

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | JAMMU | SRINAGAR | VOL. 140 NO. 266 | 12 PAGES | ₹5.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2018-2020 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

TRUMP REFUSES TO COMMIT TO
PEACEFUL POWER SHIFT WORLD

SENSEX DIVES 1,115 POINTS AMID GLOBAL
SELOFF, RECOVERY WOES BUSINESS

SAARC MUST DEAL WITH TERROR,
SAYS JAISHANKAR BACK PAGE

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

Farmers' bandh today, Tomar blames Cong



Farmers squat on a track in Nabha on Thursday. They are on a three-day 'rail roko' stir. RAJESH SACHAR

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 24
A day before the countrywide farmers' protest, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar today accused the Congress of "lying and misleading" while inviting the farmers to "any discussion on the three Bills."

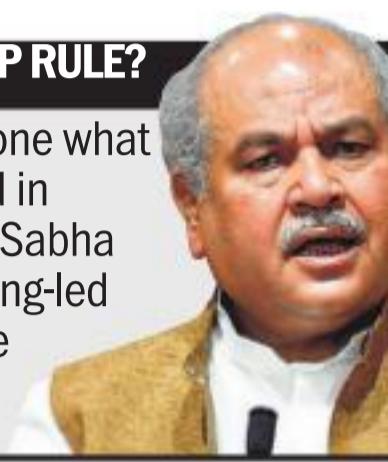
Several farmers and farm workers, including the All-India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee, have given a call for a 'Bhart Bandh' tomorrow. Indian Coordination Committee of Farmers' Movements (ICCFM) convenor Yudhvir Singh termed the legislations "undemocratic and anti-farmer".

The ICCFM is a non-partisan alliance representing 12 farmer organisations. "The new laws will empower agribusiness and increase corporate control of our food system, leaving farmers and

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WHY DIDN'T UPA MAKE MSP RULE?

"The government has done what the Congress had promised in Punjab and in its 2019 Lok Sabha manifesto. Why did you (Cong-led UPA) not make a rule on the MSP?" NS Tomar, UNION AGRI MINISTER



PUNJAB BRACES FOR DAYLONG STIR

31 farmer unions, backed by 50 agriculture-related organisations, have called for Punjab bandh on Friday. All political parties – barring the BJP – have supported the bandh against 3 Bills.

SAD TO HOLD 3-HOUR DHARNA ACROSS STATE

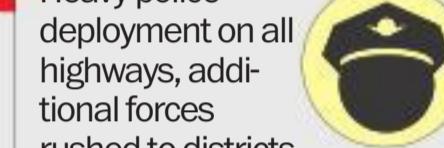
Shiromani Akali Dal to hold dharnas across the state from 11 AM to 2 PM TODAY

MARKETS TO REMAIN SHUT TILL 4 PM

Train services in the state have been suspended. Unions have announced closure of markets and industrial hubs from sunrise till 4 pm. Traffic to be allowed only for emergency duties.

SECURITY TIGHTENED

Heavy police deployment on all highways, additional forces rushed to districts.



He has clearly not read the Punjab Congress' 2017 manifesto that said 'updation' of the APMC Act will be done to ensure farmers' direct access to markets

Capt Amarinder Singh, PUNJAB CM

read that "updation of the APMC Act will be done to ensure direct access of farmers

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CONG TO CHALLENGE FARM BILLS IN COURT
STIR TO HIT SUPPLIES, SAYS RAILWAYS
New Delhi: The Railways said the 'rail roko' agitation in Punjab over the farm Bills would severely impact the loading of foodgrain and other essential goods. PTI

Capt counters him

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 24
Expressing shock at Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar's "atrocious lies", Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh said the BJP leader had thrown all property to the winds, spreading disinformation against the Congress in general and against him in particular.

On Tomar asking why he (Capt Amarinder) had mentioned in his poll manifesto that the 'APMC will be changed', the CM said it was obvious that the minister had not read the Punjab Congress' 2017 manifesto that clearly

Hunt launched to trace killers; second attack in 24 hours
Budgam district, the police said. This was the second militant attack in Budgam in less than 24 hours. On Wednesday evening, a Block Development Council chairman, Bhupinder Singh, was shot dead by militants here.

The University Grants Commission (UGC), which was earlier restrained from releasing its academic calendar, informed a Bench led by Justice AM Khanwilkar that the process for admission to bachelor courses would end by October 31. — TNS

Border forces to be off internal security duties

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 24
To further strengthen the security grid in frontier areas, the government has initiated a plan to gradually withdraw the border-guarding forces (BSF, ITBP and SSB) from some internal security duties.

Officials said such a proposal was first mooted at a meeting of the chiefs of border-guarding forces last year, which was chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Officials said the Ministry of Home Affairs was trying to work out a plan according to which the burden of internal security duties, including during elections, would be largely borne by the CRPF.

Sources said the plan would be first experimented during the Bihar poll and bypolls in some states where the CRPF and police would be deployed in 70:30 ratio. — TNS

MCI goes, NMC takes charge

New medical regulator notified | Pvt edu to get cheaper

NEW GUIDELINES

■ MBBS final year exam to serve as entrance test for postgraduation and foreign medical graduates
■ The NMC will make guidelines for a new cadre of non-MBBS mid-level health service providers such as nursing practitioners and pharmacists with limited rights to dispense medicines



■ PGI's Jagat Ram is among 11 full-time NMC members

will have four autonomous boards to regulate undergraduate, postgraduate education, medical assessment and ethics and medical registration.

The development means that from tomorrow all provisions of the NMC Act, 2019, will roll out, including fee regulation on 50 per cent seats in private medical colleges and deemed universities; end of inspection for college renewals. Final year MBBS

exam will now serve three purposes — licentiate exam for MBBS passouts to issue them a licence to practice medicine; entrance exam for postgraduate medical education and entrance exam for foreign medical graduates. Called the National Exit Test, this final year MBBS exam will finally replace the existing National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for PG and Foreign Medical Graduates Test.

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Chinese agencies trying to disrupt Naga peace pact

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 24

The Chinese intelligence agencies have been working overtime in north-eastern states to influence rebel leaders to further deepen "internal" unrest and delay the peace process in the region, sources say.

Intelligence Bureau inputs on the Chinese design have been shared with the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Centre has directed top IB officials to engage Naga insurgent group NSCN (I-M)'s general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah.

NSCN (I-M) chairman Q Tuccu, vice-president Tongmeth Wangnang and 13 others are also in Delhi and have joined Muivah in the talks with IB officials. Differences among the outfit's ranks became visible when Tuccu and his team chose to stay at separate locations, although accommodation had been arranged at one place. — TNS

Lawyer, CRPF officer gunned down in J&K

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 24

A top lawyer and a CRPF officer were shot dead in two attacks in Kashmir today.

Advocate Babar Qadri was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Srinagar in the evening, officials said.

Qadri, who used to appear in debates on Kashmir on some TV channels, was fired upon by suspected militants from a point-blank range in the Halwal area.

"He was taken to a hospital where doctors declared him brought dead," an official said. Soon after the incident, a hunt was launched to trace the attackers. Earlier this morning, a CRPF officer was killed in a militant attack in

Hunt launched to trace killers; second attack in 24 hours

Budgam district, the police said. This was the second militant attack in Budgam in less than 24 hours. On Wednesday evening, a Block Development Council chairman, Bhupinder Singh, was shot dead by militants here.

The militants attacked a CRPF deployment at Badipora, Chadoora, leaving CRPF ASI Badole Naresh Umrao, 49, hailing from Maharashtra, critically wounded. He later succumbed to injuries. — TNS

Compartment exam result by Oct 10: CBSE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 24

Ending uncertainty over the future of around two lakh students appearing in Class XII compartment examinations, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Thursday informed the Supreme Court (SC) that it would declare the result by October 10, giving enough time to them to apply for college admissions.

The University Grants Commission (UGC), which was earlier restrained from releasing its academic calendar, informed a Bench led by Justice AM Khanwilkar that the process for admission to bachelor courses would end by October 31. — TNS

No transport fee for students: HC

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab and Haryana HC on Thursday said that transport fee would not be charged from students as they were not going to school. A Division Bench also stayed payment of annual charges up to 50 per cent. The appellants had challenged the order dated July 27 passed by a single Judge. INSIDE

4 die in Dera Bassi building collapse

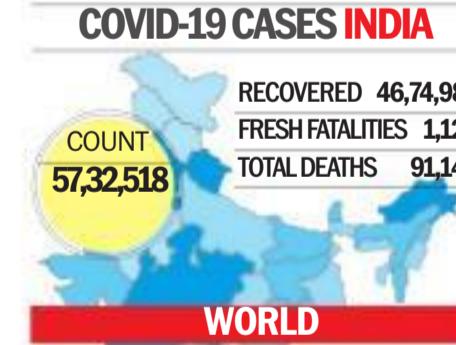
DERA BASSI: Four persons died after a double-storey under-construction commercial building collapsed at Meera Milli Mohalla near Ramlila Ground here on Thursday morning. The deceased were identified as Gopi Chand (60), Raju (46), Ramesh Sardana (45) and Hardev Singh (72). — TNS

For 6th day, recoveries surpass daily caseload

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 24

The Centre dispelled doubts that low testing was resulting in daily new recoveries surpassing daily new cases. It said the trend of higher daily discharge of patients was holding despite sustained and large levels of testing.

Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said the conclusion by some people that higher recoveries were due to low tests was "baseless". He said India's trend of higher recoveries than new cases on a daily basis sustained for a sixth day today despite a high-level of testing. India has conducted 6.4 crore Covid-19 tests as of today. — TNS



N-SCIENTIST SUCCUMBS
Kolkata: Veteran atomic scientist and former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission Dr Sekhar Basu succumbed to Covid-19 early on Thursday at a private hospital here. He was also had a kidney ailment. PTI

Flexi exams in Hry, part of student-centric move

SUSHIL MANAV

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 24
Haryana plans to introduce flexi mode of examinations at the university level which will allow students to take a test when they are ready for it.

Under the on demand examination (ODE), a unique question paper with a defined number of items will be generated randomly by the computer (on the exam day) from the question bank. The question paper will be unique for each student. A pilot project will be conducted in four universities — Chaudhary Bansi Lal University, Bhiwani; Chaudhary

Can take test when they want; 4 varsities to conduct pilot project

Ranbir Singh University, Jind; Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar; and Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Palwal — to enable final year students to clear their backlog, if any.

Prof BK Kuthiala, Chairperson of the Haryana State Higher Education Council, said the basic idea behind the flexi mode of examination was the need to develop

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS

FOR THOSE SEEKING A CAREER WITH A PULSE



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- BPT | BOT | MPT - Physiotherapy with Synapse

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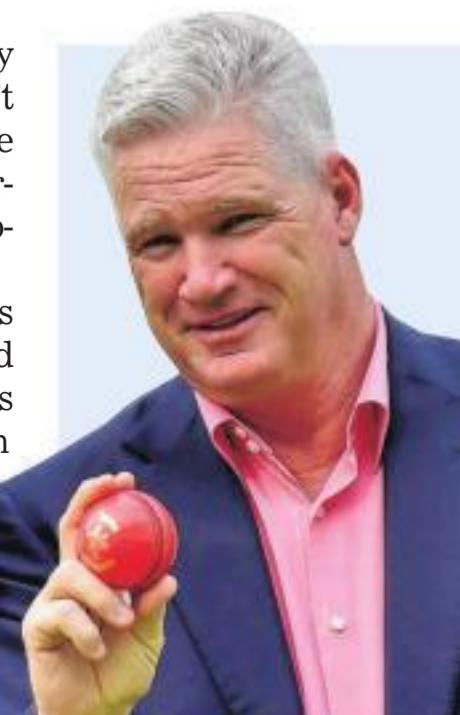
CHITKARA UNIVERSITY

CHANDIGARH INFORMATION CENTRE: SCO 160-161, SECTOR 9-C.
UNIVERSITY CAMPUS | PUNJAB: CHANDIGARH-PATIALA NATIONAL HIGHWAY
HIMACHAL PRADESH: PINJORE-BAROTIWALA HIGHWAY

Was in Mumbai as part of the IPL commentary team

crew. According to an IPL source, Jones suffered a heart attack around noon and was gone in a matter of seconds. "Deano was standing in the hotel lobby and he suddenly collapsed. Brett Lee was standing by his side. Brett tried to revive him by applying

CONTINUED ON PAGE II





31 farm bodies to block traffic at 125 sites

SANGRUR/CHANDIGARH, SEPT 24 Various political parties and a number of organisations have extended support to a bandh call by 31 various farm organisations on September 25 against farm Bills.

A representative of organisations said roads and rail tracks would be blocked at around 125 places across Punjab. "As per information, the call for bandh has received a positive response from various unions of truckers, buses, employees, labourers, students and others," said Dr Darshan Pal, a representative of 31 farm unions.

"We request all to block roads and rail tracks peacefully and do not respond to any call for violence as miscreants might try to create problems during the bandh," he said.

Meanwhile, the Punjab Civil Medical Services Association, a representative body of government doctors of the state, has opposed the implementation of new agriculture Bills and have supported the ongoing protests by the farmer unions. PCMSA adviser Dr Jasbir Aulakh and State President Dr Gagandeep Singh alleged the Centre was destroying the state economy as farmers would at the mercy of corporate giants. —TNS

Farmers begin 3-day 'rail roko' services suspended

Tribune News Service

BATHINDA/AMRITSAR/LUDHIANA, SEPTEMBER 24 Farmers under the banner of the BKU Ekta Ugrahan started a three-day 'rail roko' protest by blocking railway tracks on the Bathinda-Delhi railway line in Mansa on Thursday.

The protesters raised slogans against the Union Government and SAD for allegedly failing to protect rights of the farming community.

Addressing the gathering, BKU Ekta Ugrahan president Ram Singh Bhaini Bagha said, "By bringing in farm Bills that will benefit corporate players in the country, the SAD-BJP has paved the way for irreparable damage to the farming community. As per new Bills, MSP of all crops will be abolished. The basic structure of mandi board will be altered completely and procurement by government agencies will not take place. There will be private players

13 RETIRED IAS OFFICERS LEND SUPPORT

■ Thirteen retired IAS officers have extended support to agitating farmers on the farm Bills. They said there was no urgency for the government to bring in these Bills when the country was fighting the pandemic.

■ "These Bills impinge on the rights of states as well as their finances. These Bills clearly favour corporates... so these are rejected by farmers," they said.

who will procure farm produce as per their own convenience and rates fixed by them."

In Amritsar, farmers commenced their three-day 'rail

roko' protest against the farm Bills by blocking rail tracks near Devidas Pura village today.

They said the 'rail roko' move called by the Kisan Maz-

door Sangharsh Committee was indicative of just how far they had been pushed without dialogue amid the pandemic.

Keeping it in view, the Fer- ozeppur Railway Division has cancelled 14 trains affecting the state's connectivity with Mumbai and Nanded with Maharashtra, Kolkata and New Jalpaiguri in West Bengal, Jayanagar in Bihar and Haridwar in Uttar Pradesh.

Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee state general sec-

retary Sarwan Singh Pandher said, "This is purely an agitation of farmers and their families. No sitting or former MLA, MPs or ministers will be welcomed in our fight. We will keep fighting no matter how long it will take."

He questioned the integrity of SAD leadership which he said had yet to clarify its stance over the ordinances.

"Why didn't former Union Minister Harsimrat Badal and SAD president Sukhbir Badal

contest when these ordinances came across them before being tabled in Parliament?" he asked.

In Ludhiana, passengers are on the receiving end with the rail traffic going off the tracks in the region for at least four days due to the ongoing 'rail roko' agitation by farmers. The Railways have announced cancellation of two pairs of trains from today to Saturday, while 10 other pairs of trains would short-terminate and short-

originate during this period.

of corporate giants. —TNS



Badals shown black flags

BATHINDA, SEPTEMBER 24

Workers of the Aam Aadmi Party and Congress today staged separate protests and showed black flags to SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal and Harsimrat Kaur Badal while they were on their way to Takht Damdama Sahib at Talwandi Sabo in Bathinda.

AAP MLAs Baljinder Kaur and Rupinder Kaur Ruby headed the protest near Takht Damdama Sahib where a large number of AAP workers carrying black flags

and placards raised slogans against the Badals.

Baljinder Kaur said: "The Badal family is misleading farmers by becoming agents of the PM as on the one hand they say the Bills are not anti-farmers, while on the other hand they say we have failed to make them understand about the Bills."

Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal's relative Jaijeet Singh Johal headed the Congress protest in Bathinda. —TNS

Akalis brought debate to fore with resignation, claims Sukhbir

Tribune News Service

TALWANDI SABO, SEPTEMBER 24 Back in Punjab after resigning from the Union Cabinet, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal today said, "The Akali Dal is the one that made the farmers' issue a national debate by resigning from the Union Ministry in support of farmers."

Addressing party workers at Diwan Hall at Takht Sri Damdama Sahib at Talwandi Sabo, Sukhbir lashed out at the Congress and alleged that in the 2017 Assembly poll and in 2019 Lok Sabha poll, the Congress had promised to repeal the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act, so the Congress was the one who was supporting it and now when SAD had



SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal and MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal at Talwandi Sabo in Bathinda on Thursday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

raised this issue in favour of farmers in Parliament, the Congress had also jumped in the favour of farmers.

Sukhbir said the party decided to vote against the Bills after the NDA Government refused to make MSP a statutory right as demanded by farmers and the SAD.

Harsimrat Kaur Badal said she had written an adverse note on the file when the draft ordinance was shared with her ministry.

She said subsequently she had even objected to the ordinances when they were discussed in the Cabinet.

Capt tasks parties to join hands

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 24

Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh today urged all political parties to rise above petty considerations and come on one platform to fight the anti-farmer Bills that would "destroy" the farmers of Punjab.

The Chief Minister said he was ready to lead the political fight against the 'unconstitutional' farm Bills. "I will do what it takes to save my farmers and my state from these dangerous new laws, whose implementation will cripple the farming sector and also destroy Punjab's lifeline of agriculture," he added.

In a statement, the CM said the Congress had always stood by farmers and would fight with them shoulder-to-shoulder to scuttle the Centre's plans to ruin not just their families but the entire state.

The BJP-led Union Govern-



WHY SAD STILL IN NDA?

■ Is giving up a berth in the Union Cabinet a sacrifice? The Badals clearly do not know the meaning of sacrifice... What are you still doing in the anti-farmer NDA govt?

Capt Amarinder Singh, CHIEF MINISTER

ment had stooped to a new low by bringing these Bills, and that too in an "undemocratic" manner, he said, adding his government would oppose

the legislations tooth and nail. Lambasting the Akalis for trying to change the narrative in a bid to transform the "Punjab v/s Centre" fight into a local political clash for their vested interest, the Chief Minister said they had changed the history of the SAD, reducing it from a political force into a "puppet of the BJP". Captain Amarinder dismissed SAD leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal's resignation from the Union Cabinet as a "mockery" of the Akali history of sacrifices.

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Service commission can't evolve own selection method, rules HC

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 24

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that it was impermissible for a public service commission to evolve its own method of selection, which was not in consonance with the relevant service rules. Justice Anil Kshetarpal also ruled that commission chairman could not take important policy decisions at individual level.

The ruling came on a petition filed against the State of Punjab

►The commissions are assigned the duty to conduct competitive examinations, select candidates and recommend their names. But these have not been conferred with the powers to evolve their own pattern of holding examinations or interview, particularly when there are service rules made under Article 309.

Justice Anil Kshetarpal

and others by Jasveer Singh through counsel Alka Chatrath, seeking to set aside a recruitment notice issued by the Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC) in September 2018, inviting applications for 22 posts of extra assistant conservator of forest in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Protection. It was argued that the commission had drawn its own pattern of conducting written examinations.

Justice Kshetarpal asserted that Article 32(1) of the Constitution provided that the Union and the state public service

commissions were required to conduct examinations for appointment to the services of the union and the state.

"Once the service rules provide for the manner and method of recruitment, in the considered view of this court, the commission has no jurisdiction to deviate or ignore the same," Justice Kshetarpal added. The Bench also allowed the writ petition and set aside the advertisement/recruitment notice dated September 27, 2018, along with various corrigendum.

Justice Kshetarpal also ruled that commission chairman could not take important policy decisions at individual level.

The ruling came on a petition filed against the State of Punjab

State's Covid contact tracing among poorest in country

Averages dismal 4.4 persons per positive case against 10 nationally



A health worker collects swab test samples in Nawanshahr.

CENTRAL TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

- External supervision team in each district to check surveillance, contact tracing, quarantine at block level in hotspots
- Involve community medicine department of medical colleges; allocate each medical college two-three districts
- Increase contact tracing for early diagnosis and prompt control measures. Panchayati Raj Institution be encouraged to increase community participation

had been done by the healthcare workers verbally during the camps organised earlier, however, no such posters or other materials was found.

As per the healthcare workers, people showed resistance and refused to get screened. Interaction with the sarpanch revealed he had a poor perception about the health system at the tertiary level and therefore encouraged villagers to undergo home isolation. He was even encouraging people to not entertain health

care workers for sampling.

Similarly, during a visit to another containment zone — New Durgapur in Habowal — it was found households with positive cases were not marked in the map. Strict perimeter control was not followed as there was movement of people for non-essential purposes.

Interaction with the people, including the municipal councillor of the area, revealed people were unaware of their area being a containment zone.

76 more succumb to infection, count mounts to 1,05,220

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 24

With 1,793 fresh cases and 76 deaths, the state Covid count reached 1,05,220 on Thursday.

The total number of causalities stands at 3,066. There are 20,679 active cases in the state and 81,475 patients have recovered. Besides, 443 patients are on oxygen and 76 on ventilator.

In the district-wise breakup of new cases, Ludhiana topped the chart with 206 cases, followed by Jalandhar (188), SAS Nagar (169), Bathinda (158), Amritsar (146), Patiala (135), Hoshiarpur (108) and Gurdaspur (104).

In terms of fatalities, SAS Nagar topped the state with nine deaths, followed by Bathinda, Jalandhar and Kapurthala, which recorded eight deaths each. Ludhiana reported seven deaths.

Don't deny admission to pupils, govt schools told

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 24

The Punjab Government has issued instructions to not deny admission to students in government schools under any situation. So far this year, the enrollment in government schools has increased by 15.61 per cent (3,44,986 students) and this is the highest increase in a single year till date.

A spokesperson for the Punjab School Education Department said some complaints had been received from parents that their children had been denied admission on the pretext of high enrollment and lack of infrastructure. In this context, Krishan Kumar, Secretary, School Education, directed all District Education Officers (DEOs—secondary and elementary) of the state to give admission to aspirants in government schools in any case. He also directed them to make appropriate arrangements at the local level in case of lack of infrastructure. Schools, where the strength of students is very high, have also been asked to send proposals to start double shifts. —TNS

COVID CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Ludhiana	16,986	695
Jalandhar	12,113	351
Amritsar	8,911	318
Patiala	10,903	302
Sangrur	3,353	134
SAS Nagar	9,544	158
Gurdaspur	5,437	124
Bathinda	5,360	100
Hoshiarpur	4,110	129
Ferozepur	3,475	93
Pathankot	3,191	60
Moga	2,091	62
Fatehgarh Sahib	1,783	76
Tarn Taran	1,505	57
Kapurthala	2,864	133
Fazilka	2,094	30
SBS Nagar	1,464	37
Faridkot	2,547	41
Barnala	1,747	37
Ropar	1,880	64
Muktsar	2,261	33
Mansa	1,456	27
	1,05,220	3,066

Two arrested with 13 kg heroin along IB

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 24

In an intelligence-led operation, the Punjab Police on Friday arrested two Pakistan-backed drug smugglers in the Khem Karan sector of Tarn Taran along the International Border (IB) and seized 13 kg heroin from them. A manhunt has been launched for their third accomplice.

With the arrest of Jora Singh and his associate Ranjit Singh, alias Rana Singh, who were planning to deliver the consignment to drug syndicates and suppliers across the state, a nexus between smugglers operating in Punjab and their han-



BSF officials with canisters concealing heroin on Thursday.

dlers in Pakistan has been exposed, said DGP Dinkar Gupta. The operation was carried out by a team led by Tarn Taran SSP Dhruman Nimble. An FIR under various sections of the NDPS Act has been registered.

Jora Singh was kept under surveillance following specific information. Out on bail since March 2020, he was apprehended in August 2019 by security agencies near the border for suspicious activities. Four FIRs are already registered against him for drug smuggling. He had amassed a

number of properties without any known source of income.

Gupta said initial investigations revealed Jora Singh, along with associates Pawandeep Singh and Ranjit Singh, was in touch with Pakistani-based smugglers and was trying to procure a heroin consignment from Pakistan in the area of BSF's border outpost Rattoke under Khem Karan police station. They had also conducted recce near the IB at Rattoke village.

Ranjit Singh, a resident of Havelian, Tarn Taran, admitted to having organised the delivery of a heroin consignment that was scheduled to arrive in the BOP Rattoke area from Pakistan.

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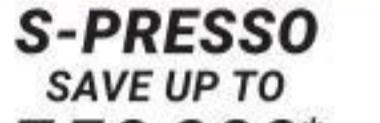
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Shri Guru Teg Bahadur College of Education, Vill. Seh-Ke, PO Gowardhan, Teh. Malerkotla, Distt. Sangrur (Pb.), has given an advertisement No. CL20006090 in The Tribune and Punjabi Tribune on 6th June, 2020 for the posts of Principal and other subjects. Who already applied for that posts, must send one copy of the application to Dean, Colleges, Punjabi University, Patiala. Secretary, 99153-43890, gurbetraeck04@gmail.com (CL20043094)

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LOST & FOUND

It is notified for the information that my original qualifying examination marksheets certificate of main, secondary school examination of year 2013 and roll number 2739185 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name of the candidate: Amanpreet Full Address: 2379, Sector 4C, Chandigarh. Tel. 83686-04985. (CL20043089)

To inform that my original examination certificate of Main Secondary, Senior Examination year 2015 and roll number 2739185 issued by CBSE is lost. Name Anmol Moza. Address: Sector 4C, Chandigarh. Tel. 88009-78499. (CL20043254)

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Poonam Pathania wife of No. JC-30321A Sub. Paramjeet Singh VPO Surawar, Tehsil Indora, District Kangra (HP) declare that my husband's name in Army School Kandror's record of my minor son Kulshan Pathania has wrongly entered as Parmjeet Singh whereas his correct name is Panjeet Singh. Concerned note. (CL20042698)

I, Mani Ram S/o Shyam Lal R/o Vill. Kathala, PO & Tehsil Anni, Distt. Kullu (HP)- 172025 have changed my name to Manish forever. (CL2004532)

Aryan S/o Sanjay Kumar R/o 3, Sewa Nagar Ram Tirath Road near Putlighar Amritsar India. have changed my name to Aryan Kumar, my correct name is Aryan. (CL20042609)

I, Parminder Jit Saluja w/o Paramjit Singh r/o House No. 6, Western Avenue, Nangal, Tehsil Nangal, Distt. Rupnagar (Punjab), have changed my name from Parminder Jit to Sahibdeep Singh Thind. (CL20042889)

I, Cyberdeep Singh s/o Harkirat Singh r/o House No. E-13/30, Aman Nagar Jalandhar by pass, Ludhiana. I have changed my name from Cyberdeep Singh to Sahibdeep Singh Thind. (CL20042889)

I, Priyanka d/o Som Nath Sharma resident of House No. 98, Street No. 3, Ferzepur Cantt., have changed my name to Priyanka Sharma. (CL20042904)

I, Lokesh Chopra s/o Goverdhan Lal Chopra r/o H. No. 151, Green Avenue, Amritsar, have changed the name of my minor son from Divye Chopra to Divyani Chopra. Concerned note. (CL20043097)

I, Anita Rani w/o JC-760127-Y Rank Sub. Late Jagvir Singh, VPO Chalet Tehsil Ghani, Distt. Una (HP), in Army documents record my daughter name be corrected as Pragti Kumari instead of Paragte Kumari. (CL20043111)

I, Harbans Lal Atwal, # 336, Type-2, Sector-1, Naya Nangal, Tehsil Nangal, Rupnagar, declared that my son Sushil Kumar his wife Shelly out of my control. I disintegrated both from my moveable/ immovable property. All concerned please note. (CL20043236)

I, Rajesh Vohra son of Sh. Pritpal Vohra resident Vohra, Vill. House No. 33/1, Ward No. 12, MC Solan, Tehsil and District Solan, Himachal, have changed my name from Rajesh Kumar to Rajesh Kumar Vohra. (CL20043287)

I, Rupinderpal Singh s/o S. Kuldeep Singh Vill. Mandian, Tehsil Bassi Pathana, Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab, have changed my minor son name from Harkiratpal Bajwa to Harkiratpal Singh Bajwa. (CL20043305)

I, Manju Devi, spouse of No. 14936590F Rank L/NK name Ramesh Chand, r/o Village Sai, PO Balera, Tehsil Arki, District Solan, HP declare that my Dob was wrongly entered in my husband's service record as 10.08.1984 but my correct Dob is 10.08.1985. All concerned please note. (CL20043163)

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"The Tribune India.com"

Fake pesticides seized in Moga, two arrested

Tribune News Service

MOGA, SEPTEMBER 24

In a joint operation with the police, the Agriculture Department busted a pesticide scam in Moga and recovered a few boxes containing fake pesticides. These were being sold to local dealers, who were likely to sell them to farmers.

Plant Protection Officer of Moga Jaswinder Singh Brar said he, along with DSP (City) GS Bhullar and other officials of the police, stopped an i-20 car and found boxes of various types of fake pesticides in them.

"The stocks of fake pesticides have been taken into custody by the police while samples have been collected by the department for laboratory testing," he said. Two youths, identified as Vikas Sharma and Ekdeep Singh, both residents of Ludhiana, were arrested by the police.

As per information, some boxes of fake pesticides with the brand name of 'chess' were recovered by the police. The product is actually marketed by a multinational pesticide company with manufacturing outsourced from a Mohali-based industry.

Another product seized by the police was 'coragen', an anthranilic diamide insecticide in the form of a suspension concentrate. It is particularly active on lepidopteran insect pests, primarily used as a larvicide.



Officials of the Agriculture Department take samples of the seized pesticides in Moga. TRIBUNE PHOTO

ACCUSED IN 5-DAY POLICE CUSTODY

Sub-Inspector Gurbax Singh said the accused was produced before a local court, which sent them to police custody for five days. They had failed to produce the permits and bills with regard to the pesticides, he said.

They also seized 'gusto-71', an ammonium salt of glyphosate; 'commando', a rodenticide having zinc phosphide; 'cogent', an insect controller and 'rounder', another pesticide having ammonium salt of glyphosate. Balwinder Singh, District Agriculture Officer, said the police had registered an FIR under Section 420 of the IPC and Section 29 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, at the City-II police station against the youths and began an investigation.

Sub-Inspector Gurbax Singh said the police produced the accused before a local court, which sent them to police custody for five days. They had failed to produce the permits and bills with regard to these products, he said.

District Magistrate Sandeep Hans directed the investigating agencies to find out where the counterfeit products were manufactured and brought here for sale. Meanwhile, the youths told the police that the material was brought from Indira Market in Delhi for sale.

Combines sans straw mgmt system banned

MOGA, SEPTEMBER 24

District Magistrate (DM) Sandeep Hans, while exercising his powers under Section 144 of the CrPC and Sections 30 and 34 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, today imposed a ban on burning of paddy straw by farmers.

A total ban on the use of paddy straw reaper machines has also been imposed by the district administration till December 31. The DM also banned the use of combine harvester machines without the super straw management system. "We will register a criminal case against anyone found operating the machine without the system," he said.—TNS

March foiled



Police officials disperse multipurpose health workers as they march towards Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal's office in Bathinda on Thursday. The workers staged a protest against the state government, demanding regular jobs. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Now, chorus against labour Bills

Job fair begins, 90,000 posts up for grabs

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 24

The 6th state-level job fair began today under the Ghar Ghar Rozgar and Karobar Mission, the flagship programme of the Punjab Government.

Technical Education and Employment Generation Minister Charanjit Singh Channi inaugurated the week-long job fair through video-conferencing. He said 1.40 lakh applications had been received seeking employment against 90,000 vacancies, which would be offered in the private sector. —TNS

having 100 or less workers. The government has also put many restrictions on protests organised by labour unions. These new rules are framed to strengthen the big fish while they will exploit the poor and needy," he said.

Lakhvinder Singh of the Karkhana Mazdoor Union said labour unions would take part in the protest rallies being held in favour of farmers on September 25. "During these protests, the labour unions will unite and raise their voice against the government as the recent Bills will destroy farmers, labourers and workers," Lakhvinder Singh said.

Unions say these will exploit workers, curtail freedom to protest

of the Textile-Hosiery Kamgar Union, said the "hurriedly" passed Bills were against workers and were "anti-labour".

The three Bills — Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions, Industrial Relations Code and Social Security Code — however, have not gone down well with labour unions in Ludhiana.

Rajvinder Singh, president

Govt inadequacy led to payment delay: HC

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 24

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has asserted that "inadequacy and financial unworkworthiness" of the State of Punjab had apparently resulted in a dilly-dally approach regarding non-payment to a firm.

The assertion by Justice Arun Monga came on a petition filed by Landmarks Sign Board Private Limited against the State of Punjab. "I am constrained to observe that the entire dilly-dally qua non-payment of the principal amount seems to have arisen out of inadequacy/financial unworkworthiness of the respondent state. For which, the petitioner is unnecessarily being embroiled into the administrative rigmarole/red-tape and being made to run from pillar to post, including approaching this Court," Justice Monga asserted.

The petitioner had earlier told the court the company — a registered micro, small medium enterprise — was completely misled into supplying goods to the respondent-State of Punjab owing to the tall claim made while executing a contract dated December 24, 2019. It was told 100 per cent payment would be released within 10 days of issuance of consignee receipt and acceptance certificate and submission of bills. Before parting with the order, Justice Monga directed the filing of a short affidavit by September 25 spelling out the schedule of all admitted payments to be made to the petitioner.

"In case short affidavit is not possible due to paucity of time, respondent, Secretary, Department of Finance, Punjab, is directed to personally join the proceedings through video-conferencing," Justice Monga added.



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The petitioner had earlier told the court the company — a registered micro, small medium enterprise — was

Ex-Jathedar backs Dhindsa group

FATEHGHAR SAHIB, SEPT 24

Parminder Dhindsa, former Finance Minister, held a meeting with Bhai Ranjit Singh, former Jathedar of Akal Takht and president of the Panthic Akali Lehar, here today. Bhai Gurpreet Singh Randhawa, SGPC member, said both leaders decided to jointly fight against the policies of the SGPC. He said by joining hands with the Dhindsa group, Bhai Ranjit Singh would strengthen it politically. —OC

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

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19 September 2020

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Sunday, 27 September 2020 from

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Due to prevailing COVID -19 situation, all near and dear ones

are requested to pray from home for the departed soul

Grief Stricken



Harmeet Mander & Lt Gen PBS Mander (Retd) - Daughter & Son-in-Law

Jasmeet Mander & Brig BS Mander (Retd) - Daughter & Son-in-Law

Gurmeet Mahal & Col JP Singh (Retd) - Daughter & Son-in-Law

Col SS Sandhu & Simran - Son & Daughter-in-Law

Grand Children & Great Grand Children

Sandhu (Padhania) & Grewal (Nanaki) Families

Spike in demand, ITIs add 12K seats

RAJMEET SINGH

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 24

Otherwise known for shortage of teaching staff and running outdated courses, the 117 government-run Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the state are giving their private counterparts a run for their money. This academic session, an increase of 12,000 seats in popular skill-based courses like fitter, turner, machinist, diesel mechanic, refrigeration and air conditioning, welder, carpenter, draftsman, electrician and electronics mechanic, is attracting more students. Sources in the department said the Union Ministry of Skill Development had given permission for increasing the seats under the dual system of training that ultimately allowed the ITIs to be the

resource centres for providing industry-relevant skilled workforce. Figures reveal that in the past 10 years, the number of students admitted at government ITIs had varied between 18,000 and 22,000. Last year, 70,000 students applied for admission, but only 23,000 could make it. Sources said the government had recently sanctioned nearly Rs

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Far from self-reliant

'Make in India' needs transfer of technology by foreign firms

THE much-touted *Atmanirbharta* in the defence sector is a bridge too far, going by the Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG) report on Management of Defence Offsets, tabled in Parliament on Wednesday. The national auditor has taken to task French aerospace major Dassault Aviation and European missile-maker MBDA for not fulfilling their offset obligations of offering high technology to India under the Rs 59,000-crore Rafale aircraft deal. The two firms are yet to provide technological assistance sought by the Defence Research and Development Organisation for indigenous development of an engine for the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas. The CAG has also observed that defence ranks an abysmal 62nd out of 63 sectors receiving FDI (foreign direct investment), while pointing out lacunae in the country's offset policy. Foreign defence entities are mandated to spend at least 30 per cent of the total contract value in India through procurement of components or setting up of research and development facilities, but there is no effective mechanism to penalise them if they don't do the needful.

Transfer of technology, facilitation of FDI, reduction in imports and liberal funding of R&D projects are the imperatives for giving a fillip to 'Make in India' on the defence front. Last month, the government had announced a phased embargo on the import of 101 weapon systems in an initiative to encourage the domestic industry. Many more such steps are needed to come anywhere near self-sufficiency. For the record, India is the third largest military spender in the world (after the US and China) and the second biggest arms importer (after Saudi Arabia).

The strategic partnership model, which provides for a long-term tie-up of Indian entities with global Original Equipment Manufacturers to set up domestic manufacturing infrastructure and supply chains, needs to offer attractive incentives to woo the world's best vendors. In October last year, French engine manufacturer Safran had told Defence Minister Rajnath Singh that India's tax 'terrorism' was holding up the company's plans to make big investments. Let there be an enabling environment for foreign investors, but hold them accountable if they renege on their promises.

Stink of witch-hunt

SSR case reignites need for reforms in probe agencies

THE twists and turns in the investigations into the case of death, by suicide, of actor Sushant Singh Rajput on June 14 in his Mumbai home smack of a frenzied witch-hunt in which, tragically, the actor has been relegated to the background. Popped up by the know-all electronic media anchors airing their sensational views nonchalantly, it has become a classic case of jumping the gun, leaving a trail of tarnished lives, reputations and careers. The, at times, bizarre attempts to pin down the 'culprit' in TV studios, sadly, bear the stink of the demise of responsible journalism. Lying forlorn on the wayside is the basic tenet of 'innocent till proven guilty'.

With three top agencies probing the matter, the case has acquired a tri-dimensional form — the CBI looking into the death, the Enforcement Directorate delving into the charge of money-siphoning, and the Narcotics Control Bureau swooping down on the drugs angle. The spotlight is on SSR's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty, who has been demonised as the suspect, and along with her brother, is among the nearly a score persons arrested for interrogation. With allusions to mental health issues, nepotism and rivalry in Bollywood and its high-profile drug-laced parties, as also Bihar-Maharashtra-Centre politics, the case has been unfolding like a soap opera. It is the drugs issue that has gained limelight of late, with celebrities like Deepika Padukone, Sara Ali Khan, Shradha Kapoor coming under the scanner. However, the investigations point to another demise: that of fair play in the quest for justice, as the probe agencies seem to succumb to the dictates of their political masters.

The murky developments reignite the need to stem the rot. The call for police reforms and making investigation agencies autonomous must get louder. It has also revived the voices favouring the decriminalising of the recreational use of non-synthetic intoxicants like cannabis, marijuana, *charas* and *bhang*. Notably, they were legally consumed in India, with a moderate use of hemp drugs attended by no evil results, until 1985 when the stringent NDPS Act was passed, banning all narcotic drugs. The reforms would be a fitting finale to a popular star's bowing out.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

There is no beauty without truth and there is no truth without transparency. — Carry Somers

ON THIS DAY...50 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

CHANDIGARH, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1970

Pundits At Play

THE Kerala elections and the Gurdaspur parliamentary by-election have come as so much grist to the mills of political pundits. The most common explanation for the rout of the CPM in Kerala is the magic of Mrs. Gandhi. It was all due to her personal invincibility, and the whirlwind tour with which she took Kerala by storm after her victory at Lusaka. But some of the shine is robbed from this theory by critics who point out that things might have been different for the Congress (R) if it had not made common cause with the CPI and the CPM was a godsend to the Congress (R). As for the Muslim League, Mrs. Gandhi has said that it is no longer a communal body. How could it be when it agrees with the ultra-secular and socialist policies of the Congress (R)? This was her reply to Ahmedabad journalists who asked her to elaborate on the possible implications of the alliance in Kerala. But she was quick to add that the League's role in other parts of the country left much to be desired. If the Muslim League elsewhere also would go to the rescue of the Congress (R) in the elections to come, it would gain respectability in the eyes of the Establishment. The old rule that a man is known by the company he keeps does not apply to political organisations, or only applies with strange qualifications. The League ceases to be communal in the company of Congress (R), but the Congress (O) becomes communal beyond redemption in the company of the Jan Sangh. Mr. Namboodiripad, who had all along been content with British system of elections, has suddenly become disillusioned with it. He wants to replace it with proportional representation. Every defeated party could say that if only there had been proportional representation with the single transferable vote, it would have won hands down, and therefore Mr. Namboodiripad is barking up the wrong tree.

Hubris as policy

Crony capitalists can't make the mandi's inefficiencies vanish



NOUS INDICA

RAJESH RAMACHANDRAN



HEADLINE MANAGEMENT: A government agency intends to question Deepika Padukone on the day of the Bharat Bandh against the farm Bills.

When a government stops conversing with the people, or feels it unnecessary to engage with them, it begins to unravel.

ROZA is a tiny railway station in a nondescript town by the same name in western Uttar Pradesh. Nearly two decades ago, an alert railway freight manager found that there was a huge flow of wheat from Roza to Khanna in Punjab. It just did not make any sense. Why would anyone carry wheat to Punjab? Well, the story, as I found out travelling to Roza, was very simple. There was hardly any procurement of wheat in UP those days; so, it was a business opportunity for middlemen to buy wheat dirt cheap from distressed farmers, book railway rakes and send them over to Punjab to sell it to the government at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and still make a hefty cut for all the officials and traders involved to remain happy. Not just traders and corrupt officials, but the miserable farmers of western UP too benefited from this violation of the APMC Act, and so did the railways. Such appalling, inefficient profligacy was not created by the market; instead, the market was only trying to make the most of this inefficiency, bypassing the rules.

All that the government had to do was to have set up a Food Corporation of India (FCI) procurement centre or a small mandi at Roza to help the farmers get the MSP, but in its absence the market devised its own means to create an alternative — but corrupt — mechanism. In the light of the new farm Bills, which are being tom-tommed as a panacea for all farm ills, I checked with Northern Railway to find out whether rakes of wheat still ply between Roza and Khanna. Apparently, this trade stopped long ago, when procurement began in

right earnest in UP. The FCI procured 35.77 lakh metric tonnes of wheat despite the Covid restrictions during the last Rabi season, which was considerably lower than the previous year. The market by itself cannot check corruption or the humungous wastage of public money — only governmental intervention can do that.

Thus the seamless transportation of farm goods, which one of the three new Bills envisages, was not required to ensure a fair price for harassed wheat farmers of western UP. In this case, the market was not offering a sustainable business model, but merely using public money, government procurement agencies and the government transporter for profiteering. And once the government began doing what it was always supposed to do, the business model of carrying coal to Newcastle collapsed. This could be one reason why farmers are still not convinced about the farm Bills.

Instead of ensuring greater transparency, modernisation and incremental digitisation of the agricultural economy, the government has made farmers anxious and apprehensive

about corporatisation of one of the most productive sectors of the Indian economy. Despite the Covid contraction of 23.9 per cent of the GDP during the April to June quarter — the worst in the world — caused by the Central Government's lockdown, agriculture was the only sector that grew, by 3.4 per cent over the last year's figures. Why would the government want to overhaul a sector that is bucking the general negative trend and growing well? Why isn't the government doing something similar for the manufacturing, construction, mining, hospitality, communication and transport sectors, which have no hope of immediate revival after having bottomed out?

Farmers, particularly landowners who may or may not till land, are middle class, politically aware, astute voters and opinion-makers. They have smelled a rat in the farm ordinances, which have been hurriedly and undemocratically enacted, bulldozing parliamentary customs and courtesies. They believe that this is an attempt to corporatise farming and thereby gradually dismantle the MSP regime and the available safety nets for the rural

economy. Sure, Madhya Pradesh has supplied more wheat to the central pool than Punjab this season and West Bengal is the top producer of rice in the country, but the agitation of farmers of Punjab and Haryana cannot be dismissed merely as a result of misinformation by the middlemen. It questions the intelligence and free will of the hardy people of a region that has suffered the worst and yet produced some of the greatest sons and daughters of India. The apprehensions of these people are genuine as they have already gone through the failed experiment of contract farming. About 15 years ago, I had travelled the Majha countryside to report on the farmers burning contracts that they claim were reneged by the corporates, including the multinationals.

The Central Government has, so far, not taken the farmers' agitation seriously, nor does it have any qualms about appropriating a state subject without an agreement with the stakeholders — state governments, Bharatiya Kisan Union leaders and agricultural economists. Instead, one of its agencies intends to question Deepika Padukone on the day of the Bharat Bandh against the farm Bills as if headline management on news TV channels is all that matters in this New India. People are in great distress after having lost 2.1 crore salaried jobs and this is no time to tinker with a smooth-running machine. If the arthiyas are racketeering, the officials are corrupt and the mandis are inefficient, the solution is not to open the entire sector to the vagaries of the market with no legal protection for MSP; the solution lies in cleansing the system that has been delivering for decades.

Even Parliament was treated like the government's extension counter in its tearing hurry to get the Bills passed, making farmers wonder whether it is all about favouring certain crony-capitalists, who would want to take over a profitable system that would be bankrolled with public money. When a government stops conversing with the people or feels it unnecessary to engage with them, it begins to unravel.

Need the inward gaze

SHELLEY WALIA

I SEE around me a wide-ranging lack of collective commitment and social responsibility which begs the question: Are we conscientious in our input or is it that for years we have ended up playing truant with our responsibilities and falling below the levels expected of us? How often do we have the confidence to say our work is of no consequence and our labour of no tangible value?

My sense of deep disquiet might recall moments of recognition of what we have been really up to. Our anxieties and our guilt, our sudden bursts of aggression and professional jealousies, our fear of exposure, recognition of our substandard research speaks of a disposition gone murky or

indifferent. The clerical work of meaningless rounds of meetings and constant pressures of answering mails and mindlessly correcting answer scripts results in abandoning serious reading and research lacking in originality. Perfidious with the task in hand, we while away our time manufacturing more disorder than order, more mediocrities than excellence.

Let me break the silence. I say silence because most of us refuse to talk of our inner selves; we are habituated to passing judgements on colleagues, but keep silent where our opinions are most needed. I have come across many who, apart from not writing anything of consequence, have never spoken in a meeting or intervened in a seminar. Going unprepared for a lecture or a meeting is integral to

our chicanery or artifice. Research papers often end up in bins or find a place in a second-rate journal. The motivation is not quality research but meeting the conditions for promotion. Indeed, not for a moment do we speak of the downside of our involvement. Is it that we are deceptive and ineffective in a profession that least deserves us?

These hidden secrets are never aired; they remain buried in our mind and never find a space for scrutiny. We might share these truths with an intimate friend but never bring the hidden anxieties out into a free and open discussion. So for once, I call a turn of the gaze inwards at our pedagogical concerns and the sanctity of our pursuit, may it be, in liberal arts, social sciences or medicine. For a moment, if we stop using our critical senses on pass-

ing comments on a prescribed text or on each other, and engage in an analysis of our professional seriousness or the quality of our work, it might awaken us to the game we are playing in the classroom or in the political field.

In short, how might we begin to understand our weaknesses and the lack of excellence of our professional practice? A conversation about our inner feelings is vital to any progress or the quality of input, an honest expression of our desire to change through a deeply critical introspection, with the broad aim of understanding the much-needed self-renovation. It is a process of liberating ourselves through a process of reflection in the midst of a struggle progressive enough to create a new social order.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What democracy!

Back-to-back articles speak volumes about the degradation of democracy in India. Dialogue is giving way to a monologue. Discussion is being replaced by dictatorship. The legislative and judiciary wings are being weakened by the executive. Electronic media appears to be sold out. Non-violent resistance is being suppressed. Democracy is being reduced to just holding elections and celebrating national days. Debate and dissent are no more symbolic of the vibrant democracy our nation was once proud of.

ANITA KATARIA, PATIALA

Jinnah best forgotten

Apropos of the Sept 20 Sunday Tribune piece on Jinnah; it is unfortunate to recall the most critical person in the history of undivided India. He ignited communal riots by delivering hateful speeches. Lakhs were killed. Those who could not leave Pakistan were trapped and forced to follow Islam. Jinnah might have cooperated with freedom fighters, but only to establish himself as the leader of Muslims. Our leaders could not recognise his intent early on. He was responsible for the massacre in 1947. He fed the Muslims with a poisonous ideology due to which both the countries

have suffered a lot since Partition. Let him remain buried in the dark history of undivided India.

RAVINDER KWATRA, SHAHABAD

Flouting rules

Referring to the news 'LS clears 3 Bills and RS clears 7 Bills'; a quorum must pass a Bill in both Houses, but it looks like the ruling party doesn't care about it. Debates, discussions and approvals comprise the process to implement a new Bill. Are we following the rule book? Why is it that due to political conspiracies, the common person suffers? If this continues, no one will even care to listen to the public and its opinion. Our democracy will be in danger.

SIMIRAN CHOUDHARY, GURUGRAM

Element of human error

Refer to 'Who watches the watchmen'; the umpire is also a human being and can commit a mistake, but when technology is present, and can be used, why not use it to give the decision? Is the TV umpire only to give a decision when asked for by the field umpires? These things have been going on in all sports. When human errors happen, it is the responsibility of the TV umpire to tell them and ask to change their

decision. Only then can there be transparency in sports.

VARUN KOHLI, JAMMU

Keeping farmers in dark

Refer to 'Support grows for Pb farmers'; why were the farmers not explained what decision the government was taking for them? If the administration claims that these Bills will benefit the agricultural base of our country, why were they not told how everything would work? Why did the action-packed Rajya Sabha proceedings go off-air for some time? Why were the cameras off and mics muted? Everything is questionable. Do the farmers not deserve an explanation?

GEETA THAKUR, SHIMLA

Safety measures

Apropos of 'CM: Violation of Covid protocols worrying' (Sept 23), we need Covid safety protocols and public awareness campaigns because we can see how masks are being treated as helmets by the people. People are not understanding the seriousness of the situation and are wearing a mask when they spot police personnel. Moreover, people have started ignoring social distancing norms and are prioritising their interests over safety. Rather than

just wait for the government to take steps, we should do our best to ensure our safety.

AYUSHI BISHT, DEHRADUN

Oppn misbehaving too

Apropos of 'Braven abuse of power' (Sept 23), a hawk-eye is being kept on the follies of the government, but the ruckus created by the Opposition in Parliament is being overlooked. Instead of protesting peacefully, they went on to threaten the presiding officer. Such a condemnable act is not part of Gandhi's philosophy to protest. The Opposition must realise that the onus lies not only on the government but also on the Opposition to maintain the dignity of Parliament.

HARSHITA SHARMA, SONEPAT

Develop ayurveda

The answer to every question and the solution to every problem lies in the wisdom of our forefathers, which we rarely utilise. The same is with healthcare. We call ayurveda non-science or semi-science, without weighing it on the scale of rationality, but it has the potential to make healthcare delivery system potent. Sufficient money for higher education and research should be poured into ayurveda too.

NARESH DALAL, JHAJJAR

Only govt can foot interest-on-interest bill



SUBIR ROY

SENIOR ECONOMIC ANALYST

UNTIL lately, the expression 'interest on interest' was used to describe how compound interest worked and was limited to the world of middle school arithmetic and investment advisers selling high-return products to prospective investors. But this began to change ever since the coronavirus-induced lockdown brought the economy to a standstill and led the government to declare a moratorium on loan repayments.

The expression became a part of popular discourse once a group of borrowers petitioned the Supreme Court to disallow what amounted to the levying of interest on interest and the court clearly appeared to be sympathetic to their plight. Through successive hearings, the court has been goading the government, banking regulator RBI and the Indian Banks' Association representing the banks to come up with a solution.

Right now, the court has scheduled a hearing for early next week and has, in effect, extended the moratorium till end-September when the government will be expected to come up with a well-considered position, taking into consideration the interests of all concerned. To finalise its stance, the government has appointed a committee headed by a former CAG to outline a plan and

spell out the consequences of waiving of interest and interest on interest on financial stability.

First, what is the issue at stake? The moratorium allowed deferment of repayment of EMIs (equated monthly instalments) which are made up of a principal and interest components. This means when the moratorium is lifted, repayment will have to be resumed, with the EMIs not paid getting added on to the total sum owed. Now there is no dispute over the principal component having to be repaid.

The issue is over the interest. Not only will the interest component of the deferred EMIs have to be paid, some more interest will logically get added on. This is the interest that will accrue on the deferred interest payments.

So, the borrower will not only pay regular scheduled interest but also the accrued interest on the interest payments deferred. It is this having to pay 'interest on interest' that the borrowers are objecting to and the courts are lending a sympathetic ear to.

In an earlier hearing, the court suggested quite openly to the banks: "Suppose you do not charge interest on interest for three months." It then referred to the recent history of bad debts that the banks had chalked up through defaulting large borrowers, by adding that contentious interest payments were being levied when "thousands of crores have been defaulted on NPA accounts."

Then, in a subsequent hearing, the court pointedly asked the government to not hide behind the RBI as its lawyers were trying to argue that it is the RBI which has willed it so, considering the position of the banks which are its direct responsi-



The RBI's counterparts — central banks of developed economies — have been buying up bonds issued by governments, corporates big and small, and even the local govts to make cash available to them to fight the global economic downturn. So, the RBI can do the same here. Many borrowers who have availed of the moratorium will definitely go bankrupt if a big repayment burden hits them.

GONE BUST: Avoiding the social consequences of extensive bankruptcies is essentially a political decision, as the lockdown was.

bility. "This is not the time to think about the business of banks only. The government must consider the sufferings of borrowers also." The government was the original sinner, so to speak, as all this was the result of 'your lockdown'.

The RBI is sympathetic to the plight of the banks because of the way banks run. They borrow money by accepting deposits on which they have to pay interest. From the deposits, they have to set aside statutory reserves and then lend the rest to the borrowers. Banks essentially live on the interest they earn from borrowers who are not repaying both the principal and interest because of the moratorium relief. It

has to be said in favour of the banks that whereas there is a moratorium on the interest they are supposed to receive, there is no moratorium on the interest that they have to pay the depositors.

If this situation persists, then the banks will go bust. They are already partly down that road as a result of the burden of the NPAs they have built up.

The foremost task of the RBI as the financial regulator is to look after the health of the financial sector and so, naturally, it cannot let the banks go to the dogs. Then, is it that the RBI has no weapon in its armoury to combat the present situation? Not quite. The RBI's coun-

terparts — central banks of developed economies — have been buying up bonds issued by governments, corporates big and small and even the local governments to make cash available to them to fight the global economic downturn.

So, the RBI can do the same here. Many borrowers who have availed themselves of the moratorium will definitely go bankrupt if a big repayment burden hits them post moratorium.

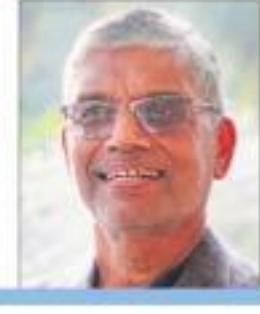
Avoiding the social consequences of extensive bankruptcies is essentially a political decision, as the lockdown was.

This brings us to the entity which has to be left holding the baby at the end of the day — the

government whose job it is to take political decisions. Most importantly, once the government decides to act along these lines, it can access the resources. It can borrow from the RBI. Doing this excessively will send the fiscal deficit for a six and that will prompt the rating agencies to downgrade the Government of India paper to non-investment grade. If this is a setback, then the alternative — an economic collapse — will be worse.

So, the short answer is that the government, through borrowing from the RBI, needs to reimburse banks for their interest loss owing to the courts frowning upon them charging interest on interest.

Kurien's Amul model for contract farming



ALOK SINHA

FORMER CHAIRMAN & MD, FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

In Amul's case, middlemen were effectively replaced by dairy producers through farmers' cooperatives. These cooperatives were layered up to the state level, where today the huge dairy infrastructure is totally owned by the state and district-level cooperatives, with dairy producers owning them via membership. The corporates do not, in any way, own the huge Gujarat dairy federation.

THE farm reform Bills have been witness to topsy-turvy politics. The Opposition's job is to oppose, even by U-turns. What was adopted in the 2019 Lok Sabha poll manifesto has now been cast aside by the Congress. The Akalis, privy to Cabinet discussions and decisions, made a U-turn too to suddenly find an 'anti-farmer' grain in the policies they were unprotestingly party to within the NDA government. But to get some clarity, let us try to address the questions posed by the Opposition.

The first fear raised is that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) system is being secretly and conspiratorially sabotaged. The government has now clarified that the MSP will continue, that the past six years have seen a rise of over 30% in the MSP of wheat and paddy, and that the farmer still has the continued facility of MSP, but with the choice of not having to sell only to commission agents in the mandi.

A second fear being expressed is that hereafter, with the farmers now allowed to sell outside the limits of the mandis, the corporate sector will move in sharply and swiftly to subjugate the hapless farmer.

The facts, however, are different. For example, basmati rice, being outside the purview of MSP, was exported to the tune of almost 45 lakh tonnes last year. This is done via open market competition by rice millers and exporters and no farmer



MASS APPEAL: Contract farming would lead to sustainable agri modernisation if the ownership were to be in the hands of farmers' cooperatives.

has complained of being exploited and short-changed by the private sector. Contrast this with wheat, mollycoddled by the protection of the MSP system, not being exported at all out of India.

Open competition of the market has given the farmer the best prices due to the export of basmati rice, or horticultural crops like mangoes, spices or tea, with no price complaints from the producer.

Before we look into the present

agitation, we must bear in mind that the middleman in Punjab not only collects 2% as commission rate, but his profits are also hiked each time the MSP goes up, without any additional services being given to the farmer. Similarly, the state government levies 8% mandi tax on MSP rates, hence, automatically raising its revenue whenever the MSP is hiked. In Punjab, the mandi taxes alone gave the state government almost Rs 3,500 crore from

wheat/paddy MSP last year.

The fear then is that if the farmers start selling outside the mandis and directly to the purchasers, the present hold of the commission agents gets reduced. This is a genuine fear. But while middlemen are agitating in the name of farmers, the government too is not entirely blameless. It has long been felt, and rightly so, that whenever retail prices shoot up, successive regimes have sought to soothe urban discontent by suddenly banning the export of sugar, onions etc. It never mattered that a rise in farmer incomes was thereby being arbitrarily curbed.

The second agricultural reform of 2020 has been to amend the Essential Commodities Act to authorise an export ban only if there was a 100% price rise of a horticultural crop or a 50% price rise of a non-perishable agri foodstuff like cereals, dal, sugar etc. But as soon as the Bill was drafted, onion exports were banned, even though its price rise was nowhere near the future Act's upper ceiling.

The government itself has overlooked the prospects of farmer incomes rising via onion exports.

The third agricultural reform is to facilitate contract farming. Here is where the feeling is genuine that thereby the corporate sector, by binding the willing farmers into a contractual relationship, will acquire a hold over the rural land by occupying it.

And this is where the Verghese

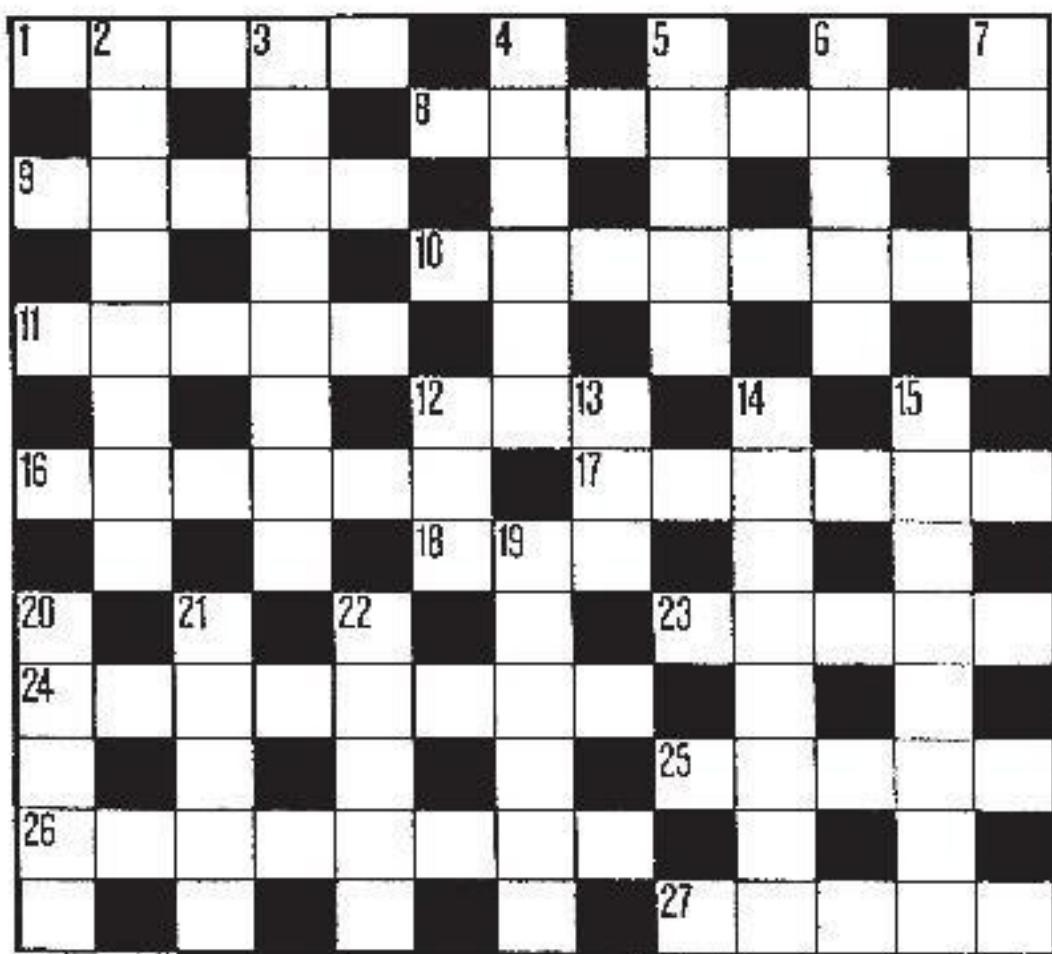
Kurien model of Gujarat's Amul is recalled for good effect. Middlemen were then effectively replaced by dairy producers themselves through farmers' cooperatives. These cooperatives were layered up to the state level, where today, the huge dairy infrastructure is totally owned by the state and district-level cooperatives, with dairy producers owning them via membership. The corporates do not, in any way, own the huge Gujarat dairy federation.

Contract farming would lead to sustainable agri modernisation in India if the ownership, leading to large economies of scale, were to be in the hands of farmers' cooperatives. This is a lesson to be learnt — and emulated — from the example of Amul.

About 90% of the farming produce is marketed outside the MSP system. The present agitation is led by only 10% of our farmland owners with a marketable surplus. Only a few states have spontaneously agitated.

But the government must ensure that its Rs 1 lakh crore agri infra plan is expeditiously implemented, that the Essential Commodities Act should be used for farmers' interests — and not by mindless export bans to cool down the noisy urban consumer — and that contract farming should be done with the farmer holding the reins. Only then would the three agricultural reforms of 2020 begin to look like the resounding successes they really ought to be.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Crossword: 1 Square deal, 6 Bloc, 10 Ghana, 11 In dispute, 12 Doctrine, 13 Ashen, 15 Running, 17 Shallow, 19 Godsend, 21 Freebie, 22 Recap, 24 Salutary, 27 On purpose, 28 Broke, 29 Step, 30 Play possum.

Down: 1 Sage, 2 Unadorned, 3 React, 4 Driving, 5 Address, 7 Laugh, 8 Clean sweep, 9 Escalate, 14 Gregarious, 16 Inexpert, 18 Laborious, 20 Despoil, 21 Falsey, 23 Copse, 25 Taboo, 26 Deem.

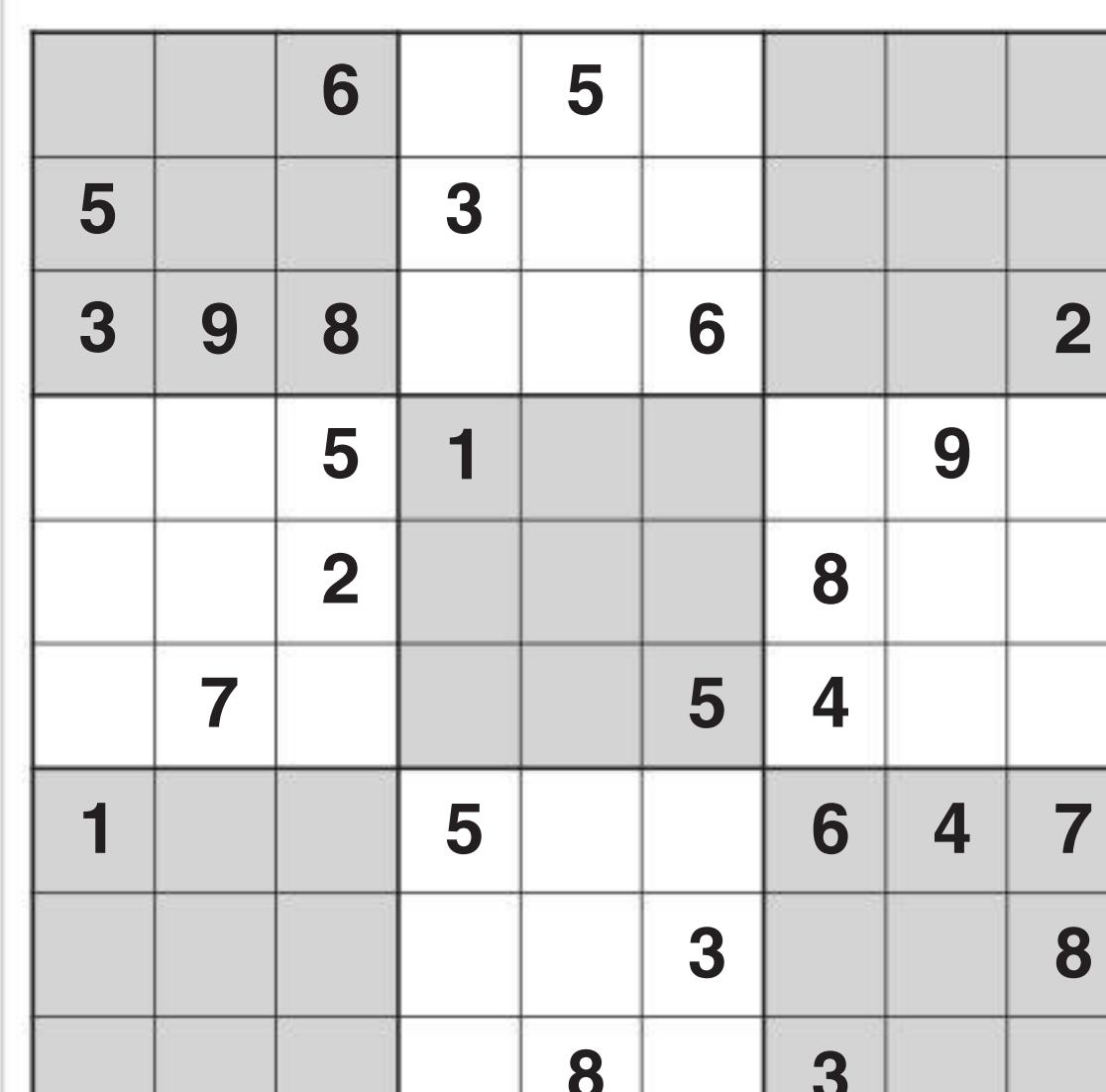
ACROSS

- 1 To climb (5)
- 8 Shared (2,6)
- 9 Heating apparatus (5)
- 10 Aggregate (3,5)
- 11 Capital of Bulgaria (5)
- 12 To stitch (3)
- 16 Charge with wrongdoing (6)
- 17 At sea (6)
- 18 Trite quotation (3)
- 23 Point in development (5)
- 24 Most importantly (5,3)
- 25 Disparage (5)
- 26 Associate harmoniously (3,5)
- 27 Diversionary attack (5)

DOWN

- 2 Count for nothing (3,2,3)
- 3 Go on a spree (4,2,2)
- 4 Persuade (6)
- 5 Spoils (5)
- 6 Friendship (5)
- 7 Mound (5)
- 12 Prescribed (3)
- 13 Joker (3)
- 14 Mentally alert (3,5)
- 15 Parasitic follower (6-2)
- 19 Ill (6)
- 20 To estimate (5)
- 21 Personal strong point (5)
- 22 Answer (5)

SU DO KU



V. HARD

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 25, 2020, FRIDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Ashwin Shaka	3
■ Ashwin Parvishtha	10
■ Hijari	1442
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 9, up to 6.44 pm	
■ Shobhana Yoga up to 8.37 pm	
■ Purvashadha Nakshatra up to 6.31 pm	
■ Moon enters Capricorn sign 12.42 am	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: FRIDAY 18:15 HRS
SUNRISE: SATURDAY 06:13 HRS

Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Rainy	Foggy

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	36	24
New Delhi	38	26
Amritsar	37	24
Bathinda	38	26
Jalandhar	37	24
Ludhiana	37	24
Bhiwani	36	26
Hisar	38	27
Sirsia	38	26
Dharamsala	27	17
Manali	24	10
Shimla	25	16
Srinagar	29	09
Jammu	37	24
Kargil	19	07
Leh	24</	

12 Covid deaths, 292 cases in state

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE



STATE TRACKER		
Samples tested	275,754	
Recovered	9,173	
Active cases	3,849	
Positive cases	13,191	
Deaths	144	
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Una	1,669	10
Solan	2,726	23
Kangra	1,958	37
Chamba	771	8
Hamirpur	844	6
Sirmaur	1,665	9
Mandi	1,499	20
Bilaspur	698	1
Shimla	1,026	24
Kullu	537	5
Kinnaur	167	1
Lahaul & Spiti	131	-
Total	13,191	144

Man succumbs in Sirmour

Twenty-seven cases were detected on Thursday in Sirmour district.

A 55-year-old man from Paonta Sahib died at the dedicated Covid care centre at Sarahan Thursday evening after suffering a cardiac arrest.

HP JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG
NOTICE FOR e-QUOTATION

The Member Secretary, DWSM-cum-Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Shimla invites notice for quotation on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh for the following work through e-tendering process:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Last date of filing/uploading the tender through e-tendering up to
1.	Designing, Manufacturing, Testing and Providing of MULTI-PARAMETER WATER QUALITY FIELD TEST KITS and BACTERIOLOGICAL/H2S VIALS under Water Quality Component of Jal Jeevan Mission for the year 2020-21.	07.10.2020 up to 11 A.M.

The bid forms and other detailed can be obtained from website <http://htptenders.gov.in>
Member Secretary,
DWSM-cum-Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Shimla.
DPR/HP/3305 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

**GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE,
CHHAINSA**
Corrigendum Notice

No. GMCC/2020/01 Dated: 23.09.2020

The advertisement published on 19.09.2020 for tender information of (1) Providing the Outsourcing of Manpower and Sanitation Services (2) Outsourcing of Security Services as described in scope of work at Government Medical College, Chhainsa, Faridabad through e-tendering on web portal etenders.hry.nic.in, may be read with the following changes:

Description of work/ items	EMD to be bid by Bidder	Tender Document fee + E-Service Fee (Rs.)	Start Date & Time of Bid Preparation & Submission	Expiry Date & Time of Bid Submission	Opening of Technical Bid
Outsourcing of Manpower and Sanitation Services as described in scope of work	Rs. 32,00,000/-	Rs. 5000 + 2000	24.09.2020 9:00 A.M.	05.10.2020 11:00 A.M.	05.10.2020 03:00 P.M.
Outsourcing of Security Services as described in scope of work	Rs. 7,00,000/-	Rs. 5000 + 2000	24.09.2020 09:00 A.M.	05.10.2020 11:00 A.M.	05.10.2020 03:00 P.M.

1. Details regarding eligibility criteria, Turnover and other terms and conditions can be seen and downloaded from the sites etenders.hry.nic.in and www.dmerharyana.org.
Sd/- Director General,
Medical Education & Research,
Haryana, Panchkula.
PRD/82963

**Department of Information Technology
Chandigarh Administration
Public Notice**

Department of Information Technology Chandigarh Administration invites applications from reputed Chartered Accountant Firms/Individuals to perform the following work in the Financial Year 2020-21 w.e.f. 01.10.2020 to 31.03.2021, which may be extended on satisfactory performance to be evaluated on year to year basis for a maximum period of three years up to 31.03.2023 on same terms and conditions i.e. Rates etc.

Sr. No.	Return Type	Details of the Return	Fee/Charges (GST Extra)
1.	Filing of TDS Return	TDS Return Filing Charges: (24Q, 26Q) PAN verification Charges: Challan Verification Charges: Uploading Charges: Record Digitalization Charges:	Rs. -/- (Per Return) Rs. -/- (Per PAN) Rs. -/- (Per Challan) Rs. -/- (Per Challan) Rs. -/- (Per Entry)
2.	Filing of GST Return	GST Return Filing Charges: (GSTR-1, GSTR-3B & GSTR-7) Record Digitalization Charges: Challan Verification Charges:	Rs. -/- (Per Return) Rs. -/- (Per Entry) Rs. -/- (Per Challan)
3.	Consultation (if Applicable)	Consultation Charges as and when required Liasioning with other departments	Rs. -/- (Per Matter)
4.	Form 16/16A Generation	Once in a year (As per Rule)	Rs. -/- (for 12 months)

Important:
* Last date to send application is 28th September 2020 at 11:00 A.M. at the address mentioned below.

* All the prospective Chartered Accountant Firms/Individuals are requested to check the department Website for any updates related to the schedule or issue of any corrigendum.

Department of Information Technology
Chandigarh Administration 5th Floor,
Additional Deluxe Building Sector 9-D, Chandigarh
Telephone No. 0172-2740641, 274005,
<http://chdit.gov.in>

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA
NAME OF BOARD/CORP./ AUTH.
NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER

1 PT. B.D. SHARMA UHS ROHTAK LONG TERM E-TENDER NOTICE NO.UHSR/GEN/2020/01 DT. 21.09.2020 RATE CONTRACT FOR FABRICATION OF OMR BASED ANSWER BOOKS AND PRE & POST EXAMINATION WORK- EXAMINATION BRANCH, UHS, ROHTAK, PREBID MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 30.09.2020 AT 11:00 AM IN THE O/O CONTROLLER OF EXAMINATIONS, UHS, ROHTAK.

2 PT. B.D. SHARMA PGMS ROHTAK LONG TERM E-TENDER NOTICE NO.UHSR/PURCHASE/2020/12 DT. 25.09.2020 REGARDING RATE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF MEDICINE FOR COVID-19 PATIENTS, PREBID MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 05.10.2020 AT 11:00 AM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, DIRECTOR OFFICE, PGMS ROHTAK.

3 PT. B.D. SHARMA PGMS ROHTAK SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE NO.UHSR/PURCHASE/2020/13 DT. 25.09.2020 REGARDING PURCHASE OF CONSUMABLE/AVARIOUS ITEMS FOR USE IN PGMS/HSU ROHTAK.

4 GMDA, GURUGRAM PROVIDING AND LAYING OF RECYCLE PIPE LINE FROM SPR TO VILLAGE SAKATPUR IN SECTOR-79A, GURUGRAM "PROVIDING AND LAYING OF 300MM ID / 600MM DI D.P.E. PIPE INCLUDING SPECIALS, PROV. & FIXING OF SLICE VALVE, AIR VALVE AND CONSTRUCTION OF CHAMBER FOR SLICE / AIR VALVE AND THRUST BLOCK ETC. AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO. (INCLUDING 3 YEARS DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD); (PRE-RC-RE-CALL)"

5 HSIIDC LTD., U.V. GURUGRAM DESIGN, MANUFACTURE, SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING 220/13 KV TRANSFORMER BAY EXTENSION AND AUGMENTATION OF 132 KV BAY IN 220/132/33 KV OUTDOOR SUBSTATION AT IMT-BAWAL, HARYANA ON TURNKEY BASIS.

Suicide: DDU Hospital medical supdt shifted

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

'Ready to face inquiry'

If the administration feels that I am at fault, I am ready to face any inquiry.

Dr Lokender Sharma, FORMER MS

the administration on several occasions, but nothing had been done," said Sharma.

"If the administration feels that I am at fault, I am ready to face any inquiry," he said, blaming the administration and the police for the lack of support on the night of the suicide.

Meanwhile, the Himachal Medical Officers Association (HMOA) has questioned the government's approach and preparation to handle the pandemic. Alleging that the government has not constituted even an expert technical committee comprising eminent doctors and professors to master its working. And here we are hoping that people with just two days' training will handle the ventilators," he said.

"We are taking care of patients with limited resources. The staff crunch has become critical with the rise in the number of patients. We had informed

against the pandemic, HMOA secretary Pushpendra Verma asked why there were no cameras inside the wards to monitor the patients from a distance.

"The mortality rate among health workers is way higher. Even young doctors are dying because of the heavy viral load," said Verma, stressing the need to have cameras and saving health workers from frequent and prolonged exposure from the virus.

Verma also sounded alarm bells over the lack of trained staff.

"It's good that we have more than 500 ventilators, but where are the people who can operate these. It takes years for anaesthetists to master its working. And here we are hoping that people with just two days' training will handle the ventilators," he said.



Congress workers hold a protest against the state government in Shimla on Thursday. PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

Action in case of negligence: CM

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA SEPTEMBER 24

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur today said the government had sought a report on the suicide by a woman Covid patient in a city hospital and in case there was negligence, action would be taken against the guilty.

"If it is confirmed that negligence resulted in the woman committing suicide, action will be taken against those

responsible," he said while talking to mediapersons.

Thakur said the fact was that Covid patients also face a lot of psychological stress and social stigma, which makes it even tougher for them.

"I want to assure everyone that the government is committed to providing best possible treatment and care to everyone and there can be no compromise on it," he said.

He said though all Covid patients would be taken

care of, those having co-morbidities need to be given extra care and attention.

On critical remarks by Congress leader Rajiv Shukla that arrangements for Covid patients are poor, Thakur said he arrived here today only and probably is not aware of the situation. "It would have been better had he come here and seen things for himself rather than indulging in criticism without knowing the facts," he said.

Illegal mining: 4 tractors impounded

UNA, SEPTEMBER 24

Acting against illegal mining in Una Sub Division, SDM

Dr Suresh Jaswal last night impounded four tractors involved in illegal mining. He led raids in Swan river and its tributaries in Jankaur, Nangran and Fateh-

pur panchayats besides Santoshgarh Nagar panchayat.

The SDM has issued instructions to mining lease holders to restrict their activities within the leased area and avoid use of heavy machinery for excavating sand and gravel from the riv-

er beds. He said illegal mining would not be tolerated at any cost.

Most of the tractor drivers involved in illegal mining remove registration number plates of the vehicles while indulging in the illegal act. Illegal and unscientific min-

ing using heavy machinery has been adversely affecting the ground water aquifer and also damaging roads as vehicles carry extra loads to minimise paying royalty on mining material to the government, which is charged per trip. — OC

Dhadhar Nagar कैम्सल, मानसा

Email: ecommansa@gmail.com

मित्री: 23.9.2020

नगर कैम्सल, मानसा दो हरूद अंदर कैम्सल सर्वजनिक नगर है। जेकर कैम्सल मेल भरने वाले द्वारा दहराया गया है तो उन नगर कैम्सल, दहराया गया है। जेकर कैम्सल मेल भरने वाले द्वारा दहराया गया है। जेकर कैम्सल मेल भरने वाले द्वारा दहराया गया है।

सरी/- कारनमायक अधिकारी, नगर कैम्सल, मानसा

DPR/Pb/81242

BRIEFLY

BALLYMENA (NORTHERN IRELAND)

Sharma opens with 2-over,

Bhullar 5-over at Irish Open

Indian golfer Shubhankar

Sharma shot a 2-over 72 in

Round 1 of the Irish Open here

today. Gaganjeet Bhullar, play-

ing his first event in more than

six months, shot a 5-over.

Dean Burmester flew to the

top of the leaderboard, follow-

ing a 5-under 65.

GENEVA

Tvesa shoots even-par in

Round 2, makes cut

Tvesa Malik recovered from her

first round card of a 2-over 74

to shoot an even-par 72 and

make the cut at the Lavaux

Ladies Open here today. Tvesa,

who finished tied-10th at the

Lacoste Open de France last

week, moved up from tied-38th

to tied-31st after Round 2 of

the 54-hole event. Pia Babnik

shot a 9-under to get to 12-

under and lead by five shots.

PARIS

Ankita bows out of

French Open qualifiers

Ankita Raina could not go past

the second round at the

French Open qualifiers, suffer-

ing a 3-6-2 defeat against

Japan's Kurumi Nara in one

hour and 21 minutes. Ankita's

defeat means that no Indian

will compete in the singles

main draw of the Grand Slam.

Rohan Bopanna and Divij Shar-

wan will compete in the men's

doubles with their respective

partners. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

IPL
CHENNAI VS DELHI
STAR SPORTS 7:30PMTENNIS
HAMBURG OPEN
SONY SIX 3PM

PUNJAB STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION, CHANDIGARH NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS

Sealed quotations are invited for purchase of 50 pieces of Bird/Monkey scarers Gun/Agri-Gun running on Calcium Carbide delivery at Patiala. The Sealed quotations with rate in Rs per Gun including freight will be received in the office of Managing Director PSWC, SCO 74-75, Sector 17-B, Chandigarh on or before 08.10.2020.

Managing Director,
PSWC, Chandigarh

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Sealed item rates tender is hereby invited on Form No. IPH 6 & 8 by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dharmsala on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors/Firms enlisted in the appropriate class with HP IPH Department for the following work through offline tendering process, so as to reach in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dharmsala on or before 09.10.2020 up to 11.00 A.M. The tenders will be opened on the same day at 11.30 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors/firms or their authorized representatives, who may wish to be present at the time of opening the tenders. The application(s) for issue of tender(s) form(s) shall be received on or before 08.10.2020 up to 3.00 P.M. and form/sets shall be issued on 08.10.2020 from 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. against cash payment (Non-refundable). The rates in tender form(s) will be filled in words and figures, otherwise, the tender will be rejected. The earnest money in the shape of FDR/ National Saving Certificate duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dharmsala. Conditional tender or tender(s) received without earnest money will be similarly rejected. The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dharmsala reserves right to reject the tender(s) without assigning any reason. The option of the tender will be kept opened for 120 days.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Cost of Tender Form	Remarks
1	A/R & M/O to various building under IPH (Mech.) Sub-Division Dharmsala Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:-Repair of door, Window shutter and miscellaneous works in IPH residential quarter no J-1 to K-5 near Gurukul SSS Dharmsala.	166417/-	3330/-	Three Months	250/-	
2	Providing root zone treatment facilities to area in accessible to existing main trunk sewerage line at various locations in M.C. Dharmsala (SH:- Restoration of path damaged during laying of sewer line for house to house connectivity in ward No. 9 from Smt. Saroj Guleria house to parking of Guleria Mohalla from RD 0-120 m & RD 0-68m)	212504/-	4250/-	Three Months	250/-	
3	Providing root zone treatment facilities to area in accessible to existing main trunk sewerage line at various locations in M.C. Dharmsala (SH:- C/O protection wall to protect approach road of STP at Bhagsu from RD 0-10 mtr.)	458613/-	9170/-	Three Months	250/-	

Terms and Conditions:-

- The application(s) for issue of tender(s) shall be received on or before 08.10.2020 up to 3.00 P.M. and form(s) shall be issued on 08.10.2020 from 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. against cash payment (Non-refundable).
- The earnest money in the shape of FDR/National Saving Certificate duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dharmsala/Certificate for exemption of earnest money.
- Conditional tender or tender(s) received without earnest money will be summarily rejected.
- The contractor must give the copy of enlistment/renewal and photocopy of individual PAN No./GST No./EPF No. with the application at the time of applying the tender(s) documents or must be attached with his tender form.
- The tender form(s) will be issued to only those contractors who are found eligible/suitable and competent.
- The Security, Income Tax, G.S.T., education cess and labour cess etc. shall be deducted according to instructions of the Govt. time to time.
- If holiday falls on the date of opening the tender(s), the same will be opened on next working day at 11.30 A.M.

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division,
Dharmsala.

e-mail: judaceo@gmail.com

DIP/J-1769-P

DPR/HP/3281

DPR/HP

States can use 50% of SDRF to fight Covid

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 24
The Centre today issued a formal order allowing the states to spend up to 50 per cent money from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to boost infrastructure such as quarantine facilities, testing labs, oxygen generation plants and purchase of ventilators and PPE kits in their bid to effectively tackle Covid-19.

The Ministry of Home Affairs issued the order after PM Narendra Modi told the CMs of the seven worst-affected states on Wednesday that his government had increased the states' limit to spend the SDRF to boost infrastructure to fight the pandemic.

Communicating the order to the chief secretaries of all states and UTs, the MHA said it had partially modified the list of items and norms of assistance for containment measures of Covid-19, eligible from SDRF by way of special one-time dispensation with the overall capping of 50 per cent for financial year 2020-21. —TNS

SAARC needs to deal with terrorism, says Jaishankar

Pakistan raises Kashmir issue at foreign ministers' meeting

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 24
India-Pakistan dynamics continued to overshadow regional forums as Islamabad raised the Kashmir issue during a 27-country meeting of foreign ministers, while New Delhi spoke about impediments in regional cooperation without naming Pakistan at a meeting of SAARC Foreign Ministers.

Pakistan refrained from raising bilateral issues at the SAARC Foreign Ministers' meeting chaired by Nepal. But it raised the Kashmir issue at another regional meeting of foreign ministers held on Thursday under the CICA format.

Pakistan and some of its fellow travellers, principally Turkey and Malaysia, have chosen to be irredentist over



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar virtually participates in a special ministerial meeting of foreign ministers. PTI

Kashmir at several multilateral forums even though convention strictly bars them from raising bilateral issues.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar sought to turn the tables by listing the three key challenges that have inhibited SAARC from achieving a

fraction of its potential — cross-border terrorism, blocking connectivity and obstructing trade. Though Jaishankar did not mention Pakistan, it is universally acknowledged that Pakistan army has been discouraging connectivity and trade, while encouraging

border terrorism.

"Only then we will see enduring peace, prosperity and security in our South Asia region," he said.

For most of the conference, individual ministers spent most of their allotted time in stressing on the need for a regional approach to stop the spread of Covid and highlighting their country's efforts in this direction.

While SAARC saw countries eschewing bilateral agendas, another virtual meeting of foreign ministers saw Pakistan raking up the Kashmir issue with India excusing its right to reply to rebut its claims and charges.

The two countries were participating in the 27-member Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

India, China 'committed' to disengaging at LAC

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 24

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) today said the issuance of a joint press release after the latest meeting of Indian and Chinese military commanders reflected the "commitment of both sides to disengage along the LAC".

This was the first joint press release after any senior commanders' meeting, said MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava. The meeting was critical to ensuring stability on the ground, he said. It was decided not to increase troops on the border or unilaterally change the status quo. These steps were essential in view of the past two instances of extreme aggression that led to shots being fired on the LAC.

It is unusual for the Foreign Office to comment on the meeting of senior military commanders although the last round of talks was not a purely military affair and included representation from the MEA.



THE WAY AHEAD: MEA

- Both sides must refrain from making any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo along the LAC
- They must continue discussions to achieve complete disengagement

representation from the MEA.

Srivastava hoped the way ahead would be to refrain from making any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo, while the two sides continue their discussions to achieve complete disengagement. He said the two sides have decided to hold the next meeting of the senior commanders at the earliest, besides a meeting of the inter-ministerial MEA-led working mechanism on consultation and coordination.

BHIMA-KOREGAON CASE
SC refuses to entertain bail plea of activist Sudha

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 24
The SC on Thursday refused to entertain the interim bail plea of activist Sudha Bharadwaj, who has been arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in the Elgar Parishad-Koregaon Bhima case.

Advocate Vrinda Grover, who represented Bharadwaj, chose to withdraw her plea after a Bench headed by Justice UU Lalit made it clear that it would dismiss the plea seeking interim bail on medical grounds.

"Either you withdraw it or we will dismiss it," the Bench told Grover even as it said the accused could seek regular bail. "You have a good case on merits. Why don't you file a regular bail application?"

Bharadwaj (58) had earlier moved the Bombay HC, seeking bail, saying she suffered from diabetes and hypertension. —TNS

FROM PAGE 1

Flexi exams in Haryana

a student-centric system. "There have been changes in the examination system from time to time. Now, the pandemic has created situations necessitating innovations. Methods have to be evolved so that students do not suffer," said Prof Kuthiala, the brains behind the flexi mode of exams. He said to begin with

universities can adopt this system for postgraduate courses by trying it for the December semester. Also, students can be made to clear their backlog through this mode of examination. "In 4 years, we could adopt a flexi mode so that a 4-semester course could be completed in 3 semesters by bright students," he said.

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.
Copyright © The Tribune Trust. All rights reserved.
Telephones: 0172-2655066-72
Circulation: 0172-2670419, Advertisement: 0172-2670256, 257
Editor: Rajesh Ramachandran*
*Editor for purpose of PRB Act, 1867

Capt counters...

to national and international markets through digital technology without tinkering with the existing MSP system".

Capt Amarinder noted there was a difference between tweaking the APMC Act for the better and destroying the tested APMC system to benefit a few corporate cronies. Even the Congress' manifesto stated the MSP would be protected and thousands of mandis set up, he added. He accused another Union Minister of lying in Parliament while claiming that Punjab, as a member of the committee on agricultural reforms, had been taken on board "when the fact is that the committee not once made a mention of the proposed new laws"

Farmers' bandh...

consumers with little recourse to justice," Singh claimed. Tomar maintained that the legislations would change the lives of the farmers for the better. "Kamal Nath (former Madhya Pradesh CM) is on record saying that the Essential Commodities Act has achieved its purpose. The government has done what the Congress promised in Punjab and in its 2019 Lok Sabha manifesto, he told mediapersons at the BJP headquarters here.

"Those questioning why MSP has not been included in the legislations ruled the country for 50 years and yet did not make a law on it. Why did you (Congress-led UPA) not make a rule on the MSP?" Tomar asked. —TNS

A former editor of Britain's Sunday Times and, at his death, Reuters editor-at-large, Evans put a unique stamp on investigative journalism. One of his most famous investigations exposed the plight of hundreds of British thalidomide children, who had never received any compensation for their birth defects.

"All I tried to do — all I hoped to do — was to shed a little light," Evans said in an interview with the Independent in 2014. "And if

that light grew weeds, we'd have to try and pull them up."

After 14 years at the Sunday Times, Evans became Editor of the Times of London shortly after media mogul Rupert Murdoch purchased the paper in 1981. Evans left a year later in a dispute with Murdoch over editorial independence.

A few years later, Evans moved to the US with Brown, the journalist and editor to whom he was married for nearly 40 years. He continued his career as an author, publisher and university lecturer. He penned several books, including "The American Century" and its sequel "They Made America". —Reuters

One of his famous investigations exposed the plight of hundreds of British thalidomide children, who had never received any compensation for birth defects



Behind Thalidomide exposé

- A former editor of Britain's Sunday Times and, at his death, Reuters editor-at-large, Evans put a unique stamp on investigative journalism
- One of his famous investigations exposed the plight of hundreds of British thalidomide children, who had never received any compensation for birth defects

on the drug companies responsible for manufacturing the drug, an effort that eventually won compensation for the families after more than a decade.

"All I tried to do — all I hoped to do — was to shed a little light," Evans said in an interview with the Independent in 2014. "And if

the

Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Dharampur Bharari 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:-

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Time of completion	Last date of submission of tender	Last date of tender from Divisional office
1	LWSS Bid Bantlo Phase 2nd in Tehsil Dharampur District Mandi HP (SH- C/O RCC sump well 100000 litres capacity) (Re-tender)	489047/-	9790/-	Three months	09.10.2020 up to 11:00 AM and opened on same day at 11:30 AM	08.10.2020 up to 3:00 PM
2	LWSS Kandappat to Sajaoipi in Tehsil Dharampur District Mandi HP (SH- Providing & fixing electrical accessories)	141365/-	2830/-	One month		
3	LWSS Kandappat to Sajaoipi in Tehsil Dharampur District Mandi HP (SH- Providing and fixing of armoured single core copper cable of 70 mm²)	137700/-	2760/-	One month		
4	C/O LIS Kothuwani Dhalara and its adjoining Village in Tehsil Sandhole District Mandi (HP) (SH- Laying, jointing and testing of GMS tube (Light Class) of 80 mm dia from Kothuwani to Bahn from RD 0 to 1700 Rmt)	229269/-	4590/-	Three months		
5	C/O LIS Kothuwani Dhalara and its adjoining Village in Tehsil Sandhole District Mandi (HP) (SH- Laying, jointing and testing of GMS tube (Light Class) of 80 mm dia from Kothuwani to Bahn from RD 0 to 1700 Rmt)	234552/-	4700/-	Three months		

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

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Dharampur Bharari

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAST OPPORTUNITY FOR VEHICLE OWNERS



Vehicle details not reflecting on VAHAN

Apply online at www.punjabtransport.org

Last Date to apply: 15th Oct, 2020.

Note: Vehicle not reflecting in VAHAN may lead to issues related to insurance, pollution clearance and challaning.

State Transport Commissioner, Punjab.



POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

TENDER NOTICE-2020-21/9

ALLOTMENT OF SHOPS/SITES

Sealed tenders are invited for licensing out following Shops/sites at PGII, Sector 12, Chandigarh.

Sr. No.	Shops/sites	Last date for downloading of tender forms from PGII Website	Last date and time for submission of tenders and opening of Tender document/ Technical Bid	Price Bid shall be opened on
1	Built up Shop No. 17, New Shopping Complex, PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh.	19.10.2020 (Monday) up to 04.00 P.M.	20.10.2020 (Tuesday) up to 01.00 P.M., and Technical Bid shall be opened at 02.00 P.M.	21.10.2020 (Wednesday) Price Bid at 04.00 P.M.
2	Built up Shop No. 21, New Shopping Complex, PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh.	19.10.2020 (Monday) up to 04.00 P.M.	20.10.2020 (Tuesday) up to 01.00 P.M., and Technical Bid shall be opened at 02.00 P.M.	21.10.2020 (Wednesday) Price Bid at 04.00 P.M.
3	Built up Shop No. 22, New Shopping Complex, PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh.	19.10.2020 (Monday) up to 04.00 P.M.	20.10.2020 (Tuesday) up to 01.00 P.M., and Technical Bid shall be opened at 02.00 P.M.	21.10.2020 (Wednesday) Price Bid at 04.00 P.M.
4	Built up Shop No. 24, New Shopping Complex, PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh.	19.10.2020 (Monday) up to 04.00 P.M.	20.10.2020 (Tuesday) up to 01.00 P.M., and Technical Bid shall be opened at 02.00 P.M.	21.10.2020 (Wednesday) Price Bid at 04.00 P.M.
5	Built up Shop No. 25, New Shopping Complex, PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh.	19.10.2020 (Monday) up to 04.00 P.M.	20.10.2020 (Tuesday) up to 01.00 P.M., and Technical Bid shall be opened at 02.00 P.M.	21.10.2020 (Wednesday) Price Bid at 04.00 P.M.
6	Built up Shop No. 29, New Shopping Complex, PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh.	19.10.2020 (Monday) up to 04.00 P.M.	20.10.2020 (Tuesday) up to 01.00 P.M., and Technical Bid shall be opened at 02.00 P.M.	21.10.2020 (Wednesday) Price Bid at 04.00 P.M.

Tender form containing terms and conditions can be downloaded from PGII website and same can be submitted personally in the office of Administrative Officer (Estate), PGIMER, Chandigarh along with Demand Draft/Banker Cheque of Rs. 500/- payable at Chandigarh or any reagent or any of the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever without prior notice to the tenders. Website: <http://pgimer.edu.in>

DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

TENDER NOTICE



Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP.AUTH.	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) in Rupees	WEBSITE OF THE