

PRACHANDA-LED FACTION EXPELS OLI FROM NCP WORLD

WHITE GOLD GLITTERS FOR FARMERS
INFOCUS

WILL ENSURE FLOOD-FREE ASSAM: SHAH BACK PAGE



Tractors lined up at the Ghazipur-Delhi border on Sunday. PTI

Tractor rally at 3 sites, barriers to go

Farmers' protest after govt's R-Day event | More protesters headed for Singhu, Tikri

MUKESH RANJAN & SUKHEET BHASIN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI/BATHINDA, JANUARY 24
The Delhi Police on Sunday said they had taken an in-principle decision to allow farmers to hold a tractor parade in the national Capital on January 26.

Special Commissioner of Police (Intelligence) Dependra Pathak said: "The rally will be conducted amid tight security after the Republic Day parade is over. We have received intelligence inputs hinting at disturbance of the peaceful protest." He said the parade would enter Del-



Farmers walk along the Nashik-Mumbai highway to participate in the anti-agri laws rally to be held in Mumbai on Monday. PTI

hi from Tikri, Singhu and Ghazipur borders and return to its originating points.

Noting that the limit to the

number of tractors will be finalised soon, Pathak said: "We trust the farmers that they will not camp in the

TRACTOR PARADE ROUTES



300 PAK TWITTER HANDLES ON JOB TO DISRUPT RALLY: COPS P12

Capital." Barricades and other security arrangements will be removed on January 26, the police said. Mean-

while, the Malwa hinterland is witnessing great enthusiasm for the tractor parade.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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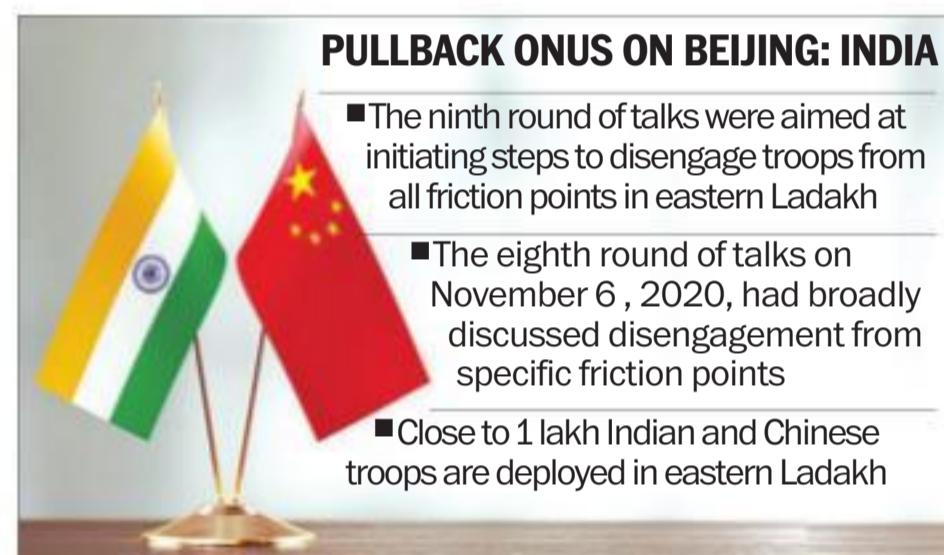
'FUEL SEWA' KIOSKS TO ENSURE LARGE TURNOUT
Villagers and farm unions have set up kiosks at petrol stations for free fuel refill of vehicles leaving for Delhi for participating in the Republic Day protest.
Mechanics are accompanying farmers on tractors for emergency repairs.

Marathon military talks on Ladakh standoff

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 24

After a gap of over two months, India and China on Sunday held the ninth round of military talks specifically focusing on ways to move forward on the long-negotiated disengagement process in eastern Ladakh as thousands of their troops remained deployed at friction points under freezing conditions.

The Corps Commander-level meeting began around 10 am at Moldo on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern



PULLBACK ONUS ON BEIJING: INDIA

- The ninth round of talks were aimed at initiating steps to disengage troops from all friction points in eastern Ladakh
- The eighth round of talks on November 6, 2020, had broadly discussed disengagement from specific friction points
- Close to 1 lakh Indian and Chinese troops are deployed in eastern Ladakh

Ladakh and was continuing late till night, sources said.

People familiar with the

disengagement and de-escalation at the friction points. India has been maintaining that the disengagement process has to start simultaneously at all friction points and a selective approach was not acceptable to it.

PM MUM ON CHINESE OCCUPATION: RAHUL

Close to 1 lakh Indian and Chinese troops are deployed in eastern Ladakh as both sides have been holding on to their ground and showing readiness for a long haul

mid continuing diplomatic and military talks to find an amicable solution.

Sunday's talks took place nearly two weeks after India handed back to China a soldier of the People's Liberation Army after apprehending him on the southern bank of the Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh. It is learnt that India's gesture generated a positive atmosphere. The Indian delegation was led by Leh-based 14 Corps Commander Lt Gen PGK Menon. — PTI

Full dress rehearsal



A J&K women police contingent during full dress rehearsal for the Republic Day parade in Srinagar. PTI

Ram Temple in three years, will cost ₹1,100 cr

MUMBAI, JANUARY 24

The Ayodhya Ram Temple will be built in around three years and the construction cost will exceed Rs 1,100 crore, a prominent functionary of the temple trust has said.

"The main temple will be built in three years and will cost Rs 300-400 crore. The expenditure on the development of the entire 70 acre land will exceed Rs 1,100 crore," said Swami Govind Dev Giri Maharaj, treasurer of Ram Janmabhoomi Trust Kshetra Nyas.

To a query on criticism from some quarters that the Ram Temple funds collection drive was a BJP campaign keeping in view the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, he said, "People see this depending on the colour of spectacles they wear." — PTI

IN BRIEF

Not abuse if no skin contact: Bombay HC

MUMBAI: Groping a minor's breast without "skin-to-skin contact" cannot be termed as sexual assault as defined under the POCSO Act, the Bombay High Court has said. Justice Pushpa Ganediwala of the Nagpur Bench of the High Court, in a judgment passed on January 19, held that there must be "skin-to-skin contact with sexual intent" for an act to be considered sexual assault. BACK PAGE

4 Brazil footballers killed in air crash

SAO PAULO: The president of four-tier Palmas football club and four of its players were killed on Sunday when a small plane taking them to a Brazilian cup game crashed on take-off. Officials sources said the pilot was also killed in the crash. — PTI

16L vaccinated in 9 days, rate higher than in US

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 24

Over 31,000 healthcare workers were vaccinated in five states on the ninth day of the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination programme, taking the cumulative vaccine beneficiary numbers to 16,13,667.

The Health Ministry said 31,466 beneficiaries were vaccinated till 7.30 pm today in Haryana (907 beneficiaries), Karnataka (2,472), Punjab (1,007), Rajasthan (24,586) and TN (2,494) and 693 sessions were held. Overall, 28,613 vaccine sessions have been held in nine

COVID-19 VACCINATION

INDIA	TOTAL	16,13,667
DAY'S COUNT	31,466	
ADVERSE EVENTS	10	

ANDHRA ASHA WORKER DIES, STAFF BLAME VAX

days. India took six days to cross the 10 lakh mark against 10 by the US and 18 by the UK. — TNS

Pak terror groups switch to new messaging apps

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 24

Amid a raging debate over privacy offered by messaging platforms like WhatsApp, terrorist groups and their handlers from Pakistan are switching to new applications, officials here said.

The three new applications came to light after evidence was collected following encounters with terrorists or those who surrendered before the Army gave details about their mode of radicalisation by Pakistan-based terrorist groups, they said. The names of the messaging

SLOW INTERNET NO BAR

- Names of the apps have been withheld for security reasons
- One of these is owned by a US firm, second is from Europe and third by a Turkish firm
- Can work with the slowest Internet connections

apps have been withheld for security reasons.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Captain tried to destroy evidence

SHOPIAN, JANUARY 24

The Army Captain involved in the fake encounter in Kashmir's Shopian district last July and two other civilian accused haven't provided any information about the source of weapons planted on the three slain youths and had also attempted to destroy the evidence, a police chargesheet said.

Capt Bhupendra Singh had also provided wrong

SHOPIAN: WHAT THE POLICE CHARGESHEET SAYS

- By staging the encounter, the three accused purposefully destroyed evidence of the real crime that they had committed
- They purposefully projected false information as part of a criminal conspiracy to grab ₹20-lakh prize money

information to his superiors and the police about the recovery made during the staged encounter, according to the chargesheet filed by the special investigation team (SIT) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police before the chief magistrate.

The case relates to the July 18, 2020, encounter in Shopian's Amshipura in which three youths were killed and dubbed as terrorists. — PTI

13 Secys get new postings

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 24

In a major bureaucratic reshuffle at the Centre, 13 Secretaries have been transferred and posted to different Ministries and departments while several senior civil servants have been promoted. The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, approved the appointments on Saturday. — IANS

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A board announcing social boycott of BJP supporters at Kalsana village in Nabha.

BJP supporters' entry banned in Nabha village

Tribune News Service

PATIALA, JANUARY 24
Amid the ongoing farmers' protest, a village in Nabha has decided to socially boycott BJP supporters along with party leaders. BJP leaders are already facing a backlash over the farm laws with most of them finding it difficult to hold public functions amid the opposition. Now, party supporters are being targeted by locals over the farm laws.

Residents of Kalsana village have banned the entry of BJP supporters, saying they won't let anyone associated with the party enter their village. A board has been put up at the

PRESSURE TACTIC

The rationale is to pressure the party to repeal the three laws. We will oppose anyone who supports the BJP until our demands are met.
Gurkeerat Singh, Resident, Kalsana Village

village reading: "We boycott and ban the entry of BJP leaders and supporters thereof."

The villagers say they will oppose those who have been supporting BJP leaders because they are the ones who give strength to party leaders. "We want to make them realise they have chosen wrong leaders," says a villager.

Gurkeerat Singh, a villager, says: "The rationale behind the boycott is to pressurise the party to repeal the three contentious laws. We will oppose anyone who supports the BJP until our demands are met." Karnail Singh, another villager associated with the Bhartiya Kisan Union (Dakunda), says it is a pressure tactic to get the laws repealed.

Capt knew what farm laws entailed since Aug '19: AAP

Tribune News Service

JALANDHAR, JANUARY 24

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Delhi MLA and co-in charge Punjab affairs Raghav Chadha today claimed Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh knew about the farm laws and was privy to the terms of reference of the high-powered committee of CMs to make and discuss the laws in August 2019, yet he did not share the information with the state peasantry.

Sharing this information received from the Niti Aayog — as per an RTI plea filed by AAP — he said the terms of reference clearly indicated large scale privatisation and corporatisation of agriculture in the country, but the Punjab CM did not oppose the farm laws well in time.

Chadha said, "Capt Amarinder Singh said he did not have any information regarding the laws, and neither he nor the state was a member of the commit-



AAP Punjab co-in charge Raghav Chadha in Jalandhar. TRIBUNE PHOTO

CITES RTI RESPONSE FROM NITI AAYOG

The RTI (response from Niti Aayog) makes it clear that as per an office memorandum, dated August 7, 2019, the Chief Minister was the seventh member of the high-powered committee of CMs. He was privy to what the farm laws entailed since then.

Raghav Chadha, AAP PUNJAB AFFAIRS CO-IN CHARGE

tee.... But the RTI reply makes it clear as per an office memorandum dated August 7, 2019, the CM was the seventh member of the high-powered committee of CMs constituted by the

Prime Minister. He was privy to what the laws entailed since August 2019."

Reading out from the RTI response, Chadha said the PM approved the revised constitution of a high-power-

ered committee of chief ministers for the "Transformation of Indian Agriculture" on August 7, 2019. Chadha further added in the agenda of the committee, the terms of reference included three key points — 'Agricultural produce and Livestock Marketing Promotion and Facilitation Act, 2017'; 'State Union Territory Agricultural Produce and Livestock, Contract farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation Act) 2018; and examining various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act.

Chadha said, "This means Capt Amarinder Singh was aware the laws would lead to collapse of mandis, weakening or finishing of the minimum support price law and largely the privatisation of agriculture... why did he not speak up and prevent the passage of laws? If farmers knew about the laws, their passage could have been stopped beforehand."

Yet another attempt to sell lies, says CM

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 24

Taking a dig at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) over the RTI response copy shared by its leader Raghav Chadha, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh said the document, in fact, proved that the farm laws were introduced and implemented by the Centre without the report of the high-powered committee even before it was presented to the Governing Council of the Niti Aayog.

He said the evidence shared by AAP to support its allegations against him showed the extent of their desperation in its pursuit of a politically motivated agenda.

Capt Amarinder said even the agenda of the committee, which AAP was repeatedly referring to, never mentioned any farm laws. This was again a matter of record, he said, pointing to the "Terms of Reference" of the committee.

From sharing an "edited" video of his (CM's) statements to the release of a list of the final committee members, the AAP had made yet another desperate attempt to sell its lies to the people of Punjab, said Capt Amarinder.

TRUTH ON RECORD

I never once claimed that Punjab was not in the reconstituted committee... your fake claims and allegations will not negate the truth that is on record.

Capt Amarinder Singh, cm



He said the original committee (minus Punjab) was set up on June 15, 2019. "Had AAP bothered to share the complete videos of my statements, the truth of what I have been saying would have been endorsed... when the first meeting of the committee was held, Punjab was not part of it," he claimed.

Capt Amarinder added after Punjab's inclusion at his behest, financial issues were discussed at a meeting with Finance Minister Manpreet Badal in attendance, while another had only the Agriculture Secretary as participant.

Minutes reveal there was no discussion: FM

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 24
Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal today claimed the minutes of a meeting of the high-powered committee clearly showed that the farm laws were never discussed in "any meeting" with the Government of Punjab or with any Punjab minister.

"The minutes of the meeting with the Union Government have already been released in the public domain. Anyone who reads the minutes will note that the farm laws were neither brought up nor discussed, nor were they on the meeting agenda," said Manpreet.

He added he had already released the minutes of the meeting in the public domain on September 18, 2020, and had addressed the entire issue in detail on September 24. "It is evident that the NDA government and AAP are working in cahoots with each other to create confusion... the press conference of AAP has come at a time when the farmers have announced their tractor rally," he said.

NGO releases list of 149 dead farmers

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 24

The Punjab Cultural Council today released a list of 149 farmers who died during the ongoing farmers' agitation against the agricultural laws on the Delhi borders since November 25. The council released a separate list of 13 farmers who died in the state during the 'rail roko' stir since September 2019.

Council chairman Harjeet Singh Grewal said the list comprised 22 farmers from Sangrur; 14 each from Mansa and Patiala; nine each from Barnala and Ludhiana; eight from Bathinda; seven each from Fatehgarh Sahib and Fazilka; six each from Muktsar and Amritsar; five each from Moga, Hoshiarpur, Ferozepur and SBS Nagar; three each from Mohali, Rupnagar, Gurdaspur and Jalandhar; and two from Tarn Taran district. He said nine farmers from Haryana

Seeks relief for kin of deceased

died, three from UP and one from Madhya Pradesh.

The list has been prepared on the basis of the reports that appeared in the leading newspapers of the region, including *The Tribune*, a press release said.

The council has asked the Centre to provide ex gratia benefit to all farmers who died during the agitation. Council vice-chairman Tejinderpal Singh Nalwa said the council had written to the Union Agriculture Minister seeking repeal of the controversial farm laws.

Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee president Sunil Jakhar said, "The sheer number of farmer deaths is a slur on the face of the Narendra Modi government." — TNS

Upset over laws, farmer attempts suicide, critical

AMRITSAR, JANUARY 24

Perturbed over Centre's refusal to repeal the three farm laws, a farmer today attempted suicide by consuming some poisonous substance. He was admitted to a private hospital at Chheharta.

Jasbir Singh of Khussopur village had returned from Delhi protests a fortnight ago and participated in a dharna staged outside the residence of Rajya Sabha MP Shweta Malik here.

Bhindi Saida police station SHO Ajaypal Singh said Jasbir had been put on a ventilator and his condition was critical.

Jasbir's family claimed he was upset at the Centre's stance on the farm laws, he said.

Meanwhile, Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee today cremated a farmer, Ratan Singh Kotli, at his native Kotli Dhole Sah village near Kathungangal here. — TNS

'Free fuel sewa' for maximum turnout

Villages, unions offer diesel, mechanic services for tractor rally

APARNA BANERJI
Tribune News Service

JALANDHAR, JANUARY 24

As all roads lead to Delhi, a farmer union leader is heard assuring a participant over the phone: "Tus bus tractor lai ke jana hai, tel da kharcha asi davanage (You only have to bring your tractor, fuel is on us.)"

Amid a massive mobilisation campaign to ensure maximum number of tractors reach the national capital for the Republic Day march, villages and unions across Doaba are providing "free petrol/diesel sewa" to hundreds of vehicles.

On highways, long caravans of tractor-trailers and even JCBs can be seen leaving for the Singhu and Tikri borders to join the tractor march.

To ensure no one willing to join the protest is left out, free fuel is being offered to them. A number of villages have set up kiosks at petrol stations offering free refill for vehicles.

NRIs are also chipping in with the service. The BKU (Rajewal), which has mobilised thousands of tractors, is not only



Farmers take out a tractor rally ahead of the planned R-Day parade in Patiala. PHOTO: RAJESH SACHAR

providing free fuel to farmers but also sending mechanics along the caravans to ensure emergency repairs. The Doaba Kisan Union, too, is offering fuel and repair services at the Delhi border.

Amarjeet Singh, Jalandhar youth wing president, BKU (Rajewal), says: "We have told farmers they needn't worry about fuel expenses. Our representative is accompanying each cavalcade to ensure free fuel. Mechanics, too, are on

board in case of a breakdown. At least 100 tractors were sent out yesterday. More will follow today and tomorrow."

Kuldeep Singh, president, Doaba Kisan Union, says: "Over 1,000 tractors headed out from SBS Nagar yesterday, mobilised by our union. A committee at the Tikri border is there to ensure free fuel and repairs are provided to anyone in need. Every farm union at the border has their own mechanics and refu-

elling arrangements."

For the past one week, Dyalpur village has sent out messages to villagers assuring the panchayat will organise free refuel for those in need. Sarpanch Harjinder Singh says: "We will provide petrol/diesel refill today to those who have contacted us. Situated right by the highway, the village is also providing 'tea langar' to the participants heading to the Delhi border."

On long march for D-day

VISHAV BHARTI
Tribune News Service

GT ROAD (RAJPURA), JANUARY 24

Trails of tractors dot highways across the state as the long march to "reclaim the republic", as farmers call it, has begun. They move in groups or as solo "warriors" — all headed to join the Republic Day tractor parade in New Delhi.

Langars are commonplace along highways albeit it is not a festival or "shaheedi divas". "This is a celebration of struggle," quips Gurvinder Singh, a farmer from Saneta village in Mohali as he fries bread fritters. Even the colour of the fritters is green. "This is the colour of our fields," he adds.

The youth club of the village has collectively put up a langar for the Delhi marchers. Forget the count, he doesn't even hazard a guess about the number of marchers they have fed since Sunday morning.

"We have consumed 500 packets of bread and 15 canisters of ghee," he says, adding they have served langar of "kheer" at Singhu for days.

The tractors started leaving for Delhi on Thursday. While the Delhi Police estimate 70,000 to 1 lakh farm machines on its border, farmer organisations assert it is much higher.

The sight of never-ending trail of tractors is hard to miss. "I have never seen anything



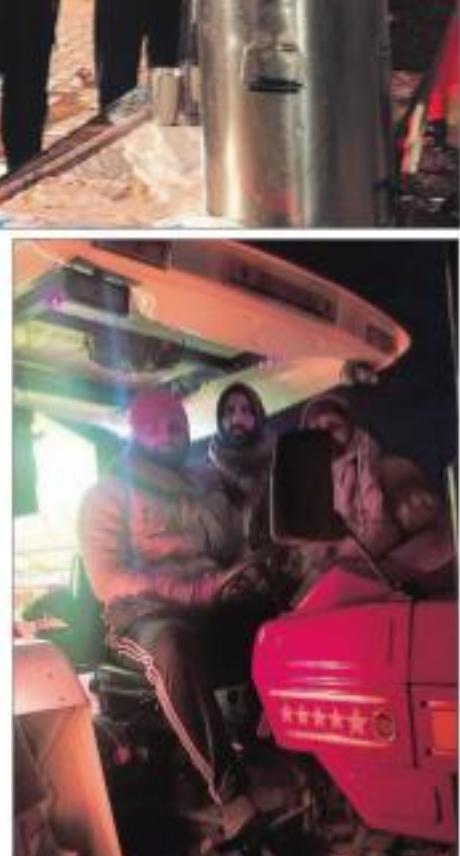
Villagers serve refreshments to Delhi marchers near Banur; (R) farmers from Balachaur on way to Delhi.

like this before," says Roop Singh, a shopkeeper near Raipur village on the Banur-Landran road. The number on Friday and Saturday was much higher, he adds.

Manjeet Singh from Balowal Sonkri village in Balachaur left on his Swaraj-855 tractor in the afternoon along with 10 others. "I am moving a little slower. My companions have already crossed Ambala," he says as he takes a short langar break. His co-travellers say they have every equipment to remove the barricading. "This is the final battle," he asserts, his hands on the wheel.

The tractors started leaving for Delhi on Thursday. While the Delhi Police estimate 70,000 to 1 lakh farm machines on its border, farmer organisations assert it is much higher.

The sight of never-ending trail of tractors is hard to miss. "I have never seen anything



"Do you have any doubt".

As the sun disappears below the horizon, the march continues amid the sound of blaring speakers: "Pind-pind vich bharo traliaan, hun gall ni baniani Centra naal; Hun pecha paigya Centra naal," (Hop on to trailers as Canters aren't enough, for we are at war with the Centre).

Scores take part in 35-km Ludhiana rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LUDHIANA, JANUARY 24

Youth, women and children took part in a tractor rally taken out in support of farmers here today. The rally presented a unique sight as city residents rode in tractors, jeeps, cars, two-wheelers and even bicycles for nearly 35 km through several parts of the city.

Starting from South City at 10 am, the tractor rally passed through the newly constructed Ladhawal bypass, GT Road (NH-44),

Harley Davidson riders star attraction

Clock Tower, Jagraon Bridge, Ferozepur Road and Sidhwan canal. It concluded at the starting point after nearly six hours. A few women driving tractors and a group of Harley Davidson riders remained the star attraction of the march.

All through the route, onlookers cheered and raised slogans in support of farmers while many others marched with the cavalcade for some distance. A prominent industrialist Ranjodh Singh said the NDA government was testing the patience of agitating farmers.

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IN BRIEF**Singla greets youth on Edu Day**

Chandigarh: School Education Minister Vijay Inder Singh on Sunday greeted youngsters of the state on International Education Day and National Girl Child Day. "Education channelizes your inner energies, gives wings of flight to your dreams, & helps your personality bloom. This #InternationalEducationDay, let us pledge to gift education & contribute to the building of a brighter future, self-empowered individuals & progressive societies (sic)," he tweeted. TNS

Stray bull kills man in Abohar

Abohar: In less than a week, another man died here after being hit by a stray bull. Subhash Soni, 60, was reportedly hit outside a banquet hall on the old Fazilka Road when he was returning from the new grain market. As he was critically injured, his family took him to a private hospital in Sriganganagar where he died. He ran a jewellery shop. OC

400-kg polythene seized

Abohar: A team of the Municipal Corporation on Sunday raided a house in Thakur Abadi here and seized 400 kg of polythene carry bags. The team said the banned material had been confiscated and the matter reported to MC Commissioner Abhijeet Kaplish for further legal proceedings. OC

State adopts new post-matric scholarship plan, but with rider

Wants to implement it from 2017-18, instead of this fiscal

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 24

Punjab has decided to adopt Centre's revised Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Caste (SC) students announced in December last year, but has sought its implementation from retrospective effect.

It wants the scheme to be implemented from 2017-18, instead of 2020-21. Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has also written to the Centre in this regard. Around Rs 1,200 crore is pending with the Centre under the centrally sponsored scheme for three years, as it had discontinued the previous scholarship scheme in 2017.

Since SC scholarship scheme has the potential to snowball into a major political issue for Dalit vote bank in the state, the state government does not want to take the risk and has asked the Centre to pay 60 per cent of the scheme

DALIT VOTE BANK AT STAKE

- The SC scholarship scheme has the potential to snowball into a major political issue for Dalit vote bank in the state
- So, the state government has asked the Centre to pay 60% of the scheme for the

three years (2017-18 to 2019-20) as it is ready to release 40% of its share

■ The Centre's new scholarship scheme with a revised funding pattern will remain in force till 2025-26

**₹1,200 CR PENDING**

Around ₹1,200 crore is pending with the Centre under the centrally sponsored scheme for three years, as the state had discontinued the previous scholarship scheme in 2017

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English language teachers required (Female) Qualification: the teacher must possess good level of language proficiency and command of Grammar along with MA/English, B.Ed. and preferably 2 to 3 years experience. Note: Applicant along with CV bearing a passport size photograph, attested photocopies of testimonials must reach the Principal Office, Little Flower Convent School, Awankha, Dimanagar on 30th January, 2021 for an interview. Contact No.: 94647-22267, 98157-12224. Email: lfcsdmr@gmail.com (CL20088770)

Central Convent Sen. Sec. School, Patti (Affiliated with CBSE) requires teachers in Physics/ English/ Chemistry/ Music/ IT & Mathematics. Also requires Hostel Warden for boys hostel of Pharmacy College of SBS Group of Institutions at Patti. For details contact Email id: hrsbsg@gmail.com Mob: 98144-03360. (CL20088761)

Pt. Mohan Lal S.D. College For Women, Gurdaspur. Applications are invited from the female candidates for the posts of Assistant Professors. (A) Contract Basis. 1. English (BA Hons.) One. 2. Fashion Designing and Merchandising (to each M.Sc.) Two. (B) Adhoc Physics One. Qualification and grade as per UGC/ GNDU/ Punjab Govt. norms. Reservation policy will be as per Pb. Govt. Rules. Interested candidates may apply along with testimonials within 15 days from the date of advertisement to the undersigned. Principal. (CL20088852)

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Onkar Lal Gayari s/o Moti Lal Gayari r/o Teh. Nimahara Bhawaliya, Distt. Chittaurgarh, Rajasthan (312620) have changed my name to Unkar Lal Gayari. (CL20087177)

I, Suneta w/o Sh. Upinder Kumar r/o H.No.344, Street No.9, Ranjit Nagar, Seona Road, Patiala, have changed my name to Sunita. (CL20088198)

I, Shalli Jain w/o Shvet Jain r/o H.No. 91, New Officers Colony, Patiala, have changed my name to Shalli Rani. (CL20088625)

I, Deep Kumar s/o Sharvan, r/o Village Wariana, P.O. Nagra, Jalandhar, have changed my name to Deep Singh. (CL20088641)

I, Mohammad Aaqil s/o Jahir Alam r/o # 488, Charan Singh Colony, Mauli Jagran, Chandigarh have changed my name to Akil Hussain. (CL20088773)

I, Army No. 5047466H Rank Hav. Shyam Bahadur Thapa s/o Shree Lal Thapa Regt. 3/1GR R/o 14GTC Subath Tehsil and District Solan HP. Declares that in my Army record my wife date of birth is wrongly entered as 24.09.1979. Whereas her correct date of birth is 13.09.1979. Concern please note. (CL20088856)

I, Parsino Devi Spouse of No. 14937152L L/Nk Singh Hem R/o Unit of 7 Mech INF (I Dogra), Pin 911707 c/o 56 APD. Declare that I have changed my name from Parsino Devi to Parsino, vide Affidavit No. 16AA 42527 dated 23.01.2021, before Advocate Notary, Distt. Chamba HP. (CL20088857)

MEDICAL/SURGICAL

New Lifeline Hospital, Zirakpur announces extra corporeal membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) facility. ECMO is true life saver, ECMO is the ultimate life support system for heart, lung and liver failure patients. Many precious lives can be saved both in adults and children. Contact: 98141-04203. (CL20087721)

LOST & FOUND

It is notified that my original pass certificate of Examination ICSE-X of year 2010 and index No. T/4344/084 issued by Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi has been lost. Name of the candidate Priyanka Katoch of Mount Carmel School, Kangra District. Full Address d/o Praveen Chand Katoch, Tika-Aima, P.O.-Palampur, Distt. Kangra, H.P. 176061/ Mob. No. 99588-19101. (CL20088836)

It is notified for the information that my original qualifying certificate of main Senior Secondary examination year 2021 and Roll No. 2706349 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name of the Candidate Priyanka Katoch of DAV Public School Palampur, Kangra HP. Full address D/o Praveen Chand Katoch, Tika-Aima, P.O.-Palampur, Distt. Kangra, HP 176061/ Mob. No. 99588-19101. (CL20088837)

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

In the Court of Sh. Jagandeep Singh Civil Judge, (Junior Division), Ludhiana.

Ruhani Satsang Prem Samaj (Regd.) Versus Teja Singh

Petition under Section 13 of East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act for eviction of respondent.

CNR No.: PBLD02-008439-2016

Next Date: 15.03.2021

Publication issued to:

L.R's of Teja Singh;

A) Paramjeet Singh s/o Teja Singh r/o Chotti Haibowal near Z-Block Ludhiana. (B) Iqbal Singh s/o Teja Singh r/o Chotti Haibowal Near Z-Block Ludhiana. (C) Jasbir Kaur d/o Teja Singh r/o Salem Tabri near Suyan Wala Hospital Street No. 3, Ludhiana. (D) Iqbal Kaur d/o Teja Singh r/o Bashirgatam Lucknow. (E) Paramjeet Kaur d/o Teja Singh r/o Punjabi Colony Gorakhpur. (F) Inderjit Kaur d/o Teja Singh r/o Shahidpur Thana Paharganj Delhi. (G) Kamaljeet Kaur d/o Teja Singh r/o Salem Tabri near Gurasagar Gurudwara Ludhiana. (H) Harcharan Kaur d/o Teja Singh r/o Flat No. 4282, Phase-II, Dugri Ludhiana. (I) Nirmal Kaur w/o Teja Singh r/o Flat No. 1423, Sector-32, MIG Flats, Backside Vardhaman Mill, Samrala Chowk, Ludhiana.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 15.03.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Dated, this day of 21.01.2021.

Sd/- Civil Judge, (Junior Division), Ludhiana.

CL19153552

In the Court of Ms. Monica Sharma, PCS, Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), Hoshiarpur.

CNR No.: PBHO02-001402-2020

Next Date: 09.02.2021

1) Mrs. Sudha Mahajan w/o Late Dr. Surinder Kumar Mahajan r/o H.No. 427, Street No. 1, Gali Khullran, Jagatpura, Hoshiarpur.

...Applicant(s)/Petitioner(s)

Versus General Public and Others.

...Respondent(s)/Defendant(s)

Succession Application

Notice to: General Public

In the above noted titled Succession Application the respondent(s)/defendant(s) could not be served. It is ordered that they should appear in person or through counsel on 09.02.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Sd/- Monica Sharma, Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), CL20085866 Hoshiarpur.

WIDEST REACH MAXIMUM RESPONSE

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

In the Court of Sh. Kushal Singh Civil Judge, Junior Division, Chandigarh.

Harjit Singh Sidhu Versus General Public

CNR No.: CHCH02-002499-2020

Next Date: 26.03.2021

Publication issued to:

1. General Public

2. Ragandeep Singh Sidhu

Father: Harjit Singh Sidhu, Residing at 64291, Darmstadt, Messeler Park Strasse 119-A, Germany.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 26.03.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to

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

Dated, this day of 18.01.2021.

Sd/-

Civil Judge,

Junior Division,

CL20088272

In the High Court of Delhi No. 125/2019 & C.M. No. 13531/2019.

(U/o V Rule 20 CPC for substitution service of notice upon respondent).

Appeal against the order dated 29.06.2017 in C/A/54480-54514/2017-CU(DB) Passed by The Learned Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal, New Delhi in Appeal C/569/2010.

Commissioner of Customs Tughlakabad (Import)

VersusAppellants

M/s Mehra Fabrics ...Respondents

Notice to Respondent: M/s Mehra Fabrics 186/36, Street No. 7, Madhopuri, Ludhiana.

Whereas the above noted appellants has presented an appeal under Section 130 of the Customs Act, 1962 which was listed before the court on 27.08.2019 and on the other subsequent dates when the court ordered issuance of notice to you.

And whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that you cannot be served in the ordinary manner, notice by way of publication to you is hereby issued. If you wish to defend the above mentioned appeal and application, you may cause an appearance to be entered on your behalf either in person or through an Advocate duly appointed by you for the purpose before the court of the worthy Joint Registrar (Judicial) on 04.03.2021 (Actual).

If no appearance is made on your behalf, by yourself, your pleader or someone by law authorized to act for you in the said appeal and application on the aforementioned date, no further notice of the subsequent date of hearing of the said appeal and application will be given to you and the same will be heard and determined ex parte in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this court this 17th December, 2020.

Sd/-

Administrative Officer(C-II)

For Registrar General, SM.

CL20088544

COURT NOTICES

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of

Sh. Pardeep Rishi

Civil Judge (Jr. Division),

Ludhiana.

Sukhwinder Singh

Vs.

Kartar Singh

CNR No.

PBKPA0-002089-2020

Next date: 09.02.2021

Publication Issued to: 5. Daljit Kaur d/o Gurnam Singh r/o VPO Mehal, Kalan, Tehsil Barnala, District Sangrur. 6. Gurwinder Kaur d/o Lt Karnail Singh s/o Jameet Singh r/o Village Kudu Wala, Post Office Sadri, District Faridkot. 15. Manjot Singh s/o Hari Singh r/o Village Hathian, Tehsil Malerkotla, District Sangrur.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 10.02.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to

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

Dated, this day of 18.01.



CHARGED UP Ahead of the Republic Day march, farmers from Haryana and Punjab arrive with tractors at the Singhu border on Sunday. PTI

35K tractors reach Singhu, more on way

Tribune News Service

SONEPAT, JANUARY 24
Thousands of farmers from Punjab and Haryana villages on Sunday reached at the Singhu Border to participate in the scheduled 'kisan tractor parade' on Republic Day in Delhi.

Sources said as many as 30,000-35,000 tractor-trailers arrived at the border till Sunday evening.

Long queues of tractor-trailers with Tricolour and farmers' union flags were seen on the NH-44. The farmers have parked their tractor-trailers on both sides of the NH-44 and even at some construction sites.

Commuters had to face a hard time due to the long traffic jam and they had to cover 6-8 km on foot. The traffic on the NH was moving at a slow pace and commuters were stranded for hours on Sunday. The police were trying to manage the traffic chaos but to no avail. Volunteers of the farmers' unions were also seen controlling the traffic at many

places.

Tractors from every village of Kaithal will arrive at the Singhu border till Monday afternoon not only to participate in the Republic Day parade but to show the solidarity with the farmers, said Gurdeep Singh of Kalayat.

Navdeep Singh of Moga in Punjab said hundreds of tractors had already arrived at the border and scores were on the way. As many as 20 to 25 tractors will arrive from each village of Punjab till Monday morning as maximum farmers have left for the Singhu border on Sunday, he added.

Meanwhile, Harender Singh Lakhwala, general secretary, BKU, said over 1 lakh tractors would enter Delhi on Republic Day and the farmers themselves had made up their mind to participate in the national event called by the unions.

The movement of farmers from Karnal, Panchkula, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar and Kaithal districts besides Punjab led to a massive traffic chaos on the NH-44 here on Sunday.

The vehicles were seen moving at a snail's pace. "I left from Ambala for Delhi at 10 am but even after three hours I have reached Karnal, which usually takes around one and a half hours. The movement of tractors has slowed down the speed of the vehicles, leading to a delay in journey," said Amar, a commuter.

Another commuter Rajiv Sharma said he had witnessed a massive traffic jam on the NH-44 due to the farmers' movement towards Delhi. "It took over two hours to reach Karnal from Shabab," he added.

On the call of the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha, farmers of the district had earlier declared to leave for Delhi on January 24. As per the schedule, farmers

of the district on Sunday personnel have also been deployed for the smooth traffic flow on the NH-44.

"We won't return without getting the laws repealed," said Jagdeep Singh Aulakh, member, core committee, BKU (Charuni). He claimed that thousands of tractors from the district would participate in the parade.

A large number of police personnel have also been deployed for the smooth traffic flow on the NH-44.

SP Ganga Ram Punia said there was traffic chaos at two points i.e. near Oasis Tourist Complex and Basstara Toll Plaza, but they had deployed police personnel for the smooth movement of vehicles. — TNS

Heavy rush of vehicles near the Bastara toll plaza in Karnal.

The heavy rush of vehicles near the Bastara toll plaza in Karnal.

Ensure traffic discipline: BKU chief to farmers

KURUKSHETRA, JANUARY 24

As thousands of farmers continue to head towards the Singhu border amid cold and fog, BKU chief Gurnam Singh Charuni has asked them, especially the youth, to maintain discipline while driving.

In a message, he said: "A large number of farmers have been arriving on their tractor-trailers. I want to request them, especially the youth, not to drive rashly, overtake or quarrel with other commuters

WORD OF CAUTION

There have been reports that some mischievous people may try to create disturbance during the march, but we don't have to hit anyone. The only thing we have to do is nab and hand them over to the police. — Gurnam Singh Charuni, BKU CHIEF



Boulders being removed from the Tikri border on Sunday.

Delhi Police remove boulders from Tikri

JHAJHAR, JANUARY 24

Ahead of the tractor march, the Delhi Police today started removing boulders from the Delhi-Rohitak highway at the Tikri border.

Meanwhile, several people from Punjab reached the border in buses, cars and tractor-trailers to join the parade.

Jhaigar SP Rajesh Duggal said besides the local police, 25 companies of paramilitary forces and the Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) had been deployed at Tikri. — TNS

128 cases, one more succumbs

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 24

The Covid tally was pegged at 2,67,203 in Haryana on Sunday with 128 fresh cases. Meanwhile, with one more death in Karnal, the death toll reached 3010.

Gurugram reported a maximum of 39 cases followed by Faridabad (22), Karnal (11) and Kurukshetra (10). Till now, Faridabad has reported a maximum of 412 deaths. Also, many farmers were using one tractor to pull three to six tractors. — TNS

On the occasion of the Republic Day, Haryana Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya will now hoist the national flag at Raj Bhawan in Chandigarh instead of Panchkula.

According to a circular issued by the Political and Parliamentary Affairs Department of the Chief Secretary Office, this decision has been taken due to the ongoing Covid pandemic. — TNS

Guv to hoist flag at Raj Bhawan

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 24

On the occasion of the Republic Day, Haryana Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya will now hoist the national flag at Raj Bhawan in Chandigarh instead of Panchkula.

January 25, 2021 (Monday)

at 12:00 Noon

at Amrit Anand Park, Ranjit Avenue,
Amritsar

S. Charanjit Singh Channi

Minister of Tourism & Cultural Affairs,
Technical Education & Industrial Training, Employment
Generation, Skill Development & Training, Punjab
will preside over the function.

"My government is humbled to dedicate this memorial to the martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and to honour their families."

The memorial will stand out as a remembrance for us and our future generations of the sacrifices of all those who made it possible for us to live in a free India."

Capt. Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Punjab

Paying glowing tributes to
MARTYRS OF JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE

Capt. Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Punjab
will lay foundation stone of
JALLIANWALA BAGH CENTENARY MEMORIAL

Dedicated to unsung heroes of Jallianwala Bagh Tragedy

Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs, Punjab

Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs, Punjab

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Congress conundrum

Putting up a united face has to be a priority

After a three-hour Congress Working Committee meeting that saw conflicting arguments over holding organisational elections immediately, Rahul Gandhi, while saying that he respected the sentiments of those for or against, came up with a terse remark: 'Everyone should now move on.' That seems to be a pragmatic template, but dissent can be infectious, especially when the habit of finding yourself continuously on the losing side starts manifesting itself as an affliction. There is also the notion that the endless run of electoral defeats hardly qualifies as a predicament for the Gandhis — for, they are never out of power; if not the government; there's always the party.

The problem, the dissenters believe, lies in the way the party is being managed; an interim arrangement denotes a weakness of intent and a 'full-time' leader could mean fresh impetus. The top decision-making body did announce the election of a new president, but only in June. Also included was a lecture on priorities — organisational matters can wait, getting the party organised for Assembly elections in crucial states cannot. After Rahul stepped down over yet another drubbing in 2019, it again fell upon his mother to fill the vacuum, so embedded is the Gandhi imprint. When the centre of power remains the same, and is likely to be so even in the unforeseeable event of a non-Gandhi stand-in, there is little to the logic that early internal polls will bring the change the party is looking for.

As she faced rare opposition from within, Sonia Gandhi was asked to continue as interim chief till February, with a resolve to conduct internal polls. That process has been postponed. The need for a decisive stamp on leadership cannot be overstated. She may have met some of her once-trusted lieutenants, but a continuum of protesting voices cannot and should not be ignored. Ironing out differences, collective leadership and delegation of authority have to be priorities too. The lesson the Congress needs to draw comes from the BJP, persistent and unflinching during two UPA terms when it believed it should have won. And then it did, and how.

Paragliding accidents

HP tourism dept needs to ensure safety measures

The alarming number of paragliding accidents in the Dhauladars of Himachal Pradesh that have tragically claimed the lives of at least 10 gliders over the past five years is reflective of scant regard for the enforcement of safety rules. The latest crash earlier this month that proved fatal for a Canadian citizen is a grim reminder of the dangers of indulging in this aero sport without proper protective equipment in place. It's time the state tourism department took upon itself the responsibility and task of ensuring that no more hazardous trips are undertaken. Any laxity calls for stringent deterrent action, not only against the operators, but also the rule enforcement officials.

No glider should be allowed to take off from the umpteen adventure spots dotting the Kullu and Manali areas unless it is cleared by the department. The criteria for giving the go-ahead have been clearly laid out, but they are, sadly, rarely implemented or adhered to. All tourists and flying enthusiasts should be enlightened about the importance of checking the security guidelines and insisting upon them before undertaking a sortie, for the sake of their own lives. Prominently mandatory among them are a valid licence for the pilot, safety-certified parachute and helmet, altimeter, barometer, speed indicator and first-aid kits for the gliders soaring into the skies. That some sports adventurers have gone missing or remained untraced underlines the importance of having in the saddle a two-way radio communication system. Experience also teaches how ground support is of immense value in the hour of emergency and saving lives. This includes a ready retrieval vehicle and an insurance cover.

Himachal is the paragliding capital of India, endowed with natural pockets of thermals that help paragliders gain heights and easily fly from one cluster to another. Over 50,000 aficionados, both domestic and foreign, flock to Kangra's Bir Billing village alone every year, putting it atop the world map for this extreme adventure sport. It is thus imperative that the spate of tragedies is reined in with safe proactive practices. The thrilling exploit must thrive as it has wide tourist and economic implications.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Chaos was the law of nature; order was the dream of man. — Henry B Adams

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1921

The Tribune appeal

Apart from the strictly legal issues raised in *The Tribune* appeal, in which the Privy Council delivered its judgment last month, there were two outstanding questions involved in it from the point of view of the general public. These were whether the case was a fit one to be submitted to a martial law tribunal, and whether the articles were really seditious. On both points, public opinion in India had declared itself in unmistakable terms, and public opinion in this case was not merely the opinion of the general public, but also of men whose competence to express an opinion on the subject no reasonable person could dispute. Lawyers of the highest eminence, including at least one ex-High Court Judge, enjoying in a remarkable degree the confidence of the Government itself, shared and expressed the same view that the Indian Press as a whole as well as other lay critics urged with passionate emphasis. On both points, the judgment of the Privy Council leaves the issue exactly where it was. On one of the two points, their lordships do express an opinion, but that opinion is obviously in conflict with the opinion of both the majority of the Hunter Committee and of His Majesty's Government. We refer, of course, to the question of jurisdiction, which in this case was more a question of fact than of law, and in regard to which, therefore, His Majesty's Government were, if anything, in a better position to form an opinion than their lordships could possibly be. This question of fact was whether the articles were connected with the disturbances. Their lordships said they had "no doubt that the offence with which the appellant was charged was connected with the disturbances referred to in the Order," and this in spite of the fact that no attempt had been made at the original trial to establish a connection between the two.

Back in the game

Biden has signalled the US will attempt to resume leadership on global issues



VIVEK KATJU

EX-Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs



HANDS FULL: From undoing 'Trumpism' to putting the US on the right track, President Biden has a lot on his plate. REUTERS

Instead of shunning American liberal opinion, it would be prudent for our government to engage it.

have to simultaneously contain the raging pandemic which has impacted America the most, encourage economic growth and restore the traditional patterns of the exercise of influence and power abroad. The executive decisions that Biden took immediately on entering the Oval Office shows that his administration has begun work in that direction. In many cases, these decisions repealed those of Trump and restored the positions of the Democratic Party in both internal and external policy areas.

Biden's first domestic task is to get Americans to take the pandemic seriously. While America has been more severely hit by it than any other country, its people have never shown sufficient serious intent and discipline to reduce its spread. Nothing illustrates this more than the controversies that have continued over months on the importance of wearing masks. Biden's order that it would be compulsory to put on masks in federal buildings is a clear departure from Trump's approaches. The response of the Trump faithful and other right-wing groups to this and the ramping up of the vaccine campaign would be early indications of their attitude to Biden's appeal for uni-

ty in his inaugural address.

Another fundamental issue that will engage the Biden administration concerns race relations. There are deep anxieties in large sections of white communities about not only the changing racial landscape in population terms, but also in inter-racial power and affluence. Barack Obama and now Kamala Harris showcase the change in American political life but the financial and economic sector will more and more witness the ingress of non-white players and groups. The opportunities of the digital age are also inevitably leading to these changes. Biden has shown that America must embrace it to become truly multi-racial but that is not acceptable to many whites steeped in notions of white control of all the levers of power. This powder keg will not die out in the foreseeable future.

In the foreign policy area, Biden was expected to return America fully to the WHO and to rejoin the Paris Climate Change Accord. He has done so immediately on assuming office, signalling that America will revert to attempts to resume leadership on global issues. But, by now, the blatant 'America first' sentiment has gone deep not only among

the fringe groups in that country; hence, a response to such swift abandoning of Trump's approaches may invite a reaction. These are important issues in the Biden administration's external agenda but they will be overshadowed by the most important issue—China.

During his confirmation hearings in the Senate, Lloyd Austin, Biden's nominee as Defence Secretary, said that China's goal was to be a dominant world power. In this, he was no doubt expressing the view held by the American establishment. The question is how Biden will handle China's aggressive quest for dominance. Austin argued for a whole of government approach but significantly also said there could be American-Chinese cooperation where it was in America's interest to go in that direction. For India, Biden's approach to China and towards India's immediate and extended neighbourhood will be of vital concern.

Those who will hold senior positions in the Biden administration have supported comprehensive cooperation with India. There is no need to suspect this intention but Indian decision-makers will have to ensure that the shadow of the areas in which America and China cooperate does not fall on India. India will also have to be wary of the Biden administration's apparent desire to go back to military-to-military cooperation with Pakistan, and as indicated in Austin's testimony, its open acknowledgement of the importance of that country in addressing the Afghan issue.

With Democrats holding the presidency and both the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Modi government will have to brace itself for interventions on human rights issues. It need not get overly fazed by these because they would not impact on India-America cooperation as a whole. However, they will give Indian opposition parties opportunities to embarrass the government. In any event, instead of shunning American liberal opinion, it would, especially now, be prudent for the government to engage it.

The milk of human kindness flows

SUMIT PAUL

A FEW years ago, I was in Istanbul, Turkey, to teach Jalaluddin Rumi's Turkish poetry (yes, he wrote in Turkish as well). I stayed on the university campus. An elderly couple was residing near my guesthouse. Both were retired professors of Turkish language and literature. We'd talk at length discussing Turkish language, literature and mysticism.

One day, they invited me over for lunch. The sumptuous spread comprised all vegetarian delicacies. I was surprised at the meticulousness of the elderly couple. They remembered that I had mentioned casually my being a vegetarian, not even par-

taking of eggs. With me, they too had vegetarian cuisine sans eggs whereas egg is considered to be vegetarian in Turkey and no dish is complete without it.

The couple told me that in deference to my dietary inclinations and preferences, they not only had made all vegetarian items for me, but also avoided having eggs in my presence. That was something I never expected. This is sensitivity of the most sublime kind.

A similar incident happened a few years ago when I went to meet my PhD guide on Quranic studies in Kolkata. I was a guest at their place during Tabaski or Eid-ul-Adha when the sacrifice of an animal is mandatory for every Momin (a true Muslim).

But that devout Muslim professor of mine didn't sacrifice, knowing that I was a vegetarian and abhorred killing an (innocent) animal whether for palate or for the sake of a ritual.

In Iran, I was exempted from attending the religious lecture and reciting verses from the Al-Furqan and teachings from Hadis (not Hadith) because I was an atheist right from my childhood days and when I opted for pursuing my first doctorate on Islamic theology and mysticism from Al-Azhar, Cairo, no one objected as to how an atheist could pursue a PhD on theology! This has consolidated my belief in the inherent goodness of mankind.

Humans aren't predominantly insensitive and lacking in feelings

or emotions. Most humans respect preferences, predilections and even idiosyncrasies. We tend to dismiss humans as insensitive and heartless, forgetting that there are many people who are embodiments of goodness.

We keep judging people and communities on the basis of stereotypes and inveterate prejudices. Once we disabuse ourselves of all these petty opinions and presuppositions, all humans will appear to be nice, gentle and friendly to us and vice versa. We need to have open eyes, heart and mind. Remember Rabindranath Tagore's famous line from *Gitanjali*, 'Every infant comes to the earth with the eternal message that God is not yet discouraged of man.'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Farmers' fears

Apropos of 'Might of kisan and jawni', the Modi government has been unable to convince the farmers despite several meetings. The fear of the farmers is that the induction of corporates for the marketing of farm produce in free market mode will only result in fattening of these corporates, squeezing the farmers by exploiting their inability to hold on to their produce to extract a better price while negotiating with these giants. Initially, these corporates may offer a higher price to decimate their competitors (APMC arthiyas), but after attaining monopoly, they will dictate their price, hoard produce to create artificial scarcity and sell at a higher price. Just before the next crop season, they will release the hoarded stocks and force farmers to agree to the cheapest possible price. The corporates will reap mega profits.

BRIG WS CHAUDHARY (RETD), PANCHKULA

Exercise restraint

It is being said if the farmers do not accept the proposal of the government, it will be construed that they are not interested in a solution, and that certain divisive forces are more willing to create problems. Also that the IMF has commented that these reforms will enhance GDP growth. If any agreement is achieved without

taking into confidence all stakeholders, the issue will remain in controversy and the exercise of the government will prove futile. The government should adopt a balanced approach. Moreover, the farmers and the government should maintain restraint on Republic Day.

YASH PAL RALHAN, JALANDHAR

Arm-twisting Punjab

The Centre's act of withholding the 2% rural development fund to Punjab is most unfortunate and untimely. The state has procured 205 lakh tonnes of paddy worth Rs 41,000 crore and Rs 1,200 crore are due to the state government as per 3% RDF applicable to the state. Agriculture is a state subject and India is a federal state. The state government has been dictated to inform on the utilisation of money spent on infrastructure of agriculture marketing procurement centres. The men sitting in the Central government don't know that RDF is not only utilised for improving infrastructure of procurement centres, but also rural and linked roads. The Centre is not only asking for the utilisation of funds, but also acting as the Central Auditor General. Punjab is an agrarian state and always starved of funds. There is always a possibility that funds collected under one head are utilised under another head to meet the urgent expenses for development proj-

ects. Is it a crime to spend the fund for other purposes within the state? Is all the money collected under the PM's relief fund for Odisha cyclones used for that purpose only? By withholding RDF or GST money due to the state, the Central government is only trying to arm-twist the state government to kill the farmers' agitation.

SURESH VERMA, CHANDIGARH

Right way to protest

If any party or section of people is not happy with the Modi government, or the Acts passed by this government, people have the right to show their displeasure and can protest. But they have no right to cause inconvenience to the public. They cannot hold the government to ransom. 'Rail roko', 'chakka jam', or any other form of protest that makes the life of other people difficult is not a way to protest. The best way to show the door to the incumbent government is during the elections. Let the parties worth their salt come out with their manifestos declaring that their party will abrogate all Acts passed by the government after they come to power.

SARABJIT SINGH, KURUKSHETRA

In rescue of elderly

The Tribune published the news of the plight of a former constable aged 91. The same day, he was attended to

by SHO, Kapurthala, and the kin was taken to task ('Ensure food to ex-cop, kin warned'). Like him, there are many others suffering a similar fate but are not able to approach the bureau of the *Tribune*. The government must frame rules and issue instructions for the care of neglected citizens. Although the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, protects the property and allows maintenance allowance, most of them are either not aware of the Act or are not able to fight due to family stigma.

OP GARG, PATIALA

Women's right to exist

Apropos of 'The birth of a daughter', when women can work in every field where men can, why are they treated inferior? Why are they treated differently inside her house, or at work? They are made to feel guilty for having been born. If it is an old mindset, elderly people should be made to understand that they are not right. Stop making women feel less than what they are, just because they don't fit into your social ideas. Women do not exist to pacify society's expectations. Her worth isn't based on her ability to cook, clean, get married, or have kids. Rather, it's about her personal successes, her dreams and her happiness.

MANJASHPREET KAUR RAI, BY MAIL

Islamabad's futile blame game on terror



TILAK DEVASHER

MEMBER, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

A bevy of Pak leaders, including PM Imran Khan and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi have tried to project various Pak-based terrorist organisations, especially the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), as affiliated to India. Aimed at an international audience, such accusations are, however, just a charade to mask Pakistan's own failures and worse, complex links with them. Consider the following in the case of TTP.

Mullah Fazlullah, head of the TTP, before being killed, was actually a hero of the army. According to Pak media, on April 3, 2009, Fazlullah led the prayer at his home village, Mamdrai. Those who prayed behind him were Brigadier Tahir Mubeen, Syed Javed Hussain, the Commissioner of Malakand region, Khushhal Khan, the district coordination officer of Swat, and Danishwar Khan, Swat's district police officer. Following the prayers, Fazlullah gave a threatening speech that was heard with respect by the key military and civil officials.

This was at a time when the Swat police had registered at least 60 cases relating to suicide bombings, kidnappings, attacks on civilians, police and armed forces against Fazlullah. Media reports also indicate that the then DG, ISI, Shuja Pasha, had in a letter to the TTP commander Wali-ur-

Rehman Mehsud in 2011, asked the TTP leadership to give up its armed struggle in return for financial and military support in every possible way. Additionally, Pasha invited Mehsud for a secret meeting to be arranged by Naseer-ud-din Haqqani, the son of Jalaluddin Haqqani, head of the Haqqani network. He also referred to the TTP as a necessity for Pakistan and recalling the Mehsud involvement in Kashmir (in 1947), invited the TTP to join the Pakistan army in the "Ghazwa-e-Hind" war against India as a true and just jihad.

Imran Khan, while in the Opposition, had written at least two letters to the then TTP chief Hakimullah Mehsud, in 2011 and 2012, seeking permission to hold rallies in South Waziristan. This was the time when Khan was holding protests against US drone strikes. Incidentally, Mehsud carried an FBI reward of \$5 million and a Pak government reward of Rs 50 million. Yet, Imran Khan had no hesitation in seeking Mehsud's permission.

Moreover, in early 2014, in response to the then PM Nawaz Sharif's offer of talks, the TTP nominated five political and religious leaders to mediate on their behalf. Imran Khan was the first person on the TTP list that included other 'luminaries' like Maulana Sami-ul-Haq, the father of the Taliban, and Maulana Abdul Aziz, of Lal Masjid 'fame'.

More recently, media reports indicate that Sirajuddin Haqqani, head of the Haqqani network, was meeting and negotiating with the current TTP head Noor Wali Mehsud at the request of the Army chief Bajwa and ISI chief Faiz Hameed.

Then there is the curious case of Aamir Ali Chaudhury, a TTP operative, specialising as an electronics and



Pakistan has accelerated efforts to project India as supporting the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan. Such articulation is aimed at seeking an alibi for failing to control terrorism despite a large number of operations. It is also aimed at convincing the Biden Administration to press the 'pause' button in the strategic relations with India. It is also to convince the Chinese that India would be responsible for any attacks on its interests.

CHARADE: Prime Minister Imran Khan and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi have tried to project Pak-based terror groups as affiliated to India. REUTERS

explosives expert. The UN's 1267 Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee had listed him on October 18, 2012 for being associated with the Al-Qaeda and the TTP. He was also linked with the bomb used in the failed May 2010 attack in Times Square, New York City, and proscribed by the US Department of Treasury.

Despite this record, it now emerges that in September 2020, Pakistan had sought the de-listing of Aamir Ali from the UN sanctions list.

In 2020, the former TTP spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan, 'escaped' from Pak army custody. The army, however, has given no explanation.

Given such damning evidence, the moot question is why would Pakistan resort to such charades and self-goals to blame India? There are possibly three reasons.

First, as a report of the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS) released on January 3 instant shows, Pakistan has been slipping on the terrorism front. According to it, there were a total of 146 terrorist attacks in 2020 that claimed 220 lives and injured 547. Of these attacks, the TTP perpetrated 67 or about 46 per cent of the total. However, according to the TTP, it carried out 177 attacks in 2020, killing 200 and injuring 219, all of them being from the army/police/intelligence. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, where Imran Khan's party has been in power for the last seven years, witnessed the highest number of attacks. Quite clearly, the government has failed to tackle terrorism.

Second, the TTP's operational strength has increased manifold after former splinter groups recently merged with it. Moreover, a recent UN report indicated that there were 6,000 to 6,500 TTP militants in Afghanistan. Pakistan is apprehensive that such a large number, when combined with the consolidation of the TTP, would be able to revive its operational capabilities and pose a very serious threat. This threat would also increase security concerns about the safety of Chinese projects and personnel. In the past, the TTP has warned China about retaliatory action for its persecution of the Uighurs.

These statistics clearly belie the Pak army's claims that it had succeeded in wiping out terrorism. Hence, the desperation to look for a scapegoat. And no better scapegoat to find than India!

Thus, Pakistan has accelerated its efforts to project India as supporting the TTP. Such articulation is aimed

at seeking an alibi for failing to control terrorism despite a large number of operations. It is also aimed at influencing the incoming Biden Administration to press the 'pause' button in the strategic relationship with India. It also aims to push India on the defensive during its non-permanent membership of the Security Council over the next two years. And finally, it is to convince the Chinese that India would be responsible for any attacks on its interests.

However, given Pakistan's documented support to terrorism and links with various shades of terrorists, its patently false charges have not found resonance internationally that it had hoped for. Despite this, Pakistan will continue to score self-goals.

Views are personal

Scripting a social revolution through water



RATTAN LAL KATARIA

UNION MINISTER OF STATE, JAL SHAKTI, SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPLOYMENT

The daily schedule of my parents hinged on securing two square meals for their family. My father worked as a shoe-maker, while my mother toiled hard as a wage labourer.

I remember her ordeal, walking tirelessly up to the designated well, each day, just to fetch drinking water. Her resolve to secure water for her children gave her the grit to brave all physical and social hardships she faced in the process.

It was after 72 years of Independence, in 2019, that from the precincts of the Red Fort, our Prime Minister



TACKLING CRISIS: Potable water to every rural household is the mission's aim. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Narendra Modi announced his resolve to provide piped water connections to every rural household under the government's flagship programme — Jal Jeevan Mission. Present at the Red Fort at that historic moment, my past flashed in front of my eyes. I remembered the words of Atal Bihari Vajpeiji. In 1990, while on a visit to my village to perform the *kanyadaan* of my sister, he termed piped water supply as a conduit to secure dignity of life for each household. That moment, I considered myself fortunate to serve in the newly formed Jal Shakti Ministry and work towards fulfillment of his vision. It was a god-sent opportunity and the entire team, led under the

dynamic leadership of our Prime Minister, is working tirelessly to accomplish the monumental task.

As we march towards Republic Day celebrations, instead of making tall promises, I seek to put forth our report card in public domain. In a short span of just one year, 3.04 crore households have been provided piped water connections as against the coverage of 3.23 crore households since independence. Goa has emerged as the first state to achieve 100% coverage under JJM and as on date, 51 districts, 652 blocks, 37,956 gram panchayats and 70,848 villages have achieved the target of *Har Ghar Jal*. The drudgery of women and girls has reduced and

there has been an improvement in their "ease of living".

But there is something more significant that is happening as an implication of this mission.

A water connection is being provided to one and all irrespective of caste, community, religion and race etc with an approach that "no one is left behind". Villages with a majority of SC/ST population are also considered as priority areas under the scheme which aims to secure 55 litres per capita per day (LPCD) of water. This secular and inclusive approach is primarily benefiting the people from backward castes and is proving to be a silent revolution.

The mission mandates provisioning of water supply infrastructure on an unprecedented scale. It requires skilled manpower like plumbers, masons, electricians, fitters, pump operators etc., which shall be met by skilling people from the respective villages, thereby opening up vistas for their employment. So far, skill missions have tried to address the supply side constraints by imparting skill trainings. This mission shall address both the supply as well as demand side constraints by generating the demand for requisite skills in all the villages.

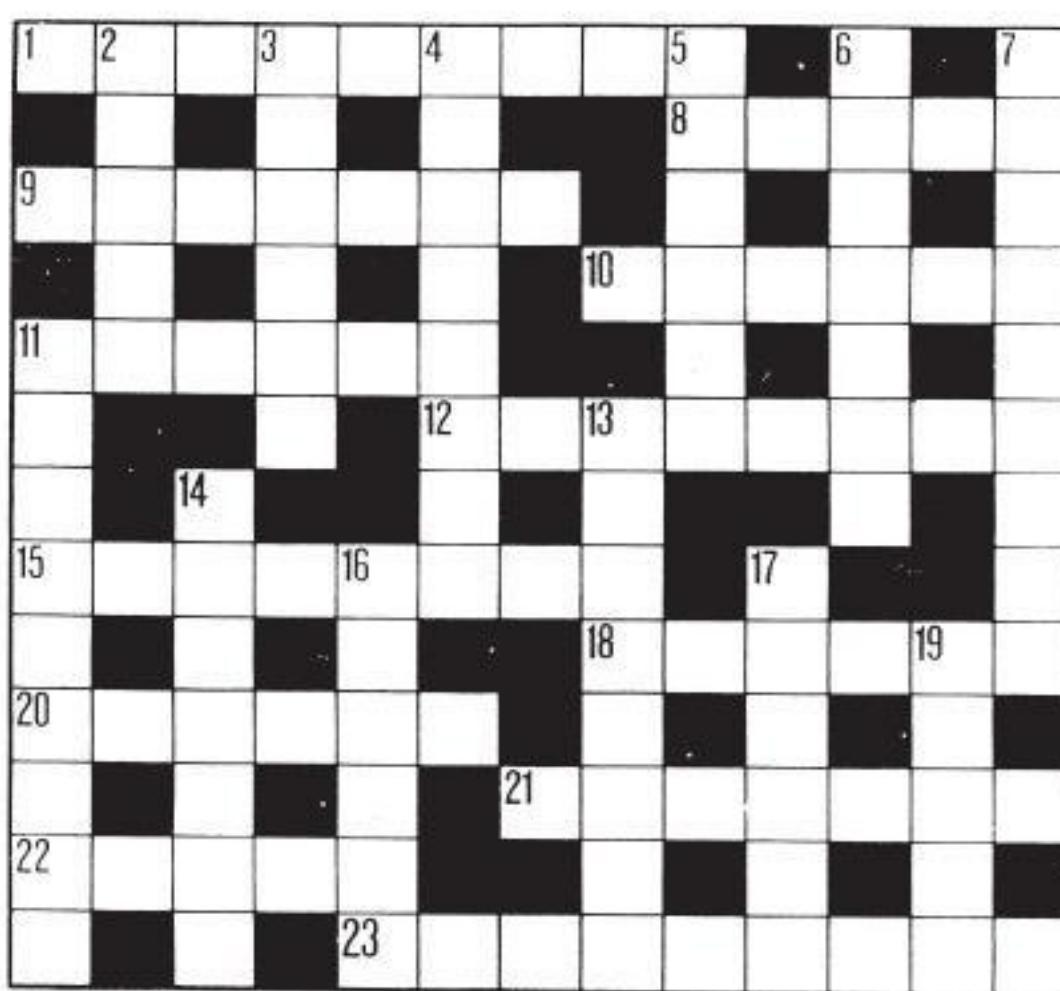
The entire mission follows a bottom-up approach. It requires formation of village water supply committees/*paani samitis* that shall prepare a village action plan for themselves. Interestingly, these committees

must have 50% women members since they are known to have a first-hand experience of problems faced on account of fetching water from a distance for day to day use. They are also known to be more efficient in the delivery of smooth operation of any scheme. Women and water are the very source of life. The mission seeks to leverage their innate potential and channelise it into a tool for their empowerment.

Lastly, information technology has been leveraged to collate and display nationwide data on a portal, www.jalshakti.gov.in, for ensuring real-time monitoring, transparency and public probity. A Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh (RJJK) has been set up for accepting donations/contributions from people who have moved from villages, but still nurture a love for their native place. Soon, they will be able to donate, at the click of the mouse, for specific water supply related works by interacting with the members of the *paani samiti* through this portal.

Hence, Jal Jeevan Mission is not merely a scheme. Its multi-dimensional impact on our society shall be positively etched in Indian history. Its outcome is not limited to the aggregate of connections provided. It is the resolve of *Atmanirbhar Bharat* to address the long-standing need of providing potable water to every rural household by ushering in a social revolution marked by people's participation, empowerment, convergence, inclusion and equity.

QUICK CROSSWORD

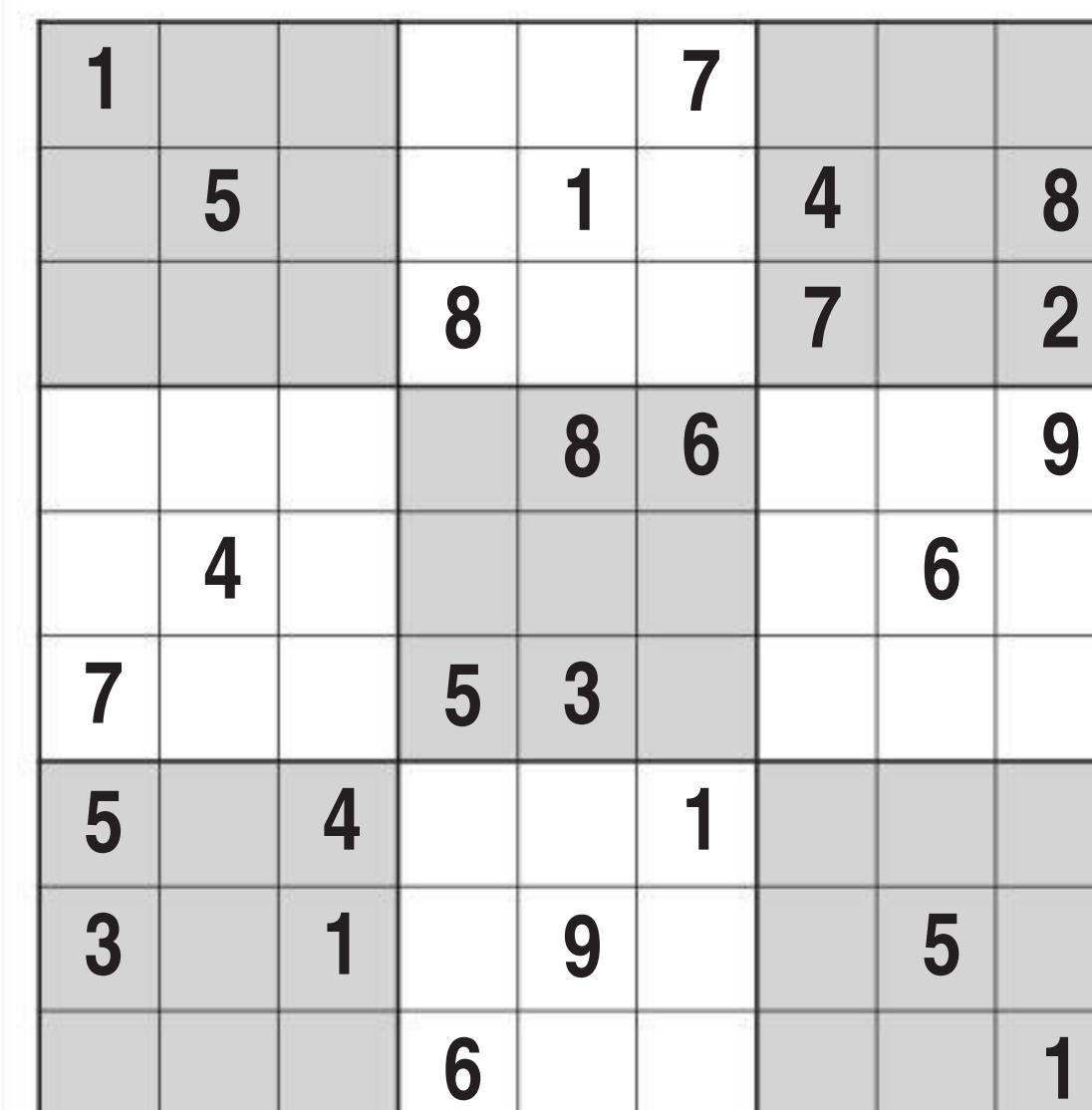


SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Bassoon, 4 Scrap, 7 Lear, 8 Step on it, 10 End in tears, 12 Jargon, 13 Vilify, 15 Days gone by, 18 Neglige, 19 Grim, 20 Laden, 21 Treason.

Down: 1 Belle, 2 Standard, 3 Nutmeg, 4 Supervisor, 5 Rank, 6 Petrifly, 9 On location, 11 Fine arts, 12 Journal, 14 Aspect, 16 Yemen, 17 Aged.

SU DO KU



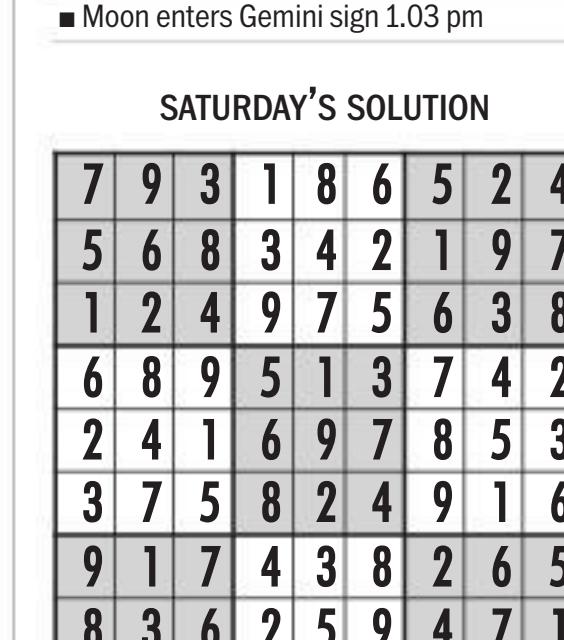
HARD

CALENDAR

JANUARY 25, 2021, MONDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Magh Shaka	5
■ Magh Parvishite	12
■ Hijri	1442
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 12, up to 12.25 pm	
■ Indra Yoga up to 10.28 pm	
■ Mrighshikha Nakshatra up to 1.56 am	
■ Moon enters Gemini sign 1.03 pm	

SATURDAY'S SOLUTION



FORECAST

SUNSET: MONDAY 17:52 HRS
SUNRISE: TUESDAY 07:17 HRS

Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Rainy	Foggy
18	09	00	00	00

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	18	09
New Delhi	17	06
Amritsar	17	05
Bathinda	18	06
Jalandhar	17	06
Ludhiana	18	06
Bhiwani	18	07
Hisar	18	06
Sirsia	19	06
Dharamsala	13	05
Manali	09	01
Shimla	12	02
Srinagar	06	-03
Jammu	17	06
Kargil	-07	-16
Leh	-09	-18
Dehradun	23	06
Mussoorie	15	02

TEMPERATURE IN °C

Race to rope in Ind in Sirmaur district

BJP, Cong bagged 8 seats each

AMBika SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, JANUARY 24
With both the BJP and the Congress bagging eight seats each in the zila parishad polls in Sirmaur district, an independent candidate will be decisive in electing the chairman and vice chairman.

There were 17 members in the Zila Parishad in the district. The post of chairperson is reserved for an other backward class (OBC) woman and the BJP has four such candidates in its winners list.

Three women have won from the open wards while one has won from the ward reserved for OBC women. The Congress has two such candidates though they have won from the general wards.

Efforts are on to rope in the support of an independent candidate Neelam Devi by both parties. She has won from Bag Pashog ward, the home turf of the BJP's state president Suresh Kashyap.

With none of the parties having secured a majority, the candidates desirous of grabbing the two key posts by virtue of their seniority in the party are sure to be disappointed. — TNS

It remains to be seen who manages to secure

Power Minister enters counting centre, courts controversy

SOLAN, JANUARY 24

Power minister and Paonta Sahib MLA Sukhram Chawdhary courted controversy last evening by allegedly entering a counting centre at a school at Taruwala where counting for the panchayat samiti wards was underway.

The poll results were declared minutes after his arrival at the centre and the BJP candidate was declared victorious. A large crowd, which had assembled outside the school to know the poll results, objected to the minister's presence at the centre and they indulged in sloganising against him.

Officials had to requisition a large police force to control the situation as Congress leaders alleged that the minister was unduly trying to help the BJP candidates.

Shillai MLA Harshwardhan said it was shameful that despite being a power minister he was demeaning the sanctity of his post. He asked whom had he come to meet and why had he come there while the counting was underway. Chauhan also alleged that the Congress candidate was winning by 44 votes but after the minister's entry, the BJP candidate for the panchayat samiti for the Purwala seat won by over 80 votes. — TNS

ZP elections bring to fore anti-incumbency in Kangra

BJP won 26 of 54 seats despite vigorous campaign by ministers, MLAs

LALIT MOHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, JANUARY 24

The zila parishad elections have brought to the fore anti-incumbency in Kangra, the politically most significant district having 15 Assembly segments.

Though the BJP has won 26 of the 54 seats, the effort the ruling party had put in to get that number shows anti-incumbency. Three ministers and eight MLAs were actively campaigning with full support of the 'official machinery'.

There are allegations that thousands of voters did not find their names in voter lists.

The electoral rolls were handwritten that evoked criticism from candidates that their names were indecipherable for the voters. In some wards, about 30 per cent votes were rejected on technical reasons.

Despite all this, the Congress managed to bag 19 zila parishad wards and Independents nine. The margins of some Congress candidates were 6,000 votes in some wards. The victory of the Congress was more significant in view of the fact that there was hardly any effort at the party level to run a coordinated campaign. Most senior



A winning candidate celebrates with his supporters after winning the zila parishad election, at Shahpur on Saturday.

WHERE THE PARTY LOST

- In Shahpur, represented by Minister for Social Justice Sarveen Chaudhary, the BJP won just one zila parishad ward while Congress won three
- In Sulah, represented by Speaker Vipin Parmar, the BJP got just two seats while the Congress three
- In Dharamsala, represented by BJP MLA Vishal Nehria, the party failed to open its account

leaders left the party candidates to fend for themselves in the elections.

The results have buoyed the Kangra Congress leadership that had been in slumber for

quite some time. They are now planning to launch a campaign against the government. Enquiries revealed that the increasing prices of petrol and diesel and charges of power and water and lack of connect of BJP leaders at the ground level had led to the failure of the party in many areas.

From the BJP, Minister for Forests Rakesh Pathania and Minister for Industries and Transport Bikram Thakur had performed well in their areas. In Nurpur, represented by Rakesh Pathania, the BJP had won two of the three wards. In Dehra, represented by Bikram Thakur, the BJP had got three out of four wards.

In Shahpur, represented by Minister for Social Justice Sarveen Chaudhary, the BJP had won just one zila parishad ward while Congress won three.

After rendering jobless, the fishermen have been demanding compensation in view of restricted fishing in the wetland. Vijay Kumar, Sat Pal, Rajinder, Manoj, Subhash, Rakesh, Inder Pal, Karan Chand, Veer Singh and Ashwani Kumar, who participated in the protest, lamented that after fishing was banned, they were facing immense hardships in sustaining their families. — OC

Fishing banned, fishermen protest loss of livelihood

NURPUR, JANUARY 24

As many as 2,800 fishermen dependent on the Pong wetland are a harried lot after fishing was banned in the lake as they have been left with no means of livelihood.

The fishermen, who are members of 16 fisheries cooperative societies, held a protest at Guglara near the wetland last evening against the government apathy in providing compensation to them for losing their source of livelihood due to the bird flu outbreak. The district administration banned fishing after the outbreak of avian flu (H5N1) on January 3. But now, they say, the bird flu has largely been contained. Only two dead birds were retrieved from Nagrota Surian range of wildlife yesterday whereas no mortality has been reported in the Dhameta range for the past one week.

Palampur is an area where the Congress has failed miserably. The BJP has won all five wards. In Sulah, represented by Speaker Vipin Parmar, the BJP had got just two seats while the Congress three. In Dharamsala, represented by BJP MLA Vishal Nehria, the party had failed to open its account.

Palampur is an area where the Congress has failed miserably. The BJP has won all five wards. In Sulah, represented by Speaker Vipin Parmar, the BJP had got just two seats while the Congress three. In Dharamsala, represented by BJP MLA Vishal Nehria, the party had failed to open its account. — OC

Home Minister's visit to Shimla cancelled

SHIMLA, JANUARY 24

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's one day visit to Shimla to participate in golden jubilee celebrations of the Statehood Day as the chief guest has been cancelled but national BJP president JP Nadda will attend the function. However, Shah will address a rally virtually.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur today visited The Ridge, Shimla, to review the arrangements regarding the celebrations of the golden jubilee function to be held tomorrow. He gave directions to

the officers for making foolproof and elaborate arrangements to make the event a success and memorable. He also asked them to ensure that minimum inconvenience was caused to the public and tourists during the celebrations.

Thakur also visited the exhibition stalls and gave directions to the officers concerned to make the exhibitions interesting so that people could get a glimpse of 50 years of the glorious journey of development the state had witnessed a rally virtually.

Hotellers said most of the units in Manali were packed to capacity. The occupancy rate was around 80 per cent. The tourists were seen in heavy numbers at various tourist spots, especially the Solang Nullah to enjoy the snow.

Atal Tunnel has not yet been opened to the tourists in the wake of snow on the road and avalanche threat near both portals of the tunnel. The tourist vehicles are not allowed to go beyond Palchan. Hoteliers said the tourism had gained momentum and a heavy rush was witnessed this weekend.

Anup Ram Thakur, president, Manali Hoteliers Association, said such a

Manali sees spurt in tourist footfall

Atal Tunnel still closed owing to snow, avalanche threat

ABHINAV VASHISHT



A large number of tourists throng Solang in Manali to enjoy snow on Sunday. PHOTO: JAI KUMAR

FRESH SNOWFALL IN KUFRI, KEYLONG

■ Shimla: The cold wave further tightened its grip as the mercury dropped by a few notches after a fresh spell of snowfall in tribal areas and higher reaches

■ Scattered moderate rain occurred at isolated places in mid and lower hills.

■ Kufri recorded 2 cm snow while Shimla recorded 1.7 mm rain.

■ Gondla and Bharmour received 31 cm and 30 cm of fresh snow while Keylong recorded 15 cm snow, followed by Hansa 8 cm, Koti 7 cm and Kalpa 5 cm.

huge arrival of tourists in January was witnessed for the first time. He said people

were eager to go out of their homes after being bound for a long time due to

New additions to Shimla Army Heritage Museum

BHANU P LOHAMI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JANUARY 24

The bust of Major Sandeep Shankla, awarded Ashok Chakra (posthumously), original Vir Chakra of Captain Jatinder Nath Sood (posthumously), a lucid write-up about Major Pradeep Agarwal, first test pilot of the Army and war bunker, are the latest additions to The Army Heritage Museum in Shimla.

"There was confusion over the birth place of Major Shankla and records were searched with the help of the Army Training Command (ARTRAC) which verified that he hailed from Karwar village in Hamirpur district, following which his bust was placed in the museum. It was inaugurated recently by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Vijay Divas," said Yashpal Mehta, curator of the museum.

On August 8, 1991, Major Shankla (18 Dogra) was shot during a combat with terror



The Army Heritage Museum in Shimla. PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

VISITORS' BOOK

“I have always admired and have great respect for the armed forces. Your organisational skills and discipline is exemplary.” Amitabh Bachchan, ACTOR (2008)

ists at Zafarkhani village in Jammu and Kashmir and was awarded Ashok Chakra (posthumously).

(posthumously) that was presented to Army Commander Lt Gen Raj Shukla by his brother Joginder Lal Sood on December 16 last is also displayed in the museum.

Building gutted in Solan

SOLAN, JANUARY 24

Fire erupted in a building which houses a chemist, cloth and an artificial ornaments shop on the Mall Road here this evening.

Being a Sunday, all shops were closed but a passerby noticed smoke billowing out from the chemist shop. He raised the alarm after which the firemen were informed. The fire tender had to go for a refill, which delayed fire fighting operations.

Loss worth lakhs was suffered by the three shops as a large quantity of material was burnt. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

It took more than two hours to control the blaze which damaged the two nearby shops by the time the fire-fighting operations could begin. LPG cylinders housed in a nearby godown of the Civil Supplies Corporation were also shifted. SDM Solan Ajay Yadav said as per preliminary probe, short circuit appeared to have caused the fire. — TNS

THE TRIBUNE TRUST CHANDIGARH

Purchase of indigenous Newsprint

Offers are invited for purchase of indigenous newsprint from the Indigenous Manufacturers for the quarter, Jan-March, 2021. Our quarterly requirement is around 250 MT. We need the indigenous newsprint with the following specifications:-

- Grammage – 45/42 GSM
- Width – 68 cms
- Diameter of the reel – 98 cm to 100 cm
- Brightness – Minimum 55%
- Good Runnability and Printing Results

The rate quoted should be on FOR destinations – Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Bathinda & Gurgaon (inclusive of GST)

Tenders completed in all respects i.e. offer letter, Technical Specifications, Non Printed Sample, Printed Sample in Sealed Envelope should be submitted within 10 days after the date of publication of this advertisement at the following address:

Mr. Onkar Nath
Financial Advisor & Controller of Accounts,
The Tribune Trust, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.

Financial Advisor & Controller of Accounts

paper@tribuneindia.com



A cop performs a motorcycle stunt ahead of Republic Day celebrations in Jammu. PTI

Multi-layered security in Valley for R-Day events

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 24

Security has been beefed up in Srinagar and other places in Kashmir ahead of Republic Day. Forces have been deployed in massive numbers around the venues of the January 26 functions across the Valley.

Random checking of vehicles and frisking of passengers is being done at several places, said officials.

The presence of security forces around vital installations in and around the city as well as other district headquarters has been enhanced.

Security has also been strengthened around the venues for the Republic Day functions, including Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium, where the main function in the Valley would take place.

The officials said a thick



Security men at the main venue of the R-Day event in Srinagar. PTI

DRONES BEING USED FOR VIGIL, SAYS IGP

Vijay Kumar, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, expressed confidence that the day would pass off incident-free. He said a multi-layered security had been put in place.

The IGP said the security forces were launching cordon and search operations also "wherever there is some suspicion" about the presence of militants.

Security forces have been asked to remain alert and more check-points have been set up in the city.

The authorities sealed the road stretch from Radio Kashmir Crossing to Sonwar Crossing for the first half of the day on Sunday as full-dress rehearsals took place at the stadium, the officials said. — PTI

layer of security has been thrown around the venue — a few kilometres from the Lal

Chowk city centre here — and the area has been sanitised.

Vijay Kumar, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir,

said the situation was under control and expressed confidence that the day would pass off incident-free. He said a multi-layered security had been put in place.

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The authorities sealed the road stretch from Radio

Kashmir Crossing to Sonwar Crossing for the first half of the day on Sunday as full-dress rehearsals took place at the stadium, the officials said. — PTI



Boatmen row their shikaras in Dal Lake after a spell of snow in Srinagar on Sunday. PTI

At -12°C, Pahalgam coldest in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 24

The minimum temperature at most places in Kashmir plummeted on Sunday after snowfall, but the clouds made way for the winter sun in the morning, officials said.

The MET office has said the weather will improve gradually and remain mainly dry till the end of the month.

The night temperature in the Kashmir valley, except in Srinagar and Qazigund, was taken to a nearby hospital, where both of them were declared brought dead.

It was not immediately clear whether they died of severe cold or asphyxiation, the officials said, adding it was reported that they had kept heater switched during the night. The incident sparked violent protests by drivers and at the Railway chowk in Banihal. — PTI

dropped on Saturday night, the officials said. They said there were reports of very light snowfall or rain at most places of the Valley during the night.

Srinagar city recorded a low of minus 1.9 degrees Celsius, slightly up from minus 2 degrees Celsius the previous night. Qazigund, the gateway town to the Valley, recorded a minimum of 3 degrees Celsius, a degree up from the previous night. The minimum

No potable water for decades, Doda BPL families pool money to lay pipe

BHADERWAH, JANUARY 24

Claiming neglect over the past seven decades, villagers in remote Thanhal village in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district have set out on a mission this winter to bring potable water home.

To fulfil their objective, families, most of whom are below poverty line, in the snow-bound village in the lap of the mighty Ashapati Glacier, recently decided to collect Rs 40,000 to purchase water pipes.

"We are trying to set an example as the government has failed miserably to ensure tap water to us over the years. In the absence of the facility, we have to fetch water round the year from a nearby source even during this harsh winter amid the lurking threat of avalanches," Ajaz Ahmad, a local resident, said.

About 30 families live in the village bordering Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh,



Girls fill their pitchers at Thanhal village in Doda on Sunday. PTI

just 1.5 km from the interstate Bhaderwah-Chamba road. Villagers depend on labour work in Bhaderwah town to make ends meet. Despite the 'Har Ghar Jal Yojana' under the Jal Jeevan Mission, villagers claim that none of the households are connected with piped water supply.

Rakesh Kumar, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Bhader-

wah, said providing potable water to every household was the priority of the government.

"I will take up the issue with the Jal Shakti department to make temporary arrangements for providing piped water to the village in view of extreme cold wave conditions till a permanent gravity line is laid under the Jal Jeevan Mission," he said.

WOMEN WORST-HIT

The womenfolk seem to be the worst sufferers as they have to risk their lives every day amid winter to fetch water from the bottom of Ashapati Glacier, which is prone to frequent snow avalanches. "My father and elder brother are labourers. Under these circumstances, this has become a tradition for girls to collect water for their families. This is the story of every household here. Because of this, none of the girls here have studied beyond Class VIII," Aiza Bano (13) said.

"I earn only Rs 400 a day from labour work and try to make ends meet with great difficulty. But to save the lives of our womenfolk, who risk their lives every day to collect water in extreme weather conditions, I have been contributing half of my earnings every day for the last one month to buy plastic pipes," said Ahmad. — PTI

73 new Covid cases in J&K

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 24 Jammu and Kashmir recorded 73 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Sunday, bringing the tally to 1,24,019, even as no death due to the virus took place in the last 24 hours, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 31 were from Jammu and 42 from the Kashmir division.

The officials said Jammu district recorded a maximum of 29 new cases, followed by 13 in Srinagar district.

While eight districts — Kulgam, Rajouri, Doda, Samba, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban and Reasi — did not report any fresh case, 10 others recorded cases in single digits. The number of active cases stands at 1,103 in the union territory, while 1,20,987 patients have so far recovered, the officials said. The death toll due to the virus is 1,929.

Ladakh recorded two fresh cases of the coronavirus, taking the tally to 9,675, even as eight more patients recovered from the infection in the UT, officials said. The new recoveries pushed the Covid recovery count to 9,484 in Ladakh, the officials said. The fresh cases were detected in Leh on Saturday, they said. Ladakh has so far recorded 129 coronavirus-related deaths. — PTI

Hurt in truce breach, soldier dies

JAMMU, JANUARY 24

Naik Nishant Sharma was injured in border firing last week

tor on January 18, which was responded to strongly by Indian troops. In the incident, Naik Nishant Sharma of 10 JAK RIF was critically injured and was under treatment at command hospital," the spokesperson said.

He is the third Army personnel to have died in ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the LoC in Rajouri and Poonch districts on January 1 and 21. Last year, Jammu and Kashmir recorded 5,100 instances of ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the LoC, the highest in the past 18 years with an average of 14 cases daily. In these violations, 36 persons, including 24 security personnel, were killed and over 130 injured. — PTI

his supreme sacrifice and devotion to duty," the spokesperson said. Earlier, two Army personnel were killed in separate ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the LoC in Rajouri and Poonch districts on January 1 and 21. Last year, Jammu and Kashmir recorded 5,100 instances of ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the LoC, the highest in the past 18 years with an average of 14 cases daily. In these violations, 36 persons, including 24 security personnel, were killed and over 130 injured. — PTI

IndianOil
Advertisement Reference No. IOCL/PC/POLY/CHN/DCA/DOPW2021A
Name of work: Appointment of Del Crederre Agents (DCA) cum DCA Operated Polymer Warehouse (DOPW) Operator for its polymer sales at the following location: 1) Baddi (Himachal Pradesh)
Application forms submission on or before 1600 hrs on 12.03.2021
Visit: <https://eprocure.gov.in/republish/app> for more details. Addendums/ corrigenda, if any, shall be hosted on this website only.

HP Forest Department Tender Notice E-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Tender Reference No. 1/2020-21

- The Dy. Conservator of FOREST, NURPUR FOREST DIVISION, NURPUR, Distt. Kangra, HP on behalf of Governor of HP invites online bids on item rate, in e-tendering system, in 2 cover system for the undermentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/ Firms. Eligible bidders are contractors registered with HPPWD/ CPWD in appropriate class and discipline. The bidder shall have to fulfill the criteria as specified in Technical Qualification Criteria (TQC) in Form-8 available online in tender document.

SI. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (HPSR 2009)	EMD	Period
1.	Construction of B.O Quarter-cum-Office at Mangwal (Dharwal) in Indora Forest Range of Nurpur Forest Division	8,34,305/-	40000/-	45 days

Cost of Tender Form: 500/-

Eligible class of Contractor: Class-D and above.

- Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: the Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <http://hptenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the website, which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder required to have digital signature certificate from one of the authorized certifying Authorities.

3. Key Dates:-

S. No.	Activity	Date and Time
1.	Date of Online publication	23.01.2021 11:00 AM
2.	Document download start date	24.01.2021 11:15 AM
3.	Document download end date	03.02.2021 5:00 PM
4.	Bid submission start	24.01.2021 11:15 AM
5.	Bid submission end date	03.02.2021 11:00 AM
6.	Physical Submission of EMD and cost of tender document	04.02.2021 10:50 AM
7.	Date of Technical Bid Opening, Evaluation of Technical bid followed by opening of Financial Bid	04.02.2021 4:00 PM

- Tender Details: The Tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 covers:

- Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility Information".
- Cover 2: shall contain "BoQ"/Financial Bid", where Contractor will quote his offer for each item.

- Submission of original documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/ EMD in the favour of DCF Nurpur and other technical documents in the O/o Dy. Conservator of Forest Officer, Nurpur Forest Division Nurpur, Distt. Kangra as specified in key dates on or before 04.02.2021 10:50 AM, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

- Bid opening Details: the bids shall be opened 04.02.2021 at 4.00 PM in the O/o Dy. Conservator of Forests , Nurpur Forest Division, Nurpur, Distt. Kangra by the authorized officer. In their own interest the tenderers are advised to be present alongwith original documents at the time of opening tenders.

- If it happens to be holiday on the date of opening of bid as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue and no separate notice will be given in this regard.

- The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 30 days after the dead line date for bid submission.

- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Office inviting tenders shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the least information related to the tender.

- The competent authority on behalf of Governor of HP reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason.

- Registration of HP Sales Tax/GST is essential. If the bidder has not registered and found to be the lowest bidder he is supposed to register him on award of work. He shall submit the tax papers to the employer, before any payment is made to him.

Dy. Conservator of Forests,
Nurpur Forest Division, Nurpur.
Distt Kangra HP

DI-18906

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
Estate Department, Central Vista, Sector-17, Chandigarh – 160017
<http://www.rbi.org.in>
E-TENDERING
Annual Maintenance Contract for Horticulture Work in Bank's Office Building at Sector 17, Bank's Residential Quarters at Sector 16-A, Sector 30-A and Sector 44-B, Chandigarh
Reserve Bank of India, Chandigarh invites e-tenders under two bid system (Technical and Financial Bid) for Annual Maintenance Contract for Horticulture Work in Bank's Office Building at Sector 17, Bank's Residential Quarters at Sector 16-A, Sector 30-A and Sector 44-B, Chandigarh.
1. Interested tenderers are mandatorily required to be registered on mstcommerce.com for participation.
2. The tenderers can participate in the tender only through e-tendering at mstcommerce.com/eprocurement/
3. Tender documents can also be downloaded from the website www.mstcommerce.com/eprocurement/ from January 27, 2021. The tender can only be submitted through e-tendering at www.mstcommerce.com/eprocurement/ from January 28, 2021 to February 18, 2021 (up to 02:00 PM).
4. Part-1 (Technical Bid) of the tender will be opened on MSTC portal on February 18, 2021 (03:00 PM).
5. The complete details of the tender will be available on RBI website <http://www.rbi.org.in> from January 27, 2021 and on MSTC portal from January 28, 2021.

Regional Director



HP. Housing & Urban Development Authority (A State Government Undertaking)

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

- The Executive Engineer, HIMUDA, Division Nahan, Distt. Sirmour, H.P. on behalf of Chairman, HIMUDA invites online bids on item rate in electronic tendering system, in Two Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved Contractors/Firms/ Companies registered with HPPWD/HIMUDA, who have sufficient Knowledge of execution of the similar nature of work.
- | Sl. No. | Name of Work | Estimated Cost | E/Money | Time Period | Cost of e-Tender |
|---------|---|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--|
| 1 | Construction of office building of Child Development Project Officer Pachhad and Tehsil Welfare Office at Sarahan, Distt. Sirmour (H.P.) including Internal Water Supply, Sanitary Installation and Development of site, Rain Harvesting Tank of 5000 Ltrs. Capacity & Septic Tank etc. | Rs. 1,28,77,785/- only. | Rs. 1,61,280/- only | One Year | Rs. 5000/- + GST@18% = Total Rs. 5,900/- |



GLOBE TROT



PLAY DATE: A sheep stands next to a snowman at Campbell Park in Milton Keynes, Britain on Sunday. REUTERS

11 trapped miners rescued from gold mine in China

BEIJING: Eleven miners, trapped underground for two weeks following a blast in a gold mine in east China's Shandong Province, have been rescued, the state media reported on Sunday. The authorities have been racing to dig out 22 miners trapped underground in the partially built gold mine in the city of Qixia in Shandong Province, since the explosion blocked their exit on January 10. The rescuers set free two workers on Sunday, bringing the number of rescued miners to 11, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. PTI

Portugal chooses president amid pandemic surge

LISBON: Portugal held a presidential election on Sunday, with the moderate incumbent candidate strongly favoured to earn a second five-year term as a devastating Covid-19 surge grips the European Union nation. The head of state in Portugal has no legislative powers, which lie with parliament and the government, but is an influential voice in the running of the country. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, 72, is regarded as the clear front-runner among seven candidates. He is a law professor who as President has consistently had an approval rating of 60 per cent or more. AP

Those vaccinated may still spread virus, warns England chief medic

LONDON, JANUARY 24

One of England's leading medical officers on Sunday urged the public to continue to follow the strict lockdown rules because any vaccine-related immunity from Covid-19 takes at least three weeks to kick in. Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, England's Deputy Chief Medical Officer, also warned that there is no clear evidence yet to show that vaccinated people cannot transmit the deadly virus on to others.

"Regardless of whether someone has had their vaccination or not, it is vital that everyone follows the national restrictions and public health advice, as protection takes up to three weeks to kick in and we don't yet know the impact of vaccines on transmission," said Van-Tam.

His warning comes as the UK registered another high daily death toll from the virus of 1,348 this weekend, taking the country's total to 97,329.

However, he pointed to an additional 32 vaccination sites coming on stream to add to the thousands of venues where the National Health Service (NHS) has been delivering 140 jabs a minute, taking the vaccinated total to over 5.8 million. "The



An elderly gets a vaccine shot in California, US. REUTERS

FINALLY, A NASAL SPRAY THAT BLOCKS OUT COVID

■ A nasal spray which can prevent Covid infection for up to two days is being prepped for mass production by scientists at the University of Birmingham with the hope of having them available over-the-counter in pharmacies in a few months, a UK newspaper report said on Sunday.

■ Dr Richard Moakes, the study's lead researcher, told 'The Sunday Tele-

graph' that he is confident in the spray's formula to help unlock society from social distancing restrictions and "get schools going again".

■ The nasal spray, which has not yet been named, is made from ingredients that are already approved for medical use, meaning it is safe for use by humans and does not require further approval. PTI

vaccine is rightly something to celebrate - let's stay patient, stay at home and support the NHS as it continues to roll out the vaccine," he said. A Living Museum, where the BBC filmed a hit drama

series 'Peaky Blinders' based on the notorious Birmingham gang in the 1920s, is among the new vaccine sites.

"Through the vaccines delivery plan, we have made outstanding progress in vaccinat-

DON'T DROP YOUR GUARD

■ We must not drop our guard. While the vaccine can prevent severe disease, we do not know if it stops you from passing on the virus to others, and it takes time to develop immunity after a jab, so for now everyone must stay at home.

Matt Hancock, UK HEALTH SECY

FOLLOW RULES, BE CAUTIOUS

■ Regardless of whether someone has had their vaccination or not, it is vital that everyone follows the rules and advice, as protection takes up to three weeks to kick in and we don't yet know the impact of vaccines.

■ Jonathan Van-Tam, PROF

ing our NHS and care staff, and the most vulnerable people in society," said UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock.

"Everyone must continue to stay at home to help bring down infections," he said. — PTI



Joe Biden



Boris Johnson

Biden dials Johnson over transatlantic ties

WASHINGTON/LONDON, JAN 24

Joe Biden conveyed his intention to strengthen the "special relationship" with the UK in his first call as the US President with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, during which the two leaders re-committed to the NATO alliance and agreed to cooperate on combating climate change and containing the Covid-19 pandemic.

The conversation with Johnson over phone was Biden's third involving a foreign leader since his inauguration on Wednesday. "I look forward to deepening the longstanding alliance between our two countries as we drive a green and sustainable recovery from Covid-19," Johnson said in a tweet.

STRENGTHENING BOND

The President conveyed his intention to strengthen the special ties between our countries underscoring the critical role of NATO to our collective defence and shared values. White House

It seems that a new trade agreement was not on the list of priorities for both sides. While the Downing Street readout of the phone call referred to Johnson reiterating his intention to resolve existing trade issues as soon as possible, the White House communiqué of the call only referred to "strengthening the special relationship". — PTI

SAfrican Hindu priests accused of overcharging for victims' funeral

JOHANNESBURG, JANUARY 24

Cashing in on the fearful atmosphere prevailing in South Africa amidst a second wave and a new variant of the Covid-19 virus, some Hindu priests in the country are allegedly charging exorbitant rates for conducting funerals of Covid victims.

The priests are under fire for charging between 1,200 rand (\$79) and 2,000 rand (\$131) to

TRACKING VIRUS	
NATIONS	DEATHS
US	4,27,713
BRAZIL	2,16,475
MEXICO	1,49,084
UK	97,939
ITALY	85,461

WORLDDOME/REUTERS 24.10.2020

Prachanda-led faction expels Oli from party

KATHMANDU, JANUARY 24

The Nepal Communist Party's splinter faction led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Sunday expelled Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli from the party's general membership, according to media reports.

The decision was taken at the Standing Committee meeting of the faction led by former PMs Prachanda and Madhav Kumar Nepal after Oli failed to

produce explanation to his recent moves as sought by party leadership, the Himalayan Times reported. Earlier, the splinter group removed Oli as the party chair. — PTI



Amsterdam erupts over Covid curbs



■ The Dutch police clashed with protesters demonstrating against the country's lockdown in the capital, Amsterdam, and the southern city of Eindhoven on Sunday.

■ In Amsterdam, the police used water cannons to disperse protesters taking part in a banned demonstration on a major square.

■ Videos showed the water cannons spraying people grouped against a wall of the Van Gogh Museum. The Eindhoven police said they made at least 30 arrests. REUTERS

INFOCUS AGRICULTURE
COTTON FARMING

White gold glitters for farmers

SANJEEV SINGH BARIANA

In an affirmation of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) regime, the purchase of more than 80 per cent of the cotton in mandis of Punjab by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is helping farmers get higher prices from private traders and industrialists these days. Farmers have sold cotton for as high as Rs 6,000 per quintal against the MSP of Rs 5,515.

"I got Rs 5,900 per quintal for my yield this time. My friend from a neighbouring village told me that he got Rs 6,000 a few days ago," says Dharinder Pal of Kanakpal village in Bathinda district. The CCI entered the mandis last year after a gap of five years and gave good prices to farmers. Last year's profits motivated the farmers to plant more cotton this season. The CCI again made the bulk of the initial purchase, prompting private parties to pay even higher.

Cotton farmer Sukhbir Singh from Kot Shamir says, "I have not yet sold my cotton produce. However, I have been told that the prices have fallen by about Rs 100 compared to rates yesterday. This is not alarming because the prices have not fallen below the MSP. I am assured of a good sale."

Rattan Singh, a farmer based at Bucho in Bathinda district, says private traders and industrialists do not enter the market early, when the crop arrives, hoping that the crop might sell cheaper than the MSP. "It sold cheaper during the years the CCI did not come to the mandis. They anticipate that that farmers would sell cheaper in case they did not get the MSP in the initial days. The story turned out to be different this year. Paddy and wheat are the only crops that get assured MSP on the list of 20-odd crops. So, the government entering the market could give a better deal to farmers of other listed crops as well."

He adds, "Assured MSP holds the key to resolving the current standoff

AREA, PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY OF COTTON IN INDIA

	Area (lakh hectares)	Production (lakh bales, 170 kg each)	Yield (kg/hectare)
2011-12	121.78	367	512
2012-13	119.78	370	525
2013-14	119.60	398	566
2014-15	128.46	386	513
2015-16	122.92	332	459
2016-17	108.26	345	542
2017-18	125.86	370	500
2018-19	126.58	330	443
2019-20	125.84	360	486

SOURCE: COTTON ADVISORY BOARD; 2018-19 AND 2019-20 FIGURES PROVISIONAL

between the Central government and the farmers. If the government can ensure MSP on all listed crops, it will change the face of Indian farming. We need more organisations like the CCI."

The general manager of CCI (Punjab), Neeraj Kumar, says, "The entry of the CCI has definitely given a boost to procurement as farmers are fetching rates above than the MSP. This has led to a situation where the purchase of cotton by the CCI has stopped as farmers are getting a better deal. The rates had fallen during the years the CCI chose to stay out of the market. Last year, when the CCI announced its re-entry into the mandis, farmers still had apprehensions. They grew only 12.03 lakh bales.

Spurred by the handsome dividends last year, farmers grew nearly double the crop this year.

According to Kumar, private players are buying cotton because of a sizeable increase in the demand at the international level. They are getting good rates internationally and are also learnt to be storing stocks to sell later, expecting a rise in prices, he adds.

Till January 18, 2021, the CCI had purchased about 22.3 lakh quintals against about 8 lakh quintals by the private parties out of the total arrivals. The bulk purchase by the CCI has led to a major decline of 55

per cent in the total procurement by the private players this year. It was 17.8 lakh quintals last year and is about 8.01 lakh quintals this time.

The CCI procures only Bt cotton. The desi (ordinary) cotton is purchased by private parties. A total of 9,481 quintals of desi cotton has been procured by private traders this year. The desi variety is used largely for domestic purposes like fillings for pillows, quilts and soft toys.

The cotton MSP fixed by the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) for 2020-21 is Rs 5,515 (medium staple) and Rs 5,825 (long staple) per quintal.

The success story of cotton this year will be incomplete without mentioning the efforts by the state government, particularly amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Since Bt seed is produced in southern states, it was a hard task to transport a stock of 20-25 lakh seed packets during the lockdown, when there were strict travel restrictions.

For the first time, the seeds were transported from the southern states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu by rail rakes. The challenge of supplying seeds from rail rakes to farmers was also handled well, with farmers getting the seeds, fertilisers and pesticides on their doorstep.

Yield drop no damper

SUSHIL MANAV

HARYANA'S cotton acreage of 7.38 lakh hectares in Kharif-2020 is not only the highest in the cotton belt of North India, comprising Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, but also the maximum in any year so far for the state. The crop was grown on 7.01 lakh hectares in the state this time. There is a slight decline in productivity (production per hectare), though better prices have compensated farmers for the loss in yield.

"I harvested nearly 30 quintals per hectare of cotton last year, but this time, I could get only 22-23 quintals," says Gurdial Mehta, a farmer from Panjwana village of Sirsa. He, however, adds that he could sell his crop for Rs 5,900 per quintal this year, far better than Rs 5,390 received last year.

Dr Dilip Monga, a cotton scientist and a former head of the regional station of the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), says that the crop was in perfect health till August 2020, when untimely rain, waterlogging and infestation by whitefly resulted in a fall in productivity. However, the productivity is still good enough to fetch encouraging returns to farmers, he adds.

Senapati Tamrayat, a leading cotton broker, says that projections of higher consumption in textile mills this year have led to an increase in prices in the past few months.

"Last year, consumption remained low as mills were closed during the lockdown. Even when the mills resumed functioning, it took time to generate demand. Against the consumption of 288 lakh bales in the country last year, the demand is projected to cross 350 lakh bales in the textile sector," adds Tamrayat.

Haryana produced 22 lakh bales of cotton last year. "This year, 18 lakh bales have been procured so far. Of these, 10.53 lakh bales have been procured by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and nearly 7.5 lakh by private ginnery. We are expecting nearly 6 lakh bales more before the season ends," says Kew-

Cotton MSP (₹/quintal)

	Medium staple	Long staple
2010-11	2,500	3,000
2011-12	2,800	3,300
2012-13	3,600	3,900
2013-14	3,700	4,000
2014-15	3,750	4,050
2015-16	3,800	4,100
2016-17	3,860	4,160
2017-18	4,020	4,320
2018-19		



यह पर्व है पूर्ण राज्यत्व की स्वर्ण जयंती का

हिमाचल की प्रगति व उन्नति का...

“हिमाचल प्रदेश और देश के युवाओं के सपनों और आकांक्षाओं में ही समृद्धि की नई संभावनाएं और राष्ट्र की प्रगति की नई ऊँचाइयां समाहित हैं। देश के हर क्षेत्र, हर नागरिक के आत्मविश्वास को जगाने के लिए विकास और सुधारों का सिलसिला लगातार चलता रहेगा।”

स्वर्णिम यात्रा



15551 संख्या
2020
↑
4945 संख्या
1971

प्रदेश वासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

4118 संख्या
2020
↑
587 संख्या
1971

शैक्षणिक संस्थान

17855 (शत-प्रतिशत)
2020
↑
3249 1971

स्वास्थ्य संस्थान

2,33,098 हैक्टेयर
2020
↑
45,240 हैक्टेयर
1971



कृषि एवं बागवानी क्षेत्र गांव

86%
2020
↑
32%
1971

साक्षरता दर

₹1,95,255
2020
↑
₹651
1971

प्रति व्यक्ति आय

जनमंच

- जनता से किया सीधा संवाद
- 68 विधानसभा क्षेत्रों में 200 जनमंच आयोजित

सामाजिक सुरक्षा पेंशन

- 3,90,916 वृद्धजनों का मिल रही 1500 रु. मासिक पेंशन
- सामाजिक सुरक्षा पेंशन पर 642.58 करोड़ रु. खर्च

हिमकेयर योजना

- 4.63 लाख परिवारों परंजीकृत
- 1.33 लाख लाभार्थियों का 131.33 करोड़ रु. का निःशुल्क इलाज

हिमाचल गृहिणी सुविधा योजना

- 2.91 लाख परिवारों को निःशुल्क गैस कनेक्शन प्रदान, 105 करोड़ रु. खर्च
- 1.67 लाख लाभार्थियों को दिया एक अतिरिक्त गैस रिफिल

आयुष्मान भारत

- 3.36 लाख परिवारों के गोल्डन कार्ड बनाए गए
- 78579 लाभार्थियों का 82.39 करोड़ रु. खर्च कर किया निःशुल्क इलाज

मुख्यमंत्री आवास योजना

- 4417 आवास किए निर्मित, 60 करोड़ रु. खर्च

उज्ज्वला योजना

- 1.36 लाख परिवारों को निःशुल्क गैस कनेक्शन प्रदान, 21.76 करोड़ रु. खर्च

प्राकृतिक खेती-खुशहाल किसान

- 99,349 किसानों ने अपनायी प्राकृतिक खेती
- 31 करोड़ रु. खर्च, 5095 हैक्टेयर क्षेत्र प्राकृतिक खेती के तहत लाया गया

अटल टनल रोहतांग

- 10 हजार फुट की ऊँचाई पर 3200 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से निर्मित 9.02 कि.मी. लम्बी सामरिक दूष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग सुरंग राष्ट्र को समर्पित

स्मार्ट सिटी मिशन

- शिमला व धर्मशाला स्मार्ट सिटी मिशन के तहत चयनित

स्वच्छ भारत मिशन

- हिमाचल बना देश का दूसरा खुले में शौचमुक्त राज्य, मिशन के तहत 31.46 करोड़ रु. खर्च

जल जीवन मिशन

- 2,15,509 घरों में नल से पहुंचाया जल
- 2896.54 करोड़ रु. की 327 योजनाएं स्वीकृत
- 15,256 फुट की ऊँचाई पर स्थित टशोंगंग गांव में भी पहुंचाया नल से जल

300 Pak Twitter handles on job to disrupt tractor rally, say cops

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 24
The Delhi Police today claimed that over 300 Twitter handles have been generated from Pakistan to disrupt the tractor rally proposed by protesting farmers on Republic Day.

Detailing the plan for the tractor parade, Deependra Pathak, Special Commissioner of Police (Intelligence), said the rally would be conducted amid tight security after the Republic Day celebrations conclude.

"Over 300 Twitter handles have been generated from Pakistan during January 13 to 18 to disrupt the tractor rally by farmers by misleading people. There are inputs about the same from different agencies. It will be a challenging task for us, but the rally will be conducted amid tight security after the Republic Day parade is over," Pathak said at a press conference.

Since November last year,



Farmers during their protest at the Singhu border on Sunday. PTI

'GENERATED BETWEEN JAN 13 AND 18'

Over 300 Twitter handles have been generated from Pakistan during January 13 to 18 to disrupt the tractor rally by farmers by misleading people.

Deependra Pathak, SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (INTELLIGENCE)

farmers, mostly from Punjab and Haryana, have been protesting against the Centre's three new farm laws at several Delhi border points, including Singhu, Tikri and

Ghazipur, demanding that the legislations be repealed.

Pathak said, "As the farmers wanted to do a tractor rally on January 26, we have come to a conclusion that the rally be

conducted after the Republic Day celebration ends. We have given them around 170 km of distance on three routes."

Barricades and other security arrangements will be removed and the farmers will enter the national capital. Later, they will return to their destinations after covering a "respectable" distance, the police said.

"For the Delhi Police, it will be a challenging task. We have spoken to Haryana and Uttar Pradesh Police officers about how it can be conducted in a convenient way. The rally will be allowed after the Republic Day celebration has ended," he said.

A professional assessment of the rally routes has been done, he said. The expected number of tractors should be distributed in a way that the rally is conducted in a peaceful and disciplined way, the police said. — PTI

'Into the Darkness' bags Golden Peacock award

PANAJI, JANUARY 24

Danish World War II drama "Into the Darkness" won the Golden Peacock award at the closing ceremony of the 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) here.

224 films were screened at Film Festival of India

Directed by Anders Refn, the 152-minute film chronicles the complex, emotional turmoil which the people of Denmark had to undergo during the Nazi occupation of the country. The award consists of a cash prize of Rs 40 lakh, to be shared equally between Refn and producer Lene Borglum. The duo, however, were not present.

A total of 224 films were screened at the festival. Japanese historical drama "Wife of a Spy" by Kiyoshi Kurosawa was the closing film at the nine-day gala. — PTI

Don't let imported articles enslave you, PM urges youth

Seeks support to dispel misinformation over vaccination

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 24

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today urged the 'daughters of the nation' on the National Girl Child Day and praised all those working towards the empowerment of the girl child and ensuring them a life of dignity and opportunity. India celebrates the National Girl Child Day, an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, every year on January 24. JANS

SALUTES DAUGHTERS ON NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday saluted the 'daughters of the nation' on the National Girl Child Day and praised all those working towards the empowerment of the girl child and ensuring them a life of dignity and opportunity. India celebrates the National Girl Child Day, an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, every year on January 24. JANS

imported goods you use, you will realise how much loss we have caused to the country. These goods have enslaved us mentally," the PM said.

Interacting with the participants of the Republic Day Parade at his official residence today, the Prime Minister called upon the youth to make conscious efforts towards vocal for local by listing out items of daily use in their lives and then analysing the scale of their dependence on foreign goods.

"I want to assign you a task today. Make a list of items of daily use and you will be surprised to see the level of dependence on imported goods. I am not saying you should shun imported goods. I am saying once you list out the

Covid-19 vaccine drive and asked them to power the government's communication campaign on the issue.

Earlier, the PM asked the youth to "do their best for the country" and take inspiration from 2021, the year that marks India's entry into the 75th year of Independence, the 400th Parkash Parv of Guru Tegh Bahadur and the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Himachal Pradesh Statehood Golden Jubilee

The Tribune Marketing Supplement

Model Hill State Pioneering in Inclusive & Sustainable Development



25 JANUARY 2021 is an occasion for celebration for the people of Himachal Pradesh. Fifty years ago, on this very day in 1971, the Union

Territory of Himachal Pradesh was upgraded to the status of a full-fledged State, and it emerged as the 18th State of India. Prior to this, the Parliament passed 'The State of Himachal Pradesh Act' 1970 in December, 1970 paving way for its Statehood. The then Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, announced the Statehood to Himachal Pradesh at the Ridge Shimla amidst white snowflakes, in the presence of a large gathering. A long cherished dream was fulfilled. Henceforth, the people of Himachal Pradesh could modulate and decide their own destiny. The government to be run by our own elected representatives could take decisions and fulfill people's aspirations. Soon after, State Legislative Assembly, High Court, Public Service Commission and

many other allied bodies enshrined under the Constitution of India came into being. A new era in the life of Himachal Pradesh had begun.

The State is completing its 50 years of Golden journey on 25th January, 2021 and the year is being celebrated as Golden Jubilee Year.

On this day, I pay my high tribute and appreciation to the former Chief Ministers of the State who despite geographical and other constraints, steered this State so ably that today Himachal Pradesh has emerged as one of the front runners in India, not in one but in many indices laid down by the Government of India and other world agencies. I also take this opportunity to pay my humble tribute to the freedom fighters of our State who fought for the freedom of India at the risk of their own lives while

fighting for the cause. I salute with great gratitude to our brave soldiers of Himachal Pradesh whose dedication, valour, and sacrifices in the defence of our Motherland have brought great honour to this 'Veer Bhumi'. I also greet the people of Himachal Pradesh from all walks of life whose sincere efforts, in the midst of ups and downs, joys and miseries, whose honesty and innocence, indeed, contributed hugely in the making this state an abode of peace, happiness and spirituality. Last but not the least; I heartily commend the employees of the government and other institutions in the State, who worked tirelessly all along in making this State so progressive.

This State started its developmental journey from scratch and the development that Himachal Pradesh

has achieved during the last 50 years is inspiring for other hilly regions. The State has witnessed all-round development by making revolutionary transformation in socio-economic sector. Despite tough geographical conditions and limited resources, State has made significant progress in all spheres, particularly in the areas of Agriculture, Horticulture, Rural Development, Social Welfare, Road network, Education, Health, Power, Drinking Water, Industry and Tourism.

Agriculture is mainstay of the people of the State. Agriculture production has increased to 15 lakh MT as compared to 9.54 lakh MT in 1970-71. Vegetable production has increased from 2 lakh MT in 1970-71 to 18.605 lakh MT during the corresponding period. In the last five decades, 24,000 hectares of cultivated land has been brought under irrigation and 43000 sq. meter area has been brought under sprinkler and drip irrigation. Himachal has taken a step further in implementation of Prakrati Kheti-Khushali Kisan Yojana with 99,349 farmers adopting the natural farming. An area of 5095 hectare is under natural farming in the State.

Horticulture has an important place in the State's economy with annual gross value of more than Rs. 3300 crore. Fruit production generates more than 90 million days of employment for the people of the State. Today, Horticulture production has increased to 8.45 lakh MT in 2019-20 as compared to 1.48 lakh MT in 1970-71. HP Horticulture Development Project and HP SHVA (Subtropical Horticulture, Irrigation and Valuation) project worth Rs. 1134 crore is in operation where high density plantation in approximately 18000 hectare area is underway for productivity enhancement in apple. Today we are known as fruit bowl of the country.

Floriculture in the state is also becoming an important part of the economy. The State also produces the best quality of gladiolus, carnation, lily, marigold, chrysanthemum and roses. Floriculture generates revenue of more than Rs. 50 crore per year.

The State Government has established Gau Seva Ayog in the State for the protection of destitute cows.

To build Cow Sanctuaries and Gau Sadan, Rs. 17 crore has been released.

15,177 animals have been provided shelter in the State.

The healthcare has been priority of the State government. The government has opened health institutions in every part of the state providing healthcare facilities to the people. The number of health institutions in 1970-71 was 587 which have increased to 4118 in 2019-20. Presently there are six Government Medical colleges and one private Medical College functional in the State. Besides, one AIIMS has been opened in Bilaspur. The sex ratio increased from 958 in 1971 to 972 in 2011. Crude birth rate in the state has reduced from 21.9 in 1971 to 15.7 in 2018. Similarly, crude death rate has reduced from 7.5 in 1971 to 6.9 in 2018. Infant mortality rate has decreased from 47.2 in 1970-71 to 19 in 2018.

The State Government has started Himacare scheme in the State for those people who are not covered under

Ayushman Bharat Yojna

which provides medical cover upto Rs. 5 lakh per year to five members of a family. The scheme provides cashless treatment coverage like Ayushman Bharat Yojna. At present, as many as 4.63 lakh families have been registered under this scheme and 1.33 lakh people have received cashless treatment amounting to Rs. 131.33 crore.

SAHARA YOJNA has been started to

provide financial assistance to person suffering from Parkinson's disease, cancer, muscular dystrophy, stroke, kidney failure and tuberculosis. Under the scheme, economical

ly weaker patients are provided financial assistance of Rs. 3000 per month. 11,186 beneficiaries have been covered under the scheme and financial assistance of Rs. 13 crore has been provided to them. Mukhyamantri Chikitsa Sahayata Kosh is also providing financial assistance to poor people suffering from serious diseases. An assistance of worth Rs. 8.11 crore has been provided for the treatment of over 927 people. Under Mukhyamantri Nishkull Dawai Yojana, 402 free medicines are provided to the patients in all Government health institutions of the State.

The state has made rapid strides in the field of education. In 1970-71, there were 3768 primary schools in Himachal Pradesh which enhanced to 10623 in 2018-19. Similarly the number of middle schools increased from 742 in 1970-71 to 1969 in 2018-19. The number of High/Higher Secondary Schools increased from 435 in 1970-71 to 2776 in 2018-19. There was just one college in the state in 1970-71. The number of colleges has now increased to 137. There were only 4,945 educational institutions in 1970-71 as compared to 15,368 in 2019-20 in the State. The literacy rate has improved gradually from 31.96 per cent in 1971 to 82.80 per cent at present, according to the 2011 Census. Female literacy rate increased from just 20.23 percent 1970-71 to 75.9 percent in 2011. The State has 5 engineering colleges, 4 pharmacy colleges, 15 polytechnics and 132 ITIs in government sector while 12 engineering colleges, 14 pharmacy colleges, 111 polytechnics and 151 ITIs are running in the private sector.

Under Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana, 4417 houses were constructed with expenditure of Rs. 60 crore. A target has been set to construct 10,000 houses under various housing schemes.

The roads are the lifeline of the economy of an area. Motorable road length in 1971 was 7370 km and there were 232 motorable bridges.

At present, the State has 19 National Highways of 2592 km length.

The state has now 37808 kms of roads, 2226 bridges and road connectivity to 10508 inhabited villages. The road density per hundred square km area has increased from 13 kms in 1971 to 69 kms today.

Himachal Pradesh secured second position in the country for successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in 2020. District Mandi received top position among all districts for constructing roads under PMGSY of maximum length in 2020-21.

It was another important day for Himachal Pradesh when Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated Atal Tunnel, Rohtang to the people of the State on 3rd October, 2020 at Rohtang in Kullu District.

Situated at a height of 10,000 feet, this tunnel of strategic importance will ensure all weather road connectivity to the tribal district Lahaul & Spiti, as well as Union Territory of Ladakh.

The State is endowed with rich hydro resources. In 1970-71, 52,841 kilowatt hour electricity was generated as compared to 2243 Million units in 2019-20. Out of the total harnessable potential of about 44,000 MW, a potential to the tune of 22,736 MW already stands allotted under various sectors. A potential of about 10,756 MW has already been harnessed so far under various sectors.

Mukhyamantri Seva Sankalp Helpline-1100 has also been started to bring the government closer to the public and to solve most of the problems of the citizens at their doorstep.

The Government is committed for the welfare of the weaker sections of the society particularly senior citizens, women, SCs & STs, OBCs and specially-abled. The State Government is providing social security pension to the senior citizens, especially-abled and weaker sections of the society. The State is implementing SC & ST Sub-plans for the welfare of SCs and STs. The state government reduced the age limit for receiving social security pension from 80 to 70 years without any income limit. With this, more than 3.90 lakh senior citizens are receiving social security pension of Rs. 1500 per month. Rs. 642.58 crore was spent on social security pension.

The state is successfully implementing Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The State has also successfully achieved the status of an open defecation free state in October 2016, thus earning the title of being the second state in the country to achieve this significant milestone. To achieve total rural sanitation coverage, over 1.7 lakh household toilets were constructed across the state as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Himachal Pradesh has been gifted with natural beauty. The tourism infrastructure was strengthened over the years to match tourist's expectations which have brought the state on the world map. This sector is one of the significant contributors to the economy of the state as it contributes 7.3 percent of the state in GDP. The statistics of the visitors coming to the state shows the increase as the state had 1.44 lakh visitors in 1990-91, which increased to 17.12 lakh visitors in 2019-20. Nai Rahein-Nai Manzil scheme has been started.

Chandigarh Valley is being developed for skiing, Janjehli for eco-tourism,

Bir-Billing for paragliding and Larji, Tattapani and Pong Dam for water sports under the scheme. With the improved infrastructure like 4-Lanes, National Highways, up-coming railway line from Kiratpur to Bilaspur and beyond, existing airports and proposed International Airport at Balh valley, we can expect not only domestic but international tourists also rushing in large number to Himachal.

The progress made by the State in various sectors has been recognized at National level. Himachal stood at the top among the hill and north-eastern states in NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index-2020. The State has also been adjudged as the best performing state in implementation of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System in the category of hill states. Our State was adjudged at number one in Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions category while it ranked second overall in Quality Education among states. State has been ranked second best performing state SDGs India Index 2019. The State also received 'States of States Award' for the second time in the field of Education amongst big States and begged second prize in the field of Health and overall performance. Himachal emerged overall third in the Clean Water and Sanitation criterion. State has been ranked at number four in the Reduced Inequality goal.

Success of Himachal is attributed to its egalitarian society, rich culture and traditions, visionary leadership, accessible and responsive executive and aware people. Together we shall continue to march ahead.

I once again extend my heartfelt felicitation on the Statehood Day.

BRIEFLY

GALLE (SRI LANKA)

Root strikes 186, England frustrate Sri Lanka

Joe Root tormented Sri Lanka and led his side to 339 for nine in their first innings at the close of play on Day 3 of the second and final Test. England trail the hosts by 42 runs. A tired, cramping Root was dismissed in the final over of the day for 186.

LONDON

Arsenal knocked out, Man City survive scare

Holders Arsenal bowed out of the FA Cup in the fourth round in disappointing fashion as Gabriel's first-half own goal condemned them to a 1-0 defeat by Southampton. Manchester City also looked to be on the brink of defeat at fourth-tier Cheltenham Town but they scored three times in the last 10 minutes to avoid one of the competition's great shocks.

MADRID

Hazard, Benzema star in Real's win over Alaves

Eden Hazard scored and set up Karim Benzema for his first of two goals as Real Madrid eased to a 4-1 victory at Alaves in the Spanish league. Hazard grazed a long pass to redirect the ball to Benzema, who doubled the lead for Madrid in the 41st after Casemiro had headed in the 15th-minute opener.

GOA

Jamshedpur, Hyderabad FC split points with 0-0 draw

Jamshedpur FC and Hyderabad FC shared a point each as they canceled each other out in a goalless draw in their Indian Super League match. While Hyderabad ended up drawing their third game on the trot, Jamshedpur nabbed their first point of the calendar year, after a treble of losses. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

ISL
MUMBAI CITY VS CHENNAIYIN
STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 24
Young Punjab Shubman Gill says he used to be "petrified of bouncers" before overcoming his fears to get his Test career off to a great start against the world's best fast bowlers.

Gill, 21, announced his arrival on the big stage with a knock of 91, which set the tone for India's win on the final day of the fourth Test against Australia. In the six innings that he batted against the likes of Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc, Gill never looked in any sort of discomfort. But it wasn't so easy many years ago.

"When I was young, I used to be petrified of bouncers. I used to be prepared for the chest-height balls way in advance. I used to practise drives a lot so I got mature in playing the pull shot with a straight bat," Gill said in an interview posted on IPL team KKR's website. "I also developed one more shot where I move aside a little to play the cut. I used to feel scared of short deliveries so I always wanted to get away from the line of the ball and play the cut shot. These two-three shots were my favourite as a kid, now they are a part of me."

Shubman Gill pulls Mitchell Starc in Brisbane. FILE

Mohali days

Gill spoke about how he was scared of facing a fast bowler at the cricket academy in Mohali.

"I was nine years old when I was asked to play in a higher age group match. There was a bowler in the academy, just like you find in every other

academy, who was really fast. I was batting against him and was scared that I would get a bouncer to start with," he said.

"So I had pre-decided that I would just duck it. He bowled a bouncer but pitched way ahead. I still squatted and saw

the ball hitting the edge of my bat and racing to the boundary. I realised he was not that fast after all. Soon I hit 2-3 more boundaries. I was quite young so everyone was surprised. This helped me raise my confidence level. This incident just eliminated all kinds of fear from my heart for

Shubman Gill ON OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF THE SHORT BALL

When you get hit by a ball, your fear disappears. You are only scared until you get a blow but once you get hit, you feel like it was pretty normal! And then you lose the fear entirely! ■

ROHIT MAHAJAN

Shubman Gill, the find of the tour of Australia, is now a brand.

Gill's meteoric rise to the status of India's best young batting prospect shows the challenges that a youngster, who has only loved and played cricket for all his young life, faces when he finds success at the highest level — everyone wants a piece of him. Suddenly, everyone loves him. Everyone is his well-wisher. Big commercial deals are promised by the agents, who limit his access to the world. The greater the demand, the more scarce the commodity, right? Thus, reporters who had been chatting to him or his family are, out of the blue, shut out —

the interview request would now be cleared by the agent.

A youngster just starting out can't defy the agent. This become a bigger issue if the management firm he is contracted with also manages the Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli — who also happens to be a friend and partner of the firm's CEO.

The logo of YouWeCan — Yuvraj Singh's charity — is off Gill's bat. Gill really became a big, big star only on the last day of the tour of Australia, with a serene yet ruthless 91, during which he calmly dis-

embowelled Mitchell Starc. But the YWC logo became conspicuous by its absence from his bat when he came out to bat in the first innings on Day 2. The logo had been on his bat during the first two Test matches. Just what happened, then? Perhaps there was a deal between Gill and YouWeCan for only the first three Tests of the tour, but only Gill and Yuvraj would know the exact details — and, perhaps, also the men and women who turn kids into brands.

Also keen to get a share of the young player are officials

of the cricket association. Over the past few months, the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) has been in a state of turmoil. Former cricketers, buoyed by the Lodha Committee's recommendations, are trying to take control of it. The old guard is trying to cling on to power through its own men.

Punjab have not won the Ranji Trophy since 1993. Young men such as Gill — and before him, Yuvraj, Harbhajan — bring prestige to the association's officials. As a child, Gill had to move to Mohali because there was no cricket infra-

structure in his native Fazilka. PCA has not done a great job in taking cricket to the hinterland. Yet, the skill and fame of Gill provide them a prop to promote themselves — they can claim success by basking in the success of the youngster, posing with him even in these days of masks and social distancing.

Gill will have a new logo bat soon, probably the days of the YWC logo on his bat are over. On Twitter, Yuvraj had been very enthusiastic about his support for his protege. But on January 19, when Gill played

Indian girls beat Chile



The Indian junior team members celebrate beating world No. 18 Chile 2-0.

SANTIAGO, JANUARY 24

The Indian women's junior hockey team extended its unbeaten run by notching up a 2-0 victory over the Chile senior side at the Prince of Wales Country Club here.

Playing their fifth match of the tour of Chile, India won courtesy goals from Sangita Kumari (48th minute) and Sushma Kumari (56th minute) in the last quarter.

It was a very open contest between the two teams during the first three quarters, with neither team managing to break the deadlock. There were chances for both the teams through open play and set-pieces, but the defences stood tall to deny their opponents.

It was India who drew first blood as they orchestrated a beautiful team move to open the scoring through Sangita. The young forward took her chance confidently to maintain her goal-scoring form.

In the 56th minute, it was the visiting team's turn to get a penalty corner, which proved to be the decisive. A well-executed drag-flick and a strike off a rebound by Sushma Kumari hit the back of the net, putting India 2-0 up. — PTI



Fear is the key

As kid, Gill was scared of the short ball, but overcame this fear

Shubman Gill pulls Mitchell Starc in Brisbane. FILE

Mohali days

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Sport's newest star is branded

Everyone wants a piece of a hero, as Gill would be realising

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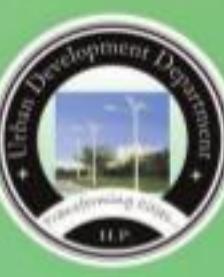
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स्वर्ण जयंती
घर-घर
स्वच्छता सर्वेक्षण
(25 जनवरी - 15 अप्रैल 2021)



श्री जय राम ठाकुर
मानवीय मुख्यमंत्री
हिमाचल प्रदेश



श्री सुरेंद्र भाला
मानवीय शहरी विकास मंत्री
हिमाचल प्रदेश

स्वच्छता अभियान के मुख्य स्तम्भ

- गोला, सूखा कूड़ा अलग करने के लिए घर-घर संपर्क
- स्वच्छता मित्र/स्वयं सहायता समूहों द्वारा घर-घर सर्वेक्षण
- क्या आपके घर में कूड़ा 3 श्रेणियों में अलग-अलग रखा जाता है-
- 1. गोला कूड़ा 2. सूखा कूड़ा 3. घरेलू हानिकारक कूड़ा
- घर-घर स्वच्छ घर का सत्यापन
- हर घर स्वच्छ घर QR कोड का आवंटन

आइये! इस स्वर्ण जयंती बर्ष पर स्वच्छता का संकल्प दोहरायें,
अपने घर को स्वच्छ घर का दर्जा दिलायें।

शहरी विकास विभाग हिमाचल प्रदेश द्वारा जनहित में जारी

Shah: Will ensure flood-free Assam

Warns Congress-AIUDF alliance will open 'all gates' for infiltrators

NALBARI (ASSAM), JANUARY 24
Pitching for another term for a BJP-led government in Assam to "safeguard" the interests of the state, Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday the Congress-AIUDF combine would open "all gates" to infiltrators if voted to power.

His first political rally in the poll-bound state, Shah also took a swipe at the Congress for calling the BJP "communal", and questioned the grand old party's alliance with the Muslim League in Kerala and the Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF in Assam, two regional parties that draw their support mostly from Muslims.

At the "Vijay Sankalp Samaroh", Shah asserted that an era of peace and development has ushered in Assam with the BJP in power in the



The Home Minister with Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal in Nalbari. PTI

state and also at the Centre under PM Narendra Modi.

He also took a dig at the

Assam Jatiya Parishad, a party floated by former AASU leader Lurinjyoti Gogoi

which is tipped to ally with Akhil Gogoi-led Rajojar Dal, without naming them, saying they are in the poll arena to help the Congress by trying to cut into votes of the BJP.

"The BJP government in Assam would turn the state free from the frequent agitations, free from the recurring floods and free from the corruption," Shah said.

"Tell me loudly," he asked the crowd, "Can the Congress and Ajmal keep Assam free from infiltrators? If they come to power, they will open all gates to welcome them because they are their vote bank." Only the Modi government at the Centre and a government in the state which has its guidance and blessings could stop infiltration, he said. — PTI

CBSE recasts affiliation system

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 24

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is restructuring the affiliation system for schools and making the process completely digital and based on data analytics with least human intervention, officials said.

The new system, which will come into effect from March 1, has been restructured as per various recommendations for systemic reforms laid down in the new National Education Policy (NEP).

"The board is restructuring the affiliation system and process as per recommendations of education reforms in the NEP. Although, the CBSE affiliation system has been online since 2006, the restructured system will be completely digital and based on data analytics with least human intervention," CBSE Secretary Anurag Tripathi said. — PTI

Two Chinese held for money laundering

NOIDA (UP), JANUARY 24

The anti-terrorist squad of the Uttar Pradesh Police on Sunday said it has arrested two Chinese nationals from Noida for their involvement in a

money laundering case.

The duo, including a woman, had allegedly used forged documents to open bank accounts from which money was used in criminal activities, the ATS

said. The Chinese nationals have been identified as Pochnli Tengli and Xu Xunfu, and they were held from Noida in Gautam Buddha Nagar district on Saturday. — PTI

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HC: No sexual assault if no skin-to-skin contact

MUMBAI, JANUARY 24
Groping a minor's breast without "skin-to-skin contact" cannot be termed as sexual assault as defined under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Bombay High Court has said.

Justice Pushpa Ganediwala of the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court, in a judgment passed on January 19, the detailed copy of which was made available now, held

that there must be "skin to skin contact with sexual intent" for an act to be considered sexual assault. She said in her verdict that mere groping would not fall under the definition of sexual assault.

Justice Ganediwala modified the order of a Sessions Court, which had sentenced a 39-year-old man to three years of imprisonment for sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl. — PTI

Rahul slams PM, says Chinese troops occupying our territory

TIRUPUR (TN), JANUARY 24

Continuing to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his second day of campaign in Tamil Nadu, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday alleged that Chinese troops have occupied Indian territory and the man with "56 inch-chest" could not even utter the name of the neighbouring country.

Addressing meetings here and in neighbouring Erode as part of the three-day campaign tour of Tamil Nadu for the Assembly elections to be held in the next few months, he also repeated his charge that Modi governed the country for just five or six business people.

The Central government was not for the farmers, labourers or the micro,



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at a rally in Erode district on Sunday. PTI

small or medium enterprises that are the nation's future and abound in this region of the state, Gandhi, on a campaign tour of western districts, said.

Taking forward his "Tamil language and culture" pitch

to connect with the people and attack the BJP, the Congress MP said he wanted to be the soldier of the Tamil people in Delhi and reiterated that he would not allow the saffron party to disregard Tamil culture. — PTI

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