

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020



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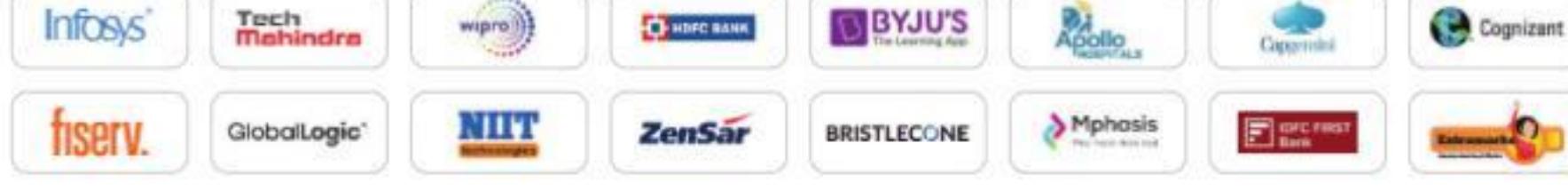
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020

PM lays stone, says Ram belongs to all

Draws parallel with freedom movement | Calls temple modern symbol of Indian culture

SHAHIRA NAIM

AYODHYA, AUGUST 5 Equating the groundbreaking ceremony for Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir here today with Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said just as the freedom movement, the mandir movement received people's support from across the country.

Clad in a cream dhoti, golden kurta and a mask, PM Modi laid the foundation stone for the Ram Temple at Ayodhya in the culmination of a campaign that fuelled the rise of the BJP and marked the fulfilment of one of its core poll promises.

In his 35-minute address after the 'bhoomi puja', the PM said: "The way generations had struggled for Independence, which was achieved on August 15, generations had struggled for centuries for the Ram Temple cause, which is being fulfilled on August 5.

"The way Dalits, adivasis and all members of society helped Mahatma Gandhi in the freedom struggle..., the construction of the Ram Temple has started due to the support of people from across the country."

"Every heart is illuminated, it is an emotional moment for



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at 'bhoomi puja' in Ayodhya. PTI

WORD FOR DETRACTORS

PM had a message for detractors. Speaking about parts where Lord Rama is venerated, he said: "You will find description of Lord Rama and Rama Katha even in Iran and China"

CAUTIOUS CONGRESS REACTS IN DIFFERING VOICES BACK PAGE

the entire country... A long wait ends today," said the PM.

Expressing anguish at "Ram Lalla" (infant Ram)

THE SIKH CONNECT

"Tulsidas Ram was with form (sagun), while Nanak's Ram was formless (nirgun)... In Bangla, we have Krittibas Ramayana, while Guru Gobind Singh has written Gobind Ramayana," said PM

BHOOMI PUJA IN DIFFERENT VOICES BACK PAGE

living in a tent for years, the PM said: "I feel fortunate to have been given the opportunity by the Shri

Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust to witness this historic moment."

Stressing that Lord Ram was a common thread of unity in diversity of the nation, the PM said: "Ram belongs to all and is within all."

Describing the upcoming grand temple as the modern symbol of Indian culture, faith and national sentiment, Modi said it was the proof of a collective resolve of crores of devotees, not only in India but also around the world.

In a clear departure, PM Modi started his address by raising the pre-mandir movement slogan of 'Jai Siya Ram', instead of 'Jai Shri Ram' that has come to symbolise the political 'Ram without Sita' associated with the mandir movement.

The PM emphasised that the coming up of a grand temple would usher in economic prosperity for the region as it would bring tourists from across the world.

During the minute-long auspicious window of the 'bhoomi puja', PM Modi laid a 40-kg silver brick with a silver trowel marking the symbolic beginning of the construction of the temple and fulfilment of a long-standing commitment of the BJP to build a Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

DEFINES INDIA'S SPIRIT

It defines India's spirit of social harmony and people's zeal. It will be a testimony to ideals of Ramrajya... RN Kovind, PRESIDENT

NEW CHAPTER IN HISTORY

A new chapter in the history of Indian culture and civilisation. Ram Temple has always been a symbol of faith for Hindus. Amit Shah, HOME MINISTER

WAY TO SELF-RELIANCE

The greatest joy is building self-confidence and self-sufficiency needed to make India self-reliant.

Mohan Bhagwat, RSS CHIEF

A GUIDING LIGHT

It fulfills the long-cherished desire of every Indian. Lord Ram's universal message remains the guiding light not just for India but the world. Amarinder Singh, PUNJAB CM

BABRI FALL LEGITIMISED

Bhoomi puja has provided retrospective legitimisation for destruction of Babri Masjid. Sitaram Yechury, CPM

India snubs China, says won't pull back from Pangong Tso

AJAY BANERJEE

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEXT, DIPLOMATIC TALKS?

■ The Lt Gen-level talks on Sunday failed to make a breakthrough; impasse persists

■ Resolution of standoff will now hinge on diplomatic talks

■ Preparing for a long haul, India is matching its deployment with that of the PLA's

people's Liberation Army (PLA) of China was adamant about not moving back (eastwards or further away from the LAC) from its position at Finger-4. The withdrawal of PLA troops from Finger-4 is one of the three conditions set by India for restoration of the status quo ante, as on April this year.

Instead, China asked India to move back to break the deadlock. The area west of Finger-4 was always firmly under Indian control and Beijing asking the Indian Army to "reciprocate" and move back from its present military position north of the Pangong Tso. China on Sunday suggested this step to break the deadlock in the disengagement process along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh.

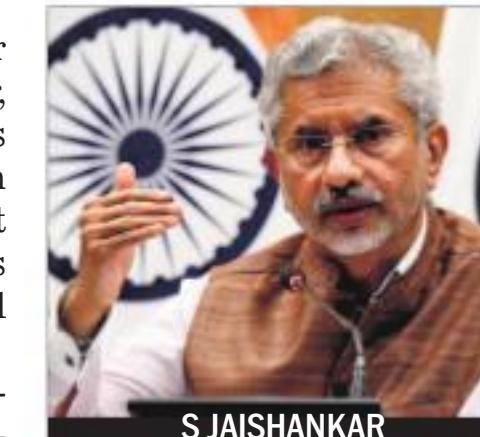
New Delhi's decision has been conveyed to Beijing through the hotline in Ladakh following a meeting of the National Security Adviser Ajit Doval-led China Study Group on Tuesday evening.

At the Lt General-level meeting on Sunday, the Peo-

L-G Murmu quits, Mehrishi likely to succeed him

JAMMU: Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) of Jammu and Kashmir Girish Chandra Murmu resigned late Wednesday evening amid reports that he may take over as the Comptroller Auditor-General of India. There has been no official announcement yet.

Former Union Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi may be the new L-G, say sources. Murmu, the first L-G of the newly created Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, took over on October 31 last year, the day J&K became UT.—TNS



S JAISHANKAR

ABROGATION BILL WAS DRAFTED BY JAITLEY: WIFE

Jammu: Sangeeta, wife of late Arun Jaitley, who was the Finance Minister in the Modi government from 2014-2019, has broken her silence with a disclosure that the Bill for the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A was drafted by her husband after he was assigned to do so by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Prime Minister had told Arun (Jaitley) to draft such a Bill for abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A that could withstand any legal scrutiny even if it was challenged in the Supreme Court," Sangeeta said. INSIDE

Two judges test +ve in Ambala, Y'hgar

CHANDIGARH: Covid continues to hit the judiciary hard in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. Two Additional District and Sessions Judges at Ambala and Yamunanagar have tested Covid positive. The Panipat court complex is already shut. Ten of its officials were found infected. INSIDE

CBI to investigate actor Sushant's death

Tribune News Service

SC raps Mumbai cops for quarantining Bihar SP

WHAT COURT SAID

A gifted and talented artiste has passed away in circumstances which are unusual; needs to be inquired into. Supreme Court



ED SUMMONS RHEA IN MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

"The matter is now in public domain. Till the CBI takes over the investigation, the Mumbai Police should not do

anything which will amount to destruction of evidence," Mehta told Justice Hrishikesh Roy during hearing of a peti-

tion filed by actor Rhea Chakraborty seeking to transfer an FIR registered against her in Patna to Mumbai.

Mehta said the Centre should be allowed to be impleaded in the matter. Asking the Mumbai cops to file an affidavit to satisfy the court that it had handled the case in a professional manner, the Bench posted the matter for further hearing next week. A PIL too has been filed seeking a CBI probe into Sushant's ex-manager Disha Salian's death.

"You don't have a case. There is no merit in your plea," a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde said. The accused had claimed that he had been falsely implicated after he questioned financial dealings of the victim. INSIDE

SC rejects discharge plea of Mulakkal

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed nun rape case accused Bishop Franco Mulakkal's petition seeking quashing of charges against him, saying there was no merit in his case.

"You don't have a case. There is no merit in your plea," a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde said. The accused had claimed that he had been falsely implicated after he questioned financial dealings of the victim. INSIDE

On August 5 last year, the Centre announced its decision to withdraw special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcate the state into two Union Territories. —PTI

Record recoveries push up cure rate

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

COVID-19 CASES INDIA



STUDY: DECOY PROTEIN NEUTRALISES VIRUS

Washington: Scientists have engineered a decoy protein which binds to the novel coronavirus and blocks infection in cultured cells, an advance that may lead to a therapeutic or preventive agent against Covid-19. PTI

AIR PASSENGERS COME TO BLOWS OVER MASKS

A clash between two passengers onboard a KLM flight from Amsterdam to Ibiza over wearing of face masks has gone viral on social media. The ruckus was captured by another passenger on a cellphone and posted on Instagram. TNS

Tuesday, the number of active cases stood at 5,86,298.

The death toll now has risen to 39,795, with the death rate dropping to 2.09 per cent.

Pb ministers press for action against excise officials, cops

RAJMEET SINGH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 5

Taking up the issue of spurious liquor deaths in three Majha districts, Punjab ministers at a Cabinet meeting today pressed for stern action against excise and police officials, saying that instead of going after small operators, the masterminds of the illicit liquor trade must be nabbed.

Citing the example of a Ludhiana trader booked in the case, one of the ministers pointed out that the police had yet to catch those responsible for supplying denatured spirit. Another minister

LIQUOR DEATHS CM: ACCUSED TO BE BOOKED FOR MURDER

1.73L SMARTPHONES FOR CLASS XII PUPILS BY NOV

The Cabinet approved 1.73 lakh smartphones for Class XII govt school students. The first lot of 50,000 phones will be given to those appearing for the board exams this session sought to know the action taken against the SSPs transferred out of the affected districts — Amritsar, Tarn Taran and Gurdaspur — and the

action initiated against excise officials for failure to monitor distilleries in which some politicians had stakes. The Opposition has been accusing Congress MLAs of shielding those involved in the illicit liquor business and liquor smuggling.

Ministers Sukhjinder Randhawa and Bharat Bhushan Ashu demanded that PCOCA (Punjab Control of Organised Crime Act) be slapped on the accused as crime syndicates continued to be run from prison cells with several hardcore criminals suspected to have ties with "terrorists".

A landslide triggered by heavy rain buried cars under debris in Shimla on Wednesday. As many as 26 roads are blocked. PTI

Shimla landslip



A landslide triggered by heavy rain buried cars under debris in Shimla on Wednesday. As many as 26 roads are blocked. PTI

Child marriages rampant in six Sirmaur blocks

BHANU P LOHUMI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, AUGUST 5 Despite tall claims by the government on curbing child marriage, the social evil continues to be rampant in six backward blocks of Sirmaur district in Himachal Pradesh.

As many as 205 child marriage cases have been detected over the past five years. The numbers have only grown

annually since 2015—the year 2019 being an exception when the count witnessed a slight dip.

In majority of the cases, poor parents married off their daughters to better-off grooms. Alarmed by the trend, the police have sent an advisory to the Director, Women and Child Development Department, to take "effective steps" to stop the menace.

Director General of Police

NO END TO SOCIAL EVIL

Year	cases
2015	16
2016	23
2017	41
2018	51
2019	49
2020	25*

(*TILL JULY 31)

36 PANCHAYATS

The practice is prevalent in Renuka Ji, Shillai, Paonta Sahib, Raigarh, Nahan and Pachhad blocks comprising 36 panchayats in the district.

Sanjay Kundu, who recently toured Sirmaur, observed that child marriage was prevalent in Renuka Ji, Shillai, Paonta Sahib, Raigarh, Nahan and Pachhad blocks, comprising 36 panchayats, of the district.

The communication suggested that measures like constitution of task force comprising panchayat and anganwadi members, active involvement of women empowerment groups and extensive awareness campaigns be taken up.

Slap murder charge on accused, says CM

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 5

In an important development, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh today directed the DGP to book those directly involved in the spurious liquor case for murder under Section 302 of the IPC.

Promising justice to the victims, the Chief Minister mooted enhancement of punishment for spurious liquor manufacturing and smuggling under the Excise Act to ensure that repeat offenders remained behind bars and were not able to come out easily to indulge again in the crime.

On a suggestion of Advocate General Atul Nanda that a strict law like PCOCA was needed to combat organised crime like illicit liquor smuggling, the Chief Minister asked the sub-committee, headed by Brahm Mohindra to examine the provisions of the proposed law, to

'Stringent action under Excise Act'

Promising justice to the victims, the Chief Minister mooted enhancement of punishment for spurious liquor manufacturing and smuggling under the Excise Act to ensure that repeat offenders remained behind bars and were not able to come out easily to indulge again in the crime.



finalise and submit its report at the earliest.

The Chief Minister's directives came during two separate video-conferences — one a Cabinet meeting and the other a review meeting of the case with top police and administrative officials. The Chief Minister also led his council of ministers in observ-

ing a two-minute silence as a mark of homage to the victims of the tragedy.

"Finish off this business, clean up the border. This has to stop," the Chief Minister told the district officials, adding that the illicit liquor business had been going on in border areas for a long time, with use of lahan, but now it had assumed an even more dangerous proportions with the new trend of smuggling from neighbouring states.

The Chief Minister set a 10-day deadline for the concerned DCs and police officers to identify and process cases to provide targeted additional relief for their families. The Chief Minister has already announced Rs 2 lakh ex-gratia compensation to the families of each of the victims of the tragedy, in which the death toll currently stands at 113, with several more under treatment, which is being provided free in hospitals. — TNS

For speedy probe, two SITs formed

AMRITSAR, AUGUST 5

Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Dinkar Gupta today ordered constitution of two special investigation teams (SITs) to fast-track investigations into all FIRs registered in the booze tragedy. ADGP (Law & Order) Ishwar Singh will supervise the SIT's investigation.

The Punjab Police have registered five FIRs — three in Tarn Taran and one each in Amritsar and Batala — in the case.

The DGP said SP-level officers had, for the first time, been nominated as investigating officers (IOs) to ensure conviction of the offenders.

The IOs have been directed by the DGP to ensure a thorough and comprehensive investigation and expeditious filing of final reports in the courts concerned. DIG, Ferozepur Range, Hardial Singh Mann, will head the SIT investigating FIRs registered in Tarn Taran; IG, Border Range, Amritsar, Surinder Pal Singh Parmar will lead the other SIT for FIRs registered in Amritsar and Batala. — TNS



YAD leaders protest in front of Congress MLA Ramanjit Sikki's residence in Jalandhar. MALKIAT SINGH

Another victim succumbs, toll reaches 113

Tribune News Service

AMRITSAR, AUGUST 5

The death toll in the spurious liquor tragedy rose to 113 with one more death reported in Tarn Taran district. Deputy Commissioner Kulwant Singh said one more person lost his life in the district. "There are 13 people under treatment in various hospitals. Six of them were referred to Amritsar for eye treatment, while one was in critical condition," the DC said.

400 litre lahan seized during raid at Tarn Taran village

Tarn Taran has witnessed 84 deaths, followed by Amritsar (15) and Batala (14). Dhruv Dahiya, SSP, Amritsar (Rural), said a total of 105 cases had been registered against illicit liquor traders since August 1. "As many as 40 persons have been arrested with 1,216 litre illicit liquor and 6,745 litre lahan.

Meanwhile, a team of excise officials raided Jiobala village in Tarn Taran today and recovered 400 litre lahan from the house of Paramjit Singh Pamma.

Inspector Amrik Singh said a case under Sections 61, 1 and 14 of the Excise Act had been registered at the Sadar police station.

In another case, the Patiala Sadar police raided the houses of two brothers in Sahbrah village and recovered 1,050 litre lahan and 6 litre illicit liquor.

Raiding excise team attacked in Moga

Tribune News Service

MOGA, AUGUST 5

A team of the Excise and Taxation Department was allegedly attacked by liquor smugglers when it raided a makeshift room in a paddy field suspecting sale of illicit liquor at Mahla Kalan village in Baghapurana subdivision of the district.

Inspector Balkaran Singh of the Excise and Taxation Department was accompanied by Gursewak Singh and Inderjit Singh, both liquor contractors, and their employees besides some police personnel, when he conducted the raid late last night.

The excise official, in a statement recorded with the police, said he seized a

drum containing 200 litre lahan from the spot and loaded it on a vehicle, but suddenly, the smugglers and their associates attacked them with sharp-edged weapons and sticks. They forcibly spilled the lahan in a bid to destroy the evidence. Balkaran Singh said no one was injured in the incident.

A criminal case under

Sections 323, 341, 506, 186, 353, 148 and 149 of the IPC and Sections 61, 1 and 14 of the Excise Act has been registered at the Baghpurana police station against Lakhbir Singh and his associates Deepa Ghali, Gurwinder Singh and Happy, all residents of Mahla Kalan village along with 10-12 unidentified persons.

No outcome, Ghanaur distillery case may see quiet burial

AMAN SOOD

Tribune News Service

PATIALA, AUGUST 5

The Ghanaur illegal distillery case is in for a quiet burial. The special investigation team (SIT), formed to probe the politician-smuggler nexus, has finally completed its investigation without managing to recover any money or confiscating assets of any of the accused.

Much before the liquor tragedy in the Majha region that has killed over 110 people, this was one of the first cases in the state that highlighted the illicit liquor trade.

A challan against the accused was presented in a local court wherein the police failed to recover money from the accused, who allegedly did a brisk business during the Covid lockdown by selling spurious liquor.



Officials during a raid at a liquor unit in Ghanaur. FILE PHOTO

'Little effort to collect samples'

We could not ascertain if premium liquor brands sold at vends across the state and in Haryana were made at the Ghanaur distillery. Not much effort was made to collect samples. POLICE OFFICIAL

The SIT managed to arrest Dipesh Kumar, said to be the kingpin who set up the illegal distillery, and a daily wager on the first day of the raid. Later,

Congress-backed Khanpur Khurd sarpanch Amrik Singh and other accused presented themselves to the police. The police investigation sug-

'Gaps' in probe

- Sources say the SIT probing the Ghanaur illegal distillery case failed to make any recovery from the accused.
- Though 'kingpin' Dipesh is said to have confessed that he bribed local cops and excise officials, the angle has been left untouched, a source said.
- Despite initial leads that Khanpur Khurd sarpanch Amrik Singh is a partner in many authorised liquor vends in and around Rajpura, the SIT failed to draw a conclusion as to where the fake liquor manufactured in the cold store was sold.

gests that the distillery did a good business during the lockdown.

"We can only say that Dipesh and Amrik sold liquor worth lakhs of

rupees every day, selling popular brands and saving a lot of money. While Amrik was never grilled, Dipesh said he was already under debt and had no money with him," said SP (Investigation) Harmeet Singh Hundal.

Sources say that despite confessions by Dipesh during the police remand regarding excise and local cops taking bribes and meeting him personally, the issue wasn't probed in detail. "Even the fact that the illegal liquor was bought from him by the accused, who already owned government-auctioned liquor vends, was never probed in detail," they said.

"We presented a challan against six accused and there was no recovery of any kind made from any of the accused," confirmed Shambhu SHO Gurmeet Singh. "Already

sarpanch Amrik Singh is out on bail while godown owner Vijay Kumar is evading arrest," he said.

"Dipesh even met a few excise officials and it is still not clear if it was done to directly bribe them," said a top source. "Dipesh used a strong political recommendation to approach certain excise officials," he added.

Despite initial leads that sarpanch Amrik Singh is a partner in many authorised liquor vends in and around Rajpura, the SIT failed to draw a conclusion as to where the fake liquor manufactured in the cold store was sold.

"We could not ascertain if premium liquor brands sold at vends across the state and in Haryana were made at this illegal distillery. Not much effort was made to collect samples," said a senior cop probing the matter.

Probe ordered by CM eyewash: Deol

Tribune News Service

BATALA, AUGUST 5

Gurdaspur MP Sunny Deol has termed the magisterial probe ordered by Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh into the spurious liquor tragedy as an "eyewash".

This has triggered strong reactions from Congress men, with Cabinet Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa even going to the extent of telling him "to keep his unsolicited advice to himself and not interfere in the working of the state."

In a statement, Deol said: "Ordering a magisterial probe will be an eyewash and will serve no purpose until a full-fledged, free, fair and impartial investigation is done."

Meanwhile, Randhawa, whose assembly seat of Dera

Baba Nanak falls in the jurisdiction of the Batala police, said: "People are still mourning their loved ones and here you are coming up with uncalled-for advice. Have you even cared to visit the constituency even once after the tragedy?"

While extending the Ayushman Bharat Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojna for one year, the Cabinet decided to bring government employees/pensioners and employees of non-government organised sectors, including private sector/boards and corporations, into its fold.

The Cabinet gave its approval to the release of Rs 1,388 crore grant-in-aid to the panchayati raj institutions. It also gave the nod to release Rs 1,046 crore to ramp up civic infrastructure in 167 urban local bodies under the Punjab Urban Environment Improvement Programme.

Today said both boys and girls of Class XII of government schools, who do not have smartphones to access online classes, would be provided the same. This, he said, was necessary to ensure that such students did not suffer in times of the pandemic due to lack of access to education.

Lost parents to liquor tragedy, kids find saviour in Sonu Sood

GS PAUL

Tribune News Service

AMRITSAR, AUGUST 5

Actor Sonu Sood, who won accolades for helping migrants reach back safely to their native places during the lockdown, has come to the rescue of four children who lost their father, a rickshaw-puller, in the Tarn Taran spurious liquor tragedy, and their mother, who couldn't bear the shock of losing her husband.

The four — Karanbir (13), Gurpreet (11), Arshpreet (9) and Sandeep (5) — were accommodated temporarily by their uncle Sarwan Singh (deceased Sukhdev's brother). He too felt helpless due to his meagre earnings.

Due to financial con-

straints, I am unable to take care of my brother's children. I am an auto-rickshaw driver. My wife, three daughters and a son are dependent on me," he said.

The actor came across their plight through one of his friends in Punjab. Extending a helping hand, he tweeted: "I assure these little kids from Punjab will have a good home, a nice school and a bright future ahead."

Talking to The Tribune, Sood said: "They are no more orphans now. I am there to take care of them. I was keenly following the liquor tragedy. I was moved to know the story of Tarn Taran-based four

children. We are on the lookout for a best place where they could be accommodated and get good education." Sood roped in his friend Karan Gilhotra from Chandigarh to trace them and extend the help. Gilhotra, who is the chairman of the PHD Chambers of Commerce in Punjab, said already a children's home, Mata Chaya Ashram, in Abohar, had been shortlisted for the children. "If their guardians permit, we will shift the children there. They will have homely atmosphere and their education will be taken care of by us," he said.



Soon, smartphones for 1.73 lakh school students

Tribune News Service

TO COME WITH PRELOADED GOVT APPS

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 5

The state Cabinet today paved way for the distribution of 1.73 lakh smartphones among the students of government schools. The first lot of 50,000 phones will be given to students who will be appearing for Class XII examinations this year through the online system amid the Covid pandemic.

■ The Chief Minister has already ruled out any Chinese connection of the company, Lava, from which the phones are being procured.

■ The phones will have a touchscreen, camera and pre-loaded government applications like e-Sewa app with content related to Classes XI and XII, as approved by Department of School Education.

related to Classes XI and XII, as approved by Department of School Education. The second batch will arrive soon and the entire distribution process will be completed by November this year.

The Cabinet noted that four months of the academic year 2020-21 had already lapsed without regular on-

campus classes. While private schools shifted to online classes, the students of government schools faced a competitive disadvantage, especially those studying in Class XII. Though it was initially decided that the first batch of smartphones would be given to girls, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh

today said both boys and girls of Class XII of government schools, who do not have smartphones to access online classes, would be provided the same. This, he said, was necessary to ensure that such students did not suffer in times of the pandemic due to lack of access to education.

Cabinet decisions

■ The Cabinet gave its approval to the release of ₹1,388 crore grant-in-aid to panchayati raj institutions in the state.



■ It also gave the nod to the release of ₹1,046 crore to ramp up civic infrastructure in 167 urban local bodies under the Punjab Urban Environment Improvement Programme.

Today said both boys and girls of Class XII of government schools, who do not have smartphones to access online classes, would be provided the same. This, he said, was necessary to ensure that such students did not suffer in times of the pandemic due to lack of access to education.



A medical team collects swab sample of a cop in Nawanshahr.

Over 450 cops +ve, yet DGP says no to random testing

VISHAV BHARTI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

WORK GETTING AFFECTED

The decision has been taken as a number of policemen were found Covid-positive over the past several weeks. Following this, a large number of cops have to be quarantined, which is hampering the work

Health Dept official

state's nodal officer for Covid, said around 450 policemen, including senior officers, had been tested positive since March.

DGP Dinkar Gupta said they had stopped only random sampling of police officials. "We will be testing only those policemen who are symptomatic," he said.

As per the communication sent by the DGP to senior police and health officials, the random sampling is being stopped till further orders. The exercise was going on for the past several months.

Sources in the Health Department said the decision had been taken as a number of policemen were found Covid-positive over the past several weeks. Following this, a large number of police personnel had to be quarantined, which was hampering the work.

Dr Rajesh Bhaskar,

SC rejects Mulakkal's discharge plea

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

WILL HAVE TO FACE TRIAL

- Deposed Bishop of Jalandhar diocese Franco Mulakkal had sought quashing of charges
- After rejection of his plea by the SC, he will have to face trial in the nun rape case
- He is accused of raping her 13 times between 2014 and 2016 at Kottayam in Kerala



Bobde said. The accused Bishop had claimed that he had been falsely implicated after he questioned financial dealings of the victim.

Mulakkal (56), the deposed Bishop of Jalandhar diocese, had challenged the July 7 order of the Kerala High Court dismissing his plea. The trial

court had also rejected his plea. After dismissal of his petition by the top court, he will have to face trial in the case.

Mulakkal was arrested in September 2018 after a nun in the Missionaries of Jesus congregation filed a complaint accusing him of raping her 13 times between 2014 and 2016 at Kottayam in Kerala. The Kerala Police have already filed a chargesheet against him, listing 83 witnesses.

No coercive steps against Chadha Sugar Mill, rules HC

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



RECOVERY WAS STAYED

The petitioner approached the High Court, where the recovery was stayed. The Bench later directed the Chief Secretary to constitute a high-powered committee to take a fresh decision after affording an opportunity of hearing.

Justice Lalit Batra of the High Court also issued notice of motion to the state and other respondents on the petition filed by Chadha Sugars through senior advocate Chetan Mittal, Kunal Muliwani and Aditya Sanghi.

The petitioners contended that the state agreed price was much more than the fair remunerative price fixed by the Central Government. When all private mills refused to mill the sugarcane crop for 2015-16 season, a conscious decision by the government was conveyed through a letter dated November 23, 2015, that all private mills in the state would disburse Rs 245 per quintal and balance of Rs 50 would be disbursed by the government.

In view of the decision, sugarcane crop was lifted as payment of Rs 245 per quintal was to be made to farmers by sugar mill and balance amount of Rs 50 per quintal was also

released in terms of the decision. After the season was over, a reserve decision was taken unilaterally and behind their back, following which notice was issued for recovery.

The petitioner approached the High Court, where the recovery was stayed. The Bench later directed the Chief Secretary to constitute a high-powered committee to take a fresh decision after affording an opportunity of hearing.

The petitioners and others were assured that action would not be taken and matter would be resolved. But after lapse of about three years, the respondent "purportedly decided to recover the dues" without complying with the previous order.

State reports record 29 deaths, 894 new cases

Faridkot and Mansa report first casualties

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 5 With 894 fresh Covid-19 cases and 29 deaths in the past 24 hours, the case count has almost touched the 20,000-mark.

Ludhiana saw most casualties as nine deaths were reported in the past 24 hours. Five deaths were reported from Patiala, four from Jalandhar, three from Gurdaspur, two from Sangrur, and one each from Amritsar, Faridkot, Ferozepur, Kapurthala, Mansa and Ropar. Mansa and Faridkot districts reported their first Covid casualties. Apart from that, 148 patients are on oxygen support and 22 are on ventilator support.

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Ludhiana	4,236	131
Jalandhar	2,745	64
Amritsar	2,077	86
Patiala	2,122	43
Sangrur	1,180	32
SAS Nagar	976	17
Gurdaspur	669	22
Bathinda	561	8
Hoshiarpur	575	15
Ferozepur	584	7
Pathankot	474	13
Total positive	19,856	
Deaths		491

In terms of cases too, Ludhiana continues to be the worst-affected district as it reported 303 cases followed

by Patiala (185), Jalandhar (101), Barnala (33), Bathinda (29), SAS Nagar (27) and Tarn Taran (23).

Two patients go missing, booked

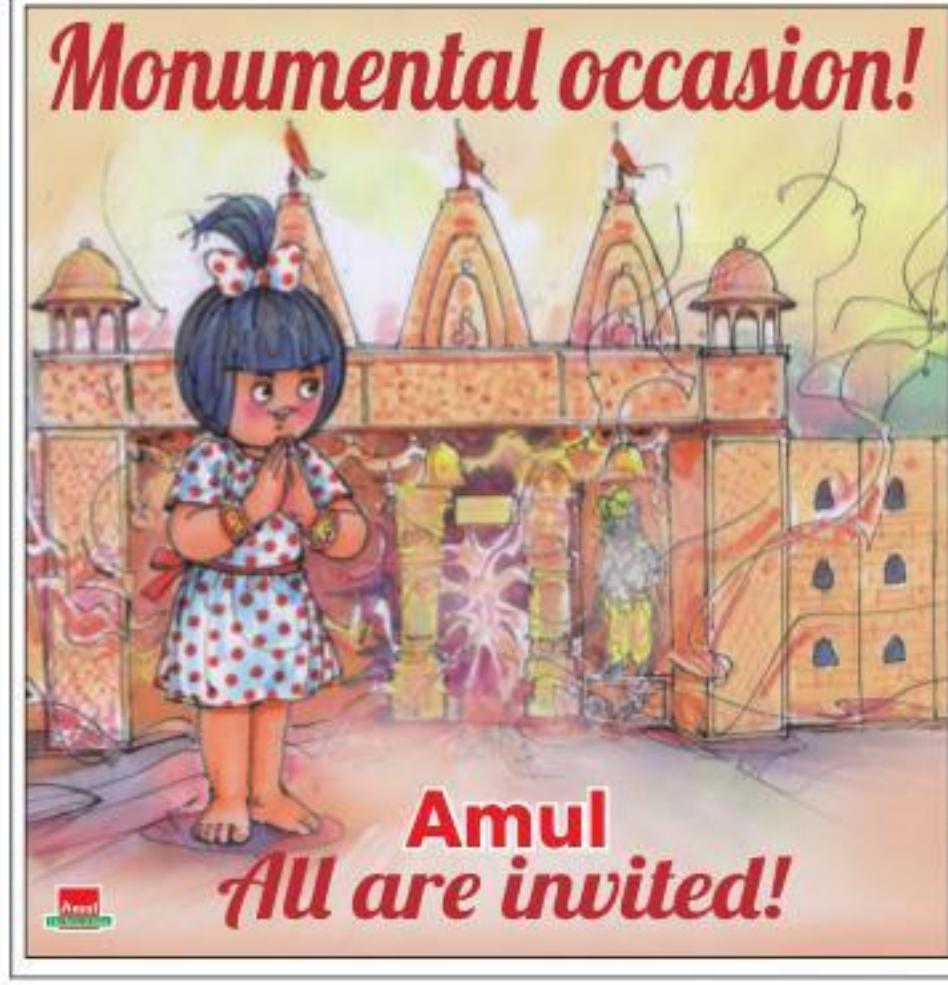
FARIDKOT, AUGUST 5

The Kotkapura police have launched a search for a 22-year-old NRI woman and a migrant daily wager, who fled their homes after testing positive for Covid-19. Both have been booked under the Disaster Management Act.

Health officials believe that the NRI woman, Charanjit Kaur of Leleana village in Faridkot district, who came out positive in a repeat test on August 1, has fled to Hong Kong where she works as a chef.

A senior official said when a health team reached Charanjit Kaur's home, the family members pretended that she had gone to Mansa for Raksha Bandhan.

Faridkot Civil Surgeon Dr Rajinder Kumar said: "We have lodged a formal complaint with the police. We fear many people could have been exposed to the virus." — TNS



Patiala doctors warned against 'shirking' work

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, AUGUST 5

In the wake of mounting Covid cases, the authorities at Government Medical College here have issued a warning to re-employed professors for their tendency to shirk from regular duties.

The warning was issued to those who were found absent from duties, purportedly fearing Coronavirus, and marked present on the attendance register. The GMC Principal, in the order, said surprise checks would be conducted and if any re-employed professor found absent, then strict action would be taken.

The Tribune had already highlighted that re-employed professors had been getting

paid without performing duties. It has been learnt that authorities were scared to take any action against re-employed professors, owing to their seniority.

"Everyone knew about the dereliction of duties by re-employed professors, but no action was taken. Even now, they might not come for duty because they are not accountable for anything," said a senior professor.

A senior official of the Medical Education Department said: "We have warned the re-employed professors to perform their duties sincerely, else action will be taken against them." GMC Principal Dr Harjinder could not be contacted despite repeated attempts.

Covid duty at pvt hospitals irks rural docs

MANAV MANDER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LUDHIANA, AUGUST 5

Rural medical officers (RMOs) have alleged discrimination by the Health Department in the assigning Covid-19 duties. Four RMOs from Ludhiana have been assigned duties at a private hospital, even as they were working at government hospitals.

Since the Covid outbreak, RMOs have been alleging dis-

They allege discrimination in assigning work by Health Department

crimination in assigning duties by the Health Department. In the fresh roster issued by the Ludhiana Civil Surgeon's office, four RMOs have been assigned duties at government hospitals. Our only request was to allow us to open rural dispensaries as well by giving us some break in between so that the rural

population is not ignored. The RMOs have been assigned duties at private hospitals, which is uncalled for," said Dr JP Narula, state president, Rural Medical Services Association, Punjab.

Civil Surgeon Rajesh Bagga said, "The decision has been taken after consultation with the DC. The duties can be assigned anywhere. The roster will be changed after a week. Nobody will be burdened."

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Sadiq Road, Faridkot (Punjab) - 151203

Ph.: 01639 - 256232, 256236
Admission Notice -MASTER IN PHYSIOTHERAPY (MPT) COURSE, SESSION 2020

Applications for admission to Master of Physiotherapy (MPT) course, session 2020 are invited from eligible candidates on the prescribed proforma available on the University website upto 20th August, 2020. The Admission Application Form is to be deposited in the office alongwith requisite fee in the shape of Demand Draft v/g. Registrar, BFUHS, payable at Faridkot. Note: 1. Candidates who have passed BPT Course from other state shall be considered in subsequent round of Counselling. 2. For Prospectus/ Details/ Updates/ Schedule of Counseling visit University website i.e. www.bfuhs.ac.in.

CORRIGENDUM

Posts of Assistant Professor (Anaesthesia, Nephrology, Endocrinology) were published vide advertised No 06 of 2020 in "The Tribune" & "Ajit Punjab" on 09.07.2020. Due to outbreak of COVID-19 the last date of apply online applications is extended up to 13.08.2020. The terms and conditions will remain same as per the advt. no 06/2020.

BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
SADIQ ROAD, FARIDKOT (PUNJAB) - 151203

Ph.: 01639 - 256232, 256236

RECRUITMENT NOTICE BFU-08/20/6

Online applications are invited w.e.f 10/08/20 to 31/08/20 from eligible candidates through University website i.e. www.bfuhs.ac.in for the recruitment of 14 posts of ECG Technician under Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Punjab. For details/ Updates/ eligibility/ No. of Posts/ terms & conditions visit University website.

REGISTRAR

Indira Gandhi University
Meerpur-Rewari

इंदिरा गांधी विश्वविद्यालय
मीरपुर-रेवाड़ी

(A State University Established under Haryana Act No. 29 of 2013)

Recognized u/s 12 (b) & 2(f) of UGC Act 1956

Admission Notice

Online applications are invited from 10+2 eligible candidates for admission in M.Com. (Hons.) 5 years and Bachelor of Hotel Management & Catering Technology (B.H.M.C.T.) 4 years programmes being run in the University Teaching Departments of this University. Online application forms are to be filled from 06.08.2020 to 18.08.2020. For details, please visit the University Website i.e. www.igu.ac.in.

REGISTRAR

Municipal Council, Adampur, Jalandhar
ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਕਸਬਾਲ, ਆਦਮਪੁਰ, ਜਲੰਧਰ

Email-id: mcadampur38@yahoo.com, mcadampur38@gmail.com

Phone. No. 0181-2753256, 0181-509259

ਨਗਰ ਕਸਬਾਲ, ਆਦਮਪੁਰ, ਜਲੰਧਰ ਵਿੱਤੇ ਕੁਝ ਸੁਣੋ 13.80 ਲੱਖ ਦੇ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਦੇ ਲੰਮੀ ਲੰਮੀ ਚਾਲਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋਣੇ ਵਾਲੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਵਿੱਤੇ ਲੰਮੀ ਸੁਣੋ ਕੇਂਦਰਾਂ ਵਿੱਤੇ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹੋਣੇ ਵਾਲੇ ਹਨ।

ਸਾਡੇ ਕੇਂਦਰਾਂ ਵਿੱਤੇ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹੋਣੇ ਵਾਲੇ ਹਨ।

Minor 'forced into' prostitution by kin

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KURUKSHETRA, AUGUST 5

The district police have arrested four men for forcing a minor girl of their family into prostitution, and extorting money from a person. The suspects have been identified as minor girl's father, two uncles and a cousin. They were produced before a court, which sent them to two-day police remand.

A case was registered at the KUK police station. On June 15, a resident of New Laxman Colony, in his complaint to the police, alleged he had sent his 17-year-old daughter at his brother's house, but she had gone missing. He alleged that her daughter had been taken away by a person with the

motive of marriage.

The case was handed over to sub-inspector Praveen Kaur, and during investigation, the police found that the complainant and his family had forced the girl into prostitution, and they used to threaten the person, with whom they used to send the girl, get a case registered, and later settle the matter after charging a hefty amount.

After the girl was recovered, she was produced before the court, where she admitted that her family used to force her into prostitution, and later charge money from the person after threatening to implicate him in a case. Her father, two uncles, and her cousin had done the same thing twice in the past also.

"The Power Department has revived the drive to detect power theft and curb line losses. Accordingly, fine will be imposed on erring consumers," he said.

Among the erring consumers are 44 farmhouse owners of Faridabad and Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh) as they drew electricity illegally. They face a

More judges test positive for Covid

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 5

Covid continues to hit the judiciary hard in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh, as two Additional District and Sessions Judges have tested positive for the virus. They were stationed at Ambala and Yamunanagar.

The Panipat court complex, meanwhile, has been shut for five days after 10 officials tested positive.

F'bad surpasses G'gram, tops tally with 9,510 cases

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 5

Faridabad surpassed Gurugram in the cumulative number of Covid cases on Wednesday. With 169 fresh cases, Faridabad's Covid tally now stood at 9,510, highest in the state, followed by Gurugram at 9,412.

The district is already ahead of Gurugram in active cases and fatalities due to Covid. Meanwhile, with 752 fresh cases and seven more deaths, the Covid tally in the state jumped to 38,548 on Wednesday. Two deaths were reported from Faridabad and one each from Gurugram, Karnal, Jhajjar, Panchkula and Kurukshetra. A 66-year-old man from Bhudut Colony and 72-year-old man from Jawahar Colony in Faridabad succumbed to the viral disease. They were suffering from co-morbidities.

The fresh cases came from Faridabad (169), Panipat (74), Ambala (68), Gurugram (64), Sirsa (33), Rewari (45), Mahendragarh (35), Sirsa (33), Sonepat (32), Yamunanagar (23), Palwal (23), Charkhi Dadri (22), Fatehabad (20), Panchkula (19), Karnal (16), Hisar (15), Kaithal (10), Kurukshetra (9), Jhajjar (8), Nuh (7),

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Faridabad	9,510	137
Gurugram	9,412	125
Sonepat	3,045	33
Rewari	1,949	8
Ambala	1,810	17
Rohtak	1,740	24
Karnal	1,155	12
Panipat	1,376	19
Hisar	1,029	10
Palwal	1,016	9
Jhajjar	873	12
Mahendragarh	867	1
Bhiwani	808	6
Nuh	567	12
Panchkula	762	3
Kurukshetra	562	8
Sirsa	478	7
Fatehabad	396	3
Jind	333	5
Yamunanagar	377	3
Kaithal	306	
Charkhi Dadri	177	1
Total	38,548	455

(The figure of Gurugram includes 14 Indian nationals and that of Panchkula includes 21 foreign returnees)

HELD FOR VIOLATING NORMS, MAN GETS BAIL

- **Hisar:** The police on Tuesday arrested a man for flouting Covid guidelines by inviting more than 50 persons to his son's wedding last month
- The man, however, got a bail from the court on Tuesday
- The wedding triggered a chain of infections in Hisar
- The wedding organised by a jeweller's family on June 28-29 was attended by more than 200 guests and workers
- The contact tracing found a chain of 100 persons, including family members of the bride and the groom, visitors and workers
- The district administration has formed a three-member panel to probe the violations

Jind (5) and Bhiwani (4).

The localities from where the fresh cases came in Faridabad included Ballabgarh, NIT, Dabua Colony, Jawahar Colony, Sanjay Colony, SGM Nagar, Kheri Kalan, Adarsh Colony Sectors 3, 15, 16, 19 and 23,

Mahaveer Colony, Bharat Colony Palla and Panhera Khurd village. In Karnal, three cases each came from Karan Vihar, two from Chaman Garden and one each from Sectors 7 and 13, Ram Nagar, Minar Road and Rajinder Nagar DC Colony.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

Tender/RFP Reference No. 2473 Dt. 5.8.2020

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DIVISION NO. 3, LUDHIANA.

Invites online bids for Providing and Installing Tubewell 150 mm i/d straight 150 mtr. Deep with Hand Boring, Construction of Pump Chamber, Pumping Machinery, Chlorination Plant and CI pipe & specials inside the pump chamber completed in all respects & Providing, Laying, Cutting, Jointing & Testing of PVC pipe 6 kg/cm² including cost of excavation, dismantling of bricks in trenches, House Hold Connections & Water Meter, Solar Panel System, Development of Water Works site i.e. Corner Pillars, Gate pillars, MS Gate, Barbed wire, Angle Iron Pickets, Footpath, Sluice Valve with Haudi MS sign board and O & M for 3 Months & other work contingent thereto to Water Supply Scheme Bardeke Colony, Block Jagraon, Distt. Ludhiana. (UNDER PRWSSIP sub component 1a(iii)) Document Sale Start Date: 06.08.2020 at 15:00 hours Document Sale End Date: 17.08.2020 at 17:00 hours For details logon to: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Note:- Any corrigendum(s) to the tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- (Er Rohit Kumar), Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation Division No. 3, Ludhiana

DPR/Pb/60052

PUNJAB RURAL WATER & SANITATION SECTOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WORLD BANK FUNDED NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Dept. inviting work:-

Brief of work:-

Cost of work/ Earnest Money:-

Area of Work:-

Date of opening of bid:-

For detailed terms and conditions of the notice inviting Tender please see punjab.gov.in and <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.

Executive Engineer,
W/S & Sanitation Division, Kapurthala
(Ph. 99155-95553)
e-mail: xen.kapurthala@gmail.com

DPR/Pb/60017

DPR/Pb/60015

In F'bad, 600 cases of power theft detected in two months

DHBVN imposes ₹3.5 crore penalty on erring consumers

BIJENDRA AHLAWAT
TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDABAD, AUGUST 5

The Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (DHBVN) detected about 600 cases of power theft in the past two months in the district. To curb this practice, it imposed a penalty of Rs 3.5 crore on erring consumers.

Naresh Kakkar, Superintending Engineer, DHBVN, Faridabad circle, has confirmed this.

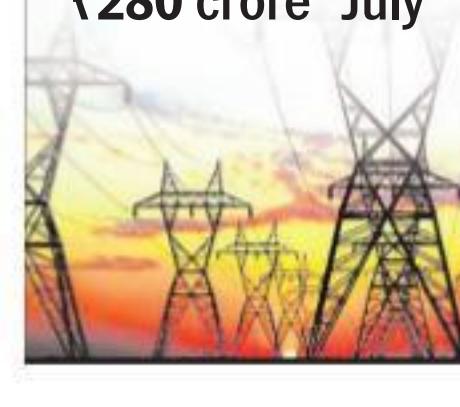
"The Power Department has revived the drive to detect power theft and curb line losses. Accordingly, fine will be imposed on erring consumers," he said.

REVENUE RISES

₹41 crore April

₹233 crore June

₹280 crore July



'ACCUSED FACE ARREST'

■ The Power

Department has revived the drive to detect power theft and curb line losses. Accordingly, fine will be imposed on erring consumers. The accused face arrest if they fail to pay the penalty.

Naresh Kakkar, SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, DHBVN, FARIDABAD CIRCLE

employees — two Junior Engineers and two Assistant Line Men (ALM).

"The accused face arrest if they fail to pay the penalty," Kakkar said.

Meanwhile, the DHBVN improved its monthly recovery of dues after the lockdown restrictions were lifted. In April, the DHBVN had collected Rs 41 crore as dues. The next month, its earnings shot up to Rs 233 crore. And in July, it recovered Rs 280 crore.

Sources say the department faces financial crisis because dues have been pending for long, swelling to more than Rs 600 crore.

Court quashes order to summon MLA

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, AUGUST 5

The court of Rohtak Additional District and Sessions Judge Ritu YK Bahl on Wednesday set aside an order pertaining to the summoning of Meham MLA Balraj Kundu in a criminal defamation case filed by former Haryana minister Manish Grover.

The court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Ashish Kumar Sharma had earlier summoned the MLA to face trial regarding an offence under Section 500 of the IPC.

"We had filed a revision petition against the summoning order. The Additional Sessions Judge allowed the revision petition and set aside the summoning orders issued by the lower court," said advocate Peeyush Gakhar, the

Meham MLA was summoned in defamation case

counsel for Kundu.

Advocate Rakesh Kumar Sapra, the counsel for the former minister, said they had a strong case and would move the HC after receiving the copy of today's orders. Kundu had, on January 3, accused Grover of indulging in rampant corruption during his tenure as minister and instigating violence during the Jat agitation for grant of reservation in February 2016. Maintaining that the allegations levelled by the MLA were derogatory, Grover later stated he had got a legal notice served to Kundu to withdraw his remarks.

CM launches schemes for women, kids

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 5

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Wednesday urged all DCs to make targeted efforts towards addressing the problems of anaemia and malnutrition among women and children in their respective districts.

Khattar was speaking after launching the 'Mukhya Mantri Doodh Upchar Yojana' and 'Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana' here on Wednesday. He urged the DCs to include 'Mukhya Mantri Doodh Upchar Yojana' in their flagship programmes.



CM ML Khattar gives a milk packet to a child in Chandigarh.

Under the 'Mukhya Mantri Doodh Upchar Yojana', fortified flavoured skimmed milk powder will be provided to children between 1 and 6 years of age in anganwadi centres along with pregnant and lactating mothers.

Beds empty, hospitals want review of Covid tag

SUMEDHA SHARMA
TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURUGRAM, AUGUST 5

With medical tourism hit badly and domestic patients avoiding visiting hospitals in view of the Covid pandemic, private health facilities in Gurugram have approached the district authorities to review the notification of Covid beds. More than 60 per cent of Covid beds in private beds are empty.

SP Surinder Singh Bhoria said we had been analysing the details received from various sources and the complainants. "We have also talked to the doubts of the victims' family members into consideration. We have conducted Covid test of four accused named in the FIR. The FSL has decided to conduct their polygraph test on August 6."

The case of the three children's death is based upon technical investigation and without clarity over the cause of death of the children, the investigation cannot be completed, he said. We are hoping that we would get the reports of viscera and diatom test in a day or two, the SP said.

The bodies of the children of Binjhil village were found in the canal flowing next to an illegal bleaching unit on July 8.—TNS

Some hospitals notified as Covid centres claim they don't have a single patient suffering from the virus, the Covid tag has led to a massive drop in the number of patients visiting OPDs and wards.

A senior doctor of an eye hospital in old Gurugram said,

"Before the outbreak of Covid, more than 80 eye surgeries were performed in a day. Now, the number has plummeted to just five.

There is a Covid ward in our hospital, but we have not received a single patient to date. Doesn't it make sense to deotify small clinics and hospitals as Covid centres?

Why reserve some beds for Covid patients when there is none in our hospital?"

He added, "The losses are mounting. We have already cut the staff strength by 15 per cent." According to the Health Department, more than 75 per cent of patients from the district are under home isolation.

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BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

SADIQ ROAD, FARIDKOT (PUNJAB) - 151203

RECRUITMENT NOTICE BUFO-08/20/10

Online applications are invited w.e.f 10/08/20 to 31/08/20 from eligible candidates through University website i.e. www.bfuhis.ac.in for the recruitment of 800 posts of Ward Attendant under Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Punjab. For details/ Updates/ eligibility/ No. of Posts/ terms & conditions visit University website.

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Pak desperation

Map mischief gives India fresh ammo against neighbour

PAKISTAN has given vent to its frustration through a series of provocative steps coinciding with the first anniversary of the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir and the abrogation of Article 370. Earlier this week, Pakistan released a territorially misleading map that included the former princely states of Junagadh (Gujarat) and J&K, with Prime Minister Imran Khan calling it 'the most historic day in Pakistan's history' and claiming that the map represented the aspirations of the whole nation and all its political parties. The move predictably drew a sharp reaction from New Delhi, which dubbed it an 'exercise in political absurdity'. Pakistan had already laid bare its sinister moves by announcing that August 5 would be observed as 'Day of Exploitation', even as the Imran Khan government again failed to persuade the UN Security Council to come out with a resolution on Kashmir despite having China on its side.

The insistence on holding the Assembly elections in the disputed and long-suffering region of Gilgit-Baltistan, and that too amid the Covid-19 pandemic, is another instance of Pakistan's duplicity. The country's credibility has for long been under a cloud due to its continued support to terrorist organisations. In June, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, had decided to keep Pakistan on the grey list as Islamabad failed to check the flow of money to groups such as Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. With the prospect of being downgraded to the black list looming large, Pakistan recently passed two Bills in another half-hearted attempt to fulfil the FATF's requirements. The implementation of such laws in the past, however, has left a lot to be desired.

Pakistan's latest transgression comes less than two months after Nepal's Parliament made a constitutional amendment to 'update' the country's new political map which incorporated three strategically important Indian areas. These brazen actions by India's neighbours smack of Chinese connivance in the backdrop of the LAC standoff. India needs to firmly refute such ridiculous claims and reassert its territorial sovereignty. Proactive diplomacy is a must to call the bluff of China and its pawns.

Corona count

Keep focus on extra caution, reducing risk factor

CORONAVIRUS statistics are dismal most of the times, not so bleak once in a while. The new normal of 50,000-plus additional cases on a daily basis has the country on the edge. Comfort can be drawn from the fatality rate dropping to 2.1 per cent, the lowest since the lockdown in March, but the death count nearing 40,000 is disheartening. An encouraging development for Punjab is that it is registering the lowest Covid-positive rate — considered a major indicator of a state's response — of 3.1 per cent, against the national average of 8.89. The dispiriting bit is the sudden spike in the state. In two weeks, around 200 deaths and 8,000 cases have been reported. The surge has led to suspension of all elective surgeries in government hospitals for 15 days.

Punjab needs to be extra vigilant as reports suggest that almost half the people testing positive are aged between 21 and 40 years, attributed to more mobility for employment purposes. This age-group would comprise roughly one-third of the state's population by next year. Sadly, the message that caution is the name of the game has not been digested despite repeated appeals. An astounding 3.5 lakh people being fined and 1,500 being booked for not wearing a mask is a frightening level of negligence. With gyms opening, citizen-backed campaigns have to be activated for more responsible behaviour. The numbers will increase, but the risk and volume can certainly be reduced.

In Haryana, an RTI query has led to revelation of a disturbing Covid-related figure: a 46 per cent rise in the number of deaths of infants between April and June compared to 2019. Restricted access to health services during the initial phases of the lockdown has been cited as the reason. The overall deaths in the state rose by over 2 per cent despite far less road accidents. OPDs were reopened only following directives in mid-April. The pandemic is unsparing, its effects are all-pervasive. Public health and public minding its health should remain the focal points.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

No power was total, no power permanent, no power absolute. — Justina Chen

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1920

An Incorrect Statement.

ONE statement made by Mr. Montagu in his speech is so incorrect and without foundation that it is really astonishing how he could have been led to make it. "Nobody ever suggested," he said, "no Indian has suggested, as far as I know, no reputable Indian has suggested, any punishment, any vindictiveness or anything more than the repudiation of the principles upon which General Dyer acted." Now, this is not merely not true, but is the exact reverse of the truth. Every Indian who has had anything to say on the subject, every reputable Indian certainly, has insisted that suitable punishment be inflicted upon the offending officers, not as matter of vindictiveness, of course, but as the one definite and unmistakable way of repudiating the principles on which Dyer and others acted, and also as the only sure method of preventing a recurrence of similar atrocities in future. Mr. Montagu's conception of "reputable Indians" must be very peculiar, if it excludes the whole body of Indian journalists with the single exception of the editor of *Indian Mirror*, the whole body of Congressman Commissioners, every public body of any importance in the country, including such bodies as the Bombay Presidency Association and the Indian Association of Calcutta, and lastly the whole body of Moderates, with the possible exception of a few Knights and neo-moderates. All of them have, with one voice, urged that the offending officers should not only be punished but should in some cases be made examples of, so that no officers in their position may ever again dare to act in the way they did. Mr. Montagu has no excuse for being ignorant of this patent fact.

No more than dummy PM

Imran Khan may pretend to be in charge, but even foreign policy is not in his hands



G PARTHASARATHY

CHANCELLOR, JAMMU CENTRAL UNIVERSITY & FORMER HIGH COMMISSIONER TO PAKISTAN

WHENEVER I analyse the policies of PM Imran Khan, my mind goes back to meeting Imran, the cricketer, when I was India's Consul General in Karachi in 1982. I had hosted a reception for the visiting Indian cricket team led by Sunil Gavaskar. Members of the Pakistan cricket team also attended the reception. The Consul General's residence was located opposite the residence of Benazir Bhutto. She was then under arrest, ordered by military ruler, Gen Zia-ul-Haq. (Dawood Ibrahim now lives royally in the nearby Defence Housing Society). Imran devastated our batting in that series. Gavaskar and Mohinder Amarnath were among the few batsmen who read and played Imran's devastating reverse swing consistently and confidently.

Karachi was a cosmopolitan city, where one could chat with Pakistani friends over drinks. I asked a friendly Pakistani commentator what motivated Imran to bowl with such venom. I was told that when Imran was asked why he bowled with such fire against India, he replied: 'I do not regard it as a game. I think of Kashmir and regard it as a jihad.' Imran's reverse swing came into play, primarily after lunch and tea breaks, when the ball was in the pockets of Pakistani umpires! Scratching one side of the ball was known to make it swing. Gavaskar and others had noted this.

Pakistan has produced great fast bowlers like Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Shoaib Akhtar, who played tough and hard. But unlike Imran, they never treated the game as a 'jihad'. They were friendly to Indian players.



AT MERCY: A protege of the army, Imran Khan will be discarded when it so chooses.

Under such circumstances, it may be worthwhile to open a channel of communication with the Pakistan army. It may not yield anything, but a dialogue has its own utility.

Imran's politics was moulded by one of the founding members of his Tehreek-e-Insaf Party, Lt Gen Hamid Gul, who was a hardcore Islamist and a former Director General of the ISI. Gul played a key role in backing militants in Afghanistan. He also backed militancy in Punjab and J&K. Imran was voted to power with the backing of the military establishment and the ISI, who were finding that PM Nawaz Sharif was trying to act independently on relations with India and Afghanistan.

While his predecessors looked the other way, as the ISI backed the Hurriyat and militant groups in J&K, Imran made no secret about his kinship with the Taliban, Hurriyat, and militant Islamic groups, like the LeT. It is not surprising that he is now set on conferring Pakistan's highest civilian honour, the Nishan-e-Pakistan, on Hurriyat patriarch Syed Ali Shah Geelani. India had political space in the past for contacts at the highest levels in Pakistan. Pakistani prime ministers kept contacts open with their Indian counterparts. We are now dealing with a Pakistani leader who makes no

bones about his backing for Islamist militancy. He even described Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the 9/11 strikes on New York, as a 'martyr'.

While he may pretend to be in charge of foreign policy, it is the army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, who calls the shots. Bajwa actively participated in efforts for President Trump to end US combat operations in Afghanistan, before the US presidential elections. When Imran met Trump in July last year, he became the first Pakistan PM who was accompanied by his army chief for a White House meeting with the President. The public profile of Bajwa, whose tenure was extended by three years, till 2022, has risen steadily.

The army now directly calls the shots on developments in Afghanistan after Bajwa made an impromptu visit to Kabul and met President Ashraf Ghani on June 9. The visit was at the behest of US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad. Diplomatic practices and pretences have now been discarded. It is Bajwa and not Imran who leads the effort for Trump on troop withdrawal. It matters little to Trump if what fol-

lows after poorly planned American withdrawal is a return to civil war in Afghanistan, as the Taliban are not given to sharing power with others. Moreover, the Taliban are not trusted by the non-Pashtun population.

It is evident that the army is determined to cut an obviously incompetent Imran to size. The high-profile former army spokesman Lt Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa has now been appointed as Imran's special assistant for information and broadcasting. He is now Imran's de facto spokesman. He has also been appointed chairman of CPEC authority. In short, he not only speaks for the government, but also controls the massive funds flowing into the project. There are reports suggesting that Bajwa was appointed after Xi Jinping indicated that he was not satisfied with Pakistani decision-making in CPEC.

The marginalisation of Imran and the civilian government is evident in other areas also. The army now plays a decisive role in the National Command and Operations Centre headed by the federal planning minister. The executive head of the command centre, Lt Gen Hamood Uz Zahman Khan, is an air defence officer. Meanwhile, the National Locust Control Centre is headed by another Lt Gen. Imran, a long-term protégé of the Pakistan army, has become the army's puppet. He will be discarded when the army so chooses. The Chinese have known this for years. They are reconciled to the fact that civilian leaders like Imran are dispensable.

India is right in not rushing into a formal dialogue with Imran. He is not only pathologically anti-Indian, but also is merely a front for the Pakistan army. In these circumstances, it may be worthwhile to open an unannounced and appropriate channel of communications with the Pakistan army. One cannot realistically expect much to emerge from such a back channel, especially given tensions in the Kashmir valley and Ladakh, but a 'back channel' for communication, or dialogue, has its own utility, even in difficult times, and particularly during tensions.

Who is to tell who is an animal!

SANJAY JAIN

THE recent death of a pregnant elephant in Kerala after being fed an explosive-stuffed pineapple proved to be yet another example of how humans have a lot to learn from animals. It brought forth convincingly how wildly humans can act and how humanly animals can behave. Despite being in intense pain, the elephant travelled for about 20 days without food, and without harming anyone, before breathing her last in the Velliyar river. In her death, she conveyed a strong lesson about how even the worst kind of violence can be answered through non-violence and austerity.

There are myriad such examples of animals outwitting humans by their wisdom. The natural defence mechan-

nisms of animals are also better evolved compared to humans, as they have to face the most uncongenial of the circumstances for survival. The science of cognitive ethology lets us learn about the fascinating world of animal minds. For example, it reveals how jellyfish uses its creativity to navigate swamps; how bees use their intelligence in flying the shortest distance between flowers, and how birds use their smartness in feigning injury to deceive predators. Birds are even known to share information with other birds, recognise human faces and avoid those humans who chase them. Crows, like Einsteins among birds, do many brainy tasks, including the well-known trick of raising the water level by dropping pebbles into it!

Animals have great therapeutic value, too. Horse therapy is a recog-

nised form of treatment for diseases like autism and mood and movement disorders. In France, a horse named 'Peyo' is known to be an excellent such 'therapist'. It is allowed to visit hospitals with its owner. It communicates with the ailing and makes them feel better. Feline purring vibrations have also been found useful in treating several human diseases. Babies who live with pets during their first six months have better immunity against allergies and asthma.

There are several amazing incidents of how household pets have rescued their owners in various ways, such as alerting them to house fires or even sniffing out cancer. In 2005, a 12-year-old Kenyan girl was rescued by lions from kidnappers. Lion experts said it was possible that the lions were dis-

sauded by her crying, which resembles the sound of a lion cub. Mark Twain observed, 'If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and man.'

In the traditions of Bharat, animals have always been treated as companions with whom we share the earth and from whom we can learn a lot to evolve better. This is evident from many of the yogasanas that are derived from animal poses. Many birds and animals, as vehicles of gods and goddesses, symbolise power, grace, beauty, dignity and wisdom. Symbols of 17 out of the 24 Jain Tirthankaras are animals or birds.

Spiritualist Anthony D Williams has rightly observed, 'We have more to learn from animals than animals have to learn from us.'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Now for Ram rajya

The absence of a couple of leading faces of a struggle for the past three decades notwithstanding, the *bhoomi pujan* ceremony for the construction of the Ram temple has, at last, been accomplished amid all religious, political and social rituals. Now, let us hope that the imaginative wish of Ram *rajya* comes true, where merit, truthfulness, justice for all, equality among all sections of society, irrespective of caste, class, creed, religion, gender etc, prevail.

KK SOOD, NANGAL

Soft touch must

Since the reorganisation of J&K and the abrogation of its special status, there have been conflicting claims about economic development, infrastructure, democracy, freedom, rights, job opportunities and eradication of corruption ('J&K, a year later' and 'A case of hits and misses', Aug 5). Undoubtedly, the overall security environment has improved with the scale of terrorist violence and civilian deaths declining drastically, but the government still faces the formidable challenge of emotional integration of the Kashmiri people. Restrictions on Internet services, suppression of dissenting voices and detention of political leaders are the main irritants. The government should immediately

release all political prisoners, start the process of holding free and fair elections and restore statehood. A soft approach will win the confidence of the people as well as the international community.

DS KANG, HOSHIARPUR

Glorifying addiction

Many have lost their lives due to the consumption of spurious alcohol in Punjab. Alcohol is considered an integral part of Punjabi culture, and is also a major contributor to revenue. Addiction to anything is bad, and the same goes for alcohol, yet our songs — Punjabi as well as Bollywood — glorify its consumption as a habit and as an antidote to miseries. What we see and listen to, whether it is good or bad, always has an impact, more so on teenagers.

MANDEEP KAUR, JALANDHAR

Lone sane voice

Refer to former Himachal CM Shanta Kumar's advice to his party to not deviate from value-based politics (Aug 4); he seems particularly concerned about the machinations in destabilising the Rajasthan government. His is a sane, but lone voice in the BJP in the state. Leaders of his ilk are not many. The BJP has shunned the principles that made it 'a party with a difference'. That is the price it is paying for

being the biggest party in the country.

SANJIV SHARMA, PRAGPUR

Don't deserve relief

The SC had directed Airtel to pay additional cess, but unable to pay it has approached the Centre, DoT and the SC to reconsider the same, and also seek permission to pay the cess in many instalments, otherwise, the company may be liquidated. This issue is applicable to various other companies that are facing financial hardships. If the government bails them out, it will put a burden on the exchequer. When these companies are in huge profits, they do not pay anything extra to the government. Why should the government consider any kind of relief for them? It is against public interest. Their management is fully responsible for their working. CEOs draw huge salaries. The government should not consider their appeal.

DEEPAK SARAF, RAMPURA PHUL

Careerist bureaucrats

The write-up 'Travails of a staff officer' (*The Sunday Tribune*, Aug 2) raises some significant questions. Given the specific requirements of staff field postings, an intelligent officer adapts faster to new persons and situations to build confidence-inspiring relations and reputation. Whether one is lazy, intelligent or hard work-

ing to fit into the British period army classification gets reflected not only in one's personal elevation, but also the actual quality of conditions of one's area of operation, and the overall condition of the organisation if one heads it. Given the ever-increasing number of organisations and institutions regressing quality-wise, the review of the British period classification assumes significance. Punjab that has come to pass as a laggard state, needs to reorient its 3.15 lakh employees to restore its premier position in terms of pre-Independence classification. The police and paramilitary forces can also try it out.

JAGVINDER SINGH BRAR, PATIALA

Unfair to employees

Apropos of 'Revenue dips, govt holds up staff salary' (Aug 4), employees have to bear the brunt of inefficient planning of the state Finance Ministry. GST refund not released by the Centre and non-tax revenues falling because of lockdown is not the concern of employees. It is the duty of the government to plan for such exigencies. Employees should get their dues in time, just like MLAs and ministers get theirs without delay. The state FM's statement that he has written to the Union FM will not suffice. It will not fill the bellies of the families of the employees.

RAJ KUMAR KAPOOR, ROPAR

Reach out to those who feel 'wronged' in J&K



LT GEN VG PATANKAR (RETD)

FORMER ARMY CORPS COMMANDER, J&K

A SKA cross-section of the people from different regions of Jammu and Kashmir about the historic development that took place on August 5 last year, changing its geography and political status, and you will most likely get a mixed response.

While the reaction of the people in the Kashmir valley was one of shock and disbelief, in Jammu division, it swung between euphoria and confusion. The people of Ladakh were in a celebratory mood, while those in Kargil were apprehensive.

The ordinary people were not sure what it meant and went along with what the more vocal were saying. In the Valley, the sentiment was more strident, along with a feeling of despondency and betrayal.

In the Jammu region, there was wider acceptance of the new reality, but also the lurking fear of a 'cultural invasion' from the rest of the country.

The first task for the newly constituted administration of the Union Territory (UT) was to prevent the breakdown of law and order and a likelihood of mayhem. It did so effectively by imposing curfew-like restrictions and ensuring that they were strictly enforced by deploying additional police force that had already been

inducted. The situation remained under complete control. Terrorist activities were almost absent.

As people slowly began coming to terms with the changed situation, the rage too began to cool down, though the feeling of humiliation at being reduced to a UT remained. The administration, meanwhile, was able to slowly start unfolding a plan in a graduated manner.

Some impressions created out of hearsay have been found to be without basis. For instance, it was widely believed that an attempt was being made to alter the demography of the UTs and that anyone could now buy land there. Not only was that found to be unsubstantiated, but also, in fact, thousands of legitimate residents who were denied domicile rights earlier were now being given it.

The development package of Rs 80,000 crore announced by the Prime Minister in November 2015 comprised a number of ambitious projects. They were moving at a slow pace till June 2018 when President's rule was established in J&K. In the past two years, the completed projects have gone up from seven to 17. Projects vital for the improvement of strategic infrastructure have been expedited and are likely to be completed in the next 12-18 months. They include a new tunnel at Banjhal and the world's highest railway bridge over the Chenab river, which when completed by December 2022 will connect Kashmir by rail to the rest of the country. A number of power projects have also been placed on fast track for completion next year.

On the socio-economic front, too, some actions have been initiated. They include the empowerment of panchayats, bringing in greater accountability and austerity in public spending, curbing corruption and restoring gender rights and those of weaker sections of society. Work is also being taken up to develop roads to connect with all villages and to ensure piped water supply to them. Various small and large projects are expected to create a large number of job opportunities throughout the UTs.



BUILD TRUST: The J&K administration should go the extra mile to ensure that all people perceive its actions as well-intended.

The perspectives of the people of the Valley and those from the Jammu area differ. These are not just regional or ethnic differences, but also emotional. Srinagar has historically been the seat of power. Juxtapose that with the sense of 'special status' accorded by Articles 370 and 35A, and the difference in the emotional state becomes clear.

panchayats, bringing in greater accountability and austerity in public spending, curbing corruption and restoring gender rights and those of weaker sections of society. Work is also being taken up to develop roads to connect with all villages and to ensure piped water supply to them. Various small and large projects are expected to create a large number of job opportunities throughout the UTs.

The process of repealing of archaic laws and simplifying rules for the issuance of domicile certificates in a time-bound manner have been equally progressive steps taken by the UT authorities. It would help various categories of people, like Kashmiri migrants, refugees from West Pakistan and *safai karamcharis*, among others.

For better appreciation, the review

could be considered in segments. It took nearly three months for both the new entities to establish themselves fully. It is to the credit of the governments at the Centre and the UTs that they appeared to have had a roadmap in place at the very outset which was set into motion by the end of 2019. It was barely in operation for about three months when Covid-19 struck. After March-end this year, the implementation of the plan has been hampered all over the country and the UTs are no exception.

The perspective of the people of the Valley and those from the Jammu area differ. These are not just regional or ethnic differences, but also emotional. Srinagar has historically been the seat of power and the Valley the focal point of political activity of the erstwhile

state. Juxtapose that with a sense of 'special status' accorded by Articles 370 and 35A and the difference in the emotional state becomes clear. Against such a backdrop, it is easy to understand how the idea of 'Azadi' took root in the Valley. Interestingly, even within the Valley, that kind of thought process is largely to be found in the urban or semi-urban areas. In mofussil areas, particularly areas close to the Line of Control (LoC), people are more concerned about their day-to-day problems and less about 'exclusivity'.

How does the ordinary citizen view the situation? Ordinary people in the Kashmir valley still feel 'wronged'. Whether that feeling is justified or not, the UT administration should go the extra mile to ensure that all people perceive its actions as well-intended and meant to improve the quality of their lives. Generation of employment by filling thousands of vacancies should be undertaken with complete transparency and urgency.

It will help assuage hurt feelings and build bridges of trust between the government and citizens. The UT administration will also be seen as not being remotely controlled by the Central government. Empowerment of panchayats where the people have the opportunity to participate in governing themselves should receive priority. It will also help build a new generation of political leadership from the grassroots.

A mindset built over the centuries and vitiated by Pakistan over three decades will take longer than a year to change, but a change for the better has certainly begun.

Tap tech giants to bridge digital divide in education

SUSHMA RAMACHANDRAN
SENIOR FINANCIAL JOURNALIST

THE chief executives of the world's four most powerful tech companies were grilled recently by the US lawmakers on a wide range of issues, ranging from competition to alleged theft of data by China. Apple, Facebook, Google's parent company Alphabet and Amazon had to face a barrage of questions that could ultimately decide the future course of monopoly laws in the US. Simultaneously, Australia has laid down regulations to ensure that tech giants will have to pay for the use of news from media outlets. Both developments are of immense relevance in India as these same companies dominate the digital arena here.

Even as Big Tech is facing potential curbs, these entities are also seeing a huge surge in growth and profitability — at a time when the global economy is facing severe disruptions owing to the pandemic.

Amazon's profits, for instance, rose by 40 per cent in the April-June quarter. Over the same period, Facebook's profits spiked by an unreal 98 per cent, while Apple recorded a 12 per cent growth. Alphabet was relatively a laggard with three per cent profit, but revenue increased by 13 per cent.

In contrast, the world economy is set to contract by as much as five per cent during 2020. The divergence is because the consumption of online content has risen exponentially while the overall demand for other products has fallen precipitously.

Amazon has benefited not just from its Prime Video content but also from the ease of online deliveries at a time when buying from brick



HUGE GAINS: In the April-June quarter, Amazon's profits rose by 40 per cent, Facebook's by 98 per cent, Apple's by 12 per cent and Alphabet's by three per cent.

and mortar retail outlets has slowed down. Other streaming and OTT platforms have also got a boost globally and in this country.

This has altered the established advertising-cum-subscription model, with ad revenues dipping and subscribers rapidly growing. Some media reports say subscribers have risen by as much as 60 per cent ever since the pandemic began.

The top player in the Indian market currently is the Disney-Hotstar brand with an estimated eight million subscribers followed by Amazon Prime, SonyLIV, Netflix and Voot as well as a host of others.

The other gainers in the digital space are gaming apps which have seen an enormous growth during the

lockdown period. Fantasy sports apps are expected to see a spurt as soon as the IPL is revived. The digital arena, thus, continues to thrive at a time when the global Covid outbreak has threatened the very existence of traditional businesses.

A parallel occurrence to the growth of tech giants has been a widening of the digital divide in this country. This has followed a shift to online education after the schools closed down all over the country since the lockdown was imposed at the end of March.

Children with access to devices like smartphones, tablets, computers or even televisions, have been able to utilise the new mode of teaching.

Others, including the urban poor and those in rural areas, have simply been

left rudderless without any teaching facilities for months on end now.

Tragic stories have surfaced of children and even parents committing suicide because they could not afford to buy smartphones. Voluntary organisations and individuals have begun drives to provide computers and televisions to children in many parts of the country.

An initiative has even been launched to provide used devices to the needy students. The fact is that this is just not enough to cover the millions of children who need to use online education. Official data says there are over 35 crore students in the country, but no data is available to show how many have access to digital devices or the Internet.

A study done by an NGO of over 40,000 children, covering 23 states in April, found that about 56 per cent children did not have smartphones. Apart from the devices, the other issue was connectivity problems with the Internet.

The Kerala government has tried to overcome this problem by offering classes on television. But this approach has a lacuna as there is no possibility of an interaction with the students.

With online education likely to remain a reality for some more time, it is time to adopt innovative solutions to ensure that millions of children do not lag behind their more affluent peers. One way could be to copy the model of universal healthcare and adopt the slogan of universal smartphones for schoolchildren.

Indigenously made smartphones or tablets could be mass produced and provided to all students of government schools. This would not only provide students with the much-needed devices, but also give a fillip to indigenous smartphone production, a cause close to this government's heart.

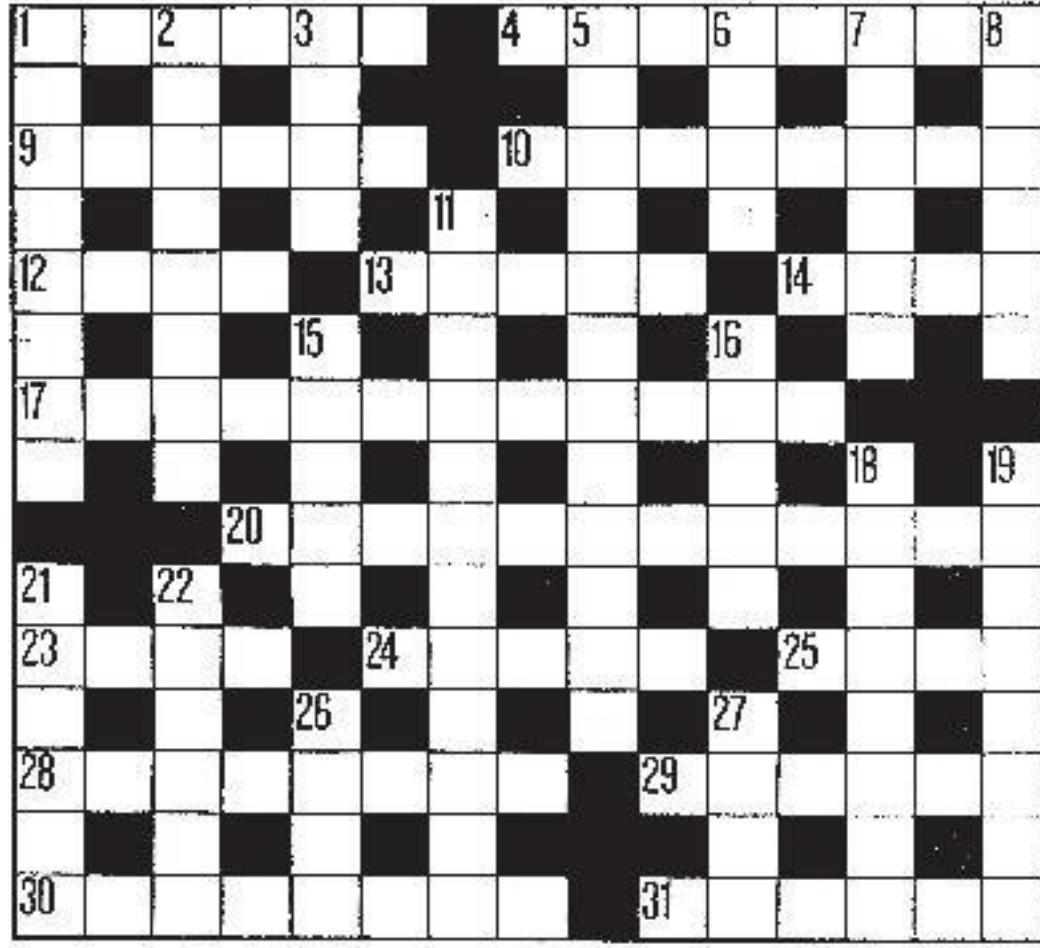
But this could take a while and fail to solve the immediate crisis facing the country's students. Another option could be to open the schools gradually, keeping social distancing norms in place.

And finally, the third and most attractive option could be to tap the deep pockets of the tech giants that are raking in profits right now during the pandemic. Let them use their enormous resources to provide tech-based solutions to the millions of underprivileged children who cannot access any form of education right now. The fact is, unless the digital divide is bridged, there will be a long-term, adverse impact on these young students. The prosperity of the tech giants is growing owing to their access to the Indian market.

It is thus entirely in the fitness of things that they join hands with policymakers here to provide a concrete solution to the digital divide at this critical juncture.

The government needs to open a dialogue with Big Tech companies and try to solve this problem with their help. Otherwise, the prolonged break in the educational process could have profound ramifications for the youth of the country.

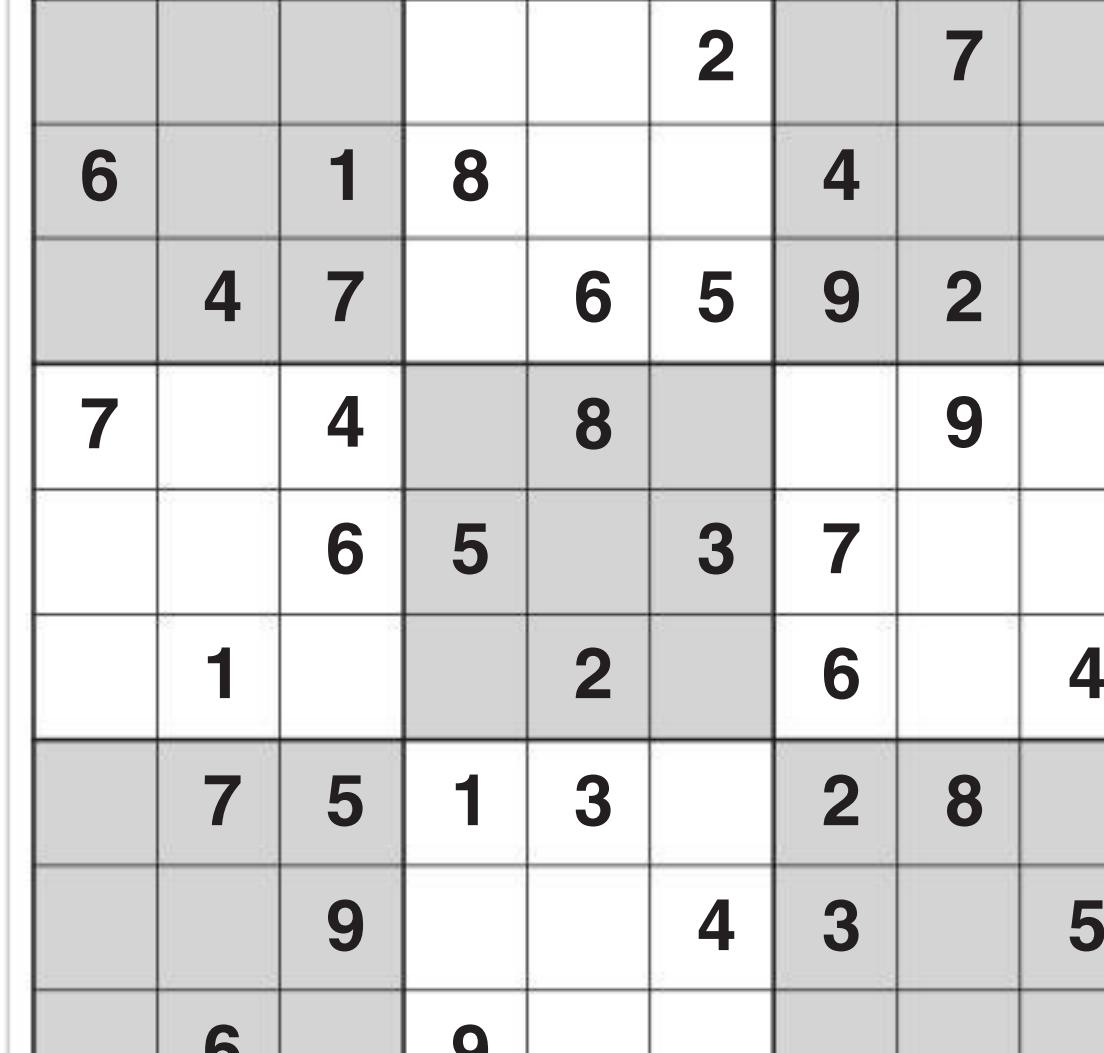
QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Orbit, 4 On paper, 8 Gnu, 9 Tall story, 10 Alben, 11 Excel, 13 Droopy, 15 Assume, 18 Order, 19 Guarded, 21 Hush money, 23 Tar, 24 Rapidly, 25 Title.
Down: 1 On guard, 2 Blue blood, 3 Totem, 4 Oblong, 5 Possess, 6 Pro, 7 Royal, 12 Coup d'état, 14 Pyramid, 16 Endorse, 17 Agency, 18 Other, 20 As yet, 22 Sap.

SU DO KU



V EASY

CALENDAR

AUGUST 6, 2020, THURSDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Shravan Shaka	15
■ Shravan Parvashite	22
■ Hijri	1441
■ Krishna Paksha Tithi 3, up to 12:15 am	
■ Atiganda Yoga up to 5:21 am	
■ Shatbhishak Nakshatra up to 11:18 am	
■ Moon in Aquarius sign	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

1	2	3	4	9	8	6	5	7
8	6	4	5	7	3	9	2	1
7	9	5	6	1	2	4	3	8
9	5	7	8	6	1	3	4	2
6	4	8	3	2	5	7	1	9
3	1	2	9	4	7	5	8	6
2	8	6	7	3	4	1	9	5
4	7	1	2	5	9	8	6	3
5	3	9	1	8	6	2	7	4

FORECAST

SUNSET: THURSDAY 19:13 HRS
SUNRISE: FRIDAY 05:44 HRS

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	35	29
New Delhi	36	29
Amritsar	35	28
Bathinda	38	29
Jalandhar	36	29
Ludhiana	36	29
Bhiwani	36	29
Hisar	37	29
Sirsia	38	30
Dharamsala	29	19
Manali	25	11
Shimla	24	17
Srinagar	33	19
Jammu	34	26
Kargil	25	15
Leh	31	19
Dehradun	33	24
Mussoorie	25	18

TEMPERATURE IN °C

H.P. FOREST DEPARTMENT

Tender Notice

e-Procurement Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Conservator of Forests, Mandi Forest Circle, Mandi, District Mandi on behalf of Governor of HP invites the online bids in electronic tendering system from the eligible contractors registered with HP/PWD/CPWD having Class A&B for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Starting Date for Downloading Bid	Earliest Money at 4.5% of submission of Bid	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Construction of Forest Rest house at Balichowki (Nauna) in Thachi Forest Range under Nanchan Forest Division	Rs. 7000814/-	03.08.2020	Rs. 315037/-	11.08.2020 up to 10.20 a.m.

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in.

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

Divisional Forest Officer, Nanchan Forest Division, Gohar. PIN - 175029.

Tel. No. 01907-250267, E-mail: nanchandfo@123gmail.com**TENDER NOTICE**

Statement rate tenders are hereby invited by the undersigned government contractor conforms approach class/category or Punjab PWD, Chandigarh Administration/MES/Railways and Central PWD for Chandigarh for the following work up to 01:00 P.M. on 16.08.2020. The tender money may be obtained from the office of undersigned up to 01:00 P.M. on 16.08.2020 on payment of Rs. 2000/- (Rs. Two Thousand Only) + GST @18%. The tenders, along with valid enlistment, EPF, PAN, GST No. and other relevant documents, shall be received in the central office of PSIEC up to 03:30 P.M. on 16.08.2020 and opened in the presence of contractors/presenters on the same day at 04:00 P.M.

Sr. No. Description DNIT Amount (In Rs.) Earliest Money (In Rs.) Time Limit

1.	Construction of operating Room for Weigh Bridge at SAIL Stock Yard-2, Phase-V IFP, Ludhiana.	2,99,334/-	6000/-	Three Months
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Note:- 1. The interested agency may submit its offer in two envelope system i.e. for Earliest money and Technical bid in one envelope and Financial bid in another.

2. The earliest money should be accompanied with the tender in the shape of Bank Draft of any scheduled bank drawn in favour of Executive Engineer-I, PSIEC, Chandigarh.

3. The Corporation reserves the rights to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason.

4. The DNIT can be seen in the office of undersigned on any working day between 9.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.

5. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on our website i.e. www.psiec.punjab.gov.in only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-I

PUNJAB SMALL INDUSTRIES & EXPORT CORPORATION LTD.

(A STATE GOVT. UNDERTAKING)

18, HIMALAYA MARG, UDYOG BHAWAN, SECTOR 17-A, CHANDIGARH — 160017

PHONE: 2702301-305, FAX: 2702039, Email: psiec_chd@yahoo.co.in

Hoteliers want 5-day stay norm eased

AMBHIKA SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**'THREE DAYS ENOUGH'**

“A request has been made to the govt to curtail the five-day period to three days as tourists are reluctant to stay put at one place,”

Devinder Verma, PRESIDENT OF THE CHAIL HOTELS' ASSOCIATION

such as power and water bills and some part of staff salaries.

However, the business was far from satisfactory.

Another hotelier said some establishments along the Kalka-Shimla national highway had initiated a trial run for 15 days. However, only a few tourists were received and overall the business remained bleak.

Hoteliers from Kasauli said they were hopeful of the business picking up pace in October if the pandemic subsided.

“With popular festivities such as a music festival and

other events that attract a large number of tourists having been cancelled, we are eyeing October to do some business,” said Rocky Chimbi, vice-president of the Kasauli Residents and Hoteliers Association.

He said since interest subvention announced by the Centre would expire by the month-end, hoteliers were expecting some relaxation amid crisis.

He said staff of most hotels had shifted to other places. Whether they would return when hotels resume functioning was another cause of concern.

Six arrested for raping minor from Palampur

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PALAMPUR, AUGUST 5

The police have arrested six persons in connection with the gang-rape of a minor girl belonging to a remote village in the Sulaha constituency of Palampur.

On July 4, the girl was allegedly gang-raped and a video was made of the incident to blackmail her.

She was on her way to Nagrota Bagwan along with her friend. They were stopped by six persons in a forest. Her friend was beaten up and the girl was dragged to a nearby forest where she was raped by the accused.

The victim was scared and under trauma for a month and did not tell anyone about the incident. However, two days ago, one of the accused sent the video to his friend who made it viral on a social media platform.

Later, the victim disclosed the entire incident to her parents who immediately reported the matter to the police.

SHO, Nagrota Bagwan, Sham Lal swung into action and arrested all six accused from nearby villages within hours. The key accused and the mastermind behind the crime is a 42-year-old married man with children.

The police have also seized mobile phones and vehicles used by the犯人. The police produced the accused in the court yesterday which sent them on police remand till August 7.

The SHO said the accused had been booked under Sections 376, 341, 354, 506 and 34 of the IPC, besides various sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012.

The incident rocked the area as it is a peaceful region of the state where most people are law-abiding.

Vipan Singh Parmar, Speaker of the Assembly and MLA from Sulaha, demanded stringent punishment for the accused.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**STATE TRACKER**

Samples tested	156,104
Recovered	1,762
Active cases	1,114
Positive cases	2,916
Deaths	12

DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Una	244	-
Solan	734	-
Kangra	492	3
Chamba	136	-
Hamirpur	318	3
Sirmaur	355	1
Mandi	220	3
Bilaspur	127	-
Shimla	182	2
Kullu	39	-
Kinnar	45	-
Lahaul & Spiti	4	-
Total	2,916	12

tive. They include a 22-year-old person, a resident of Rodigudi village near Dadasiba with travel history from Mumbai.

Others who tested positive are a resident of Boh village near Shahpur with travel history from West Bengal, a Galgoi villager near Majheen, a primary contact of a Covid positive person, and an Army man with travel history from Leh.

6 from Arki positive

Eight persons, including six from Arki sub-division, tested positive in Solan district today. The six tested positive from Arki comprise two women aged 31 and 46 years and four men aged between 22 and 53.

They hail from Kauli, Tamred and Beuli villages. As per reports, a wedding from Ruggeda village in Kandaghat and Tamred village has led to this surge. Six houses have been quarantined after an elderly person, a kin of these villagers, had tested positive a few days ago.

Cloudburst in Kinnar village

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Pal Negi, was damaged, reports said. The highway

remained blocked for a few hours and the traffic was restored at 10 am today.

Intermittent rain lashed

several parts of the state

and 26 roads were blocked due to landslides. Dharamsala and Jubbarhatti received 37 mm rain while Janjehli and Dalhousie recorded 27 mm rain, followed by Kufri 26 mm,

Manali 19 mm, Shimla 18 mm, Narkanda 14 mm, Seobagh 13 mm, Swargat and Fagu 12 mm, Kothi 11 mm, Solan 10 mm and Pandoh 9 mm.

The local Met office has predicted rain and thunderstorm in mid and lower hills and rain and snow in higher hills over the next six days and issued yellow warning of heavy rain in lower and mid hills on August 9.

ROPEWAYS AND RAPID TRANSPORT SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION H.P. LIMITED (RTDC)

On behalf of Shimla Smart City Limited

Notice**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Chief General Manager, RTDC on behalf of Shimla Smart City Limited invites the online bids on EPC tender for the undermentioned work from the eligible contractors/firms.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost inclusive of GST (INR)	EMD (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender (INR)	Eligible Class of Contractors	Time for Completion
1.	Engineering, Procurement and Construction of Footover Bridges at Vikasnagar, Shimla with comprehensive operation and maintenance of Lift for 5 years.	2.10 Crore	4.20 Lakhs	10,000 + GST	Appropriate Class/Indian Railways	6 Months
2.	Engineering, Procurement and Construction of Footover Bridges at DDU, Shimla.	64.53 Lakhs	1.29 Lakhs	10,000 + GST	Appropriate Class/Indian Railways	4 Months

Availability of bid document and mode of submission: The Bid document shall be available on website <http://hptenders.gov.in> & as per key dates schedule provided as under. The interested bidders may download the Tender Document and other instructions from HP Tender website <https://hptenders.gov.in> and submit their bids online on <https://hptenders.gov.in>.

Key Dates:-

1	Date of online Publication	10.08.2020 at 5.00 P.M.
2	Downloading of e-tender	10.08.2020 at 5.00 P.M. to 31.08.2020 up to 5.00 P.M.
3	Last Date of Submission of e-tender	31.08.2020 up to 5.00 P.M.
4	Date of Opening of Technical Bids	01.09.2020 at 03.00 P.M.

Downloaded Bid Document should not be tampered and if any such tampering is detected before or after the opening of bids, his tender will be rejected/cancelled. Detailed drawings/specifications, terms and conditions can be seen in the bid document.

Sd/- (Er. Ajay Sharma),
Chief General Manager,
Ropeways & Rapid Transport System,
Development Corporation, H.P. Ltd.
US Club, Shimla-1
Email:- gmrtdchp@gmail.com
Telephone:- 0177-2811001

Dated:- 03.08.2020

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICEFOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

PRDH/82107

SR. NO. NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH

NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER

OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)

AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES

WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/AUTH

NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/E-MAIL

1. HVPNL, KARNAL. ESTABLISHMENT OF PT. DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, KUTAIL, KARNAL CLOSING DATE 24.08.2020 716.83 CR http://dmerharyana.org dgmer.haryana@gmail.com

Abrogation Bill was drafted by Jaitley, reveals his wife



A file photo of Arun Jaitley and his wife Sangeeta Jaitley.

PM HAD ENTRUSTED JOB TO HIM

Prime Minister had told Arun (Jaitley) to draft such a Bill for abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35-A that could withstand any legal scrutiny even if it is challenged in the Supreme Court.

Sangeeta Jaitley, WIFE OF LATE ARUN JAITLEY

best-known political family of Jammu — her father Girdhari Lal Dogra was the longest-serving Finance Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. She married Arun Jaitley in May 1982.

After making the revelation that her husband drafted the Bill, Sangeeta says, it was

implemented by Amit Shah in most effective manner. ‘It all happened under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi,’ she said.

Her video coincided with the first anniversary of August 5 when the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was

done away with and the state bifurcated into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

Narrating the sequence of events, Sangeeta said certain days before the Bill was to be moved, ‘I found Arun ji engrossed in reading the J&K constitution (J&K had its own constitution by virtue of Article 370) and asked him why, he being such a renowned lawyer, is reading the J&K constitution time and again. To my question, he replied Article 370 has to be abrogated’.

She disclosed that there was a meeting between the Prime Minister, Home Minister and Arun Jaitley where it was decided to abrogate Article 370 with a legally sound draft of the Bill, and that was what Arun did.

Expressing her satisfaction over the post-August 5 developments, Sangeeta said Jammu and Kashmir had found doors opened for an all-round progress. Jammu had become an educational hub. The investments had started flowing into J&K and Ladakh and the local industry had started flourishing.

Sangeeta was born into the

BJP hoists Tricolour



BJP workers hoist the Tricolour in Srinagar on Wednesday.

on Wednesday morning in South Kashmir’s Anantnag district. Her photograph went viral on social media, in Bandipora and Ganderbal districts, two BJP workers were seen waving the Tricolour in empty streets.

One video of former BJP worker Mubeena Akhtar from Gulmarg in North Kashmir counting the benefits of Article 370 abrogation also went viral. However, in another video, she tendered an ‘apology’.

Meanwhile, three workers — Subzar Ahmad Padar, Nisar Wani and Aashiq Palla from South Kashmir — announced their resignation from the BJP. Their resignations came a day after militants shot and injured a sarpanch at Qazigund in South Kashmir.

Elsewhere, BJP worker Romisa Rafiq hoisted the Tricolour in an empty street

Day to rejoice for Valmikis, Pak refugees

DINESH MANHOTRA
TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUGUST 5 Even as political parties and experts are divided over the impact of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A, the mood was festive in the localities inhabited by Valmiki Samaj and West Pakistani refugees on the first anniversary of the abrogation. They have remained victims to the two provisions of the Indian Constitution for years together.

Since morning, dwellers of the Valmiki Colony were seen busy hoisting Tricolour on rooftops of their one-room houses. Due to Covid restrictions, no big event was allowed to be organised by the authorities so a small indoor gathering of 10 persons was organised in the temple amid beating of dhol.

“August 5 is the first anniversary of our liberation from slavery. Let political parties and all self-styled Kashmiri experts discuss pros and cons of the abrogation



LADAKH CELEBRATES UT'S 1ST ANNIVERSARY

■ Leh: Ladakh celebrated its first anniversary of becoming a UT. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the celebrations were not arranged at a large scale.

■ The BJP made a small gathering at the party office, where Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal was the chief guest. On the occasion, family members of the UT martyrs were felicitated with gifts and “khataks” (scarfs).

■ Addressing a press conference in Leh, District Congress Committee, Leh, president, Tsering Namgyal congratulated the people of Ladakh on the UT’s first anniversary. oc

tion of the two articles. As far as our marginalised community is concerned it is not less than Independence Day for us”, said Guru Bhatti, leader Valmiki Samaj.

Members of this community have reason to be delighted

No curfew, but restrictions mark abrogation anniv

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 5

Strict restrictions were imposed today on the first anniversary of abrogation of Article 370 even as the authorities disallowed a meeting of mainstream parties called by former Chief Minister and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah.

Residents said the restrictions were severe as barricades were erected on various roads and bridges in the city. Due to these restrictions, Srinagar wore a deserted look, with shops shut.

“Strict curfew-like restriction was in place today and no one was allowed to move,” said Shabir Ahmed, a resident of Rawalpora.

A senior police officer said the situation remained almost normal barring a grenade-throwing incident in Shopian during which no injury was reported.

NC vice-president Omar Abdullah hit out at the BJP “hypocrisy” for not allowing



the meeting called by Farooq at his Gupkar residence.

“...The BJP gets to announce a 15-day celebration to mark Aug 5 & a handful of us aren’t allowed to meet in my father’s lawn. So much for BJP national leaders wondering why there is no political activity. One year later, the authorities are still too afraid to allow us to meet much less carry out any normal political activity. This fear speaks volumes about the true situation on the ground in Kashmir,” former CM Omar Abdullah tweeted.

The PDP observed ‘black day’. The BJP was the only party that celebrated Article 370 abrogation anniversary by hoisting the Tricolour.

other residents of J&K, their highly qualified youth were debarred from claiming any government job in the state. They were entitled only for the job of a sweeper in J&K.

Same was the mood at Swanka Morth, the office of the West Pakistani Refugees Action Committee where six workers have hoisted the national flag on the rooftop. Functions were held at various camps of West Pakistani refugees in the Tawi Island where these displaced people have been camping since 1947.

“We don’t want to indulge in debate generated by the intelligentsia and experts of Jammu and Kashmir across the world. After a long struggle of 73 years, our third generation has ultimately got the right so we have reasons to celebrate it in a big way”, Labha Ram Gandhi, leader of the refugees, said.

Meanwhile, on the occasion, domicile certificates were distributed among refugees by BJP leaders.

Shahid

Bajaj returns to football

Mother-in-law picks stake in Delhi FC

VINAYAK PADMADEO
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

Months after selling his family's stake in Minerva FC, which had been rechristened Punjab FC, Ranjit Bajaj is back managing a football club. The maverick administrator and his family have picked up a majority stake in Delhi Football Club, which is a top division club in the Capital.

"Yes our company has taken over the trust that owns Delhi FC," said Bajaj, who will be the director of the new team. "The deal is structured in a way where I am onboard as just a director... My wife's mother (Navjeet Kaur) is the one who has got the majority (90 per cent) of share and the rest 10 percent is with the previous owners," he added.

Bajaj has been linked to several clubs, including East Bengal, ever since he sold his stake in Punjab FC in April to RoundGlass.

"Hunt was on for a club which had access to a full pitch and one which could be used for seven-a-side and five-a-side teams. In Delhi you have to hire grounds on an hourly basis. This would have been a big drawback for a professional residential academy," Bajaj said. "So we were able to find this club, which has a lease for another six years on a full side ground. It is a win-win situation."

BRIEFLY

DUBAI

ODI rankings: Kohli, Rohit hold on to top batting spots

India captain Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma retained the top two positions in the ODI rankings for batsmen, while pacer Jasprit Bumrah held on to the No. 2 spot among bowlers.

NEW YORK

NBA roundup: Doncic, Mavs nip Kings in OT

Luka Doncic capped a 34-point,

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG "TENDER NOTICE"

E.E., Tubewell Division, Gagret Jal Shakti Vibhag
Telephone No.: 01976-241358
E-mail: tdf940@gmail.com

The Executive Engineer, Tubewell Division, Gagret invites offline tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works:

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earhest Money	Cost of Tender	Time
1.	Drilling lowering and development of Tubewell at Jal Jawean Mission (WSS) Nakroh in Tehsil Ghani, Distt. Una (HP) (SH). Supply and lowering of IS marked ERW MS Blank pipe 300mm dia plain ended 8mm thick, 20mm dia plain ended 6.4mm thick pipe & M.S. slotted pipe 300 dia (8mm thick)	Rs. 4,35,536/-	Rs. 8,711/-	Rs. 250/-	15 days

- Last date of physical submission of Earnest Money deposit and cost of tender documents etc on 21.08.2020 up to 05:00 P.M.
- Last date of submission of tender up to 21.08.2020 at 05:00 P.M. and the same will be opened on 22.08.2020 at 11:30 A.M.

-HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK- DPR/HP/2055

INDIRA GANDHI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL, SHIMLA

ROGI KALYAN SAMITI, IGMC, SHIMLA, HIMACHAL PRADESH
Office: Shimla-171001, India

Phone: 0177-2883221 , Fax: 0177-2658845

Website: <https://www.igmcshimla.edu.in>, Email: msigmc-shi-hp@gov.in
No. HFW(MS-IG)(S-4)/1/2019-(RBSK)- Dated :

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-tenders are invited for purchase of various equipments to department of Paediatrics, IGMC & Hospital, Shimla. The detailed tender document can be viewed and downloaded from website: <https://htptenders.gov.in>, from 04.08.2020 to 27.08.2020 up to 10.30 AM. The Last date and time for submission & uploading of filled in tender documents is 27.08.2020 upto 10.30 AM. The Tender will be opened on 27.08.2020 at 11.00 AM. All subsequent corrigendum, modifications and clarifications in respect of this tender will be published only on aforesaid websites only. The bidders are advised to visit the aforesaid websites regularly. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tender offers without assigning any reason.

Sr. M.S.-Cum-Member
Secretary, RKS
IGMC & HOSPITAL, SHIMLA.

DPR/HP/2071

INDIRA GANDHI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL, SHIMLA

ROGI KALYAN SAMITI, IGMC, SHIMLA, HIMACHAL PRADESH

Office: Shimla-171001, India

Phone: 0177-2883221 , Fax: 0177-2658845

Website: <https://www.igmcshimla.edu.in>, Email: msigmc-shi-hp@gov.in
No. HFW(MS-IG)(S-4)/1/2019-(RBSK)- Dated :

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-tenders are invited for purchase of Echocardiography Machine, Elisa Plate Reader and Hearing Aid Machine to Cardiology, Microbiology and ENT departments IGMC & Hospital, Shimla. The detailed tender document can be viewed and downloaded from website: <https://htptenders.gov.in>, from 04.08.2020 to 27.08.2020 up to 10.30 AM. The Last date and time for submission & uploading of filled in tender documents is 27.08.2020 upto 10.30 AM. The Tender will be opened on 27.08.2020 at 11.00 AM. All subsequent corrigendum, modifications and clarifications in respect of this tender will be published only on aforesaid websites only. The bidders are advised to visit the aforesaid websites regularly. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tender offers without assigning any reason.

Sr. M.S.-Cum-Member
Secretary, RKS
IGMC & HOSPITAL, SHIMLA.

DPR/HP/2070 JuneIndia.com

Nadal out of US Open race

Spaniard, one short of Federer's record Major mark, pulls out due to Covid

NEW YORK, AUGUST 5
Rafa Nadal's decision to skip the US Open because of health concerns has added another twist to the intriguing three-way battle for the most career men's Grand Slam titles and, in many eyes, the title of Greatest Of All Time (GOAT).

Had the 34-year-old Spaniard managed to retain the title he won in a five-set thriller against Daniil Medvedev last year, he would have joined Roger Federer at the top of the list with 20 titles. Instead, his decision has cleared the path for 33-year-old Novak Djokovic to edge to within one of Nadal's Grand Slam tally with a fourth title at Flushing Meadows and 18 in total.

If it might seem unfair to gloss over the chances of the other 127 men in the US Open main draw, it must be remembered that Federer,



"The situation is very complicated worldwide, the Covid-19 cases are increasing, it looks like we still don't have control of it. I am not that arrogant to say that the tournament is not big enough because I'm not playing. Of course, it will be a tournament under special circumstances but still a Grand Slam, and the winner will feel like a Grand Slam winner." — Rafa Nadal

Nadal and Djokovic have shared the last 13 Grand Slam titles between them.

Only Djokovic of the Big Three will be present in New York later this month, with Federer, who turns 39 on Saturday, electing to undergo double knee surgery that will sideline him for the rest of 2020. Not since the last century — the 1999 US Open — have both Federer and Nadal been absent from the main

draw at a Grand Slam.

Nadal's decision to skip the US Open was perhaps made easier by the proximity of the postponed French Open at the end of September.

Swiss Stan Wawrinka, the last player outside the Big Three to win a Grand Slam, too will be absent from New York.

'Proper Grand Slam'

Nadal believes this year's US

**Martic advances, Vondrousova ousted**

The top seeds at the Palermo Ladies Open had a day of mixed fortunes as Croatia's Petra Martic advanced in straight sets, while second seed Marketa Vondrousova was ousted by Slovenian qualifier Kaja Juvan in the first round. Martic beat rusty Belgian Alison Van Uytvanck 6-0 6-3. In the other half of the draw, Juvan came from behind to beat the Czech Republic's Vondrousova 1-6 7-5 6-4 to notch up the biggest win of the teenager's career. The 19-year-old Juvan will next face Camila Giorgi, who became the fourth Italian to progress to the second round after beating Rebecca Peterson 7-5 6-4. Martic will next face Russian qualifier Ludmilla Samsonova, who beat Kirsten Flipkens 6-4 6-2. Fifth seed Elise Mertens lost 6-4 6-1 to Belarusian qualifier Aliaksandra Sasnovich. AGENCIES

◀◀ Camila Giorgi beat Rebecca Peterson. PHOTO COURTESY: WTA

Open champion will still feel like a Grand Slam winner despite the tournament losing some glamour due to the withdrawal of top players.

Last week, women's world No. 1 Ash Barty had pulled out of the Grand Slam, which starts on August 31.

"The tournament is still big, it's a Grand Slam," Nadal told reporters during a video conference from Spain.

Nadal in main draw

Sumit Nagal is set to compete in his second Grand Slam main draw after receiving a direct entry into the US Open. The world No. 127 will be making his second appearance at the US Open. He is the only Indian in the men's field, with No. 132 Prajneesh Gunneswaran missing out.

"It feels good to make a main draw of a Slam again," Nagal said. — Agencies

draw at a Grand Slam.

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Swiss Stan Wawrinka, the last player outside the Big Three to win a Grand Slam, too will be absent from New York.

'Proper Grand Slam'

Nadal believes this year's US

Babar starts with a flourish as hosts falter

ENG VS PAK 1ST TEST

MANCHESTER, AUGUST 5

Babar Azam struck a fluent unbeaten half-century as Pakistan moved to 121/2 at tea following a session cut short by rain on Day 1 of the first Test against England at a gloomy Old Trafford here today.

The tournament is still big, it's a Grand Slam," Nadal told reporters during a video conference from Spain.

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'Proper Grand Slam'

Nadal believes this year's US

Ireland chase 329; 2nd ODI win vs England



Ireland's Paul Stirling struck 142 off 128 balls and added 214 runs with Andy Balbirnie (113). PHOTO COURTESY: CRICKET IRELAND

SOUTHAMPTON, AUGUST 5

Paul Stirling and Andrew Balbirnie starred as Ireland claimed only their second win over England after overcoming the world champions in the final over. Set a target of 329 — the same score they finished on to beat England at the 2011 World Cup — the Irish laid the foundations with a 214-run stand between Stirling and captain Balbirnie in the final match of the series yesterday. England

won the series 2-1.

Stirling was run out for 142 while Balbirnie holed out for 113 with 50 still required from 33 deliveries, but Kevin O'Brien — the hero of Bengaluru — fittingly got them over the line from the penultimate ball with seven wickets to spare under lights.

England had stuttered to 44/3 but captain Eoin Morgan's 106 from 84 balls was the cornerstone of 328 all out. — AP

BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES SADIQ ROAD, FARIDKOT (PUNJAB) - 151203 Ph.: 01639 - 256232, 256236 RECRUITMENT NOTICE BUFO-08/20/20

Online applications are invited w.e.f 10/08/20 to 31/08/20 from eligible candidates through University website i.e. www.bfuhs.ac.in for the recruitment of 200 posts of Multipurpose Health Worker (Male) under Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Punjab. For details/ Updates/ eligibility/ No. of Posts/ terms & conditions visit University website.

REGISTRAR

GOVT. OF PUNJAB DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE ONE TIME AMNESTY SCHEME FOR REGULARIZATION OF BOILERS BEING OPERATED WITHOUT REGISTRATION/RENEWAL

This is in continuation to the public notice published in The Tribune, the Punjab Kesari, the Jag Bani and the Yug Marg on 13.6.2020 vide which boiler users were asked to submit their online request, for boiler regularization, by 31.7.2020. The last date for submitting online request, for boiler regularization under One-time Amnesty Scheme is now extended to 31.8.2020.

DPR/Pb/59829 Sd/- DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE, PUNJAB.

HIMACHAL PRADESH FOREST DEPARTMENT

Tender Notice e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Tender Reference No: 11/2020-21

1. The Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Division, Hamirpur (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 and contractors registered with HPWPW/CPWD.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost as per HPSR-2009	Earliest Money	Cost of Tender	Time Allowed
1	Construction of Septic Tank for Huts at Tenting Sites at Sukhna in Wildlife Range Nagrota Surian, Distt. Kangra under WL Division Hamirpur during 2020-21	369383/-	7500/-	500/-	2 Months

2. 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://htp.tenders.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:

Sr. No.	Activity	Date and Time

