

The Sunday Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | JAMMU | SRINAGAR | VOL. 140 NO. 213 | 16 PAGES | ₹5.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2018-2020 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2020

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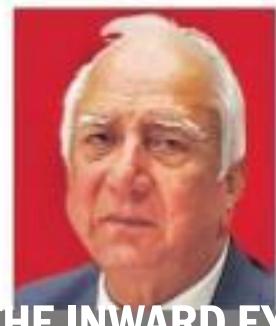
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Travails of a staff officer



THE INWARD EYE

GURBACHAN JAGAT

An ideal person for the post, it is said, should be intelligent and hardworking. A lazy but intelligent officer would be fit for higher command. I served as a staff officer of sorts and commanded two large forces. Did that make me sufficiently lazy, intelligent or hardworking?

A CLASSIFICATION attributed to the British army sources runs as follows: lazy but intelligent officer — fit for higher command; intelligent and hard-working — an ideal staff officer; stupid and hardworking — a danger to the organisation, get rid of him. Like any other classification, it is not always true and officers keep on developing or regressing.

I spent a short time in the police secretariat in 1977-78 and had a longer stint between 1982-97 (in between, I was also posted as the first managing director of the Punjab Police Housing Corporation). During my longer stint, I was posted on different assignments in the CID and administrative wings, but somehow ended up working for both the head of police and the head of CID, which resulted in some difficult situations. There was a change of government in 1977 and we had a new IGP and a new DIG/CID (there were no DGPAs and Additional DGPs at the time). The DIG/CID was basically a field officer who disliked desk jobs and as far as I know, had not served with the CID in any capacity during his career. He was very unhappy about his posting and made it clear to one and all, but the IGP and Chief Minister were adamant and so he had to join. I suspect the IG did not want a DIG/CID who could be a parallel power centre. The DIG/CID could become one

and many had done so in the past because Chief Ministers always wanted first-hand Intelligence.

I was then working virtually as a staff officer to the DIG/CID, but with another designation. I had not served with this officer and it is essential to know the personality traits and working habits of your boss if you have to develop a successful partnership. My previous boss was a 'one of a kind' officer and working with him was a daily learning experience. Anyhow, he had told me to bring the files requiring his immediate attention in the morning and leave the routine ones, which he would dispose of later. I started the same routine with my new boss. He looked at me and asked me to leave the files on the table. After a couple of more failed attempts to get the files cleared personally, I gave up and started sending the files to him — but these did not come back. I then talked to an older officer who had worked with him, and he asked me as to what was the DIG doing when I went to his room. "Nothing," I said. He advised me that since the DIG was not a morning person, I should take all the files in the afternoon and they would be cleared in no time — his advice worked. After this success, I became slightly bolder and reminded him that he had not called on the Chief Minister and that in fact he was supposed to meet him every day. He dismissed the suggestion and told me that I

could go and meet the CM, but I refused politely. He then called the DSP/CID posted at the Chandigarh unit and told him to go and brief the CM. This also happened and the CM accepted the situation!

Now, the finale — the DIG and I were barely on talking terms and I was normally the conduit. In the CID, we used to put up an assessment of the crime situation in the state before the government. Each district Superintendent of Police compiled a monthly crime diary for which there was a prescribed format. The diary was analysed and put up before the DIG/CID. When the first diary reached the DIG, he asked me as to why I had sent it to him — I informed him that his remarks were needed before it goes to the IG and then to the government. He directed me to take it back and put up a note on a separate sheet for approval. He further directed me not to put any polish on the crime situation and be critical. I wracked my brain and tried to be as diplomatic as possible and sent it to him; he recorded the note on the file.

I breathed a sigh of relief, but the reprieve was short-lived. After a couple of hours, I was summoned by the IGP. Even before the door was fully closed, he had got up and thrust the crime file in my face and asked me as to what nonsense was being cooked up in the CID. I was all innocence and ignorance and he finally asked me to sit down and

read what my DIG had written. The IGP also had a short fuse and I kept quiet. He then asked me to take the file and prepare a note on his behalf, rebutting the DIG's note point by point. I made a hasty exit and didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Of course, I wrote as best as I could to satisfy the IG. It passed muster and the IG recorded it on the file and it went onwards to the government. Fortunately, there was no follow-up but I was later on careful as to what I wrote in the first note.

The DIG was a very kind man at heart and we got along famously after that. However, he was an unhappy man — a tiger caged in the secretariat and glued to a chair and files. Then one morning he called me to his office and happiness was writ large on his face; he had been transferred to Patiala as DIG/Ranger and Patiala happened to be his first love. He left and the CID routine prevailed once more.

I began by quoting that the intelligent and hardworking were meant to be staff officers, whatever the politics. I virtually worked as one for a long time but then providence gave me the chance to command two large forces — J&K Police and BSF, though I am not sure whether I was sufficiently lazy, intelligent or hardworking? Maybe the two senior officers could have answered that better.

— The writer is ex-chairman of UPSC, former Manipur Governor and served as J&K DGP

Dante Alighieri and the world

MUSINGS & MALEDICTIONS
KEKI DARUWALA

flatterers (half our political parties would be in trouble, praising the 8 pm lockdowns, or the two-line denunciations by Rahul G). There are also soothsayers in the same circle (good grief, our Chandraswamis with red tilaks and *rudraksh malas*). Actually, you can't honestly exclude Indians from any inferno you can devise.

The first line of *Inferno* — 'In the midway of this our mortal life' — is memorable, with Dante getting lost in a wood. It was the year 1300 and he was 35, in the exact middle of his life. He had to work hard on the schema. First chart out the Hells, the journey along the nine circles, with the great Tuscan poet, Virgil, in the lead. Later, of course, he had to incorporate the entire penal code as we know it. Dante did as good a job as Macaulay did for us (now much maligned for his minute).

To emphasise the point, upper Hell dealt with incontinence, lust, gluttony, avarice and anger. He had to keep well within the confines mapped out by medieval Christianity.

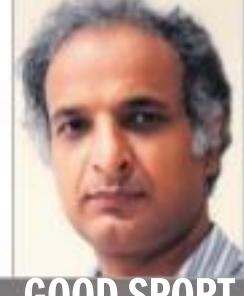
If you stepped out, you could burn at the stake. He loathed some of the Popes, but Dante sent them to his poetic Hell only after they had kicked the bucket. Dante went as a delegate from Florence to meet the Pope, but no account exists of the meeting. The lower Hell starts with heresy, then violence — tyrants, murderers, et al. There is violence against God, meaning blasphemers; against nature, meaning sodomites; against art — plagiarists. Some of our principals and VCs would be numbered in Hell for what they copied in their useless papers, without acknowledgement. (Incidentally, adulterers were those with many gods, not necessarily those with many women!)

Not that he is niggardly in praise. *Canto IV* is devoted to honouring the great, from Homer 'sovereign of all bards', then Horace the satirist, Ovid, and goes through Euclid, Empedocles, Hippocrates. And one Saracen is mentioned — Saladin. Incidentally, Dante ranked himself as sixth among the greats. Hubris? Not really. *Iliad* is a story, the *Odyssey* a work of great imagination. But Dante dissects a civilisation and holds it to account. No one else did that.

There are descents into the underworld, journeys treated by critics as homage to the past and an assertion of newness. The whole is to be read as an allegory. One could end with a quote from David Pike's book *Passage through Hell*:

'This is the key lesson of Dante's Hell: critical reflection on the loss of hope engenders hope, immersion in images of falsehood reveals truth, descent leads to return.'

Reaching there, millimetre by millimetre



Along with golf and sprinting, NBA is among the most racially exclusive sporting groupings. An Asian in NBA? Slim chance. An Indian? Fat chance. That's what Princepal Singh is up against

PRINCEPAL SINGH, the 19-year-old 6-foot 10-inch lad from Gurdaspur's Dera Baba Nanak, has signed up for the G League, NBA's minor league. Princepal dreams of glory in the G League, and then step up to the NBA. Princepal's dream is not his own — it's also the dream of every Indian basketball fan, and of millions of kids across the world. But few dreams come true, and this is especially true for the NBA and the world's starry-eyed kids. The NBA, along with golf and sprinting, is among the most racially exclusive sporting groupings. An Asian in the NBA? Slim chance. An Indian? Fat chance.

Let's look at the numbers — in the 2019-20 NBA season, nearly 82 per cent players were black or biracial; the rest were white. NBA is predominantly black, nominally white. It's a very dark shade of grey, or a slightly light shade of black.

BLACKS MATTER

These are not racist statements — there is only one human race, biology confirms; these are merely numbers that come up on analysis of data on racial groups that make up the NBA. The object of the sport is to put the ball into a hoop positioned 10 feet off the ground. Tall folks are needed to do the job. Interestingly, white and black American men are equally tall, on average, at 5ft 9in. Yet, blacks dominate the NBA. This can be ascribed to cultural and social rea-



sons — for young black kids, the most inspirational role models in sport are basketball players. Basketball, along with rap — and discrimination — is part of the black experience in the US.

Only two players with Asian heritage made the 2019-20 season — Rui Hachimura and Yuta Watanabe, both biracial players with Japanese and black roots.

This is what Princepal Singh is up against... History, culture, tradition — and, perhaps, genetics. The odds are overwhelming, but there is always a first for everything — perhaps Princepal would be the first Indian to make it to the NBA.

Before him, three Indians had made it to NBA's G League — Satnam Singh (7ft 2 in), Palpreet Singh Brar (6ft 9 in) and Amjyot Singh Gill (6ft 8in). Interestingly,

all four are from Punjab. Let's count in a Canadian as well — GurSimran 'Sim' Bhullar, roots in Punjab, born in Toronto. The 7ft 5in Bhullar is the only Indian-origin player to figure in the NBA. He played three games for Sacramento Kings, his NBA debut being only symbolic, all of 16.1 seconds.

The signing of Satnam, Palpreet, Amjyot and Princepal for G League has happened within the past five years. This suggests that millimetre by millimetre, Indian players are moving towards excellence. NBA wants India to succeed, for it's a big market for sport and sports gear. Basketball is the most popular global sport spread not by armed colonialism but by cultural colonialism — by the soft power of the United States.

The four men from Punjab who

made it to the US basketball system are stalwarts. Five years ago, Amjyot and Amritpal Singh became the first Indian men to play in a professional league outside of India, in Japan. Amritpal later played pro basketball in Australia. They all are role models.

RETURN OF NBA

On Thursday night, LeBron James took the knee before the game, then scored the winning points for Los Angeles Lakers against Los Angeles Clippers as NBA returned after the Covid-induced break. James later talked about the need for sustained efforts to end racism. In his sport, fortunately, it's possible to kick racists out — six years ago, Donald Sterling, owner of Los Angeles Clippers, lost his team and was kicked out of NBA when his racist views became public. In a league with 82 per cent superstars being black, his survival was impossible.

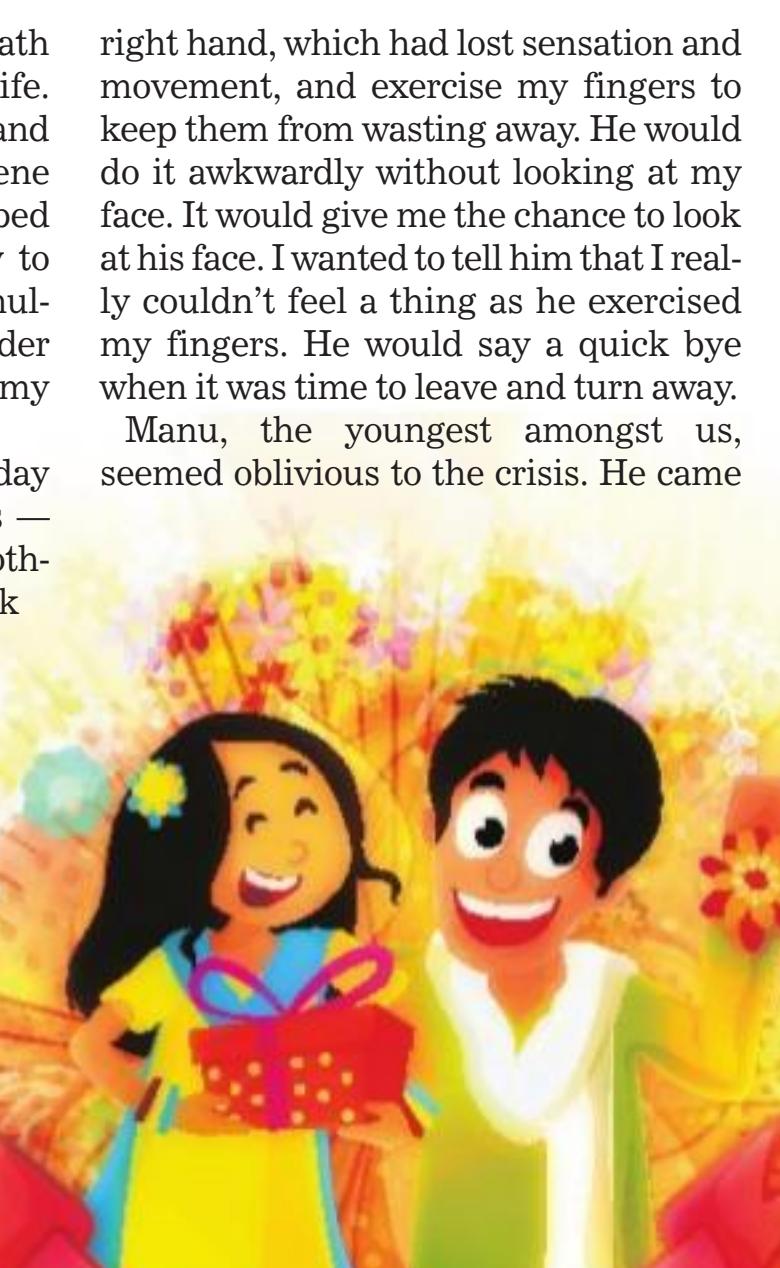
Bias is best killed by a passionate team effort for a common goal; it happens most movingly and spectacularly in sport. The mixed-race, mixed-religion football teams in Europe show this. The friendships of NBA greats Larry Bird and Magic Johnson, of black American Jesse Owens and blond German Luz Long confirm this. Minority or disadvantaged groups making it to a top sports league is good from every conceivable point of view. An Indian in the NBA is a good idea. NBA may yet be a generation (or longer) away, but it's in sight at least.

The best Rakshabandhan gift I have ever received

IMMORTAL FOR A MOMENT
NATALSA BADHWAR

As a parent of teenagers now, I think of the adolescents my brothers and I were as we tried to cope with my near-death experience three decades ago.

Bhaiya used to stay quiet when he came to see me in the hospital. He was asked to hold my



right hand, which had lost sensation and movement, and exercise my fingers to keep them from wasting away. He would do it awkwardly without looking at my face. It would give me the chance to look at his face. I wanted to tell him that I really couldn't feel a thing as he exercised my fingers. He would say a quick bye when it was time to leave and turn away.

Manu, the youngest amongst us, seemed oblivious to the crisis. He came

in one day and sat on my hospital bed with a big bounce. I was still quite fragile and screamed in pain. The boy was chided and led out of the room. After that, he would spend most of his time during visitation hour playing on the swings in the play area. I used to miss seeing him.

A few months later, after I returned home, I was required to go to hospital for daily physiotherapy to make my right arm functional again. When schools shut down for summer vacation and our cousins came to stay with us, my parents would often send us to hospital on our own. A bunch of teenagers, we learnt to

navigate the city together, changing DTC buses and often experimenting with alternate routes. Like children do, we turned the painful physiotherapy sessions into an adventure. A celebration of growing up together and discovering our own autonomy. A decade later, my mother and I went to visit Bhai in New York, where he was working as a doctor in

Queens. As we took off on a road trip to Pennsylvania and later to Niagara Falls, we bonded as siblings all over again — reading maps, choosing scenic routes and often getting lost. It didn't matter because we were connecting with each other after years of being distant. We were being mad and childish in the safety of each other's company again.

Another two decades later, we met in Shanghai. Bhai had been invited to a medical conference to make a presentation as an electrophysiologist. He was newly divorced. Our mother, Manu and I decided to book ourselves in the same hotel as him in this time of personal crisis for Bhai. We seized the moment to travel new routes again, experiment with food and show our mother how smoothly we could transform into bickering teenagers, even though we were safely middle-aged by now. It was a short cut to healing. To letting each other know that we are a team. We are there for each other.

Bhai called me recently and shared that my accident as a teenager came up in his therapy session. "It made me afraid of

losing someone close to me and I coped by clamping up," he shared. "I want to loosen up and release that fear."

I spoke to him about that year and what I think it did to us as a family. "Why don't I remember anything?" he said.

"I guess I dealt with it by remembering every detail and you went numb. But we can exchange notes now and let go," I said.

I texted Manu about this conversation. "I wasn't afraid of dying. The worst thought that used to cross my mind when I was in pain was that Manu will forget me if I die," I shared with him.

"I would have remembered you always," he texted back. And there it was in front of me — the best Rakshabandhan gift I could ever hope to get.

The pandemic may prevent us from meeting our siblings this year, but I wish you, dear reader, a festival of deep connections with everyone whose love heals you.

— The writer is an author and film-maker
natasha.badhwar@gmail.com

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THAKUR REJIGS PORTFOLIOS,
REWARDS LOYALISTS HIMACHAL

TRAPPED AND TORTURED
SPECTRUM

WANT TO PUSH FOR BETTER
CHINA-NEPAL TIES: XI BACK PAGE

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2020

Spurious liquor tragedy toll rises to 86

41 more die in Tarn Taran | ₹2 lakh compensation for next of kin

PK JAISWAR &
GURBAXPURI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR/TARN TARAN, AUG 1
The death toll owing to consumption of spurious liquor in Punjab's Majha area has risen to 86 with 41 more deaths in Tarn Taran today. As many as 12 persons have died in Amritsar Rural and 11 in Batala, Gurdaspur. The Punjab Government has announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased and free treatment for those hospitalised.

Bodies continued to arrive at the Tarn Taran Civil Hospital till late Friday evening. Among those admitted were Jaspal Singh (35) of Malia village, Harinder Singh (63) of Bachre village, Satnam Singh (42) of Kakkha Kandila, Dilbagh Singh of Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar and Lakhwinder Singh (53) of Kang village. Satnam Singh and Dilbagh Singh have been shifted to Guru Nanak



Grieving Jashanpreet, son of deceased Kirpal Singh, at the cremation of his father at Muchhal village near Amritsar. PTI

Dev Hospital, Amritsar. In the absence of adequate arrangements, the bodies were kept on the floor after autopsy, triggering an angry protest by the family members, activists of the Jamhoori Kisan Sabha and local Akali leaders. The Jamhoori Kisan Sabha, representing 17 farm and labour organisations, ended

the protest after long parleys with Khadoor Sahib MP Jasbir Singh Dimpal. The latter told the protesters that Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh had agreed to a compensation of Rs 2 lakh for the families of the deceased.

He also said directions had been issued to the Punjab Police to go after those who

SEVEN EXCISE, SIX POLICE OFFICERS SUSPENDED

Chandigarh: Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday ordered the suspension of seven Excise and Taxation Officers and Inspectors, two DSPs and four SHOs. They will face inquiry. TNS

2 WOMEN KINGPINS HELD

Batala: The police, after overnight raids, have arrested four persons, including two key women suspects — Triveni Chauhan and Darshana, alias Faujan. Their sons too have been nabbed. INSIDE

had stored, transported and supplied the spurious liquor to bootleggers. Meanwhile, the Amritsar (Rural) police have booked Dehati Mazdoor Sabha's general secretary Gurnam Singh Daod and 50 others for holding a protest in violation of the Epidemic Diseases Act, Disaster Management Act and the lockdown curbs.

Police sources claimed that alcohol was being pilfered from distillery trucks.

Alcohol was 'pilfered' from distillery trucks, claim cops

PK JAISWAR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MODUS OPERANDI

- According to the police, alcohol was pilfered from distillery trucks
- Bootlegger Balwinder Kaur would procure alcohol from suppliers and dilute the same with water
- She would sell the same in pouches for ₹20-30 each; on Thursday, liquor was said to be sold by her daughter

Thursday it was her daughter who reportedly sold the liquor, said villagers. The claim is yet to be verified. The police teams are also conducting raids in Rajpura area for nabbing suspects who pilfer the alcohol and sell it to certain dhaba owners.

Police sources claimed that alcohol was being pilfered from distillery trucks.

ED starts probe, to treat it as part of booze scam

AMAN SOOD
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

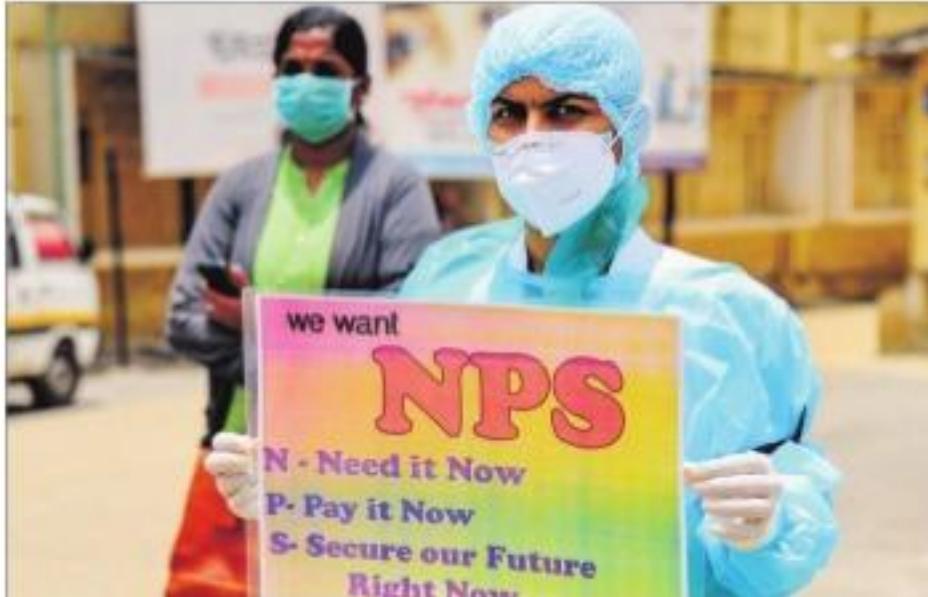
HIGHWAY DHABAS RAIDED

- Police teams raided highway dhabas following a tip-off. At Jhilmil Dhaba on Tepla road in Banur, the police seized 200 litres of a liquid chemical. The dhaba owners fled
- A raid at Green Dhaba led to the arrest of one person. The cops seized 200 litres of diesel
- In Bhagaura village near Ghanaur, a police team seized 550 litres of some chemical from an illegal liquor unit, which was sealed

PERTINENT QUESTIONS

- Why no action despite reports pertaining to theft of chemicals meant for manufacturing liquor
- Despite hundreds of FIRs, why fiscal transactions by accused in illicit liquor trade not probed
- Why police have been reluctant to share documents with the ED pertaining to the illicit trade

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



A health worker in a PPE kit holds a placard during a protest in Bengaluru, demanding a hike in salary and better facilities. PTI

July GST inflow 14% short of last year's collection

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

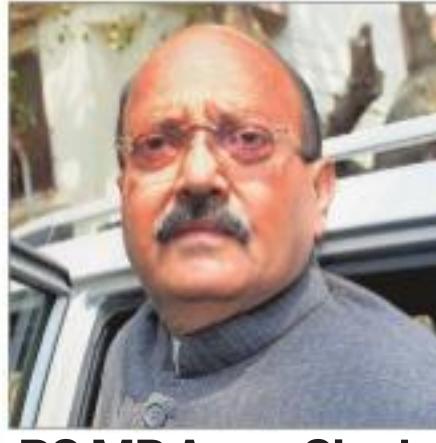
STRATEGIC SECTORS' LIST SOON: SITHARAMAN

The government will soon come out with a new public sector enterprises policy defining strategic sectors that will not have more than four PSUs... We are working on it ... it should go to the Union Cabinet soon. Nirmala Sitharaman, UNION FINANCE MINISTER



The revenue of Rs 87,422 crore in July 2020 comprised CGST worth Rs 16,147 crore, SGST Rs 21,418 crore, IGST Rs 42,592 crore (including Rs 20,324 crore on import of goods) and cess Rs 7,265 crore.

The government has settled Rs 23,320 crore towards CGST and Rs 18,838 crore towards SGST from the IGST as regular settlement. The total revenue earned by the Centre and state governments after regular settlement in July was Rs 39,467 crore as CGST and Rs 40,256 crore SGST.



RS MP Amar Singh passes away at 64

NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha MP Amar Singh, who once wielded immense influence in power circles as a close aide of Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav, has died in Singapore where he was undergoing treatment. Amar Singh, 64, had undergone kidney transplant in 2011 and was not keeping well for a long time. — PTI OBIT: BACK PAGE

Govt allows export of indigenous ventilators

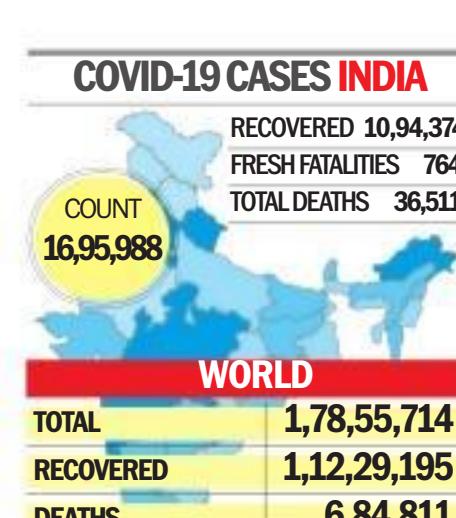
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

On a day when the country's Covid-19 caseload reached 16,95,988 due to a record daily surge of 57,118 cases, the Centre approved export of India-made ventilators.

The export prohibition on ventilators was imposed on March 24 to ensure domestic availability to effectively fight the pandemic.

The Group of Ministers on Covid agreed to allow export of indigenously manufactured ventilators citing low fatality rate of 2.15 per cent in the country. The Health Ministry data show the severity of Covid-19 in India is low and recoveries remain high and improving.

Out of 16.95 lakh cases, 10,94,374 have already been discharged. This represents a 64.53 per cent recovery rate.



The data also show that only 0.22 per cent of the active 5,65,103 cases are on ventilators in the country, 1.61 per cent are in ICUs and 2.32 per cent on oxygen support. Meanwhile toll due to Covid 19 climbed to 36,511 with 764 people dying over 24 hours. — TNS

Two persons have been arrested for allegedly waylaying and thrashing a Nuh resident in police presence here yesterday while suspecting he was carrying beef.

The incident triggered communal tension as a video of the victim, Lukman, being beaten up by several bike-borne assailants went viral.

One of the accused has been identified as Pardeep Yadav of Bhiwani while the identity of the other was being ascertained, the police said.

Lukman had visited Sadar Bazaar to deliver a buffalo meat

consignment to a shopkeeper on Eid eve when the assailants stopped his vehicle and beat him up in full public view. The accused then took con-

trol of Lukman's vehicle and drove away along with the victim, who somehow managed to call up his brother. The police were alerted and the vehicle was stopped at a 'naka' near Gurugram-Sohna road. The assailants pulled Lukman out and again thrashed him, this time in police presence.

Commissioner of Police KK Rao said they had nabbed two persons even as investigations were on. "We have zero tolerance to any such activity that threatens peace and harmony," he said. Badshahpur Station House Officer Deepak Kumar, meanwhile, has been transferred out.

They have challenged Section 2(c)(i) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, that defines "criminal contempt" as publication of anything — whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever — which scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers the authority of any court.

Section 2(c)(i) was a manifestly arbitrary and vague provision of law that violated right to equality and right to free speech guaranteed under the Constitution, they contended in the petition filed on Friday. "The broad

and ambiguous wording of the impugned sub-section violates Article 14 by leaving the offence open to differing and inconsistent applications. This uncertainty in the manner in which the law applies renders it manifestly arbitrary and violates the right to equal treatment," they submitted.

The trio argued that "it is incompatible with preambular values and basic features of the Constitution as it violates Article 19(1)(a)." — TNS

Gehlot extends olive branch to rebels

JAISALMER/JAIPUR, AUGUST 1

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to get the alleged attempt to topple his government stopped and said he was open to welcoming back the Congress rebels led by Sachin Pilot.

Asked if the dissidents will be forgiven, he said, "It depends on the party high command. If the party high command forgives, I shall embrace them." Since the power tussle between him and Sachin Pilot resurfaced last month, the Congress veteran has used harsh words against his former deputy, once even referring to him as 'nikamma' (useless). But Gehlot said he would do whatever the Congress leadership wants.

'GOVT WORKING FROM HOTELS'

It is very unfortunate for Rajasthan politics as well as for the people of the state that the government is working from hotels. Kalraj Mishra, RAJASTHAN GOVERNOR

END THE DRAMA: CM TO MODI

In a democracy, fights happen over ideology and policies, not for toppling a government. The PM should get the Rajasthan drama ended. Ashok Gehlot, CM

He said the party trusted him and he has been a Union minister, AICC general secretary, state unit president and Chief Minister for a third time.

"What else do I want? I am doing this to serve the public," he told reporters in Jaisalmer. The Chief Minister was on his

way back to Jaipur after an overnight stay at Jaisalmer's Suryagarh resort, where loyalist MLAs have been shifted.

The Congress has accused the BJP of playing a major role in the rebellion by the now sacked deputy CM and 18 other Congress MLAs. — PTI

Punjab nambardars await honorarium, threaten stir

SAMEER SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

It members unpaid for the past almost six months, the Punjab Nambardar Union has threatened to launch a statewide stir, if the government failed to clear their pending dues at the earliest.

There are around 35,000 nambardars working with the Revenue Department in villages across the state at a monthly honorarium of Rs 1,500. While a majority of them have been awaiting six-month payments, there are many who haven't been paid since November last.

Apart from the delay in payments, the nambardars have

SALARY PANGS

35,000 working with Revenue Dept at ₹1,500 a month

been demanding early issuance of a government notification (as announced in February this year) to increase their honorarium to Rs 2,000. The hike is learnt to have been agreed upon at a meeting that Punjab Revenue Minister Gurpreet Singh Kangar had with the union representatives.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

N Ram, Shourie challenge contempt provision in SC

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

Former Union minister Arun Shourie, veteran journalist N Ram and activist lawyer Prashant Bhushan have moved the Supreme Court challenging the constitutional validity of "criminal contempt", contending it has a "chilling effect" on free speech.

They have challenged Section 2(c)(i) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, that defines "criminal contempt" as publication of anything — whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever — which scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers the authority of any court.

Section 2(c)(i) was a manifestly arbitrary and vague provision of law that violated right to equality and right to free speech guaranteed under the Constitution, they contended in the petition filed on Friday. "The broad

and ambiguous wording of the impugned sub-section violates Article 14 by leaving the offence open to differing and inconsistent applications. This uncertainty in the manner in which the law applies renders it manifestly arbitrary and violates the right to equal treatment," they submitted.

The trio argued that "it is incompatible with preambular values and basic features of the Constitution as it violates Article 19(1)(a)." — TNS

Jawan from HP killed in LoC firing

JAMMU, AUGUST 1

In a fresh ceasefire violation by the Pakistani army along the Line of Control (LoC), an Army jawan of HP today lost his life in Rajouri sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sepoy Rohin Kumar is survived by grandmother, father, mother and an elder sister. Sepoy Kumar had last visited his family in Galore Khas village of Hamirpur in February

bune on telephone that the soldier's marriage had been fixed for November 11.

Jammu-based defence spokesperson Lt Col Devender Anand said, "The Pakistan army resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation on the LoC in Rajouri sector. Our troops responded strongly to the enemy fire. Sepoy Kumar was critically injured. He later succumbed to his injuries". — TNS

Sepoy Rohin Kumar
for an engagement ceremony. Galore Khas village head Shakuntla Devi told The Tri-

Record 944 cases, 19 more succumb

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1
With record 944 fresh cases and 19 deaths, the state count of Covid-19 cases has reached 17,063.

Once again, Ludhiana saw most casualties as 10 deaths were reported in the past 24 hours. Two deaths each were reported from Amritsar and Sangrur, and one each from SAS Nagar, Muktsar, Jalandhar and Barnala. In all, 145 patients are on oxygen and 13 are on ventilator support.

Those who lost their lives in Ludhiana today include a 49-year-old from Urban Estate (admitted at Patel Hospital, Jalandhar), a 48-year-old admitted to CMCH, a 60-year-old from Upkar Nagar, a 68-year-old from Kitchlu Nagar, an 89-year-old from Brindavan Road, a 65-year-old from



Health workers shift a patient to an ambulance in Abohar on Saturday.

Basant Nagar, a 50-year-old from New Azad Nagar, a 40-year-old from Mundian Kalan and a 67-year-old from Hargobind Nagar.

In Amritsar, with two more patients losing their lives to Covid, the toll has reached 80. The deceased have been identified as Baba Singh, a 40-year-old resident of

Daburji Police Lines and Darshan Kaur, a 74-year-old resident of Friends Colony, Sultanwind Road. In terms of cases too, Ludhiana continues to be the worst-affected district as it reported 166 cases, followed by Jalandhar (162), Gurdaspur (89), Bathinda (76), Patiala (66), Ferozepur (73) and Amritsar (49).

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Amritsar	1,911	80
Jalandhar	2,411	54
Ludhiana	3,377	99
Tarn Taran	373	10
Gurdaspur	594	18
Hoshiarpur	532	15
Patiala	1,785	28
SBS Nagar	316	3
SAS Nagar	875	15
Sangrur	1,093	28
Muktsar	239	2
Total positive	17,063	
Deaths		405

SIX JAILS TO HOUSE NEW INMATES

- Jail Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa on Saturday said they had converted six prisons into special jails for new inmates to prevent Covid spread
- The jails include those in Barnala, Patti, Bathinda, Pathankot, Ludhiana and Women Cell, Ludhiana
- The Rural Development Department will distribute 10 lakh masks, through which self-help groups can earn ₹50 lakh



CM: Need to follow safety norms strictly

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1

Taking note of the "highly irresponsible" behaviour of people who continue to violate Covid norms, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh today warned of dangerous consequences for the state, which has been witness to a spike in the cases.

Capt Amarinder asked why it was so difficult to wear masks, wash hands and not spit on roads. "Don't you care for your fellow Punjabis?" he asked those who were continuously ignoring his appeals to adhere to all safety norms. Citing the example of Maharashtra and Delhi, he said the safety of Punjab was in the hands of people. — TNS



'ADMIN MUST ACT'

The hospital is a sensitive zone and it is surprising to see the fitness instructor not wearing the mask. The administration should take action in this regard. A RESIDENT

they said. A health official said the employees were wearing masks during the class. The instructor who flouted the protocol must be directed not to repeat this in future, he said. — TNS

Farmer ends life, kin allege harassment

SANGRUR, AUGUST 1

Family members of a 34-year-old farmer, who died after falling from a mobile tower on Friday night, alleged that the victim had committed suicide as he was being harassed by the police.

"My brother Balvir Singh jumped from a mobile tower after facing harassment by policemen. The police have registered a case against my younger brother, who is absconding. Cops are harassing our entire family," alleged Jasvir Kaur, sister of the victim.

Station House Officer Yadwinder Singh denied the allegations and said they were probing the matter. — TNS

Mansa farmers demand compensation for crop loss

Tribune News Service

BATHINDA, AUGUST 1
Farmers have sought compensation for crop loss suffered due to heavy rain in Mansa district. The aggrieved farmers said no one from the Agriculture Department or the district administration had visited their fields to assess the level of damage.

Agriculturists in around 40 villages, including Khokhar Khurd, Jhunir, Sardulgarh and Budhlada, who had sown paddy and cotton, suffered extensive loss. Surendarpal Singh Butti, a farmer from Khokhar

Damage assessment to be completed soon, says DC

Khurd village, said, "Paddy sown on my 3.5 acres remained submerged in rainwater for days. It has been more than a week, but the district administration has not conducted a girdawari."

Ram Singh Bhaini Bagha of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, Ekta Ugrahan, said, "Farmers in around 30 villages have suffered losses due to heavy rain. Standing crop in 250 acres is completely damaged at

Khokhar Khurd. Farmers are asking the administration to conduct a girdawari at the earliest."

He said, "The state government must provide a compensation of Rs 40,000 per acre to affected farmers. If the process is not started soon, the BKU will protest at the Budhlada SDM office on August 4." Mansa Deputy Commissioner Mohinder Pal said, "We have issued orders to conduct a girdawari. The process to assess loss will be completed soon. As per the government's policy, affected farmers will be given adequate compensation."

112 PG medical, dental seats go begging

BALWANT GARG

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, AUGUST 1

As many as 112 of the total 810 seats in postgraduate courses of medical and dental science have gone vacant in seven medical and 12 dental colleges in the state this year.

The Baba Farid University of Health Sciences (BFUHS) today declared the result of the third and final mop-up round of online counselling for admission to the postgraduate (PG) medical and dentistry courses in the state. As many as 85 seats in Doctor of Medicine (MD) and a Master of Science (MS) courses and 27 Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) seats remained unoccupied. All medical and dental colleges offered

NO TAKERS AFTER FINAL ROUND

- Of the 671 PG seats in seven medical colleges, 85 remained vacant in MD and MS courses
- Of the 139 seats available in 11 dental colleges, 27 remained vacant this time
- 810 PG courses seats in seven medical and 12 dental colleges were up for grabs

total 810 seats in postgraduate medical and dental courses in the state this time. Of the total 671 PG seats in seven medical colleges, 85 remained vacant in MD and MS courses.

Admission on 112 MD/MS seats (of 671 seats) has been made by the Medical Counselling Committee under all-India quota. In the dentistry science, of the 139 seats available in 11 dental

colleges, 27 remained vacant this time.

Facing shortage of eligible candidates to fill seats in all MD/MS courses, particularly the NRI quota ones, in clinical and non-clinical course in the medical colleges, 85 remained vacant in MD and MS courses.

Admission on 112 MD/MS seats (of 671 seats) has been made by the Medical Counselling Committee under all-India quota. In the dentistry science, of the 139 seats available in 11 dental

by 20 percentile for all category candidates. The qualifying percentile for the NEET-PG has been lowered from 50 to 30 for the general category candidates, while for SC, ST and OBC candidates, the qualifying percentile has been reduced from 40 to 20. For general category-PWD and SC/ST and OBC category-PWD candidates, the cut-off percentile has been reduced from 45 to 25 and 40 to 20, respectively.

The qualifying percentile for the MDS was also lowered from 50 to 31.065 for the general category candidates, while for SC/BC and handicapped candidates, the percentile had been reduced from 40 to 21.065 and 45 to 26.065, respectively.

HC raps special judge for not keeping herself updated in drugs case

SAURABH MALIK

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



Says matter must be examined in light of SC judgment

ment in the case of Hira Singh and another versus Union of India and another".

During the resumed hearing of the case, counsel for the applicant-petitioner prayed that the main petition may be dismissed as withdrawn. Ordering accordingly, Justice Mittal asserted it was pertinent to mention that the special judge allowed the bail application of co-accused Gurpreet Singh vide an order dated May 27. The order, among other things, said perusal of the FSL report showed that the quantity of tablets, due to different salts, fell within the non-commercial range. Justice Mittal said the special judge either did not keep herself updated with the latest position in law or did not bother to examine the case in the light of latest judgment of the Supreme Court.

Justice Mittal said, "It has been held that in case of seizure of mixture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances with one or more neutral substance(s), the quantity of neutral substance(s) is not to be excluded and to be taken into consideration along with the actual content by weight of offending drug, while determining small or commercial quantity of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances when examined in the light of a Supreme Court judgment."

Justice Mittal, on the next date of hearing, observed that the comments of the presiding officer had been received. One of the issues involved in the present petition was whether the recovery was to be taken as commercial or non-commercial quantity when examined in the light of a Supreme Court judgment.

BSF recovers 2.9 kg heroin in Ferozepur

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FEROZEPUR, AUGUST 1
Pakistan-based peddlers continue to smuggle drugs inside the Indian territory by exploiting gaps along the Indo-Pakistan border.

The Border Security Force (BSF) troops belonging to the 136 Battalion today seized 2.980-kg heroin worth Rs 15 crore in international market. The consignment was recovered near border outpost (BOP) Old Mohammadi Wala during the wee hours.

Sources said the consignment was being smuggled through the water channel by using plastic bottles. Notably, 336.797-kg heroin has been recovered this year in Punjab by the BSF.

For de-addiction drugs, urine test soon, says Capt

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1
The Punjab Government will soon introduce urine test every six months for dispensing de-addiction drugs to check abuse.

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh said this in reply to a Ludhiana youth's request for directions to Out Patient Opioid Assisted Treatment (OOAT) clinics to give 10 days of medicine at a time, as per the past practice, to avoid long queues for daily dose of medication. Due to this daily waiting time, he was getting late for work every day, the youth said. In response, the Chief Minister said his government would soon introduce urine test every six months to ensure that there was no misuse of the medicine. — TNS

Badals misusing SGPC for poll gains: Dhindsa

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, AUGUST 1
Several leaders led by rebel Rajya Sabha MP Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa today organised an 'Akhand Path bhog' at Mastuan Sahib to express repentance over the missing 'saroops' of Guru Granth Sahib.

"Hundreds of 'saroops' of Guru Granth Sahib have gone missing while at some places, sacrifice has also taken place. However, neither the SGPC informed the residents nor got any probe conducted. This has raised questions. The SGPC officials are hand in glove with the Badals, who are misusing it for political gains," Dhindsa said.

Sources said though Dhindsas had planned a small function, hundreds turned up to listen to senior leaders. "Since we are the true representatives of Sikhs, we have decided

to organise 'Akhand Path' to repent the disrespect of Guru Granth Sahib. Badals and their sycophants stand exposed," he added.

Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, RAJYA SABHA MP

to organise 'Akhand Path' to repent the disrespect of Guru Granth Sahib. Badals and their sycophants stand exposed," he added.

Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, RAJYA SABHA MP

SGPC withdraws transfer of five Ajnala staffers

AMRITSAR, AUGUST 1

In a rare show of promptness, the SGPC withdrew the transfer order of five of its employees after its members from the Ajnala subdivision threatened to resign in case the orders were not cancelled.

Amrik Singh Vichha, Jodh Singh Samra and Swarn Kaur Terra, all committee members from Ajnala, in a communiqué to president Gobind Singh Longowal, had threatened to step down in case the transfer of five employees of their area was not stopped.

These employees are Harjinder Singh, manager, Harpreet Singh, deputy manager, Gurdeep Singh, granthi, all employees of Gurdwara Baba Budha Ramdas; Pargat Singh, manager, Gurdwara Guru Ke Bagh, Ghukewali village, and Ramandeep Singh, clerk, Golden Temple. — TNS

Census office order may hit delimitation process

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1

The instructions by the Director General (Census) to the state government not to make changes in the boundaries of civic bodies after December 31, 2019, may hit the exercise of the delimitation of wards being carried out in urban local bodies (ULBs), including the Municipal Corporations.

Notably, the Director, Local Government Department, recently announced the delimitation of wards before holding the elections to 129 ULBs, proposed in October.

The Director General (Census) had asked the state not to make changes in boundaries of civic bodies or other administrative units. The boundaries of administrative units for Census-2021 would be frozen as on December 31, 2019. "No changes should be made in the boundaries of the administrative units from January 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021,"

the order said. Objecting to the delimitation of the Mohali Municipal Corporation, former Deputy Mayor Manjit Sethi said despite the Director General (Census) issuing a notification of not undertaking delimitation after December 31, 2019, the department had ordered the delimitation of wards.

"Rotating wards within the jurisdiction of a sector is also delimitation. We will challenge it in a court," said Sethi. The SAD-BJP has also announced to take legal recourse in case of the delimitation of wards. The department could face the same problem in other ULBs.

The government has only announced 50 per cent reservation of wards for women on the lines of a law passed in 2017. — TNS

Curbs put brakes on car rental business, losses mount

SUKHEEMIT BHASIN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, AUGUST 1
A majority of travel agencies, mainly those dealing with car rentals, are bearing the brunt of the Covid-induced lockdown. The owners are selling their vehicles as they are unable to pay EMIs.

Facing a threat to their livelihood, many car rental owners have shifted to alternative works to earn bread and butter for their families.

Satish Kumar, who runs a car rental business in Bathinda, said there were only a few bookings in the past two months as people were not moving out due



'WORK FROM HOME AFFECTING US'

There is little movement as most people are working from home. Grand weddings are not also taking place. Earlier, around 10-12 vehicles used to go for a wedding, but now, not even one. Satish Kumar, BUSINESSMAN

793 fresh cases, tally crosses 35K mark

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1
With 793 fresh cases, the cumulative number of Covid cases crossed 35,000 mark in the state on Saturday taking the tally to 35,758.

Seven people succumbed to the virus taking the death toll to 428. Three patients lost their lives in Faridabad, two in Kurukshetra and one each in Gurugram and Panipat.

However, 853 patients recovered from the virus taking the total number of those defeating the infection to 29,080. The recovery rate in the state has reached 81.32 per cent.

Now, as many as 6,250 cases are active in the state of which 111 are on oxygen support in various hospitals while 16 others are critically ill and are on ventilators.

While Gurugram continues to be on the top of the table in the matter of cumulative number with 9,166 cases so far, Faridabad with 8,830 positive cases is fast catching up with Gurugram by reporting the maximum number of cases in the past some days. Faridabad with 1,149 active cases and 134 deaths is already ahead of Gurugram which has 918 active cases and 124 deaths.

Even on Saturday, Faridabad reported 175 fresh cases and three deaths against 99 cases and one

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Gurugram	9,166	124
Faridabad	8,830	134
Sonepat	2,899	32
Rewari	1,794	8
Ambala	1,626	16
Rohtak	1,528	23
Karnal	1,085	10
Panipat	1,146	14
Hisar	966	15
Palwal	929	9
Jhajjar	823	10
Mahendragarh	822	1
Bhiwani	781	5
Nuh	545	12
Panchkula	599	2
Kurukshetra	460	4
Sirsia	371	2
Fatehabad	339	2
Jind	285	5
Yamunanagar	305	3
Kaithal	266	
Charkhi Dadri	155	1
Italiens	14	
Foreign returnees	21	
Total	35,758	428

death in Gurugram.

Rajeev Arora, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, said the state had ramped up testing significantly and till date, 6,28,806 tested have been conducted with a positivity rate of 5.74 per cent.

The fatality rate has come down to 1.20 per cent and doubling rate has improved to 25 days, he said. —TNS

Covaxin Phase I trials at PGIMS successful, 3 given second dose

79 administered vaccine have shown no adverse effects on health

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, AUGUST 1

Three of volunteers were administered the second dose of the indigenous Covid vaccine, Covaxin, at Pandit Bhagwan Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS) here on Friday.

So far, a total of 79 volunteers have successfully been administered the first dose of the vaccine at the hospital under the first phase of its human clinical trials.

Since no adverse effect of the vaccine on human health has been witnessed so far hence the doctors have initiated administering its second dose to the volunteers who got the first one 14 days ago.

"We have got encouraging results after administering the first dose to 79 volunteers under the first phase. All volunteers are being observed closely and none of them have so far complained of any adverse effect on their health," said Dr Ramesh Verma, co-investigator and professor at the community medicine department at the PGIMS.

Dr Verma said Rohtak



Phase II likely from Sept first week

- The trials will be conducted in two phases i.e. on 375 volunteers in the first and 750 in the second, across the nation
- The second phase of the trials is likely to start in the first week of September

PGIMS was among the 12 institutes across the country and the only one in Haryana selected for conducting the human trials.

The trials will be conducted in two phases i.e. on 375 volunteers in the first and 750 in the second, across the nation. After vaccination, another test would be conducted on the volunteers to find out the level of antibodies, he added.

"The second phase of the trials is likely to start in the first week of September," Dr Verma added.

Anti-hepatitis C drug test on patients soon

SUNIT DHAWAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, AUGUST 1

After the ongoing human trials of Covaxin, medical specialists at Rohtak PGIMS will now begin the clinical tests of anti-hepatitis C drugs such as Leditasvir, Daclatasvir and Sofosbuvir on Covid patients.

Sources said if all goes well, the clinical trials would begin within a week or so.

"The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council has sanctioned Rs 86 lakh for the project to be executed by Rohtak PGIMS in collaboration with Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, and INTOX Private Limited, Pune," said Dr Mahesh C Gupta, senior professor, head of the department of pharmacology at Rohtak PGIMS and co-principal investigator of the project, while talking to *The Tribune*.

Rs 86L sanctioned; project to be executed with NCL, INTOX

here on Saturday.

Prof Gupta said after getting the requisite permission from the authorities concerned, Rohtak PGIMS would carry out the clinical trials, whereas the in-vitro and in-silico aspects of the project would be taken care of by the NCL and INTOX.

Of Rs 86 lakh sanctioned for the purpose, Rohtak PGIMS will get a share of Rs 50 lakh, he added.

Meanwhile, Dr Dhruva Chaudhry, senior professor and head of the department of pulmonary and critical care medicine at Rohtak PGIMS and principal investigator of the project, said the clinical trials of the anti-hepatitis C drugs would be conducted on 175 Covid patients divided into three groups.

Jhajjar youth dies as assailants open fire

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JHAJJAR, AUGUST 1

A youth, identified as Ravinder, alias Dhola, was killed and his friend — Gulab — suffered serious injuries when a group of assailants opened fire upon them when they were strolling outside their house in Asauda village under the Bahadurgarh subdivision, here on Friday night.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Pawan Kumar said three police teams had been formed to nab the accused. Body of Ravinder was handed over to his kin after post-mortem examination.

pital in Bahadurgarh town.

Old enmity between two parties of the village is stated to be the reason behind the crime while the police have started investigation after booking a case of murder against six persons in this regard.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Pawan Kumar said three police teams had been formed to nab the accused. Body of Ravinder was handed over to his kin after post-mortem examination.

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG CORRIGENDUM

Offline tenders invited vide this office NIT No. JSDP-CB-TAE-Tender-2020-21-4089-148 Dated 25.07.2020 due to be opened on 07.08.2020 in the office of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Paonta Sahib, the name of works at Sl. No. 6 & 7 Providing LWSS PC Habitation of CV Gorkhwala in Tehsil Paonta Sahib District Sirmour (HP) may be read Providing Har Ghar Lal Se Jal in LWSS of CV Khodri Majri & Manpur Deora in Tehsil Paonta Sahib District Sirmour (HP). Rest of the contents of these works remain unchanged.

DPR/HP/2013

SUCHANA AND JAN SAMPARK

THE LAWRENCE SCHOOL, SANAWAR Distr. Solan, Himachal Pradesh (India) - 173202

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

India's premier co-educational residential public school, founded in 1847, invites tender from reputed civil/ electrical/ plumbing/ building work contractors for:

(a) Construction of Staff Accommodations.

(b) Swimming Pool Heating System based on Air to Water Heat Pumps.

Tender documents, in a sealed envelope, are to be submitted at the School Office before 03:00 p.m. by 12 August 2020. Details are available on School's website www.sanawar.edu.in. For any query, please contact Head (Development Projects) on Phone: 01792-261208/209, Email: hdp@sanawar.edu.in

HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Haryana Undertaking)

Bays No. 59-62, Sector 2, Panchkula.

Phone: 0172-2567945

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)

Tender Enquiry No.: 108/Tend/COR/2020-21/34-A

Online Tender of Medical consumables for a period of three months procurement of Rapid Antigen Kits for Corona virus Haryana of "Group C" and documents can be downloaded from 31.07.2020 onwards on e-procurement portal www.etenders.hry.nic.in.

For Managing Director,

HMSCL, Panchkula.

PUBLIC NOTICE O/O THE SECRETARY, STATE TRANSPORT AUTHORITY, UT CHANDIGARH

It is for the information of general public that the owners of the commercial vehicles, who have not renewed their registration certificates, permits and not deposited road tax and fee of other required documents, are hereby directed to deposit the requisite fee and keep their documents up to date. Failing which the action as deemed fit under MV Act, 1988 shall be initiated. The enforcement staff of this office shall carryout intensive drive for checking of documents of commercial vehicles.

Secretary
State Transport Authority,
UT Chandigarh

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOOD PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY - LO BATHINDA

Ministry of Food Processing Industries Government of India

Aditya Complex, SCO-16&17, Phase-2, Part-1,

Adjoining BDA office Model Town, Bathinda - 151001, Punjab

Office Phone No.: 0164-2970224 Email: director@iifpt.edu.in,

Website: www.iifpt.edu.in

No:IIFFT/LO-Bathinda/ManPower/2020 Date:02.08.2020

VACANCY NOTIFICATION

Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT) LO-Bathinda inviting online application for the following time-bound and temporary positions. No offline application is entertained by the institute.

Sl. No.	Name of the post	No. of Post
1	Young Professional -II	01

Application Fee: Rs.500/- (exempted for SC/ST/PWD Candidates). For online application and further details on Age, Educational qualification, eligibility criteria and emoluments, tenure and terms and conditions etc; Please visit our website: www.iifpt.edu.in

DIRECTOR

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING AUCTION

The condemned Mahindra Bolero LX4WD HP 24B 0360 will be put to public auction in the premises of Jal Shakti Sub-Division Tihra on 18.8.2020. Interested parties can get their names registered in the office of the Assistant Engineer Jal Shakti Sub-Division Tihra from 11.00 A.M. to 02.00 P.M. on the same day.

The above condemned vehicle can be physically inspected within the office working hours from 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. at the place of Jal Shakti Sub Division Tihra.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- All the bidders shall be required to deposit the earnest money of Rs. 11000/- only in cash against vehicle before participating in the auction.
- The highest bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the amount of final bid in cash on the fall of hammer and remaining amount shall have to be deposited during office hours with concerned Assistant Engineer within 7 days excluding the day of auction. The successful bidder shall have to be at liberty to deposit the full amount of the bid value after the acceptance of bid.
- The vehicle is being offered for auction on as is where is basis and transportation charges shall be borne by the bidder in whose name of vehicle is released.
- The successful bidder shall not be allowed to lift the vehicle unless full amount of bid as per rules in paid.
- The successful bidder shall be required to lift the above vehicle from the premises within 15 days from the date of auction excluding the date of auction. In case the bidder fails to lift the vehicle released in his name within the stipulated period the charges as per departmental rates per day will be charged.
- The undersigned shall have the right to accept/reject the highest bid without assigning any reason.

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

DPR/HP/2005

JHAJJAR, AUGUST 1

A 16-year-old girl was kidnapped and gangraped at a village under the jurisdiction of Kulana police station here on Friday night.

The police have booked a youth of the same village and three others under relevant Sections of the IPC.

The crime was perpetrated when the victim was standing outside her house. The accused came there in a car and abducted her. After committing the crime, they left the girl outside the home of her relative in Kasni village and fled.

Later, the victim and her family members approached the police this morning and lodged a complaint. The victim was then brought to Civil Hospital for medical examination. Investigation Officer Neelam said efforts were being made to nab the accused. —TNS

Assistant Jail Superintendent Sanjay Kumar, in his police complaint, said on Friday

16-year-old gangraped

JHAJJAR, AUGUST 1

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

BRAHMIN

IAS or Allied Services Govt Officer
Brahmin match for educated, smart Brahmin homely girl, 22 years, 5'-10", sharp features, Wheatish, perfect health, highly Senior Govt. officer's daughter. Bureau excuse, beekay6112@gmail.com (CL20020177)

Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin girl, UGC NET qualified, M.Com.(Hons), Pursuing Ph.D, UBS Panjab University, November 1994/5'-6". Only Saraswat and Kundli must. Tricity preferred. 09127148343, 0172-2783417. (CL20025609)

Suitable alliance invited for Advocate girl Feb. 20. 1985. 15:25 hrs, Chandigarh, 164 Cms. Tricity preferred. Biota, Photographs, 94170 - 02682, evashinav@rediffmail.com (CL20023484)

Match for Brahmin Convent

educated beautiful Software Engineer girl, 5'-8", 22.04.1991, 2 pm, IELTS clear. Preferred well settled boy in Canada. WhatsApp: 92541-46300, 98963-75911. (CL20023825)

Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin girl

Brahmin girl, UGC NET qualified, M.Com.(Hons), Pursuing Ph.D, UBS Panjab University, November 1994/5'-6". Only Saraswat and Kundli must. Tricity preferred. 09127148343, 0172-2783417. (CL20024475)

Match for beautiful Brahmin girl

25th Sept. 1991, 5'-2", Office Management Working in Govt. sector on contract, Tricity preferred. 09172-2626878. (CL20024546)

Gaur Brahmin girl 1.10.1987,

12.31 p.m., Chandigarh, B.Tech, working in PGI, Contact: 62391-15425. (CL20024558)

Match for beautiful Canadian Citizen girl

Ramgarhia 5'-3", 28 working software manager (Tata) MS (CS) caste no bar. rbcab1189@gmail.com (CL20024047)

PQM4 Mair Rajput, 85, MS,

5', H.B Visa, Canada PR, prefer working/ studying in USA/ Canada. 9915949434. E-mail: mtmytry@gmail.com (CL20024075)

Wanted suitable match for beautiful,

well cultured Lubana Canadian PR girl, well settled in Canada. March 90 born, height 5'-7", CSE and M.Tech, in System Software. Father retired Class-I Officer and only brother settled abroad. Upper caste no bar. WhatsApp pid and biota: 98888-08884. (CL20024336)

Match for Jat Sikh Dhaliwal girl

1992 5'-5", M.Tech, doing Ph.D. at Edmonton Canada. 78888-13837 (WhatsApp). (CL20024581)

Suitable match for Ramdasia Sikh girl

December 1988/5'-6" B.Tech, MBA, Canada, PR. 9914048396, 9914051896. (CL20024587)

Professional qualified match for Sharma girl

5'-4", 04.01.1988, Canadian PR, Post Nursing Assistant in Surry. Brother also in Canada on work permit. Boy should be on Canada PR. Preferably belonging to Barnala District. 99153-96896. (CL20024593)

PQM for Canadian PR Khatri Sikh girl

1992, 5'-5", M.S. Software Developer. Parents Govt. Officers, ctsudr boy preferred. 94631-71157. (CL20024950)

Suitable match for Brahmin girl

girl, 26 September 1990, MBA, 5'-3". IELTS 6.5/ Band, fair. 98159-10661. (CL20024950)

Professional match for Canadian citizen,

Hindu Khatri beautiful Manglik girl, 24, 5'. Preference IT professional or Doctor. Contact: 93178-00055, momspriode@hotmail.com (CL20024718)

Suitable match for Upper class

5.7.84, Canada, 5'-3". Brahmin girl, B.Sc., B.Ed. (Non-Medical), M.Sc. LL.B., divorced, seeks well settled boy from similar status family. Contact: 98883-80515, 94637-84960. (CL20025690)

Suitable match for Brahmin girl,

B.Tech., 07.09.1993, 7:30 Puna (HP): 94187-87546. (CL20025187)

Sarswat Brahmin Manglik girl,

22.06.1991, 2:02 am, 5', B.Sc. (MLT) Ludhiana. 96461-11307. (CL20025330)

Match for Brahmin girl 5'-6", 83

Asst Professor in reputed College in Chandigarh. Tricity preferred. Caste no bar. 62398-58399. (CL20025354)

Match for Saraswat Brahmin girl

26.5.1991 (6.53 p.m. Ludhiana). M.Com., B.Ed., CTET, PTET, UGC NET cleared. Working as Asst. Professor in private college. Father - Advocate. 98145-23947, 94630-57023. (CL20025151)

Suitable match for Gaur Brahmin girl

girl, 26 September 1990, MBA, 5'-3". IELTS 6.5/ Band, fair. 98159-10661. (CL20024609)

Suitable match for Brahmin girl,

girl, 26.07.1993, 7:30 Puna (HP): 94187-87546. (CL20025187)

Match for Brahmin girl 5'-6", 83

Asst Professor in reputed College in Chandigarh. Tricity preferred. Caste no bar. 62398-58399. (CL20025354)

Similar professional match for Saraswat Brahmin girl

01-01-1987, 04:57 am, Fardisbad, Haryana. 5'-7", B.Tech (CSE) MBA, senior consultant Infosys Bangalore, Punjab, Haryana Tricity preferred. whatsapp: 99917-58282, sudevshrawi756@gmail.com (CL20023775)

Match for Brahmin Bhumihar girl,

beautiful complexion fair, 28/ 5'-6", Gotha Bhardwaj, B.Tech. (IT), working in renowned MNC, handsome package. Govt. employee Class-I/ MNC employed boys preferably from Bihar/ UP may contact on 8360090626. (CL20023792)

Suitable Match for Saraswat Brahmin girl

Brahmin girl, B.Tech, D.O.B 27/03/89, 5'-5", 11:35 a.m. Chandigarh, working MNC Bangalore, PRG: 16-00 P.A. Contact: 98762-67773, 93577-28355. (CL20023933)

PQM for Convent educated MBA,

Brahmin girl, Nov. 1983, Shimla, 1:45 a.m., 5'-1", Contact No. 98160-03017 (CL20023848)

Beautiful, slim, Saraswat Brahmin girl

35 (looks 25-26), 5'-4", MA, B.Ed., Govt. job. 73472-24645. (CL20023864)

MBBS/ MDS/ BDS match for Saraswat Brahmin girl

Saraswat Brahmin girl, 91, 5'-4", running Dental clinic, family of doctors/ teachers. Decent marriage. Doaba preferred. 9872122394. (CL20023924)

Match for Brahmin girl

24.02.1987, 01:30 a.m. Rajpura, height 5'-4", MBA, PR permanent job in Canada. Contact: 98886-75888. (CL20023987)

Match for homely beautiful slim Brahmin girl

Brahmin girl, 28.03.86, 5.00 p.m., Roorkee, 5'-3", M.A. (Eng.), B.Ed., Teaching. 93566 - 12814 (CL20023973)

Perfect match for Brahmin girl

24.02.1987, 01:30 a.m. Rajpura, height 5'-4", MBA, PR permanent job in Canada. Contact: 98886-75888. (CL20023987)

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Match for beautiful Brahmin girl

25.7.1990, 5'-6", 7:00 pm, Amritsar, M.Sc. (IT), Diploma Web Design. 98789-41351. (CL20024276)

Age 25, 5'-5", education MBA,

private job. Wanted suitable match. 95220-80071, 91191-07500. (CL20024239)

Match for beautiful Brahmin girl

25.7.1990, 5'-6", 7:00 pm, Amritsar, M.Sc. (IT), Diploma Web Design. 98789-41351. (CL20024276)

Professional match for Punjabi

Saraswat Brahmin girl 1991-01-01, 5'-5", MA, NTT. Private teacher, wanted unmarried/ divorced issueless Gursikh boy. 97283-43637 (CL20025350)

Professional match for Sohdi Sikhs

girl D.O.B. 6th September 1983, Height 5'-4", M.Sc. (Nursing), Lecturer (Class-I), Punjab Government Nursing College. WhatsApp/ Call: 006024973059, 96467-84535-E. (CL20025279)

Professional match for Brahmin girl

girl, 07.05.1986, 05:32 am, 5'-6", M.Sc., M.Ed. Teacher CSCE school. 94782-54545. (CL20025956)

Brahmin Manglik girl 19.1.1992,

5'-2", Time: 6:41 am, Gurdaspur. Contact: 98778-7949, 98144-62150. (CL20025946)

Match for beautiful Brahmin girl

25.7.1990, 5'-6", 7:00 pm, Amritsar, M.Sc. (IT), Diploma Web Design. 98789-41351. (CL20024276)

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Match for beautiful Brahmin girl

25.7.1990, 5'-6", 7:00 pm, Amritsar, M.Sc. (IT), Diploma Web Design. 98789-

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Chandigarh direct deal 4 kanal house facing park, (Below Market Price). Required payment urgently genuine buyers. 98149-67149. (CL20023220)

4 kanal decent house fully marbleled with green belt (near Lake), Chandigarh. Direct deal. Genuine buyers only. 98149-67149. (CL20023224)

Chandigarh direct deal 2 kanal liveable good house, posh area, North-East, Sector 27-B, very reasonable price. 98149-67149. (CL20023226)

Kanal duplex, corner, side park on b-road Sector-91, Single Storey liveable b-road Sector-69 Mohali, 98146-63320. (CL20024990)

Chandigarh rare bargain 2 kanal house corner with green belt, Sector 8. Genuine buyers only. 98149-67149. (CL20023230)

Chandigarh one kanal modern house Sector 11, 18, 19, corner, B-Road 33, 34, 35-A. Immediate corner. 98149-67149. (CL20023232)

Chandigarh going very cheap, ten marla triple storey, liveable good house, Sector 35, 27. Genuine buyers only. 98149-67149. (CL20023234)

Chandigarh: Direct deal 2 kanal, 3 kanal, 4 kanal, 6 kanal house prime location Sector 4, 5, 8-A, 9-A, 9-C, 15, 16, 18, 27, 28. (Wanted/ available) 98149-67149. (CL20023238)

Direct deal corner 4 kanal, good liveable house Northern Sector Chandigarh. Genuine buyers only. 98149-67149. (CL20023240)

Mohali (Industrial): 1 kanal B-Road Phase 8A, 2 & 6 kanal B-Road, A-Road, Phasse VII, 8B, Empire Estates 98150-83500. (CL20023915)

Mohali: 2 kanal (1000 sq.yds), residential plots A-Road Sector 79, F/park Phase-4 & Aerocity. Empire Estates 98150-83500. (CL20023918)

Mohali (commercial): Showroom sites/builtup, ample car parking, front Airport Road, single/pair, Sector 66A, 82, Empire Estates 98150-83500. (CL20023920)

Mohali 1 kanal, brand new extra ordinary houses, F/park, B-road in Phase- 3B1, VII, Sector 69, 79. Contact Empire Estates. 97796-36055. (CL20023922)

1 Kanal & 16 Marla Houses good location & Reasonable prices in Mohali. Orbit Estates 9915534500, 898799143. (CL20024204)

Chandigarh one kanal Sector 8, 10, 11, 18, 19, 21, 27, 33, 36, 38, 40, 40. Gulati Estates 98140-06264. (CL20024229)

1 kanal newly built ground floor with basement, facing North East Sector, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh. 98149-67149. (CL20024279)

Chandigarh booth for sale Sector 9-C, Madhya Marg (going very cheap), required payment (immediate settlement). 98149-67149. (CL20024795)

3 kanal modern house like new palace in Chandigarh (going cheap) (required payment urgently), genuine buyer only. 98149-67149. (CL20024800)

Going very cheap 10 marla triple storey house facing park, 5 marla corner triple storey house huge car parking in Chandigarh. 98149-67149. (CL20024803)

Two Kana single storey decent location, facing North House Sector 8, Chandigarh. Anuj Associates 98150-38223. (CL20024900)

One Kanal decent location House Sector 8, Chandigarh. Genuine customer contact Anuj Associates 98150-38223. (CL20024939)

Chandigarh 4 kanal modern house prime location, B-Road, facing park, Northern Sector, (going cheap). Genuine buyers only. 98149-67149. (CL20025099)

Corner 2 kanal liveable good house, two side open, posh Area, Sector 33. (Going cheap). 98149-67149. (CL20025114)

Chandigarh 2 kanal decent house, facing North - East Sector 2. Genuine buyers only. 98149-67149. (CL20025118)

Chandigarh rare bargain 1 kanal newly built, modern house, prime location, B-Road, huge greenbelt, North - East in best Sector (high taste preferred). 98149-67149. (CL20025125)

More than 1 kanal house (625 sqyd) corner, facing park, prime location in Defence Sector Chandigarh genuine buyer only. 98149-67149. (CL20025248)

10 marla old house for sale in Sector 21, Chandigarh. Contact: Kulwant Grewal 98144-44110. (CL20025408)

1 kanal old house for sale in Sector 8, 11, 16, 21, Chandigarh. Contact: Kulwant Grewal 98144-44110. (CL20025410)

7.5 marla newly built all floors are available for sale in Sector 18, Chandigarh. Ready to move. Contact: Kulwant Grewal 98144-44110. (CL20025411)

5 marla all floors are available for sale in Sector 22, Chandigarh. Contact: Kulwant Grewal 98144-44110. (CL20025413)

Wanted IT Plot/ Building One Kanal to 4 Kanal for IT Company (Direct deal) 98787-09884. (CL20025424)

Commercial Properties prime Location with 12% Assured Return (Surrender Option after 36 Months) Lease Guarantee Omaxe New Chandigarh 9878709884 (CL20025483)

New Kanal / 10 Marla Floors Chandigarh. Direct meeting with Builder/ Owners. 98787-09884. Arora (HSAs) Retd. Sector 17-A (50-51). (CL20025493)

5 marla floorwise, Sector 22. Extraordinary work, reasonable price. GG Homes: 94172-77775, 98770-17775. (CL20025724)

10 marla floorwise, brand new, Sector 33. Extraordinary work, reasonable price, construction liked payments. Bank facilities also available. GG Homes: 94172-77775, 98770-17775. (CL20025725)

8 marla floorwise, brand new, Sector 18. Big parking space, construction liked payments. Bank facilities also available. GG Homes: 94172-77775, 98770-17775. (CL20025726)

Commercial building rent 4,50,000/- freehold Chandigarh. Bank tenant two showrooms Mohali. Rare deal. Sharan: 98728-92299. (CL20025891)

2 kanal facing park Sector 8, choice Sectors 18, 27, 26, 21, 33, 36. Sharan: 98728-92299, 98766-6033. (CL20025895)

2 kanal extraordinary specifications newly with all superb material for persons of high taste Sector 18, Chandigarh. Sharan: 98728-92299. (CL20025897)

6 kanal unique location Sector 9, Four kanal best deals Sectors 9, 8, 5, 2, 8. Sharan: 98728-92299, 98766-6033. (CL20025898)

Wanted Two Kanal Kothi Chandigarh/Panchkula (Ready Shift) Spot/desired payment. (Meeting direct purchaser) 98787-09884. (CL20025900)

Chandigarh direct deal 2 kanal liveable good house, posh area, North-East, Sector 27-B, very reasonable price. 98149-67149. (CL20023226)

Kanal duplex, corner, side park on b-road Sector-91, Single Storey liveable b-road Sector-69 Mohali, 98146-63320. (CL20024990)

Chandigarh rare bargain 2 kanal house corner with green belt, Sector 8. Genuine buyers only. 98149-67149. (CL20023230)

Chandigarh one kanal modern house Sector 11, 18, 19, corner, B-Road 33, 34, 35-A. Immediate corner. 98149-67149. (CL20023232)

Chandigarh: Direct deal 2 kanal, 3 kanal, 4 kanal, 6 kanal house prime location Sector 4, 5, 8-A, 9-B, 9-C, 15, 16, 18, 27, 28. (Wanted/ available) 98149-67149. (CL20023238)

Direct deal corner 4 kanal, good liveable house Northern Sector Chandigarh. Genuine buyers only. 98149-67149. (CL20023240)

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Mohali: 2 kanal (1000 sq.yds), residential plots A-Road Sector 79, F/park Phase-4 & Aerocity. Empire Estates 98150-83500. (CL20023918)

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One Kanal decent location House Sector 8, Chandigarh. Genuine customer contact Anuj Associates 98150-38223. (CL20024939)

Chandigarh 4 kanal modern house prime location, B-Road, facing park, Northern Sector, (going cheap). Genuine buyers only. 98149-67149. (CL20025099)

Corner 2 kanal liveable good house, two side open, posh Area, Sector 33. (Going cheap). 98149-67149. (CL20025114)

Chandigarh 2 kanal decent house, facing North - East Sector 2. Genuine buyers only. 98149-67149. (CL20025118)

Chandigarh rare bargain 1 kanal newly built, modern house, prime location, B-Road, huge greenbelt, North - East in best Sector (high taste preferred). 98149-67149. (CL20025125)

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5 marla all floors are available for sale in Sector 22, Chandigarh. Contact: Kulwant Grewal 98144-44110. (CL20025413)

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5 marla floorwise, Sector 22. Extraordinary work, reasonable price. GG Homes: 94172-77775, 98770-17775. (CL20025724)

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Commercial building rent 4,50,000/- freehold Chandigarh. Bank tenant two showrooms Mohali. Rare deal. Sharan: 98728-92299. (CL20025891)

2 kanal facing park Sector 8, choice Sectors 18, 27, 26, 21, 33, 36. Sharan: 98728-92299, 98766-6033. (CL20025895)

Commercial site for sale 10 kanals 14 marlas (front 220 ft.) on main road located 6 km Kot Fathui to Garhshankar road at reasonable price, Contact: 98556-17616. (CL20023914)

Sector 38 (W) HIG independent HIG (U) ground, 2nd, HIG (L) ground, 1st, 2nd facing park, MIG ground, 1st corner facing park 2nd B-road, LIG all floors. Regent Estates. 97794-64287. (CL20023955)

Kothies wanted/ available six, four, three, two, one, kanal 14, 10, 8, 5 marla. Showroom, booth full/ floorwise any Sector Chandigarh. Regent Estates: 98143-42287. (CL20023956)

1 kanal house Sector 33, Choice Sectors 11, 16, 8, 18, 21, 19, 34, 36. Sharan: 98728-92299. (CL20023957)

SAVE 1 CR + in own, build & live / sale model. Direct factory price material + home as per customers taste.

PLOT WANTED

Wanted 6-10 marla plots in Sec-9, 10, 34 Ambala city/ Cantt. 98656-50373. (CL20025766)

LAND FOR SALE

Zirakpur: 5, 10 acre on 200 ft. PR-7 Airport Road for High Potential Mall, 5/7 Star Hotel, High end Residential/ Commercial, Royal Castle 98767-60000, 98140-70362. (CL20024924)

Landran - Chunni 5, 7, 12 acre agriculture land near Chunni, with submersible motor connection, Royal Castle 98767-60000, 98140-70362. (CL20024928)

Four Acre 3 marla land Farm Village-Burana (New Chandigarh), 3 kms from Siswan T-Point for sale, near Village-Dulwan (Khadi). Contact: 76969-70531. (CL20023657)

24 Bigha Land Rajpura, 2 Kms inside Chandigarh-Rajpura road. Road connection with tubewell. Rate 7.00 lacs per bigha. Contact 95012-89089. (CL20024136)

For sale land 4, 6 kanal and 10 acre land suitable for farm house/agriculture village-Soonak/Parchi Mullanpur. 98159-49013. (CL20024144)

20 farms (10 on main road 10 inside village) available for sale on Talwan-Noor Mehal main road, Village-Umarpur, District Jalandhar. 75082-26123, 0044703068257. (CL20024373)

2, 5, 10 acre agriculture land available for sale near Mohali and New Chandigarh suitable for farm house. Contact Narinder 98144-20560. (CL20024825)

Land measuring 4 kanal 12 marla available for sale opposite Rai Farms on Kharar-Landran road near Swaraj Factory. Contact 95305-00142. (CL20024979)

For sale plain land over hill top facing forest at Chandikotla 3 km from Toll Plaza Chandimandir 4 Bigha Biswa with individual driveway in MC Panchkula construction allowed with sanctioned plan suitable for Farm House, School, Hostel etc. Contact owner Varma 98155-47941. (CL20025113)

4.25 acre prime land 500 feet front on Chandigarh - Ludhiana, 6 Lane National Highway Morinda. 79736-83891. (CL20025321)

Hisar:- 130 acre developed baag (Orchid) & 15 acre agriculture land for sale. Jag Deep Attri (Hisar Wale), 70099-40480. (CL20025349)

Land available in Aerocity, Aeropolis, Ecocity, Masterplan Mohali. Excellent return 20% assured minimum. 90410-14001. (CL20025563)

5/10/ 50/ 100 acre Landran Chunni, Morinda, Amloh, Nabha, Malerkotla, Muktsar, Abroh, Gangshanagar, Suratgarh, Balachor, Gangshanagar, Amarjit 70870-88796, 97804-60006. (CL20025830)

10 kanals village (Raipur Khurd) Chandigarh best for farm house/nursery. Sharan 98728-92299, 98766-60333. (CL20025910)

35, 14½, 18½ acres New Chandigarh, Sisan - Kurali Road, ideal for Farm Houses/ Projects/Resorts. Sharan 98728-92299. (CL20025922)

8½ acres Zirakpur - Banur Highway within Banur Committee, 25 acres near Airport Lights Chat Road. Sharan 98728-92299. (CL20025925)

Zirakpur 2½ acres adjoining Aerocity Mohali within committee, 4½ acres Gazipur Road. Suitable flats project. Sharan: 98728-92299. (CL20025928)

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Start your own bakery franchise shop with Winni Cakes



Pop artist Maria Qamar's new show, *Me Meraself and I*, expresses the depression and loneliness of extended solitude, courtesy Covid-19

ARTS page 10



Working from home is the new normal. With the pandemic still raging and people being pushed indoors, a dedicated office space in the house is becoming a necessity

HOMES page 11



Economist Robert B Reich says common Americans will be face-to-face with the economic elite in America's most vital political competition

BOOKS AND MORE page 12

Covid-19 has been particularly unkind to women. Fighting the shadow pandemic are women, who have been the biggest sufferers of the lockdown as well as post-lockdown period – be it at workplace or home

ADITI TANDON

THOSE who knew Shikha Pandey still can't believe she died by suicide early last month. The young and upcoming regulatory practices lawyer was going places until Covid-19 struck, changing everything. The triggers behind Shikha's untimely death may never be fully known but her suicide has led Delhi High Court lawyers to launch the first virtual canteen where women advocates, coping with Covid-19-induced challenges of loneliness, job loss and salary cuts, can come and bond.

"A canteen plays a crucial part in a lawyer's life. It is a place where we meet and talk about work and life situations. Covid-19 restrictions have erased physical spaces and women are finding it hard to cope with new realities. The pandemic is impacting young women disproportionately as they lose jobs and see no signs of recovery. The virtual canteen is a way of staying together in pandemic times," says advocate Sunita Ojha about the initiative that's growing in membership.

Attempts to create digital communities of people with special focus on women are underway across the country and cut across spaces. When Covid-19 had just hit the world making work from home the new normal, gender experts had hoped the transformation would induce gender chore parity. But that has remained a dream.

Avtar Group, India's only organisation providing solutions in diversity and inclusion to

corporates, recently estimated that the average time Indian women spend doing house jobs daily was 18 times more than men.

"The number one challenge for working women is navigating the work-life integration maze as corporates shift to work from home. Women in most Indian households carry a greater share of domestic duties. This has been compounded by the absence of domestic help. We recently used the OECD gender chore report to estimate the gender chore gap in India and found that on an average, Indian women spend a staggering 352 minutes a day attending to cooking, cleaning and caring whereas Indian men spend only 19 minutes a day doing the same jobs," says Saundarya Rajesh, founder president of Avtar. Rajesh sees the gender chore gap reducing but the pace of change is excruciatingly slow.

VICTIMS OF GENDER DISPARITY

Evidence from the job sector is also looking grimmer for women than for men. The Indian Society of Labour Economics recently found that more than 54 per cent jobs in non-urban locations were at potential risk. Another estimate by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) says among urban jobs, self employment has taken the greatest hit with losses to the extent of 80 per cent and company employment has dipped through the Covid period by about 20 per cent, railing upwards in the week ending July.

"CMIE also found that the rate of job loss for Indian women is 17.6 per cent more than that for men in the Covid-19-induced situation. These are disturbing trends which, if not addressed, can lead to reversal of gender diversity gains from the pre-pandemic era. Also, although close to 49 pc of India's university graduates are women, they tend to be concentrated on low-skills jobs. This puts them at greater risk of retrenchment when disruptors like Covid strike. One can say women are the shock absorbers of society, and at its disposable frontlines," social entrepreneur Saundarya Rajesh notes.

GROWING DOMESTIC ABUSE

Work-life integration woes apart, the greater challenge threatening women worldwide is the growing domestic abuse as victims remain trapped with perpetrators at home due to Covid-induced restrictions.

Executive director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka noted as early as April 6 that with billions sheltering at

home due to Covid-19, a shadow pandemic of violence against women was raging.

"Confinement is fostering strain created by security, health, and money worries. And it is increasing isolation for women with violent partners separating them from people and resources that can best help them," Phumzile said, even as UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres acknowledged that women were losing paid employment globally and their unpaid care work was rising exponentially as an outcome of school closures and the increased needs of elder people.

The UN even warned nations saying if not dealt with, the shadow pandemic would add to the economic impact of Covid-19.

"The global cost of violence against women has been estimated at approximately \$1.5 trillion, a figure that can only be rising as violence increases now and continues in the aftermath of the pandemic," Phumzile says.

But timely warnings have not helped. India is yet to comply with the UN advisory to make women shelter homes part of essential services during Covid, this even when the burden of domestic violence against Indian women has doubled since January 2020.

In the week after the lockdown starting March 24, the National Commission for Women received 257 complaints of crimes against women. This was a marked rise from data recorded between March 2 and 8 when 116 complaints came. Cases of domestic violence more than doubled from 30 to 69 over the same period.

FURTHER DECLINE IMMINENT

NCW chairperson Rekha Sharma says these trends have held and progressively the country is witnessing other negative impacts of the pandemic on women.

"Women are losing more jobs than men, the new normal of remote education and remote working is posing fresh challenges of integration and online safety," she notes.

While urban Indian women still have access to some support, the poor migrants lurking on the margins of society have been the hardest hit by the pandemic.

The UN recently said nearly 60 per cent women globally working in the informal economy, earning less and saving less, were at greater risk of falling into poverty due to Covid-19.

The post-lockdown reverse migration in India showed this was true.

March witnessed tragic deaths of scores of labourers, including poor women who died of fatigue and starvation unable to cope with the pressures of walking back home which was miles away.

Rural India, though mostly spared of the virus, continues to reel under economic stress

with experts saying that Indian women workforce participation is all set to hit the lowest levels ever.

Women workforce participation has already been declining over the past decade and is set to fall further post-Covid-19 since women are disproportionately represented in the informal and agricultural sectors, says Geeta Sen, Director, Ramalinga Centre on Equity and Social Determinants of Health.

Government's immediate response to Covid addressed the upper and middle classes and the informal sector was left to fend for itself. The poor need cash to survive and you are giving them loans, rues Sen.

ABSENCE OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Falling household incomes are also creating new vulnerabilities for Indian women, who lag at the bottom of policy priority lists.

Meera, a domestic help in the national capital, who lost her job during Covid, has suffered abuse at the hands of her alcoholic husband for months. She says she flagged the violence to the local police but received no help.

"I ended up getting more beatings from my husband when he learnt I had raised an alarm," says Meera, lamenting that systems do not work.

Closure of courts has compounded the woes of women who don't know where to go to seek justice.

Alarmed by the absence of support services for victims of domestic abuse, a division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Rajnesh Oswal of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court recently took suo motu cognisance of the issue. The judges directed the UTs of JK and Ladakh to designate informal safe spaces for women, such as grocery stores and pharmacies where women can report domestic violence without alerting the perpetrator and designate safe spaces like hotels and schools as shelters for women victims compelled to leave homes due to their domestic situation.

Justice Mittal even directed the creation of dedicated funding to address issues of violence against women and girls as part of Covid-19 response noting, "Judicial notice can be taken of the fact that the plight of victims of domestic violence in the UTs of JK and Ladakh must be no different as that of similarly placed victims in other jurisdictions."

Little has been done on the ground and access to justice is still missing.

With court hearings going virtual, women in domestic violence situations are finding it hard to hire lawyers for help.

Seema Sharma, faculty, Law School, University of Jammu, says barring the JK High Court judgment on domestic violence, one has not seen many judicial pronouncements on Covid-induced challenges being faced by women. "Disruption of justice is a huge concern with courts taking up only urgent matters for virtual hearings," Sharma says.

Women's problems clearly do not yet make the cut as urgent matters.

INDIA FIGHTS BACK

■ NCW helpline 0721-7735372 enables victims to send a WhatsApp message.

■ Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DLSA) is working with Mother Dairy booths, pharmacists and chemists in the national capital for information on victims.

■ The DLSA runs helpline 1516 and 96679 92802, which can be reached through messages on WhatsApp and SMS.

HOW THE WORLD IS RESPONDING

ARGENTINA: Pharmacies declared safe spaces for victims of abuse to report.

FRANCE: Grocery stores are housing counselling services and victims are being asked to access pharmacies and inform pharmacists about the abuse directly or using a code word – mask 19, if they are accompanied by their abuser. France also reserved 20,000 hotel rooms for victims of domestic violence.

SPAIN: Not fining women violators of lockdown.

CANADA: Set aside millions of dollars to support women NGOs and shelters.

UK: Women's Equality Party has called for special police powers to evict perpetrators from homes for the duration of the lockdown, and for the authorities to waive court fees for the protection orders.

Complaints received by the National Commission for Women between January and July this year rose by 60 per cent. Those related to domestic violence increased by a whopping 70 per cent. Of the 10,919 total complaints, 2,500 related to domestic violence.

Embracing death for a cause

The Ghadarite journals in San Francisco were a passionate chronicle of India's struggle for freedom

Champions of Liberty in all Lands! Be strong in hope. You are calumniated in your day. I was misinterpreted by the loyalists of my day. Had I failed, the scaffold would have been my doom. Had I failed, I would have deserved the same honour. I stood true to my cause even when victory was fled. In that I merited success. You must act likewise.

— George Washington, as cited by the Ghadar movement leaders in their paper

Breathe not his name. Let it sleep in the shade where cold and un-honoured his relics are laid.

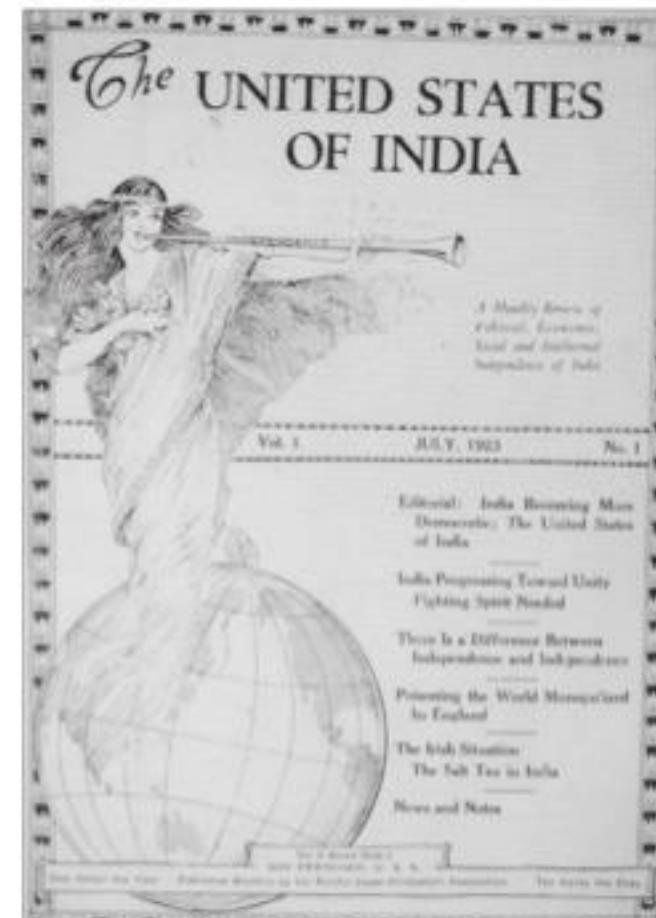
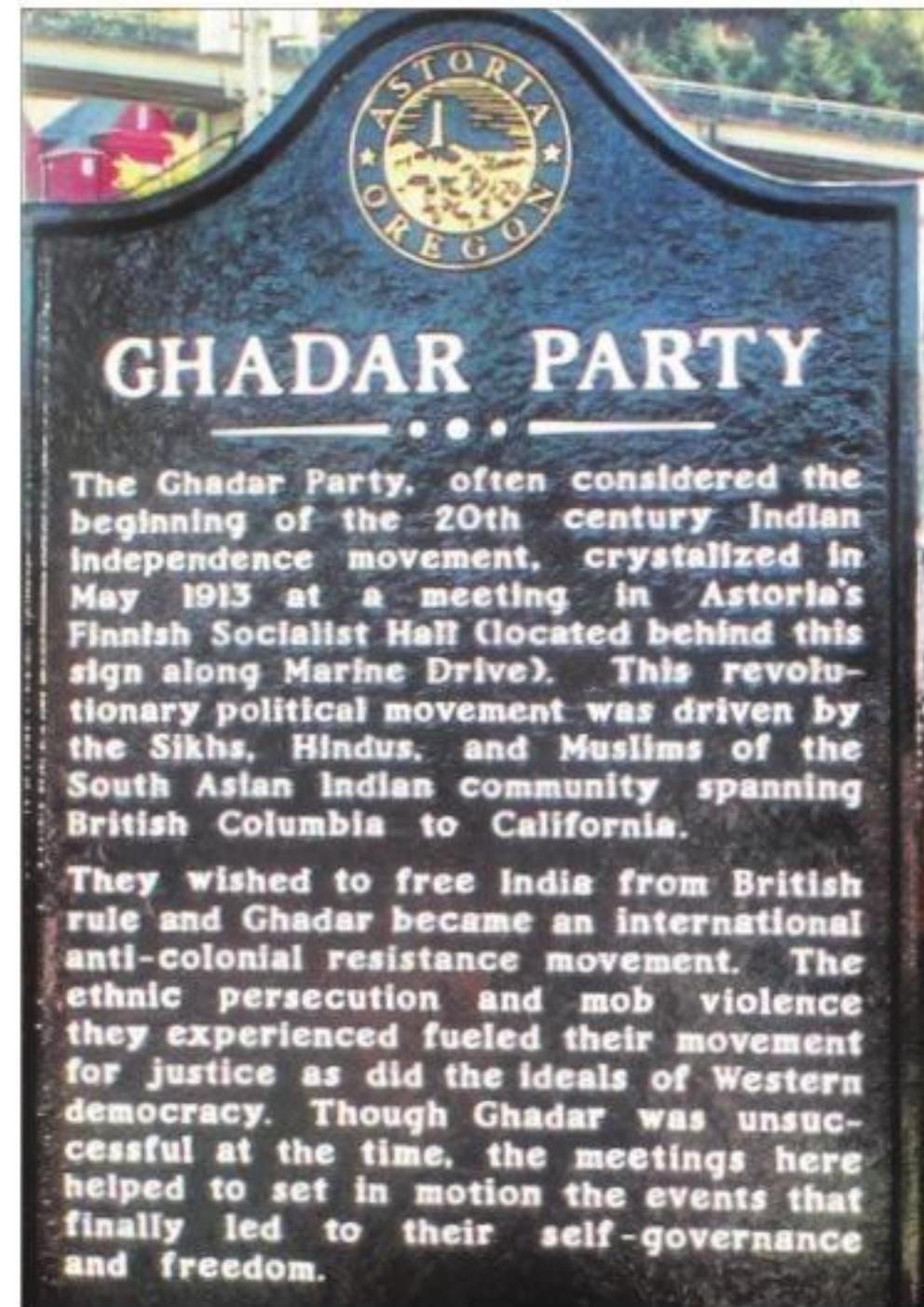
— A poet, writing in honour of Robert Emmet, self-denying 18th century Irish patriot



ART &
SOUL

BN GOSWAMY

LIVING as we do in our times — our freedom established, our Constitution more or less in place, fundamental rights, as we hear, ‘guaranteed’ — it is near impossible for us to re-imagine, or reconstruct, the image of India of a hundred years ago. Historians might do it, or at least try their hand at it, and an occasional reference/image/event might force our attention on that era. But, by and large, for nearly all of us, ‘the past’, as they say, ‘is another country’. We might keep paying sarsari homage to our freedom struggle, but the feel of what it must have been to be in those times is apt to escape us. The Angrezi Raj, with all its ‘barkats’ which were tom-tommed by official organs was firmly there; the idea of complete independence — “poorna swaraj” — was on the other hand striking root; different voices were being raised and heard, from extreme to mild to feeble; different strategies for throwing off the colonial yoke were being worked out. Stirring times. I recall my father occasionally reciting snippets of Ram Prashad Bisram’s mantric poem — *Sarfaroshi ki tamanna ab hamaare dil mein hai* — but this was long after we had gained our freedom; my mother would, in a trembling voice, sing out sometimes the words of that achingly beautiful, sadness-laden women’s song — *Aao ni saiyyo aj ral mal baithiye* — intended to be sung at Bhagat Singh’s funeral procession, as if it were a marriage party. Why? Because he is not headed for the home of his Bride — that is Death: *maut kudi parmaawan chaleya*.



THEIR IDEA OF INDEPENDENCE: (Clockwise from top) Memorial plaque commemorating the Ghadar Party at Astoria, Oregon; The United States of India. Page with pictures of 10 martyrs; Title page of the journal with image of George Washington; Ghadar in Urdu, March 1914; The United States of India, July 1923.

All this said, how am I entitled to be writing about all this? I have done no research on the period, nor have I ever been close to the sources. I do it despite this, however, for I wish to share what I came upon, purely by chance the other day: an image of the cover of a journal that a group of patriotic Indians, based in the United States, had started pub-

lishing in the twenties from San Francisco. I might have missed it had the journal not been titled: *The United States of India*. I had never heard of it. One knew about that fiery group, including those that founded the Ghadar Party there, but of this journal I knew nothing. Suddenly, from that page, and a few others that I was able to track, jumped out

names that one had heard of, and viewed with great respect: among others, Lala Hardayal, Sohan Singh Bhakna, Kartar Singh Sarabha, Taraknath Das, Rash Behari Bose, Vishnu Pingle, Mohammed Barkatullah; Gulab Kaur. The only graphic that appeared on the front page of the inaugural edition of the journal — vol. I, no. 1 — dated July, 1923,



The Fourteenth Anniversary of the Hindustan Ghadar Party

Thirteen years ago, the Hindustan Ghadar Party was established with a view to bring about a revolution in the political condition of India. The Indian had never submitted willingly to the authority of the British government. Though powerful, the people have all along been induced with the revolutionary spirit. Their sternness and stress which have swept over the undanted Indians, have kept their faith in the cause of India. If it has been successful in its efforts for the liberation of mankind, it is due to the love of humanity which the members of the British imperialistic system have put around the neck of India. It has been in order that she may have the freedom of opportunity in ushering a new era for the entire human race. They have felt that the shackles of bondage which the spinners of the British imperialistic system have put around the neck of India have to be broken in order that she may have the freedom of opportunity in ushering a new era for the entire human race.

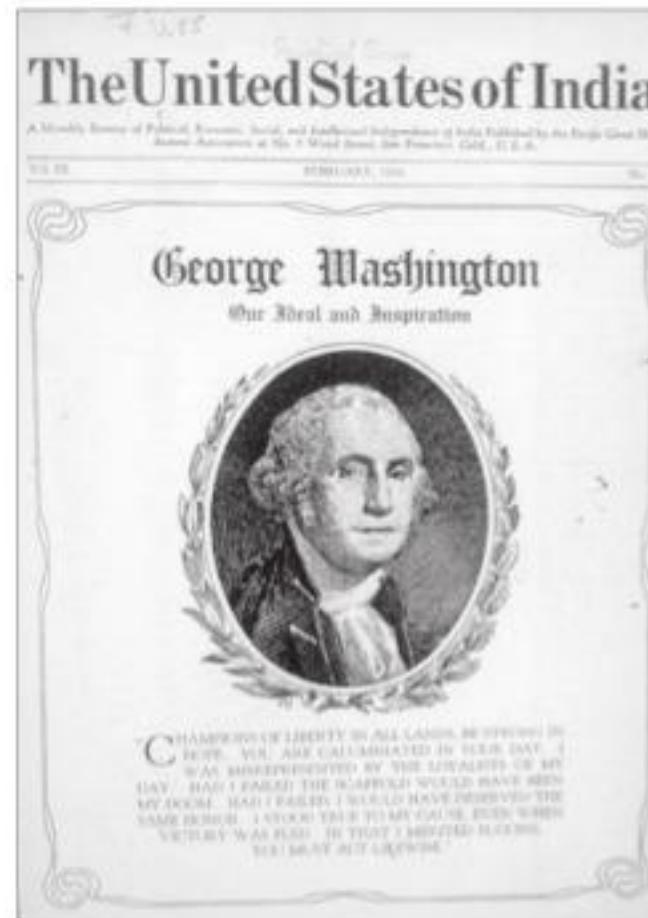
With these ideals and aspiration, the Hindustan Ghadar Party came into existence. The economic and political conditions in India have driven many brave persons to suffer and struggle in the wide world. In 1907-1910 a number of the Indians immigrated to this country. The Indian child labourers, American child labourers, immigrated the Indians to improve the miserable conditions at home. They came

to this country when the modern revolutionary movement was taking root into the soil of India.

The Indians had never submitted willingly to the authority of the British government. Though powerful, the people have all along been induced with the revolutionary spirit. Their sternness and stress which have swept over the undanted Indians, have kept their faith in the cause of India. If it has been successful in its efforts for the liberation of mankind, it is due to the love of humanity which the members of the British imperialistic system have put around the neck of India. It has been in order that she may have the freedom of opportunity in ushering a new era for the entire human race.

Evens in 1912 the revolutionary movement was rampant. In 1912, India waged an organized war of independence. In 1918, Lord Lytton's policy of repressive and repressive measures was adopted against the British rule. In 1918-19 India was in far more excitement over the Ellora Bill, and revolutionary activities were prevalent. In spite of the constitutional activities of the Indian National Congress, which was organized in 1905, an undiscerned political position has been taken by the Indian National Congress in support of the policy of "divide and rule." This has led to the polarization of political parties in India. The Indian revolutionaries have been instrumental in the organization of revolutionary organizations with scientific precision.

These landmarks of Indian revolutionary history



George Washington Our Ideal and Inspiration

CHAMPIONS OF LIBERTY IN ALL LANDS! BE STRONG IN HOPE. YOU ARE CALUMNIATED IN YOUR DAY. I WAS MISINTERPRETED BY THE LOYALISTS OF MY DAY. HAD I FAILED, THE SCAFFOLD WOULD HAVE BEEN MY DOOM. HAD I FAILED, I WOULD HAVE DESERVED THE SAME HONOUR. I STOOD TRUE TO MY CAUSE EVEN WHEN VICTORY WAS FLED. IN THAT I MERITED SUCCESS. YOU MUST ACT LIKEWISE.

was arresting: a young sari-clad woman, hugging a bunch of blooming lotuses to her bosom, standing atop the globe, and blowing into a thin long bugle-like instrument on which the word ‘Independence’ was carved. She, meant to be seen possibly as the Motherland, looked freshly bathed and ready to plunge into action. Her hair, streaming and falling down her shoulders, spread behind her and, quite subtly, turned into the map of India. The message was clear: a clarion call was being sounded. The journal, to be published once a month, was, it declared, meant to be a ‘Review of political, economic, social and intellectual independence of India’, and it was the Pacific Coast Hindustani Association, operating from 5, Wood Street in San Francisco, which published it. The subscription? One dollar per year.

This journal, it turns out, had precedents. The Ghadar Party — Ghadar meaning rebellion — had been founded in 1913, and had started publishing a journal in Urdu and Gurmukhi, titled *Ghadar*. Kartar Singh Sarabha, studying at the University of California at Berkeley, had put the aims of the party succinctly: “Today there begins ‘Ghadar’ in foreign lands, but in our country’s tongue, a war against the British Raj. What is our name? *Ghadar*. What is our work? *Ghadar*. Where will be the Revolution? In India. The time will soon come when rifles and blood will take the place of pens and ink.” The reference to movements in India that relied on ‘pens and ink’ pointed clearly in the direction of the parties that were beginning to oppose the British through legal and peaceful means: the movement that came a bit later to be led by Gandhiji, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, and others. This, in the U.S., was a movement different from theirs: for it was fiercely assertive, committed to violent means if left with no choice, and fearless. When its members were caught and hung by British authorities — in harrowingly large numbers sometimes: one issue reporting as many as 400 hangings between 1915 and 1916 — these journals kept publishing the names and photographs of those who had died thus as martyrs — true martyrs, not simply fearless heroes — in the cause of Indian freedom. One can question of course the methods they chose, but not their passion, the flame they kept burning in their hearts.

A wonderful poem that Faiz Sahib wrote, not about the Ghadarites but about all those who die for a Cause, says it all. *Hum jo taareek raahon mein maare gaye*. [There were we: killed, one after the other, in dark nameless lanes....] A lump rises in the throat as you read it.

Dream of a new, pop-coloured world

SARIKA SHARMA

HER works are unmistakably Indian. Her heroines sport bindis and tikkas. They deal with desi dilemmas. They love desi lingo. They curse in desi too. Half Indian, half Bangladeshi, Maria Qamar’s desi pop art first took Instagram by storm and then, exactly a year ago, she broke into the New York art world with her first US solo exhibition, *Fraaandship!*, at Richard Taittinger Gallery. Her works now come to India, courtesy Richard Taittinger Gallery and Tao Art Gallery in Mumbai, which are showcasing her new show, virtually.

Raised in Canada, Qamar was nine when the twin towers were ripped apart in America. As a young girl in a post-9/11 world, she had to endure bullying and racism. She later recalled, “I started going home and drawing comics about these experiences.” Qamar found her artistic voice five years ago through Instagram under the name @Hatecopy where her illustrations resonated with the desi community, particularly the second generation.

The new show, *Me Meraself and I*, expresses the depression and loneliness of extended solitude, courtesy Covid-19. “*Me Meraself and I* was an exhibition created in isolation, much like my previous works. The exception now is that, with the global pandemic and the rise of social awareness towards racial injustice, the effects on our collective mental health are more prevalent. This has made me more aware of my personal traumas, and what it means to be truly alone,” she says.

In the exhibition, Qamar engages with ways in which we turned to social



New York's Richard Taittinger Gallery brings Maria Qamar's works to India

media and technology to reach out and to cope. Works such as *Naach* and *Then You Broke Up with Me* on Zoom speak of the space digital apps have been occupying in our lives. *Theek Thaak*, a play on Tik Tok, points to the limited capacity of digital apps.

Qamar’s first exhibition at Richard Taittinger was about South Asian millennials abroad. We ask her if she is an extension of the same, while taking a feminist view, and Qamar returns: “A

feminist lens is the only lens I know to look through. My work has always been and will continue to be about female empowerment.”

Straight out of comic books, the works are interspersed with Hinglish idioms. How does a western audience respond to that, we wonder, but Qamar says the work is primarily made for a South Asian audience. “Many desi viewers have found the work very relatable. The reception in a broader sense has been

positive overall as it invites even non-South Asian audiences to learn about our culture and language. We often have viewers Googling terms they don’t know and it is great to see people engage with the language and themes of the work.”

However, a spokesperson for Richard Taittinger Gallery’s gallery says that while many viewers in New York City do not speak these languages, her works are very relatable and have been very well received by viewers and collectors

from different backgrounds. “It has been incredibly rewarding to have visitors who see themselves reflected in the work, and who have commented about how satisfying it has been to see their culture represented on gallery walls.”

In the last couple of years, Qamar has taken her works to Europe (December 2019), painted murals on restaurant walls, designed cutlery, written a book (*Trust No Aunty*) — all pop-hued, all for what she calls a *naya zamaana*.

Be an eco-warrior

POOJA KHANNA TYAGI

ACARBON footprint measures the amount of greenhouse gases that our homes are responsible for creating. A large carbon footprint means that our household activities release more greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, which can have a negative impact on the environment. Therefore, it is essential to reduce the carbon footprint of our house by making clever choices in terms of what we buy, consume, and also make some basic changes in our daily lives.

SAVE ELECTRICITY

Turn off the lights and fans when not in use and switch to energy-efficient LED lights, which last longer than CFL and incandescent lights. Open the windows to bring in maximum natural light to illuminate the indoors during the day. Additionally, turn off the power outlet of all electrical appliances when not in use.

When you go out to buy electrical appliances like TVs, computers, air conditioners or microwave, go for energy efficient models with a good star rating. Invest in renewable energy sources like solar panels, solar heaters and solar-powered lights.

CONSERVE ENERGY

An energy-efficient house will reduce carbon emissions and help in saving electricity costs. Conserve energy in summers by drawing the curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the peak hours of the day. If there are any gaps around the frames of the doors and windows, then use caulk insulation or weather stripping to prevent the leakage of cool air.

USE THE LEFTOVERS

Check and organise the fridge regularly. Consider setting up a compost bin for handling the leftovers. Compost is rich in nutrients, and once it decomposes, it can be used to fertilise the garden.

PLANT TREES AROUND THE HOUSE

Grow plants indoors or outdoors as they absorb carbon dioxide and are a great way to reduce the carbon emissions from our house. Plant trees around the building because they help in reducing the recurring air-conditioning costs by providing shade and preventing indoor heat gain.

We can collectively try to combat climate change by reducing carbon emissions from our house



factured with organic cotton or renewable natural fibres.

PREVENT WATER WASTAGE

Another way to reduce the carbon footprint of our houses is by preventing the wastage of water. Some of the simple steps include fixing of all the leaky faucets and fixtures. Don't forget to close the faucet in between rinses while brushing your teeth or washing dishes.

REDUCE, RECYCLE, REUSE

The process of reducing, reusing and recycling conserves energy and reduces the greenhouse gas emissions from various activities like resource extraction, manufacturing and transportation. Avoid single-use plastic items, buy less plastic-packaged food and take reusable bags for grocery shopping. Invest in non-disposable household goods and replace items like plastic water bottles and containers with green materials like aluminium, glass or steel. Fabric for the curtains, upholstery, bed linen and towels should be manu-



GREEN'S THE WORD

Go for furniture made in green materials like wood from sustainable forests, bamboo, glass or metal. Fabric for the curtains, upholstery, bed linen and towels should be manu-



CAPTION CONTEST 1267



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 1266

July 26 issue (see photo)

■ **Tracking delivery** — Dr Reena Gupta, Shimla

■ **Lost Childhood@IRCTC** — Dr Kamal Khanna, Ferozepur city

■ **Between the lines** — Prof Vijay Sheel Jain, Ludhiana

■ **Track suits** — Daljit Kaur, Chandigarh

■ **A bucketlist loaded with bucket of responsibilities** — Pratyush Sharma, Moga



AT EASE: LONG HOURS OF WORK DEMAND A COMFORTABLE DESK AND SEAT, BESIDES PROPER LIGHTING

At work, at home

Thanks to the pandemic, a dedicated office space in your house has become a necessity

SHRISTI NANGALIA

WITH the spread of coronavirus, all public and institutional places, including offices, have been shut until further notice. Working from home has become the new normal. With people being pushed indoors, the real estate industry is anticipating a spike in the demand of residences with dedicated home offices. Many Indian companies are reconsidering investment in commercial real estate as they look forward to effectuate work from home for their workforce on a long-term basis. Real estate developers and product manufacturers, too, are gearing up to provide suitable solutions for setting up of home offices.

According to a recent research by Anarock, financially strong and organised residential real estate players are likely to occupy 75-80 per cent market share, with a demand for townships to rise in the coming years. The work from home concept may become the next fulcrum for home-buying decisions, and there will be a rising need for functional and flexible homes with an ability to convert rooms into workspaces. Architects, interior designers and product designers are, simultaneously, filling the gaps by designing prefab outdoor sheds for backyard offices, studio room layouts for interiors and compact, agile workstations that can be installed at multiple spots across the house.

For homeowners, who have enough space to model a dedicated office space, get prepared for transition in terms of productivity and organisation. Here are some tips to keep in mind when designing your home office:

FINDING THE RIGHT SPOT

Depending upon the nature of work and space required, allocate an area in your house for work office. For those who can do with just a work desk and a chair, the space under the staircase, dead end of a hallway or a nook in the living of family room might be perfect to install your workstation. For those who need a more

elaborate home office, find a place where you can integrate a secluded cabin or room. It can be by your terrace or balcony, the backyard, or even the garage. Natural lighting and ventilation are a plus!

GO FOR ADJUSTABLE DESKS

Long hours of work demand a comfortable desk and seat. A height-adjustable desk integrated with storage and a basic ergonomic office chair is generally fit for all home offices. Portable standing desk is also a convenient alternative. Make sure that both the standing and sitting positions of your desk don't keep your neck or shoulders hunched over as you work. When picking the furniture, keep in mind extra seats for visiting colleagues or guests too. Besides your local manufacturers, a few trusted manufacturers of office furniture are IKEA, AFC, Featherlite, Godrej Interio, Herman Miller, etc. Many DIY options are also available at online stores like Amazon, PepperFry, HomeTown and Home Centre.

BALANCE LIGHT & TEMPERATURE

To manage tasks efficiently and increase wellbeing, lighting and temperature control are top considerations in structuring a home office. Maintaining the right balance of light and temperature induces better concentration, thereby boosting productivity.

ADD STORAGE SPACE

Adequate storage in a workspace is a must. Not just to keep things organised and tidy, storage can be used to increase the aesthetic quality of the space too. Choose from free-standing cupboards to wall hung cabinets, designer open shelves to glass shelves... as per the décor you wish to actuate and the things you want to accommodate.

MAKE THE SPACE ENROSSING

Punching a few accentuating touches like a lively wallpaper, framed quotations or art, small planters, designer lamps, etc. can not only add personality and character to your home office, but also keep you focused and intrigued. Moreover, it helps you switch between home and work mode seamlessly.

Design your garden anew

AMARJEET BATTH

INCREASED humidity and temperature during the monsoon are favourable for the growth of plants. This is the time to lay new grass, sow late summer vegetables, care for seasonal flowers and prepare chrysanthemum cuttings. Also maintenance operations like removal of weeds, annual application of manure, besides selective pruning and managing pest attacks are done during this period.

RAINWASH THE INDOOR FOLIAGE

Exotic foliage pot plants like areca, chamaedorea, raphis palm, aglaonema, dieffenbachia, schefflera, dracaena, syngonium, philodendron, which are usually kept indoors, must be brought outdoors for a rain wash. Drain excess water.

PREPARE CHRYSANTHEMUM CUTTINGS

Terminal cuttings of 3"-4" taken from the mother stock should be treated with root promoting hormone and planted in sand under shade. The cuttings take two to three weeks to get ready. Cutting in 'thumb pots' are also available in nurseries. Since chrysanthemum is prone to diseases, pot mixture should be completely disinfected. The best time to do so is during peak summer. Prepare pot mixture consisting of one part garden soil, one part of farm yard manure (FYM), two parts of leaf mould and two tablespoons of bone meal. While planting the seedlings, add diammonium phosphate (DAP) and



Monsoon is the ideal time for fresh plantation, besides intensive maintenance, reallocation, pruning and replacement of dead plants

administer a dose of Captan (0.3%) 2 ml in one litre of water to avoid rotting of cuttings. Three plants in claypots of 10 inches and five plants in a 12 inch pot are ideally planted. Initially, keep these in semi-shade. Later shift these to a sunny location. Rotate the pots every two to three days.

TIME FOR THE LILIES

A favourable time to plant your favourite lilies like crinum Asiaticum (spider lily), a tall bulbous perennial with strap-shaped leaves and scented spidery-looking white flowers, tuberose (*rajnigandha*), which gives sporadic flowering and aroma, or zephyranthus (rain lily), which sparkles the garden in three colours of white, yellow and pink. Daffodils, hyacinths, iris, tulip,

freesia, gladiolus, lily Asiatic, lily oriental and ranunculus should be planted in September-October.

MAKE WAY FOR THE ROSES

New plantation of roses is done from September till January. It requires a well-drained sunny spot with at least six hours of direct sunlight. The plant-to-plant distance should be two feet in the flowerbed. The pit should be two feet wide and two feet deep. It is to be filled with FYM and superphosphate to ensure strong root growth.

ORGANIC VEGGIES ON YOUR PLATE

Go in for a spree of summer bhindi, brinjal, tomato, bitter gourd, cucumber, long melon (tar), kaddu, coriander, mint and chillies. Grow vegetables on raised beds with proper drainage, especially in the rainy season.

PLANT FRUIT TREES

A suitable time to plant mango, citrus fruits (*kinnar*, lemon, etc), papaya, guava, ber, litchi, loquat in the home garden. Dig a pit 3'x3' and add FYM. Yearly dose of FYM in August-September.

LAY THE GRASS

Light loamy soil allows air circulation and good drainage. Use vermicompost, one kg per sq m and apply 2 kg DAP per 500 sq ft. Irrigate the lawn to make the soil soft. Dig the soil deep so that the weeds are removed. Mowing should be done frequently. Ensure proper drainage. Fortnightly apply urea 15 gm/sq m.

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Ravi Shankar (L, on sitar) with guru Allauddin Khan (centre, sarod) and guru's son Ali Akbar Khan (sarod) in Maihar (1962).

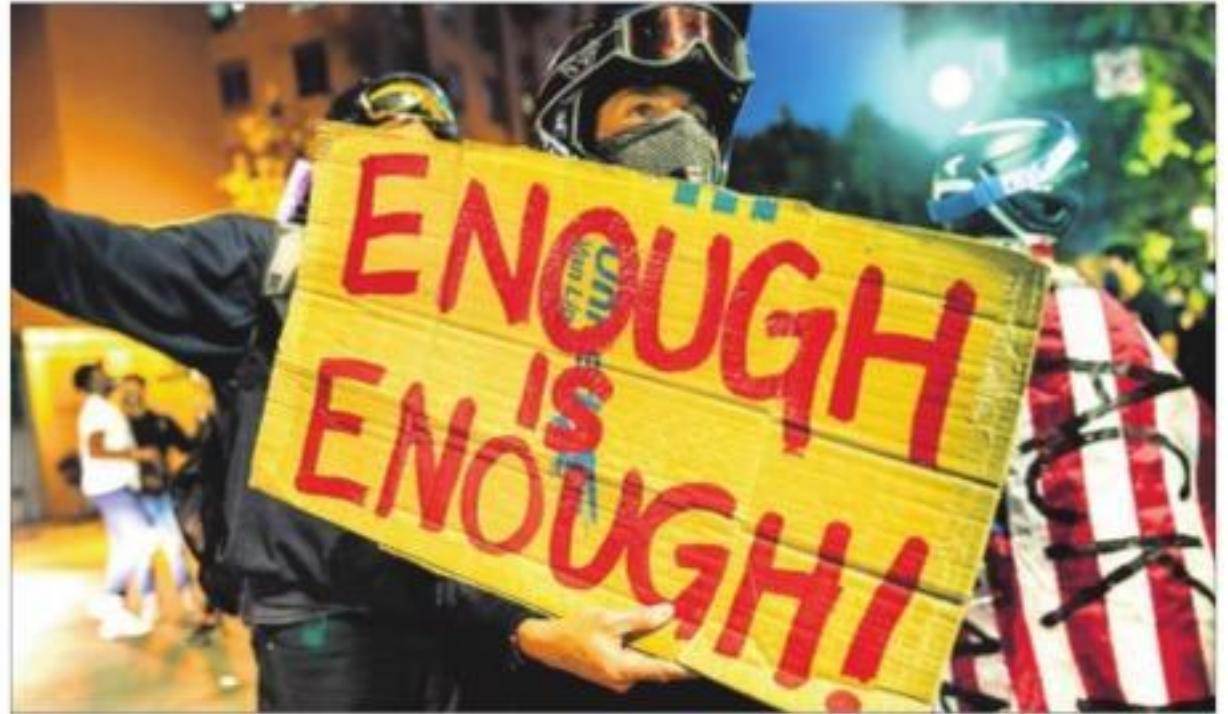
The Great American Divide

KARAN A SINGH

ROBERT REICH minces no words when he describes America's 'system of corruption'. He describes the disconnect between American voters and their government by citing a 2014 study by Gilens and Page that analyses 1,799 policy issues in detail and finds that the preferences of the typical American have no influence at all on legislation emerging from the US Congress. Reich's thesis is that large American corporations have consolidated power in the US since 1980 at the expense of other interest groups like labour unions, farmers and small retailers which Galbraith allied 'countervailing power'. Consequently, America's vast middle and working classes no longer get a share of the gains from economic growth which has been garnered by big corporations and the wealthiest 1 per cent over the last four decades.

Reich dismisses the usual explanations of technological change, globalisation, free trade, and the transformation of Asia as a manufacturing hub as insufficient. He argues that unlike other advanced economies (Europe and Japan) there have been trends unique to America that have caused a power shift which "profoundly altered the American system. It created a jaw-dropping wealthy and powerful oligarchy. It shifted just about everyone else." As a result, "between 1999 and 2018 the United States economy grew 48 per cent, but the typical household's income did not grow at all, and the bottom half of America ended up with less wealth than it had before the financial crisis. The richest 1 per cent however, ended up with twice as much wealth as it had before the financial crisis."

The author's view is: "The answer to this conundrum is not found in economics. It is found in politics, and it is rooted in power." He says: "The basic problem is that the system itself has become tilted ever more in the direction of the mon-



America's vast middle and working classes don't get a share of the economic gains. These have been garnered by big corporations and the wealthiest 1 per cent over the past four decades.

eyed interests that have exerted disproportionate influence over it."

And the solution he offers is: "Ultimately these trends in America, as elsewhere, can be reversed only if the vast majority whose incomes have stagnated and whose wealth has failed to increase, join together to demand fundamental change."

According to him the most important political competition over the next decades will be a majority of Americans and the economic elite.

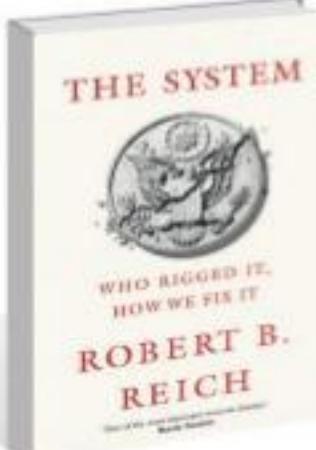
Reich points out the social consequences of rising inequality in America by writing that "standard economic indicators don't reflect the economic insecurity most Americans continue to feel, nor the seeming arbitrariness and unfairness they continue to experience." That much of the political establishment still denies what has occurred. They prefer to attribute Trump's rise solely to racism. In fact, "In 2016 Trump galvanized millions of blue-collar voters living in communities that never recovered from the tidal wave of factory closings. He understood what resonated with these voters."

Reich asks the obvious question: "Why haven't Democrats fought harder to reverse the power shift?", and answers: "They also sank from the same campaign funding trough as

the Republicans — big corporations, Wall Street, and the very wealthy." Reich looks hard for a way forward for the party. He suggests that "Democrats cannot defeat authoritarian populism without an agenda of radical democratic reform, a palpable anti-establishment movement..." Unless Democrats stand squarely on the side of democracy against oligarchy, much of America will continue to believe...

any future politician who imitates Trump's authoritarian demagoguery." This is indeed a stark prediction of America's future, akin to Madeleine Albright's warning about impending Fascism (2018) in the modern world's oldest democracy.

This book is a political tour de force by a master of the art (Reich has written 18 books, including the widely acclaimed *The Work of Nations*). Although Reich ignores many facets of modern America's political economy, he does explain major tectonic shifts in its society that will play out in the coming decades, with consequences not only for Americans but for the rest of the world as well.

THE SYSTEM: WHO RIGGED IT, HOW WE FIX IT.
by Robert B. Reich.

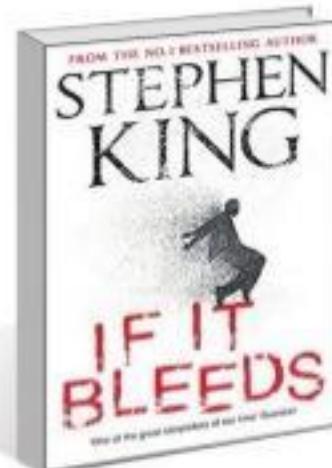
Picador.

Pages 224.

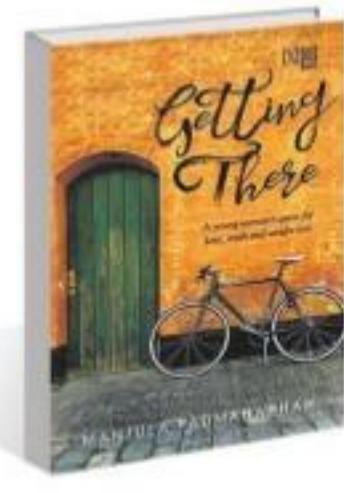
₹599

BACKFLAP

FROM master of short fiction, Stephen King, comes this collection of four stories. Each of the novellas — *Mr. Harrigan's Phone*, *The Life of Chuck*, *Rat*, and the title story *If It Bleeds* — pull you into intriguing and frightening places. With *If It Bleeds*, Stephen King returns to novella, which he has dealt with over and over again in the course of his amazing career, and many have been made into iconic films such as *Stand By Me* (based on *The Body*) and *The Shawshank Redemption* (*Rita Hayworth* and *Shawshank Redemption*).

IF IT BLEEDS
by Stephen King.
Hachette India.
Pages 369.
₹799

LATE 1970s, Bombay. Manjula is in her twenties, struggling to earn a living as an author-illustrator. Then, a deceptively routine visit to a diet clinic and an encounter with two tall Dutch men turn her life inside out. In this picaresque travel memoir, novelist, cartoonist and award-winning playwright Manjula Padmanabhan looks back on her youthful misadventures in Europe. Funny and fierce, it promises to touch anyone who has ever wanted to strip off their skin to waltz, however briefly, on the wild side.

GETTING THERE
by Manjula Padmanabhan.
Hachette India.
Pages 357.
₹399

Cinema under the stars



Go-to entertainment mode in other parts of the world, the concept of drive-in theatres is seeing opportunity in India in times of pandemic. (Below) 369 Drive-In in Bangalore.



extinction of the longest-running drive-in cinema in India. It has a capacity to park more than 600 cars and has arrangements for those without cars too. Prarthana Beach drive-in theatre in Chennai — with

raised ramps for cars and galleries for those without vehicles — has been a high of East Coast Road. Gurgaon Talkies in Gurugram has been another attempt. Other ventures have not been as successful. While India's weather is least ideal for this experience, apparently it was the mosquitoes and the marshy land that it stood on that took down the drive-in theatre in Banra, Mumbai.

In a pandemic-hit world, however, the scales seem to have tilted towards this unique experience. Wing Commander Sandeep Sharma still remembers when he

first went to the drive-in theatre in Ahmedabad. "It was like watching a film in the box in single screen cinemas," he laughs. Many a happy family night followed thereafter and he is ever ready to go for another show.

Even if purists feel film watching is a personal, intense activity and cannot happen in an informal setting, like a car; those who have experienced it once say it is all about having a good time. Academician Sharda Kaushik might say she wouldn't trade a regular cinema experience with a drive-in cinema, she likes it nonetheless. Her first run-in with one happened when

she was in her teens. It felt like a picnic and her last time, also at Ahmedabad, was like being at a fair. "There were vendors, a cafeteria and waiters were going about bringing snacks, collecting plates."

Karanbir Singh had his first experience at Galaxy drive-in theatre in Perth (Australia). Driving in to what seemed like a parking, they bought tickets and were allotted parking space. By tuning to a certain frequency, the movie sound played through their car's music system. "We watched Aladdin. Many people had brought their pets with them. Some people came in an Ute and enjoyed the movie while sitting in its open trunk, wrapped in blankets. It was not normal cinema, it was more comfortable and relaxing," vouches Singh.

Seems like something perfect to beat the pandemic blues while staying safe. What say?

REGION GEARING UP FOR A DATE

Efforts are underway to bring drive-in cinema to Punjab. If all goes well, Pankaj Gaur will bring the experience of drive-in cinema to the tricity within the next month. "We have put together a plan, whether cinemas open or not. In the near future, drive-in cinema could be the new normal." At the same time, Lalit Agnihotri, who has been into hospitality and marketing for the last two decades, has been trying to bring drive-in cinema to Punjab.

"The current scenario demands a space where people can enjoy movie viewing while maintaining safe distance." He is in touch with banquet halls and cinema chains to put his plan into action. "Looks like the big fat Indian wedding is a goner. Drive-in cinemas could salvage the losses of those who have invested heavily into both banquets and cinemas. It could be good for the state exchequer too in terms of entertainment tax," he says.

MONA

In the new normal, everything across the spectrum is under transformation. The same might be just true for our good-old cinema too. With 'Unlock 3.0' keeping cinemas out of the few privileges that we enjoy in these times of pandemic, the chorus regarding drive-in theatres is growing louder. A concept that had hitherto not taken off in India despite attempts, it is a go-to entertainment mode in other parts of the world. However, looks like things might be in for change.

A result of Covid-19 was entertainment entrepreneur Viren Khanna's initiative 369 Drive-In at Mullur, Bengaluru. Must we say, it was lapped up rather enthusiastically! Set up to beat the Covid blues, this drive-in cinema has folks enjoying films while sitting in the safety and comfort of their cars. "A giant LED screen has been set up, we ensure zero contact, no one is allowed out of the car but for using the restrooms, which are sanitised at regular intervals," shares Khanna. Courtesy a tie-up with Yash Raj, they have screened *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* and *Chak De! India*. They have collaborated with a Hollywood studio offering *Lion King* but a two-week lockdown has made them take a temporary break. "We would be back next week with more movies," promises Khanna, who is willing to provide know-how to anyone aiming to set up a drive-in theatre.

Drive-in cinemas are a western concept, but are not new to India either. While some attempts were made in the 1970s in cities like Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Bengaluru, besides some places in South India, it is Sunset in Ahmedabad, that holds the dis-

tribution of the longest-running drive-in cinema in India. It has a capacity to park more than 600 cars and has arrangements for those without cars too. Prarthana Beach drive-in theatre in Chennai — with

11 deaths in Valley; J&K toll 388

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

COVID-19 PANDEMIC



UT TRACKER

	Total	Under Surveillance	Completed Surveillance	Samples Tested	Negative Results	Positive Cases	Patients Cured	Total Deaths
Total persons under surveillance	3,70,172			6,47,271	6,26,299	20,972	12,217	388
Persons completing surveillance	2,75,899							
Samples tested		6,47,271		6,26,299		20,972		
Negative results			2,75,899		6,26,299			
Positive cases				20,972				
Patients cured					218	01	288	02
Total deaths						19		388

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Bandipora	755	13
Srinagar	5,091	126
Anantnag	1,311	24
Baramulla	1,924	70
Shopian	1,446	23
Kupwara	1,098	21
Budgam	1,291	28
Jammu	1,022	19
Udhampur	472	01
Ganderbal	421	06
Kulgam	1,508	28
Pulwama	1,538	21
Samba	430	01
Rajouri	691	02
Kishtwar	145	00
Kathua	530	01
Ramban	537	01
Reasi	156	00
Poonch	218	01
Doda	288	02
Total	20,972	388

JAMMU, AUGUST 1
Eleven patients, all from Kashmir Valley, died due to Covid-19 during the past 24 hours, taking the toll in J&K to 388.

A total of 613 new cases were reported from J&K and 654 patients were recovered and discharged across the UT.

With the new cases, the corona count in J&K reached 20,972 — 16,383 in Kashmir and 4,589 in Jammu.

Despite restrictions, Srinagar district has recorded the highest cases across the UT for the past 15 days. On Saturday, 305 new cases were reported from Srinagar district only.

Twentythree cases were reported in Baramulla, followed by Pulwama (58), Kulgam (4), Shopian (16), Anantnag (12), Budgam (14), Kupwara (4), Bandipora (22), Ganderbal (10), Jammu (52),

Rajouri (21), Ramban (2), Kathua (8), Udhampur (12), Samba (5), Doda (19), Poonch (8), Reasi (10) and Kishtwar (8).

In Kashmir, Srinagar topped the list with 5,091 cases followed by Baramulla (1,924), Pulwama (1,538), Kulgam (1,508), Shopian (1,508), Anantnag (1,311), Kupwara (1,098), Budgam (1,291), Bandipora (755) and Ganderbal (421).

In the Jammu division, Jammu district had 1,022 cases followed by Rajouri (691), Ramban (537), Kathua (530), Udhampur (472), Samba (430), Doda (288), Poonch (218), Reasi (156) and Kishtwar (145).

Among 613 new positive cases, 64 were travellers. Out of the total 20,972 cases, 7,713 are active positive cases.

Out of the total 7,713 active positive cases, 1,962 are in the Jammu province and 5,751 in Kashmir Valley.



A Muslim family offers namaz at their residence on Eid-ul-Adha in Jammu on Saturday. PTI

Quiet Eid amid curbs, corona

TREBUNE REPORTERS

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 1

Kashmir observed a quiet Eid-ul-Adha on Saturday due to the restrictions in parts of the Valley. People also appeared in no mood to celebrate the occasion due to the pandemic.

No major Eid congregations were held in any major mosque in Srinagar or any other part of the Valley due to the restrictions imposed by the authorities. Locals, however, offered prayers in small groups of sheep and goats were sacrificed across the Valley. This year the sale of sacrificial animals was minimal due to the mosques while maintaining social distancing.

The police and Central Armed Police Force personnel were deployed in strength in Srinagar to restrict the movement of the people.

Announcements were made in the morning on public address systems, appealing people not to gather for the Eid prayers as the threat of coronavirus was still there. The streets wore a deserted look.

A police official said the situation remained peaceful during the day and there was no report of any violence.

The mandatory religious ritual of animal sacrifices was carried out at many places. Officials said a large number of sheep and goats were sacrificed across the Valley. This year the sale of sacrificial animals was minimal due to the mosques while maintaining social distancing.

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has extended the Covid-19 lockdown guidelines in J&K till August 5.

lockdown and Covid-19 fears as no prayers were offered at any major mosques in the region on Saturday.

Security personnel enforced strict restrictions in different parts of the region to prevent the free movement of people in view of the weekend lockdown.

Adhering to the guidelines, a large number of Muslims preferred to offer Eid prayers at their homes, either individually or in small groups. Many, however, said that the administration should have allowed congregational prayers at mosques while maintaining social distancing.

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has extended the Covid-19 lockdown guidelines in J&K till August 5.

4 lakh domicile certificates issued in month

JAMMU, AUGUST 1

The UT administration has granted over four lakh domicile certificates in over a month.

"So far, over four lakh domicile certificates have been granted to applicants. Though a time period of 15 days has been fixed for issuing a certificate to an applicant, we have asked all revenue officials, including tehsildars, to complete the process within two days," Pawan Kotwal, Principal Secretary, Revenue Department, J&K, told *The Tribune*.

The region-wise data with grant to the issuance of the domicile certificate was not readily available.

On a query regarding the rejection of a large number of online applications, a senior revenue officer said they had taken up the issue with the Principal Secretary, IT Department, who had assured them to expand the system. — TNS

CALENDAR

August 2, 2020, Sunday

- Vikrami Samvat 2077
- Shaka Samvat 1942
- Shravan Shaka 11
- Shravan Parvishtha 18
- Hijri 1441
- Shukla Paksha Tithi 14, up to 9:29 pm
- Vishvambha Yoga up to 7:52 am
- Purvashadha Nakshatra up to 6:52 am
- Moon enters Capricorn sign 12:57 pm

57-yr-old makes it to Class IV staff selection list

'CASUAL APPROACH' OF AUTHORITIES

Due to the casual approach of the authorities, it took over 14 years to complete the selection process. He will be deprived of many retirement benefits without any fault of his.

half years in the Agriculture Department, provided the authorities fulfilled all formalities within a month.

Hoping to serve for 18 years, Dass was 42-year-old

when he had applied for the same post, but it was all due to the casual approach of the authorities that it took over 14 years to complete the selection process.

Figured in serial number 51 of the Class-IV employees' selection list, the date of birth of Ishar Dass (as per the official record) is April 24, 1963, it means he is going to retire on April 30, 2023. Ishar Dass is not an isolated case, there are many candidates in the selection list released on Tuesday who have crossed 50 years.

low, Padum, Zanskar.

The AZSA president, Lobzang Paldan, in a press statement, alleged that he, along with members of the AZSA, went to meet the MP with a copy of a memorandum at the dak bungalow and after taking permission from the SHO, he entered the meeting hall. Seeing him at the meeting, the MP instructed the SHO to take him away. He alleged that the SHO and the PSO to the MP physically abused him in front of those present at the place, causing him embar-



Students protest against Ladakh MP in Leh on Saturday.

rassment and anguish.

Meanwhile, the MP denied the allegation

against him and said that he had never abused the student president.

"The student union leader broke the protocol and appeared at the official meeting. I asked him that I will listen to him outside the meeting, but he insisted to talk in front of all government officials. He started misbehaving and spoke rudely. I understand he is young and mistakes do happen. I tried to make him understand, but he refused to listen to me. So, I asked him to get out and asked my PSO to take him out, but he continued to misbehave with everyone" said the MP.

Make: Bolero Camper (M&M)- 17 No. No. 60.35 0.93 - 180 days 12-15 weeks —do-

Supply and onsite fitting of Standard/ Indigenous Snow Plows for Backhoe Loaders (76-96) HP fitted with splash guard and safety locking device. Make: Bolero Camper (M&M)- 20 No. No. 53.20 0.86 - 180 days 12-15 weeks —do-

Supply and onsite fitting of Standard/ Indigenous Sand and Salt Spreaders for Backhoe Loaders (62 HP) fitted with splash guard and safety locking device. Make: Bolero Camper (M&M)- 20 No. No. 53.20 0.86 - 180 days 12-15 weeks —do-

Supply and onsite fitting of Standard/ Indigenous Sand and Salt Spreaders for Backhoe Loaders (62 HP) fitted with splash guard and safety locking device. Make: Bolero Camper (M&M)- 20 No. No. 53.20 0.86 - 180 days 12-15 weeks —do-

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Want to push for better China-Nepal ties: Xi

Says both nations treat each other as equals, have written a new chapter of friendship

BEIJING, AUGUST 1

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday said he wants to push for a continued advancement of ties with Nepal amid Beijing's sustained forays to shore up pro-China Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's grip on power in the backdrop of intra-party feud in the ruling Communist Party.

In an exchange of congratulatory messages with his Nepalese counterpart Bidhya Devi Bhandari on the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, Xi asserted that he was ready to work to bring greater benefits to the people of both countries.

The Chinese President said he attached great importance to the development



Chinese President Xi Jinping with Nepal PM KP Sharma Oli (L). FILE

ment of China-Nepal relations and was willing to work with his Nepali coun-

terpart Bhandari to push for the continued advancement of the bilateral relationship.

Beijing backs 'friend Oli'

- China's ambassador to Kathmandu Hou Yanji has made open efforts to garner support for Nepal PM KP Sharma Oli, who is facing a massive rebellion in his NCP
- Hou met NCP co-chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and other leaders seeking their backing for Oli, but the rebellion against the Prime Minister has not subsided
- China attaches high importance to Oli as during his tenure in 2016, he widened China-Nepal ties by signing the transit trade treaty with Beijing to reduce the dependence on India

Xi, also General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China, said since the estab-

lishment of the diplomatic ties, the two countries have always respected each other, treated each other as equals, enhanced political mutual trust and deepened mutually beneficial cooperation.

Noting that he and Bhandari exchanged visits last year and elevated the bilateral ties to a strategic partnership of cooperation featuring everlasting friendship for development and prosperity, Xi said the two sides have stood together through thick and thin in the fight against the Covid-19 and have written a new chapter of friendship between China and Nepal, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and his Nepalese counterpart Oli too exchanged greetings. —PTI

OBITUARY

Amar Singh, RAJYA SABHA MP (JANUARY 27, 1956 to August 1, 2020)

A politician with relations across spectrum

KV PRASAD

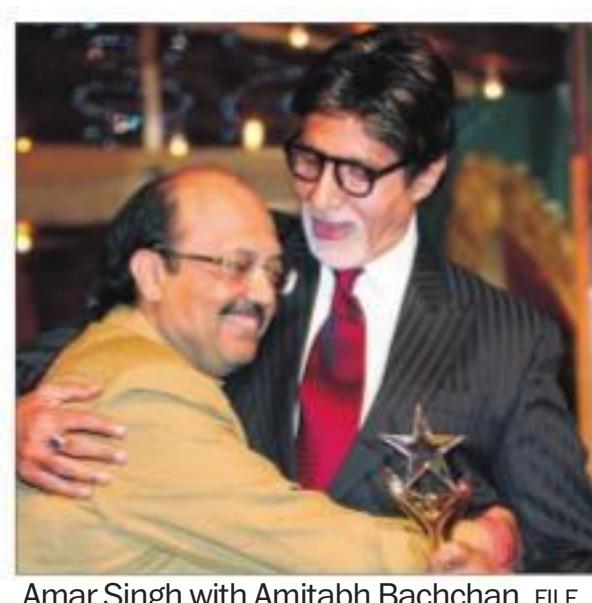
AMAR SINGH, who passed away in Singapore today following prolonged illness, was one of his kind among hoards of politicians in the Capital. For over a decade, he strutted around the corridors of powers with a reach across a wide spectrum of people.

Having found little success in the Congress, Amar Singh's political graph rose during 1996-98 in the United Front government as he struck a unique relation with "Netaji" Mulayam Singh Yadav, the powerful chief of the regional Samajwadi Party (SP).

For a person who was equally at ease with the glamour world of Mumbai and corporate honchos, Amar Singh became the "go-to person" in Delhi for his ability to get things done on the phone. The early days of post first phase of liberalisation saw Amar Singh play a role in giving a push to reforms in the telecom and petroleum sector, a contribution recalled by former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh today.

That Amar Singh was highly driven is a trait acknowledged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who, in his tweet, recalled him as an energetic public figure. He wrote Amar Singh witnessed some of the major political developments from close quarters and was known for friendship across many spheres of life.

Amar Singh's closeness to Netaji became part of the political folklore, making many wonder how a person who did not hide his connections with the rich and glamorous could



Amar Singh with Amitabh Bachchan. FILE

be part of a charmed circle of Yadav, the wrestler-turned-politician in a socialist mould. The association of an unabashed consumerist in a socialist set up caused deep dismay among 'Lohia ke Log (Followers of Ram Manohar Lohia)' in the party.

The magic was not limited to Netaji. Amar Singh's appeal extended to veteran Marxist Harkishan Singh Surjeet to some extent. So much so that when Amar Singh, who portrayed himself as someone who could get political leaders of diverse views break bread together, was not invited to the celebratory dinner hosted by UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi in May 2004, it was Surjeet who took him along. Yet, in 2008, it was Amar Singh's intervention that made Yadav change his stand and support the nuclear deal that nearly wrecked UPA-1.

Amar Singh, the once powerful general secretary of the SP, found his utility diminishing and over the next few years, his ties with the party strained to the extent that he was out of it in 2010.

NEP focuses on making job creators, not job seekers: PM

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, had been framed keeping in mind the aspirations of the youth of the 21st century. Besides, the reforms would help explore students' potential, he added. The old education system created a mass of graduates, who could not put their knowledge to practical use, the PM said. The new policy would produce job creators instead of job seekers.

"NEP, 2020, aims to change that approach and plug previous loopholes, where students were being forced to study subjects under pressure from parents and society."

"With NEP, 2020, we are shift-

'POLICY AIMS AT MAKING INDIA GLOBAL EDU HUB'

Regional languages have languished for years but the policy ensures that Indian languages prosper. It invites world's top institutes to set up campuses in India and will help make India a global education hub
Narendra Modi, PRIME MINISTER

ing from the burden of the school bag, which does not last beyond school to the boon of learning that helps for life, from simply memorising to critical thinking," he said, hailing the Indian youth for offering a range of solutions, including Aarogya Setu application and face shields during Covid times.

Addressing students at Smart India Hackathon, in which students are competing to find solutions to a set of problems

posed to them by the government and industry, the PM said even today many students felt they were being judged on the basis of one subject in which they did not even have interest.

"The policy emphasises on interdisciplinary study. This concept has been gaining popularity because one size does not fit all and one subject does not define who you are," Modi said, adding that students could now learn math with music.

Tilak made freedom struggle Indian: Shah

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak made India's freedom struggle Indian by advocating the fact that progress in any form could never be achieved without having appreciation for past glories,

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said today. Elaborating further, Shah said, "Tilak Maharaj gave the clarion call that 'Swaraj is my birthright' and I will take it. This was no ordinary sentence. This brought a paradigm shift to India's freedom struggle. It turned the movement into a people's movement."

Highlighting Tilak's contribution to bringing about social reforms, the Home Minister said the great leader agitated against cow slaughter; as he also fought for women's rights, published the Kesari newspaper and even turned Shiv Jayanti and Ganpati festivals into a public movement.

The event was organised by

Five killed in factory blast

NAGPUR, AUGUST 1

Five workers were killed in an explosion at a bio-CNG plant in Maharashtra's Nagpur district on Saturday afternoon, the police said.

The incident took place at the sugar and distillery plant of Manas Agro Industries and Infrastructure Limited at Bela in Umred tehsil.

Sushant's sister writes to PM

MUMBAI, AUGUST 1

Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's sister Shweta Singh Kirti on Saturday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding justice for her brother. Shweta posted a brief note on her social media handles, requesting the Prime Minister to look into her brother's death. "We are from a very simple family. My brother had no godfather when he was in Bollywood nor do we have anyone right now. My request to you is to immediately look into this case and make sure that everything is handled in a sanitised way and no evidence is tampered with. Expecting justice to prevail," she wrote. —PTI

Printed and published by Rajesh Ramachandran for The Tribune Trust

Printed at The Tribune Press, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.

Published at The Tribune, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.

RNI No. 15/57.

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Telephones: 0172-2655066-72

Circulation: 0172-2670419, Advertisement: 0172-2670256, 257

Editor: Rajesh Ramachandran*

*Editor for purpose of PRB Act, 1867

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dharampur Bharat, Distt. Mandi invites tenders on short term basis on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work through offline process:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time of Completion	Last date of submission of tender	Last date of sale from Divisional Office
1	LWSS Rawara Ghanala un Tehsil Sandhole, District Mandi, HP (SH:- Protection work near Bakkar Khad near Village Balla from RD-35 to 70m) (Re-tender)	495677/-	9920/-	Three Months		
2	Preparation of documentary of various flagship programmes/ongoing/completed schemes under Jal Shakti Division, Dharampur Bharat, Distt. Mandi.	498600/-	10000/-	One Month	14.08.2020 up to 11:00 a.m. and opened on same day at 11:30 a.m.	13.08.2020 up to 3.00 p.m.
3	Restoration of Rain damage to LWSS Chaili Shiwala in Tehsil Dharampur, District Mandi, HP (SH:- Providing wire crates for protection of pump house and percolation well from RD 0 to 30 mtrs. Nallah side)	393304/-	7870/-	Three months		
4	Restoration of Rain damages to LWSS Sari Sanour Kapahi in Tehsil Dharampur, District Mandi, HP (SH:- Providing wire crate on right bank of Nali Khad from Kalyan bridge to Sari bridge at RD 1360 to 1405 m)	498493/-	9970/-	Three months		

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from the website www.hiph.org or from office above Executive Engineer up to date specified above.

DPR/HP/2004

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dharampur, Bharat.

WESTERN RAILWAY

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No.S/14/2020 Date 30.07.2020

S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
349	Pressure Switch	94 Nos.	14.08.2020
350	Coupling Star Gear Box Side for Crowned Gear Coupling	7 Nos.	17.08.2020
351	3D-2D Echo Machine with Doppler	1 No.	18.08.2020
352	Video Laryng Scope with S S Blade	6 Nos.	10.08.2020
353	Cochlear Implant	1 No.	19.08.2020
354	Biosafety Cabinet	1 No.	19.08.2020
355	Elastic Ring for WAP-5 Loco	152 Nos.	20.08.2020
356	PU Paint -Gentian Blue	14600 Ltrs.	24.08.2020
357	Non Flammable Solvent Based Adhesive	16752.33 Ltrs.	24.08.2020
358	Four V Deep Groove Alternator Pulley	430 Nos.	24.08.2020
359	Servoplex SHC 120	1675 Kg.	24.08.2020
360	PPE- Coverall with Hood and Shoe Cover	40800 Nos.	25.08.2020
361	Flexible Polyamide Conduit	88596 Mtrs.	26.08.2020
362	Longitudinal Stop End Plate	80 Nos.	26.08.2020
363	Bottle Holder with Base Plate Asly.	800 Nos.	26.08.2020
364	High End OT Light with HD Camera	1 No.	26.08.2020
365	Ready Mixed Paint, Red Oxide	30080 Ltrs.	27.08.2020
366	110 volt Brushless DC fan	8491 Nos.	27.08.2020
367	H.T. Compartment Door Lock.	534 Nos.	27.08.2020
368	Electro Magnetic Contactor Complete Asly.	116 Nos.	27.08.2020
369	Synthetic Enamel Paint Gentian Blue	37720 Ltrs.	28.08.2020
370	Jumper plug assembly.	36 Nos.	28.08.2020
371	Driver Seat with Pedestal Asly. For Crew Friendly Cab	320 Nos.	28.08.2020
372	Crowned Gear Coupling (Hirth Coupling) for Three Phase WAP 5 Loco	5 Nos.	28.08.2020
373	Microbiology ID AST System	1 No.	28.08.2020
374	Non Asbestos Based 'K' Type High Friction Composite Brake Block	181034 Nos.	31.08.2020

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.reps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in.

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Pb nambardars...

FROM PAGE 1

The decision to tread on protest path was taken by the union at its recent meeting in Mansa. Union state president Surjit Singh Nanhera said they would intensify their activities once Covid subsided.

"Our representatives met the Revenue Minister in Chandigarh in February. We again brought the matter to his notice 15 days ago in Bathinda. But all we have got so far are hollow assurances," he said.

Darshan Singh, union secretary general, said how long could they go without honarum. "Whenever we approach the authorities, they rebuff us citing empty coffers," he maintained.

Mansa unit president Amritpal Singh Gurne said nambardars had been playing a significant role in checking the Covid spread in villages. "We have been providing crucial updates to the administration on Covid. Nambardars play a vital role with the police in maintaining law and order in rural pockets," he said. Kangar said he would check with his department why the payments were delayed.

'WILL CLEAR DUES'

I will ensure the pending honarum is released at the earliest. As far as the notification on increasing the honarum is concerned, I didn't promise any fixed raise. The hike will be for sure, but will