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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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REFLECTIONS

Electoral battle & virus toll

MUSINGS & MALEDICTIONS
KEKI DARUWALA

The virus has beaten us all and there has never been a worse time for the country.

Meanwhile, the Bengal election will have long-term effects on the polity which in a matter of seven years is no longer a fight between two parties, one tired and one passionate, with a wrong reading of history. Mamata Banerjee is in the chair, all the bluster from the opposing throats has ended in fluff.

At the moment it is hard to point out victors or the vanquished in our land. The virus has beaten us all. There has never been a worse time for the country. Kurukshetra and its 18-day war, and the three battles of Panipat, and centuries later to our retreat in 1962 would be no match to what has been witnessed in the oxygen-devoid hospitals in our country. Our *mahanari* in history put together could hardly match the current ravages, virus plus electoral meetings, put on by Delhi, and the destruction of the Central Vista to follow.

But willy-nilly electoral battles are fought on the ground. Hence I was quite disappointed to find analysts like the once Prasar Bharati chairman shifting the scene to some mythical war in the skies — *Durga Ma versus Jai Sri Ram*. For too long has Hindu iconography dominated Indian thought, and even, by extension, Indian politics. Forget your legends, demons, demon slayers, Mahishasur Mardini. Get back to real struggles on the ground, and fight for the have-nots, the riceless poor. That's what Mamata Banerjee did — stay on the land, campaign, withstand the bullying. All bullying gets an element of untruth mixed in it, often unknowingly. Expose it. Watch the air armadas descend from Delhi, surfeited with well-fed denizens from the Hindi heartland, Gujarat, watch the Bishts from Pauri Garhwal — lately transferred to Gorakhpur — sport their ochre and grimace at this lone woman. Incidentally, is the Delhi party paying for all the air traffic they are taking part in? The money needs to come from party coffers, not government treasuries. (For the BJP, that would mean NRIs.)



Mamata Banerjee's TMC beat the BJP on economic, social & communal issues. PTI

And she was vilified. Madam, you'll be on the road, come May 2. There will be no Didi. She is in the chair, all the bluster from the opposing throats has ended in fluff. The BJP had all the odds in their favour. They had the backing of the Centre, the most partisan of Election Commissions we have had the misfortune of seeing. They had money power, were coming down a winning streak. And they had a fairly thriving communal agenda which had seen them through. But they got beaten on economic issues, social and communal issues. There was not an idea they could add to the old wornout 'minority appeasement' argument of LK Advani, who has to bear a lot of blame for all the riots that have befallen on this land of ours. The Hindi heartland was looking for a beating in the East, and it got it true and proper.

Their tactics were all wrong. They got it wrong in the insider-outsider (*Bohiragoto*) streetfight. They got it wrong with turncoats. Any rickshaw-puller could have told them that turncoats are not to be trusted.

Many of them had tainted records which had brought disrepute to the TMC itself. According to press reports, 148 tickets were given to such people and only six of them won their seats. That should be a record of sorts. Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh blamed 'campaign policies' for the debacle.

The TMC had worked hard, driven by their leader. The manifesto promised five lakh jobs a year. Even if this sounded overblown, the intent was there. And the farmer's income had been raised almost three times. Poverty had been reduced by 40 per cent. Yes, much of this is blown, but something of this drive remained on the ground. There was free door-to-door ration delivery, which won grudging acceptance from the hard-bitten saffronites. The poor loudly claimed that they got rice during the lockdown 'when we had no money'. The poor don't forget, and a hungry stomach has a good memory. And no one needs to teach us gratitude. It comes naturally to us.

Lastly, there were two schemes for women — the Kanyashree, the cash transfers to the girl child, and the Rupashree, a financial grant of ₹25,000 at the time of the adult daughter's wedding. Did the Congress even think of such schemes? There lies the difference between the two. The Congress needs to recognise that their three are no match for the 20-odd intellectuals and old workers on the other side. The three have to let go of the reins. You can't hold on to them forever, on the strength of genealogy and dynasty.

These elections have long-term effects on the polity, which in a matter of seven years is no longer a fight between two parties, two ideological arms, one passionate, one tired, willing to let go, unsure even whether it wants to hold on to; one a passionate party with a wrong reading of history and the supposed wrongs it has heaped on it. Ideology cannot be sorted out easily, especially if it is tied to history, the invader from the North armed with his iconoclasm, carrying away the loot and also ruling over the people. There are also the language and cultural spikes, invasions, the Hindutva knock on the secular door. The South stands vulnerable, land to graze your cowherds. To borrow a syndrome from Pakistan, it is the Zia-ul-Haq freedom, he could do what he liked with Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

One has only to contrast the scenes — the end of the UPA-II, where Sonia Gandhi seemed to have wrested all powers, saddled with files she did not know what to do with, and a somnolent Manmohan Singh in the background. And watch the second coming of Modi, the bravado, Kashmir, CAA, and the chipping and chopping of the polity.

Looking for a way forward

GUEST COLUMN
NEELAM MANSINGH CHOWDHRY

"In the dark times
Will there also be singing?
Yes, there will also be
singing.
About the dark times."

— Bertolt Brecht

ing tragedy. It permeates into one's being and becomes the lens through which reality is reassembled and reviewed.

During these hard times, I made a play called 'Black Box'. The crumbling of the edifice of belief and faith become the all-encompassing emotion, and I found resonance in the words of Charles Dickens' 'A Tale of Two Cities'.

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair. We had everything before us, we had nothing before us."

As an artist, we respond to the times, not always as a chronicler of the times, but as a witness. While making the work, the fear of the virus was all-pervasive, the loneliness of being 'home alone', the desperation to reach out, to speak, to connect, were manifest during the process of working.

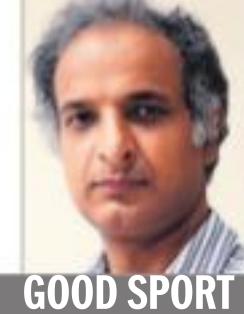
Images of people going home, trudging along highways and on railway tracks with a trunk on their back, homeless migrants, transportation shut down, everything immobilised — mobility too is immobile — clung to my consciousness with the protagonist of the play repeating constantly: "I can't go, can't reach."

A solo performance without text can be tough. Words, numbers and dates became the text, and the running leitmotif of the play. Numbers created conversations that ranged from anger to wonderment, humour, loss, helplessness and disgust. A language of numbers was created. Simple dialogues like 'Let's go for a walk', 'Hello, is anyone there?' were played and replayed. But within that hopelessness, the actor created affirmations and set up a stage.

What else can an actor do but tell stories? Sing songs of kings and courtiers, of deals within deals, anything and everything that is required to keep the imagination and sanity intact and alive. His audience is the dog and the sparrow.

I realised that today, rather than pick up a big thick book to read, I gravitate towards a poem. Short stories have taken precedence over novels. I am unsure if the deadly virus will give me a tomorrow to finish that book, see the series on Netflix, or watch my lemon tree flower. I also understood that no matter how savage the times may be, we must sing and dance, write and share the poem that will keep us 'alive' and become the catalyst to move forward. Even if that forward is an empty road.

Cometh the hour, Cummins the man

GOOD SPORT
ROHIT MAHAJAN

UNTIL Pat Cummins showed the way, it was difficult to figure out the rights and wrongs of organising the IPL in the times of Covid, in cities whose citizens were dying for want of oxygen and whose playing fields were turned into cremation grounds for want of room at crematoriums.

Making money for those who already are super-rich is the IPL's *rason d'etre*; it, too, serves as a plaything of the rich and the famous. The money, directly or indirectly, comes from fans of cricket, who buy stuff that the players peddle. This is business, and it's OK — but it was beginning to appear sordid in these terrible times.

Cummins, who turns 27 today, provided the IPL an alternate vision — of sharing rather than merely taking. On April 26, he donated \$50,000 for procuring oxygen for India's hospitals. The idea caught on — several other individuals followed in his footsteps, including Sachin Tendulkar and Shikhar Dhawan, and IPL teams followed suit.

Cummins said that halting the IPL due to the pandemic was not the answer — he was right, of course, for the tournament does provide employment to thousands of people, including cricketers, coaches, support staff, catering staff, hospitality and security industry, bio-bubble creators, etc. By starting a trickle of funds for Covid relief, Cummins ennobled the IPL — surely a first in its history of 13 years.

Cricket seems frivolous right



Pat Cummins' gesture stirred the soul of IPL and many followed in his footsteps. PTI

now, as do so many other things that we deem important in 'normal' times. Yet cricket for charity is a noble idea; just as the Concert for Bangladesh in August 1971, in very sad and bloody times, was a noble idea; as the Live Aid Concert in 1985, which raised \$127 million for famine-stricken Africa, was a noble idea. Cricket too has done its bit in the past, as in January 2005, when matches were organised under the World Cricket Tsunami Appeal to raise funds for those affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004. Then, for the sake of subcontinental solidarity, in 1996 a combined team of India and Pakistan played Sri Lanka in Colombo, to show that the country was safe for cricket.

Moral compass
Cummins provided a moral compass to the IPL, and several players and teams saw light.

Why did it take an Australian —

who never peddled religion or

nationalism — to stir the IPL's

soul? It's a very difficult question.

It's not that Indians don't do charity; but it's obvious that we're

inured to suffering.

For long, visitors to the country have wondered at the Indian people's equanimity — the ability to deal with terrible misfortunes and just carry on. I'm reminded of a story from the December 1999 hijacking by terrorists of an Indian Airlines airplane to Kandahar. One of the passengers in the plane was a

billionaire from Italy — Roberto

Calvi.

Giori, aka the Currency King, who had a near monopoly on the world's currency printing business.

Giori was amazed by the calmness of Indian passengers on the plane — some of them played *antakshari*, sang songs, and birthdays were celebrated during the eight-day ordeal.

Giori said later: "What I experienced on the plane has changed me forever... I don't know what it is: Hinduism, the so-called fatalism of Indians. But the way the passengers stayed so calm throughout, even the children, was exemplary."

Not caring too much for one's life, or the lives of others — is that good? The West, most of which believes in Nietzsche's words that "God is dead", puts greater emphasis on the life we know than the hereafter that's unseen and unproven. Maybe that's not a bad thing, after all.

Covid-19 shutdown

It's terrible that the IPL's bio-bubble was pierced by Covid-19 just when Cummins had given a good answer to the increasingly insistent question: why must the IPL be played during these terrible times?

The shutdown has caused embarrassment to the Indian cricket board. Its fabled money, or political connections, couldn't provide immunity from Covid. The rich and beautiful are hiding their faces. Religious places are shut. The best hope is provided by science and scientists and doctors. There is a lesson in this for us.

Death all around, but seize fundamental right to be well



We are living in the season of our greatest despair, but this is also a time that has shaken us out of our helplessness.

KEEP your heart in a box for now. Protect it from shattering every day," I wrote to a friend this week. A journalist on the frontline of reporting and analysing news, he has been struck by Covid-19 himself and is gearing up to return to work.

"I don't know what to do," he replied. "Where do I start from?"

"When you are in front of the camera again, the words will come on their own. Grief shows us the way."

In my head I continued this conversation as I returned to my own rhythm of recovering from Covid-19 at home. Grief debilitates us but it also illuminates the path ahead, inspiring us to find purpose in our loss. Grief offers the burst of energy to smash through seemingly immovable barriers. Disease brings a temporary loss of agency, but it also reminds us of the privi-

lege of being well and our responsibility to be useful when we are strong.

While the systems have always been dysfunctional and are now being exposed as apathetic and criminal as well, the shock of witnessing large-scale devastation during this second wave of Covid-19 in India offers us a chance to evaluate our own willing participation in a world order that has always excluded the poor, the underprivileged and minority communities. Many of us are experiencing the helplessness of loss of privilege for the first time. Our loved ones are sick, but we cannot be by their side physically. We may have health insurance and be able to afford medical interventions, but our country's lack of preparedness has left us gasping for breath.

Doctors and analysts remind us that during this second wave, the bigger killer is not the virus, it is lack of basic healthcare facilities — the most glaring among them being access to medical oxygen. The record-breaking infection rates and mass deaths in India have been triggered by super-spreader events like election rallies, the Kumbh mela and other gatherings like weddings and pilgrimages.

The best news that we can get amidst this avoidable tragedy is that civil society has stepped up across the nation in solidarity with each other. Gurdwaras, mosques and churches have been converted into makeshift medical centres. Social media platforms have become the communication channel that people in crisis and volunteers are using to create support networks and exchange life-saving information about hospital beds and oxygen availability. Civil society groups are coordinating efforts to create the medical infrastructure that the working poor in

urban and rural areas can access. Ambulances, oxygen concentrators and oxygen kits are being acquired by citizens and distributed to those in desperate need.

The worrying news is that experts predict that a third wave may be even deadlier than the first two. What are the abiding lessons we must take forward from here?

We need to keep pressuring our government, both at the local and national level, to wake up from their callous apathy and ramp up facilities equitably. We also need to stay alert and participatory as citizens of any working democracy must. We cannot afford to let our guard slip again. We must subvert attempts to distract us from real issues of governance with communal and divisive messaging.

We are living in the season of our greatest despair, but this is also a time that has shaken us out of our helplessness. We have the

right to be angry. We also have the right to be happy, to protect and nurture ourselves. One does not cancel out the other. Despite being oppressed by death, fear, helplessness and lies, we must seize the fundamental right to be well.

To be kind and patient with each other. To come together again as communities of support. To enjoy moments and laugh out loud. Still recovering from my own bout of Covid-19, I had worried that I may not be able to submit this column. A voice from within reminded me that I must show up, despite the fatigue, the aching body and a general sense of disrepair. In a crisis, we learn to compartmentalise. We owe it to each other to speak up with clarity. To remind, to reassure, to recover. To live to fight another day.

The writer is a filmmaker and author: natasha.badhwar@gmail.com

43 ARRESTS, 12 FIRS FOR VIOLATION OF COVID GUIDELINES J&K/LADAKH

THE ETERNAL BOND SPECTRUM

DIPLOMATS TESTING +VE WAS FALSE ALARM: JAISHANKAR BACK PAGE

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SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2021

Regulator nod to DRDO's Covid drug; trials show fast recovery, less O2 need

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted emergency use approval to DRDO-developed oral drug to treat Covid, the Ministry of Defence said today.

The drug, 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG), has been cleared for adjunct therapy in moderate to severe patients. A generic molecule and analogue of glucose, it can be easily produced and made available in plenty in the country.

The drug has been developed by DRDO's Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Hyderabad. It comes in powder form and is taken orally by dissolving it in water. The drug accumulates in virus-infected cells and prevents virus growth by stopping viral synthesis and energy production.

Clinical trial results have shown that this molecule helps in faster recovery of hos-

4.01 LAKH FRESH CASES
TOTAL DEATHS 2,38,270 ACTIVE CASES 37,23,446
4,187 DEATHS IN 24 HOURS

HOW IT WORKS

- The drug comes in powder form and is taken orally by dissolving it in water
- It accumulates in virus-infected cells and prevents virus growth
- It stops viral synthesis and energy production; ensures faster recovery

COVID HOSPITALS CAN ACCEPT OVER ₹2L CASH

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued an order to allow hospitals and nursing homes treating Covid patients to accept over ₹2 lakh in cash. The provision will be effective from April 1 to May 31, 2021. TNS

pitalised patients and reduces supplementary oxygen dependence. "Higher proportion of patients treated with 2-DG showed RT-PCR negative conversion in patients," the MoD said. It was found



A resident doctor in PPE kit with a newborn baby in an isolation ward at a Mumbai hospital. PTI

COMPANY-WISE REMDESIVIR SUPPLY PLAN

The Centre on Friday issued a company-wise supply plan of Remdesivir for states/UTs up to May 16. The plan has been prepared in consultation with various marketing companies.

CONGRESS FOR NATIONWIDE LOCKDOWN

The Congress on Saturday accused the Centre of abject failure in protecting the lives of people and urged a nationwide lockdown. Rahul Gandhi hit out at the PM for 'not utilising the vax budget'. TNS

that 42 per cent patients, who were administered two sachets of the drug daily, were off oxygen support by the third day. The medicine has been found effective even in patients above 65 years of age.

In April last year, DRDO scientists conducted experiments with the help of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, and found that this molecule worked effectively against SARS-CoV-2 virus. Based on these results, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) permitted Phase II trials in May-October and the drug was found to be safe and effective.

Covid report not must for hospital admission

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

A Covid-positive report will no longer be mandatory for those seeking admission to hospitals. In revised guidelines, the Health Ministry today directed states to ensure all patients with Covid-like symptoms are admitted to health centres

and given access to oxygen and drugs. The development comes at a time when Covid testing has reduced and reports delayed due to drastic load on the system.

As per the new hospital admission policy notified today, suspected Covid cases shall be admitted to the suspect ward of the Covid care centre or hospital concerned.

No patient to be refused access to health services on any count

REVISED NORMS

- Medication such as oxygen and essential drugs to be given to all
- States told to ensure beds are occupied only by those in need

No patient will be refused access to health services on any count, it said. Medication such as oxygen and essential drugs will have to be given to all even if the patient belongs to a different city.

Admission to hospital must be based on need. It should be ensured that beds are not occupied by persons who do not require hospitalisation.

It said even before the second wave began in early

Virus moving to tier 2 & 3 cities, ramp up infra: Experts

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

India's disease surveillance experts on Saturday said the Covid-19 pandemic was fast moving into tier 2 and 3 cities and there was an urgent need to ramp up health infrastructure in these areas.

Briefing the 25th meeting of the group of ministers (GoM) today as India's daily deaths crossed 4,000 to reach a record 4,187 and daily cases breached 4 lakh (4,01,078) mark for the third straight day, SK Singh, Director, National Centre for Disease Control, said, "There is a need to significantly ramp up testing and hospital infrastructure in tier-2, 3 cities in view of the surge in cases."

The GoM was told 20 districts were currently holding India's bulk of active cases. These are Gurugram, Bengaluru (Urban), Ganjam, Pune, Delhi, Nagpur, Mumbai, Ernakulam, Lucknow, Kozhikode (Calicut), Thane, Nashik, Malappuram, Thrissur, Jaipur, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Chandrapur, Kolkata and Palakkad.

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan urged people not to skip the second vaccine dose and asked states to set aside 70 pc vaccines for the second dose. He said 1.34 per cent of active cases (37,23,446) were in the ICU, 0.39 per cent on the ventilator and 3.70 per cent on oxygen support. He said 180 districts had no fresh cases in the past seven days.

20 districts, including Gurugram, hold India's bulk active cases

7-DAY GROWTH RATE

Karnataka	3.05%
Rajasthan	2.99%
Uttar Pradesh	2.44%
Gujarat	2.40%
Kerala	2.35%
Madhya Pradesh	2.24%
West Bengal	2.19%
Chhattisgarh	2.06%
Delhi	1.92%
Andhra Pradesh	1.90%



FARMERS PROTEST: Union members in Sangrur protest against weekend lockdown. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Drone vax delivery trial run by May-end

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

Days after the ICMR conducted a feasibility study for drone delivery of Covid-19 vaccines, the government on Saturday announced plans to conduct a trial run in Telangana by this month-end. Conditional exemption for experimental drone flights has been approved to expand vaccine delivery.

THE OBJECTIVES

- Faster vaccine delivery and improved healthcare access
- Ensuring primary healthcare delivery on citizen's doorstep
- Limiting human exposure to Covid-congested/prone areas
- Ensuring healthcare access to residents in remote areas
- Improving the medical supply chain by transporting millions of doses across the country

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation have given exemption to Telangana for conducting experimental Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) drone flights for delivery of vaccines. This exemption shall be subject to complete adherence to the conditions and the directions and exemptions issued by the ministry.

No help coming, Bhiwani village forms self-help group

DEEPMENDER DESWALI

Tribune News Service

BHIWANI, MAY 8

With the district health authorities unable to provide much help, residents of Barwa village have taken upon themselves to devise a mechanism for the timely treatment of those showing Covid-like symptoms, enlisting the services of registered medical practitioners (RMPs). — PTI

VIRUS SPREADING FAST

VILLAGE	DEATHS	DAYS
Mundhal Khurd, Bhiwani	25	7
Shahpur, Hisar	18	10
Khanda Kheri, Hisar	11	6
Garhi, Hisar	9	6
Sisai, Hisar	25	30
Talwandi Rana, Hisar	10	6

200 members of 'Corona Sahayata Samiti' ensure O2 refills, medicines for the ill



BARWA VILLAGERS PAINT SLOGANS ON A WALL

The villagers claim there has been no RT-PCR testing and contact tracing by the authorities so far. Jolted by the demise of panchayat member Hawa Singh (40) on April 30, who could not get the requisite medical aid, the villagers decided to form "Corona Sahayata Samiti" comprising over 200 members. Dharmpal, a member of the samiti, continued on page 9



'Release prisoners granted bail last year'

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

The apex court has ordered immediate release of all prisoners who were granted bail or parole last year to save inmates from contracting Covid.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana said the prisoners released on bail in March last year by high-powered committees (HPCs) of states and UTs should be granted the same relief without reconsideration by the HPCs.

"Those inmates who were granted parole, pursuant to our earlier orders, should be again granted parole for a period of 90 days in order to tide over the pandemic," the top court said. — TNS

SC sets up national task force to streamline O2 allocation

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

Amid wrangling over oxygen supply to hospitals, the Supreme Court has set up a 12-member national task force (NTF) to streamline allocation of the life-saving gas to various states/union territories.

Consisting of top medical experts, the NTF will formulate a methodology for allocation of oxygen and to facilitate a public health response to the pandemic that has seen a sudden spike in number of infections in its second wave across the country.

Asking the NTF to "comence work immediately" taking up the pressing issue of determining the modalities



ties for oxygen expeditiously within a week, the Bench said it shall submit its recommendations from time to time. The tenure of the task force should be six months initially, it said.

The court made 12-point term of reference which included assessing and making

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Provide responsible leadership, own up mistakes, Lancet tells Modi govt

Tribune News Service

GLOBAL MEDICAL JOURNAL'S OBSERVATIONS

- Government's attempts to stifle criticism inexcusable
- Even before the 2nd wave, govt declared it was Covid 'endgame'
- Its actions falsely suggested that India had reached herd immunity
- Despite warnings, it allowed huge political rallies, events

CITING INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH METRICS AND EVALUATION, SAYS INDIA'S DEATH TOLL MAY TOUCH 1 MN BY AUGUST 1

March, Indian Health Minister Harsh Vardhan declared that the country was in the "endgame" of the pandemic.

"The impression given was that India had beaten Covid after months of low case count, despite warnings of the second wave danger and emergence of new strains. Modelling suggested falsely

that India had reached herd immunity. At times, the Modi government seemed more intent on removing criticism on Twitter than trying to control the pandemic," the editorial dedicated to India said. It took note of how the Modi government allowed religious festivals

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In Himachal, no public transport from May 10

Tribune News Service

PASSENGERS ASKED TO RE-REGISTER

Following reports of 'fake' entries on Covid e-pass portals, many air passengers from Delhi and Chandigarh were stopped at the Gaggal airport on Saturday and asked to register themselves, resulting in a commotion. — TNS

ESSENTIAL ITEM SHOPS TO OPEN FOR ONLY 3 HRS

655 CHALLANS ISSUED ON DAY 1 OF CURFEW



FARMERS PROTEST: Union members in Sangrur protest against weekend lockdown. TRIBUNE PHOTO

In Himachal, no public transport from May 10

SHIMLA, MAY 8

With Himachal Pradesh registering the highest-ever 5,424 positive cases on Saturday, the government has decided to suspend public transport from May 10. Private vehicles will be allowed only for emergency services. Also, shops selling essential items will be permitted to open for just three hours.

The decision was taking at a Cabinet meeting headed by Chief Minister Jai Ram

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Patient load up threefold, state gasps for oxygen

Urges Centre for immediate resolution of logistical issues in lifting allocated stock from Bokaro

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, MAY 8

As the number of patients requiring oxygen has increased three times in the past 15 days, the government has urged the Centre to remove hitches in the smooth supply of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) to the state.

The patient load in the state has risen almost three times from 2,994 on April 21 to 10,151 on May 7. "The oxygen consumption in the state has increased manifold. On April 30, oxygen consumption was 203.8 MT whereas it was 250.6 MT on May 7," said Ajay Sharma who is heading state's Oxygen Control Room.

After the state government had flagged the



A Covid patient on oxygen support at a private hospital in Jalandhar. FILE PHOTO

issue of oxygen supply, the Union Government had enhanced the allocation for Punjab to 195 MT

on April 30. Of this, 15 MT was from Roorkee, 10 MT from Linde, Dehradun, 20 MT from Panipat, 60 MT

from Inox, Barotiwala, and 90 MT from Bokaro. After including the internal allocation of 32 MT,

THE DEMAND

203.8 MT

April 30

250.6 MT

May 7

SUPPLY FROM

- 15 MT Roorkee
- 10 MT Dehradun
- 20 MT Panipat
- 60 MT Barotiwala
- 90 MT Bokaro
- 32 MT Internal sources



arranged 21 tankers for lifting and distributing oxygen, but the total requirement is at least 36 tankers while the availability is only 20. "We have requested the Centre to enhance the number of tankers for the state," said Sharma.

The state government has urged the Centre for immediate resolution of the logistical issues for lifting the allocated stock from Bokaro and backlog from the plants in adjacent states, said Sharma.

Getting the supply from Bokaro is also posing a challenge. Punjab was able to send only two tankers to Bokaro daily from April 27 till May 2.

The Punjab Government had on its own the total quota for the state till date is 227 MT. The Punjab Government could be airlifted due to technical reasons.



installed at appropriate place in the hospital complex."

"Besides, all medical college hospitals should also have a dedicated pressure swing adsorption or vacuum swing adsorption technology produced oxygen supply in addition to piped oxygen supply, which is to be installed and made operational within six months, notwithstanding the requirement of the Department of Emergency Medicine, mandated from 2022 onwards," reads the notification, issued by Aruna V AAanike, president, Under Graduate Medical Education Board, NMC.—TNS

Ex-CMO booked for flouting patient admission norms

Tribune News Service



media that the hospital had more Covid patients than permitted by rules.

On Friday, the Gidderbaha police registered a case against Dr Singh under Sections 188, 269, 336 of the IPC, Section 54 of the Disaster Management Act and Section 3 of the Epidemic Diseases Act.

Sources said the doctor was not arrested as some patients were still admitted to the hospital.

Gidderbaha SDM Om Parkash had told the

Revert status of cancer centre: Harsimrat to CM

Tribune News Service

BATHINDA, MAY 8

Former Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal today said closing down the Advanced Cancer and Diagnostic Centre here to convert it into a Covid centre would amount to playing with the lives of cancer patients.

She advised Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh to review the decision and use other available facilities, including the AIIMS hospital here, for dedicated Covid care.

Harsimrat, who even wrote to the CM on the issue, said the advanced cancer centre here was the last hope for cancer patients of the Malwa belt who could not travel to the cancer hospital at Acharya Tulsi Cancer Institute in Bikaner due to the Covid pandemic.

She said the Baba Farid University hospital had also been turned into a dedicated Covid centre leaving the advanced cancer institute here as the only resort for cancer patients. She said as many as 150 to 200 patients availed of radiotherapy at the cancer centre here daily and that there was a two-and-a-half month waiting period to avail radiotherapy treatment.

Tepid response to farmers' protest across state

LOCKDOWN Traders adhere to weekend curbs | Cops force closure of shops in some parts



Farmers protest in Patiala on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: RAJESH SACHAR

raging pandemic, we decided not to open shops. We do not want to risk people's lives."

While farm unions, including the BKU Ekta Ugrahan, BKU Sidhpur, BKU Lakhow-

al, BKU Dakonda and Punjab Kisan Union among others, carried out rallies and protest marches in city areas and different blocks of Bathinda and Mansa, shop-

keepers and traders largely kept their shops closed.

There were instances where farmers convinced shopkeepers to open shops, but the police intervened and got these closed.

DSP Gurjot Singh Romana said: "We had carried out a march in the city to ensure lockdown restrictions are duly adhered to. No shop was open in Bathinda city."

Members of various farmer unions demanded withdrawal of lockdown orders as they protested in various parts of Sangrur and Barnala districts and raised slogans against state and Union governments.

While a majority of shopkeepers supported the protest, they did not open shops. "We know farmers

are protesting for us, but we cannot open shops as the police will register FIRs against us," said a shopkeeper at Bhawanigarh. In Amritsar, too, traders did not pay heed to the farmers' call even as anti-lockdown protests and marches were carried out in different parts of the city and rural areas.

In Fatehgarh Sahib, none of the farmer leaders visited marketplaces to protest the lockdown as traders had decided not to open shops. A complete lockdown was witnessed in Sirhind, Mandi Gobindgarh, Amloh and Bassi Pathana towns of the district as no shops, barring those of chemists and doctors, were open.

(With inputs from Sangrur & Fatehgarh Sahib)

SGPC opens Covid centre at Talwandi Sabo

TALWANDI SABO, MAY 8

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) today started a 50-bed Covid care centre at Takht Damdama Sahib at Talwandi Sabo in Bathinda. The centre will provide healthcare facilities, including oxygen and medicines, to Covid patients.

SGPC President Bibi Jagir Kaur and SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal dedicated the centre to the public. While talking to mediapersons, Badal and Jagir Kaur said as many as 25 beds were equipped with oxygen concentrators. They said the centre would be manned by eight doctors and 24 nursing staff round the clock. "All facilities, including oxygen, medicine and food, will be provided free of cost," Jagir Kaur said. — TNS

Chandigarh company under lens over fake Remdesivir recovery

ROPAR, MAY 8

As part of the probe into the recovery of fake Remdesivir injection vials from the Bhakra canal on Thursday, the Ropar police today raided a drugs marketing company at Maloya village of Chandigarh.

The company office was found locked and the landlord told the police his tenants had left the place a month ago.

On Thursday, 621 vials of fake Remdesivir injections, an antiviral drug prescribed for serious Covid-19 patients, were found in the canal near here. The manufacturing address was that of Telangana and the vials bore Rs 5,400 as MRP. The health officials confirmed the injections were fake.

Office found locked, hunt for UP suspect



Beside, 1,456 Cefoperazone vials, an antibacterial drug, were also found.

SSP Akhil Chaudhary said a five-member SIT headed by an IPS officer had been constituted to investigate the case. The SSP said prima facie, both drugs were dumped into the canal by

Akali leader booked for norm violation

MUKTSAR, MAY 8

Two days after the police booked SAD's Gidderbaha in charge Hardeep Singh 'Dimpy' Dhillon for allegedly violating Covid norms at his father's 'bhog' ceremony, a Con-

Cong MLA seeks action against cops

gress MLA today sought action against the SHO and transfer of the Muktsar SSP.

MLA Raja Warring today went live on Facebook, saying, "We daily go to bhog ceremonies and see violations of Covid guidelines. It is wrong to single out someone and register a case against him. I condemn this action of the police." — TNS

Rural dispensaries shut, villagers left in lurch

MANAV MANDER

Tribune News Service

LUDHIANA, MAY 8

Amid a high fatality rate in rural areas in the ongoing Covid-19 wave, villagers have been left in the lurch as most dispensaries are lying shut as the staff have been put on Covid duties elsewhere.

Due to this, many villagers reach hospitals late in critical condition. According to Health Department data, 83.92 per cent patients from rural areas visited a hospital when their condition deteriorated, only 0.11 per cent went to a hospital after showing moderate Covid symptoms and 7 per cent after getting mild symptoms.

In Punjab, there are 1,183 dispensaries having 765 rural medical officers (RMOs). Before the pandemic, the OPDs in the rural dispensaries

used to get nearly 30,000-35,000 patients per month.

However, the dispensaries were shut after the outbreak last year and the staff were put on Covid duties. In between whenever cases showed a downward trend, the dispensaries opened. "We go to the dispensary in our village whenever we face any health problem. When the doctors are needed most, the dispensaries are lying shut. Generally, rural folk avoid going to a private hospital. Recently, we lost a close relative to Covid as he kept ignor-

ing his health and when he was admitted to a hospital, the doctors said it was too late," said Kultar Singh from Kanganwal village. Dr JP Narula, state president of Rural Medical Services Association, said the dispensaries opened for a few months when the cases declined in between the two waves.

"People would often come and tell us that we (RMOs) abandoned them in the hour of need. They are not ready to understand the fact that we were put on Covid duty. They have formed a bond with doctors over the years and they are not ready to go to hospitals in cities as they feel lost there," said Dr Narula.

Dr Bishav Mohan, a senior cardiologist at Dayanand Medical College and Hospital, who is also a member of Covid-19 task force formed by the state government, said the main reason for higher fatality rate among the rural population was late reporting and lack of testing. "They come to a hospital only after their condition has deteriorated. As a result, the casualty rate in the rural population is going up," said Dr Mohan.

Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa said it was a fact that rural population had been ignored since the RMOs were doing various Covid-related duties since the outbreak. "Now that the positivity and case fatality rates are increasing in villages, rural population also needs medical care near their homes. In the next Cabinet meeting, I will discuss the ground reality with the Chief Minister.

Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, MINISTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Sidhu, Bajwa question 6-mth deadline

KOTKAPURA FIRING Ask Congress govt to expedite SIT investigation for prompt justice

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 8

Senior Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu today attacked Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh over the constitution of a new Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the 2015 Kotkapura firing incident.

The government had on Friday announced a new SIT under ADGP LK Yadav and directed it to wrap up its probe within six months. Sidhu, in his tweet, said giving six months to the new SIT, "extends the delay of government's biggest poll promise".

Sources said Sidhu's tweet came after some ministers,

BETRAYAL OF MANDATE SHORTER TIMEFRAME

"Injustice caused by deliberate delay is betrayal of people's mandate. After multiple probe panels, SITs and passage of six years, evidence has weakened while accused have gained in wisdom." — Navjot Singh Sidhu on Twitter

"While the HC had observed the investigation into the firing incident should conclude within six months, there is no restriction on the government to fix a shorter timeframe." — Partap Bajwa, CONGRESS RS MP

during a recent Cabinet meeting, objected to the six-month window given to the new SIT, saying the government was yet again resorting

to delaying tactics.

After failing to get a satisfactory reply on an early deadline for the SIT to complete the probe, a minister

said: "Is someone in the bureaucracy taking decision on behalf of the CM and not the CM himself?"

Echoing his views, Congress Rajya Sabha MP Partap Bajwa today said while the Punjab and Haryana High Court had observed that the investigation into the firing incident should conclude within six months, there was no restriction on the government to fix a shorter timeframe.

He said since the previous SIT's information already existed, the government should fix a shorter timeframe, i.e. a month, so that investigation could be expedited and the perpetrators were

brought to book at the earliest.

The MP pointed out that since the three SIT officers — LK Yadav, ADGP, Vigilance, posted at Chandigarh; Rakesh Agarwal, CP, Ludhiana; and Surjit Singh, DIG, Faridkot Range — were posted in different districts, an expeditious investigation was not possible.

"They would also be neglecting their duties pertaining to their present postings. Hence, these officers should be transferred out from the present postings temporarily and be posted at Faridkot only as members of the SIT so that they are able to work jointly and expeditious investigation becomes a reality," he said.

Drug module busted, 5 held

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 8

The Punjab Police today claimed to have busted a module of gangsters and drugs traffickers involved in smuggling 500 kg heroin from Pakistan in the past few years.

The breakthrough came on disclosures made by gangster Gavi Singh, who was arrested recently. Five of his accomplices have been arrested with drugs and weapons.

A spokesperson for the

police said Gavi, alias Vijay, alias Giani, an aide of wanted

gangster Jaipal, was arrested

from Seraikela Kharsawan

district of Jharkhand on April

26 during a joint operation by the Organised Crime Control

Unit (OCCU) of Punjab Police

and SAS Nagar police.

The spokesperson said those arrested included Karanbir Singh, Harmanjit Singh, Gurjaspreet Singh and Rawinder Iqbal Singh, all from Tarn Taran district, and Samuel, alias Sam, from Ferozepur. The suspects are facing several criminal cases across different districts of the state.

The police have recovered

1.25 kg heroin from Gavi's

rented flat located in Kharar,

besides seizing three pistols

and 23 cartridges from his

hideouts. Three vehicles,

including a Toyota Fortuner,

Mahindra Scorpio and

Hyundai Verna, being used

actively involved in smug-

gling weapons and drugs across the border.

Gavi is also learnt to have made a large number of financial transactions with individuals and entities based in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan through the hawala route as well as import/export companies based in New Delhi, which would require a deeper probe.

He admitted to having acquired a forged Indian passport from a travel agent on fake particulars and was planning to settle down in Portugal.

The bank accounts and properties of Gavi had been identified and shared with agencies concerned for further action.

6 students injured in Punjabi varsity brawl

PATIALA, MAY 8

As many as six students, including two girls, of Punjabi University were reportedly injured following a brawl on the campus this evening. The fistfight took place among students and alleged outsiders.

On Friday evening, the students had rounded up some youths, allegedly in an inebriated state, accusing them of eve-teasing. One of them was handed over to the police. The students also recorded a video of the incident that went viral on the social media.

Students claimed some outsiders, who were relatives of some campus employees, came to the library and sought justification over the online post, triggering an altercation.

Urban Estate SHO Ronnei Singh said: "We got a call that

Altercation after outsiders accused of eve-teasing



An injured student at a hospital.

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MOGA, MAY 8

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has issued mandatory orders to all offices of the state government that they must start working on e-office to prevent the further spread of Covid-19 in the state.

It will not only minimise the movement of public in the government offices, but also help the departments to prepare charts to call minimum required staff on rotation basis in the offices. Preference may also be given to work from home on e-office platform, if possible, as per the work schedule, the Chief Minister opined.

The Chief Minister has fixed May 31 as the final deadline to switch over to e-office in all state government

STEP TO REDUCE PUBLIC MOVEMENT

It will not only minimise public movement in govt offices, but also help depts in calling minimum staff on rotation basis in offices. Capt Amarinder Singh, CM

offices of the state, including field offices. Instructions to this effect have already been issued to the department heads through their principal secretaries.

These orders have also reached at all district headquarters for implementation. Punjab Additional Chief Secretary Anirudh Tiwari, who is also financial commissioner (development), while issuing the orders to the officials of his department, has stated that the Department of Governance Reforms has started providing online training for working on e-



office platform at "dgrpunjab.webex.com/join/dgr" from Monday to Friday between 10 am and 1 pm. All officials at the state headquarters and at the district levels must obtain training to meet the deadline fixed by the Chief Minister, Tiwari added. He said anyone who has any query can email at "eoffice.helpdesk@punjab.gov.in" with a copy to "gagan.goyal@punjab.gov.in". They could also contact Parminder Pal Singh, Director, Governance Reforms, on his mobile number (918283840369).

Man gets threats calls from Pak; FIR lodged

AMRITSAR, MAY 8

A resident of Arjan Manga village, in a police complaint, claims to have been receiving threat calls from unidentified persons on a social media app from different mobile numbers of Pakistan. The callers accuse him of using objectionable remarks Khalistan

of being anti-Sikh. He said he was getting threats by way of recorded messages and video calls. They threatened to kill him and his family.

The family approached the police and sought a probe. Following a preliminary inquiry, the police registered a case under relevant law. — TNS

Initiative of Haryana Government

"We have to fight against these challenging circumstances of Covid-19 pandemic with courage. The State Government is committed to make every possible effort for the patients of Covid, with this motive various important decisions have been taken to provide financial assistance to the poor patients of Covid."

- Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

COVID-19 patients of Haryana who fall below the poverty line (BPL) and are not availing Ayushman Bharat scheme will be given a subsidy of Rs. 5000 per day up to a maximum of Rs. 35,000 if they undergo covid treatment in any authorised private covid hospital in Haryana. This amount will be reduced from the final bill of the patient at the time of discharge

Private hospitals (authorized by State Govt. for Covid treatment) will be paid an incentive amount of Rs. 1000 per day per patient and up to a maximum of Rs. 7000 for the admitted patients of the State. This amount will be sent to the bank accounts of hospitals after the discharge of the patient

All BPL covid patients undergoing home Isolation will be provided a lump sum one-time medical assistance of Rs. 5000. This amount of medical assistance will be directly transferred to bank accounts of patients

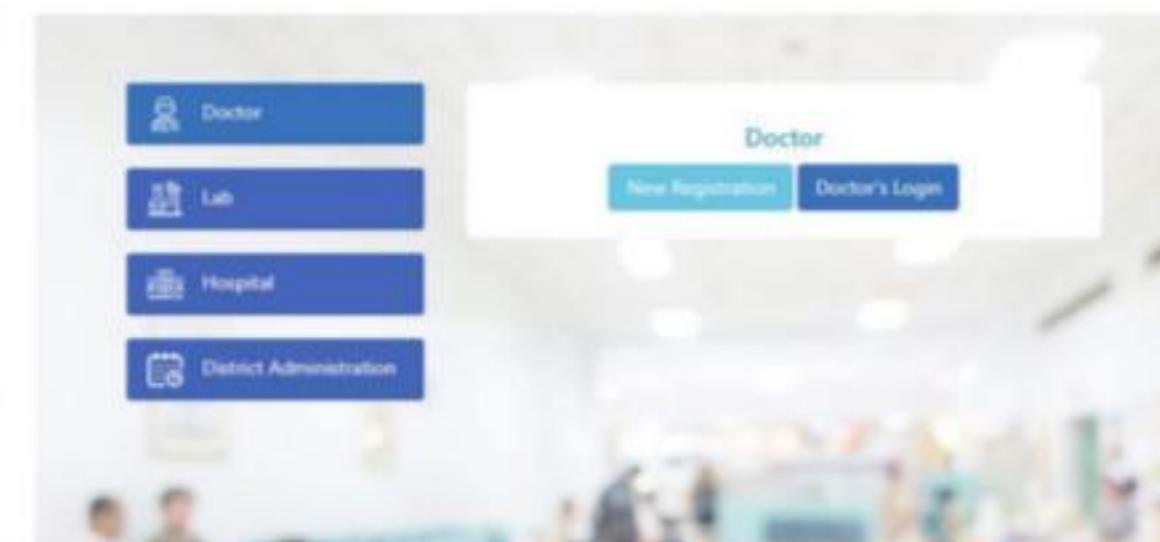
Private hospitals must upload the information of such patients on the portal <https://gmdahrheal.in/>

OneMap Gurugram

HRHeal

GMDA

Citizen Services
Bed Availability
(Coronavirus.aspx)
Covid Sample Test Report
Helpline Numbers
0558893911
106
1075



Helpline For Assistance Regarding Covid-19

8558893911

(for Entire State)

& 1075

(Except Gurugram & Faridabad)



Sanitization



Mask



Social Distancing

Screening drive for rural areas soon

8,000 teams for door-to-door testing | Govt schools may be made isolation centres

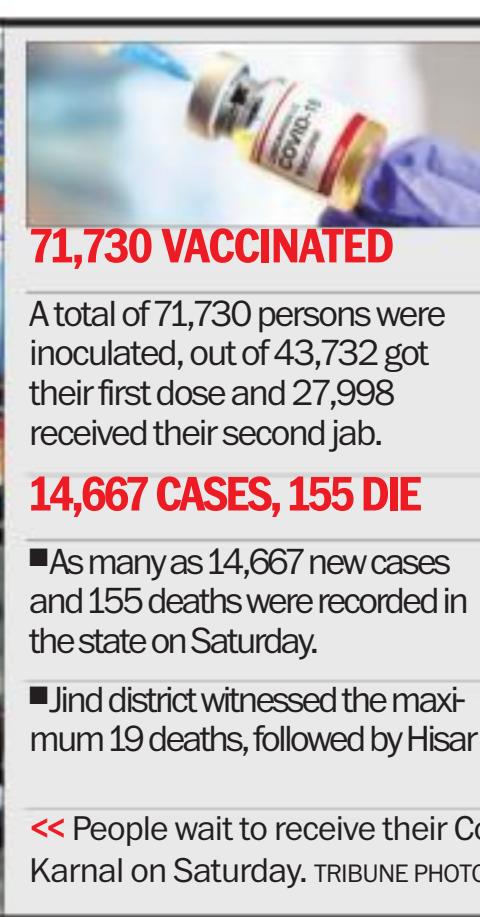
Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, MAY 8

As the Covid-19 pandemic is now hitting rural areas hard, the Haryana Government has decided to launch a special door-to-door screening drive in villages by constituting 8,000 multi-disciplinary teams.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, while presiding over a review meeting with top officials of the Health and Panchayat Department here today, directed them to adopt proactive strategies like conducting door-to-door health screening camps covering each house, constituting special dedicated multi-disciplinary teams for screening and converting dhamashalas, government schools and ayush centres into isolation centres to contain the virus spread.

He said a special awareness campaign-cum-counselling of rural inhabitants should be done and for this, officials of the Health Department, along with aasha workers and former and present public representatives in each village



had to play a key role in encouraging people to get themselves tested at the screening camps.

should be done along with the recording of their oxygen and temperature levels.

If during the screening camps, any person is found having Covid-like symptoms of fever, cold and cough, the person should be advised to stay in home isolation immediately so as to prevent the possibility of infection spread. Approximately one team per 500 households should be deployed for conducting health

screening," said Khattar. He further said that while conducting the screening, the teams should ensure that the patients having mild and moderate symptoms were immediately given prescribed preventive medicines for Covid-19 infection. Besides, it should also be ensured that those having severe symptoms were right away hospitalised to get the required treatment.

and Panipat 16 each.

■ The maximum 3,441 persons contracted the virus in Gurugram, followed by Faridabad (1,713) & Hisar (1,465).

COVID METER

Cases	14,667
Samples tested	55,555
Active	11,61,09
Deaths	155

WORST-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	CASES	DEATHS
Gurugram	3,441	11
Faridabad	1,713	11
Hisar	1,465	16

The CM directed that the possibility of converting dharamshalas and government schools into isolation centres should be explored at the earliest. He said in the rural areas, there was a need to adopt "test, track and treat" strategy. The Health Department had been directed to impart necessary training to people in villages so that they could spread the required awareness for the disease.

Man held for supplying 24 vials of Remdesivir

AMBALA, MAY 8

The CIA-2 unit, Ambala police, arrested a man, in connection with 24 vials of Remdesivir injection recovered from a car during checking in Ambala Cantonment on April 21.

The accused was identified as Gaurav, a resident of Yamunanagar. He was produced before a court that sent him to five-day police remand.

On curfew duty, police officials accosted two vehicles. During checking, they recovered 24 vials of 'Hetero Remdesivir' from one of the

cars. Four men failed to produce any bill or give a satisfactory reply regarding the vials. They were identified as Paras and Kanishik from Ambala, and Deepak and Karan from Delhi. They were booked under Sections 188, 269 and 270 of the IPC, and the Disaster Management Act.

The accused claimed they had arranged the vials for a Covid patient in Delhi. However, the police suspected that they had procured them for sale. The investigation was handed over to CIA-2. —TNS

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With Profound Grief, We Inform the Sad Demise of Our Beloved Father
S. HARJINDER SINGH TEJA
S/o S. Sukhdev Singh Teja, S.P.
on 3rd May, 2021.

Bhog & Antim Ardas for the Peace of the departed soul will be held on **Wednesday 12th May, 2021 from 12 Noon to 1 PM** Followed by **Guru Ka Langar at Gurudwara Gobind Nagar Sahib, Dhillon Marg, Patiala.**

Grief Stricken
Harkaran Singh Teja (Son)
Guinea Teja (Daughter)
7710777088
9914510029



ਜੇਹਾ ਚੀਜ਼ੀ ਲਿਮਿਅਤ ਤੋਹਾ ਹੁਕਮੁ ਕਮਾਹਿ॥
ਅਲੇ ਆਵਾਜ਼ ਨਾਨਾ ਸਦੇ ਢੂਣੀ ਜਾਹਿ॥

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow we inform that our respected and beloved
Dr. Lakhbir Singh Brar
Dir. Horticulture Pb. (Retd)

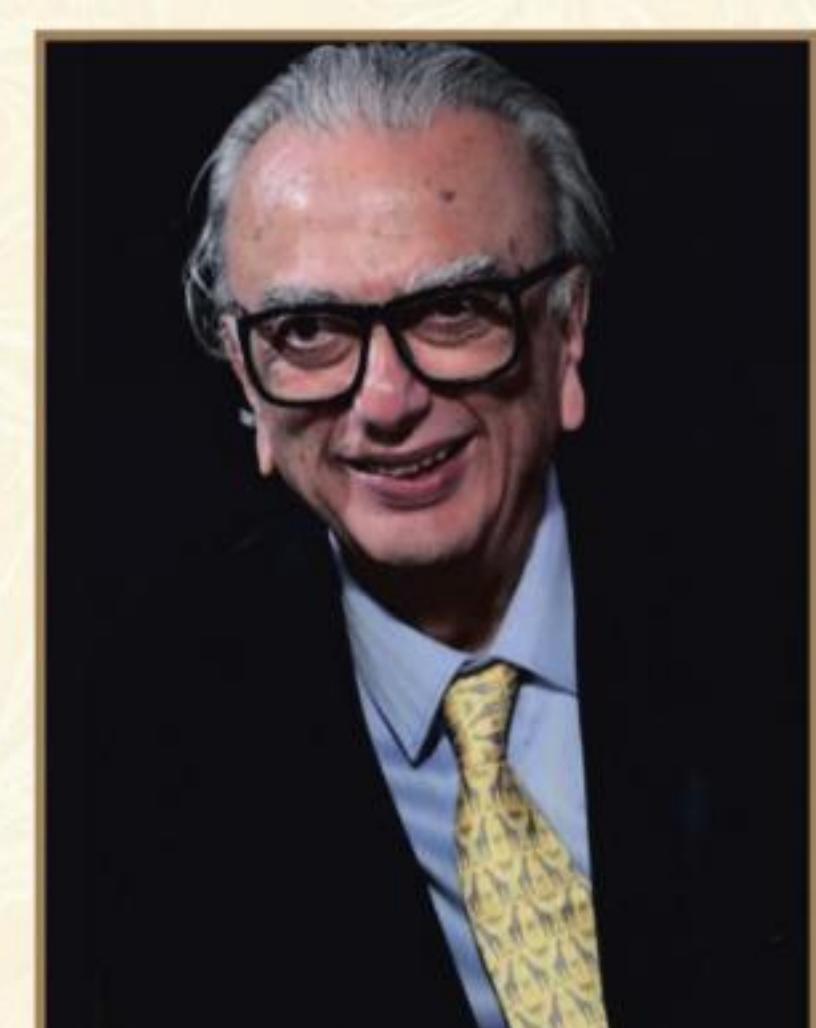
left for his heavenly abode on **May 7, 2021**
Kirtan and Antim ardas for the peace of the departed soul will be held on **May 11 (Tuesday) from 9:30 am to 11:00 am** at **Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha (Mai Bhago Hall), Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana.**

All are requested to follow COVID-19 guidelines. May join youtube.com/MalwaTV to pray from home

In Grief :

Sardarni Taralochan Kaur
Navdeep Grewal and Balbir Grewal
Sukhbir Brar and Ravneet Brar
Simran, Sopreet, Karan and Uday
- (Wife)
- (Daughter and Son-in-law)
- (Son and Daughter-in-law)
- (Grand Kids)

॥ ਸ਼੍ਰਦਾਂਜਲਿ ॥



MMS KHOSLA
1940-2021

FOR WHAT IS IT TO DIE BUT TO STAND
NAKED IN THE WIND AND TO MELT
INTO THE SUN.
AND WHAT IS IT TO CEASE
BREATHING, BUT TO CEASE THE
BREATH FROM ITS RESTLESS
TIDES,
THAT IT MAY RISE AND EXPAND
AND SEEK GOD UNENCUMBERED.

-KAHLIL GIBRAN

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF, WE INFORM YOU OF THE SUDDEN
DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SHRI MMS KHOSLA, ON THE 7TH
MAY, 2021. SHRI MMS KHOSLA WAS A PILLAR OF STRENGTH
FOR THOSE AROUND HIM AND A TRUE KARAMYOGI.

HE TOUCHED MANY LIVES THROUGH HIS DEDICATION,
SINCERITY & PASSION TOWARDS HIS CRAFT AND
SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE.

HE WILL BE DEARLY MISSED BY HIS FAMILY, BOTH AT HOME
AND AT HINDUSTAN HYDRAULICS.

PGIMS docs rue shortage of PPE kits, N95 masks

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, MAY 8

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Saturday announced the launch of a massive vaccination drive for all the mediapersons.

The CM, while presiding over a review meeting with top officials regarding the situation in the state, said vaccines would be administered to every mediaperson.

MANY COLLEAGUES COVID POSITIVE

◆ A number of doctors and other healthcare workers are down with Covid and those on duty are overworked. No post-duty quarantine period is being provided due to a shortage of staff.

Dr Kunal Gaba, president, PGIMS Resident Doctors Association

and their salaries for the month of April be credited as soon as possible.

"A number of doctors and other healthcare workers are down with Covid and

those on duty are overworked. No post-duty quarantine period is being provided due to a shortage of staff," said RDA president Dr Kunal Gaba.

In a statement, Abhimanyu Kohar, Balbir Singh Rajewal, Dr Darshan Pal, Gurman Singh Charuni, Hannan Mollah, Jagjit Singh Dallewal, Joginder Singh Ugrahan, Yudhvir Singh and Yogendra Yadav said that a large number of farmers of Punjab would gather at Punjab-Haryana borders—Shambhu and Khanor—and would reach Delhi borders. Farmers of Haryana would also join these groups and reach Delhi protest sites, they said. —TNS

Two NGOs launch free auto ambulance service in G'gram

SANJAY YADAV

GURUGRAM, MAY 8

Moved by the plight of patients during a two-day strike of private ambulances, two local NGOs, NGO-Rewa foundation and Sai foundation, today launched oxygen-equipped auto ambulance service. Two helpline numbers have been launched and anyone can avail the service free of cost.

The NGOs have equipped five CNG autos with oxygen cylinders and sanitisers. Auto drivers are also supposed to wear PPE kits and use gloves, face shield, masks, cap and hand sanitiser. The service was launched from Sector-15 (part 2).

"It is a doorstep service and we have issued two helpline



numbers. Any needy person can call and an auto ambulance will reach their doorstep within a few minutes. To ensure their safety in transit, we have arranged oxygen cylinders. If required, we will increase the number of autos and the service will remain free of cost", said

Sunil Yadav, president of Rewa foundation.

Hare Ram, one of auto ambulance drivers, said the NGO had hired their vehicle on daily basis. "We get money for our daily needs and are happy that we are serving the needy in tough times," he added.

34 yrs on, land acquisition proceedings set aside

SAURABH MALIK

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, MAY 8

Nearly 34 years after proceedings for acquiring 35.76 acres were initiated for residential, commercial and institutional purposes in Kurukshestra's Sectors 6 and 11, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has held that the state's refusal to release the remaining acquired land was violative of Article 14 of the Constitution and thus, liable to be set aside. Hence, all 3 petitions are allowed accordingly. —HC Bench

released," the Bench of Justice Ajay Tewari and Justice Rajesh Bhardwaj ruled.

The matter was brought to the High Court's notice after three petitions were filed by Balbir Kumar and other petitioners against the State of Haryana and other respondents for quashing notification dated April 21, 1987, and April 20, 1988, issued under Sections 4 and 6 of the Land Acquisition Act. Directions were also sought for quashing letters rejecting their claim.

Appearing before the Bench, the petitioners' counsel contended that the purpose for acquiring the land by the state was totally defeated by releasing major chunk in pursuance of representations made, and orders passed by the courts, at various stages. Even if minuscule part of the land owned by the petitioners was kept by the state, the same would be of no use for developing the two sectors as envisaged by the State. Opposing the petitioners'

contentions, the state counsel, on the other hand, submitted that the petitioners had already accepted the compensation for acquisition of their land pursuant to the award announced on April 12, 1990. The land's possession stood vested in the state and the petitioners had no cause of action to pray for the release of the land acquired.

After hearing rival contentions, the Bench asserted that the non-acceptance of the petitioners' prayers for not releasing the land would be a travesty of justice. "The petitioners have succeeded in establishing that the action of the state in declining their prayer for release of their acquired land is violative of Article 14 of the Constitution of India (equality before law) and thus, liable to be set aside. Hence, all the three petitions are allowed accordingly," the Bench concluded.

Opposing the petitioners'

BJP ex-MP 'abuses' BMO, audio clip goes viral

Says conversation edited | Med officers' assn seeks FIR

Tribune News Service

PROBE BEGINS

Kangra DC Rakesh Prajapati said a probe had begun. The matter had also been taken up with Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. Medical officers are pressing for the registration of an FIR against the former MP. The ball is now in the court of the CM.

ments in the private hospital. He had also threatened that he would get the office of the BMO burnt, the association said.

Parmar said the audio clip had been edited. He said once a party worker had gone to the hospital for treatment. There was a single entrance in the hospital.

The Himachal Pradesh Medical Officers Association, in a press note here, demanded an FIR against Kirpal Parmar. The association said doctors were working under pressure. Parmar had blamed the BMO for the poor arrangements in the hospital.

started justifying his action. I lost temper and used only one objectionable word against the BMO, which was made public, not the whole conversation," he said.

Sources said the district administration had sought a report from ground officials regarding the Covid facility at Surya Hospital.

In the report, the officials found the arrangements satisfactory. The officials had also maintained in their report that there were two separate entrances to the hospital for the Covid ward and general hospital.

Kangra DC Rakesh Prajapati said a probe had begun. The sources said the matter had also been taken up with Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur.

Medical officers are pressing for the registration of an FIR against the former MP. The ball is now in the court of the CM.

Tribune News Service

DHARAMSALA, MAY 8

After reports surfaced that some people were making fake entries on Covid e-pass portals to enter the state, the administration today stopped flight passengers from Delhi and Chandigarh at the Gaggal airport in Kangra today morning.

Many passengers, who had pre-approved Covid e-passes, were also stopped at the airport and asked to re-register. This irked many passengers who alleged that they were being harassed.

Earlier, the passengers were being allowed to go after scanning of Covid e-passes.

Sources said an administrative official acted on his own and started asking the flight passengers to re-register themselves on the Covid e-portal at the airport.

Since the move created a rush, it was resisted by some local passengers who said officials could just match their Aadhaar Card numbers with the information given in Covid e-passes rather than forcing them to re-register.



Authorities verify credentials mentioned in Covid e-passes

tion given in Covid e-passes rather than forcing them to re-register.

Deputy Commissioner, Kangra, Rakesh Prajapati said, "After some reports surfaced that some people were making fake entries on the Covid e-portal to gain entry to the state, we are verifying the credentials of people coming with Covid e-passes."

On Friday, the Himachal police had stated that some people were entering the state after getting Covid e-passes issued in the names of Bollywood stars.

MLA provides wood for crematorium

PALAMPUR, MAY 8

Ashish Butail, Palampur MLA and general secretary of the PCC, today provided a truckload of wood to the

society, which is looking after the cremation ground.

With rise in deaths due to Covid, there has been an acute shortage of fuel wood

to cremate the bodies. The stock had been exhausted last week. A number of NGOs have also offered help to the society. —OC

MISSION FATEH

Initiative of Government of Punjab for fighting COVID

COVID-19 BED AVAILABILITY IN GOVERNMENT & PRIVATE HOSPITALS

	OXYGEN BEDS		ICU BEDS (Without Ventilator)		ICU BEDS (With Ventilator)	
	Total	Available	Total	Available	Total	Available
Government Hospitals	3691	1861	644	90	326	8
Private Hospitals	6171	1236	1348	212	849	207
Total (Govt.+Pvt.)	9862	3097	1992	302	1175	215

Figures as on 08.05.2021 6.00 pm

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, PUNJAB

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2.	DIPLOMA IN PLASTICS MOULD TECHNOLOGY (DPMT)	3 YEARS	Full Time 10th Std.	Lateral Entry +2 with Maths & Science / 2 years ITI (Relevant Field)
3.	DIPLOMA IN PLASTICS TECHNOLOGY (DPT)	3 YEARS		No Age Limit

ALL COURSES APPROVED BY AICTE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date of opening for JEE Online submission Form	13/04/2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date of closer for JEE Application submission	Third Week of July 2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date of CIPET-JEE all over India	Last Week of July 2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date of Commencement of courses	2nd Week of August 2021

Contact No. 94178-02768, 98050-96677, 98050-96676, 98881-14871, 95881-14874

5,424 fresh Covid cases, 37 deaths

Tribune News Service

COVID METER		
Samples tested	1624556	
Recovered	94,586	
Active cases	31,893	
Positive cases	128,330	
Deaths	1,817	
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Una	8,240	136
Solan	16,210	144
Kangra	25,613	497
Chamba	5,799	69
Hamirpur	8,715	110
Sirmaur	9,786	92
Mandi	17,988	210
Bilaspur	7,597	37
Shimla	17,612	391
Kullu	6,560	100
Kinnar	2,061	24
Lahaul & Spiti	2,149	13
Total	128,330	1,817

655 without mask pay ₹4.23L fine

Tribune News Service

SOLAN, MAY 8

A penalty of Rs 4.23 lakh has been realised from 655 persons for not wearing masks in the state in the past 24 hours.

Around Rs 28,000 has also been realised for violating

Covid directions at marriages in Bilaspur, Chamba, Kangra and Shimla districts. As many as 383 of the 456 marriages were inspected. Only one marriage was being held without obtaining permission in Kullu district and a fine of Rs 5,000 was imposed on it.

Villagers come to aid of Covid +ve family

Tribune News Service

DHARAMSALA, MAY 8

Panchayat members of Baghru village in Rait block of Kangra district have set an example by helping a family in distress.

Prithvi Chand, a resident of Baghru village, died of Covid about a week ago. His entire family was also infected with the virus.

The family was isolated in their home, but they feared losing their wheat crop. Since the family members

Harvest their wheat crop; one member had died a week ago

"We called upon the village youth to help the family. We together harvested their crop and placed it safely in their house." — Prithvi Chand, VILLAGER

could not move out of their house, there was no one to take care of their crop.

They feared losing the

crop due to consistent rain and inclement weather in the region. Pradhan of Baghru village Prakash Chand and members of the managing committee of a local committee came forward to help the family.

Prakash Chand said: "We called upon the village youth to help the family. We together harvested their crop and placed it safely in their house. No one can share the grief of the family, but at least we can help them in the time of need".

Punjab Government
led by
Chief Minister
Capt. Amarinder Singh
pays respects
to
MAHARANA PRATAP
the Legendary Rajput Warrior
and King of Mewar
on his
481st Birth Anniversary



Department of Information & Public Relations, Punjab

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NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Online percentage rate bids are invited on behalf of the Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh from the Original equipment manufacturer/Authorized dealer/Specialized agencies dealing in similar type of work on two bid system (Eligibility cum Technical Bid and Financial Bid).

NIT No:	PGI/Engg/RAC/2021/408
Name of Work:	Supply & OPMG of HVAC system installed at Advanced small Animal house facility, PGIMER, Chandigarh.
Estimated Cost:	Rs. 21.56 Lac
Ernest Money:	Rs. 43.120/-
Period of Completion:	15.05.2021 up to 15.00 hrs.
Last date and time of submission of bid:	17.05.2021 up to 12.00 hrs.
Date and time for submission of original EMD as uploaded:	17.05.2021 at 15.00 hrs.
Date and time of opening of Eligibility cum Technical Bid:	17.05.2021 at 15.00 hrs.

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website: www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app and official website of the PGIMER www.pgimer.edu.in. Press notice is also available on www.eprocure.gov.in. Contractors are requested to get their firm registered on the website www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app for participating in e-tendering process. (Helpdesk for Registering 9988447883).

DI-2478 HOSPITAL ENGINEER (RAC)

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

TENDER NOTICE NO. PROC. BR. (INDG.) (HPD)/2021/238

PHONE NO.0172-2756468, 2756467

This Institute has to make Rate Contract for the item shown in the table below. The manufacturers and their authorized dealers/distributors can offer their minimum rates as per terms & conditions contained in the Tender Form.

Tender Enquiry No.	Item Name	Ernest Money	Due Date and Time
238	Pediatric Drip Set	No Earnest Money required	04.06.2021 (Rate Contract for two years) till 31.12.2021 at 12.30 P.M.

The Tender Form and specification of the products are available on the website www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. The tender will be received from latest or before due date and time mentioned in the table above at Procurement Branch (Indigenous), C Block, 2nd Floor, Central Store, Nehru Hospital, PGIMER, Chandigarh, (Telephone Number: 0172-2756468, 2756463). This tender shall be opened on the same due date at 03:00 PM in the presence of the authorized intending tenderers. Tenders not submitted on the prescribed form shall be summarily ignored. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof.

DI-2486 OFFICER IN CHARGE (HPD)

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE ON 29 APR 2021 EX-SERVICE MEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME STATION CELL AMBALA CANTT

CORRIGENDUM

1 Refer Advertisement date

29 April 2021.

2. Advertisement published for recruitment in The Tribune & Dainik Bhaskar is cancelled till next employment notice.

S Sengupta (Colonel)

Officiating OIC Station Cell (ECHS) for Station Commander

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रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99

REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99



भारत का राजपत्र

The Gazette of India

सौ. डी. डी.एल.-अ. -07052021-226915

CG-DL-E-07052021-226915

असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 1670]

नई दिल्ली, शुक्रवार, मई 7, 2021/वैशाख 17, 1943

No. 1670]

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021/VAISAKHA 17, 1943

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 7th May, 2021

S.O. 1797(E).— Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, S.O. No. 4390(E) Dated 04.12.2020 , published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for construction of (widening/two lane with paved shoulder etc.), Maintenance, management and operation of NH72B on the stretch of land from Km 0 to Km 89.5 (Paonta Sahib – Guma Section) in the district of SIRMAUR in the state of HIMACHAL PRADESH.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "Hindi -Amarujala" and "English -The Tribune" both dated 08.12.2020; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas objections have been received and the same have been considered and disallowed by the competent Authority;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the NH72B in the stretch of land from Km 0 to Km 89.5 (Paonta Sahib – Guma Section) in the district of SIRMAUR in the state of HIMACHAL PRADESH

State: HIMACHAL PRADESH District: SIRMAUR

Sr. No.	Survey Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectare	Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.
1	2	3	4	5	6

Taluk: Kamrau

Village: Bokala Pab

1	685/3/1	Private	Obber Doyam	0.0464	Inder Singh, Chatar Singh, Dhaniram equal share 685/3/1
2	807/661/1	Private	Obber Awal	0.0084	Total Shares (100) Siyaram, Ramanand, Bijaram, Mayaram, Ramswaroop, Rameshchand equal sharer (77)share son and Santram (1)share son and Smt. Gangi, Smt Surmi equal share (22) share daughters Motiram son Deviram local resident 807/661/1
3	809/662	Private	Gairmumkin	0.0168	0.0168 Total shares (30) Balveer Singh son Mehar Singh son Bhupria (18) share Chatar Singh, Dhaniram son Pritam son Dilmi equal share (4)share Dinesh, Sumer Chand, Rakesh son Chatar Singh son Pritam equal share (2) share Guman Singh, Santram, Siyaram son and Mrs. Surmi Devi widow Khathiram son Jatiram equal share (1)share local resident Gulabu son and Mrs. Gurdai, Mrs. Naumi, Mrs. Atro daughters Rati Singh son Rup Singh equal share (4) share resident Shilla Pradeep, Randeep son Indra Singh Son Jatiram equal share (1) share local resident 809/662

4	933/811/679/1	Private	Gairmumkin	0.0084	Siva Nand s/o Ratiram s/o Sobha local resident 933/811/679/1
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Taluk: Shilai

Village: Pab Manal

1	775/1	Private	Ghasni	0.0084	Shamlat Deh 775/1
2	776/1	Private	Ghasni	0.0632	Shamlat Deh 776/1
3	964/767/1	Private	Ghasni	0.0506	Shamlat Deh 964/767/1
4	972/771/1	Private	Ghasni	0.0126	Shamlat Deh 972/771/1
5	978/773/1	Private	Ghasni	0.0548	Shamlat Deh 978/773/1
6	981/774/1	Private	Ghasni	0.1138	Shamlat Deh 981/774/1
7	981/774/2	Private	Ghasni	0.0042	Shamlat Deh 981/774/2

					Village: Shilai
--	--	--	--	--	------------------------

8	1031/1	Private	Ghasni	0.0505	Total Shares (2) Bhupaya, Balya son Tholu son Harkhu equal share(1)shareMeena son Sailru son Mathu (1) share local resident 1031/1
9	1469/2/1	Private	Gairmumkin	0.0379	Mansingh, Guman Singh son Pritam s/o Maniya equal share local resident 1469/2/1
10	1470/1/1	Private	Gairmumkin	0.0759	Mansingh, Guman Singh S/o Pritam s/o Maniya equal share local resident 1470/1/1
11	1470/2/1	Private	Gairmumkin	0.0211	Mansingh, Guman Singh S/o Pritam s/o Maniya equal share local resident 1470/2/1
12	4902/1875/1	Private	Gairmumkin	0.0211	Total shares (180) Vishan Singh son Hira Singh son Ghanna (47) Share Ranjit Singh son Raisingh son Budhia (36) Share Ramesh son Jalam Singh alias Jagpal Singh son Nanddu (16) Share Prem Singh son Nanddu son Sahbu (16) Share Kalyan Singh son Nansingh son Bhaluk (18) Share resident resident Khajan Singh son Chandan Singh son Bhaju (16) Share resident Dhebwana. Jeet Singh son Motiram son Namloom (16) Share resident Digwa. Mrs. Tara Devi w/o Jagdish Chand son Kalyan Singh (15) Share local resident 4902/1875/1
13	4903/1875/1	Private	Nakabil	0.0084	Total shares (12) Lal Singh son Nanda son Nanddu (3) share Share Sharewan Singh, Ramesh Kumar, Chatar Singh son Ratan Singh son Nanda equal share (3) share Raisingh, Kalyan Singh son Budhia son Nanddu equal share (4) share Balbir Singh son Gyar Singh son Budhia (2) share Resident 4903/1875/1
14	4904/1875/1	Private	Gairmumkin	0.0253	Total shares (5) Shuparam, Gangaram, Jeet Singh son Pritam son Mansingh equal share (1) share Dhyani Singh, Jalam Singh, Rambhaj, Shantiram, Udesingh son Sahiram son Mansingh equal share (1) share Baruram son and Srimati Mehandi d/o Shivram son Mansingh equal share (1) share Sisaram, Nansingh son Mansingh son chimatu share equal (2) share local resident 4904/1875/1
15</td					

MATRIMONIALS**BRIDEGROOMS WANTED****KHATRI/ARORA**

Wanted a teetotaller vegetarian match for Hindu Arora girl 26.04.92, 12:15 pm 5'-" Chandigarh born, CA, CS, MBA (Finance), UGC NET working in MNC at Panchkula.

Contact after matching kundli. 98686-36688, 98782-55688. (CL21012994)

Arora girl, M.Sc. Physics (Hons), MBA topper, working MNC Noida. Package 9 lacs 5'-", Dec. 91, Chandigarh educated family. Contact: 94637-42318, 88378-95115. (CL21011920)

SM4 Arora girl, 05.08.94, 8:57 am, 5'-4", Ludhiana, M.A., B.Ed. 98154-28877, 99881-78511 (CL21012991)

Kalucha girl MBA 1991, contact only who are in Canada, USA. Mob. 82888-61378, 97799-30942. (CL21012109)

Match for Punjabi Arora girl 8th Nov. 1992, 6:45 am Chandigarh, height 5'-6", B.Tech. Senior Software Engineer MNC Hyderabad, 9-10 lacs, presents well settled at Chandigarh. Call/ WhatsApp 98143-34345. (CL21012121)

Match for Puri Khatri girl, M.Sc. Biotech/B.Ed. 29 July 94, 5'-3", Kotakapura, 11.20 a.m. WhatsApp: 78884-46621, 99148-52664. (CL21012553)

MD/DM match for Hindu Khatri Manglik girl 23.9.1990, 5'-3", 11.25 a.m., Faridkot Medical Officer, doing MD Medicine. 81465-50563. (CL21012563)

Hindu Khatri 1998 born girl B.Sc. (Anesthesia) MHA, IELTS clear each 6 Band. Working in reputed hospital. 78375-00070, 98768-01711. (CL21012667)

Suitable match for Hindu Khatri girl 26.7.83, 10.45 a.m., Khanna, 5'-5", MA, B.Ed. Early marriage. Kundli match. 97799-54759. (CL21012668)

Himachali, beautiful Khatri girl, 5'-6", 09.08.1993, pure vegetarian, M.Sc. IT appearing UPSC Exam. 81910-50845. (CL21012768)

Mohali based beautiful Khatri girl 05.09.1987, 5'-4", 11.00 pm, Govt. Bank Officer, Required Govt. Sector Tricity preferred. WhatsApp: 94175-1930, 98769-65289. (CL21012775)

Industrialist family smart girl 11.04.1996, 5'-3", MBA, wanted boy from business family. Preferred MCA, IT appearing UPSC Exam. 81910-50845. (CL21012768)

Required Panjabi (Doaba) Rajput Manglik boy (Indian forces/ Govt. job) for Rajput girl DOB 17/02/97, Time 9.00 pm (Manglik), Education BA, M.Com. + Computer, Ht. 5'-5" (fair & smart). Mob. No. 89689-90602. (CL21012242)

Suitable match for Rajput good looking girl M.Sc., Ht. 5'-6", 08.02.1987 Amritsar, working in Pune, 13 lac package. WhatsApp 98772-21484. (CL21012395)

Rana Rajput girl 2.4.1991, 5'-5", MBBS, Medical Officer Punjab Govt. 95926-12212. (CL21012401)

Ran Rajput girl 13.10.93, 2:10 am, 5'-3", B.Sc., M.Sc., M.Phil., doing Ph.D. 87287-39989, 98152-05139. Only Ph.D contact. (CL21012406)

Equal status match for Punjab Govt. officer, fair complexion girl, 1981, 162 cm, send biodata & pics. WhatsApp No: 78377-08445. (CL21012428)

Match for Rajput girl 44, 5'-3", Graduate, NTT experience service class (Govt/ corporate) preferred. WhatsApp 88472-78534. (CL21012471)

Rajput girl, 20 Sept. 1992, 10:40 pm, 5'-2", B.Tech, CSE, govt. service (Contract basis). Preferred tricity. 95010-20885. (CL21012503)

PQM from India/ abroad for 29 years, 5'-3", B.Tech, IT, Sr. Cyber Security Engineer in JP Morgan, Bangalore, package 18 lacs. WhatsApp 94788-68551. (CL21012628)

Only NRI match for Hindu Khatri, Non-manglik, working girl, 5'-2", 1986, MBA (HR). Father Govt. Officer, Mohali. Tricity working preferred. Contact: 79865-65783. Email: dk69monga@gmail.com (CL21012828)

Suitable match for vegetarian beautiful Arora working girl, 5'-2", 1986, MBA (HR). Father Govt. Officer, Mohali. Tricity working preferred. Contact: 79865-65783. Email: dk69monga@gmail.com (CL21012828)

Professional qualified match for non-Manglik Khatri girl 5', 09.09.1994, 10.59 p.m., Panchkula, B.Com. (Honours), MBA in Finance, working as Deputy Manager Pvt. Bank. Non-Manglik only. Contact: 9423-27778. (CL21012850)

High status 01.07.1992, 21:45, B.Tech., 5'-3", Yamunanager, 26.02.1995, 23:20, M.Com., 5'-1", Manglik 90345-16008. (CL21012864)

Seeking well settled MDS/ MD/ Mch/ MS/ DM/ PhD Doctor match for MDS fair girl 5'-4" inch 7 Nov. 1990, Pune based family (who doesn't drink, smoke or trim his beard. Contact on 90960-85777, 95455-28165. (CL21012940)

KHATRI

SMF Beautiful Khatri girl, 5'-4"/7 19-10-1995, 10:50 a.m., B.Sc., B.Ed, PSTET, CTET, HTET, Tricity Govt. employed preferred. 96460-33018. (CL21012241)

Suitable match for non manglik Bhatri girl 5'-2", MBA, working in MNC Pune (7 lac PA) birth 16.04.96, 7:15 pm Amritsar. Contact: 78149-55239, 79862-10923. (CL21011701)

Beautiful professional match for handsome Khatri boy, 5'-4", 26/9/87, 6:41 am Khabna (Ph), MCA, working in Software Company at Mohali, package 7 lacs. Parents retd. Family settled at Mohali. Contact Mobile: 9888691646, Email: naresh_kverma09@gmail.com (CL21011849)

Hindu Dhill girl 03.11.1989, 5.M.Sc. Chemistry, 6.5 Band, Canada PR applying. Required Sponsorship (Canadian Province) Manitoba Saskatchewan. 85668-75100. (CL21011855)

Suitable match for slim beautiful Hindu Khatri girl, B.Tech., Anshik Manglik, 01.10.1994, 4:40 p.m. Patiala, 5'-3", vegetarian. Required handsome, qualified boy. Preferred Govt. employed/ MNC/ well settled businessman. Contact 97805-16805. (CL21011972)

23, MBA beautician course, beautiful, slim, cultured girl, suitable match required. 078692-59657, 074711-37252. (CL21012860)

High status 01.07.1992, 21:45, B.Tech., 5'-3", Yamunanager, 26.02.1995, 23:20, M.Com., 5'-1", Manglik 90345-16008. (CL21012864)

Seeking well settled MDS/ MD/ Mch/ MS/ DM/ PhD Doctor match for MDS fair girl 5'-4" inch 7 Nov. 1990, Pune based family (who doesn't drink, smoke or trim his beard. Contact on 90960-85777, 95455-28165. (CL21012940)

Match for Hindu Arora girl Dob 28.11.1993, time 6:38 am, Jalandhar height 5', qualification M.Com., B.Ed working Teacher. 95921-77485, 76961-5970. (CL21012794)

Match for Hindu Arora girl 2030, 5'-3", B.Sc., M.Com., working in MNC. Contact: 85447-96153, 88944-9714. (CL21013015)

RAJPUT

Suitable match for Rajput Himachali girl, 08 Dec. 1983, 5.8 BA, B.Ed, preference in Tricity 96438-03312. (CL21012831)

Suitable Rajput match for 39, 5'-2", B.A. NTT, wheatish colour, pure vegetarian, divorcee, having no issue, homely girl. Chandigarh. 97798-02961. (CL21010695)

Match for Mair Rajput, divorcee 1985 born girl, MA English, Govt. job, IELTS GT 7 band, sister PR Australia. Parents retired Govt. employee. Preferred boy settled in Australia/ Canada. Caste no bar. 84274-95031. (CL21011724)

5'-2", 92, Government job, preferred Tricity boy or nearby. Contact no. 70093-45509. (CL21011864)

Suitable match for Thakur Rajput beautiful, slim girl 89, 5'-2", M.Sc. SR Microbiologist, MNC Nesley Moga, pk 9.50 lakhs, 7.5 Bands, pk 9.50 lakhs, well settled landlord family. Father S.M. Ist preference Rajput. WhatsApp: 78884-46621, 99148-52664. (CL21012553)

PQM for Himachali Rajput girl, Sept. 91 born, 5'-5", MBA, working as Senior Analyst in bank at Gurgaon. Contact: 94180-89408. (CL21012000)

Sikh Kashyap Rajput, beautiful girl 27/ 5'-4", M.Sc., M.Ed., Lecturer Pvt. School, required turbaned boy of equal status. 94173-52596. (CL21012150)

Suitable match for Himachali Rajput girl, 5'-4", 01 July 1991, place Kangra B.Tech., M.S. Texas USA. 94364-0822. (CL21012208)

Required Panjabi (Doaba) Rajput Manglik boy (Indian forces/ Govt. job) for Rajput girl DOB 17/02/97, Time 9.00 pm (Manglik), Education BA, M.Com. + Computer, Ht. 5'-5" (fair & smart). Mob. No. 89689-90602. (CL21012242)

Suitable Doctor match who wants to settle in US for a smart girl 1995 born, height 5'-4", doing MD Medicine preparing USMLE. Share Biocare on 76951@gmail.com (CL21012055)

Matrimonial alliance for a 30-yrs, 5'-5" MBBS, convent educated, fair & beautiful, vegetarian. Brahmin girl, practising Doctor in UK. Boy should be a Medical Doctor preferably Brahmin, vegetarian, non-smoker and teetotaller from UK / India / NRI. Please send recent photos along with date, time & place of birth (for tallying kundalini) at email: gaponcloud9@outlook.com (CL21012074)

Medico match for beautiful Garg girl 86/ 5'-4", slim, MDS final year, having permanent Govt. job. Contact: 99142-74748. (CL21012107)

Required Doctor boy/ Bank Officer/ B.P. Govt. Officer for Jat Sikh girl, 1990/ 5'-3", MDS (Oral Maxillofacial Surgery), Senior Resident in Punjab Govt. Dept. Simple marriage, caste no bar. Contact: 98783-42450, 96437-26874. (CL21011965)

SM4 1/4 31/ 5'-6", MBBS, MD Jatt Sikh issues divorcee. Preference to turban boy from Malwa region. 82890-4252. (CL21011918)

Jat Sikh MD/MS match for MD Radiodiagnostics good, slim, 5'-4", 1991 born, 5'-4", MBBS, diploma in Fashion Designing, doing private job as Designer. Govt/ private job preferred. WhatsApp: 9876293406. (CL21011904)

SM4 for Ravidasia girl, 90, 5'-2", M.Sc., diploma in Fashion Designing, doing private job as Designer. Govt/ private job preferred. WhatsApp: 9876293406. (CL21011904)

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SIKH KHATRI

PQ Match for employed Sodhi
Sikh Khatri girl, 8.7.85, 6:15 a.m.,
5'-1", B.Pharma, Tricity cutsurf
preferred. Contact: 988888-36852
(CL21012347)

Sikh Khatri business class reputed
family of Chandigarh required Sikh
match for their daughter only in
Tricity, 28, 5'-5", Ph.D., vegetarian.
Business class well settled contact:
98159-81948. (CL21012014)

Professionally qualified match for
Chandigarh based beautiful girl,
28/5'-5", 15 Lacs P.A. Tricity
preferred. Send biodata with
Photographs. 95014-98410. (CL21012454)

PQM for Tricity based slim,
beautiful, Khatri Sikh convert
educated B.Com., CA girl, June
1995/5'-3", MNC (Gurgaon) 10 Lacs
P.A. Presently working from home.
85588-22803. (CL21012847)

Suitable match for Sikh Khatri girl
5'-3", 25 year, B.Com, MBA HR,
preferred Gursikh family, non trimmer
boy, well educated. Contact: 97819-
22036. (CL21012949)

SIKH ARORA

PQM for Bhatia Gursikh girl 33/
5'-5", B.Tech. (India), certification
(USA), Canada PR, working
as Manager MNC (Bangalore).
Contact: 99880-08355 (WhatsApp).
Email: ravinderkamal@gmail.com
(CL21010386)

Wanted well-educated & settled
match for 1993 born, 5'-5", M.Com,
B.Ed. girl. NRI preferred. Contact:
+919876004041 (CL21011752)

SIKH KHATRI/ARORA

Match for Sethi girl, 26, 5',
M.Sc (IT), work from home.
Govt. employed from tricity
preferred. 97796-11370. (CL21012365)

23, B.Com., PGDCA Diploma,
simple, beautiful girl, requires simple
family boy. 07471-37252, 07869-
59657. (CL21012853)

JAT SIKH

Parents seek US born or raised Jat
Sikh Professional match preferably
Doctor/Dentist for beautiful US
Citizen Jat Sikh DDS Dentist girl, 28
yrs, 5'-5", well versed with both
cultures. Forward biodata with
pictures to: sadapunjab@gmail.com
(CL21002455)

Medical/ professional match for Jat
Sikh, 27, MD, USA citizen,
very pretty girl, doing Residency-
Internal in USA. Well
established family. Jat Sikh boys doing
Residency in USA preferred.
E-mail: bestcare2012@hotmail.com
(CL21001989)

Professionally qualified match for
Defence Officers daughter, Nov. 91,
5'-3", Dentist Canada PR, working in
Ministry of Health Canada in
Administrative capacity. Girl in
India for a month. 99889-99170.
(CL21009538)

Professionally qualified well settled
match for Jat Sikh girl, 87, 5'-4",
B.Tech., M.Tech.-ECE, Software
Developer in Gurgaon MNC. Contact:
jattikh.gill.asr@gmail.com. 98730-
7936. (CL21009896)

Preferably Doctor match for Jat
Sikh September 89/5'-5", beautiful
girl currently Internal
medicine resident in US. 94638-
79620. jkaur0107@gmail.com
(CL21009899)

PQ MD/ MS/ Civil Services/ Class-I
Officer match for Jatt Sikh MBBS girl,
1995/5'-7", working as Govt. Medical
Officer. Urban educated family.
Contact with pictures & biodata
9781011966. (CL21010080)

Upper middle class Jatt Sikh
business family looking for well
educated match from reputed business
family for their daughter 86 born, ht.
5'-4" beautiful, slim, MA English,
homely. WhatsApp bio with pic on
70878-66268 or call on 98150-66268.
General caste no bar. (Please phone on
Monday). (CL21012044)

Parents invited matrimonial
alliance for their daughter 32 yrs old,
5'-11" tall, beautiful, family oriented,
never married. MBA, professionally
employed and settled in California.
The boy should be from a Jat Sikh
professionally qualified, tall
and well settled in the USA with
family values. Serious enquires
only. Please respond with the
latest photo and bio-data to
gurpreet113@icloud.com or call at
+9165030142. (CL21010381)

PQM for Jatt Sikh girl, 1990, 5'-6",
B.Com., MBA, working Multinational
American company Gurgaon, Canada
PR applied. Required qualified, well
settled/ NRI unmarried boy. Amritsar.
78885-18903. (CL21012209)

Parents of Jatt Sikh 1990/5'-2",
M.Com, B.Ed. beautiful, well cultured
and family oriented girl seen cultur
surd/non-turbated, well educated,
employed and well settled match from
reputed family. Jalandhar. Contact:
7597900001. (CL21012232)

Well-settled handsome status
status match for beautiful Doctor
girl 32 years, 5'-6". Father
retired Class-I Officer. 93161-
33072, spschahal1@gmail.com
(CL21012257)

Jat Sikh girl 1994/ 5'-1", BA LL.B

needs well qualified or well settled
boy with a good family background.
Non-Drinker, NRI accepted. Malwa/
Doaba area preferred. Simple
marriage. Can't afford dowry. Contact:
70094-43021. (CL21012317)

Slim, beautiful Sikh girl, 1992,
5'-1", M.Sc. (IT), working IT
company. Tricity preferred. WhatsApp:
98723-21117. (CL21012201)

Jatt Sikh girl 1995, 5'-8", veterinary
Dr. BVSC, doing MVSC, cut suture,
Veterinary Dr. Engineer, America /
Canada Preference . 88720-05738
(CL21011703)

PQM for Jatt Sikh girl, MBA, 1992,
5'-3". Seeking for vegetarian, non-
drinker, turbaned Jatt Sikh boy.
Marriage bureau and dowry seekers
excuse. Phone No. 97800-37576,
95307-02506. (CL21012326)

Non-drinker, vegetarian, having
equal status, match for 5'-8"/91, Class
One Gazetted Officer (Medical).
98789-60578. (CL21012379)

Suitable Jatt Sikh match for girl
1991, 5'-1", Ph.D. Assistant Professor
(PAU) permanent job. Preferred
Jalandhar, Moga. 88724-56144.
(CL21012363)

Well settled, status, PQM for Jat
Sikh beautiful. Cultured daughter
24.12.1997, 5'-7", currently
internship BVSC & AH, belong
business class well settled status
jagirdar family. S.8609-94914,
chandanbirsingh5585@gmail.com
(CL21011749)

Match for Khatri girl, 1990, 5'-6",
MBA (Finance), self employed,
educated family, siblings married
in Jatt Sikh. 99157-46078.
(CL21011764)

Match for 29, 5'-2", Jatt Sikh

M.Sc. Chemistry, B.Ed. girl,
private teacher, Punjab - Himachal
preferred. 98056-74661, 98162-
59592. (CL21011804)

Suitable match for Sikh girl Nov.
1995 height 5'-4", working in Wipro,
6 LPA package. Preference IT
Company. Contact: 99148-46060.
(CL21011857)

Seeking a suitable Jatt Sikh match

for 1985/5'-3", well educated,
working as Lecturer (IELTS cleared
Canada PR under process). WhatsApp
biodata with picture 98785-82590.
(CL21012492)

Match for beautiful, fair

complexioned, ambitious Ramgarhia
girl Nov. 1991, 5'-6". M.Sc., Govt.
employed Amritsar based well
educated, settled family. 98889-
45698. (CL21012473)

Match for Sikhs girl Nov.

1995 height 5'-4", working in Wipro,
6 LPA package. Preference IT
Company. Contact: 99148-46060.
(CL21011857)

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educated, settled family. 98889-
45698. (CL21012473)

Match for beautiful, fair</p

PLOT FOR SALE

Mohali: 8 marla plot, corner Sector 79, facing park Sector 80. 6 marla, facing park Sector 78. Empire Estates - 98159-50922, 90566-66055. (CL21012177)

Mohali Gilco Industrial: 1040/518 gaj B-road East/North East 4 kanal facing, best location & approach, Royal Castle: 98767-60000, 98787-80000. (CL21012907)

Aerotropolis LOI: 500, 300, 200, 150 Residential & 200, 100, 60, 25 Commercial, Royal Castle: 98787-80000, 98767-60000. (CL21012908)

Aerotropolis Lands: 2, 4 kanal, 1 acre, Block-E, F, G & H, Best investment, Royal Castle: 98767-60006, 98787-80000. (CL21012910)

Kanal Industry plot: 147A Janta Land 82 sq.m. from B-road park. Good approach. Saini: 98786-50827. (CL21012848)

Available all size plots Sectors 76 to 80: 82/88/86 Aerocity/Ecocity. Rama Properties Rera approved. 98140-42287. (CL21011895)

Emaar Plots for sale 544 sy plot: corner facing park Sector-105 500 sq.m. Villa in Sector-108 newly built 400 sy house for sale many more for details. Pls Call: 81968-97777. (CL21012010)

Emaar plots for sale 390 sy corner: facing park Sector-108, 300 sy plot facing park front pocket MLU Sector-109, 300 sy plot ordinary location AP-395, Sector 109, Bangalore in Sector 108, many more for details. Pls Call: 81968-97777. (CL21012012)

Mohali Aerocity twelve marla: corner, C-Block. Contact Marwaha 204, Phase 3B1, Mohali. Phone: 98140-10193. (CL21012094)

300 Gaj Residential Plot for sale: in Eco City Phase-I, New Chandigarh. 81988-89994. (CL21012771)

One kanal plot B-road, East facing: corner to second big berm, near Amity University/Infosys Sector 8A, IT-City, Mohali. Owner: 98158-48100. (CL21012857)

Emarr 500 sq. yrd PP 327 corner: Sector 108, 300 sq. yrd AG 476 @ 67 lakh, AG 600 @ 55 lakh. Singh Property: 96465-28601. (CL21012897)

Mohali: 120 gaj (@ 25 Lac), 125 Gaj (@ 30 Lac), residential plot in Signature City, near Air Port Chowk. Contact: Empire Estates 95177-60000. (CL21012969)

Aerotropolis: 100, 200 gaj: (Residential), 60 gaj bayshop, 100 gaj showroom in Block-D. (LOI soon). Empire Estates 95177-60000. (CL21012970)

IT City: 4 marla F/park & big corner plot Sector-66, (Near Mohali Airport), Empire Estates 95177-60000. (CL21012971)

Beautifully ready office for Software: 500 ft, plot 3115, Phase 2, Chandigarh, 3000 ft, JPL, plot 152, Mohali. 98881-18885. (CL21012663)

TOLET**CHANDIGARH**

Toilet Services for Independent Kathi, Flats, Rooms, Booth, Showroom, Cabins in Tricity. Contact 94637-24283. (CL21005237)

Fully furnished two bed room CHB flat: Sector 63, Chandigarh. Company/ Bank lease preferred. Contact: 89685-34116. (CL21012190)

Independent fully furnished one room: with kitchen, bathroom. Contact: 2573, 2nd floor, Sector 44-C, Chandigarh. 94636-54064, 97806-05362. (CL21012384)

Three bedroom drawing dining: 2 - bathrooms fully marbled second floor, 15 marla corner house Sector 36-A, Chandigarh. Rent 25,000/- (Col. Ahluwalia) 98765-58145. (CL21012620)

Independent 8.5 marla, 2nd floor: Sector 43-B, Chandigarh, one bedroom, drawing, dining, kitchen, bath, veranda, front/rear terrace, fully furnished. Contact: 98159-56545. (CL21012660)

Independent one room with kitchen: bathroom, independent lobby ground floor Sector 53. Also 3 single single room with separate bathrooms ground floor Sector 53. Contact: 281, Sector 51-A, Chandigarh. 62837-47963. (CL21012905)

One kanal corner three bedroom first floor: facing park 304, Sector 35-A, Chandigarh. Contact: 99155-00304. (CL21012973)

Two bedroom drawing dining: 15 marla house second floor Sector 36-A, rent 17,000/- (Col. Ahluwalia) 98765-58145. (CL21012995)

10 marla, 1645, Sector 34D, first and second floor: available for rent. Contact: 94170-44815. (CL21012962)

PANCHKULA

Three Bedroom flat for rent Pearl Apartments: GH-29, MDC-5, Panchkula Flat-9, Rent 15000/- 079886-51279, 093557-32181. (CL21012089)

MOHALI

3 BHK, first floor, 10.5 marla, 24x7 water, Sector 71, Contact 98781-49222. (CL21012637)

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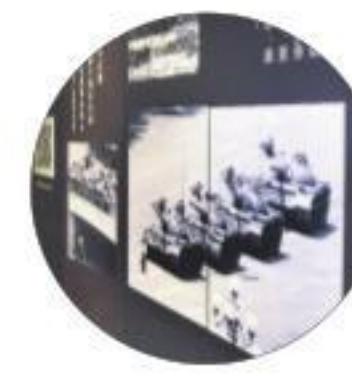
A German art historian and a Gujarati cultural anthropologist join forces to document the tribal rituals of remote villages in South Gujarat

ARTS page 11



For his exceptional leadership, Group Captain Chandan Singh was the seniormost Indian Air Force officer to be awarded the MVC during the 1971 war

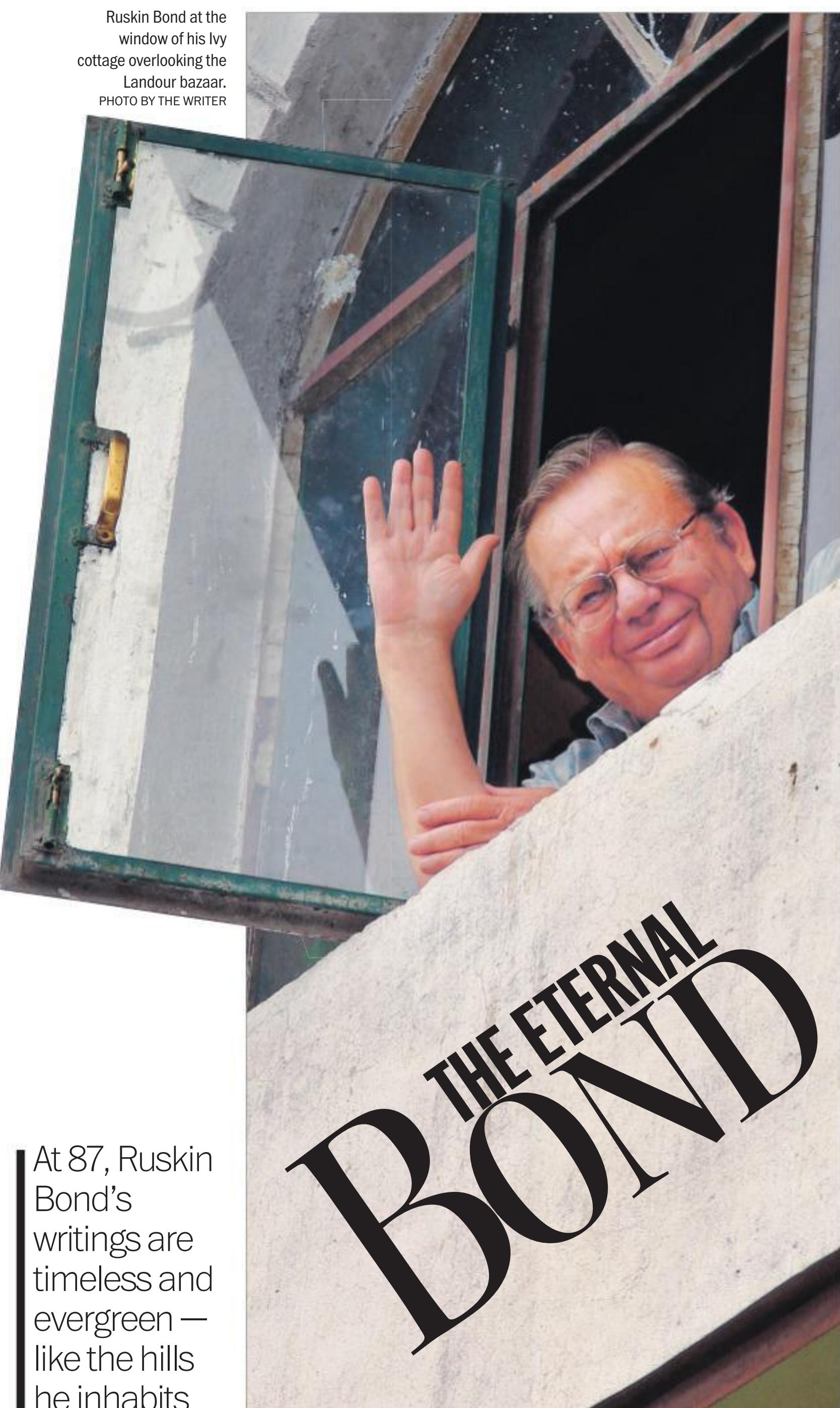
TRIBUTE page 12



A former Foreign Secretary casts a uniquely Indian spotlight on the events of April 15 to June 4, 1989, leading up to the Tiananmen Square crackdown

BOOKS page 13

Ruskin Bond at the window of his Ivy cottage overlooking the Landour bazaar.
PHOTO BY THE WRITER



At 87, Ruskin Bond's writings are timeless and evergreen — like the hills he inhabits

RAJNISH WATTAS

WELL, I have always worked from home as a writer, so no complaints," he chuckles, as we talk on his squeaky landline phone about lockdown restrictions. Ever in good cheer and uplifting, Ruskin Bond is my 'go to man' amid the gloom of the pandemic.

Nearing 87, nothing has diminished his writing output or zest for life. He is happier talking about the monkey on the roof who wakes him up and runs away with his pyjamas, than moaning about creaking bones or rising blood pressure. "I still wake up at the crack of dawn, see the magic of light spreading over the hills, chirp with the crow who sits on the window sill and manage to put in 500 words of writing between snoozes."

The enduring popularity of his writings lies in the endearing charm of a gentle, friendly, avuncular person, modest to a fault. He leads a simple, fuss-free life in his little cottage with his adopted family, which also includes cats, monkeys and the whistling thrush that sings outside his window. He claims his inspirations come from the breakfast of three slices of buttered toast, fried eggs, pickle and honey he eats everyday and the tot of rum at sundown.

Losing his father at 10 and life with a stepfather thereafter, taught him to be stoic and uncomplaining. At 17, he escaped to UK doing menial jobs for a living, while working on a book at night. "I wrote the 'Room on the Roof' and mailed it to two or three publishers. Most returned it with some kind remarks about good writing, but poor sales potential, etc. Then one day, I got a call from Diana Athill (one of book publishing's most remarkable editors) to meet her; and she gave me the news about its acceptance, and took me out for dinner!" His publisher was none other than the prestigious Andre Deutsch, something he shares with VS Naipaul. Both went on to win the John Llewellyn Rhys prize for their first books — Bond in 1957 and Naipaul a year later.

With £50 advance, the homesick Bond took the first ship back to India and settled down in Mussoorie to lead a quiet writer's life ever since.

His writings carry the fragrance of the Garhwal hills, landscaped with

pine knolls, gurgling streams and wild flowers. "He is a writer who deals with solitude... in the most understated way," wrote Naipaul later about his work. His keen eye also catches the sights, smells and chatter of hill bazaars, forgotten railway stations and small towns fallen off the map. His writer's world is peopled by eccentric uncles, naughty schoolboys and drunken postmen — not unlike RK Narayan's fictional town of Malgudi.

Bond's literary oeuvre includes more than 500 stories, essays and includes novels such as the 'A Flight of Pigeons' and 'The Blue Umbrella' — both later turned into films. His autobiographical books like 'Scenes from a Writer's Life' and 'The Lamp is Lit' were very revealing about his hardships and writer's struggles. Numerous anthologies, including ghost stories, kept coming out, besides an extended autobiography 'Lone Fox Dancing' (2017).

Though born an Englishman, just as Bond has given it all to the land he loves, the adopted country, too, has showered him back with university doctorates, Sahitya Akademi award and the nation's top honours of a Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan. Though, he considers an umbrella gifted by a little school girl after reading his book, 'The Blue Umbrella', most precious.

With puckish humour, Bond likes making fun of his name, especially its likeness to the famous fictional spy and Hollywood hero James Bond. "Oh, I get all the fun sitting on a chair, while he has to do all the running around," he quips!

Ahead of his birthday on May 19, I would like to greet him with the words that he once wrote for me in a squiggle, handwritten letter, "May your pen run away with you, and you write many more fine things."

Happy Birthday! Bond Sahib.

“

The challenge of writing for children is to get their attention straightaway and have a good story. The beginning should be good to draw their attention or else they will just go away.

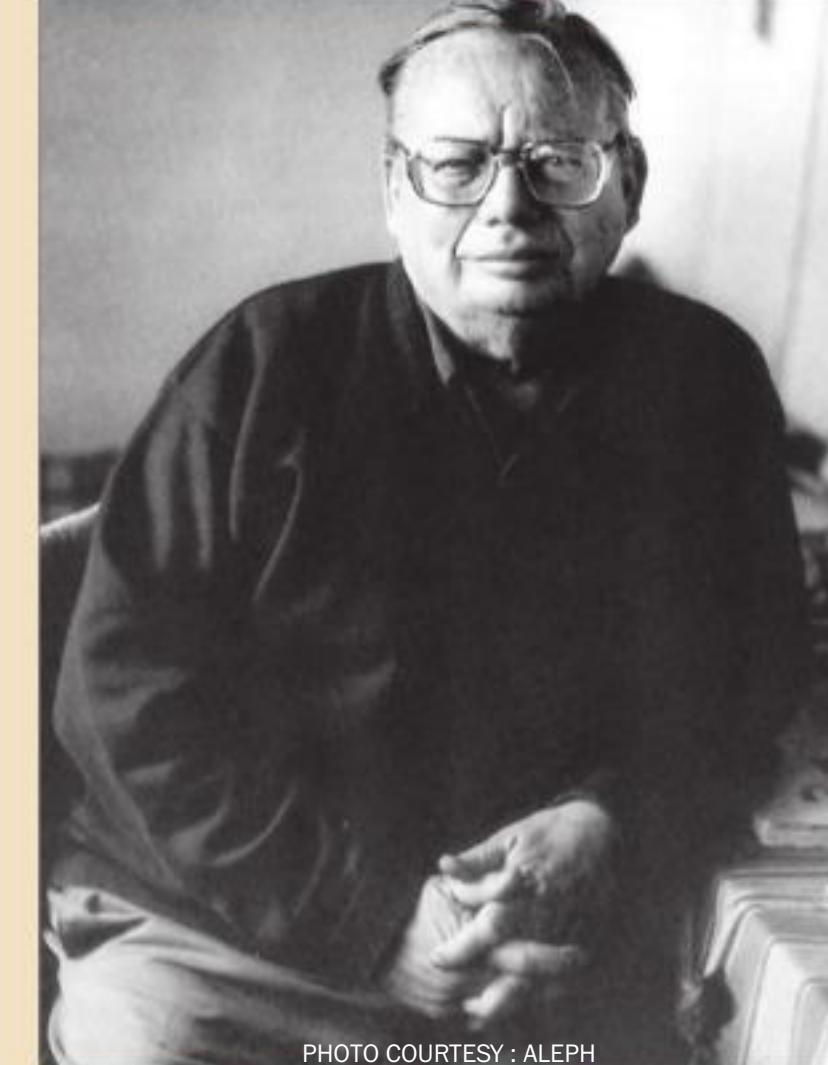


PHOTO COURTESY : ALEPH

Edited excerpts from 'It's a Wonderful Life':
'If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And if I am not for others, what am I? And if not now, when?' — Hillel the Elder Lockdown Journals (April-May 2020)

5 April 2020

In a broken and contentious world, it can be difficult for an individual to find the happiness that he seeks, even if by nature he (or she) is not a contentious person. It is difficult to enjoy the flowers by the wayside if a tear gas cylinder (or something worse) has just burst in front of you. Throughout history the peace-loving, happiness-seeking individual is caught in the crossfire of human conflict. But still, he grows flowers, and sometimes he gets to enjoy them. If you can grow flowers in your garden, or on your balcony, or on your windowsill, you have a chance of finding happiness. From my bedroom window I can see a storm brewing over the distant hills. The sky has darkened. The wind is a low moan as it channels a pathway through the trees. Lightning strikes at random, zigzagging across the evening sky. Nature at her most elemental but also most beautiful. That lightning, the violence of the storm, are not aimed at me or mine, for the elements take no sides. Lightning will strike by accident, not design. I close the window and turn on the television. Tired, desperate refugees from bombed-out homes in Syria trek across no-man's land and are turned back from another border.

— Excerpted with permission from the publisher.

Virus is also a ghost... bad one'

INTERVIEW

■ Your thoughts on turning 87, almost seven decades of writing. Any regrets?

Plenty of thoughts. Very fortunate to make a living out of something I enjoy doing. Making a vocation out of it. But no regrets whatsoever.

■ Your recent book, 'It's a Wonderful Life', coming out in a grey and frightened world of the pandemic, reminds us to look for joy and hope in everyday things. Is that Dr Bond's prescription?

My book goes with my thoughts and they go down the optimistic way. No prescription, but we all have our own ways of coping with distress. We have our individual natures, some have a sunny disposition and some have depressing ways. Remember what George Santayana said, "There is no cure for birth and death save to enjoy the interval."

One shouldn't get bogged down in tremendous philosophies, etc, just derive pleasure out of simple joys of nature. I find bird-watchers to be the most well-balanced people. They are so immersed in their pursuit, getting up early in the morning, marching off with their binoculars, hiding in the bushes just looking at birds. They all seem to be such nice people.

If you meet nature half-way, then you're half-way to happiness.

■ You still write with the old-fashioned pen and paper and yet have produced such a large body of literary work! How do you cope in today's world?

Yes, I do write with pen and paper. But my

family members have to do a lot of sorting out later with all papers, documents scattered over my desk. But I get along.

I'm technologically illiterate. Even phones, I'm not comfortable with new phones. But I manage. Recently, 15 stories of mine, narrated over my rickety landline phone, were broadcast over the AIR external services. And I'm told there was a very good response.

■ The core elements of your writings are distilled simplicity, kinship with nature and generally, a bemused view of life. How do they all flow so seamlessly?

Over the years, I think the attributes you mention have coalesced into my natural writing style. Every writer should have his own style. If everyone wrote in the same style it would get very boring. Of course, newspaper reporting is something else, they have to give information and facts that require different skills.

The personal element comes a lot in everything I write. Even if I'm writing fiction, the personal element comes. I find it easier that way in first person. And sometimes I'm writing out of my own daily life like a diarist.

■ Keeping diaries is a regular practice with you. Have they helped you in mining material for your future writings and to provide emotional catharsis?

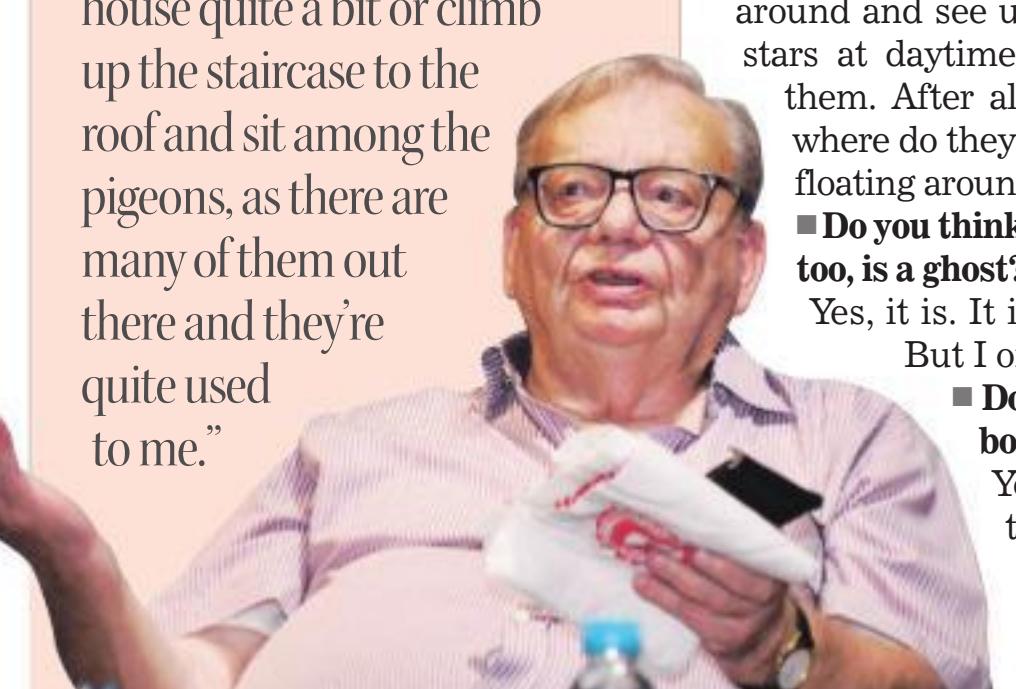
I have always enjoyed reading diarists, people like Samuel Pepys who kept fascinating records of London life. The books I enjoy so much are biogra-

phies of other writers. But not autobiographies — as writers are great liars. Like everyone else, they might hold back some less desirable parts, keep something back to not offend societies.

I enjoyed reading the biography of Edgar Allan Poe, who was such a good writer but a crazy kind of chap, full of hysteria. I also like Richard Jefferies' 'The Story of My Heart'.

The beauty of growing old is that you have so much more material. You have met so many more characters, seen so many events, seen so many changes. Whereas when you're just 17, when I wrote my first book, you know so little of the world.

"Since I can't go for my favourite long walks during the pandemic, I walk around the house quite a bit or climb up the staircase to the roof and sit among the pigeons, as there are many of them out there and they're quite used to me."



So writers can't say there is no more material. Writers have no excuse to retire!

■ Who is the reader in your mind you write for?

The reader is someone like me. Someone who can relate to what I'm experiencing. If I like observing birds, the reader, too, has an empathy for living creatures. If I appreciate the flight of a butterfly, he, too, has an interest in them.

■ You mention some of the books you have liked to re-read. Which are those and why?

Yes, I do read a lot of books again and again. Sometimes for the style, sometimes for the characters or sometimes for the atmosphere they create. Such as 'Wuthering Heights' by Emily Bronte. I also like 'The Quest for Corvo' by AJA Simons.

■ Why do ghosts fascinate you so much?

You have written so many ghost stories.

It's simply because I haven't met one. So, either we're all ghosts or they are all around and see us. Just as we don't see stars at daytime but they exist, all of them. After all, so many people die, where do they go... they might be just floating around... (chuckles).

■ Do you think that Covid, too, is a ghost?

Yes, it is. It is like nature in revolt. But I only like good ghosts.

■ Do you think the printed book will stay on?

Yes, there will be all types of people, with room for all.

— Rajnish Wattas



IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: ROADS TO HAPPINESS
by Ruskin Bond.
Aleph.
Pages 149.
₹399

Faith, art and artists in tribal Gujarat

No one recognises the richness of their (the tribals') rituals, the great power of being possessed by God, the intensity of belief, even the beauty of dancing, or being in a trance, as cultural values.

— Eberhard Fischer & Haku Shah

Lodha dev, lakda dev, tama rupa dev, chhana dev, mena dev
Mena dev kal dharti, dev mogra, dharma dharti, helu pandar, dev mogi, puja padase

(God of iron, god from wood, god of copper, god from cow-dung.
Black earth, god crocodile, sacred earth, cold queen, goddess crocodile:
Please accept our worship)

— Tribal song sung at the time of installing a crocodile-god's image

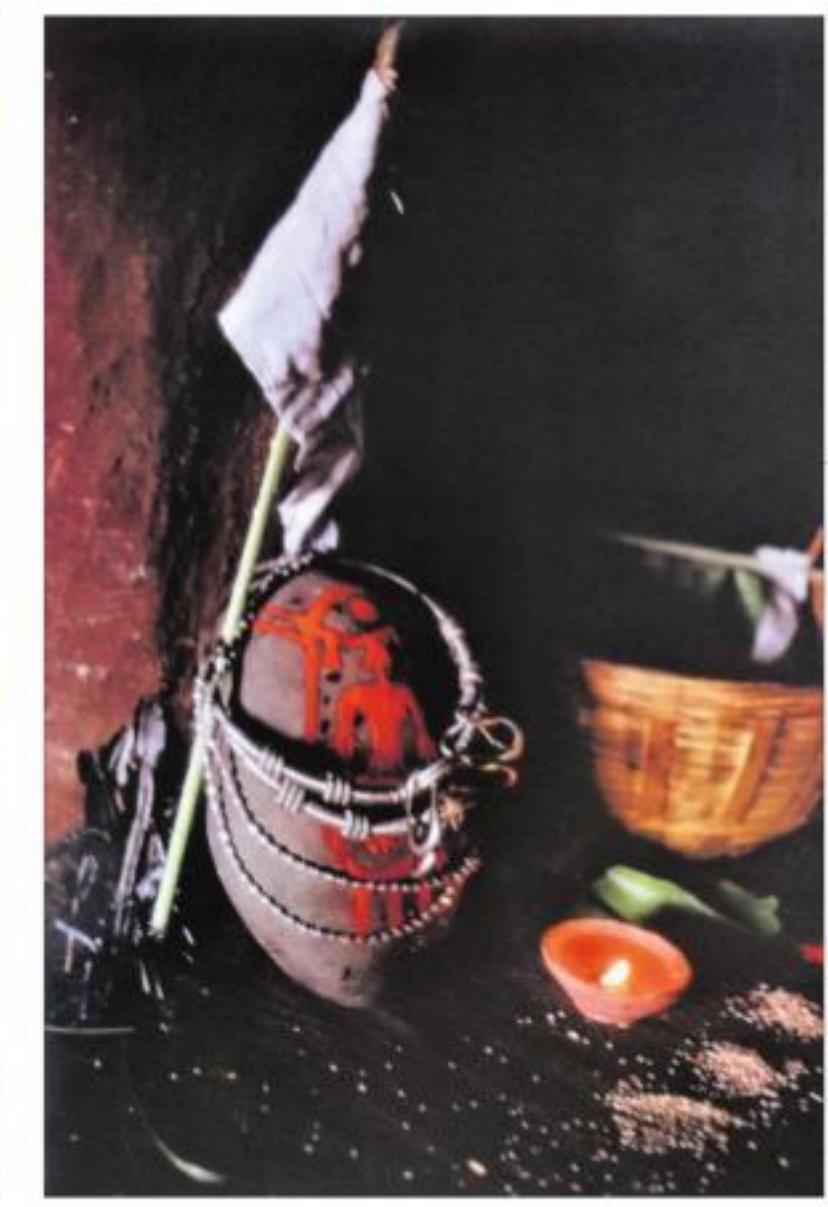


**ART &
SOUL**

BN GOSWAMY

HERE is a popular Bengali saying that runs, 'Baans baney dom kaana': meaning, 'in forest of bamboos, the bamboo-cutter goes nearly blind'. Because there is far too much to choose from. This is the feeling that washes over one when one sees — 'encounters' might be a better term — a work like Eberhard Fischer and Haku Shah's 'newest' book, 'Art for Tribal Rituals in South Gujarat, India'. The sub-title says that it is not so new, for it runs, 'A Visual Anthropological Survey of 1969'. But there is so much in it, so much freshness, such sharp detail, that it seems hard to believe that all that is in there goes back some 50 years or so. Arriving as they did as young men — one affiliated to the University of Heidelberg in Germany, and the other to the Tribal Research and Training Institute at Gujarat Vidyapith in Ahmedabad — in that remote corner of Gujarat in 1969, the two did not only see everything with fresh and eager eyes, but now make us see it all that through their eyes.

As one reads chapter after chapter, one feels as if one is moving with them through remote villages, treading untried paths, climbing hillocks and negotiating brush, locating informants and interviewing people, sipping tea sitting inside thatched huts, sleeping under the sky, measuring objects, watching death rituals and spiritual healing, hearing songs and registering rhythmic beats, circumambulating sites, observing icons being carved: and photographing, photographing, photographing all the time. All this was during the day, however. At night it was time to put scribbled notes in order,



and type them out.

Even a quick look at the chapter headings sends one thinking. The two researchers — Eberhard Fischer as a trained anthropologist who had worked earlier with tribal art and culture in Africa and had been close to the iconic teacher, Alfred Buhler; and Haku Shah, as one deeply rooted in Gujarati culture and immersed in the study of tribal arts — began with describing the land and people of the former Surat district. And then they moved with consummate ease into the life and beliefs of the 'tribals' — the term is now hardly ever heard, having been replaced very carefully with 'Adivasi' — inquiring into their knowledge of 'Supernatural and Divine Powers', of the 'Human soul and the spirits of the Dead'; delving into the world of the 'Bhagats' who are specialists for rituals, oracles, and healing; watching terracotta horses being offered to Himariya dev and the dana Oracle; witnessing the whispered world of

'Death and contacts with the Dead'.

With great interest — one has to recall that Fischer is an art historian, apart from being an anthropologist — the two observed, step by step, cut by cut, the making of Icons for the Dead, including the soul-stone, Khatru; the wooden veta figures with sculpted heads; the Khamba (pillars) and the stone memorial slabs. The highly revered wooden Mogra dev — crocodile deity — swung into their view, and sacred sites were explored. But all the goings-on in the life of the tribals were not only recorded in verbal terms: one can see it as having been visually documented. So densely is this done in fact that as one moves from one page to the next, the sensation one gets is of looking at a sheaf of a photographer's contact sheets.

Nothing was done, as Fischer and Shah proceeded, in a hit-or-miss manner. A firm and clear 'ethnographic' pattern was followed as far as approaching the subject and the people were concerned.

They stated this at the very beginning. "First of all," as they planned, "only our own visual and auditory experiences will be recorded"; the attempt was "to relate our experiences objectively, in simple language, not allowing personal feelings to influence us in any way"; intentionally "a sparse expression of words" was adopted. What was avoided was "working on already existing literature to make comparisons with findings from other areas". If one reads and sees the material finally presented in the work, one can see that this 'protocol' was strictly followed. There is no judgemental slant in how or what they recorded; there were no 'opinions' or recommendations; there was not even the slightest inflexion of superiority.

On the other hand it is all out there: up front and transparent. If anything, there is the warmth of humanity here: in the portraits of men and women, in the sympathy with which death rituals are recorded; in the respect accorded to

their beliefs and regard for their aesthetics. One can see this in the pictures: joy in the springy steps of young maidens as they make their way to the village fair; solemnity in the occasions when bodies are being readied for final rites; total absorption when it comes to the work of the craftsmen; breathlessness and beauty in the steps of the dancers.

There are great riches on offer in this volume, and one cannot but be astonished at the manner in which it has survived — text and pictures and thoughts — for close to half a century. For me, what emerges from its study is not only the documentation, the facts: it is respect for the innate wisdom reflected in the life-style and beliefs of the people whose lives and practices were studied and documented. A respect also for what we call 'saadagi'. The word means more than 'simplicity', for wrapped in its layers somewhere are also notions of 'honesty', 'transparency', 'truth'.

Extreme left: Wooden khamba slabs installed near the road between Uchhal and Nizar; (left) Placing the soul on a stone (khatru mokavenu)
ALL PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN BY EBERHARD FISCHER DURING FIELD-WORK IN 1969

From left: A Chaudhari woman in traditional costume; Bhagatai ritual performed by Kakada Bhagat at Ranveri; Mogra dev. Sculpted figure of the tribal crocodile-god installed in the open.

On a parting note

SHAILAJA KHANNA

AMID a raging pandemic, the world of Hindustani classical music does not remain unaffected and is losing many established names. Recently two stalwarts, Banaras gharana vocalist Pt Rajan Mishra (70) and Senia gharana sitarist Pt Debu Chaudhuri (85), and more recently and tragically, Pt Debu Chaudhuri's son, sitarist Prateek Choudhury, died due to Covid-19.

Born in Bangladesh, Pt Debu Chaudhuri moved to Delhi in the 1960s. He virtually established the music department at Delhi University. In the 1960s, teaching music en masse was looked down upon by elitist musicians, but Debu da was bold enough to choose this path.

Though representing an illustrious musical lineage (his guru Ustad Mushtaq Hussain Khan was a descendant of Tansen), Debu da had no patrons. It was gradually through his hard work and talent that he established and distinguished himself and was awarded Padma Bhushan and Sangeet Natak Akademi award in recognition, among the many honours received.

Pt Rajan Mishra, also Padma Bhushan and Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee belonged to a musicians' family. He and his brother Sajan were invited by their uncle, sarangi maestro Pt Gopal Mishra, to Delhi for a radio audition in 1973. A welcoming response made them decide to stay on.

The journey of both maestros is somewhat similar — choosing to present a style of music that, at that time, was not the easier or the popular option. Pt Debu Chaudhuri had to establish his style of sitar when maestros like Ustad Vilayat Khan, Pt Ravi Shankar and Pt Nikhil Banerjee were already ruling. Rather than copy them, he stuck to his 'taalim'. Choosing to continue playing the 17 fret rather than the 19-fret sitar, Debu da's presentations were concise, never prolonged or gimmicky. He chose to play traditional compositions, as cre-

ated by the elders of his gharana.

Similarly, Pt Rajan Mishra, the elder and the strategist of the duo, chose not to sing thumri and dadra in the initial years. During the 1970s, the Banaras gharana was famous for its thumri; made popular by stalwarts like Rasoolan Bai, Siddheshwari Devi and Girija Devi.

Pt Rajan Mishra's senior disciple, vocalist Viraj Amar, recalls, "Guruji said initially we would choose to end our recitals with a bhajan or tapa, but never with a thumri. We had to establish ourselves primarily as masters of khayal." This decision eventually paid dividends. The Mishra brothers' opening of a raga through its composition, khayal, was unparalleled.

Both maestros were determined to make classical music popular among masses as well. Debu da did it through the university department while the Mishra brothers set religious texts to music to appeal to a wider audience. Both believed in the importance of teaching in the guru-shishya parampara and had established teaching institutions to pass on their learning.

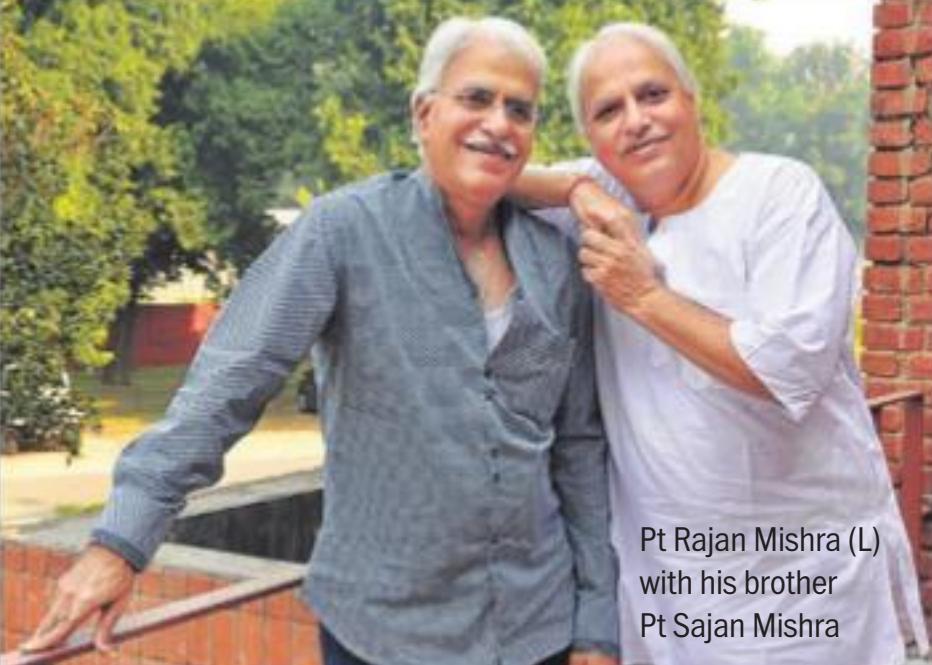
Both, with charming, gregarious personalities, were immensely popular. Their wide circle of friends was not limited to the music world. They attributed everything to their gurus; with no attempt to take credit for the musical innovations they made. Both remained humble despite their enormous stature as musicians.

Pt Prateek Chaudhury (49) passed away just a week after his father's demise. Continuing Pt Debu Chaudhuri's legacy of playing the 17-fret sitar, Prateek was an established artiste. His death has come as a rude shock for the music world as well as his students at Delhi University, where he taught in the department established by his father. He leaves behind two kids; his young son Adhiraj also plays the sitar.

Their passing is an immense loss to the music world.



Covid recently claimed Banaras gharana vocalist Pt Rajan Mishra and Senia gharana sitarist Pt Debu Chaudhuri, leaving a void in the music world. Both doyens had a similar trait — choosing the road less travelled



Pt Rajan Mishra (L) with his brother Pt Sajan Mishra

CAPTION CONTEST 1304



Entries are invited to suggest a caption for the above photograph. The caption should only be in English, witty and not exceeding 10 words, and reach Spectrum, The Tribune, Chandigarh, 160030, by Thursday. The best five captions will be published and

awarded ₹300, ₹250, ₹200, ₹150 and ₹100, respectively. Each caption must be accompanied by a clipping of the caption contest and its number. Photocopies of the caption photo will not be accepted. Please mention the pin code in your address.

You have a camera or a phone camera? Click and send us a picture for the caption contest. The selected picture will be used for Caption Contest. Mail the high resolution picture (.jpg format) at captionpics@tribunemail.com

Selected entries for Caption Contest 1303

May 2 issue (see photo)

■ Share force — Mahesh Kumar, Sangrur

■ Plight mode — Ashwini Kumar, Dhuri

■ Shortage of ox season — Jatinder Kumar Karkra, Chandigarh

■ Duty queen contest — Mahesh Kumar, Chandigarh

■ Mission livelihood — Sanju Panicker, Panchkula



Brilliant, unconventional, fearless

For his exceptional leadership, Group Captain Chandan Singh was the seniormost IAF officer to be awarded MVC

AIR VICE MARSHAL ARJUN SUBRAMANIAM (RETD)

AS 57 Mountain Division, 23 Division and 8 Mountain Division under Major Generals Ben Gonsalves, RD Hira and KV Krishna Rao found themselves on the east banks of the rivers Meghna and Surma, respectively, their Corps Commander, Lieutenant General Sagat Singh, was searching for innovative solutions to seriously threaten Dacca by the end of the first week of operations in his IV Corps zone. Turning to his IAF Task Force Commander, Group Captain Chandan Singh (later Air Vice Marshal), he remarked, "Chandan, do what you have to but get me into Sylhet and across the Meghna river to put pressure on the Dacca Garrison. If there is a window of opportunity, I want to be the first into Dacca." If there was anyone in the IAF who could match up to Sagat's energy and his ability to convert operational ideas into outcomes, it was his fellow Rajput, Chandan Singh.



Group Captain Chandan Singh was already a legend in the IAF's transport fleet when he was called upon to perform extraordinary feats in 1971. He proved to be the ideal air commander who understood the land battle as no one else did

Commissioned as a fighter pilot, a serious accident on Spitfires during an emergency landing in 1949 almost wrote off Chandan's flying career. Determined to get back into a cockpit, he soon commenced flying Dakotas and then the C-119 Packet before converting onto An-12s just as Ladakh was flaring up in the early 1960s. Squadron Leader Chandan Singh led the air-dropping missions over Ladakh to sustain forward posts and came back with his aircraft riddled with 19 bullet holes on the first day of the 1962 conflict; he then flew in tanks to the Chushul airfield. Awarded a Vir Chakra for his exploits in the 1962 conflict with China, Group Captain Chandan Singh was already a legend in the IAF's transport fleet when he was called upon to perform extraordinary feats during the 'Lightning Campaign' in December 1971.

Chandan's exploits in the 1971 conflict saw him wearing two hats and demonstrating organisational brilliance and personal courage. As the Station Commander of Air Force Station, Jorhat, he was entrusted by Air Chief Marshal Lal with setting up Kilo Flight, the forerunner to the Bangladesh Air Force. Manned by a few selected pilots, including Group Captain Khandker and Flt Lt Sultan Mahmud (both future Air Chiefs in the Bangladesh Air Force) and airmen who



SPECTACULAR JOINTMANSHIP: Gp Capt Chandan Singh (second from left) with Lt Gen Sagat Singh (extreme right), Maj Gen Hira (extreme left) and Brig Sodhi. The legendary Air Force officer was the orchestrator of the first ever large-scale heli-landed operations in Independent India. PHOTO COURTESY: MAJOR CHANDRAKANT, BIOGRAPHER OF AIR VICE MARSHAL CHANDAN SINGH

had defected from the Pakistan Air Force, a few accomplished IAF helicopter and transport pilots were chosen to clandestinely train them. Among them was Flying Officer Karandikar (later Air Commodore), who recalls his association with Chandan Singh with awe and reverence. He recalls that the team was equipped with the Dakota, the slow-moving Otter aircraft and Alouette helicopters, with the Otter and Alouette modified for weapon delivery and armed with rocket pods and a machine gun operated by a gunner firing sideways out of an open-door hatch. Chandan shifted them to Dimapur, a satellite base, from where they gained proficiency in night flying and weapon delivery before they were moved to Kumbhigram and then forward to Kailashahar in early December to support IV Corps operations.

Karandikar recalls flying the Dakota solo on a few occasions as he flew some fuel and armament stores from Kumbhigram to Kailashahar, an unconventional decision which only a risk-taker like Chandan would authorise. Chandan Singh's magnanimity was evident when he ensured that the Bangladeshi pilots were given the opportunity of firing the first shot at the enemy on December 3 as he tasked the Otter with a rocket attack on the oil tanks at Narayanganj, and the Alouette to attack the oil tanks at Chittagong just after midnight. Chandan often

flew with Kilo Flight and they did a great job throughout the campaign by flying missions at night against several targets.

Encouraged by its initial success, Lt Gen Sagat Singh agreed to Chandan's suggestion that Kailashahar, right on the Tripura-East Pakistan border, should emerge as the aviation hub of Sagat Singh's IV Corps and Chandan Singh was unofficially re-designated as Task Force Commander. This is where he wore his second hat as the orchestrator of the first ever large-scale heli-landed operations in Independent India if one discounts the heli-landed operation at Aizawl during the Mizo insurgency of 1966. Strategising extensively with Sagat at IV Corps HQ in Teliapura, Chandan soon had a large complement of battle-proven Mi-4 helicopters from 110 Helicopter Unit (HU) at Kailashahar, supplemented by a few IAF and army Alouette light helicopters. While the former were primarily troop carriers, the latter would prove immensely useful in the recce and scout roles.

Responding to the first call into action, Chandan Singh himself flew a mission to Sylhet on the morning of December 7 to investigate reports from Indian Army intelligence that the Pakistan army wanted to surrender. Met with a fusillade of machine gun fire and receiving several hits on his Mi-4 helicopter, Chandan reported back to Sagat that it was a trap. Reacting coolly, Sagat asked Chandan

whether he could cross the Surma river and land a battalion under fire and seize the initiative by surprising two Pakistani brigades which would be anticipating a larger conventional assault by several brigades. The rest is history as 110 HU heli-landed 4/5 GR commanded by Lt Col Harolikar under fire at the gates of Sylhet in a display of spectacular jointmanship. Supported by airstrikes by IAF fighters and Kilo Flight under FAC control and receiving continuous waves of Mi-4s, the Gorkhas fought valiantly for over a week, preventing the brigade from reinforcing Dacca and coercing it sufficiently to surrender on December 16.

Emboldened by the success of the Sylhet operation, Sagat urged Chandan to push his weary helicopter crew, who had flown non-stop for over 48 hours, to heli-land several brigades of 57 and 23 Division at multiple points across the wide and mighty Meghna river by December 13. Relocating to Agartala, 110 HU was reinforced with more helicopters and crew from two more units to cope with the volume of lifting an entire brigade with its complement of engineers and light artillery to chosen landing zones at Raipura, Narsingdi and Narayanganj from the divisional forward HQ of Brahmanbaria. 4 Guards was the second unit after 4/5 GR to participate in the operation and came out with flying colours despite hardly any preparatory time for

the operation. Here again, leading from the front emerged as a key force multiplier as Sagat and Chandan Singh insisted on carrying out the first recce of the proposed landing ground at Raipura in a Chetak helicopter. Flying into heavy ground fire, the co-pilot was shot through the leg and over 30 bullet hits were counted after the sortie. Executing a series of crossings, the helicopter task force landed over two brigades on the west bank of the Meghna in an operation that is termed as 'vertical envelopment'. By doing so, they cut off any possible reinforcement routes to Dacca from the other garrisons and facilitated a multi-pronged advance that forced the surrender of Dacca.

While the pilots and crew of 110, 105, 111 HU, Kilo Flight and the Chetaks performed magnificently during the nine-day relentless operation, the IV Corps battle was a commanders' battle with the senior leadership leading from the front. Complementing the drive of Sagat, Ben Gonsalves, Krishna Rao and Hira, Chandan Singh proved to be the ideal air commander who understood the land battle as no one else did. For his exceptional leadership in multiple operational tasks, personal courage, daring risk-taking ability and motivational charisma, Group Captain Chandan Singh was the seniormost IAF officer to be awarded the Maha Vir Chakra during the 1971 war.

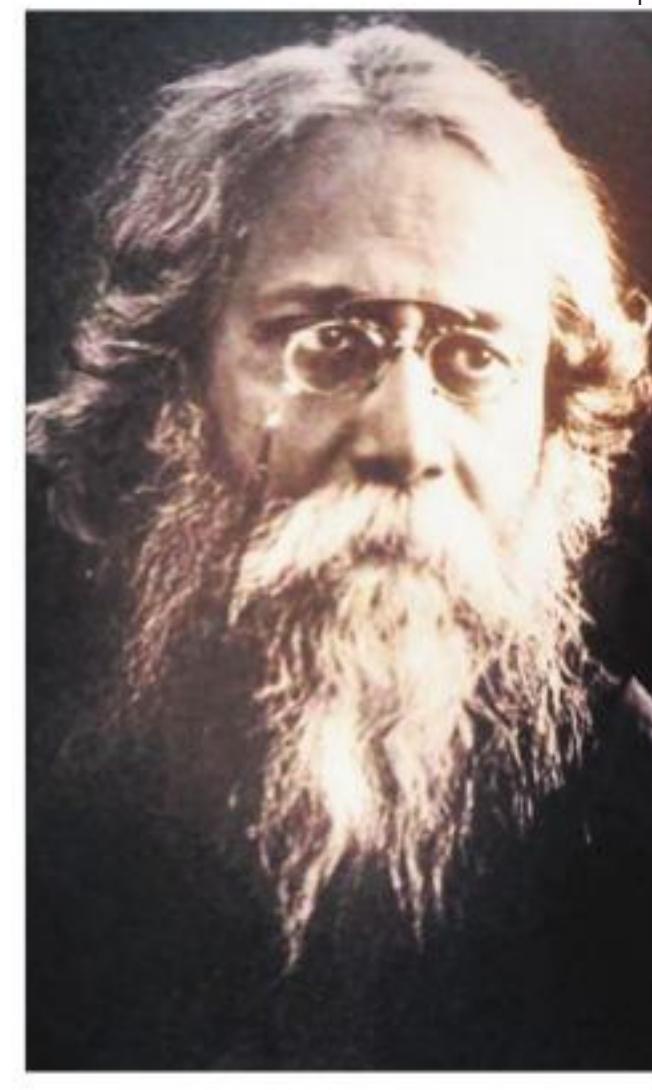
Light shines bright on Bard of Bengal, as ever

RANJITA BISWAS

BENGALIS tend to quote poems to contextualise a situation or event, particularly delving into the vast oeuvre of 'Kobiguru' Rabindranath Tagore. As people get ready to celebrate Rabindra Jayanti on pachishe Baisakhi (25th Baisakhi in the Bangla calendar) on May 9, his birth anniversary (though he was born on May 7, 1861), many are humming his song "Banglar mati, Banglar jol" (the soil of Bengal, the water of Bengal) to establish the state's identity in the aftermath of the electoral win of the home-grown party against the domineering national party.

On another note, some of those who are less familiar with Tagore's work might think that his relevance beyond Bengal is rather faded today. After all, much water has flowed under the bridge since he won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913. But here, a little pause is due.

Tagore's creative genius encompassed many fields. He was a poet, novelist, playwright, lyricist, composer, essayist and an artist. He was the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. He may have been the only person in history to have authored the national anthems of two independent countries — "Jana Gana Mana" for India, and Bangladesh, which chose one of his songs "Amar Sonar Bangla". He's also believed to have influenced the national anthem of Sri Lanka, which was written by his student.



On Rabindranath Tagore's 160th birth anniversary, a look at how the works, ideas and ideals of the Nobel laureate remain relevant and thought-provoking

belonged to a Zamindar family — a thought that resonates with sociologists reading the tea leaves in current times.

Swaraj for Tagore was not just political freedom but freedom from hunger, disease, servitude and ignorance. More than seven decades after Independence, it is relevant to question whether these targets have been achieved.

In his play 'Raktakarabi' (Red Oleanders) written in 1923, Tagore questioned the stranglehold of commercial exploitation, oppression, and obsession with power. In a globalised world where unscrupulous capitalism and environmental exploitation prevail, the author's concerns seem eerily relevant even after 100 years.

A true internationalist — he visited 34 countries — Tagore set up Santiniketan, his dream project, with limited resources as a centre of international understanding, introducing studies of different cultures and religions. Today, when bigotry and ignorance about 'the other' are rampant and creating conflicts, Tagore's warning about attempts to curb "freedom of mind" deserves a deeper look: "Opinions are constantly changed and recharged only through free circulation of intellectual forces and persuasion," he wrote.

Equally important is to recognise Tagore's views on women and their role in society. His heroines challenged social evils like taboo on widow remarriage, untouchability, rigid caste system, and patriarchy at large. In the introductory chapter to 'Tagore and

the Feminine: A Journey in Translations', author Malashri Lal writes: "Rabindranath Tagore evolved his own principles for portraying the feminine in a marvellous range of expressions. It is left to his readers to relate his literature to contemporary life."

'Streer Patra' (A Wife's Letter), for example, challenges the institution of marriage. The three women, oppressed in an extended family, eventually move towards female bonding. Mrinal, the protagonist, realises that she has to "design her own liberation".

Lal also observes: "He reworked the old mythologies, investing them with new meaning, daring to play with some iconic tales such as those of Kunti and Gandhari in the 'Mahabharata'. ... he successfully rendered women from all classes, perhaps, recognising a gendered experience that separated their world from men in a patriarchal frame."

Today, many women writers are relooking at women characters in the mythologies to examine the 'feminine question'.

At a time when divisive forces are trying to get an upper hand and segregate people into opposite camps, it is well to remember Tagore's words once again: "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high Where knowledge is free Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls ... Into that heaven of freedom, My Father, let my country awake."

How the West misread Tiananmen

SANDEEP DIKSHIT

IN the scholarship on the Tiananmen Square crackdown, we have been treated to a treasure trove of books by western diplomats and journalists.

Here, former Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale knocks the bottom out of those accounts that were "dubious and conjured". They painted an inner-party struggle, in which students were pawns, as the stirrings of a mass uprising against the Communist Party of China (CPC).

After recounting innumerable instances, Gokhale concludes, "It is no longer possible for the western media to hide their hypocrisy, and they have lost their credibility."

As a young diplomat who saw student cyclists and then tanks rumble on the avenue leading to the Square, Gokhale casts a uniquely Indian spotlight on the events of April 15 to June 4, 1989, after which students never ever marched on the streets of Beijing again.

Before the events of June 3-4 — almost nothing happened at the Square; the skirmishes took place far away — Gokhale provides an account of the intense infighting within the CPC as Mao's successor Deng Xiaoping pushed for market reforms.

In 1980, Deng brought in Hu Yaobang as the general secretary and Zhao Ziyang as premier. By early 1985, enter Li Peng, to be later called the 'Butcher of Beijing' by the western media. What complicated matters was the 'Elders', who remained politically active.

The West missed the warning signs of high inflation and slumping growth in 1985. As the pressure on the CPC grew, the consensus on reforms began fracturing.

Hu Yaobang began advocating liberal values which ran into resistance from the hardliners, while Hu's market reforms were attacked by the economic hardliners.

By 1987, Hu was ejected and Zhao confirmed as general secretary. Students had begun marching in several cities and a section of the Chinese media began rooting for the liberals.

The spark was lit by Hu's death at a Politburo meeting on April 15.



A photograph showing a man standing in front of a column of tanks near Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, at Hong Kong's first permanent museum dedicated to the Tiananmen Square protests, in Tsim Sha Tsui. REUTERS

Students began thronging the Square to pay their respects.

Five days later, some students amassing in the Square blocked a gate and the first student leader, Wu'er Kaixi, emerged.

Simultaneously, the CPC saw the rise of Jiang Zemin, who cracked down hard on a liberal newspaper in Shanghai.

The CPC sought to temper the unrest with an editorial in the People's Daily on April 26. This editorial was to repeatedly become a bone of contention and finally led to the June 4 showdown.

In the student leadership, the centre stage was occupied by the hardliners, who turned down offers for talks.

There were marches aplenty and Beijing buzzed with sloganising. But as long as Zhao was there, no force was used. The western media chased the story by showing it as a democratic revolution when it was an internal power struggle as Zhao wanted to use the students as pawns to show Li Peng in poor light.

Gokhale touches on many turning points. What if Zhao Ziyang had not lost his 1988 fight with Li Peng on economic reforms? What if the historic Sino-Soviet rapprochement had not been upstaged by the students who gate-crashed the

Great Hall of the People?

By May 19, Zhao was gone and Li Peng was in charge. By May 30, the Indians were sure the military would act but the western diplomats and media provided a different picture of an impending insurrection.

Deng resolved the political crises on June 2. Jiang Zemin, who had crushed a liberal paper in Shanghai, was the new general secretary. But the US was insisting that the hardliners were not in charge.

There is no accurate account of what happened in the Square on the night of June 3 and the next day. Probably, it didn't require machine gun fire to disperse the few students who had remained. On June 9, Deng made a public appearance and the curtains were drawn. The late Hu, Zhao (who was to write secret memoirs) and, most of all, the students, had lost.

While the US railed about human rights, it secretly sent diplomats to negotiate. "If this was realpolitik, it was also a searing lesson in how great democracies abandon publicly avowed principles," writes Gokhale. Within a year, Sino-US ties were back to business as usual.

A work of fiction, a position paper, a warning, or all three

ROOPINDER SINGH

A CONFLICT that realigns the world order, with millions of dead; an inevitable trajectory of hubris, exceptionalism and nationalist jingoism makes the story painfully plausible. No matter which way you read it — a work of fiction, a position paper, a warning — '2034' is exciting and disturbing. The authors are distinguished former US military officers, both with several books under their belt. Naturally, they write with authority about sailors and soldiers under arms and strategies of war.

The South China Sea is a persistent theatre of tension between China and the rest of the world that dismisses its suzerainty over that which the Red Dragon regards as its backyard. This is an old issue, but it has a new urgency in the aggressive "wolf-warrior diplomacy" evident these days. Beijing now asserts itself vociferously, flexing its recently-developed muscle, supported by its military, manufacturing and cyber capabilities.

To get back to the book, in 2034, American warships are on a "freedom of navigation" mission that the US periodically conducts to challenge what it considers "excessive territorial claims" of other nations. Leading the flotilla of three Arleigh Burke-class destroyers is Captain Sarah Hunt, commodore of Destroyer Squadron 21 aboard John Paul Jones.

Simultaneously, flying one of the most sophisticated fighters in the US Navy in the Gulf of Hormuz is Maj Chris Mitchell, a Top Gun-type rakish hero with the call name "Wedge", for whom the ultimate thrill is flying by the seat of his pants.

Both fail to follow the procedure to the letter, and it lets them down. The Chinese draw Captain Hunt into a trap and use advanced artificial intelligence-enabled blocking and cloaking devices to reduce the American ships' sophisticated electronics to junk. Their weapons, which include Tomahawk missiles, are now useless. Led by the nuclear-powered carrier Zheng He, the Chinese Navy sinks the Carl Levin and Chung-Hoon, leaving a damaged John Paul Jones afloat to send a message.

Major Mitchell's fighter's avionics are compromised, and the Iranians capture him. Soon, Russia and India come into the picture, India, now a sophisticated cyber power, and Russia, still led by an ageing plutocrat Putin, as hungry as ever to expand his country's borders.

The desk jockeys are by now in full play. In Washington, we have the Indian expat working in the US National Security Council, Dr Sandeep (Sandy) Chowdhury. Even as America's woman President is on the way back to the capital, Sandeep is among those holding the fort. This leads to him sparring at the White House with the Chinese defence attaché, Admiral Lin Bao.

As pages unfurl, we see how quickly events spin out of control. The Chinese and the US leaders cannot break the mould and come to terms with the real-

ities before them. The hawks prevail. A misunderstanding of the situation leads to further escalation, and then the ultimate horror, the use of nuclear weapons. Tactical, not strategic, so the damage is in millions, not billions of lives.

Sandeep, his family history, his uncle, retired Vice Admiral Anand Patel's role in resolving the crisis — all these are sure to be a draw for readers here. One would leave it for them to know more about the events that lead to the emergence of India as a major world power.

The book is not your typical edge-of-the-seat action thriller. While the characters may lack depth, what should worry the reader is the lack of depth of character of the principals involved. So many of them are unable to rise above the fatal combination of ultra-nationalism, hubris and slavish devotion to the past. They lack the imagination to see a world beyond their conditioning.

Decades of relative peace in the world have made the present generation casual, even cavalier, about the cost of sending soldiers to kill fellow beings.

The need for vision and clarity of thought to cut through the chaff of the military-industrial mania is acute. Defences, cyber and otherwise, can be beefed up. However, international diplomacy is needed to moderate unilateral actions that can escalate into military conflicts. Otherwise, this book could well be prescient.

'2034' is a ship's horn that seeks to warn. What impact it has remains to be seen.

'Greatest superstar' & confident commoner

ROHIT MAHAJAN

RAJINIKANTH, the 'greatest superstar' of all time, keeps it remarkably real in real life. When he was promoting his 2010 movie 'Robot' with Aishwarya Rai, it would appear that he was deliberately contrasting his own age and plain looks with Rai's youth and beauty — indeed, he would joke about the absurdity of playing the leading man opposite Rai. Rajinikanth didn't opt for a wig or hair transplant — that's the supreme confidence of a man who knows that his fans would love him no matter what. My friends from the South — especially the one who was losing his hair prematurely — loved Rajinikanth for being real, even if he performed fantastical tricks on screen.

How does an actor who catches bullets fired at him between his teeth, or who lights a matchstick by simply glaring at it, keep it real in actual life? This biography provides some clues. Rajinikanth was a commoner who behaved like the common man. It was no act. Film director Muthuraman relates a story about how in the late 1970s, when he was sorting out logistical problems at a rice mill where they were shooting, Rajinikanth simply disappeared — he was eventually found sleeping on a pile of rough paddy sacks. Wouldn't it hurt his skin? "Before I worked as a conductor, I worked as a coolie in a godown. I used to carry paddy sacks on my back. My skin is used to it and my back to the load," Rajinikanth answered.

Rajinikanth is a commoner. On screen, he often played the common man — a driver or

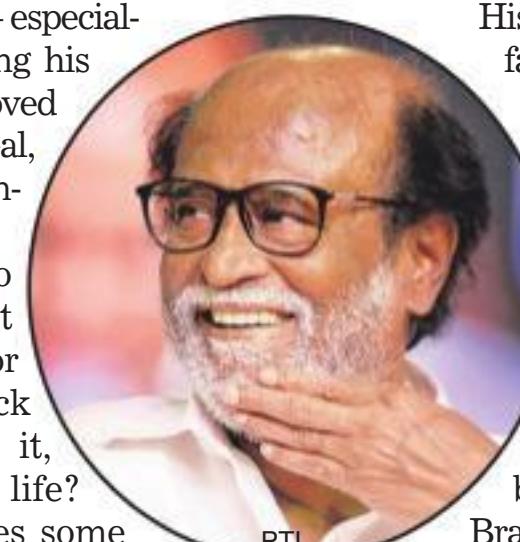
even a domestic servant. He looks like the man on the street, but his manner — flipping beedis or stopping bullets, with a knowing, wily smile — is that of a confident, empowered commoner.

This, the writer says, came about due to the social and political churn caused by the Self-Respect Movement led by Periyar in Tamil Nadu. The time was ripe for Rajinikanth. "It was in this atmosphere — the air filled with irreverence to caste and class hierarchy — that Shivaji Rao Gaekwad entered Tamil films, with his anti-hero image, nonchalance, defiance of authority and rakish smile," writes Vaasanthi.

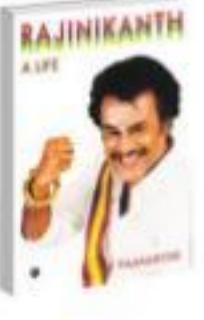
His weird on-screen tricks appealed to fans in Tamil Nadu but not to those in his native Karnataka. Film critic and writer MK Raghavendra says: "That is because the strong working class that emerged after the social juggling that happened in Tamil Nadu during the Dravidian Self Respect Movement is not there in Karnataka... Rajkumar, who was a big star, played roles that projected Brahminical qualities though he was not a Brahmin." In Rajkumar's films, the villains have non-Brahmin names, while he himself would have a name that represented the higher class, says Raghavendra.

Rajini's fans wished to install him in the Chief Minister's chair — but he made several missteps, including a dalliance with the BJP, not seen as a party of the downtrodden. This alienated many of his fans, and his own political party never took off.

If you've been fascinated by Rajinikanth, you'd like this story of how Shivaji Rao Gaekwad, a Kannadiga who spoke Marathi at home, became Tamil cinema's greatest superstar.



PTI



RAJINIKANTH:
A LIFE
by Vaasanthi.
Aleph.
Pages 264.
₹699

Travels to lands on the banks of the Brahmaputra

PARBINA RASHID

BACK in 2017 when a friend mentioned the much-hyped event 'Namami Brahmaputra', the alarm bells started ringing — what would happen to Bhupen Hazarika's 'Bristiro Paro', the popular song that rebukes the Brahma's putra (son) for being uninspiring and detached even after witnessing the struggles of thousands of people living on its banks? Would the organisers demand a ban on the song and the Bard of Assam be trotted for calling Brahmaputra the 'burha' (old) Lohit?

Fortunately, nothing of that sort happened. I had forgotten all about the song till I found mention of it in 'The Braided River: A Journey Along the Brahmaputra'. It raised concern once again; this time not for Bhupen Hazarika but for the author Samrat Choudhury.

In his introductory chapter, he writes: "The Brahmaputra flows through Assam gathering yet more streams, before entering Bangladesh. Upon entering that country, it undergoes one more change in nomenclature, this time accompanied by a sex change — the 'male' Brahmaputra, for some reason, becomes the 'female' Jamuna." It takes courage to make such an observation these days, a lot less invites ire.

But courage is something Choudhury has in plenty, be it undertaking an adventurous journey or just plainspeak.

'An irreligious Hindu' by his own admission, he attacks the ritualistic practices attached to river waters. In his words, "The Ganga, polluted beyond belief, is considered pure and holy by devout Hindus; sprinkling its water on places and people is a Brahminical ritual of purification. The Brahmaputra, perhaps fortunately for it, has little such holiness attached to its waters, and escapes some of the tortures that the holy Ganga must daily go through..."

His courage comes from his meticulous research, his long years of experience as a journalist who knows how to sift the outstanding from the



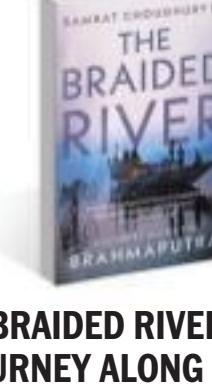
The author calls Brahmaputra the 'braided river', as it has braids of water running into one another to finally become one.

where it changes its identity, Choudhury discovers the history, geography and culture of the lands on the river banks with 'the fresh eyes of an outsider and something of the knowledge of an insider'.

During the course of his journey, he takes a detour or two to discuss political issues like ULFA or NRC and CAA, or make some insightful observations on the illegal migrants in Assam, but there is nothing to complain as his views are unbiased and arguments solid.

One particular chapter which drew my attention was on Guru Teg Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru who visited Dhubri to do the needful. Another important take-away from this book is contextualisation of the Battle of Soraighat. Describing the events that led to the battle, fought in 1671 on the banks of Brahmaputra, the author writes, "Today, much of this long and complicated history is forgotten, what is remembered by some chauvinists is a battle between the Ahom forces, characterised as the Hindu army, and the Mughal forces, seen as a Muslim force. This is a vast oversimplification; it was a battle between two empires, not a riot between two religious communities."

Choudhury tells us how history needs to be read and interpreted, with all its glory and doom. For the feel-good factor, we have mythology!



THE BRAIDED RIVER:
A JOURNEY ALONG
THE BRAHMAPUTRA
by Samrat Choudhury.
HarperCollins.
Pages 407.
₹599

False alarm, says Jaishankar on diplomats 'testing +ve' in London

TRENTON NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 8
External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar returned to the country from London, where he had isolated following reports that two diplomats from his accompanying team had tested positive for Covid.

Jaishankar suggested in a social media post that the reports of positive tests were a false alarm and said all team members were back in the country.

After the UK media broke the story, Jaishankar had acknowledged that he was made aware of the exposure to possible Covid positive cases. "As a measure of caution and also out of consideration for others, I decided to conduct my engagements virtually. That will be the case with the G7 meeting today as well," he had posted hours after an in-person meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and UK



TEAM BACK HOME

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had reached London on Monday to be part of the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers meet
- It was reported that two members of his delegation had tested positive for Covid in the UK
- Jaishankar suggested in a social media post that the reports of positive tests were a false alarm and said all team members were back in the country

<< S Jaishankar with US' Antony Blinken in London. FILE

Home Secretary Priti Patel.

"There is concern the FAM might have been exposed to the virus. We will go by the British health authorities' tracking and testing system. We are concerned about our delegation. We are happy no one is unwell. We would not like to confirm the story,"

sources had then said.

"It is not a straight-forward case. We are trying to work out with UK health authorities about the level of exposure. The travel plans of the delegation back to India will depend on exactly what the UK health authorities will say. The

External Affairs Minister is external," they had added.

Jaishankar had arrived in London on Monday for a four-day visit on the invitation of UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab to join the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' meeting as one of the guest ministers.

Support waiver on vaccine patents, PM Modi urges EU

TRENTON NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called upon the European Union (EU) to support India's joint proposal with South Africa for an intellectual property waiver on vaccine production-related patents.

The US also supported the proposal a couple of days ago but India had pointed out that the waiver needs to be approved quickly at the WTO to enable rapid scaling up of manufacture and timely availability of affordable Covid vaccines and essential medical products.

"The EU's support at WTO for this waiver will ensure that we can scale up the vaccine production for equitable and global access and save lives,"

PM Modi told leaders of the EU at a hybrid-format summit on Saturday. Although 120 countries have backed the India-South Africa proposal, the 27-member EU is still in opposition.

This is the first time that the

SCALING UP VAX PRODUCTION

The EU's support at WTO for this waiver will ensure that we can scale up the vaccine production for equitable and global access and save lives.

Narendra Modi,
PRIME MINISTER



EU hosted a meeting with India in the EU+27 format. The meeting was at the initiative of the Portuguese Presidency of the EU Council with the Prime Minister of Portugal Antonio Costa displaying his Portuguese passport as well as his Indian OCI card at the meeting.

PM Modi was to travel to Portugal for the first India-EU

summit following the holding of the long-delayed dialogue between the two on human rights.

PMs Modi and Costa also jointly wrote an Op-ed in the prestigious European media portal 'Politico', emphasising trade and investment ties, supporting effective multilateralism and a rules-based order.

The meeting provided a platform to the leaders of India and the EU to exchange views on key topical issues of mutual interest.

The three broad clusters of discussions were: trade, technology and connectivity, Covid, environment and climate change, and foreign policy, security and regional issues, said MEA's Secretary (West) Vikas Swarup at a media briefing.

PM Modi and the EU leaders sought to give a push to bilateral commerce by welcoming the decision to resume negotiations for balanced and comprehensive free trade and investment agreements.

Nine killed in blast at Andhra limestone mine

AMARAVATI (AP), MAY 8

At least nine workers were killed in a blast at a limestone mine in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. So far, only five bodies have been identified, the police said.

Establishing the identity of the victims was proving an onerous task as the bodies lay dismembered at the site of the blast. Among those killed were from Pulivendula constituency, they said.

Pulivendula is the native constituency of Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy. Kadapa District Superintendent of Police K Anburajan said over phone that the blast occurred when a consignment of gelatin sticks was being unloaded at a limestone mine on the outskirts of Mamillapalli village.

The vehicle was fully mangled under the impact of the explosion. The gelatin sticks were brought from Budweil. "It is a licensed limestone mine and certified operators had brought the consignment," Anburajan said from the accident site. — PTI

Concentrator hoarding: After owner's arrest, firm moves HC

TRENTON NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 8
The Delhi Police have transferred the case of alleged black-marketing and hoarding of oxygen concentrators, in which over 500 machines were seized, to the Crime Branch and have arrested CEO of Matrix Cellular Services Gourav Khanna, officials said today.

However, Matrix Cellular Services has moved the Delhi High Court, demanding the seized goods be returned "in the backdrop of an ill-conceived and erroneous investigation" and claimed it was "a responsible corporate citizen for 25 years in the service of people". On Friday, the police had claimed to have recovered 105 oxygen concentrators during raids at two upscale restaurants in the Khan Market area here and arrested one person. The police had on Thursday recovered 419 oxygen concentrators during raids at a restaurant and a farmhouse in south Delhi and arrested four men. A senior police officer said the case of alleged hoarding of 524 oxygen concentrators had been transferred to the Delhi Police Crime Branch.



A plane carrying 25,600 vials of Remdesivir arrives in Mumbai on Saturday. PTI

Rlys deploys Covid coaches in 7 states

TRENTON NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

The Railways has deployed Covid care-cum-isolation coaches at 17 stations in seven states across the country.

It said on Saturday that 298 coaches had been handed over to various states with a capacity of more than 4,700 beds.

The isolation coaches stationed on platforms have been duly barricaded and makeshift tents provided.

Where permanent facilities for the donning and doffing of PPE kits were not available, the Railways has provided separate temporary units for men and women healthcare personnel. Rail-



way Police Force staff are posted at these healthcare facilities round the clock. The Railways has also made a provision of two oxygen cylinders and fire extinguishers in each coach to meet emergencies. Besides, it had enabled directional guidance and ramp facility for patients.

Centre failed to control Covid, focused on capturing WB: Didi

KOLKATA, MAY 8

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Saturday that the Covid crisis in the country was the result of the Centre "not doing any work" in the last six months as Union Ministers and leaders were visiting Bengal daily to "capture" it.

Mamata was speaking in the Assembly after TMC MLA Biman Bandyopadhyay was elected Speaker for the third time.

Warning of stern action against communal incitements, the Chief Minister claimed the BJP was provoking violence after failing to win the elections.

"I can challenge that had the Election Commission not helped them directly, they (BJP) could not have won even 30 seats. In this election, rigging took place in some places under the watch of the poll panel," she alleged, stressing the need to reform the EC.

"Now, they (BJP) cannot accept the mandate of the people and are trying to incite violence by posting fake videos," she claimed. The CM directed the administration to take stern action against those trying to provoke violence and communal tensions.

Mamata said central forces personnel were in the state

GUV SUMMONS CHIEF SECY OVER VIOLENCE

Kolkatā: Stating the state Home Secretary failed to apprise him of law and order situation regarding post-poll violence, West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday asked the Chief Secretary to see him by evening. Dhankhar tweeted that the Home Secretary did not forward reports of the state Director General of Police (DGP) and Commissioner of the Kolkata Police to him in this regard. "Chief Secretary @MamataOfficial has been called upon to see me today before 7 PM as ACS Home @HomeBengal failed to impart status report on law and order regarding post-poll violence," the Governor said in his tweet. PTI

during the elections without undergoing RT-PCR Covid tests, resulting in the spread of infection. The CM claimed the Centre did no work in the last six months.

"To set up a double-engine government in Bengal, they have pushed India to the brink of destruction. Last six months, the central government did no work; they were all here daily to capture Bengal," she said. — PTI

Fire on board INS Vikramaditya

MUMBAI, MAY 8

There was a minor fire on board India's aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya on Saturday morning, a Navy spokesperson said.

The fire was doused and all personnel on board are safe, the

spokesperson said in a statement here. "The duty staff observed smoke emanating from the part of the warship having accommodation for sailors. The duty personnel acted promptly to fight the fire," the statement said. — PTI

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, KAPURTHALA

NEW MILITARY STATION KAPURTHALA - 144601 (AFFILIATED TO CSSE, NEW DELHI)

Mob- 99149-23104 (Visit us at www.apskpt.in)

REQUIRES TEACHING AND NON TEACHING STAFF ON ADHOC BASIS

S.No	Post	Qualification
1.	TGT- English, Economics, History, Pol. Sci, Commerce, Mathematics, Comp. Science, Physical Education, Physics, Chemistry, Biology.	(a) Must be a post-graduate with the subject in which employment is sought with B.Ed with minimum 50% marks in each.
2.	TGT- Science, Mathematics.	(a) Graduate with the subject in which employment is sought with B.Ed with minimum 50% marks in each subject.
3.	Counselor	Graduate with Psychology with a Certificate or Diploma in Counselling with minimum experience of three years as Wellness Teacher/ Counsellor.
4.	Special Educator	Graduation with B.Ed. (Special Education) or B.Ed. General with one year Diploma in Special Education
5.	Librarian	B.Lib. Science or Graduate with diploma in Library Science from a recognized institute and computer literate with minimum three years experience.
6.	PRT (Sanskrit)	Graduate with B.Ed with minimum 50% marks in each
7.	Accountant (ESM only)	(a) Commerce Graduate or fifteen years service as a clerk in the Defence Services. (b) Basic computer application course of Army/Diploma in Computer Applications of not less than one year duration. Knowledge of double entry system of accounting, excel sheet and accounting software. (c) Minimum 5 years experience as an Accounts Clerk in the Defence Services/reputed organization.
8.	LDC (ESM only)	(a) Graduate or ten year of service as a clerk. (b) Knowledge of Computer MS Office (Speed 12000 Key depression per hour). (c) Basic knowledge of Accounting. Up to 55 yrs of age, (d) Knowledge of Accounting. Up to 55 yrs of age.

Selection Process.

- Age Limit: Below 40 years for fresh Candidates & below 57 years for experienced Candidates (including ESM).
- Salary as per AWES rules & regulations.
- Last date for submission of application form is 20 May 2021 along with attested copies of certificates. Application by e-mail will not be accepted. Incomplete application will not be accepted.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview.
- The interviews for the above vacancies will be held in the month of May/June 2021. Test for Computer Proficiency and teaching will be followed by Interview.
- School Management reserves the right to increase/decrease/cancel any vacancy without assigning any reason.
- No TA/DA will be given for appearing in the interview.
- Preference will be given to CSB & CTET qualified candidates.

How to Apply. Application form is available in the school office for Rs.100/- or same may also be downloaded from the school website (www.apskpt.in) and submitted in school along with the requisite fees in the form of bank draft in favour of Army Public School, Kapurthala payable at Kapurthala.

Sd/- xxx Principal

BRIEFLY

Shubhankar T-45 at Canary Islands Open

Tenerife (Spain): Shubhankar Sharma was the best-placed India golfer after the third round of the Canary Islands Open, his 4-under 67 helping him rise 20 places to Tied-45th. Gaganjeet Bhullar, who was Tied-46th after Round 2, had three bogeys and two birdies in his 70, dropping to Tied-50th. SSP Chawrasia carded a 73 and Ajeeetes Sandhu a disastrous 72 to drop down the leaderboard. TNS

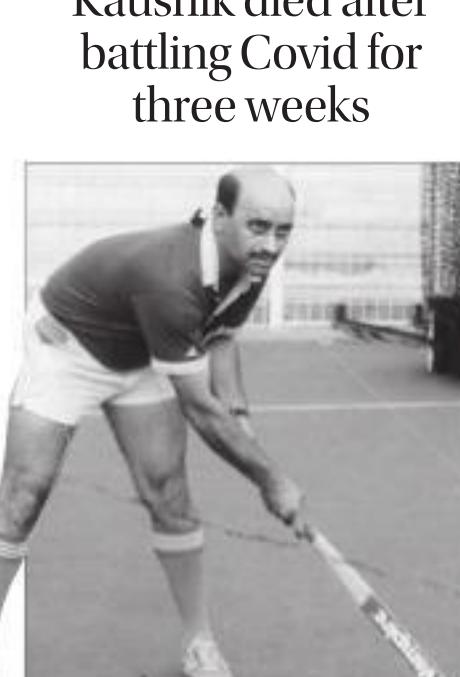
Bopanna-Shapovalov, Nagal lose

New Delhi: India's Sumit Nagal went down to top seed Norbert Gombos in the quarterfinals of the Prague Challenger while Rohan Bopanna and Denis Shapovalov fought hard before losing in three sets to Alexander Zverev and Tim Puetz in the men's doubles quarterfinals of the Madrid Open. Nagal, the eight seed, lost 6-2 6-2 to Gombos at the claycourt Challenger in Prague. Bopanna and Shapovalov went down 6-4 3-6 10-5 to Zverev and Puetz in Madrid. PTI

Olympic gold winners Kaushik, Ravindra die

NEW DELHI, MAY 8
Former India hockey players MK Kaushik and Ravindra Pal Singh, both winners of gold at the 1980 Olympic Games, passed away today.

Kaushik died after battling Covid for three weeks



MK Kaushik

Kaushik, the game of hockey was a religion as no other player of his generation served the game as much as he did for over four decades in various capacities. His Moscow Olympic teammate Zafar Iqbal remembers Kaushik as someone who gave his heart and soul to the game like none of his contemporary teammates. — TNS, agencies

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD. (A State Govt. Undertaking)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (e-tendering Mode only)

Online bids in two part bidding system are hereby invited on behalf of HPSEBL Ltd. by the Superintending Engineer (Designs), Power House Electrical, H.P.S.E.B. Ltd., Sunder Nagar, Distt. Mandi (H.P.)-175019 for Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 1 Elevator (8 passengers, 6 stops), for Larji HEP, HPSEBL, Thalout, District Mandi (H.P.) from manufacturers who regularly manufacture the equipment of the type specified and have adequate technical knowledge and experience in respect of all items covered under Scope of Supply and services in Bid Specification No. BID SPECIFICATION NO. HPSEBL/PHE/Larji Elevator/2021 as per the following:

• Request and issue of online bid documents	From 06.05.2021(10.00 Hrs.) to 19.05.2021 (23.59 Hrs.)
• Date of pre bid meeting	17.05.2021 (11.00 Hrs.)
• Last date of submission of online bid	Up to 20.05.2021 (11.00 Hrs.)
• Date of opening of Techno-commercial bid	