, 9779584527. (CL20076313)

Saraswat Brahmin match for 1993 born 6', BE, MS, MBA placed at Deloitte, Vegetarian established family. 98154-83683. (CL20076358)

Saraswat Bhardwaj, 5'-6", 11.10.1985, 05:52 p.m., Karnal, Govt. Gazetteed Officer, High Court, Chandigarh, Chandigarh, Panchkula, Mohali preferred. 97798-12236. (CL20076320)

Professionally qualified cultured match preferably Punjabi family for handsome Brahmin boy, 1992 born, BE (CS), MBA (top ranked College) well settled in Singapore, good salary. Contact: xprtinfb20@gmail.com 98889-83640, 98883-96060. (CL20076324)

Looking smart, educated girl for handsome Brahmin boy, well settled own business (own showroom), B.Tech. (ECE), 5'-9", 1.8.1990, 9:00 pm, Amritsar. 98724-92898, 81467-53298. (CL20076329)

28/5'-10", SB boy, Officer in PSU Bank, only son. Government employed preferred. 94637-46804. (CL20076359)

Charming girl with traditional looks for Professor at Delhi, MBA, Ph.D. (IIT), Non-Manglik, 5'-7", Oct. 1989 (Jalandhar) reputed Punjabi (Joshi) Saraswat Brahmin family, God loving, Satvik lifestyle. 70093-89573. (CL20076360)

Match for Brahmin boy, 18.08.1990, 17:35 pm, Bajnath HP, 5'-8", B.Tech., M.Tech., working in Chandigarh. 94187-28686. (CL20076388)

Dhiman Brahmin 1975/5'-3/4", Bachelor Post Graduation Govt. service send biodata, photo 98916-17218 WhatsApp only. (CL20076413)

Sarswat Bhardwaj handsome boy 16.6.97, 12.45 night, Karnal, 5'-7", Graduate, own reputed business, own showroom, kothi. 98967-67559. (CL20076511)

IT working girl preferred for Himachali Brahmin boy, 5'-11" 21/10.88, B.Tech., working Infosys Chandigarh. 82198-59893. (CL20076567)

Match for Manglik Saraswat Brahmin smart boy, 30 years, 5'-10", Central Govt. job on contract basis, other income 35,000. Cast no bar. Mob: 9646731887, 9780729340. (CL20076569)

Suitable working match for handsome Gaur Brahmin B.Tech boy, 6', 25.10.1994, 5.44 am, Jagadguru working TCS Chandigarh Tricity preferred. 94169-36379. (CL20076591)

Match for Manglik Sraswat Brahmin boy, 23.10.1990, 11.15 am, Amritsar, 5'-6", M.Com LLB, own Office/ CA/ Teacher working girl/ Govt. employee preferred. Contact after matching kundli. Contact: 98782-27704, 84279-47704. (CL20077167)

Suitable match for Brahmin practising Advocate handsome boy, 1991 born, height 5'-7", Ludhiana. Contact: 98768-43700. (CL20077170)

Suitable match for smart, teetotaller Saraswat Brahmin boy 5'-10", 9.8.89, 7:25 pm, Gurdaspur, B.Tech., well settled business. Father retd. Bank Manager. 89685-55356. (CL20077190)

Brahmin 6 May 88, Jalandhar, 8.37 p.m., 5'-8", MCA job in Mohali, 35.000 pm, need educated girl. 97868-35311. (CL20077193)

Suitable match for Manglik boy, Brahmin boy, 23.10.1990, 11.15 am, Amritsar, 5'-8", required well qualified girl. 98157-81200. (CL20077194)

Gaur Brahmin 1983, 5'-11" vegetarian teetotaller M.Phil, NET qualified working Haryana Govt. Chandigarh based girl working in Chandigarh/ Haryana preferred. 98557-92356. (CL200771870)

Beautiful match for 90 born Himachali smart boy B.Tech., MBA, 5'-9", working reputed MNC. WhatsApp 94185-36711. (CL20077228)

Manglik Bhardwaj Brahmin boy 01.02.1990, 22.29 pm, Kunukshetra, educated, vegetarian well established family seeks alliances for homes, non-working brides. Send pic, bio-data WhatsApp 091387-01313. (CL20077246)

Seeking suitable, good looking, educated match for handsome, 6', good looking Advocate, Brahmin boy (had qualified Civil Services written exam) well reputed well settled Kaithal family (Haryana), 4.12.1983, 5:30 am. (Cast no bar). 92544-33343. (CL20076641)

Match for Saraswat Brahmin Boy, 21.03.1990, 01.12 PM, Chandigarh anshik manglik, 5', B.tech, working at Noida belongs to Na-Nangal Area. Employed girl preferred. Father retired Bank Manager. Family settled at Mohali. Send girl's biodata on WhatsApp 9779585858. (CL20076649)

Required beautiful girl for well settled Vaishno Brahmin boy, 5'-6", 30.7.1993, Yamuna Nagar 85294-31803, 98961-92107. (CL20076733)

Match for Saraswat Brahmin Aug, 1988, 5'-11", Hoshipur Merchant Navy Officer own Agriculture Ruler and urban property. 75290-05054. (CL20077293)

Suitable match for Anshik Manglik Gaur Brahmin boy, 25.07.1991, 7:50 am, Moga, 5'-8", CA, Ludhiana, income 10-12 lakh. Preferred CA, Lecturer, Banking. Welcome upper caste. Contact: 99147-87791, 94179-88468. Matching kundli must. (CL20076765)

Match for Punjabi Brahmin boy, 28.4.87, 5'-5", B.Com, MBA, Manager in company. Preferred B.Ed. Private or Govt. job, Jalandhar only. 6280360791. (CL20076880)

Match for Brahmin Sharma boy, 11.10.1992, 5'-7", Graduated, salaried. 85590-48168. (CL20076890)

Teeotaller Saraswat Brahmin boy, 11.02.87, 9:50 am, 5'-11", B.Tech., M.Tech., Chandigarh, Upper caste no bar. 90419-2000. (CL20076901)

Himachali Brahmin boy 08.5.1983, 11:40 am, Chandigarh, 5'-5", B.Tech. (Mechanical), working as Marketing/ Sales Manager in Company near Chandigarh. Himachali based working girl in tricity preferred. Contact: 98885-03326, 0172-2692861. (CL20076915)

Brahmin match for Gaur Brahmin boy, 5'-11", 02.06.1990, Group B Officer in Central Excise & Customs, annual salary 9.5 lac. Employee preferred. WhatsApp: 98360545332. (CL20076955)

Professionally employed match for Punjabi Saraswat Brahmin boy, 30, 5'-9", B.Tech. MBA, Multinational Company, Pune, 9872686056. (CL20076965)

Saraswat Brahmin (Batishya) boy 14.10.1992, 04:20 am, Bathinda, 5'-7", B.Tech (Mech), Ren Energy Tech (Canada), Project Management (Canada), Working in Survey (Canada) Work Permit. Manglik, Anshik Manglik Excuse. 78888-72616. (CL20077395)

Saraswat Brahmin boy 15.10.1986, 5'-10", Saraswat Brahmin boy, manglik, B.Tech. (ECE), well settled own business in Chandigarh. Contact: WhatsApp 86983-06193, 98725-65121. (CL20077448)

Manglik Saraswat Brahmin boy, 5'-10", Computer Engineer, 13 Feb, 1990, 3:15 pm, Chandigarh, working in an MNC in India. 96461-35331, 98663-3191. (CL20077054)

Saraswat Brahmin boy, 05.02.1988, 9:58 a.m. Chandigarh, 6 feet, MBA, PR in Canada. Early marriage. Contact: 99157-24391. mohitranin550@gmail.com Pl, contact after matching kundli. (CL20077058)

Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin boy 6 B.Sc. IT MCA 21 Nov. 1989, 3:58 p.m. Ludhiana. Job in Gurgaon, 7.5 Lac PA, 81469-56887, 83600-36438. (CL20077212)

Gaur Brahmin Chd based M.Sc M.Tech, IT engineer Chd 22.00, 28-5-1987, 5'-9" Bulandshar U.P. partial manglik. Own flat chd, medium family. Highly qualified parents. Match kundli. Preferred Brahmin Govt. service girl. 99886-40561. (CL20077063)

Match for Gaur Brahmin boy, 11-01.1990, 11:30 pm. Ambala, 5"-8", M.Tech working in Pvt Bank. 94666-59158, 87089-1313. (CL20077067)

Suitable match for Saraswan Punjabi Brahmin boy, 30 years, 5'-11", Batala. Qualification: BE & MBA from reputed University, job in leading MNC, Gurgaon, 15 lac LPA. Preferred service girl. 98559-42424. (CL20077128)

HP Brahmin boy 20.11.1993, height 5'-7", package & lac LPA, M.Tech. Cont. 98734-67283. (CL20077140)

Wanted educated and beautiful bride for Saraswat Brahmin boy, height 5'-9", Dob 10.11.1995, BCA qualified and owner of Hotel and petrol pump in Gurdaspur District. Caste no bar. Contact: 62842-32069. (CL20077152)

Medico match for 87 born, 6'-1", Pb. Brahmin boy, MD Pediatrics, Govt. job. Father running his own Children Hospital in Mukerian Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Gynaecologist preferred. Upper caste no bar. Contact: 98729-43592, 98154-73441. (CL20077164)

Brahmin boy 29, 5'-11", PR in Canada. Requires slim, beautiful, educated girl in Punjab-98787-08439. (CL20076413)

Sarswat Bhardwaj handsome boy 16.6.97, 12.45 night, Karnal, 5'-7", Graduate, own reputed business, own showroom, kothi. 98967-67559. (CL20076511)

IT working girl preferred for Himachali Brahmin boy, 5'-11" 21/10.88, B.Tech., working Infosys Chandigarh. 82198-59893. (CL20076567)

Match for Manglik Saraswat Brahmin boy, 20.08.1990, 17:35 pm, Bajnath HP, 5'-8", B.Tech., M.Tech., working in Chandigarh. 94187-28686. (CL20076388)

Dhiman Brahmin 1975/5'-3/4", Bachelor Post Graduation Govt. service send biodata, photo 98916-17218 WhatsApp only. (CL20076413)

Sarswat Bhardwaj handsome boy 16.6.97, 12.45 night, Karnal, 5'-7", Graduate, own reputed business, own showroom, kothi. 98967-67559. (CL20076511)

IT working girl preferred for Himachali Brahmin boy, 5'-11" 21/10.88, B.Tech., working Infosys Chandigarh. 82198-59893. (CL20076567)

Match for Manglik Saraswat Brahmin boy, 23.10.1990, 11.15 am, Amritsar, 5'-6", M.Com LLB, own Office/ CA/ Teacher working girl/ Govt. employee preferred. Contact after matching kundli. Contact: 98782-27704, 84279-47704. (CL20077167)

Suitable match for Brahmin practising Advocate handsome boy, 1991 born, height 5'-7", Ludhiana. Contact: 98768-43700. (CL20077170)

Suitable match for smart, teetotaller Saraswat Brahmin boy 5'-10", 9.8.89, 7:25 pm, Gurdaspur, B.Tech., well settled business. Father retd. Bank Manager. 89685-55356. (CL20077190)

Brahmin 6 May 88, Jalandhar, 8.37 p.m., 5'-8", MCA job in Mohali, 35.000 pm, need educated girl. 97868-35311. (CL20077193)

Suitable match for Manglik boy, Brahmin boy, 23.10.1990, 11.15 am, Amritsar, 5'-8", required well qualified girl. 98157-81200. (CL20077194)

Gaur Brahmin 1983, 5'-11" vegetarian teetotaller M.Phil, NET qualified working Haryana Govt. Chandigarh based girl working in Chandigarh/ Haryana preferred. 98557-92356. (CL200771870)

Beautiful match for 90 born Himachali smart boy B.Tech., MBA, 5'-9", working reputed MNC. WhatsApp 94185-36711. (CL20077228)

Manglik Bhardwaj Brahmin boy 01.02.1990, 22.29 pm, Kunukshetra, educated, vegetarian well established family seeks alliances for homes, non-working brides. Send pic, bio-data WhatsApp 091387-01313. (CL20077246)

Match for handsome Brahmin boy, Nov. 5, 1990, 5:47 am, 5'-10", MBA, running own business, working girl preferred. 94650-72939. (CL20077253)

Professionally qualified (like minded) match from tricity working/ PR abroad from Brahmin boy, June 85/5'-10", M.B.A (General), permanent Resident in Canada. WhatsApp: 94172-27700. (CL20077261)

Match for handsome Punjabi Brahmin boy, 18 Nov. 1982, 5:45 pm, Patiala, Assistant Professor of English, 5'-8", only son with urban and Agricultural Assets, one sibling. Simple and early marriage. Contact after matching kundli. WhatsApp: 98768-43565. (CL20077279)

Smart, handsome Saraswat Brahmin boy 04.03.1991, 5'-8", working in Germany as Development Engineer (M.Tech.), seeks alliance well educated (MBA, MCA, B.Tech.) beautiful girl. 98161-19307, 98050-12925. (CL20078014)

Professionally qualified beautiful match for Himachali handsome Brahmin boy, 5'-8", January 1995 born, B.Tech (Mechanical), serving MNC Pime. Himachali preferred. 98557-92356. (CL20077287)

Match for handsome Brahmin boy, 05.10.1990, 8:17 pm, Chandigarh, M.B.A, working MNC Gurgaon. WhatsApp 98720-41658. (CL20078036)

Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin boy, 11.02.1991, 9:50 am, 5'-11", B.Tech., Businessman in Trading Company. Requires slim, fair, educated girl. 88878-24442, 96461-05557. (CL20078044)

Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin boy, 11.02.1991, 9:50 am, 5'-11", B.Tech., Businessman in Trading Company. Requires slim, fair, educated girl. 88878-24442, 96461-05557. (CL20078044)

Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin boy, 11.02.1991, 9:50 am, 5'-11", B.Tech., Businessman in Trading Company. Requires slim, fair, educated girl. 88878-24442, 96461-05557. (CL20078044)

Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin boy, 11.02.1991, 9:50 am, 5'-11", B.Tech., Businessman in Trading Company. Requires slim, fair, educated girl. 88878-24442, 96461-05557. (CL20078044)

Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin boy, 11.

SIKH KHATRI/ARORA

PQM Nov. 84, 6th, Sikh boy, MBA, B.Tech, CSE, Thapar, Manager IT MNC Chd., 20 lac, Tricity issues less, divorce within week, 70096-0752, corporateemail11727@gmail.com (CL20076381)

Beautiful match for Khatri Gursikh boy, Nov. 91, 5'-8", B.Tech, own business, Kotkappa based, 94641-15028, 98884-76464. (CL20076424)

Highly qualified match for Sikh (clean shaven) boy Canadian Citizen 31 years, 6 feet, 5 years experience in MNC Canada, M.E, now doing MBA from USA, 97815-3356. (CL20076746)

Match for well settled Tech, Bhabl, near Amritsar, 1987, 5'10", 17Lacs, 96540-37770, 99889-70531 (CL20076754)

QSM4 fair handsome NT/ND Arora girl Gursikh boy, 5'-9", Sep 1983, well settled, Australian Citizen 17 yrs, Consultant divorcee (Issue less), non trimmer now in India for short time, suitable Gursikh match required contact 92563-29050. (CL20076993)

Well qualified, beautiful match for well qualified (B.Tech, Comp. Science, Thapar University, Smart, good looking Gursikh boy, 5'-6", 29 yrs, non-drinker, working as Tax Assistant, Income Tax Deptt, Pune, Contact: Father- 9463560185, 8367055217. (CL20076845)

Sikh Arora boy 26/ 5'-10", BE BITS Pilani, Sr. Software Engineer MNC PUNE, 30 LPA, Father retired, Mother Govt. Employee. Professionally qualified preferred. # 84277-80301. (CL20076886)

Yamunagar based Sikh Khatri, Engineer boy, 32, 5'-11", working Infosys Mohali, divorced after 10 days of marriage. Contact: 82955-19226. (CL20077269)

Punjabi Sikh Khatri Amritsar based business family seeks alliance for their son Jun-92/5'-8". Contact: 82888-69036. (CL20077307)

Match for Mohali based Arora (Sapra) clean shaven, B.Tech, August 1992/ 5'-8", Upper caste no bar, Contact: 81468-08529. (CL20078103)

SIKH LOBANA

Lubana Sikh boy Oct. 1989, 5'-11", B.Tech, Software Engineer, top MNC Gurgaon, 17 LPA, caste no bar.

Professionally qualified match for handsome, 34, 5'-8", B.Tech, MBA, divorced, MNC, 10 LPA. 82951-64518. (CL20076281)

Handsome Bansal boy 1994/ 5'-9", B.Tech, Divisional Accountant (CAG) Posting Punjab only. Parents Govt. Employee, Govt. Employed girl preferred. 94170-94950. (CL20076295)

Educated match for M.Tech, Ph.D. (CSE), household Jindal boy, working in UK, 5'-9", 21.12.1990, 546 pm, Patiala, B.Tech, working Bangalore. Preferred Bangalore working. Marriage bureau excuse. 9914882300. (CL20076354)

Match Garg Manglik boy, 3 Feb 1990 (03.25 pm, Patiala), 5'-10", B.Com, Medical shop. 98782-48299. (CL20076371)

Match for Jindal boy, 5'-10", 10.11.84 (11.58 am) at Sangrur, own Coaching Institute, own house (Barnala). 98154-38280. (CL20076397)

Singha handsome boy, 09.12.1994, 05.50 am, Adampur Doaba (Jalandhar), 5'-8", B.Tech, businessman 15 LPA, seeks qualified beautiful girl. Marriage bureau excuse. Contact: 99157-35656. (CL20076402)

Professionally qualified match for Aggarwal SDO Chandigarh, Oct. 90, 5'-11", Govt. employee preferred. Contact: 98774-81300. (CL20076408)

Garg boy 26.07.1993, Barnala, 5'-6", B.Tech, package 18+, working MNC Mumbai. 93573-30791. (CL20076840)

Vegetarian Garg, 16.4.86, 8:45, 5'-5", Graduate, well settled own business, good income. 9356177111. (CL20076429)

Match for good looking Oct. 88/ 6', B.Tech., MBA, working MNC, Gurgaon with handsome package. 98961-09988, 98961-09174, # sumaheshgupta@gmail.com (CL20076473)

SM4 Garg boy 5'-5", M.Tech, Business, 20.10.1985, 8.48 p.m., Kurukshetra, Haryana. 92551-10162 (WhatsApp). (CL20076474)

Homely match for Jindal Graduate boy, 15.5.1979, 7.30 am, Bathinda, 5'-9", unmarried, fair, Aadhar business, own shop, house, main Bazaar Bathinda. 98884-21053. (CL20076505)

Suitable match for teetotaller Garg boy 5'-8", 27.11.1992, Time: 5:30 am, A.M. Chandigarh, Masters in Mech. Engineering, own well settled business & own house in Tricity, only sister married. Contact: 98141-25775. (CL20076607)

Mahajan boy 09.02.1991, 8.28 am, Amritsar, 5'-8", B.Tech, working as Asstt. Manager Govt. Bank. 98158-03154, 98727-38080. (CL20077540)

MAHAJAN

Wanted educated match Mahajan boy 24.5.85, 5'-5", Mechanical Engineer, company, caste no bar. 94639-65959 (CL20076275)

Mahajan boy, 3.10.82, 4.16 am, Amritsar, 5'-10", Dy. Manager, MNC package: 6.35 lac. Status family. Upper caste welcome. Contact: 98157-13843. (CL20076470)

Employed match from educated family for handsome Mahajan Gupta boy 5'-6", 14.7.91, 3:35 PM, B.Tech, MBA Working in MNC Bangalore, 15 Lacs, Upper Caste no bar, Bureau PI, excuse. WhatsApp- 94177-53124 (CL20076607)

Mahajan Manglik boy 09.02.1991, 8.28 am, Amritsar, 5'-8", B.Tech, working as Asstt. Manager Govt. Bank. 98158-03154, 98727-38080. (CL20077540)

JAIN

Punjabi Jain boy, 5'-8", 29 July 1989, 10.03 am, Patiala, B.Tech, M.N.C. 25L + PA, seeks beautiful, vegetarian, qualified match WhatsApp @ 82646-81625. (CL20076800)

Professionally qualified match for converted educated Jain B.Tech, 30.12-88, 04.40 am, Ambala, 5'-8", Own electronics business. Contact: 94164-71442, 97291-27698 (CL20076820)

Suitable match for Oswal Jain boy, 5'-7", 20.11.1985, 5.54 pm, Ludhiana, Govt. job, Assistant Programmer in PAU Ludhiana, attractive income, qualification MCA. Contact only Jain, 98722-10258. (CL20077158)

AGGARWAL

Match for Goyal slim boy 6'-1", 23.10.1990, 2.55 am, Samana, B.Com, CA, Gazetted Officer Punjab Govt. 98159-20299. (CL20077028)

Manglik Goyal, 5'-10", 20.12.1991 (4:25 pm, Ambala), MBA- Marketing, Business Wholesale Medicines. 94662-25127. (CL20076820)

Match for handsome Govt. employee boy, MBA, 5'-10", 31. Govt. employee/ M.Sc. B.Ed. Tricity/ Patiala preferred. garkag902@gmail.com S3606-19473. (CL20076927)

Chandigarh based H'some boy 1994/ 5'-7", BA, own business, seeks b'tul edu. girl Agarwal family. Call 9300-64800. (CL20069011)

Ludhiana Garg industrialist boy 6 ft, handsome 29 March 90, 5:52 pm, B.Com. (Hons). Seeks tall beautiful girl. 96463-93695. (CL20071513)

Slim beautiful girl match for Teetotaller Jain manglik handsome 5'-4", Bansal Gotra boy, 03-March-92, 12:30 pm, Ambala. Own well settled business. Contact 94169-66850. (CL20076123)

Match for Agarwal Punjabi boy, 5'-9", 06.11.93, 19:43, 20B, PoB Hanumangarh, Rajasthan. Engineer at Microsoft, Hyderabad. 88138-32764. Marriage bureau excuse. (CL20076071)

Suitable match for handsome Garg boy, 24-Jan-1990, 5'-11", 07:32 am, Ferozepur City, living in Ambala Cantt, Upper middle class family, B.Com, 90177-60481, 94682-60481. (CL20076081)

Nom-Manglik 5'-8", 08 Feb, 1992, 2.15 a.m. Budhlada, handsome, teetotaller, B.Tech, MNC Gurgaon, 14 LPA. 94638-70492. (CL20076081)

Suitable match for handsome Garg boy, 24-Jan-1990, 5'-11", 07:32 am, Ferozepur City, living in Ambala Cantt, Upper middle class family, B.Com, 90177-60481, 94682-60481. (CL20076081)

Muktsar based: Match for Agarwal boy, 28, 5'-9", Manglik, B.Tech, running IT Company in Chandigarh, income 15 LPA. Contact No. 98843-34316. (CL20076090)

Match for Aggarwal boy 5'-7", 03-09-1987, 5:20 PM, Bhuchro, +2 well settled Business at Bathinda, own Property. 98881-72135 (CL20076147)

Working Garg MBA 5.9.91, 3.43 am, Barnala Sangrur CTC 6L, 88473-28921. (CL20076189)

Qualified match for handsome Garg boy, B.Com, Inter CA, 5'-11", 28.6.90, Moga. Own Business in Mumbai, good income, vegetarian, Punjabi based family. Father retired Bank Manager, Mother Chief Manager in Bank. 97795-85592, 94171-7196. (CL20076207)

Match for Mittal handsome boy 13-06-1987, 17:05, Ambala 5'-10", B.Tech, Microscopy and Imaging business 94160-26114, lachchamittal@yahoo.co.in (CL20076822)

Suitable match for Bansal boy, Sep. 1991, 5'-10", B.Tech (Mechanical) PR Canada working with Bank of Montreal Toronto. Seeks qualified & beautiful, Tricity girl. Contact: 98887-32999. (CL20076866)

Chandigarh based renowned business family looking for beautiful & I.T. professional girl for their Software Engineer son, 5"-9", placed at Hyderabad in Microsoft 34 LPA. (21.11.1991, 10:55 pm, Panchnuka). Call/ WhatsApp biodata with photograph @ 98762-02700. (CL20076867)

Match for Aggarwal CA 12-10-1992, 1.01 p.m. Jalandhar, 5'-6", working E&Y Chandigarh. Girl working in Tricity preferred. Caste no bar. 98143-44571. (CL20077393)

Match for Garg smart boy 25'-10", reputed family Kathial, CA, monthly income six figure, working MNC in Hyderabad. Required reputed family girl preferred (working, CA/ other equivalent) 98121-43873, 81687-51807. (CL20077407)

Match for Bansal boy 1992, 12:30 pm, Patiala, Own business, no dowry. Caste no bar. 98883-25427, 78140-25427. (CL20077804)

Govt. employed Garg boy 20.03.1992, 12:53 am, 5'-6", Chemical Engineer PSU. 78378-03804. (CL20078090)

Match for Bindal boy, 02.03.1991, 5'-6", 5:30 am, Karnal. Own business in Panchnuka. 98140-39634. (CL20078079)

Suitable match for Garg boy, 12.9.1984, 12:30 pm, Patiala. Own business, no dowry. Caste no bar. 98883-25427, 78140-25427. (CL20077804)

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Match for Bindal boy, 02.03.1991, 5'-6", 5:30 am, Karnal. Own business in Panchnuka. 98140-39634. (CL20078079)

H'some Khatri boy 1989/5*-9*, BE/B.Tech. 12.5 LPA SDO Irrigation Department Punjab, req. bful match caste no bar. 80105-67339, 80105-82127. (CL20078059)

Khatri boy 28/ 5*-8*, Electronics Diploma PR Canada/Australia apply. Needy girl which take boy with her. 98552-60905. (CL20078085)

Required suitable match for Khatri tall and fair boy 5*-9*, 31.7.1985, graduate, private job. Working/ non-working. Early simple marriage. Tricity preferred. Caste no bar. Contact: 93178-70009, 93176-70009. (CL20078106)

SITUATION VACANT

Required BDM/ BM for Security Company. Age 35/ male, 15 years exp. in reputed MNC. M: 98171-43427. (CL20076074)

Patiala based author requires two Post-graduate/ Graduate and one +2 females. Contact Dr. S.S. Nanda, 7-A, Dhillon Marg, Model Town, Patiala. 98159-54074. (CL20076331)

M.R. City Sr. Sec. Public School (Affiliated to CBSE) Balachaur, Distt. SBS Nagar. Mob. 87250-24403, 01885-291002. E-mail: mrcitschoolbclcr99@gmail.com Requires: PGTs, English, Physics, Chemistry, Accountancy, Economics, Physical Education, PRTs, TGJs: English, Social Science, Science, Maths, IT Head. Minimum experience: 3 to 5 years in reputed school. Result oriented candidates are preferred. Fluency in English and excellent communication skills must. Salary as per CBSE norms. No constraint of salary for deserving candidate. E-mail within 7 days. Principal. (CL20076365)

Requirement CS whole time for listed company in Panchkula. Email: polohotmail@gmail.com, M.No. 99880-98483. (CL20076497)

Vacancies at Chandigarh Roller Flour Mills Pvt. Ltd. located at Banur, (Punjab) 1) Operation Manager 2) Marketing Executive 3) Lab Analyst. Prefer experience in wheat flour/ similar industry. Attractive salary & learning environment. Interested candidates call: 97111-51086, Mail: erfpmpunjab@gmail.com (CL20076606)

We are looking for passionate Post Graduate teachers: V.P (Academics), English, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Accounts, Business Studies, Economics, Computer science, Home Science. Other vacancies: Librarian, Coach (Cricket). Salary No bar, minimum 3 years experience. Email Handwritten application along with CVs, pass photo within 7 days at vws981@gmail.com , Vivekananda World School, (Affiliated to CBSE) Bhagwati Enclave, Malwa road, near Satyanagar Bypass, Ferzpur, Punjab, visit: www.vws.org.in (CL20076645)

LADM DAV Sr. Sec. Public School (CBSE) Budhlada, Mansa, Punjab requires TGT- Biology (1) TGT- English (1) Office Clerk (1), qualification & pay scale as per CBSE/ School norms. Interested candidates must send their resume by 10th Jan, 2021 at saahigoeel1989@gmail.com only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview. Tel. 98728-15001. (Chairman). (CL20077740)

Requirements staff, IELTS trainer, counselor, English teachers at Pashkhowal District Ludhiana, Transport service available free. 98555-60036, 94646-87080. (CL20077989)

Braintree world School, Amargarh, Affiliated to CBSE, requires following staff (1) PGT- History, Sociology, English (2) TGT- Computer Higher remuneration for deserving candidates. WhatsApp your resume on 95308-20000. (CL20078055)

Required back office and Sales Executive for financial products at Patiala. Computer knowledge must. Minimum 3 years experience. Email: njivealthashish@gmail.com (CL20078088)

Walk-in interview 28 Dec. 2020, purely on temporary basis for the post of weight lifting Coach for SAI Khelo India Centre (Past Champions/ State & National Medal holder preferred). Age less than 40 years, having good experience. At Chakwal National Senior Secondary School, Kurali, SAS Nagar a DAIV Institution. Salary 25,000 per month. Principal. 98158-29752. (CL20078107)

Delhi International School, Sr. Sec. affiliated to CBSE, Faridkot. Requires PGTs and TGTs in all streams, Computer & IT Expert (Hardware & Software), Librarian & Receptionist. The candidate should be duly qualified and shall be having 3-4 years of experience. Salary slabs (PGTs 20,000 to 30,000), (TGTs 12,000 to 18,000). Free accommodation for out station candidates. Apply within 7 working days. Email: vice-chairmandis@gmail.com (CL20078113)

Smt. Paarvati Devi Hospital- Unit is looking to outsource the following Departments/Services:- Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Centre, Ayurveda & Panchkarma Centre, Cosmetology Centre, Cafeteria. Interested parties may contact us within 10 days. Email: arun@parvatihospital.com, Mobile: 98159-7764.

DOCTORS/ENGINEERS

Req. Mech. Engineers/Dipl for Sales & Mfg. with conv preferred. Aenergy Instruments Pvt. Ltd, 40, Sector 27A, Faridabad. info@anergy.in (CL20077413)

ADMISSION GUIDANCE

Expert Guidance PHB (all streams) LLB, LLM, Pharmacy, BA, B.Com, MA, M.Com., BBA, MBA, B.Tech., M.Tech. Options for Government employees. Regular/distance. Contact: 95019-03221, 94175-30888. (CL20077179)

ADMISSION NOTICE

Akali College of Physical Education Mastuan Sahib (Sangrur) Applications are invited for admission in B.P.Ed. course against Management quota. Interested candidates may come in college up to 31st December 2020 along with their original certificate. (CL20076684)

Wanted Teachers for Math, Reasoning, Science, English. Salary fixed 10000. Brilliant's Academy Patiala. 98142-05758, 98770-18602. (CL20076743)

British Victoria School CBSE Goindwal Sahib District Tarn Taran Punjab. Applications are invited for the post of Female Principal with at least two years experience and Receptionist. Admission Officer etc. Accommodation available send your CV at infobvgoindwal@gmail.com , Ph: 62393-12893. (CL20076865)

Tyagmurti Missionary Hospital Makhoondura Jalandhar required part/ full time M.S (Eye Surgeon). Contact immediately. 98143-17901. (CL20077263)

Wanted MS ENT for running private clinic on share or rent basis. Contact: 98781-19355. (CL20077375)

Teacher required Sharya International School, Balachaur (1) PGTS - Physics, Chemistry, Accountancy, Computer Science, English. (2) Art Teacher (3) Music Teacher. Send resume on sislcr2016@gmail.com (CL20077599)

Baba Zorawar Singh Fatch Singh Khalsa Girls College, Morinda (Ropar). Wanted a female Assistant Professor in Physical Education on contract for three years. Pay scale 15600+6000=21600/-, qualification as per UGC/ Pb Govt./ Punjabi University Norms. Applications with Testimonials (Under Regd. Cover) should reach the Manager within 15 days. A copy without certificate should also be sent in the stipulated period to Dean (Colleges) Panjab University Patiala. Manager. (CL20077599)

A reputed HR firm based in Chandigarh, requires "English Grammar Faculty" to conduct employment tests of applicants. Duties require out station travel few days a month. Males only. Great salary. Contact 78377-48177. (CL20077670)

MBGRGC Public School Mansowal Distt. Hoshiarpur requires resumes for the vacant posts of 1. Special Educator. Qualification: Graduation degree with B.Ed. (Special Education) or B.Ed. (General) with one year diploma in Special Education. 2 Counsellor. Qualification: Graduate/Post Graduate in Psychology or Post Graduate in Child Development. Suitable candidates can email their resumes at mbgpb@yahoo.com (CL20077730)

LADM DAV Sr Sec. Public School (CBSE), Budhlada, Mansa, Punjab. Interview for Principal for a reputed School having approx. 2600 students, outstanding candidate having Postgraduate qualification with B.Ed. and minimum 15 years of teaching experience, including 5 years in an administrative capacity in English Medium Progressive Schools may only apply. Salary package is negotiable for deserving and experienced candidates. Free accommodation. Mail your resume before 10th Jan. 2021. Email: saahigoeel1989@gmail.com Contact: 9815001100. (CL20077735)

PROPERTY FOR SALE

PROPERTY FOR SALE

EcoCity New Chandigarh for sale under construction 100 sq. yards kothi, flexible payment plan. Call Sharma & Co. 98161-14757. (CL20076720)

Showroom, shops & baysops against 6-12% return available at 0 kilometres from Chandigarh. Baljeet Singh 81968-97777. (CL20077522)

7 marla (28x57) kothi for sale in Golden Estate, Baltana. Fully marbled. East facing. 98031-98240, 62809-22713. (CL20077590)

5 kanal bungalow lush green surrounding, 3-8 kanal options, showroom rent 4 laas two floors vacant premium properties Chandigarh. Jeet Associates 96468-09090. (CL20077642)

Sale Delhi Adarsh Nagar Authorized 14520 sq. meter in three parts NOC registries mutation welcome NRI old parties Dr. Goel 90502-76274. (CL20076741)

PANCHKULA

Panchkula 12 marla plot + wide long length space. Decent location, locality. Reasonable rate. Contact owner: 98143-68609. (CL20076201)

MOHALI

10 Marla Big Corner House Phase-3B2, B-Road Double Story House Phase-7, 11 & Single Storey House see 69. Orbit Estates-3968799143, 9915534500 (CL20078130)

Mohali 8 marla brand new MRI taste facing park double/ duplex Sector 78, 79, corner also available. 97817-13154. (CL20077611)

PROPERTY WANTED

6-4 kanal kothi Sector 4-5-9 2-1 kanal 8-18 Chandigarh. Jeet Associates 96468-09090. (CL20077653)

PROPERTY

1K house Sector 8, Chandigarh. Onkar Properties. M-98141-04399, 99153-38222. (CL20077614)

PLOT FOR SALE

523 sq. yds #MLU-202, Big corner, facing 100' wide Rd North West on entrance in Sector-109 Emaar (prime location) 300 sq. yd #CP-202 in Sector 105 Emaar (prime location), Baljeet Singh 81968-97777. (CL20077530)

TOLET

CHANDIGARH For rent, independent approach. One room set with kitchen, bathroom, two balconies. Fully furnished. 98881-60314. (CL20076133)

Two BHK ground floor for Company/ Banker, room small kitchen bath. First floor for students duplex flat 50-D, Chandigarh. 94170-97321. (CL20076217)

8 marla 2nd floor 2 BHK attached washroom 267/40-A, Chandigarh. 99152-67400. (CL20076368)

Sector-48 Society first floor furnished two room set facing park AC, Geyser, Fridge. 98729-55998. (CL20077203)

Independent furnished flat 205/1 Sector 41-A, Chandigarh. Contact: 98550-50404. (CL20077301)

Independent first floor 1 BHK set, modern kitchen and bathroom, fully airconditioned and furnished, with large terrace, park facing in 1 kanal kothi: 266, Sector 33-A, Chandigarh. Contact: Mob. 98140-23248. (CL20077941)

PANCHKULA

Small family required for two room set on first floor at H.No. 75, Sector 8, Panchkula. Please contact: 98155-50075. (CL20076356)

Independent first and second floor of 10M house, two bedrooms, hall, two toilets, spacious terrace 40 Sector 15, Panchkula. 75084-04758. (CL20076653)

MOHALI

Purab Premium Apartment Sector 88, 3 bedroom furnished for family. 94173-28430. (CL20077323)

RENT/LEASE

10 marla independent first floor 4 rooms, kitchen, washroom, store or 2 rooms, kitchen, washroom, Sector 35-C. 95604-47070, 93129-04758. (CL20077163)

Sunny, spacious, valley view 2 & 3 BHK Housing Board, Solan. Call: 98160-25513. (CL20074834)

3 independent furnished rooms on top floor of House 48, Sector 21A, Chd., working executives preferred. 98140-98540. (CL20077362)

COURT NOTICE

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Sh. Raj Kumar

Principal Judge Family Court, Bathinda Camp at Phul.

Next date, Purpose of Case, Orders and Judgements as well as other case information is available on <http://ecourts.gov.in>

Sarabjeet Kaur

Versus General Public

Petition U/s 7 of The Guardian and Wards Act 1890.

CNR No.:

PBBT01-008386-2020

Next Date: 19.03.2021

Publication issued to:

General Public

In above titled case, the respondent/General Public could not be served. It is ordered that respondent should appear in person or through counsel on 19.03.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourtndt.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&dist=bathinda

Dated, this day of 23.12.2020.

Sd/- Principal Judge Family Court, Bathinda Camp at Phul.

CL20076781

EC proposes to protect poll officials from 'harassment'

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 25

With an aim to protect officials, particularly state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), from harassment during the poll, the Election Commission is preparing to write to the government that no action should be taken against such officers for at least one year after completion of the Lok Sabha or Assembly elections.

Noting that the CEOs are usually IAS officers, who have held other responsibilities in their respective states of posting in the past, sources said there had been instances where they had been allegedly targeted by state governments after

EASY TARGET

■ The EC is yet to firm up its proposal which it plans to send to the Union Ministry of Law and Justice.

■ Sources said officers who held "free and objective polls" at times were targeted by ruling parties in many states.

■ The Legislative Department in the Law Ministry is the nodal unit for the EC with whom the poll panel usually interacts.

The commission has been working on such a suggestion at a time when the poll panel is preparing to conduct elections in five states, including West Bengal, where ruling TMC and BJP are engaged in fierce electoral battle.

of

Indian expats stuck in UAE get free accommodation

DUBAI, DECEMBER 25

Around 300 expats, mostly Indians, stranded in UAE after Saudi Arabia and Kuwait closed their borders to prevent the spread of the new strain of Covid have been provided free accommodation, according to a media report on Friday.

The expats have taken an indirect route of flying via the United Arab Emirates to Saudi and Kuwait since there were no direct flights from their home countries, the Gulf News reported.

They were caught off guard with the news about flight suspensions in their countries of residence, after finishing a 14-day mandatory quarantine in hotels and other paid accommodation in the UAE, it said.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have closed their land and sea borders and suspended commercial flights over fears about the new coronavirus strain, which is spreading fast in the UK. Dubai Markaz Centre's volunteers' wing Indian Cultural Foundation (ICF) tied up with construction firm Aasa Group to arrange the free accommodation and food to the stranded passengers, the report said. — PTI

Royal click



Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, pose for a photo holding shepherds crooks at Birkhall, Balmoral Estate in Scotland, Britain. REUTERS

Vaccine for needy, vulnerable first: Pope

VATICAN CITY, DECEMBER 25

Pope Francis made a Christmas Day plea for authorities to make Covid-19 vaccines available to all, insisting that the first in line should be the most vulnerable and needy, regardless of who holds the patents for the shots.

"Vaccines for everybody, especially for the most vulnerable and needy," who should be first in line, Francis said in off-the-cuff remarks from his prepared text, calling the develop-

TRACKING VIRUS	
NATIONS	DEATHS
US	3,37,081
BRAZIL	1,90,032
MEXICO	1,21,172
UK	69,625
ITALY	70,900

ment of such vaccines "light of hope" for the world.

He called on the leaders of nations, businesses and

international organisations to "promote cooperation and not competition, and to search for a solution for all".

Amid a surge of infections this fall in Italy, Francis broke with tradition for Christmas. Instead of delivering his "Urbi et Orbi" speech — Latin for "to the city and to the world" — from the central loggia of St Peter's Square, he read it from inside a cavernous hall at the Apostolic Palace, flanked by two Christmas trees with blinking lights. — AP

Traders urge Nirmala to defer rollout of Rule 86B in GST

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 25

Traders' body CAIT on Friday urged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to defer the implementation of Rule 86B in GST, whereby businesses with over Rs 50 lakh monthly turnover will have to pay at least 1% of their GST liability in cash, terming it a "counter-productive" measure that will increase the traders' compliance burden.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has introduced Rule 86B in Goods and Services Tax (GST) which restricts use of input tax credit for discharging GST liability to 99%.

However, this restriction will not apply where the managing director or any partner has paid more than Rs 1 lakh as income tax or

Nepal SC notice to Oli govt over parliament dissolution

KATHMANDU, DECEMBER 25

Nepal's Supreme Court on Friday issued a show-cause notice to the KP Sharma Oli-led government, asking it to submit a written clarification over its decision to abruptly dissolve parliament.

The notice was issued after a preliminary hearing at the five-member Constitutional Bench, headed by Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher Rana, on the writ petitions filed against the government's decision to dissolve the 275-member House of Representatives, according to court officials. The Bench sought the written clarification from the office of the Prime Minister, Council of Ministers and the President over the decision to abruptly dissolve parliament.

The court has also asked the government to submit an original copy of the recommendations made by the government to dissolve the House and the decision made by President Bidya Devi Bhandari to authenticate the government's recommendations within 10 days.

Earlier, the apex court



WRITTEN CLARIFICATION SOUGHT

The Bench sought a written clarification from the office of the Prime Minister, Council of Ministers and the President over the decision to abruptly dissolve parliament.

HUNDREDS PROTEST AGAINST PM

- Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli faced a fresh political challenge on Friday as hundreds of opponents protested against his sudden move to dissolve parliament and announce elections more than a year ahead of the schedule.
- Three former prime ministers joined hundreds of activists who sat on a road near Oli's office demanding he reverse the decisions announced on Sunday, which have triggered deep political unrest in the Himalayan nation just as it grapples with the Covid-19 pandemic. REUTERS

demanded an amicus curiae from the Nepal Bar Association and the Supreme Court Bar Association in connection with the hearing. Meanwhile, the Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'-led faction of the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) held a protest rally in Kathmandu against the decision.

'Prachanda' and Madhav Kumar Nepal, senior leaders

Jhala Nath Khanal, spokesperson for the Nepal Bar Association and the Supreme Court Bar Association along with the party's Central Committee members and members of the dissolved House gathered near the PM's Office for the protest.

"We are here", "Reinstate the House of Representatives", and "dissolution of the House is unconstitutional", were the slogans raised by the protesters. Around 300 Central Com-

mittee members of the NCP and nearly 100 members of the House were present in the rally. Later, they marched towards the Election Commission (EC) office. The EC will decide which faction of the NCP is legitimate to carry the party name and election symbol. "We have the support of the majority of the Central committee members," protesting leader Sunil Manahdhar said. — PTI

EU nations assess Brexit deal with UK

BRUSSELS, DECEMBER 25

European Union ambassadors were convening on Christmas Day to start assessing the massive free-trade deal the bloc struck with Britain that should kick off next week when the acrimonious Brexit divorce process finally comes to an end.

After the deal was announced on Thursday, EU nations already showed support for the outcome and it was expected that they would unanimously back the agreement, a prerequisite for its legal approval.

Speedily approving the deal is essential, since a transition period during which Britain continued to trade by EU rules despite its January 31 departure from the bloc runs out on New Year's Day. Without a trade deal, it would have exacerbated chaos at the border where checks on goods will have to be increased since Britain is fully out of the 27-member bloc.

The UK parliament is expected to approve the deal in the coming days. — AP



Blast rocks Nashville



Concerned over Pak court's order to release Pearl murder accused: US

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 25

The US on Friday expressed "deep concern" over a Pakistani court's order to release British-born al-Qaeda leader Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and his three aides, who were convicted and sentenced in the abduction and murder case of American journalist Daniel Pearl.

In a surprise move, a two-judge bench of the Sindh High Court on Thursday

Sheikh and his 3 aides to walk free on Saturday

directed security agencies not to keep Sheikh and other accused under "any sort of detention" and declared all notifications of the Sindh government related to their detention "null and void".

"We are deeply concerned by the reports of the December 24 ruling of Sindh High Court to release multiple terrorists responsible for the murder of Daniel Pearl. We have been assured that the accused have not been released at this time," the US State Department said in a tweet. It said that the US will continue to monitor any developments in the case and support Pearl family. — PTI

Reliance buys out IMG from sports mgmt JV

ALL-CASH DEAL

The nation's biggest company by market value said it will buy IMG Worldwide's 50% stake in IMG-Reliance Ltd for ₹52.08 crore.

The nation's biggest company by market value, in a stock exchange filing, said it will buy IMG Worldwide's 50% stake in IMG-Reliance Ltd (IMG-R) for no more than ₹52.08 crore in cash. RIL will rebrand the company after the closure of the deal.

RIL had formed an equal joint venture with IMG Worldwide, an international sports marketing and management company, in 2010 to develop, market and manage sports and entertainment events in India.

IMG Singapore Pte Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of IMG, holds 50% of the share capital of IMG-R. "Post completion of acquisition, IMG-R will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of RIL and will be rebranded by the company," RIL said. — PTI

GOLD
₹49,710
Mumbai (MCX)

SILVER
₹67,610
Mumbai (MCX)

BUSINESS

USD \$ EURO € POUND £ JPY ¥ YUAN 元 CAD \$ AUD \$ SGD \$ HKD HK\$

₹73.54 ₹89.53 ₹99.66 ₹0.71 ₹11.25 ₹57.16 ₹55.89 ₹55.39 ₹9.49

Markets remained closed on Friday on account of Christmas

Telecom user base reaches 961m in Oct



AIRTEL TOP GAINER

- Bharti Airtel's active subscribers rose about 3 million to reach nearly 320 million in October
- Airtel saw the highest subscriber addition in its traditionally weak circles of Maharashtra and Gujarat
- Reliance Jio's active subscribers rose 1.1 million to 319 million in October

bers continued to decline, but at a lower pace, it fell 1.2 million resulting in an active subscriber base of about 260 million in October. — PTI

It added that Vodafone Idea's active subscriber num-



'COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE MEASURE'

- Businesses with over ₹50 lakh monthly turnover will have to pay at least 1% of their GST liability in cash
- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has introduced Rule 86B in GST which restricts use of input tax credit for discharging GST liability to 99%
- The Confederation of All India Traders said "it is a counter-productive step which will load the traders further with burden of compliance and also much financial obligation"

the registered person has received a refund amount of over Rs 1 lakh in the preceding financial year on account

drawn her attention towards Section 86B, saying that "it is a counter-productive step which will load the traders further with burden of compliance and also much financial obligation".

The traders' body stated that it has urged Sitharaman to defer implementation of Rule 86B immediately which is scheduled to be implemented from January 1, 2021 and also extend the last date for filing GST and Income Tax Audit return from December 31 to March 31, 2021".

CAIT secretary general Praveen Khandelwal said in light of the current scenario when domestic trade is disturbed and traders are fighting for survival of business, it is "strongly urged the implementation of Rule 86 B may be deferred". — PTI

of unutilised input tax credit.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) in a letter to Sitharaman has

Garment exporters shift focus on domestic market

Subdued demand, competition from Bangladesh, Vietnam and China to blame

VIJAY C ROY

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 25

Impressive demand in the domestic market has motivated many region-based readymade garment exporters to shift focus from exports, which has been hit by the Covid pandemic. According to the industry, some of the exporters have already started utilising their partial capacity to cater to the domestic demand.

The industry saw declining numbers in April, May, June, July, August and November — a fall of 91%, 66%, 35%, 22% and marginal decline of 1% in dollar terms on year-on-year, respectively, mainly due to the lockdown, slowdown and subdued demand. It wit-

ness activity, there was hardly any demand. But now people have started making purchases in the domestic market," said Harish Dua, MD, KG Exports, Ludhiana. As a result, many apparel makers are shifting their focus to the domestic market from being purely export-oriented, he said.

Major apparel hubs in the northern region are Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Panipat, Gurugram and Noida.

During the lockdown, followed by work from home culture and restricted busi-

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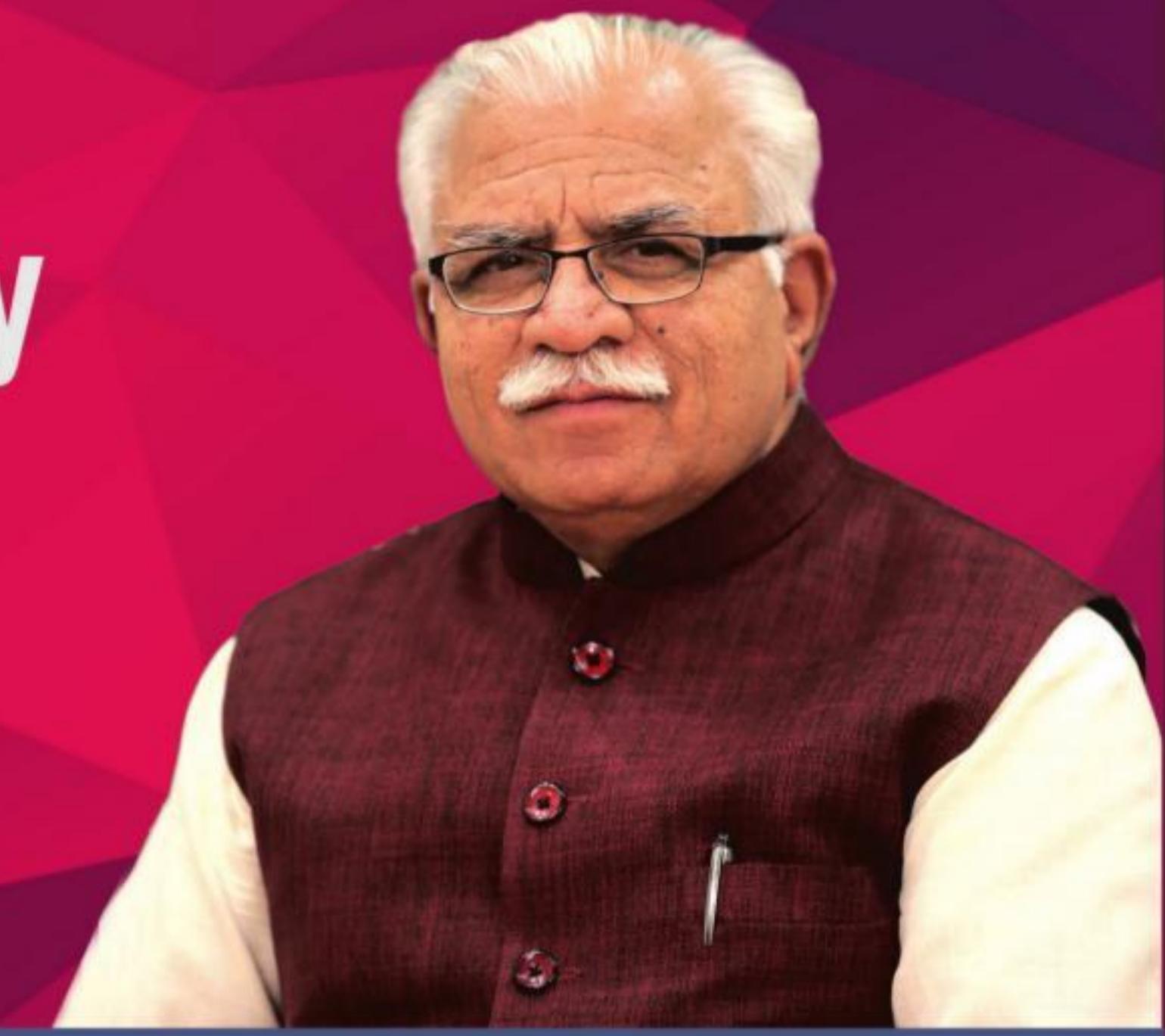
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Govt. of Haryana

On the Occasion of Good Governance Day (25 December, 2020)

**Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana
unveiled**



New Announcements

'Sooksham Sinchai Se Har Khet Me Pani'

Scheme to provide canal-based water and sewerage treated water to farmers in their fields through Micro Irrigation Project, it will be implemented from January 1, 2021.

Registration facility in any Tehsil of the District

Facility will be started from April 1, 2021. Online process for property registration already started in September 2020.

'Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana'

20 horticultural crops included in this scheme to compensate for the losses due to natural calamities.

CLUs Will Be Online Completely

- Online facility of land use change system (CLU) in the State.
- All the CLUs will be available online and permission will be available within 30 days.

'One Time Registration for Application'

- Applicants of Haryana Staff Selection Commission and Haryana Public Service Commission will have to fill personal details only once.
- Application form will be linked to the Parivar Pehchan-Patra and applicant will not have to deposit the fee again and again.

Facilities to Employees

Deemed ACP will be provided to Government employees in case of delay of 3 months on ACP due to any reason.

'Haryana Credit Guarantee Scheme'

- Under the Credit Guarantee Scheme for the students studying in the higher educational institutions of the State.
- Higher education loan will be available at lower interest rate.

Enhancement in Honorarium for the Sports Awardees of the State from January 1, 2021

- Monthly honorarium of Arjuna, Dronacharya & Dhyan Chand awardees increased from Rs.5,000 to Rs.20,000.
- Monthly honorarium of Rs.20,000 to the winners of Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award and Rs.5,000 monthly to Bhim awardees started.

Launch / Expansion of New Schemes

Winners of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Good Governance Award - 2020

Digital Project	Name and Department
e-Kharid Portal	Sh. PK DAS, IAS, Sh. V Umashankar, IAS, Sh. Chander Shekhar Khare, IAS, Sh. Rajiv Rattan, IAS Sh. Munish Chandan & Team (Food Supplies and Consumer Affairs & Information Technology Electronics and Communication Department)
Online Release Orders & Billing System (ERP) Software	Mrs. Dheera Khandelwal, IAS, Mr. P.C. Meena, IAS Mrs. Varsha Khangwal, HCS, Mr. Pardeep Kaushal & Team (Information, Public Relations and Languages Department)
Encouragement to Diversification and agriculture growth	Mr. Devender Singh, IAS, Dr. Arjun Singh Saini & Team (Horticulture Department)
Agriculture growth through enhanced water supply by ground water recharging through abandoned river beds	Mr. Devender Singh, IAS, Mr. Sathbir Singh Kadian & Team (Irrigation and Water Resources Department)
Asha app to cover door to door covid-19 survey	Mr. Rajeev Arora, IAS, Dr. Prabhjot Singh, IAS Dr. V.K. Bansal & Team (Health Department)
Implementation of eSanjeevani OPD teleconsultation services	Mr. Rajeev Arora, IAS, Dr. Prabhjot Singh, IAS Mr. Suraj Bhan Kamboj & Team (Health Department)
Ayushman Bharat	Mr. Rajeev Arora, IAS, Mr. Ashok Kumar Meena, IAS Ms. Amneet P Kumar, IAS & Team (Health Department)
Achieving immunization for all under universal immunization programme	Mr. Rajeev Arora, IAS, Dr. Prabhjot Singh, IAS & Team (Health Department)
Antyodaya-saral	Mr. V. Umashankar, IAS, Dr. Rakesh Gupta, IAS Mr. Deepak Bansal & Team (Department of Information Technology Electronics and Communication)
Jansahayak mobile app.	Mr. Vijayendra Kumar, IAS, Mr. Yashpal, IAS & Team (General Administration Department)

Integration of Parivar Pehchan Patra with the Services being provided on Saral Platform

Various services and benefits of schemes will be available to the citizens at their doorstep.

e-Office Launched in all District Offices

Initiative to ensure accountability and transparency and to perform paperless work.

Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)

Payment of water and sewerage bills started through this system.

Portal for Horticultural Products

Portal started in Hindi for online sale of horticultural products/vegetable plants.

Digital Public Library

More than 6 crore e-Books and other study material will be available on e-Granthkosh.

Haryana Forest Management Information System

- Various applicants of forest department integrated under this scheme.
- Size wise information of nurseries and species wise information of plants will be available for the people.

Distribution of Title Deeds under Svamitva Scheme

On Good Governance Day title deeds provided to 18,323 beneficiaries of 81 villages of 12 districts.

More Villages included under Mhara Gaon Jagmag Gaon

From 25 December 2020, 24-hours power supply to 202 more villages of the state, along with more than 5,000 villages.

Passport facility for students

Passport distribution for college students started under the scheme.



Tribute to Vajpayee



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays tribute to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth anniversary at his memorial Sadaiv Atal in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

India, US need to work closely to compete with China: Biswal

KV PRASAD

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 25 Advocating a stronger push for increased bilateral engagement between the United States and India, a senior US policy specialist on Friday said geo-political ambitions of New Delhi and Washington need to be paired for a strategy to engage emerging realities of the Indo-Pacific.

"With the incoming Biden-Harris administration, there will be a renewed focus on restoring our global alliances. Besides, the advances of the past four years and the strategic convergence which we have seen deepened in the current administration will continue, but they need to be buttressed with broader focus on our shared democratic values," President of the US-India Business Council Nisha Biswal said, addressing the inaugural Atal Bihari Memorial Lecture organised by the Ministry of External Affairs.

'VAJPAYEE WAS TITAN OF HIS TIMES'

Atalji was a titan of his times who left an indelible stamp on many of India's policies. His vision of India-US cooperation has been advanced, particularly in recent years

S Jaishankar, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

"Our geopolitical ambitions need to be paired with a firm grasp and strategy for engaging the geo-economic realities of the Indo-Pacific."

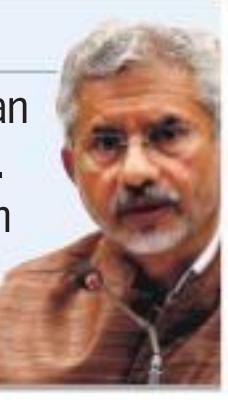
Recounting the upward trajectory of the relationship since the time Vajpayee was at the helm of affairs, she said Vajpayee was able to foresee what many others failed to see. He saw the potential dangers posed by a rising and unchecked China. And he saw the importance of US-India partnership.

Today, she said the geo-economics realities were such that for either the US to succeed and be competitive with the production capacity and efficiency of China would require

working together by both countries and develop more effective and efficient economy in respective countries.

Biswal, who served in the Obama administration, said today the two large economies—the US and India—are outside two major trading blocks in Asia and trade policy in democracies are neither easy nor politically popular.

"Despite the fact that we have not been able to conclude even a small agreement between the two countries, we have seen the promise of a growing economic partnership drive greater trade and investment in both US and India," she suggested.



Half-truths: Mamata on PM-Kisan scheme

SHUBHADEEP CHOUDHURY
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, DECEMBER 25

War of words between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi" (PM-Kisan) scheme intensified on Friday with Banerjee accusing the Central government of violating the established norms regarding implementation of Central schemes by state governments.

Mamata's outburst followed the allegation levelled against her by Modi of sacrificing the interest of farmers at the altar of politics.

Speaking at an event today in which he distributed ₹18,000 crore to over nine crore farmers, Modi said while Mamata had

'WILLING TO COOPERATE'

My govt is always ready to cooperate in the interest of farmers. The state is implementing so many schemes with the Centre. The question of not cooperating on a scheme that is benefitting farmers seems absurd

Mamata Banerjee, WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

expressed solidarity with the farmers protesting against new farm laws, she had blocked the implementation of the PM-Kisan scheme in West Bengal.

In response, Banerjee said PM Modi was trying to mislead people with half-truth and distorted facts.

"Let me set the record straight. We have always been ready to cooperate in the interest of the farmers. I personally have written two

letters and have even spoken to the minister concerned two days ago but they are refusing to cooperate and are instead indulging in malicious propaganda for political gains," said Banerjee.

Banerjee said when the West Bengal Government was implementing so many schemes in the state with the Centre, the question of not cooperating on a scheme that was benefitting farmers seemed absurd.



2 Kerala ministers meet Guv, seek nod for special session

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEC 25 Two Kerala ministers on Friday met Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, a day after the LDF government decided afresh to convene a special Assembly session to discuss and pass a resolution against the three contentious Central agricultural laws, and described their interaction as 'positive'.

Kumar said there were certain matters suggested by the Governor which needed to be discussed with the Chief Minister. He, however, did not elaborate.

"The meeting turned out to be a positive one. We have discussed all the matters," Kumar said. — PTI

Printed and published by Rajesh Ramachandran for The Tribune Trust
Printed at The Tribune Press, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.

Published at The Tribune, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.

RNI No. 15/57.

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Telephones: 0172-2655066-72

Circulation: 0172-2670419, Advertisement: 0172-2670256, 257

Editor: Rajesh Ramachandran*

*Editor for purpose of PRB Act, 1867

21-year-old student set to become mayor in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEC 25

The CPM has chosen 21-year-old Arya Rajendran as its mayor candidate after the party's district committee and state committee sanctioned her candidature. She is a first-time councillor from Mudavanmugal division of Thiruvananthapuram corporation.

Arya Rajendran

Arya Rajendran is a BSc Mathematics student and is the party's Chala area committee member. She will be the youngest mayor of the country, and with this the party leadership is expecting to have more educated women into the leadership role. — PTI

Haasan's aide joins TN BJP

CHENNAI, DECEMBER 25

Arunachalam, general secretary of Kamal Haasan's MNM party, joined the Tamil Nadu BJP on Friday. Arunachalam said he joined the BJP as MNM did not agree with his views on the three farm laws. Arunachalam joined BJP here in the presence of Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar. — IANS

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