

The Sunday Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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UK PM SOUGHT TO 'TONE DOWN' BULLYING REPORT WORLD

STRAY AT HOME: PARIAH DOGS START FINDING ACCEPTANCE SPECTRUM

AIADMK POLL ALLIANCE WITH BJP STAYS BACK PAGE

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020



Soldier dead in Pak LoC firing

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 21

A soldier was today killed in unprovoked firing by Pakistan on forward posts and villages in two sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The casualty comes barely a week after multiple ceasefire violations by Pakistani troops along the LoC in north Kashmir left 11 persons, including five security personnel, dead on November 13.

Havildar Patil Sangram Shivaji, who was manning a forward post, was critically injured in the Lam area of Rajouri district's Nowshera sector at 1 am, the officials said, adding he succumbed to his injuries later. Another soldier was hurt. —PTI



SECURITY AN EXCUSE TO IMPEDE DEMOCRACY: FAROOQ

■ A strange and unique feature has come to the fore (amid DDC polls). Candidates put up by the Gupkar alliance are whisked away to 'secure locations' in the name of security and confined there. They are not allowed to canvass and are completely out of touch with those from whom they are supposed to seek votes. GUPKAR ALLIANCE CHIEF REPORT INSIDE

PMLA case: ED raids in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

The Enforcement Directorate today said it had conducted searches at seven locations in the Kashmir valley in connection with its probe into money laundering linked to alleged suspicious transactions in J&K Bank.

According to officials in the agency, the probe agency covered seven locations — six in Srinagar and one in Anantnag district. The searches were conducted under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they added. INSIDE

IN BRIEF



Comedian Bharti held in drug case

MUMBAI: The Narcotics Control Bureau on Saturday arrested comedian Bharti Singh following seizure of cannabis from her house here. The NCB carried out search as part of its probe into alleged drug use in the film industry. BACK PAGE

Man killed, 5 hurt in Tripura police firing

AGARTALA: A man was killed and 5 others injured on Saturday when the police fired on a mob, which went berserk while protesting the government's decision to rehabilitate tribal refugees in northern Tripura. IANS

Books by 3 Indians among year's best

NEW YORK: Books by three Indian writers have featured among this year's '100 Notable Books' list of *The New York Times*. The authors are Megha Majumdar, Deepa Anapara and Samanth Subramanian. INSIDE

Pb farmers to lift blockade for 15 days

Back on tracks if issue not resolved: Unions | Will resume services: Railways

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE & PTI

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 21
Punjab farmers protesting against the Centre's recent farm laws have decided to allow passenger trains to run for 15 days, beginning Monday evening. The farmers' unions warned that they would again block the tracks if the government failed to address their concerns.

Hours later, the Railways said it would resume goods and passenger train services in Punjab following the state government's communication that the tracks were clear for operations. Sources indicated that the services would resume from Tuesday.

Thirty farm unions met here on Saturday morning and later called on Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh.

"We have given 15 days to the BJP-led Union Government to initiate talks with us on the three controversial farm laws, failing which we will resume our agitation on the Railways property," warned Balbir Singh Rajewal, BKU-Rajewal chief.



Meanwhile, the unions will continue to protest outside the residences of BJP leaders and toll plazas and businesses owned by certain corporate houses.

Train services in Punjab were suspended on September 24 when the farmers launched "Rail Roko". While the farmers in October allowed the movement of goods trains in Punjab, the

Railway Board refused to resume services until the Railways property was cleared of all protesters. Sources said the Kirti Kisan Union refused to shift the protest from the Railways property, arguing that this would make the farmers appear weak. Hence, it kept away from the meeting with the CM where issues such as subsidy on stubble management machines, withdrawal of FIRs for farm fires, releasing dues of cane growers and hiking the state advised price to Rs 360 per quintal were raised.

A report from Amritsar said the Majha-based Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee too had decided to continue the agitation, arguing that any dialogue with the Centre was pointless. In his appeal earlier, the CM had urged the farmers to let the train services resume as the blockade had so far caused a loss of Rs 40,000 crore to the state. Pointing to the shortage of coal, fertilisers and other essential commodities, he had said a large number of units had closed down in Ludhiana and Jalandhar due to scarcity of raw material.

NO ROAD MAP, TALKS ARE POINTLESS

■ The state govt has failed to rein in liquor, sand and land mafia. This has hurt Punjab's growth. It is wrong to relate the state's falling economy with our cause. The Centre and Punjab Govt have no road map to resolve our issues. Holding talks is pointless. SS Pardher, KISAN MAZDOOR SANGHARSH COMMITTEE

DISCORDANT NOTE: TWO UNIONS DISAGREE

■ Kirti Kisan Union distances itself from decision by 29 unions

■ Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee to continue 'rail roko'

CM HAILS FARMERS' DECISION

I welcome this step since it will restore normalcy to our economy. I urge the Central Govt to resume rail services to Punjab forthwith. Capt Amarinder Singh, CM



Desist from aiding terror, Pak envoy told

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

India on Saturday summoned the Charge d'Affaires of the Pakistan High Commission and lodged a protest with him over attempts by Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed to carry out attacks in J&K ahead of local elections there.

Referring to the Nagrota incident, the MEA said the huge cache of arms and explosive material indicated detailed planning for a "major attack to destabilise peace and security" in J&K and to derail the District Development Council polls.

"The MEA demanded that Pakistan desists from its policy of supporting terrorists and terror groups operating from its territory and dismantle the terror infrastructure operated by terrorist outfits to launch attacks in other countries," a statement read. Four suspected JeM terrorists, who were hiding in a truck, were killed by security forces in Nagrota on Thursday morning. —PTI

2 HAFIZ AIDES JAILED

Lahore: A Pakistani court has jailed two aides of Mumbai attack mastermind and JuD chief Hafiz Saeed in a terror financing case. The Anti-Terrorism Court of Lahore handed down six and five-and-a-half years of imprisonment to JuD leaders Muhammad Ashraf and Lucman Shah, respectively. PTI



ISOLATE 'ROGUE' NATIONS

Vice-President M Venkiah Naidu has called upon the world community to come together to isolate nations that sponsor terrorism and impose sanctions against them.

Observing that no country was safe from terrorism, he said the days of platitudes were over and it was time for concrete action.

Pvt hospitals fleeced patients: House panel

ADITI TANDON

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SAYS NEED A STRATEGY AGAINST BIO WEAPONS

- Govt must create a mechanism to check black marketing of vaccine
- Develop a strategy against biological weapons
- Address the "abysmally low" public spending on health
- Cap the price of oxygen cylinders & ensure availability
- Increase testing by reliable RT-PCR technique
- Create Indian Health Service; make available testing facilities in villages



People wait for a bus to the railway station after a 60-hour curfew in Ahmedabad on Saturday. PTI

Cumulative positivity rate falls

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

India on Saturday crossed the milestone of 13 crore Covid-19 tests with the national infection positivity rate dropping below 7 per cent. Sustained daily tests of one million (10,66,022 samples were tested in the past 24 hours) took the total tests to 13,06,57,808 today. The last one crore tests were done in 10 days.

This is a huge leap from July considering India had tested only one crore samples as of July 7. "An average of more

private hospitals hefty overcharging patients. In the report titled "The Outbreak of Pandemic Covid-19 and its Management", the panel has said the Centre must address the "abysmally low" public spending on health and raise it from the current nearly 1 per cent of the GDP to 2.5 per cent in two years. The spending on health research should

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

COVID-19 CASES INDIA

RECOVERED 84,78,124
COUNT 90,50,597
TOTAL 5,80,90,337

FRESH FATALITIES 564
TOTAL DEATHS 1,32,26

WORLD

TOTAL 4,02,56,633

RECOVERED 4,02,56,633

DEATHS 13,80,759

INDIAN-US SCIENTIST IDENTIFIES POSSIBLE CURE

IN MUSSOORIE, 57 IAS PROBATIONERS TEST +VE

than 10 lakh tests daily has ensured that cumulative positivity rate is sustained at low levels and is presently following a downward trajectory. The cumulative positivity rate stands at 6.93 per cent. The daily positivity rate yesterday was 4.34 per cent. Higher volumes of testing eventually led to a low positivity rate," said the Health Ministry.

The WHO advice to countries is 140 tests per day per million people until national positivity rates fall below 5 pc. —TNS

In an oblique reference to Pakistan, India told the UN that Afghanistan could succeed only when terrorism no longer flowed across the Durand Line. India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations TS Tirumurti said: "For durable peace, we have to put an end to terrorist safe havens and sanctuaries operating across the Durand Line. It is important to ensure that those who shelter terrorists must be held accountable," he said, without naming any country. —Agencies

BLASTS RIP KABUL
India blames terror flow from across Durand Line

KABUL, NOVEMBER 21

About 23 mortar shells hit different parts of the Afghan capital on Saturday, killing at least eight persons and wounding 31. The Taliban denied any role. The mortar barrage came as representatives of the Afghan Government and the Taliban continued to hold talks in Qatar.

In an oblique reference to Pakistan, India told the UN that Afghanistan could succeed only when terrorism no longer flowed across the Durand Line. India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations TS Tirumurti said: "For durable peace, we have to put an end to terrorist safe havens and sanctuaries operating across the Durand Line. It is important to ensure that those who shelter terrorists must be held accountable," he said, without naming any country. —Agencies



A policeman in Kabul stands guard after rockets hit residential areas.

TIME TO ACT AGAINST TERROR CAMPS

■ It is time the Security Council speaks unequivocally against violence and acts against terrorist sanctuaries

TS Tirumurti, INDIAN REP AT UNITED NATIONS

IN BRIEF



Comedian Bharti held in drug case

MUMBAI: The Narcotics Control Bureau on Saturday arrested comedian Bharti Singh following seizure of cannabis from her house here. The NCB carried out search as part of its probe into alleged drug use in the film industry. BACK PAGE

100 deaths in 35 days, Hisar dist Haryana's new hotspot

DEEPENDER DESWAL

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, NOVEMBER 21

Hisar witnessed 100 deaths due to Covid-19 in the last 35 days, indicating a higher mortality rate as compared to state's worst-affected districts of Faridabad and Gurugram.

The first Covid death was reported in Hisar on June 11. The number of casualties touched 100 on October 16. Since then there has been a sharp upswing with the toll touching 200 on Friday.

The total number of deaths is higher in Faridabad (290) and Gurugram (256), the considered. But in the last 35 days, Hisar witnessed 100 deaths, Gurugram 66 and Faridabad 52.

Hisar also saw a high number



WORSE THAN FARIDABAD

TOLL AS ON	HISAR	GURUGRAM	FARIDABAD
OCT 16	100	190	238
NOV 20	200	256	290
PAST 35 DAYS	100	66	52

of cases in the last about one month. With a total of 14,342 cases as on November 20, the district stands third in the state after Gurugram (42,632) and Faridabad (35,613). It was previously at number 9 with 7,950 cases as on October 16.

A Civil Hospital official claims that a number of ventilators are lying defunct in the hospital. "The doctors and paramedics are finding it difficult to manage Covid wards. Patients often complain of negligence on part of the staff," the official said. Priyanka Soni, DC, however, claimed that there was no shortage of ventilators and other facilities.

2nd Covid wave inevitable: Capt

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 21

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Saturday offered all possible help to Delhi in managing its spiralling Covid-19 cases, even as he warned that the second wave striking Punjab was an almost certain eventuality.

"Delhi is fighting a tough battle, and we are there to help if needed," he said, while assuring all possible measures by his government to prepare for the second wave in Punjab. He warned that experience of the NCR and other states showed the second wave was an almost certain eventuality.

Captain Amarinder expressed confidence that the Health Department would once again rise to the occasion to meet any challenge.

Cases rising, Lahaul admin bars outsiders beyond Atal Tunnel

4 state farmers arrested in Haryana for urea purchase

All-India Kisan Sabha seeks Capt's intervention to get them freed

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MANDI AHMEDGARH, NOV 21

Wheat cultivators, who brave chill and fog to bring fertiliser from Haryana, are being booked in the neighbouring state under Section 3 of the Fertilizer (Movement Control) Act, 1973 and Section 7 of The Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

At least four farmers of the Malwa belt, including two from Ludhiana district, were arrested and their tractor-trailers carrying 840 bags of urea fertiliser confiscated by the Sadar police in Jind, Haryana, on Saturday.

Farmers are being forced to bring fertiliser from neighbouring states due to the halt of goods trains amid the



840 BAGS SEIZED

- The Jind police seize tractor-trailers carrying 840 bags of fertiliser
- Farmer union asks why only peasants have been booked and dealers spared
- The stoppage of goods trains has forced farmers to buy fertiliser from neighbouring states as the sowing of wheat has begun

protest of farmer unions against the three new laws that farmers term draconian.

Terming the action of the Haryana agriculture officials and cops vindictive, farmer unions have urged Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh to come to the rescue of peas-

ants. Baldev Latala, leader of the All-India Kisan Sabha, said agriculture officials of Haryana, led by SDO Baljeet Singh, had got an FIR registered against four Malwa farmers, who purchased urea from different dealers in Jind. He said a delegation of the

All-India Kisan Sabha would soon meet the Punjab CM. It's high-handedness as Haryana officials got a case registered only against buyers and the dealers were spared, he said. "What can a cultivator do if he doesn't get nutrients for his crops?" he asked.

The FIR, a copy of which is with *The Tribune*, shows that Jarnail Singh of Gujjarwala village and Paramvir Singh of Toosi village in Ludhiana district, Kuldeep Singh of Padi Parecha and Jitender of Chhajli village had been booked for carrying 840 bags of various brands of urea fertiliser in their respective trolleys, which were intercepted by Haryana agriculture officials, led by SDO Baljeet Singh.

No urea from NFL, Bathinda farmers lay siege to highway

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, NOVEMBER 21

Scores of farmers from different villages today protested and laid siege to the Bathinda-Amritsar highway near National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), Bathinda, after allegedly not getting urea needed for the sowing of wheat.

Raising slogans against the NFL and the Union and state governments, irate farmers said despite the fact that fertiliser-manufacturing factories were in the district, they were not able to get urea for the sowing. A large number of farmers resorted to protest and even blocked the national highway after they failed to get the urea at the NFL.

Bhartiya Kisan Union block president Amrik Singh Sivian said: "We need urea for the sowing of wheat. The state government must ensure that farmers get the required quantity of urea on time, otherwise we will be forced to intensify our protest. Amrik Singh Sivian, BKU BLOCK PRESIDENT



National Fertilizers Limited in Bathinda. FILE PHOTO

'WILL INTENSIFY STIR IF SUPPLY NOT ENSURED'

“We need urea for the sowing of wheat. The state government must ensure that farmers get the required quantity of urea on time, otherwise we will be forced to intensify our protest. Amrik Singh Sivian, BKU BLOCK PRESIDENT

must ensure that farmers get the required quantity of urea on time otherwise we will be forced to intensify our stir in the coming days.”

NFL public relations officer Mayank Sharma said: “Though freight services' suspension has affected the

supply of raw material availability, the urea production has largely been unaffected. We are trying to provide urea to farmers as per their requirement. As soon as the train services resume, the supply of urea will be streamlined.”

Take steps to ensure supply, AAP urges CM

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 21
AAP MLA from Kotkapura and state kisan wing president Kultar Singh Sandhwan today wrote to Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, urging him to take immediate steps to ensure a hassle-free supply of urea to farmers so as to enable them to take up sowing of wheat on time.

In his letter, Sandhwan stated that the farmers were facing an acute shortage of urea due to the suspension of freight trains, leading to delay in the sowing of wheat.

Sandhwan said he had visited a number of villages and found how farmers were facing hardship in getting the adequate urea supply, adding that they were being subjected to wait for days to get the fertiliser, while at times they had to return empty-handed.

He said farmers required about 8 to 9 lakh tonnes of urea but the supply had gone down by 35 per cent. —TNS

Pistol stolen from Abohar gun house

ABO HAR, NOVEMBER 21

Two miscreants today walked into a gun house at Gandhi Chowk here and decamped with a pistol made by the Indian Ordnance Factory.

Sethi Gun House owner Vicky Sethi told the police the two masked men entered his shop in the afternoon and showed interest in buying a rifle. The owner inadvertently placed a revolver deposited recently by a licensee on the counter.

After the miscreants left the shop without purchasing a weapon, Sethi realised they had allegedly taken away the pistol. He informed the police and a team reached the spot. They procured CCTV footage of the vicinity to identify the suspects. —OC



A pole moved close to trees along the telephone exchange road.

PARVESH SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, NOVEMBER 21

The attempt of the PWD (B & R) to get shifted electricity poles from the local telephone exchange road to its sides through the PSPCL has angered area residents as they fear more trees will be axed or pruned to adjust the electricity wires.

On a petition of residents, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed that no tree should be axed without justification. Following this, the PWD and PSPCL postponed the work last evening. Residents have been demanding construction of a pedestrian path to save the trees.

"Our telephone exchange road has low traffic so its width is enough. We have submitted a request for a pedestrian path

DON'T FELL TREES, SAYS GREEN BODY

- Fearing shifting of power poles further away on roadsides will result in axing/pruning of trees, residents move NGT
- The tribunal says no tree should be felled unnecessarily. Officials halt plan, saying no tree will be cut

construction as another parallel club road has such a path. But officials are not allowing us to live in peace," said Harbinder Singh Sekhon, 88.

"The NGT has directed the Forest Department to ensure that no felling of trees takes place without justification. On this road, when we already have the required width for traffic, why PWD

officers are adamant to shift poles by endangering full-grown trees?" asked Sekhon.

SE Vipin Bansal rubbishing the allegations, maintaining that only poles were to be shifted to the roadside. "We have stopped the work amid residents' opposition. We will take care of the NGT order and no tree will be axed," he added.

PSPCL Executive Engineer Varinder Deepak said the PWD had paid all expenses, around Rs 31 lakh, to the PSPCL for the work. "We did not get any information about the NGT order from the PWD. After residents sent me the NGT order last evening, I brought it to the notice of the PWD SE and he asked us to stop the work. The PSPCL has no role as we are only assisting the PWD," he added.



CM Capt Amarinder Singh during a meeting with representatives of various farmer organisations in Chandigarh on Saturday. PTI

Won't allow CBI to enter state: Capt

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 21

Citing "poor" track record of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the Bargari case, which it had closed "without any investigation", Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday reiterated his government wouldn't allow the agency to enter the state without permission.

Pointing out that eight states, including Punjab, had withdrawn general consent to the CBI, the CM said the agency was being increasingly used to play politics, and a fair probe could not be ensured through it.

Dismissing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as a non-entity in Punjab's political arena, Capt told a TV channel that the BJP was welcome to contest all 117 Vidhan Sabha seats in the state. He said the party would not be able to win even a single seat without an alliance partner. The Congress had, in fact, no challenge in the state, with even the Akalis and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) posing no threat, he said, adding that neither of these parties had ever talked about anything positive in the interest of the state.

With elections in the state still around 18 months away, it is not possible to say which issue will dominate the elec-

BJP CAN'T WIN ONE SEAT SANS ALLIANCE

- Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday said the BJP couldn't win even a single seat without an alliance partner
- He lashed out at the SAD and AAP for "not talking anything positive" in the state's interest
- He said corporates were welcome to buy foodgrain, but under current system

tions, said Capt while expressing the hope that the BJP would resolve the farmers' grievances soon. "Farmers want the MSP to remain and the Central Government should take steps to ensure that. The adamant stand being taken by both the Centre and the farmers, prolonging the agitation, is affecting supplies to the frontline soldiers while damaging Punjab's interests. The agitation is the democratic and constitutional right of the farmers, which the Centre has evidently realised, apparent from their decision to call kisan unions for talks," the CM said.

He reiterated that corporates were welcome to buy foodgrains in Punjab as long as they follow the existing marketing system, built on close ties between farmers and arthiyas.

SGPC awaits MEA nod for pilgrimage to Pakistan

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, NOVEMBER 21
Even though the Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has allowed the pilgrims to attend the 551st birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev in Pakistan, the official nod is still awaited by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and organisers.

The jatha is scheduled to cross the Attari-Wagah border on November 27 to grace the five-day celebrations scheduled at Janam Asthan, Sri Nankana Sahib. The occasion will be marked on November 30 and the jatha will return on December 1. Around 1,500 applications were received by different organisations, out of which 500 were endorsed by the SGPC to the MEA for furnishing the visa.

Darshan Singh, PA to the

135 AAP block heads take oath

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 21
The state unit of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) expanded its organisational structure by appointing new office-bearers here today.

Party's state president Bhagwant Mann, and in-charge of Punjab affairs and MLA Jarnail Singh appointed 135 block presidents in 17 districts, who took oath here today. With this, 460 block presidents have been appointed in 22 districts.

Mann said the party had taken a step towards perfecting the ground-level infrastructure in the state. Jarnail said the new appointments had been made after marathon consultations with workers at the grassroots level. He said with this, the party had sounded a clarion call for the 2022 Assembly elections.



Members of the Bhartiya Kisan Union (Kadian) at Bholath in Kapurthala on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Tribune News Service

SANGRUR, NOVEMBER 21

The Bhartiya Kisan Union (Ugrahan) led protest against the Central farm laws in front of the residence of BJP leader Satwant Singh Punia at Gurdaspur village entered Day 41 today. Besides the ongoing protest, farmers are gearing up for the march towards New Delhi on November 26 and 27.

Allege Centre behind fertiliser shortage

"Our preparations are in full swing for the protest in the national capital. We are getting a good response across the state. The Central Government cannot stop us from reaching Delhi," said Gobinder Singh, Sangrur block president, BKU (Ugrahan).

Protesters alleged that the Central Government had been creating problems for them by delaying the supply of urea and nothing could stop them to reach Delhi to highlight their plight.

"The Central laws will kill farming as private companies would purchase our crops at lower rates. But we will not allow it to happen," said Sarup Chand, another leader of BKU (Ugrahan).

Differently-abled keep farmers going

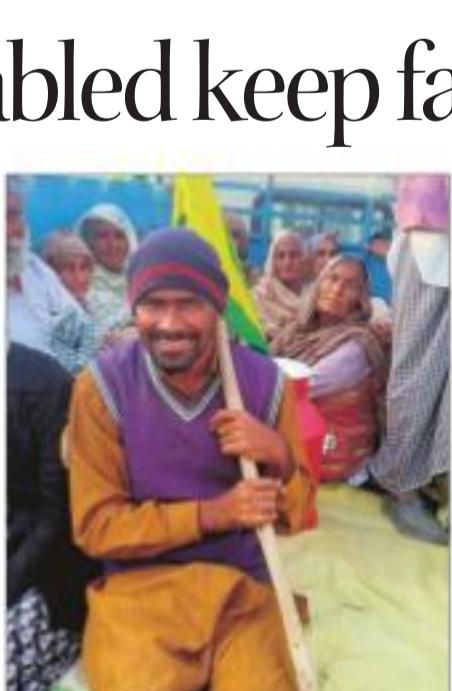
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, NOVEMBER 21

A sizable number of differently-abled persons in Bathinda have been making a significant contribution to the farmers' agitation against the farm laws which entered Day 52 on Saturday. Not only they have been participating in the stir resolutely, but also serving refreshments to protesters continuously to keep their spirits high.

Differently-abled Sarbha and speech impaired Sema from Maluka village can be seen serving milk to farmers sitting on a dharna at the Jeeda toll plaza on the Bathinda-Amritsar highway.

Similarly, differently-abled Gursharan Singh from Ghurelli village and Gurtej Singh also ensure that protesters at the Legra Bega toll plaza on the Bathinda-Chandigarh national highway



Differently abled persons have kept protesters' morale high for the past two months.

are served "cha and langar" continuously.

Sarbha, who also sings songs to uplift the spirits of farmers, says: "I believe that it's a just fight of farmers against the Central agriculture laws. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder firmly with the farmers. I sing to keep them motivated and entertained."

Jagshir Singh Jhumba, a BKU (Ugrahan) leader, said: "Defying all odds, differently-abled persons have made a significant contribution to the stir from Day 1 and serving as a great source of inspiration for protesting farmers."

"People from all walks of life, including artists, activists, poets, litterateurs, renowned personalities and even children, have been lifting our spirits," added Jhumba.

Covid, 'rail roko' sound death knell for Batala's foundries

Famed units suffer ₹300-crore loss after suspension of freight train services

RAVI DHALIWAL

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURDASPUR, NOVEMBER 21
During the period extending from the 1960s to the early 1990s, chimneys of Batala's once famed industrial units spewed riches following which opulence and prosperity were all pervasive.

In 2020, the same businesses are living on borrowed time and the men controlling them have slid into depression. These industrialists, who once led a luxurious life, are now seeking solace in prayers.

"If things do not improve in the future, many businessmen will be on footpath. Some are even on the verge



of developing mental health disorders," says Dr Satnam Singh Nijjar, who is regularly in touch with industrialists as Chairman of the Gurdaspur Planning Board.

Not long ago there were nearly 1,000 foundry units

RAW MATERIAL COST UP

“Before Covid, pig iron cost us ₹32,000 a tonne. Now, we get the same for ₹38,000. Even other raw materials are being sold at a premium.

VM Goel, FOUNDRIES BODY GEN SECY

<< A Batala-based factory which has fallen on bad days.

and the non-availability of basic raw material — pig iron — following the 'rail roko' stir.

The FEP meant that a factory could be set up anywhere in the country and the transportation of goods was subsidised by the Union Govern-

ment. It proved to be a catalyst in the speedy growth of the industry. However, its abolition virtually rendered the units unviable as the cost price of products, sans subsidy, increased substantially.

Post Covid, the migration of thousands of labourers meant units remained shut. Now, the suspension of trains is acting as the final nail in the coffin for these businesses.

HC permits NIOS diploma holders to take ETT exam

TRENT NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 21

The Punjab and Haryana High Court (HC) has permitted candidates carrying diploma in elementary education from the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) to take written test for the post of ETT teachers scheduled to be held on November 29.

Justice Sudhir Mittal made it clear that the directions were subject to the final outcome of the writ petition.

Justice Mittal was hearing a petition filed by Jalandhar Singh and 26 other candidates through counsel Kapil Kakkar and Shreesh Kakkar. Justice Mittal observed that the petitioners' grievance was that their applications for appointment as ETT teachers was not being considered even though their qualification was recognised by the National Council for Teacher Education.

They had obtained diploma in elementary education from the National Institute of Open Schooling, which was recognised under Section 14 of the NCETE Act. As such, the petitioners were entitled to be considered and had the right to appear for the written examination.

Balwinder's kin threaten to return bravery awards

Wife questions murder probe, condemns district police for providing inadequate security cover

GURBAXPURI

TARN TANER, NOVEMBER 21

Raising a question mark over the police probe into the killing of Shaurya Chakra awardee Balwinder Singh, wife Jagdish Kaur today threatened to return all four bravery awards received by the family to the President on December 12 if their demands were not met.

Balwinder and three other family members were given the bravery awards for fighting militancy.

Balwinder was shot by two assailants at his residence at Bhikhawind, 35 km from here, on October 16.

Addressing a press conference at her residence,



Jagdish Kaur along with her family members addresses a press conference in Bhikhawind.

PROBE NOT TRANSPARENT

How can the SIT probe be transparent when no one from the family has been made part of the investigation? Jagdish Kaur, BALWINDER SINGH'S WIFE

WAS KILLED ON OCT 16

Balwinder was shot by two assailants at his residence at Bhikhawind, 35 km from Tarn Taran, on October 16

Jagdish condemned the attitude of the district police over the family's demand for providing them with adequate security cover.

While the family had demanded paramilitary cover, they had been provided with a handful of security men for protection. One of them was even found under the influence of alcohol while on duty, she alleged.

She questioned the police claim of a transparent probe, saying they were hesitant to disclose the motive behind the murder. She said the suspects, including mastermind Sukhmeet Pal Singh, alias Sukh Bhikhariwal, and shooters Sukhdeep Singh Bhura and Gurjot Singh

Bhaa, were still at large.

"How can the SIT probe be transparent when no one from the family has been made part of the investigation?" she said.

She claimed that the district police were reluctant to issue weapon licences to the family for self-defence despite an assurance in this regard by Ferozepur DIG Hardial Singh Mann.

DIG Mann, however, claimed the investigation was transparent and that efforts were on to arrest Bhikhawind and the two shooters. He said a weapon licence for Jagdish Kaur's elder son had been approved and that SSP Dhruwan H Nimble had been asked to meet the family and redress their grievances.

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Govt starving varsities of funds: BJP

BIG INSULT TO FACULTY

It is a big insult to the teaching community if they cannot even make their both ends meet in the face of acute financial crisis.

Subhash Sharma, STATE BJP GEN SECY

university with adequate funds for staff salaries.

He regretted the university was reeling under Rs 150 crore debt and the state

government had done nothing to bail it out. The fate of Panjab University, Chandigarh, and Punjab Technical University, Jalandhar, was also in jeopardy as the state government had starved them of funds.

"Crores of rupees earmarked for the PTU have been diverted and spent on other state government heads, playing havoc with the education structure of the university," he said. — TNS

Moga epidemiologist gets termination notice over fake Covid reports

KULWINDER SANDHU

TRENT NEWS SERVICE

The Tribune IMPACT



GRAFT ALLEGATIONS

The CMO said the mission director of the National Health Mission, Punjab, had issued the notice following an inquiry over allegations of corruption in Covid testing

test done. Subsequently, after getting Covid test report declaring her negative, she returned to Hong Kong.

On August 20, *The Tribune* in its report highlighted the allegations of corruption in Covid testing in the District Hospital, Moga, with reports of many NRIs having been paid Rs 3,500 through "agents" to get negative reports.

Om Parkash, a local, in an affidavit filed before the District Magistrate, alleged that Balwinder Kaur from Hong Kong had paid Rs 2,000 to a local doctor in July to get a Covid-negative report. She again had to pay Rs 3,500 to the health authorities after she missed her flight.

After the health authorities failed to give her the test report on time, she went to Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and Hospital in Faridkot to get the test done. Subsequently, all 48 persons got their tests done from different places.

In an affidavit, Charanjit Singh, a resident of Dehrka in Ludhiana, said nine NRIs had paid Rs 31,500 to an agent to get the negative reports.

Acting on the news report, Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu asked senior officials of the Health Department to inquire into the allegations and take action. The department's probe found the allegations true.

CM okays Pbi varsity VC's resignation

TRENT NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, NOVEMBER 21

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has recommended acceptance of Punjabi University Vice Chancellor (VC) Dr BS Ghuman's resignation. This comes three days after the VC submitted his resignation to the Governor's office.

Raveen Thukral, media advisor to the CM, confirmed the development, saying, "The resignation has been accepted by the government. The recommendations for appointing an officiating or a regular VC will be decided upon after getting a formal approval from the Governor's office."

Dr Ghuman is said to have visited the university campus in the evening. Officials said he went to his official residence



SAD leader Prem Singh Chandumajra and Punjabi University teachers hold a candle march in Patiala on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: RAJESH SACHAR

where he was met by senior administrative officials of the university. Dr Ghuman did not respond to calls for comment.

On the other hand, the Opposition parties have slammed the state government over the university's

poor financial condition.

Shiromani Akali Dal's senior vice-president Prem Singh Chandumajra, during a candle march in Patiala on Saturday, said it was highly imperative for the state government to take action to pull the universi-

ty out of financial slump. Academics and students participated in the march. Chandumajra said, "The university's functioning has come to a standstill as the government has failed to provide any financial assistance."

While reviewing Covid preparedness, she directed all administrative secretaries to visit respective districts assigned to them for monitoring Covid response efforts and to review preparedness in case of a second wave of infections, including contact tracing and patient tracking, protocols for referral, strengthening of Level-3 facilities and also ramping up Covid testing across the state.

Mahajan said all the officials concerned had been directed to ensure that minimum 15 contacts of each

positive patient must be identified and tested as per the Covid-19 guidelines. The departments concerned should be ready to tackle the possible second wave of the pandemic, said the Chief Secretary, adding that it was also the responsibility of the people to actively participate in the fight against Covid.

Meanwhile, cases continue to surge even on Saturday as the state reported 719 cases and 23 deaths in the last 24 hours. As per media bulletin released on Thursday, with fresh cases the total number of cases has reached 1,45,667 and the number of deaths reached 4,595. The number of active cases has reached 6,561.

HC orders probe into non-preparation of victim's MLR by hospitals

SAURABH MALIK

TRENT NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 21

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ordered a probe into the non-preparation of a victim's medico-legal report (MLR) by three civil hospitals in the state even though judicial orders make it mandatory.

Justice Arvind Singh Sangwan also ordered Punjab Director-General Health Services to furnish his affidavit after carrying out the inquiry by the next date of hearing in February third week.

Justice Sangwan asserted the Supreme Court and the HC had held that the attending doctor was required to record an MLR as and when a medico-legal case was reported in the hospital. But the mandatory provision had apparently not been followed.

"Accordingly, the Director-General Health Services, Punjab, is directed to file an affidavit after conducting an inquiry in this regard as to why the MLR was not conducted by either of the three hospitals, where the victim was taken," Justice Sangwan said.

The case has its genesis in a regular bail plea filed by Manpreet Bhangar against the state of Punjab. His counsel submitted that the victim, as per the



Says mandatory provision apparently not been followed

allegations in the FIR, was first taken to the Banga Civil Hospital. After first aid, he was referred to the Phagwara Civil Hospital before being taken to the Jalandhar Civil Hospital.

The counsel submitted that none of the doctors attending the victim in all three hospitals conducted medico-legal examination. The offence of attempt to murder under Section 307 of the IPC was added only on the basis of an opinion by Dr Jaskaran Singh of Banga Civil Hospital. The counsel added the establishment of the petitioner's guilt would be a debatable issue in the absence of an MLR.

Justice Sangwan directed the petitioner's release on interim bail till the next date of hearing only subject to certain conditions after considering the fact that he was in judicial custody since June 12 and challan stood presented.

Woman who alleged rape by Bains gets cover

LUDHIANA, NOVEMBER 21

The police today provided security to the woman who had accused Lok Insaaf Party MLA Simarjeet Singh of rape. A police-woman and a gunman were deputed as part of her security. The woman staged a dharna at the Police Commissioner's office over alleged dilly dally by the police in registering a rape case against the MLA.

"I am staging the protest as the police seem to be in no mood to register a case against the MLA. I have given evidence to the police against Bains, yet I am being made to shuttle between offices," she said. — TNS

While reviewing Covid preparedness, she directed all administrative secretaries to visit respective districts assigned to them for monitoring Covid response efforts and to review preparedness in case of a second wave of infections, including contact tracing and patient tracking, protocols for referral, strengthening of Level-3 facilities and also ramping up Covid testing across the state.

Mahajan said all the officials concerned had been directed to ensure that minimum 15 contacts of each

said the state had fully achieved the target of testing TB patients for Covid-19, but it lagged behind in testing Covid-19 patients for TB.

The department is facing difficulty in collecting samples from Covid patients for TB screening as a majority of the patients are reluctant to go through the test and express

their unwillingness to get the test done. Health teams have been given the responsibility to collect the samples of Covid positive patients for TB. Earlier same problem was faced in collecting samples of TB patients as they avoided going to hospitals for giving samples and later samples were collected when patients came to

the hospital for follow up of their TB treatment.

"Only 50 per cent of the Covid patients have been tested so far for TB. Many TB patients are taking treatment from private hospitals and it is where it becomes little difficult to keep the things going," said Dr Bhaskar.

He said there were nearly 40,000 TB patients in the state and those who tested positive for TB was one per cent and till now nearly 10 TB patients had lost their lives after testing Covid positive.



COVID DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Ludhiana	21,946	880
Jalandhar	16,828	528
Amritsar	12,598	477
Patiala	13,968	411
SAS Nagar	14,335	263

Covid testing across the state.

Mahajan said all the officials concerned had been directed to ensure that minimum 15 contacts of each

positive patient must be identified and tested as per the Covid-19 guidelines.

The departments concerned should be ready to tackle the possible second wave of the pandemic, said the Chief Secretary, adding that it was also the responsibility of the people to actively participate in the fight against Covid.

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2 Waqf Board officers caught taking bribe

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 21
The State Vigilance Bureau (SVB), Haryana, has caught Alokpanth, Estate Officer, and Naseer, Rent Collector, of Waqf Board, Rohtak, red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000.

A bureau spokesman said that Harish Kumar, a resident of Meham, submitted a complaint to the Vigilance Bureau that he had applied for taking a 220 sq yard plot on rent under the Waqf Board.

Initially, these officials demanded bribe of Rs 1.6 lakh but after negotiation, the deal was struck for Rs 50,000.

On receiving the complaint, a criminal case was registered. The team of Vigilance Bureau carried out a raid and caught accused Naseer and Alokpanth red-handed in the presence of Duty Magistrate Suresh Chander, Naib Tehsildar, Rohtak. Both the accused were produced in court. —TNS

Sealing notices to 500 building owners over ₹20-crore tax dues

RAVINDER SAINI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, NOVEMBER 21
The Municipal Corporation Rohtak has served sealing notices to owners of 500 buildings for not paying property tax despite repeated requests. They have been asked to deposit the tax before November 24 or face action.

The authorities have also written to the Deputy Commissioner urging him to appoint Duty Magistrates and the Superintendent of Police to provide police force for carrying out the sealing operation from November 24.

Sources said property tax of more than Rs 20 crore was due on the owners of these buildings. Earlier, show cause notices were also issued to them to clear their dues by October 31 but



The building of Municipal Corporation, Rohtak. TRIBUNE PHOTO

POLICE FORCE SOUGHT FOR SEALING OP

The authorities have also written to the Deputy Commissioner urging him to appoint Duty Magistrates and the Superintendent of Police to provide police force for carrying out the sealing operation from November 24

they didn't pay any heed.

"This is the first phase of the sealing operation under which notices have been issued to those building owners who are supposed to deposit over Rs 1 lakh property tax. All preparations have been made to initiate the operation from November 24. All such buildings will be sealed randomly as

they have been given ample chance to clear the dues," said Municipal Corporation Rohtak Commissioner Pradeep Godara.

Godara said under the second phase, sealing notices would be served on those against whom property tax between Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh was due. Show cause notices had already been issued to them for not paying property tax, he added.

Zonal Taxation Officer Jagdish Chander said all these building owners were top defaulters against whom the arrear of property tax for more than one year was also due. Besides, a total of Rs 21 crore was also to be paid by the government departments. The Haryana Shahri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) was to pay property tax of more than Rs 2 crore, he said.

25 casualties, 2,666 cases

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 21
With 25 deaths and 2,666 cases, the Covid tally in the state jumped to 2.15 lakh on Saturday.

Five deaths alone were reported from Faridabad, followed by four from Bhiwani, three each from Gurugram and Hisar, two each from Rohtak, Jhajjar, Fatehabad and Charkhi Dadri and one each from Jind and Sirsa.

So far, 2,163 people have died of Covid in the state with 1,901 having co-morbidities. The active cases in the state are 20,325. The maximum cases today were recorded from Gurugram at 939 followed by 630 from Faridabad, 179 from Hisar, 110 from Sonepat, 101 from Rohtak and 81 from Sirsa. —TNS

In his address, Vij said the services of fire department were crucial. He said, "These employees and officers should get better and state-of-the-art facilities. A multi-storey fire station will be built on 3,219 square-meter area. There will be a garage to park seven fire brigades. The fire station will include a store, locker room, table tennis room, kitchen, watch room, waiting area, toilet, garage and two restrooms on the ground floor. On the first floor, space will be available for the offices of the fire station officers and toilets. There will also be an elevator facility in the building."

The minister also said a four-storey residential complex would also be built there for the employees and officers.

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Gurugram	43,571	259
Faridabad	36,243	295
Hisar	14,521	202
Sonepat	12,124	56
Ambala	9,885	117
Rohtak	9,856	100
Rewari	9,560	52
Karnal	9,148	124
Panipat	8,869	116
Panchkula	8,270	121
Kurukshetra	7,365	108
Sirsa	6,892	98
Mahendragarh	6,075	9
Yamunanagar	5,429	111
Bhiwani	5,216	90
Jhajjar	4,669	46
Fatehabad	4,001	89
Palwal	3,835	21
Jind	3,573	66
Kaithal	3,248	45
Nuh	1,449	27
Charkhi Dadri	1,222	11
Total	21,502	2,163

Ensure mask norm obeyed, officers told

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMBALA, NOVEMBER 21

State Home Minister Anil Vij on Saturday said, "There are only two ways to control Covid cases. One is to impose a complete lockdown and the other is to ensure strict implementation of mask-wearing, and I prefer the second option."

He said, "We don't want people to become unemployed by imposition of lockdown but to strictly adhere to instruction such as wearing of face masks. I have asked Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police to ensure that people wear masks and issue challans to the violators who are found roaming without masks."

Vij was speaking after inaugurating the construction work of fire station building in Sadar zone in Ambala Cantonment.

The new building of the fire station will come up at a

cost of Rs 11.39 crore, the existing building of which is in a dilapidated state. Also, there have been incidents of plaster falling and roof leakage during rains.

In his address, Vij said the services of fire department were crucial. He said, "These employees and officers should get better and state-of-the-art facilities. A multi-storey fire station will be built on 3,219 square-meter area. There will be a garage to park seven fire brigades. The fire station will include a store, locker room, table tennis room, kitchen, watch room, waiting area, toilet, garage and two restrooms on the ground floor. On the first floor, space will be available for the offices of the fire station officers and toilets. There will also be an elevator facility in the building."

The minister also said a four-storey residential complex would also be built there for the employees and officers.

ED seeks change of land use details in Manesar acquisition

SUSHIL MANAV

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 21

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has sought details of CLU (change of land use) granted by Haryana Town and Country Planning Department during land acquisition proceedings in the Manesar land case adding that the entities involved

regarding issuance of land acquisition orders and also issuance of CLUs and rejection licences be supplied.

The ED has filed its affidavit in response to the affidavit furnished in the court by the HSIIDC earlier this month. During a hearing held on November 17, the ED was told to file its reply by November 23.

The apex court is hearing the prayer seeking clarification whether its March 12, 2018 judgment in the Manesar land case would also cover land parcels purchased prior to the date of Section 4 notification of Land Acquisition Act on August 27, 2004, but transferred by the landholders during the August 27, 2004 to January 29, 2010 period by way of collaboration agreements in favour of other parties and whether they will form part of the deemed award ordered by the top court in its verdict.

The SC had restrained creation of fresh third-party rights

on 268 acres which was once sought to be acquired for creating an industrial township in Manesar by the HSIIDC but was dropped out of the total 688 acres from the acquisition by the Congress government on August 26, 2007.

The ED affidavit submitted by Anup Singh Rauthan, Deputy Director (Legal), said that the SC judgment issued on March 12, 2018 had directed that the award deemed to have been passed on August 26, 2007 with respect to land covered under declaration under Section 6 (688 acres) and also for the land which was transferred by landholders during period from August 27, 2004 to January 29, 2010.

"A perusal of paras 26 and 30 of the affidavit by HSIIDC reveal that it is conspicuously silent on rest of the land portion and focusing on 420 acres while the apex court clearly said the deemed award would apply to the entire land covered under Section 6," said the ED affidavit.



Women activists stage dharna in Rohtak on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Women activists hold protest against 3 farm laws in Rohtak

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, NOVEMBER 21

Expressing solidarity with agitating farmers, women activists under the aegis of Janwadi Mahila Samiti on Saturday came forward to resist the three farm laws. They staged a day-long dharna at Ambedkar Chowk here. They demanded that the government should annul these laws.

"The three laws will not only ruin the farmers but will also adversely affect the system of food security. These will also spoil the public distribution system meant for poor people. Hence, the government should cancel these laws," claimed Jagmati Sangwan, national vice-president of the samiti.

Sheela Devi, while presid-

ing over the dharna, said the report of United Nations Organisation revealed that over 10 lakh children had lost their lives in India due to malnutrition. In the given situation, it was the responsibility of the government to ensure food to every citizen. But the three farm laws were posing a serious threat to food security, she added.

Raj Kumar Dahiya, another woman activist, demanded that the government should strengthen the public distribution system, curb rising inflation and include the names of every poor person in the BPL list.

Farmers take out bike rally
Ambala: Farmers under the banner of Bhartiya Kisan Union (Charuni) took out a

Three days on, Panipat ex-councillor untraced

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANIPAT, NOVEMBER 21

Even after three days, the jumping of senior BJP leader and former councillor Harish Sharma into a canal reportedly to commit suicide due to the alleged pressure of the police has been puzzling the SIT, his family members and people of Textile City.

The investigation being

conducted by the SIT could not be concluded till Saturday evening and the SIT may seek more time for it. The Home Minister has directed the SIT to submit a report within two days.

Though the police and administration continued search operations to trace the BJP leader on the consecutive third day on Saturday, no clue was found till the late evening.

In another incident, Sultan Singh had landed in a controversy when he was allegedly thrashed by BJP leader Sonali Phogat in June. —TNS

Antim Sanskar



His Holiness Baba Jaswant Singh Ji
Gurdwara Nanaksar, Samrala Chowk, Ludhiana

We inform that our beloved **His Holiness Baba Jaswant Singh Ji, Gurdwara Nanaksar, Samrala Chowk, Ludhiana** (Founder Chairman of Shri Guru Amar Das Hospital and B.J.S. Dental College & Hospital, Ludhiana left for heavenly abode on 20th November 2020. Cremation will be held on 22nd November 2020 at 01:00 PM Shri Guru Amar Das Hospital Ground, Sec-32, Chandigarh Road, Ludhiana.

Grief Stricken

S. Amarjit Singh, Vice Chairman
B.J.S. Dental College & Hospital,
Ludhiana
Ex. Additional Solicitor General
(Govt. of India)
& Member of Law Commission
of India.

Dr. Amanpreet Singh, Director
B.J.S. Dental College & Hospital,
Ludhiana
98726-30013
Dr. Anhad Raj Singh
98140-23054

Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology
IIIFT-Liaison Office
Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India
Aditya Complex, SCO No. 16&17, Phase 2, Part 1, Adjoining BDA office,
Model Town, Bathinda - 151001, Punjab, India,
Office Phone No.: 0164 - 2970224
Email : director@iift.edu.in
No. IIIFT/PO/LOE/2020-21/002
Tender Notice
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Separate sealed tenders are invited from experienced Private / Government organizations engaged in the similar function of providing skill development trainings in Punjab for leasing out Machineries / Equipments of processing lines viz. Spice Processing, Grain Milling, Bakery, Assistant Lab Technician at Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Liaison Office-Bathinda, Punjab
Tenders are invited in the format uploaded in the website: www.iift.edu.in under the tender link on or before date mention below
Date of opening: 10.12.2020 at (3.00 PM)
Last Date: 10.12.2020 (2.00 PM)

DIRECTOR

First doppler weather radar installed at Kufri

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, NOVEMBER 21
The MeT office today installed the first doppler weather radar (DWR) at Kufri, near here, for more precise area-specific weather forecasts and warnings for a particular place.

The range of this radar is up to 100 km (radial distance) and it will observe and provide the weather data of 100 km in all directions, which will be used for forecasting purposes, especially for the short-range forecast (nowcasting). The

Range of the radar is up to 100 km

radar has been installed on test mode for a period of two weeks, and thereafter its data will be used for forecasting purposes. Two more radars would be installed in Mandi and Dalhousie in Chamba District. The site for the radar at Mandi had already been finalised and its NOC from the state government was awaited, said Director, Shimla MeT station, Manmohan Singh.



The doppler radar installed in Kufri. TRIBUNE PHOTO

HP University to promote UG students

SHIMLA, NOVEMBER 21
Himachal Pradesh University (HPU) today decided to promote the first and second year undergraduate students to the next class. The university also approved the appointment of 24 Assistant Professors.

The decisions were taken at the meeting of the executive council of the university, presided over by Vice-Chancellor Sikender Kumar.

The undergraduate students, who have to give compartment exams or have to reappear in tests, would also be promoted to the next class. The decision regarding promotion to the next class was taken on the recommendations of the academic council.

The council also decided to give 10 per cent reservation to students belonging to the economically weaker section (EWS) in postgraduate courses. It accepted the recommendations of the selection committees regarding the appointment of 24 Assistant Professors and the promotion of two Associate Professors under the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS). — TNS



BJP national president JP Nadda along with CM Jai Ram Thakur at AIIMS, Kothipura, in Bilaspur.

Delhi trekker falls to death in Kullu

KULLU, NOVEMBER 21
A trekker of Delhi died after falling from a hill near Malana village here today. Kullu SP Gaurav Singh said

Yash Gaur, a 23-year-old man, and his two friends were staying in a tent. Yash came out of the tent at 12.30 am, saying that there was some problem in Internet connectivity.

After that, he did not return and local residents spotted his body in the morning. — OC

Guv lauds DGP for curbing crime against women, kids

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE



DGP Sanjay Kundu receives a commendation letter from Governor Bandaru Dattatreya at Raj Bhawan in Shimla on Saturday.

Police Volunteer scheme, regular awareness campaigns, increasing capacity of the state police to address cyber crime, raising cyber awareness and installation of CCTV cameras, he added.

The Governor said that the Himachal Police were also working out robust projects under the Nirbhaya Scheme with definitive outcomes to improve the levels of safety among women and children. These include the National Mahila

children. The Governor said other steps such as starting registers of suicide, unidentified bodies and missing women and children would go a long way in improving the safety and security of women and children.

Kundu urged the Governor to attend the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Himachal Pradesh Police Training College at Daroh in Kangra district.

He specially lauded Kundu's initiative to start Register No. 26 (Register for Sexual Offenders) in all police stations, which has led to better monitoring of crime against women and

DC inspects work on PGI centre in Una

OUR CORRESPONDENT

UNA, NOVEMBER 21
Deputy Commissioner Raghav Sharma yesterday inspected the ongoing work at the site of the proposed PGI satellite centre in Malahat village near Una. He also inspected the progress of work on the road leading to the centre.

The DC said the state government had promised to spend Rs 12 crore on basic infrastructure that included roads, electricity and water. Of this amount, Rs 1.5 crore had already been received, he said.

The satellite centre of the PGI, Chandigarh, has been sanctioned in Una district by the Union government and a sum of Rs 400 crore has been approved for the hospital. It will have various medical specialities, and once it is complete, it will be of great help to the people of the region.

Later, the DC expressed concern over the spike in Covid cases in Una district during the last one month.

The DC said the state government had decided to implement the SOPs for organising gatherings.

Kraft paper price goes up, hits corrugation industry

AMBICA SHARMA

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, NOVEMBER 21
The multifold increase in the price of kraft paper by mills coupled with its inadequate supply have affected the state corrugation industry.

The problem has been compounded in the wake of the Covid outbreak, as both generation and collection of waste material, which is the raw material of kraft paper, has been severely hit. "The price of waste paper has gone up from Rs 9 per kg to Rs 15 per kg since October.

This has prompted paper mills to enhance the price from Rs 20 per kg to Rs 28 per kg of the low grade paper and up to Rs 35 per kg of the high-grade paper," said Surinder Jain, president, HP Corrugation Box Manufacturers' Association, who runs Devashish Food Packaging Unit in Nalagarh.

Investors say that the government should enhance the availability of waste paper in the market by lifting the ban on its import.

Despite the rise in its price, adequate kraft paper is not available in the market. "For



The state has more than 250 corrugation units. FILE PHOTO

RAW MATERIAL SHORTAGE

- The problem has been compounded amid the pandemic, as both generation and collection of waste material, which is the raw material for kraft paper, has been severely hit.
- Investors say the government should enhance the availability of waste paper in the market by lifting the ban on its import.

the first time, corrugation units have been forced to refuse supply orders from consumer goods units as well as kitchen appliance and pharmaceutical manufacturers, as there is no kraft paper available," said Jain.

"Unless the Central Government directs paper mills to reserve some share of the kraft paper for the domestic corrugation industry and import the remaining, we will continue to suffer a shortage," he said.

New edu policy will make India world leader, says Nishank

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, NOVEMBER 21
Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank today said the new education policy would make India 'vishwaguru', self-reliant and a strong nation.

He was addressing a webinar organised by the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) as part of its 55th foundation day celebrations.

"The new policy will bring about a major transformation and make India a world leader" he said.

He said the IIAS was a globally acclaimed institute, and the government was proud of it.

"The government is standing in full support to take this institute ahead and attain greater heights and academic excellence," he said. In his address, Dr Yogendra Nath 'Arun' said India got the new policy after a wait of 34 years.

"The focus of the policy is to promote the rich Indian culture, religion and art through national, local and regional languages," he said.

Active case finding drive from Nov 25

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, NOVEMBER 21
The state government will launch 'Him Suraksha', an active case finding campaign, from November 25. Health workers will go door-to-door to identify people having the symptoms of Covid, tuberculosis, leprosy and non-communicable diseases such as sugar and blood pressure, and provide appropriate treatment.

Secretary, Health, Amitabh Awasthi today said the state government was fully equipped to deal with the pandemic and the Health Department had adequate venti-

Record 915 new cases, 18 succumb to virus

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, NOVEMBER 21
The state today reported the highest ever 915 Covid cases, taking the total tally to 33,700. Besides, 18 persons, also the maximum till now, died of the virus in the last 24 hours.

Eight persons died in Shimla, three each in Kullu and Chamba, two in Kangra, while one person each died in Una and Lahaul and Spiti. The highest number of 290 cases were reported in Shimla, followed by 161 in Mandi, 84 in Hamirpur, 65 each in Solan and Kullu, 56 in Una, 52 in Chamba, 22 in Bilaspur, 20 in Sirmaur, 17 in Kinnaur and 11 in Lahaul and Spiti.

STATE TRACKER		
	ACTIVE CASES	POSITIVE CASES
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT	+VE	DEATHS
Una	1,923	21
Solan	4,371	45
Kangra	4,332	98
Chamba	1,742	29
Hamirpur	1,735	19
Sirmaur	2,508	21
Mandi	5,392	63
Bilaspur	1,746	14
Shimla	5,352	125
Kullu	2,955	58
Kinnaur	694	10
Lahaul & Spiti	950	6
Total	33,700	509

Emergency care 'delayed', Covid patient dies

Was initially turned away by Dharamsala Zonal Hospital

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, NOVEMBER 21
A 50-year-old Covid-19 patient from the Darni area of Dharamsala died after she was allegedly admitted late to the emergency ward of Dharamsala Zonal Hospital this morning.

Sources said that the patient complained of shortness of breath and was brought to the hospital by her family members today. Suspecting it to be a coronavirus case, the doctors in the emergency ward of the hospital did not admit her. Her blood sample was taken for the rapid antigen test and later her report came out to be Covid positive.

The aggrieved family members of the patient



A family member of the victim takes away the body from the Zonal Hospital in Dharamsala on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

held a protest over the doctors' refusal to admit the patient in the emergency ward. However, after they created a ruckus, the woman was admitted but

she died soon. Her family members alleged negligence on the part of the hospital authorities for the patient's death. They took away the body without

following the protocol. Dr Deepali Thakur, Medical Superintendent of Dharamsala Zonal Hospital, said that though no complaint had not been filed in the matter, an inquiry had been initiated. She added that the doctors, who were on duty in the emergency ward, had been asked to file a reply to the allegations being levelled against them that they did not admit the patient, who required emergency medical care. Action in the matter would be taken as per the finding of the inquiry, she said.

Chief Medical Officer Dr GD Gupta said that the matter was in his notice. The patient was admitted to the hospital after some delay.

Nadda tries to quell bickering in party

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, NOVEMBER 21
BJP national president JP Nadda today urged party men not to get impatient as the party wins elections not for power but to serve the poor and the deprived.

Nadda was accorded a rousing welcome on his arrival at the Luhnu Ground in Bilaspur. This is Nadda's first visit to his home district after the party's resounding victory in the Bihar Assembly elections. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, state BJP president Suresh Bhardwaj, ministers, party MLAs and office-bearers were present on the occasion.

"There are times when you (workers) have tried to make me impatient and impulsive also but I want to tell you to have patience," he said. Political analysts say this was an oblique reference to the recent bickering between supporters of former Chief Minister PK Dhumal and Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. There had also been a verbal public duel between the Chief Minister and Union Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur.

Nadda thanked people for supporting the BJP not just in Bihar but also across the length and breadth of the country. "It is after a long gap during the coronavirus pandemic that I could come here to meet you all due to a strict protocol," he said. He thanked people for maintaining social distancing during the function.

“The BJP’s governments at the Centre and in the state have ensured development and several mega projects such as highways, a cancer hospital, and an AIIMS have been sanctioned.”

JP Nadda, BJP NATIONAL CHIEF

opment and several mega projects such as highways, a cancer hospital, and an AIIMS had been sanctioned.

He said that the big responsibility given to him was all because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's faith in him and the hard work and the labour of the party workers of Himachal, who are his strength. "It is due to your support right from the beginning that I have been able to achieve these heights," he said.

Nadda thanked people for supporting the BJP not just in Bihar but also across the length and breadth of the country. "It is after a long gap during the coronavirus pandemic that I could come here to meet you all due to a strict protocol," he said. He thanked people for maintaining social distancing during the function.

MATRIMONIALS

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

SAINI

SM4 Sikh Saini girl 89 born, 5'-7", slim and fair, Baking professional, working in MNC Pune, PR applied for Canada, residing in Mohali. WhatsApp: 78888-50764. (CL20065668)

Suitable match for Saini Sikh girl (Mohali) 1983, 5'-3", English Teacher, Govt. job, WhatsApp 98153-72757. (CL20061330)

Sikh Saini beautiful unmarried girl, 1980/5'-2", MA, NTT, B.Ed. Caste no bar Businessman/employed preferred. Marriage bureau excuse. Jassi_sk@yahoo.com 0172-4652683. WhatsApp 99880-01755. (CL20061436)

Suitable cleanshaven match for Saini girl from Hoshiarpur Distt. Settled in Chandigarh, girl convent educated, fair height 5'-3". Father from Post Top in MNC. DOB: 3rd October 1993, girl did MA (Psychology) from Panjab University. Right now in Canada, pursuing Degree in HRM, which will Complete in April 2021. Preferred Himachali boy, working as Doctor, Army Officer or Nationalised Bank Employee. Contact: 95824-49988. (CL20059548)

Professionally qualified match for Canada PR Saini girl, BDS 1985, 5'-3", Canada settled/ willing to settle Saini boy. 94168-28567. (CL20063371)

Match for Hindu Saini girl, 2 April, 94, 8:50 pm, Village Bharat, Distt. Gurdaspur, 5'-2", B.Tech in Electronics & Communication & working as IT Analyst in TCS, Noida. Upper caste no bar. Contact 94788-25414. (CL20063490)

Match for Saini girl, August 1989, 5'-4", B.Com, LLM. Upper caste no bar. Mobile: 94668-31371. (CL20063832)

Professionally qualified match for Hindu Saini girl, 1980, 5', Assistant Professor in Engineering College. Contact: 81682-14607. (CL20063843)

Sainti smart girl 25/ 5'-5", convent educated, Graduate, B.Ed, requires boy from well-settled family. 99155-20762, 95010-58995. Marriage bureau excuse. WhatsApp No. 98884-95017. (CL20064467)

Professionally qualified match from status family for M.Sc. Nursing 5'-7", Saini girl 16.06.1992, regular employee of Australian Govt., Australian citizen. Only Ambala settled boy contact. WhatsApp No. 98884-95017. (CL20064467)

Professionally qualified match for Hindu Saini girl 1983, 5'-7", Govt. teacher (6 yrs baby). Govt. job/ American citizen preferred. 81461-39150. (CL20065296)

Sikh Maid Rajput Manglik girl 14.6.1994, 2.20 pm, 5'-4", MBA Finance, working, father mother PR Canada, elder sister brother married. Required PR Canada/ work permit or Master Degree Veg. Sikh boy, upper caste no bar. 98884-30797, 98888-9749, +12265004131. (CL20059698)

Sikh Maid Rajput Manglik girl 1992, 5'-5", MA, B.Ed. Required Govt. job/ business. Upper caste welcome. Call: 98155-45398. (CL20063748)

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Sikh Maid Rajput Manglik girl 1992, 5'-5", MA, B.Ed. Required Govt. job/ business. Upper caste welcome. Call: 98155-45

Match for divorcee (no issue), Hindu Goldsmith Punjabi girl, 14.10.1994, 5'-6", Foreign settled preferred. Contact: 96463-12400. (CL20065533)

Highly qualified agemate tall, handsome status Hindu or Sikh Tricity abroad for 1987, slim, pretty, 5'-5", Assistant Professor posted Chandigarh. Short divorce respectable Sikh family. Upper caste welcome. 75280-31018. (CL20065624)

Well settled match for 6th Dec. 1985, 5.16 pm, Patiala born, beautiful, MBA, Manager in Nationalised Bank, innocent divorcee (short marriage for a few days only), 5'-4" Jindal girl. Upper caste no bar. Govt. employee preferred. Only WhatsApp- 98144-24337. (CL20065709)

Suitable match for Gupti fair, very beautiful, 1989/ 5'-4", issueless divorcee B.Tech. girl of reputed family Tricity/ Ludhiana/ Jalandhar NCR preferred. 98766-33946. (CL20065722)

Alliance for Aggarwal Doctor girl, MBBS, MD, 90 born, 5'-3", issueless innocent divorcee, in Govt. job Chandigarh. Medical match preferred. 7930-49980. (CL20065728)

NRI

Divorce Hindu Arora girl, 1985/ 5'-4" B.Tech., MBA, Canadian PR, seeks issueless boy, working Canada. 98887-04839 (CL20062909)

PQM for Canada PR Ramgarhia girl Aug 89, working IT Company Winnipeg 5'-3". Marriage bureau excuse. adec.org@mail.com, 70873-52319, 2008-88130. (CL20065392)

Canadian PR, 31, 5'-2", B.Tech, MBA, \$ 100K package, Product Manager. Required Canada settled Software, MBA etc. serviceman Caste no bar 9814568663. (CL20062759)

NRI match for Ad-Dharmi girl New Zealand work permit, 31/ 5'-4". Preferred B.Tech, M.Tech, MBA boy from New Zealand/ Australia. Father retired Gazetted Officer. Brother in Canada. 81467-10771. (CL20062901)

Punjabi Maid Rajput (Sehdev) girl Canada work permit, visiting India shortly, 10 Aug, 1992, 5'-3". Father Bank Manager. Tricity based Indian/ Canadian boy preferred. 79869-11259, 0172-259173. (CL20062922)

Match for 5'-4", 29 beautiful girl MS, CS Software Engineer Manager Toronto. panesar1010@gmail.com (CL20062925)

Suitable Match for Canadian PR Tonk Kshatriya Sikh girl, 1989/ 5'-4", working as Data Analyst Ottawa, well educated family, Canadian PR preferred. Caste no bar 98784-72514. (CL20062976)

Canada living PR Dhiman girl, Nov. 1988, 5'-3", M.Tech. Required teetotaller PR boy settled Canada. 98761-10357. Email: jass11558@gmail.com (CL20063107)

PQM4 Mair Rajput, 85, MS, 5 feet, HIB Visa Canada PR. Prefer working USA/ Canada. Visiting India. 9915949434. E-mail: mtrymny@gmail.com (CL20063165)

25, 5'-4", M.Tech. job in Australia, beautiful Raivalasidi girl want suitable match. 91095-82429, 2828-82995. (CL20063212)

PQM for Canadian PR beautiful Brahmin girl Feb. 1993, 5'-5", MS in Computer Science. Government in IT Victoria BC/ Seeks well settled boy with Canadian PR/ citizenship. Preference Victoria/ Vancouver. Contact: 94171-74950. (CL20063236)

Wanted well qualified USA/Canada match for Jat Sikh Canadian PR girl, working in Vancouver. Mumbai educated very pretty, fair, 87 born, 5'-5", MBA. Contact: 9136270433, ssm2312@gmail.com (CL20063343)

Mahla based politically and socially elite, economically very affluent family, requests alliance for November 1988 born tall and beautiful, convert educated in India. Law Graduate, American citizen girl. Requesting proposal from very well settled and affluent family. Girl prefers to settle in India. Marriage bureau people please kindly refrain from calling. 98767-92002. (CL20063866)

SM4 beautiful Brahmin girl, US citizen, height 5'-8", October 1990 born, currently working as Teacher in Japan. Preferred highly educated boy. Upper caste no bar. M: 98146-12134. (CL20063935)

SM for Himachali Hindu Khatri girl 91 born, 5 ft. B.Tech. (CS), Masters in Canada, on Work Visa. Father Doctor and mother Lecturer, brother in MNC, upper caste no bar. Preferred PR/ citizen. 70181-25761, WhatsApp: 94187-70770. (CL20063968)

Seeking a suitable match for Ramgarhia 5', Canada PR. M.Pharma from India, born 12.11.90 (divorced in India). Upper caste no bar. 97818-24500. (CL20064287)

Canadian PR Arora beautiful girl, 13.11.1982, 10.08 am, Jalandhar, 5'-2", B.Tech, B.Ed. Seeks qualified boy ready to settle Canada. Contact: 987657256. (CL20065014)

Wanted professionally educated/ employed preferably Canadian PR match for Sikh Tonk Kshatriya Canadian PR girl 80 born, 5'-5", tall, slim with sharp features B.Sc. Nursing Honours from Canadian University, working as Registered Nurse. Father Retd. AGM from Bank. All family settled in Canada. Upper caste no bar. WhatsApp No. 99882-22873. (CL20065234)

Medical/ Engineer profession for fair, slim, Goldsmith 1990 born, 5'-5", girl, Canada PR, B.Sc. Nursing from reputed College in Punjab. Only Canadian PR/ Citizen, non-drinker preferred. Contact: 97800-89200, 97800-89300. (CL20065236)

Slim, beautiful 5'-3", Australian PR Singla 5.5.1988, 23-32, Ludhiana, B.Tech. Mass Com., working in Bank. Upper caste no bar. Foreign settled boys in white collar job, girl is in India on vacation. WhatsApp 82838-07146. (CL20065330)

Civilized family from Chandigarh, seeking Punjabi boy established in Canada/ Toronto, for beautiful SC girl BDS with Canadian PR. Feb. 89 born, 97790-41182, 98728-10045. (CL20065361)

Beautiful Jat girl B.Tech, 35, 5'-3", issueless legally separated. Working top IT company. HIB visa, USA. WhatsApp 94162-82798, kumarmarry1212@gmail.com (CL20065361)

Match for divorcee (no issue), Hindu Goldsmith Punjabi girl, 14.10.1994, 5'-6", Foreign settled preferred. Contact: 96463-12400. (CL20065533)

Highly qualified agemate tall, handsome status Hindu or Sikh Tricity abroad for 1987, slim, pretty, 5'-5", Assistant Professor posted Chandigarh. Short divorce respectable Sikh family. Upper caste welcome. 75280-31018. (CL20065624)

Well settled match for 6th Dec. 1985, 5.16 pm, Patiala born, beautiful, MBA, Manager in Nationalised Bank, innocent divorcee (short marriage for a few days only), 5'-4" Jindal girl. Upper caste no bar. Govt. employee preferred. Only WhatsApp- 98144-24337. (CL20065709)

Suitable match for Gupti fair, very beautiful, 1989/ 5'-4", issueless divorcee B.Tech. girl of reputed family Tricity/ Ludhiana/ Jalandhar NCR preferred. 98766-33946. (CL20065722)

Professionally qualified only Canada settled match for Canada PR girl born 1992, 5'-7"; Software Engg. job Toronto. Caste weaver. 98725-09983. (CL20065474)

Ludhiana based reputed family smart girl 14.7.96, MBA, 5'-3", wanted status family from Ludhiana. 98158-04599. (CL20065477)

Suitable match for beautiful Nai Sikhi girl 26/ 5'-4", graduation, wanted NRI, abroad or Canadian PR boy. 90561-15264, 96465-96581. (CL20065491)

Professionally qualified match for convent educated Jat/ Saini very fair 29, 5'-4", Indian born, Canadian citizen Doctor (BDS) girl from affluent high status family. Contact: 96466-86868. (CL20065498)

Canadian citizen, 1992, 5'-5", MS (Engg.) Software Engineer \$100.001. Req. well-settled match. Caste no bar. 9788-04027, 70675-80823. (CL20065287)

Professional qualified match for convent educated Jat/ Saini very fair 29, 5'-4", Indian born, Canadian citizen Doctor (BDS) girl from affluent high status family. Contact: 96466-86868. (CL20065287)

Canadian PR, 31, 5'-2", B.Tech, MBA, \$ 100K package, Product Manager. Required Canada settled Software, MBA etc. serviceman Caste no bar 9814568663. (CL20062759)

NRI match for Ad-Dharmi girl New Zealand work permit, 31/ 5'/4". Preferred B.Tech, M.Tech, MBA boy from New Zealand/ Australia. Father retired Gazetted Officer. Brother in Canada. 81467-10771. (CL20062901)

Punjabi Maid Rajput (Sehdev) girl Canada work permit, visiting India shortly, 10 Aug, 1992, 5'-3". Father Bank Manager. Tricity based Indian/ Canadian boy preferred. 79869-11259, 0172-259173. (CL20062922)

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Canadian PR, 31, 5'-2", B.Tech, MBA, \$ 100K package, Product Manager. Required Canada settled Software, MBA etc. serviceman Caste no bar 9814568663. (CL20062759)

Professional qualified match for convent educated Jat/ Saini very fair 29, 5'-4", Indian born, Canadian citizen Doctor (BDS) girl from affluent high status family. Contact: 96466-86868. (CL20065287)

Canadian citizen, 1992, 5'-5", MS (Engg.) Software Engineer \$100.001. Req. well-settled match. Caste no bar. 9788-04027, 70675-80823. (CL20065287)

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Professional qualified match for convent educated Jat/ Saini very fair 29, 5

SIKH

Seeking Doctor MD/ M.Tech. Ramdasia Weaver Sikh turbaned boy, living in US/Canada. For US born 1991 daughter 5'-7", M.Sc./ MPH. Contact: tecmndr@gmail.com (CL20065267)

Match for Delhi based Prajapati Sikh girl, Feb. 90, 5'-2", MBA Finance, working as Officer in Govt. Office. Phone: 96547-34840. Email: kaurrajeet2405@gmail.com. Castle no bar. (CL20065687)

Sikh Parjapati girl 1985, 5'-3" ht. regular Govt. Doctor, gazetted post (AMO), Punjab. Salary above 75000. Tricity good family. Upper caste no bar. 95015-12036. (CL20059383)

Suitable match for Ramdasia Sikh girl, 5'-3", 88 born, B.A., LL.B., Assistant Manager in IDEB Bank. Tricity preferred. Mobile/WhatsApp 94160-2024. Email: jeeitsingh900@yahoomail.com (CL20061508)

Required Doctor boy/ Bank Officer Pb. Govt. Officer for Sikh girl. BAMS, 1996/ 5'-3", Medical Officer in proposed Hospital. Simple marriage. Contact Mob.: 86990-18977. (CL20062865)

PQM4 Ramsada Sikhi girl, Nov. 88, only child, 5'-5", MDS, sees early marriage. 82465-2756. (CL20063248)

Suitable match for beautiful, smart, slim Ramdasia Sikhi girl, B.F Tech. MBA, Jan. 1988, 5'-3". HDFC Bank employed. Father retired Officer, mother LIC Officer. Caste no bar. Contact 098963-34847, 99922-2016. (CL20063463)

Kamboj Sikhi Thind girl 5'-4", 25 years. Post-Graduate (Doctor) of Pharmacy) in DITS InfoTech. Canadian PR, well settled, well qualified boy wanted. Father Gazetted Officer, brother Canada settled. 97794-50620, 83600-31309. (CL20063478)

Well settled match for beautiful M.A., UGC, Ph.D., PDF, Assistant professor girl 5'-3", November 1980, Ludhiana preferred divorcee excuse. 98149-33651 (CL20063547)

Wanted Amritdhuri/Kharti boy from NT/ND family for well educated, beautiful Gursikhi Arora girl, 1993 born, 5'-2". Contact: 8837703807. (CL200633780)

Suitable match Nai Sikh girl 5'-2", 19.11.1991, B.A. (IT), M.Com. 85281-93693. (CL20063924)

Professionally qualified match for Post Graduate Mazbhi Sikh girl 1983, born 5'-4", working in MNC Bangalore. Contact 62800-50331. (CL20064288)

Suitable match for Punjabi SC, MBBS, Sept. 93 born, 5'-2", veg. girl, Medico, upper middle class family. Medico preferred. Dowry seekers please excuse. Caste no bar. 98885-72717, 98141-15644. (CL20064359)

Professionally qualified match for Majhbi Sikh girl, convent educated, slim, beautiful, 5'-7", Oct. 1990, B.Tech. (NIT), MBA. Caste no bar. Father, brother doctor. WhatsApp: 9815760306. (CL20064559)

Suitable match for beautiful Sikh Ramgarhia girl, 5'-3%", Oct. 1985, MBA (Finance), M.Com., B.Ed. working. Caste no bar. Contact: 98157-16533. (CL20064340)

Ramgarhia Girl 1993, 5'-6" BA, B.Ed. PGDCA, MBA (Finance). NRI Preferred Only. Contact: No 998734455 (CL20063545)

Ramgarhia Sikh beautiful girl MA, B.Ed. 5/3 Private Teacher, No bar, Kalsi/ Saggu. WhatsApp 98961-68943 (CL20063649)

Suitable match for beautiful Sikh Ramgarhia girl, 5'-3%", Oct. 1985, MBA (Finance), M.Com., B.Ed. working. Caste no bar. Contact: 98149-00588. (CL20065398)

Arora Sikh girl, B.Ed., Aug. 1986, working as Govt. teacher seeking Govt. job boy 5'-4", 98781-54808, 94179-60958. (CL20065411)

Khatri/ Arora Gursikh status (preferably Govt. job) match for beautiful, slim, Patiala girl 5'-2.5", August 92, B.Com. CA (Inter) Pb. Govt. Inspector cadre permanent job (through PPSC). WhatsApp/ Call 97795-86190. (CL20064882)

Suitable professional match for Arora Sikh girl MA, B.Ed., 1992/ 5'-2", employed (top Indian Pvt. Bank). Tricity preferred. 98882-67301, 98155-17179. (CL20065155)

Professionally qualified Gursikhi Doctor match for 1988 born, MD Pathologist girl 5'-7". 98372-77588. (CL20065255)

SIKH ARORA

Suitable match for beautiful slim Arora girl Triple master 5'-1", 12.12.1989, contact 89583-02244 (CL20063405)

Sikh Arora girl divorcee (7 yrs son) 30/ 5, ETT seeks unmarried or divorcee/ widower issuesless match 62849-23881. (CL20063480)

Punjabi Govt. Employee 1989/ 5'-5". Preferred Govt. Employee/ Business NRI. Caste no bar (Sikh). 90564-60029. (CL20063805)

Well settled, affluent match for b'f'l, slim, highly qualified, Canadian PR holder. Sikh Arora girl 5'-5", 19.8.1985, 10:12 pm, belonging to high status business family. Amritsar. Contact with biodata on 98722-63016. (CL20063207)

Arora Sikh beautiful, slim, Panipat based girl, 25/ 5'-3", 10+2. Around Panipat/ Ambala preferred. 99968-55959. (CL20064415)

Match for Jalandhar based Sikh Arora slim, beautiful, MCA girl, 28, 5'-1". Working Associate Consultant Virtusa. Marriage bureau excuse. 950115057. (CL20065249)

IAS/ PCS/ Lawyer match for beautiful, very fair Arora Sikh girl 1994, 5'-5", BA, LLB, ILM from Punjab University Chandigarh. Reputed family from Distt. Ludhiana. Preferred Lawyer in High Court Chandigarh. Upper caste no bar. 98149-00588. (CL20065398)

Arora Sikh girl, B.Ed., Aug. 1986, working as Govt. teacher seeking Govt. job boy 5'-4", 98781-54808, 94179-60958. (CL20065411)

SIKH LOBANA

Suitable match preferably 31 years Doctor in America for a sole 31 years American citizen Lobana Doctor girl of Doctor family, 5'-4", doing specialty in Gastroenterology. Caste no bar. Contact: 94170-73643. (CL20062900)

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

Hi status officer, industrialist, Post-Graduation Doctor posted in Punjab match for SDM girl, 1990, 5'-4". 94634-87508. (CL20060289)

MAHABAN

Suitable Match for Mahajan girl sub caste Kankal, 5'-3", 6th Dec. 1990, 1:40 am. Dhamrashala. B.Tech (CSE) MBA-HR, working in MNC Noida. Pac. 14.15 PA. Mobile no: 94643-11963, 98153-23212. (CL20059966)

Wanted Govt. Bank/ office working in Tricity Chandigarh, Delhi NCR match for Mahajan girl Officer Govt. Bank, 5'-2", 5.49, 10:05 pm, Ludhiana. Upper caste welcome. Contact 97790-21693. (CL20061185)

Suitable match for Ranggarhia Dhiman girl, BA (Arts) 25, 5'-2", Kartarpur. Upper caste welcome. Contact 97790-21693, 94173-77654. (CL20064773)

Dhiman Girl, 31/ 5'-2", MA/ M.Ed. Private teacher, required vegetarian boy. 98036-21000. (CL20062987)

Suitable match for fair, slim and beautiful girl, Nov. 1993, 5'-3", B.Tech. (CSE), working IT company Chandigarh, 9.5 LPA. 86990-24700. (CL20064449)

Suitable match for Ranggarhia Dhiman girl, BA (Arts) 25, 5'-2", Kartarpur. Upper caste welcome. Contact 97790-21693. (CL20061185)

Beautiful Mahajan working girl, 5'-5", 9.11.1991, Non- Manglik, convent educated, Computer Engineer, B.Tech. WhatsApp: 98147-13449. (CL20063702)

AGGARWAL

Manglik Garg girl 5'-6", 26 May 1997, 1:20 pm, Chandigarh, MA (Honor), Psychology, status family. 86990-49655. (CL20064621)

Match for Ranggarhia/ Dhiman girl, Oct. 85 born, 5'-3", MA, Govt. school Lecturer. 79884-10622. (CL20064449)

Suitable match for Ranggarhia Dhiman girl, BA (Arts) 25, 5'-2", Kartarpur. Upper caste welcome. Contact 97790-21693, 94173-77654. (CL20064773)

Slim 1994/5'-6", working girl in MNC. Seet Gurgaon based service boy. 97925-32719. (CL20059378)

Handsome, tall, convert/ well educated, Chandigarh Tricity only match for Manglik Garg, 5'-6", 03.04.1992, Panchkula, B.Tech, MBA girl from respectable Panchkula based business family. Contact 98153-60106. (CL20059662)

SM4 Goyal Anshik Manglik girl 26.3.93, 2:12 pm, Sangrur, 5'-3", B.Tech, MBA, working in AMC Chandigarh. 78886-32525. (CL20060083)

Non-Manglik girl, B.Tech, 15.2.1993, 17.57 hrs, 5", working in IAS/ Allied Services.

Slim 1994/5'-6", working girl in MNC. Seet Gurgaon based service boy. 97925-32719. (CL20059378)

Match for Patiala based Manglik Goel girl, 19.09.1990 Samana 10:19 p.m., 5'-1/2", IT Engineer, Deputy Manager Scale-I Bansi of Maharashtra at Pune. Sister Deputy Manager Canara Bank. Brother doing B.Tech. PB.Uni. Chandigarh. Father businessman. 98141-77725. (CL20059263)

Match for Ranggarhia/ Dhiman girl, BA (Arts) 25, 5'-2", Kartarpur. Upper caste welcome. Contact 97790-21693. (CL20061185)

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SM4 Goyal Anshik Manglik girl 26.3.93,

Suitable match for very beautiful
Pb. Khatri girl 5'-3", June 86 born,
well educated worked in USA.
Respected status business family.
Email: sat.mt1234@gmail.com
(CL20065241)

Vegetarian & teetotaller match from
Chandigarh only for 5'-5", Khatri
Radhaswami girl (6.5.88, 5.55 am)
MFA, Teacher, 6.6 LPA, 98722-20950,
87279-76989. (CL20065266)

Match for Hindu Khatri slim girl

1984, 5'-4", B.Sc., Pvt. job, Jalandhar

preferred. 98884-54525, 97973-

23222. (CL20065278)

Educated match for Ph.D

(Economics), M.Ed. Khatri Sood

beautiful girl, 5'-5", 1982 born, family

of Doctors. Never married. 81950-

45528. (CL20065297)

Suitable match for Khatri girl 1989,

5'-8", USA citizen girl, job.

Preferred educated boy. 81460-39990.

(CL20065320)

POM for Hindu Punjabi Khatri,

5'-3", M.Tech, 19 July 1992, 0440 am,

Agra born, working Multinational

Company Chandigarh. Family

Chandigarh settled. WhatsApp:

80780-34666. (CL20065326)

SM4 smart, fair girl 9.10.87, born

8:45 am, Chandigarh, working in

MNC, 11 LPA, 5'-6". Simple

marriage. Castle no bar. Contact:

91159-87162. (CL20065328)

Match for Khatri Manglik girl

6.4.1991, 2:33 pm, Amritsar, 5'-2.5",

Interior Designing. 98149-73225.

(CL20065374)

Match for beautiful, smart,

well-educated (BA LLB), extremely

intelligent Khatri girl, doing practice

in Chandigarh (Ansik Manglik) DOP

Ferozepur, Height 5'-3", looks

younger. Upper middle class family

(Decent marriage). Preference legal

profession and gazetted officer.

WhatsApp: 70095-04332, 98997-

25328. Email: dpal99971@gmail.com

(CL20065378)

Suitable match for fair, tall girl

M.Sc., B.Ed., 1989 born with

ephemeral marriage status. 98722-

2673. (CL20065382)

Khatri beautiful girl 1981, looks

younger MA, B.Ed/ 5'-5". Nearby

Ambla 70151-93124 (CL20063873)

Khatri girl 11.11.1985 Kurali, 5'-5",

M.Com., B.Ed, Commerce teacher.

98880-68878. (CL20065394)

Highly qualified from top Uni. SM4

Canadian PR Sikh Ahluwalia convert

edu. Chd. born girl, Feb. 86, 5'-3".

MBA from world top business school.

Director in Bank in Toronto. Innocent

issueless divorcee. Brother Advocate,

mother homemaker. Contact 85590-

36126, rummikaur1962@gmail.com

(CL20065496)

Qualified alliance required for slim,

beautiful Hindu Punjabi girl Senior

software analyst, working MNC

Gurugram, 14 lat package. Born 04

Feb 1991, 5'-2". Whatsapp 98901-

92272. (CL20065507)

Hindu Walia girl 89 born, Ludhiana,

MBA, 5'-3", working as Deputy

Manager in Govt. Bank. 94789-49005,

78141-13620. (CL20065613)

Suitable match for Manglik Khatri

girl 02.09.1989, 10.50 am, Ludhiana,

5'-4", B.Tech., MBA, 8421-67381,

83602-14384. (CL20065619)

PUBLIC NOTICES

I Kamlesh Kumar Sharma Wife of Amar Lal Sharma presently residing at Village Barog, P.O. Chanog, Tehsil & District Shimla (H.P.) declare that I have changed my name Kamlesh Kumar Sharma to Kamlesh Kumar. (CL20065253)

I, Bhima Devi spouse of Ravinder Kumar R/o village Kothi, Tehsil Arki, District Solan (Himachal Pradesh), have changed my name from Bheema Devi to Bhima Devi vide affidavit No. 46AA321843 dated 15/10/2020 before Executive Magistrate, Ambala Cantt. (CL20065452)

I, Manju Kumar Jat w/o Sh. Hari Singh Bjaria r/o House No. 1168, Sector B, Chandigarh, have changed my name to Manju Bjaria. (CL20065599)

I, Suman Kumari w/o Vijender Singh # 960, Sector 17, Panchkula, have changed my name to Suman Singh. (CL20065637)

I, Kanwal Singh s/o Shish Ram, # 399, Dharampur, Pinjore Kalka Panchkula, declare that my son Sawtanter Kumar is living separately having no relation with me and my family. I disown him from my movable/ immoveable properties. Anyone dealing with him will be their own risk. (CL20065652)

I, Army No. 10199146A Rank Hav Kuldeep Masih s/o Manohar Masih r/o Vill. Natt. PO Chacel Kalan (Chahal Kalan), Teh. Batala, Distt. Gurdaspur of Inf. Bn. (TA) Dogra, have changed my daughter's name from Park to Palak / Vide Affidavit dated 10.11.2020 before Civil Courts Batala also changed DOB of my daughter from 28.09.2009 to 28.07.2009. (CL20065654)

I, Yashika D/o Varinder Kumar, # 629/D, Street No. 25, Amrik Singh Road, Bathinda, have changed my name to Yashika Babbar. (CL20065697)

I, Army Number 3970607 Ex. Sep. Om Dutt son of Kirpa Ram, Village Bhatrala, PO Suhin, Tehsil Fatehpur, Distt. Kangri, HP declare that my three daughters' names in my Army record have wrongly entered as Sunita, Seema Devi and Reena Devi whereas their correct names are Sunita Kumar, Seema Sharma, Reena Sharma. The birth dates of my son Ankush Sharma and daughter Sunita Kumar are also wrongly entered as 20.11.1984 and 01.07.1976 whereas their correct birth dates are 20.11.1984 and 20.11.1976. Concerned note. (CL20065715)

WIDEST REACH MAXIMUM RESPONSE

PROPERTY FOR SALE



One/two kanal facing park Sector 3, 35, four kanal 8, 9, Chandigarh Shaleen Ent 98881-21133. (CL20043524)

Available/Wanted/ Booking Plots
IAS- Judges/ Officer Societies, Ecocity/ Omaxe/ PCL/ Manohar Singh ect. New Chandigarh Arora. WhatsApp: 80780-34666. (CL20065326)

WantedCommercial (Direct
Meeting Genuine Buyer) Required Building/ SCO/ SCF (Immediate Payment) Chandigarh, Panchkula, Mohali Arora (HSAT) Red. 987809884. (CL20052687)

Chandigarh one kanal single
storey facing North house Sector 18. Confirmation with Shree Properties. 98149-35506. (CL20063025)

Chandigarh three kanal facing park
house Sector 8. Prime location. Direct deal. Shree Properties: 98140-35506. (CL20063026)

Chandigarh four kanal house facing
North East Sector 9. Genuine buyer contact Shree Properties: 98140-35506. (CL20063027)

Chandigarh two kanal house corner,
B-Road Sector 21, 32. Direct deal. Properties: 98140-35506. (CL20063029)

Chandigarh three bay showroom ground
with basement for sale. Prime location. Best option for rental income. Shree Properties: 98140-35506. (CL20063030)

Chandigarh ten marla triple storey
livable B-Road house Sector 15. Authorisation with Shree Properties. 98140-35506. (CL20063031)

Chandigarh two bay showroom ground
Sector 8. Full/ floorwise sale. Vacant/ rented. Shree Properties. 98140-35506. (CL20063032)

Chandigarh one kanal facing park
Sector 19, 27, full or floorwise sale. Good specifications. Reasonably priced. Contact: Delhi Punjab Real Estate Pvt. Ltd. 98150-45554. (CL20065519)

Chandigarh: 1 kanal liveable house
facing park. Contact: Delhi Punjab Real Estate Pvt. Ltd. 98150-45554. (CL20065519)

Chandigarh: 8/10 marla tastefully
built floors facing park. Contact: Delhi Punjab Real Estate Pvt. Ltd. 98150-45554. (CL20065519)

Chandigarh: 10 marla newly built
house (first floor) facing park. A-one location, Sector-33, Chandigarh, going cheap. (CL20065523)

Chandigarh: 1 kanal liveable house
facing park. Contact: Delhi Punjab Real Estate Pvt. Ltd. 98150-45554. (CL20065523)

Chandigarh: 1 kanal facing park
Sector 21, 32. Direct deal. Properties: 98140-35506. (CL20063427)

Chandigarh: 1 kanal facing park
Sector 21, 32. Direct deal. Properties: 98140-35506. (CL20063427)

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Chandigarh: 1 kanal facing park
Sector 21, 32. Direct deal. Properties: 98140-35506. (CL20063427)

Chandigarh: 1 kanal facing park
Sector 21,

Mohali

Mohali: 8 Marla Big Corner & facing park, Phase-2 & 3-B1 Contact: Mohali Realtors: 89689-11011, 98151-15711. (CL20063171)

Booth with basement opposite Bestech Mall for sale. Call: Duggal Properties: 98146-20365. (CL20063800)

Industrial plots Phase 9, Mohali, 1 kanal builtup facing park, 1 kanal double storey, 1 kanal builtup single line, 2 and 5 kanal corner. Duggal Properties: 98146-20365. (CL20063840)

4 Marla Triple Story Corner Duplex & 8 Marla Double Story facing park Sector-80, Orbit Estates: 9878200042, 9915534500, (CL20064573)

10 Marla single line facing park in Phase 3B2, facing North East in Phase 3B2 all houses are old and livable in Mohali. Jeet Estates 85660-80005, 84378-87771. (CL20065443)

1 kanal just like new 4-5 years old B-Road, beautifully built in Phase-5, old, livable in Phase 2, Jeet Estates 85660-80005, 84378-87771. (CL20065444)

5 marla builtup 16 rooms attached washroom near Main Road Balwanj Mohali, Hira Real Estate 98728-99591, 98724-01166, (CL20065446)

8 marla ground floor 50% share renovated in Phase 7, Mohali. Going cheap Jeet Associates 85660-80005, 84378-87771. (CL20065447)

Mohali plots: 16 marla Sector 77, 5 big corner, F/park, Phase 3A, 3B2, 3B1, Sector 70, Empire Estates 98159-50922, 90566-66055. (CL20065557)

Aerocity: 125 gaz / 5 marla triple storey facing park, facing East kothi for sale. Marbled and good work. 98789-7672, 98767-24544. (CL200644705)

Aerocity Extension: AeroTropolis Zameen, best investment prospect. Land in Block B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I. Confirmed deal: 94172-7775, 98789-7675. (CL20064705)

Mohali show room sites/ builtup on Airport Road, Sector 66A/ 78/ 79/ 80, 82, Royal Castle 98767-60000. (CL20065240)

Mohali Industrial plots for sale, 2 kanal, 3 kanal & 6 kanal in Phase-7, 8B, Yugesh, 98720-99999. (CL20065605)

JLPL Sector 82, 2 kanal plot for sale at reasonable price. Yugesh 98720-99999. (CL20065607)

JLPL Showroom/ shops for sale in Airport area. Prime location for investment. Yugesh 98720-99999. (CL20065609)

Industrial shed 5 kanal, 11000' builtup, broad with power Phase-7. Mohali Ambapro 98141-02348, 98784-54361. (CL20064032)

Mohali: 10% marla North- East, Second floor 3247 fully marbled, near park, Sector 71. 99143-27641. (CL20064973)

Newly constructed Independent floors, 3 BHK with 2 attached bathrooms, 200 Sq. yds. Phase-3B1 Mohali. Owner: 98149-04168. (CL20065165)

Wanted one kanal Chandigarh payment ready contact 98788-82747. Email: karavansandhu@gmail.com dealer excuse. (CL20062962)

Ready buyers for all types of properties in Tricity. Vacant/ occupied. Bhasin Properties 142/ 17C, Chandigarh. 85588-55555. (CL20063466)

Wanted 1 kanal, 2 kanal houses in Chandigarh ready buyers immediate settlement. Allied Realty 98140-16644. (CL20064357)

6-4 kanal kothi Sector 4, 5, 9, 2-1 kanal 8, 18 Chandigarh. Jeet Associates 96468-09090. (CL20064546)

Wanted one kanal prime location houses in Sector 10, 11, 33, 34 & 36 Chandigarh. Only owners contact: 99880-13347. (CL20064752)

Gently wanted property in Chandigarh, Mohali residential, commercial, Industrial, agricultural. Ready buyers. Quick settlement. Call: 99883-99999. (CL20065188)

PROPERTY

Batra Estate - #99 Sector 17, Panchkula: 94179-77016, 85669-15000, 94638-37635, 70093-27189. Property consultants specialised in commercial and residential accommodation. (CL20065144)

PLOT FOR SALE

Sector-70 Mohali: One kanal plot, facing park/B-road, N/E. Hatchit Properties: 98159-03622. (CL20063429)

Panchkula: 1 kanal 740/ 27. 10 marl 709/ 27. 8 marla corner B-road 918/ 25. 7 marla corner facing park 2507/ 21, 6/ 6 marla corner B-road 622/ 26 ; main road 939/ API/ 12A. National Property Dealer, Showroom 830C, Manimajra. 2734372, 2734648, 94170-07921. (CL20063730)

Two kanal Industrial shed Phase 5, Mohali. Gurdu Singh. 98158-76007. (CL20063825)

Sector 70: HIG (independent) corner, 6/2 marla triple marbled near park, huge parking. 99880-03802. (CL20064358)

HIG first floor 3 BHK Phase 9, HL bouth Phase 9. Housefield 79, top floor, Cat 1. 98149-23413. (CL20064767)

Mohali: Two adjoining booths with basement Phas 5, HE flat Phase 7. Dadwal Properties 93160-12351. (CL20065063)

Mohali: Kanal house fully furnished for sale in Mohali. Only genuine buyer may contact: 93160-12351. (CL20065071)

Mohali: Flat 4 BHK, first floor, extra ordinary duplex, GTB Complex, Sector- 70 for sale. 93160-12351. (CL20065076)

Mohali: Ten marla corner house fully furnished for sale in Mohali. Contact genuine buyers. 93160-12351. (CL20065080)

1 kanal Aerocity, rare availability corner, facing park, East facing, Block D, for sale. 90411-20002. (CL20065121)

Mohali: Pair showroom, size 14x40, on corner site of Sector 66 flexible payment plan KFC already arrived nearby. Smart Move Realty Vashish: 87250-15781. (CL20065124)

Mohali: Aerocity 152 gaj corner East facing, direct approach from B-road, Max. cheque preferred, Royal Castle. 98767-60000, 98787-80000. (CL20065118)

1 kanal Aerocity, rare availability corner, facing park, East facing, Block D, for sale. 90411-20002. (CL20065126)

5 marla triple storey kothi No. 2080, Sector 68 in Mohali for sale. Contact 88725-20002. (CL20065126)

Mohali: Prime property pre-rented to Govt. @ Rs. 2.10 lakhs/ PM on 9 years lease agreement near Airport Chowk. High potential for appreciation. Smart Move Realty Vashish: 87250-15781. (CL20065131)

Kanal duplex facing park ready to move in Phase-9, facing park renovated 3B2, new duplex facing park Sector 60, 61, 69, 71. (Kanal plots Sector 69). Prinji Associates 82839-30009. (CL20065198)

4 marla kothi 1st floor available 2 BHK front pocket Sector 80, Mohali. 98760-52353. (CL20065257)

HL house Phase 7, Mohali, double storey, prime location for sale. Contact: 82838-65484. (CL20065628)

Commercial complex 2 shops, 6 rooms on main Phirni Sector 80, Mauli Bairwan, Mohali. 98760-52353. (CL20065370)

10 marla brand new ultra modern house, 2.5 story, duplex, B-Road prime location in Sector 79, Mohali. Jeet Estates: 85660-80005, 84378-87771. (CL20065436)

4 marla duplex ultra jayvani vihar, beautifully built, near Jayvani vihar, 3 BHK in Sector 125, Sunny Enclave. Jeet Estates 85660-80005. (CL20065438)

Industrial Plots: 2 kanal B-Road Phase-7, 2 kanal plot Phase-8. Duggal Properties: 98146-20365. (CL20065380)

IT City Mohali, 66-B: Available 200 gaj park facing, clear and levelled plot. 93160-37544. (CL20063954)

6.75 marla at Vikas Nagar, near PGI Chandigarh. Owner going abroad. 98781-75000. (CL20065657)

Plot for sale Savathy Green 2, Zirakpur, Ambala Road, Size 20'x 9' x 31', two side open, Good location. Mobi: 86992-16004. (CL20062936)

Available all sizes plots Sectors 76 to 80 JPL Sec. 82, 88, 89, Aerocity/ Ecocity Itcity. Rama Properties Rera approved. 98140-42287. (CL20062950)

250 sq. yard East facing plot in Maharov Royal Palms in New Chandigarh for sale. Interested parties contact 98199-28660. (CL20062992)

IT City Mohali, 66-B: Available 200 gaj park facing, clear and levelled plot. 93160-37544. (CL20063954)

6.75 marla at Vikas Nagar, near PGI Chandigarh. Owner going abroad. 98781-75000. (CL20063954)

4 marla kothi 1st floor available 2 BHK front pocket Sector 80, Mohali. 98760-52353. (CL20065257)

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4 marla kothi 1st floor available 2 BHK front pocket Sector 80, Mohali. 98760-52353. (CL20065257)

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Commercial complex 2 shops, 6 rooms on main Phirni Sector 80, Mauli Bairwan, Mohali. 98760-52353. (CL20065370)

10 marla brand new ultra modern house, 2.5 story, duplex, B-Road prime location in Sector 79, Mohali. Jeet Estates: 85660-80005, 84378-87771. (CL20065436)

4 marla duplex ultra jayvani vihar, beautifully built, near Jayvani vihar, 3 BHK in Sector 125, Sunny Enclave. Jeet Estates 85660-80005. (CL20065438)

Industrial Plots: 2 kanal B-Road Phase-7, 2 kanal plot Phase-8. Duggal Properties: 98146-20365. (CL20065380)

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6.75 marla at Vikas Nagar, near PGI Chandigarh. Owner going abroad. 98781-75000. (CL20063954)

4 marla kothi 1st floor available 2 BHK front pocket Sector 80, Mohali. 98760-52353. (CL20065257)

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4 marla duplex ultra jayvani vihar, beautifully built, near Jayvani vihar, 3 BHK in Sector 125, Sunny Enclave. Jeet Estates 85660-80005. (CL20065438)

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All the candidates who have applied for admission to P.G. Programs including LL.B (3 Years) Programs offered by University Teaching Departments and MDU-CPAS, Gurugram for the session 2020-21 up to 16.11.2020 are hereby given final opportunity to edit/update/correct/change/modify (except reservation category and application type category) in their admission form up to 25.11.2020. While updating their application form, the candidate must ensure uploading the computer generated result of the qualifying exam/final semester, in case the DMC is not available. Regarding change of reservation category or application type (supernumerary to general or vice-versa) candidates should send their request to Director, University Computer Centre, M.D. University, Rohtak through E-mail update.admission@mdu.ac.in

Thereafter, no request shall be entertained in any case.

PRDH/83947 DEAN, ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

ED raids 7 locations in money laundering case

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

The Enforcement Directorate today said it had conducted searches at seven locations in the Kashmir valley in connection with its probe into money laundering linked to alleged suspicious transactions in J&K Bank.

According to officials in the agency, the Central financial probe agency covered a total of seven locations — six in Srinagar and one in Anantnag district. The searches were conducted under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they added.

Identifying the premises of individuals, the ED officials said, the agency raided Mohammad Ibrahim Dar, Murtaza Enterprises, Azad Agro Traders, M&M Cottage Industries and Mohammad Sultan Teli, who were "involved" in the hospitality and agro-based industries, civil construction and real estate businesses.

The Central financial probe agency is probing the case after studying an earlier FIR filed by the CID of the UT police in Srinagar against officials of J&K Bank, unidentified public servants, private persons and others for suspicious transactions in various bank accounts.

The CID FIR, the ED officials said, alleged that bank accounts were used for routing money of public servants as well as some private parties. Certain bank officials, in connivance with these public servants, deliberately

"omitted to raise the alerts as required under anti-money laundering norms, they alleged quoting the CID FIR.

Later in a statement the agency said, during the course of its probe "so far it has been revealed that the transactions in many of these bank accounts maintained with J&K Bank were not genuine and these accounts were utilised for the purpose of laundering money".

Sleuths of the ED were recording the statement of the people covered in the searches "to unravel the source of huge credits and debits in their accounts", they said, adding: "Recovered incriminating documents and soft data are also being analysed".

"The searches resulted in the recovery of evidence of

money laundering as the bank accounts have been found to be used for routing suspicious transactions," a senior ED official said.

The three-member committee, headed by Sunil Sethi, recommended the expulsion of Sharma to set an example that indiscipline would not be tolerated, the spokesman said. — PTI

Save Energy for the Benefit of Self and Nation

Chief Engineer (MM), HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-4

Office of the Director General, Medical Education & Training, Uttar Pradesh, 6th Floor, Jawahar Bhawan, Lucknow.

No. ME-3/2020/2280 Lucknow: Dated 21 November 2020

Following is the time Schedule for UP NEET UG 2020 Second round of Online counseling for Government/Private Medical/Dental Colleges/Institutions/ University (MBBS/ BDS) Courses :-

Date of online registration 24th November 2020 from 11:00 AM to 26th November 2020

Date of declaration of online merit list 27th November 2020

Date of document verification of academic certificates/Caste/ other documents and submission of security money 02nd December 2020 from 05th December 2020

Date of online choice filling 12th December 2020 from 11:00 AM to 14th December 2020

Declaration of result of seat allotment 16th December 2020

Date for downloading allotment letters & admission 17th December 2020 from 21st December 2020

For participation in counseling of UP NEET UG 2020, candidates will have to compulsorily register online by depositing Rs. 2000/- online through Website <https://upneet.gov.in>

Candidates registered in 1st round of counseling need not to register again for 2nd round of counseling.

Registered candidates who were not able to pay their registration fee in 1st round of counseling can deposit their registration fee and participate in 2nd round of counseling.

Candidates who were not able to register themselves in 1st round of counseling due to some unforeseen reasons, can now participate in 2nd round of counseling by depositing registration fee of Rs. 2000/- only (Through online Debit card/Credit card/net banking).

Candidates who were allotted seats in 1st round of counseling, but have not taken admission, can again participate in 2nd round of counseling by depositing prescribed amount bank Demand Draft of security fee at the self chosen document verification nodal center.

Candidates who were not allotted any seat in 1st round of counseling and do not want to participate in 2nd round of counseling further, can collect their respective Demand Draft of security money from self chosen document verification nodal centre, separate notification will be issued after the second round of counseling for this website.

Candidates who did not submit some documents like, Caste/EWS/ or any other certificates at the time of 1st round of document verification can resubmit their documents during 2nd round of document verification at self chosen verification nodal centres.

For participating in 2nd round of counseling newly registered candidates need to deposit security fee of (Rs. 30,000/- for Government seats, Rs. 2,00,000/- for Private Medical seats & Rs. 100,000/- for Private Dental seats) as CTS Bank Demand Draft in the name of "Director General Medical Education & Training, UP", Payable at Lucknow, at self chosen document verification nodal centre.

Candidates who have deposited Rs. 1,00,000/- Demand Draft in 1st round of counseling for admission in private Dental Colleges (BDS) and have taken admission at the allotted seats, further want to participate in 2nd round of counseling for private Medical Colleges (MBBS seat) need to submit the additional Demand Draft of Rs. 1,00,000/- at the document verification centre mandatorily.

For further important and detailed information kindly visit the website <https://upneet.gov.in & www.updgmec.in> regularly.

HIMFED

SHIMLA — 171003

Phone: 0177-2657580, 2807648, 2650746

Short Term Notice Inviting Bids for supply of Horticulture Mineral Oil

Bids in sealed covers under two-bid system superscribed "Quotations for HMO" are invited from those Manufacturers whose Brands are approved in Spray Schedule Year-2020 (Apple) by Department of Horticulture, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-2 & Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan (H.P.), for the supply of approximately 250 KL quantity of Horticulture Mineral Oil (HMO) on FOR basis at different locations in Shimla, Kullu districts and Shongtong in Kinnaur district during the period up to 31/03/2021.

The sealed offers containing rates, net inclusive of all taxes etc. should reach the office of undersigned on or before 04/Dec/2020 up to 2:15 PM. Bids will be opened on the same day at 02:30 PM. For detailed Notice, please see official Website www.himfed.com.

Sd/- General Manager,
Himfed Shimla-03

DPR/HP/571

6 SITES IN SRINAGAR, ONE IN ANANTNAG

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Following is the time Schedule for UP NEET UG 202

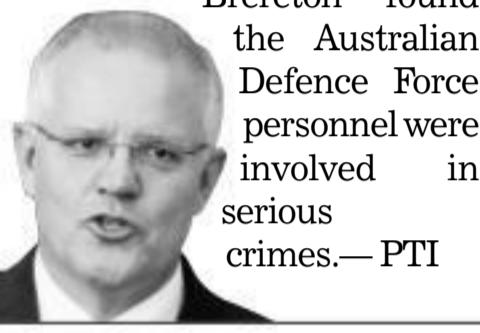


GLOBE TROT

Will respond to war crime charges: Oz PM

MELBOURNE, NOVEMBER 21 Australia will respond "very seriously" to war crime allegations against its defence personnel. Prime Minister Scott Morrison has assured the people of Afghanistan, a day after a long-awaited military report said the country's special forces unlawfully killed 39 persons in the war-torn country.

According to the report released on Thursday, there is "credible information" that at least 19 serving and former Australian special forces allegedly committed up to 39 unlawful murders during the conflict in Afghanistan. The four-year inquiry by New South Wales Court Of Appeal Justice Paul Brereton found the Australian Defence Force personnel were involved in serious crimes.—PTI



DEMAND FOR RELEASE: Supporters of 12 persons detained in China protest in Hong Kong on Saturday. REUTERS

Jan Morris, author and transgender pioneer, dies at 94

NEW YORK: Jan Morris, the celebrated journalist, historian, world traveller and fiction writer who became a pioneer of the transgender movement in middle age, died at 94 in Wales on Friday morning. AP

Canada to return goddess statue stolen from India 100 yrs ago

TORONTO: A Canadian university will soon return to India a unique statue of Hindu goddess Annapoorna that was stolen from a shrine in Varanasi over a century ago and found its way to the university's art gallery, in an attempt to "right historical wrongs" and help overcome the "damaging legacy of colonialism". PTI

**CANCELLATION / PARTIAL CANCELLATION / SHORT TERMINATION / SHORT ORIGINATION / DIVERSION OF TRAINS**

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to Cancel / Partially Cancel / Short Terminate/Short Originate/Divert following Passengers Special Trains / Festival Special Trains in view of the Kisan Agitation in Punjab:-

CANCELLATION OF MAIL / EXPRESS/ RAJDHANI SPECIAL TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02425/02426 New Delhi-Jammu Tawi-New Delhi Rajdhani Special	22.11.2020
22439/22440 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Vande Bharat Exp.	22.11.2020
02462 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Express	22.11.2020
02461 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	23.11.2020
02011/02012 New Delhi-Kalka-New Delhi Shatabdi Express	22.11.2020
02029/02030 New Delhi-Amritsar-New Delhi Shatabdi Express	22.11.2020
05211 Darbhanga Jn. - Amritsar Jn. Special	22.11.2020
05212 Amritsar Jn. - Darbhanga Jn. Special	24.11.2020
02053/02054 Haridwar Jn. - Amritsar Jn. - Haridwar Jn. Express	23.11.2020

CANCELLATION OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02422 Jammu Tawi-Ajmer Express	22.11.2020
02421 Ajmer-Jammu Tawi Express	23.11.2020
02231 Lucknow - Chandigarh Express	22.11.2020
02232 Chandigarh-Lucknow Express	23.11.2020
04888 Barmer - Rishikesh Express	23.11.2020
04887 Rishikesh - Barmer Express	24.11.2020
04519 Delhi Jn.-Bathinda Express	22.11.2020 & 23.11.2020
04520 Bathinda-Delhi Jn. Express	23.11.2020
02471 Shri Ganganagar - Delhi Jn. Express	22.11.2020 & 23.11.2020
02472 Delhi Jn. - Shri Ganganagar Express	23.11.2020
04998 Bhatinda Jn. - Varanasi Jn. Express	22.11.2020
04997 Varanasi Jn. - Bhatinda Jn. Express	23.11.2020
04612 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Varanasi Jn. Express	22.11.2020
04611 Varanasi Jn. - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	24.11.2020
03255 Patliputra Jn. - Chandigarh Express	22.11.2020
03256 Chandigarh - Patliputra Jn. Express	23.11.2020
05531 Saharsa Jn. - Amritsar Jn. Express	22.11.2020
05532 Amritsar Jn. - Saharsa Jn. Express	23.11.2020

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at/ Short originate from	Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02903 Golden Temple Mail	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	21.11.2020
02904 Golden Temple Mail	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	22.11.2020
02925 Bandra Terminus-Amritsar Special Express	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	21.11.2020
02926 Amritsar-Bandra Terminus Special Exp.	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	23.11.2020
02715 Sachkhand Express	at New Delhi	New Delhi-Amritsar	21.11.2020
02716 Sachkhand Express	from New Delhi	Amritsar-New Delhi	23.11.2020
03307 Dhanbad-Firozpur Exp.	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Firozpur	21.11.2020
03308 Firozpur-Dhanbad Exp.	from Ambala Cantt.	Firozpur-Ambala Cantt.	23.11.2020
04649/04673 Jaynagar-Amritsar Saryu Yamuna Exp.	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	21.11.2020
04650/04674 Amritsar-Jaynagar Saryu Yamuna Exp.	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	23.11.2020
02057 New Delhi - Una Himachal Janshatabdi	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt. - Una Himachal	22.11.2020
02058 Una Himachal - New Delhi Janshatabdi	from Ambala Cantt.	Una Himachal - Ambala Cantt.	23.11.2020
02237 Varanasi-Jammu Tawi Festival Special	at Saharanpur	Saharanpur-Jammu Tawi	22.11.2020
02238 Jammu Tawi-Varanasi Festival Special	from Saharanpur	Jammu Tawi-Saharanpur	23.11.2020
02358 - Amritsar Jn. -Kolkata Special	from Ambala Cantt. Jn.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt. Jn.	23.11.2020
04652 Amritsar Jn. - Jaynagar Express	From Delhi Jn.	Amritsar-Delhi Jn.	22.11.2020
02026 Amritsar Jn. - Nagpur AC Special	from Ambala Cantt. Jn.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt. Jn.	23.11.2020
08238 Amritsar Jn. - Bilaspur Special Express	from Meerut City	Amritsar-Meerut City	22.11.2020
09717 Jaipur Jn. - Daulatpur Chowk Special Express	at Ambala Cantt. Jn.	Ambala Cantt Jn. - Daulatpur Chowk	22.11.2020
09718 Daulatpur Chowk - Jaipur Jn. Special Express	from Ambala Cantt. Jn.	Daulatpur Chowk-Ambala Cantt Jn.	23.11.2020

DIVERSION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Diverted Via	Date (from the Originating Station)
05909 Dibrugarh-Lalgash Spl.	Rohtak-Bhiwani-Hisar-Hanumangarh	20.11.2020
05910 Lalgash-Dibrugarh Spl.	Hanumangarh-Hisar-Bhiwani-Rohtak	22.11.2020

Note : For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Security HelpLine
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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Biden's Cabinet likely by next week

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 21

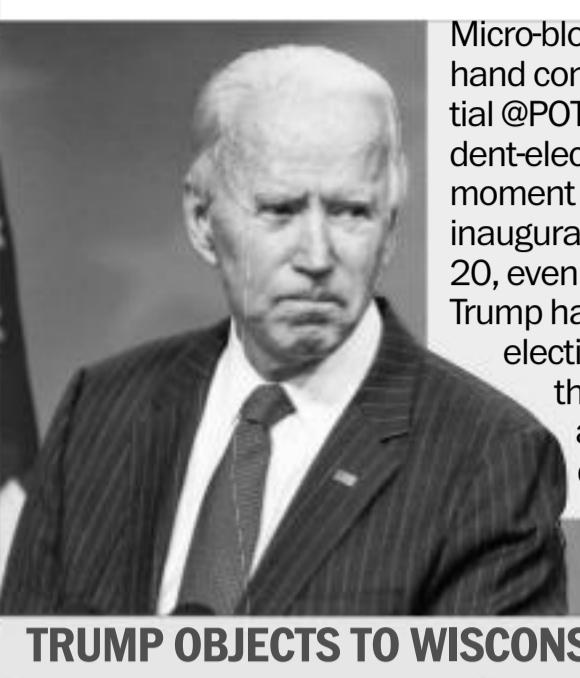
President-elect Joe Biden is moving quickly to fill out his administration and could name top leaders for his Cabinet as early as next week.

Biden told reporters on Thursday that he's already decided on who will lead the Treasury Department. That pick, along with his nominee for secretary of state, may be announced before Thanksgiving, according to people close to the transition.

The Cabinet announcements could be released in tranches, with groups of nominees focused on a specific top area, like the economy, national security or public health, being announced at once.

Such a move is intended to deliver the message that Biden is intent on preparing for the presidency even as President Donald Trump refuses to concede and attempts to subvert the election results in key states. Trump's roadblocks have undermined core demo-

TWITTER TO GIVE @POTUS TO BIDEN ON JAN 20



Micro-blogging site Twitter will hand control of the presidential @POTUS account to President-elect Joe Biden the moment he is sworn in on inauguration day on January 20, even if President Donald Trump has not conceded his election loss. @POTUS is the official Twitter account of the President of the US. PTI

TRUMP OBJECTS TO WISCONSIN RECOUNT

Madison: The recount of the presidential election in Wisconsin's two most heavily Democratic counties began on Friday with President Donald Trump's campaign seeking to discard tens of thousands of absentee ballots that it alleged should not have been counted. Trump's three objections attempting to discard the bal-

lots were denied by the three-member Dane County Board of Canvassers, twice on bipartisan votes. Dane County Clerk Scott McDonell said he expected the campaign was building a record before filing a lawsuit. Joe Biden won Wisconsin by 20,600 votes and carried Dane and Milwaukee counties by a 2-to-1 margin. AP

WANTS CONGRESS TO PASS VIRUS AID IN LAME-DUCK SESSION

Wilmington: Joe Biden is pushing Congress to approve billions of dollars in emergency Covid assistance before he takes office,

saying at a meeting on Friday with top Democrats in the House and Senate that such a package should be approved during the lame-duck session. Biden held his first in-person meeting since winning the presidential election with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, hosting them at his makeshift transition headquarters in a downtown Wilmington, Delaware, theatre. Biden's new governing team is facing intense pressure to approve another Covid relief Bill and come up with a clear plan to distribute millions of doses of a prospective vaccine. That comes as Biden is just days away from unveiling the first of his Cabinet picks, which are subject to Senate confirmation. AP

cratic principles such as the peaceful transfer of power and are especially problematic because Biden will take office in January amid the worst public health crisis in more than a century.

"It's a huge impact. And each day it gets worse, meaning a week ago, it wasn't that big of a deal. This week, it's starting to get to be a bigger deal. Next week, it'll be bigger," said David Marchick, director of the Center for Presidential Transition at the nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service. "Every new day that's lost has a larger impact than the day before." Still, Biden's transition work is progressing, with the President-elect holding frequent virtual meetings from his home in Wilmington, Delaware, and a music venue downtown. At this point, Biden is deeply involved in choosing his Cabinet, a process described by one person as similar to fitting puzzle pieces together.—AP

2 more Hafiz aides jailed in terror case

LAHORE, NOVEMBER 21

A Pakistani court has jailed two more aides of Mumbai attack mastermind and Jamat-ud-Dawah (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed in a terror financing case.

The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) of Lahore on Friday handed down six and five-and-a-half years of imprisonment to JuD leaders Muhammad Ashraf and Lucman Shah, respectively.

ATC Judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta also imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on each. On Thursday, the 70-year-old JuD chief was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment in two terror cases by ATC, Lahore.

Saeed's two close aides-Zafar Iqbal and Yahya Mujahid—were sentenced to 10 and a half years each while his brother-in-law Abdul Rehman Makki was sentenced to six months of imprisonment in the same cases. Saeed, a UN designated terrorist on whom the US has placed a \$10 million bounty, was arrested on July 17 last year in the terror financing cases. He was sentenced to 11 years in jail by an anti-terrorism court in February this year in two terror financing cases.

The JuD chief is lodged at Lahore's high-security Kot Lakhpat jail. Saeed is wanted in India for planning the 2008 Mumbai attacks when 10 Pakistani terrorists killed 166 persons, including six Americans, and injured hundreds others.

Paris-based global terror financing watchdog Finan-

CASE FILE

41 cases registered by Pak's Counter Terrorism Department against JuD leaders

24 have been decided so far while the rest are pending in the ATC courts

4 cases have been decided against Hafiz Saeed so far

cial Action Task Force (FATF) is instrumental in pushing Pakistan to take measures against terrorists roaming freely in Pakistan and using its territory to carry out attacks in India.

The sentencing of JuD leaders comes weeks after the FATF retained Pakistan on its grey list till February 2021 as Islamabad failed to fulfil the agency's six key obligations, including failure to take action against two of India's most wanted terrorists—Saeed and Maulana Masood Azhar.

Saeed-led JuD is the front organisation for the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), which is responsible for carrying out the 2008 Mumbai attack.

The US Department of the Treasury has designated Saeed as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist. He was listed under the UN Security Council Resolution 1267 in December



Anuj Ambalal has spent two years photographing sites in every village and town on the 390-km stretch that the Mahatma covered during Dandi March

ARTS page 14



Will the new guidelines on bringing online news portals and streaming services under the ambit of the govt sound death-knell for the booming OTT industry? ENTERTAINMENT, ETC. page 15



A new book highlights how the financial sector's troubles led to a decline in growth in recent years, worsened by the coronavirus-induced slowdown

BOOKS page 16

Stray at Home

Indigenous, easily adaptable and adoptable, loved and feared in equal measure — the pariah dogs are finding acceptance and space inside hearts and hearths on a much larger scale. That by no means is an indication of any loosening of the tag of 'menace' and revulsion associated with the Indies. Or is it?

RENU SUD SINHA

It is nearly 10 pm on a chilly night in Chandigarh. Suddenly, there's a flurry of activity in the corridors of a sector market. Some 20-odd stray dogs surround a frail woman. Sonia Sachdeva has brought food for them. The 50-year-old former teacher has been doing so for the past 15 years.

Delhi-based Ashika Sharma doesn't believe in the cliché that a dog is man's best friend because in times of acute circumstances, she has found it to be the only friend. To repay this debt, in June during the lockdown, she paid ₹10,000 to hire a cab to Jalandhar to pick up an old abandoned Labrador rescued by an NGO.

German national Kelly Simone Johnson, who shifted to Bengaluru in 2009, has been rescuing Indie dogs, as these strays are called, and placing them up for adoption in the metro as well as in Germany.

Delhi-based writer, critic, journalist Jai Arjun Singh has only had strays as pets since 2008, when adopting an Indie wasn't even in vogue. He also participates in sterilisation and vaccination drives in Saket, besides contributing time, efforts and money for the cause.

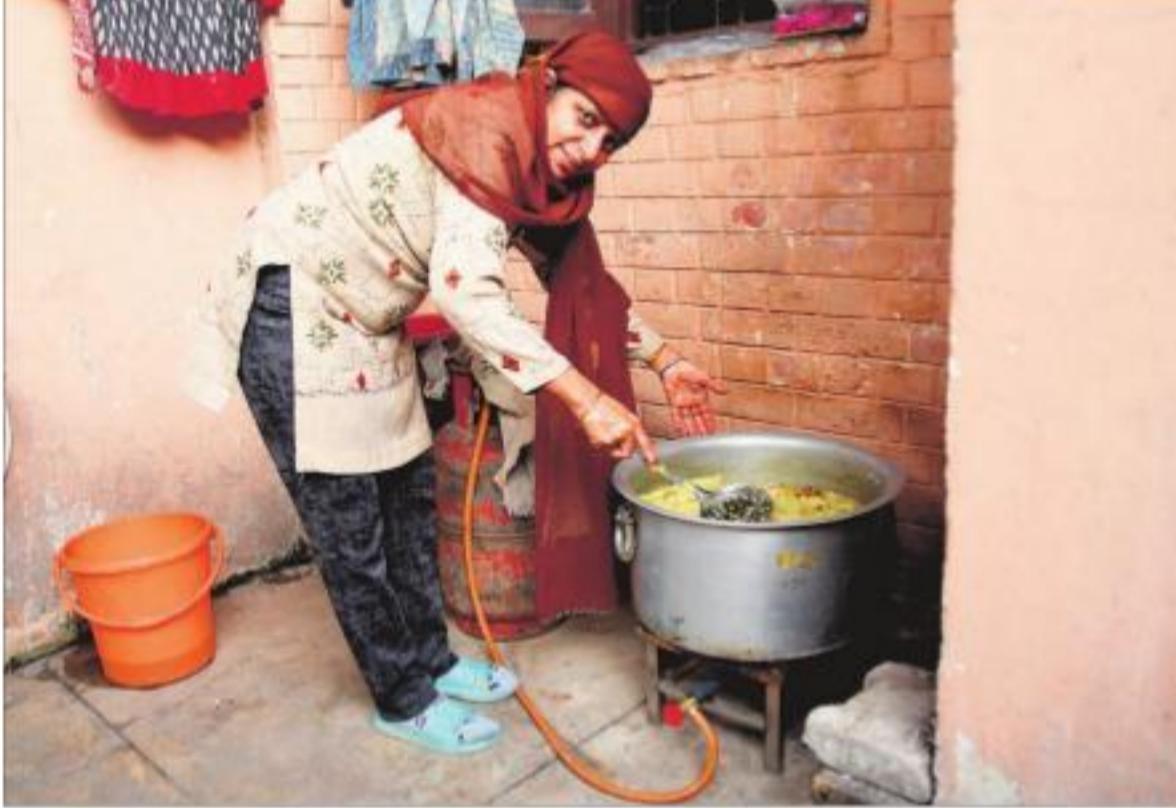
Ludhiana-based artist Sahil Jain has lent a 40-square-yard semi-built property to a local NGO, India for Animals, for use as a shelter for stray animals.

Because of their love and compassion for the Indie dog, also called the Indian pariah dog, many of these animal lovers have themselves become pariahs in their own community or neighbourhood. They remain undeterred, though, despite facing the ire of disgruntled neighbours or the wrath of RWAs, even family members.

Sonia has shifted three houses after neighbours complained to her landlords, calling her a 'crazy dog lady'. Jai has often been at loggerheads with society residents as many of them have surreptitiously tried to harm the strays. Ashika had to convince



Ludhiana-based Tanya Garg rescues and rehabilitates stray dogs.
PHOTO: HIMANSHU MAHAJAN



Sonia feeds 50 dogs daily in various sectors of Chandigarh. She single-handedly purchases meat and cooks 20-kg chicken-rice daily for her *bachchas*. PHOTO: PRADEEP TEWARI



Sahil Jain has lent a semi-constructed property to a local NGO



Jai Arjun Singh with his adopted Indie, Lara.

her reluctant family to adopt the blind dog.

WHY THE FEAR OF STRAYS

Kelly feels it's the lack of awareness that makes people afraid of stray dogs. She also blames the media for demonising these animals while covering dog-bite cases. Surprisingly, among the dog-bite cases in India, many studies peg the bites by pet dogs between 50 and 70 per cent.

Endorsing Kelly's views, Jai says these uninformed adults pass on their fears to their kids. 'Don't go near them. Don't touch or play with them.' All these translate into creating fear of stray animals later in life, he feels. Bengaluru-based Debalina Ghosh, who rescues Indies and helps in their rehabilitations and adoption, is more blunt. 'It's a result of superstitions, fear, age-old beliefs instilled in us from childhood, along with lack of any real knowledge of animals. It results in cruelty not only towards the animals, but also the humans who take care of them. Harassment, physical assault of feeders and pet owners are on the rise, made worse by the apathy from the administration and the toothless laws.'

Feeding these strays is not the solution. Creating awareness, strict implementation of sterilisation and vaccination is, say most animal lovers.

UNDETERRED, THEY MOVE ON

What makes these enthusiasts go on is love, empathy and, above all, the courage to take on the haters, who outnumber this minuscule community. Each has been witness to attempts to kill, maim or injure not just the stray animals, but also those who work for the welfare of these animals.

Ludhiana-based Dr Amanvir Mann, an animal rights activist, has been on the receiving end of such an intolerant attack. One of the many neighbours who did not agree with this compassionate cause owned a Rottweiler. He made his dog attack her when she opposed a move by the RWA to poison the stray dogs in her gated community. Severely injured, she filed an FIR against the owner. It took her more than five years to get a chargesheet filed, as the

police would 'advise' her to drop this 'minor' matter.

Sonia feeds 50 dogs daily in various sectors of Chandigarh. She single-handedly purchases and cooks 20-kg chicken-rice daily for her *bachchas*. A single woman, her only family member, her mother, passed away last year. She lost her job some months ago. Lack of funds is a perennial problem, but her zeal remains unbroken. A devotee of Sai Baba, this simple woman says she prays to the lord and help always arrives.

Past experiences have made her cautious. She starts her feeding drive around 8.30 pm on an Activa to avoid traffic and probably people. It takes her nearly four hours to feed dogs in various sectors.

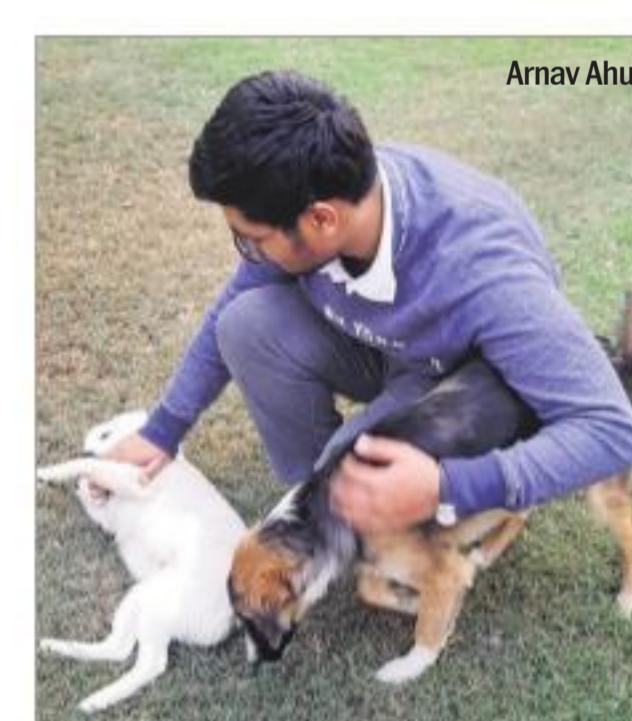
Despite the attack, Dr Mann has got nearly 20 dogs sterilised with the help of local vets or under MC's sterilisation drives, spending her own money many times, and taking care of them post-surgery.

Jai, too, has been an active participant in catching dogs for sterilisation and vaccination purposes, 'which any experienced catcher will tell you, is a thankless and laborious process', he says. 'Recently, we were trying to catch an Indie for sterilisation. It went on for four-five hours. Most people were just watching and refused any request for help.' There have been instances of people hiring private catchers to take strays away to other places, but his alertness and intervention have foiled these bids.

ORGANISED EFFORTS

In a country having over 3.5 crore stray dogs (2018 figures), and growing at an annual rate of 17 per cent, individual efforts are not enough. A large number of NGOs are also working to promote the cause of adoption of Indie breeds. 'Adopt not shop' may be a catchy slogan but adoption of these pariah breeds has not caught on much. 'It is a lot of work to find families in India who are willing to adopt Indies,' says Kelly, who has found it easier to ship these strays back home to Germany, where they have found ready acceptance. 'A pedigree dog seems a reflection of a person's status in society. Hence, people prefer to buy expensive, foreign breeds as pets.'

Ludhiana's Tanya Garg, who runs an



Arnav Ahuja



Ashika Sharma, in June during the lockdown, drove down from Delhi to Jalandhar to pick up an old abandoned Labrador rescued by an NGO there.

NGO India for Animals, concurs. 'Adoptions are a tricky business. Most of the time, it is the kids who pester unwilling parents to adopt an Indie as a pet.'

CHECKING PROSPECTIVE ADOPTERS

Keerthan Vignesh, who works with Charlies Animal Rescue Centre or CARE, says the NGO has strict checks in place for those wanting to adopt a pet. 'We screen new pet parents and match the dog most suitable for the family, based on the number of members, kids, elderly, space, how much time a family can devote, etc. The NGO also carries out field visits and follow-up checks to ensure if the animal is being treated well.'

Based in Bengaluru, CARE was established in 2013. The NGO has been actively working for rescuing, treating and rehabilitating injured and stray animals. In 2018, it helped place 300 strays with loving families. The number doubled in 2019.

IMPACT OF THE LOCKDOWN

Lockdown has affected the adoption process this year, says Keerthan. With lay-offs and salary cuts, funds have been scarce. 'We were refused funds by companies even under the CSR projects, as they preferred to focus on humans rather than animals,' he adds.

Jai agrees, 'Earlier, the small-time shopkeepers, parking attendants, security guards, etc, would feed strays in their area. As the lockdown ensured a near-complete

absence of humans, the strays had to bear the brunt, both psychologically as well as food-wise. When the lockdown ended, those feeding the strays earlier refused due to lack of resources.'

Jalandhar-based Yuvi Singh, who runs Jeev Welfare Trust, an animal protection foundation, says the number of adoptions during the lockdown more or less remained the same. However, there was a rise in the number of abandonments. Perhaps, it was the fear of catching the virus from the animals or the diminishing resources.

Established over a decade ago, the trust, with 150 volunteers, saw a large number of abandonments in initial years. To put a check, they allow adoptions to only those referred to by members or volunteers.

DRIVING THE CHANGE

While our ancient culture and Vedas have highlighted the importance of feeding animals, particularly strays, surprisingly, it is the young who are bringing home the Indies. Says Keerthan, 'It is the younger lot which persuades the elders to adopt strays.' Tanya agrees; her NGO has only two members but 30 volunteers all between 17 and 25.

Encouraged by their parents, Bathinda-based Arnav (17) and Avni Ahuja (15) have always had either strays or abandoned animals as pets. 'That's the best way to teach empathy,' feels their mother Alpana.

Bow wow to that!

WHY ADOPT AN INDIE

- Indian breeds are tough and low-maintenance.
- As indies are native breeds, they are more suited to our climate, they don't get infections easily and are less prone to various chronic ailments that affect the imported breeds.
- They have a longer lifespan than foreign breeds. Compared to an average lifespan of 10-12 years of pedigree dogs, Indies can live up to 18 years.
- Above all, such an adoption stops unethical and often illegal breeding of pedigree breeds.

Kelly Johnson with her rescued pet



With Bapu, on the Dandi March route

Anuj Ambalal has spent two years photographing sites in every single village and town on the 390-km stretch

*Respected Mr Gandhi,
I use the presence of your friend (Sundaram) in our home to send you these lines. You have shown through your works, that it is possible to succeed without violence even with those who have not discarded the method of violence. We may hope that your example will spread beyond the borders of your country, and will help to establish an international authority, respected by all, that will take decisions and replace war conflicts.*

*With sincere admiration,
Yours,
Albert Einstein, 29 October 1932*

"Generations to come will scarce believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth."

— Albert Einstein. 1948



ART &
SOUL

BN GOSWAMY

In the dark, brutal times in which we are living, anything that reminds us of higher things — ideals, lives led in the light of a moral code, even a sense of balance — comes as a breath of fresh air. At least I could feel a gust when I picked up a just released book on Gandhiji's celebrated Salt March to Dandi. 23 Grams of Salt is how it is tantalisingly titled; it could even — considering what Gandhiji was, and stood for — have been called More than a Pair of Spectacles, the latter object being almost all that one sees of him these days. The book published by — who else? — the Navajivan Trust of Ahmedabad that Gandhiji had founded in 1929, owes itself to the imagination and dedication of young Anuj Ambalal, a gifted photographer who worked on this wonderful project for close to two years, literally retracing Gandhiji's iconic march to Dandi, photographing sites in every single village and town that fell on the 390-km route from Ahmedabad to that seaside village. The book could be seen by most people as a dense photographic essay, but if one does that, one would be in error. For the narrative text that Anuj has put together, in collaboration with Rijuta Mehta, is arresting on its own: detailed, textured, and filled with sensitive observations as it is.

Patiently, with none of the sense of haste that characterises our lives, Anuj travelled the entire route of the March, stopping at nearly every place that Gandhiji and his co-marchers — 80 they were in the beginning when they set off from the Sabarmati Ashram, but the numbers kept growing,



(Clockwise from above) The banyan tree under which Gandhiji gave his speech, at Samni; Hridaya Kunj; his home at the Sabarmati Ashram from where the March started; Portrait of Dhulaji Vaghri who milked a goat for Gandhiji at Anakhi; Gandhiji's bust at the Gandhi Temple in Gajera.

ALL IMAGES ARE FROM ANUJ AMBALAL'S BOOK

swelling to tens of thousands by the time the March reached Dandi — talking to people, locating dwellings and rooms where Gandhiji had stayed, trees and fields redolent of his presence, and photographing. Much has changed from those times — the event occurred after all in 1930, 90 years back — for buildings have got demolished, streets re-done, fields encroached upon, but, interestingly, at nearly all places people were able to point to exact spots where Gandhiji had rested, or slept the night, or addressed throngs of people. In schools he would see images — murals or plaster busts, of whatever quality — of Gandhiji installed, his words emblazoned. Rarely was he able to meet someone who had actually seen Gandhiji, or taken part in the March, but there were a few: a caretaker who had opened a room for him, a lady whose mother-in-law had cooked a meal for the *satyagrahis*, a lowly worker who had milked a goat for Gandhiji. Memories grow dim and fade but, as if by magic, the mere mention of Gandhiji and the Dandi March, they flickered into life again. Interwoven with this narrative of visits are Anuj's own private experiences: the mysterious but unexplained knocking on the door of his room at 2 in the morning at one place; the

jumping over railings put up on the Ellis Bridge in Ahmedabad, a site which the *satyagrahis* avoided getting on to, because it had been built by the British; locating a centenarian who had seen Gandhiji and the *satyagrahis* but then losing him. As you read the narrative and see the images — 'consistently beautiful: very aestheticised, very stilled, very silent', as Timothy Hyman puts it, or 'peeling walls of amnesia layer by layer', in Gulam Sheikh's words — you get the sensation of being there with Anuj, who himself must have had the sensation that he was present when it was all happening. However, there is no attempt at creating drama in these photographs, no technical pyrotechnics. All that is there is an air of simplicity, almost as if the *sattvik* quality of the event and of Gandhiji's presence needed to be captured, and preserved, as it was.

The volume, apart from Anuj's own highly engaged narrative, is enriched by contributions — short but energising — by Thomas Weber who wrote that wonderful book, *On the Salt March*, and by Tridip Suhrud, distinguished scholar and former Director of the Sabarmati Ashram. Suhrud's reading of a painting by Haku Shah — *Meetha no Satyagraha* (*meethu* in Gujarati stands for salt) is moving, show-



ing a barely clad Gandhiji bending to pick up, as a symbol of defiance of British authority, a lump of salt: those 23 grams spoken of in the title. "Haku Shah's MKG (Gandhiji) is the mendicant," he writes, "not because he would not return to Hriday Kunj at Sabarmati, but because he has no need for a home, a dwelling now. The barest of loincloth captures the state of being a mendicant who seeks sacrifice from us and

would grant us the boon of Swaraj in return. There are no surging ecstatic crowds, no poet Sarojini Naidu exclaiming 'Hail, Deliverer'. But there is a bird, proud of its crown. A bird that is udgriva, one whose neck is turned upwards, a bird that is all of us who experience in that moment a surge of freedom that allowed us to look heavenwards."

A sense of calm descends.

India in non-fiction

THE New India Foundation has announced the shortlist for the third edition of the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize, recognising and celebrating excellence in non-fiction writings on modern/contemporary India. The six shortlisted books are a testimony to the diversity of non-fiction writing in and about India. Previous winners include Milan Vaishnav (2018) and Ornit Shani (2019). The winner will be announced in December.

THE SHORTLIST

- Mobilising the Marginalised: Ethnic Parties without Ethnic Movements | AMIT AHUJA
- Midnight's Machines: A Political History of Technology in India | ARUN MOHAN SUKUMAR
- The Unquiet River: A Biography of the Brahmaputra | ARUPYOTI SAIKIA
- A Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of VK Krishna Menon | JAIRAM RAMESH
- Bottle of Lies: Ranbaxy and the Dark Side of Indian Pharma | KATHERINE EBAN
- Wild Himalaya: A Natural History of the Greatest Mountain Range on Earth | STEPHEN ALTER

And illness became the artist's metaphor

Anjum Singh's final works were an expression of her battle with cancer

SARIKA SHARMA

A YEAR ago, Anjum Singh had returned to the space she grew up playing hide and seek in. As a kid, the only daughter to artists Paramjit Singh and Arpita Singh, such galleries had been second home. Last September had marked her last solo show at Delhi's Talwar Gallery, second since she was detected with cancer in 2014. The canvas was an image of her struggle with her illness — the tumour, cells, blood, red, black, figuring in the works. *I Am Still Here*, it was titled, as if a prelude to the final innings of a brilliant career finally cut short last week.

I Am Still Here deepened Anjum's investigation into the dynamic, unpredictable and internal world of the body. The works brought into view the intricate systems, the currents, flows and exchanges occurring beneath the skin.

Art critic Bhavna Kakkar says the exhibition was a thematic shift from her works that had, up till now, centred around ecology. "Her earlier works tackled the themes of urban ecology and environmental degradation. Building on a career-long exploration of chaos in a city, her recent works marked an artist's struggle with mortality," says Kakkar, adding, "*I Am Still Here* was praised as one of the best shows of her career."

Having inherited artistic legacies of her illustrious parents, it surprised no one when she took up art as a career. "She was born into the art circle. She must have imbibed so much," says Prayag Shukla, art critic and a friend of the Singhs. What's noteworthy, he says, is that she followed her own path. "Her works



Anjum Singh earned a BFA at Kala Bhavan, Santiniketan, and received an MFA from College of Art, New Delhi, in 1991. Her works are in the collections of Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Delhi, and have been on view at Prince of Wales Museum, Mumbai, and at The San Jose Museum of Art, California.

bore no influence of her parents. This is a very remarkable quality. Her last work was about her own body, what was happening to her. It wasn't just about her art. I was looking at how she must have seen life during that phase. The works were not experimental. They were very real, very honest."

Flower but not, Alien, Cobweb in my head, My Body — Candy Floss, Heart (Machine), Broken, Bleed Bleed Blood Red, Blackness, Samples, Turbulence. The titles of the works in that exhibition spoke of her frame of mind, her reflections of herself and her now-changed realities. In a conversation with



Meera Menezes at the launch of the show, she said she hadn't wanted to paint about her illness per se, but was going through so much, all her experiences, musings and doubts ultimately came to the canvas. Her impressions from her hospital visits, the tubes, the blood, the apparatus, all found their way into the works.

Earlier, in 2014, when she returned home after being diagnosed with cancer and a brief stay in the hospital, she was surprised to see the canvas she had left unfinished. While she had been painting a mushroom growing out of a pavement, it seemed like a tumour to her now.

That piece introduced the show. Deepak Talwar of Talwar Gallery, which hosted the exhibition, says it was not easy for Anjum to carve her artistic space in the shadow of two giants of Indian art, but she was tenacious and pursued her art with openness and youthful exuberance. "In her last exhibition, she delivered her most beautiful, bold yet poignant body of work, totally her own. Little did we know she was delivering her swan song," he says. Photographer Gauri Gill, who was Anjum's junior at Delhi College of Art, says: "I was so moved by my friend Anjum's brilliant, brave exhibition last year. It was deeply experiential and rooted in her suffering of the last years, and yet so delicate, lucid and transcendental."

In the various obituaries that have been published over the last few days, Anjum's smile has leapt out of every photograph. That is how she was, her friends say. This is how she will be remembered. Some time back, she had told her parents to not mourn her death, but remain cheerful, as they are. As if she is still here.

CAPTION CONTEST 1281



Entries are invited to suggest a caption for the above photograph. The caption should only be in English, witty and not exceeding 10 words, and reach Spectrum. The Tribune, Chandigarh, 160030, by Thursday. The best five captions will be published and awarded ₹300, ₹250, ₹200, ₹150 and ₹100, respectively. Each caption must be accompanied by a clipping of the caption contest and its number. Photocopies of the caption photo will not be accepted. Please mention the pin code in your address.

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

Selected entries for Caption Contest 1280

- November 8 issue (see photo)
- Herd tuskmaster — Kewal Krishan, Chandigarh
- Jumbo p(ride) — Neelam Kanta, Chandigarh
- Multi-tasking — Daljit Kaur, Chandigarh
- Trumpet king — Ashwani K Gupta, Shimla
- Corps on standby — Iqbal Singh, Hamirpur



When creative liberty is at stake

Will the new guidelines sound death-knell for the booming OTT industry?

NONIKA SINGH

LAXMI BOMB becomes *Laxmii*, *Padmavati* had to be rechristened *Padmaavat* and back in time *Billu Barber* had to shed the barber tag. In a country where sensibilities are provoked at the slightest provocation, where social media is fast becoming a belligerent pressure group, the last thing one wanted was yet another censoring mechanism, breathing down the neck of the makers.

But here it is. On November 11, a notification signed by President Ram Nath Kovind brought over-the-top (OTT) platforms like online news portals and streaming services under the ambit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. What it would mean is not yet clear but the writing on the wall certainly reads restrictions in one form or the other. International shows, too, are likely to face the axe. Just when the makers and the viewers were rejoicing in the power and beauty of the OTT medium where writers have a free run, where makers could make powerful political statements, the news did dampen creative enthusiasm. Filmmakers like Prakash Jha hope it is not censorship and the government assists in creating self-regulated guidelines for the OTT platforms. Producer Rahul Mittra feels that creators are already feeling the heat and the whispers in the industry are building into nervous anticipation of what will/could be.

Does that mean strategies are being revised and makers already making changes? Nisarg Mehta, writer of *Hostages*, whose hands are full as he is busy writing

more than one web-series, however, says. "There has been no clear-cut instruction to dilute or rewrite anything." At the same time, he says that we could soon reach a position where writers may have to invent characters with no reli-



THE FAMILY MAN



PAATAL LOK

gion and no background.

He further argues that since we have been living in the culture of taking offence for quite sometime, OTT players are well clued in about how fast tempers fly. As it is, they have legal teams to warn them of what could be a potentially flagrant issue. At the end of the day, it is business. And of no mean figures as at last count in 2019, India had as many as 17 crore OTT platform users. With a market size of nearly ₹500 crore, the revenues are expected to grow to ₹4,000 crore by the end of 2025.

Does that mean economics will overrule creative considerations and OTT players will fall in line with what the government dictates? The director of *OMG: Oh My God*, Umesh Shukla, says, "There are artistic ways of saying the same thing," just as he did with his web-series on Narendra Modi. He adds, "The chapter on Godhra riots had to be factored in, but without any provocative transgressions." Web players are often

accused of crossing the line and that online content should tone down profanities and nudity is the commonest demand. Following the feedback of the audience, writer-producer of *Bandish Bandits*, Amit Pal Singh Bindra had decided to pare down the second season of the abusive language. Self-regulation? Mittra is not so sure if it works. But nor is he a votary of snip and cut variant of guidelines, which could not only kill the complexity of narratives but also sound the death-knell for the booming OTT industry in the country.

Whichever way the cookie may crumble, Bindra believes, "Both makers and streaming platforms will find ways to reimagine and reinvent themselves." Mehta agrees that if a strict code of censorship could not scuttle the flight of Iranian cinema, rated world class, Indian artistes, too, could take a leaf from the same book. Of course, Shukla does not foresee any draconian measures. "If the government can have sensible men like Prasoon Joshi at the helm of CBFC, they will certainly rope in creative minds to regulate the vast expanse of OTT too," Mittra makes a pitch for the same, "Hope they involve young makers known for creating clutter-free disruptive content."

As of now, the artistic fraternity is optimistic about the expected changes. Yet the landscape of entertainment, which till now enjoyed unfettered freedom, is likely to witness another shift. Paradigm or minimal... we may be tempted to say time will tell, but it surely is a tipping point for a country rated as the world's fastest growing OTT market.

Modern-day nomad drama

NAVNEE LIKHI

BLEARY-EYED they find places to pull off the road and rest. Then, in the early morning hours, before anyone notices them, they are back on highway," writes Jessica Bruder in *Surviving America in Twenty First Century*. This non-fiction book has been adapted by Chinese director Chloe Zhao for his American film *Nomadland*. The notification title of the book is about older working Americans who have adopted an itinerant way of life in the aftermath of the 2008 financial collapse, and move around the country in their vans in search of employment. The story centres on 60-year-old Fern, a stoical, hard-working woman. Fern and her late husband had worked for a mining company in rural Nevada for most of their adult lives. When the mining company is shut down, she needs to move out of the town. At the company's storage tracker, Fern removes her belongings, packs her bags and hits off on a road trip exploring life as a modern-day nomad. Lonely and isolated, Fern's van, the only vehicle on the road, is surrounded by vast, empty space with mountains at a distance. Fern's resilience keeps her morale high. As she travels from snowy plains to the desert, she meets other nomads. The film has a simple and contemplative plot. It throws light on Americans who represent societal afterthoughts, mostly older people left behind and those on the sidelines of society.

Chloe Zhao's *Nomadland* highlights the plight of America's older people and those on the sidelines of society. The film begins with a scene where Fern is sitting in her van after finishing work at

an Amazon plant. Her co-workers offer her a place to live. She declines the offer and says, "I am not homeless, I am just houseless." In her van, she looks at old family photographs and cooks canned soup on a burner. Fern's commanding presence holds the character-driven film together. The succeeding scenes reveal her employment counsellor informing her that she is not fit for any work she has in her mind. She takes this blunt truth in her stride and moves to South Dakota, where she starts working as a janitor in a restaurant.

As she moves from one destination to another, she meets other nomads. As they share their stories of struggle, they become an intrinsic part of her life. Linda May, a hardy nomad in her sixties, tells Fern that she had been working since she was 12 and had raised her two daughters without any social security. Seventy-year-old Sawknife shares her agony of suffering from cancer. Then there are others, who talk of their late spouses. Many have been tossed aside by corporate America. The lonely roads, rugged mountains and rocky deserts are an intrinsic part of their lives. The film ends with Fern making her last visit to the now-empty Nevada town, the factory and home.

Captivating cinematography by Joshua James Richards and Ludovico Einaudi's background score playing delicate piano melodies give the film a new-age feel. Frances McDormand as Fern delivers a clear-eyed quiet performance infused with her no-nonsense demeanor. *Nomadland* is a gentle but forcefully moving tale.



His passing away is a great loss to hill culture

Tshering Dorje, my Lahaul-Spiti brother

MANOHAR SINGH GILL

IN 1959, the Chinese suddenly attacked an Indian police patrol in Ladakh. Chief Minister Partap Singh Kairon immediately created a border district beyond Manali, across the Rohtang Pass (13,050 feet). We had to walk over the Pass and all over this mountain district of two valleys, Lahaul and Spiti, 6,000 square miles of high mountains and glaciers, with a population of about 20,000. Having done mountaineering training with Tenzing, the Everest hero, I volunteered as Deputy Commissioner in 1961.

I was about 26 years of age. When I arrived in Kullu, I was met by a man of my age, from the Keylong district office. Tshering Dorje was tall, square-faced like a Tibetan and always sported an absurd Lenin-type 'peak' cap. Like hill people, he was always smiling. He was to be my Bhoti teacher, as the government thought we needed to learn the language. But everyone spoke Hindustani of a kind and he effectively became my ADC.

I wanted to write something of my experiences, so Dorje and I went to every festival, every prayer, and even funerals. Dorje explained to me the ceremonies and I took avid notes. These became my book, *Himalayan Wonderland*. As Deputy Commissioner, for once my pleasure became my duty. There were no files to clear, and in the long winter, we only had a 'kutch' police wireless contact with Chandigarh. Dorje was full of humour, perpetually laughing.

Once, in winter, I took him down for a week's trek to Udaipur in the Chandra-Bagha valley — which becomes the Chenab when it leaves the hills. Another time, we made a quick visit to Spiti, across Kunzum Pass (15,500 feet). Walking most of the way to Kaza, we walked all

A varied film bouquet

GAUTAMAN BHASKARAN

MOST movie festivals had to be cancelled this year, given the havoc caused by Covid-19. However, with some marginal letup in the rate of infections in Italy and Japan, both Venice and Tokyo held their annual events, the latter with a mix of physical and digital forms. The only entry from India, Mangesh Joshi's *Ashes on a Road Trip*, reminded one of the 1998 Cannes title, Patrice Chereau's *Those Who Love Me Can Take The Train*. Chereau's work takes us to the funeral of a minor painter, and his relatives gather at his twin brother's home, where long-buried secrets are openly tossed around. Similarly, Joshi's work is a subtle but powerful look at how human relationships begin to break after a death. Puru Dada is gone, and his three younger brothers, Satish Karkhanis (Mohan Agashe), Pradeep Karkhanis (Pradeep Joshi) and Ajit Karkhanis (Ajit Abhyankar), begin the rituals of cremation. Puru on his deathbed had expressed his wish to have his ashes buried in their ancestral home and fields. So, the three men and their sister, Sadhana Karkhanis (Geetanjali Kulkarni), set out in a van driven by Dada's son Om Karkhanis (Amey Wagh). The movie turns into an adventure-filled road trip, sweetly poignant at times and punishingly painful at other.

Much like most Iranian movies, Reza Dormishian's *No Choice* uses minimalism to tell us a socially relevant story that is as distressing as it is elevating. The work, with a mostly female cast, is gripping with its powerful imagery, no-nonsense script and brilliant performances. The film could have been a little less than 108 minutes. But never mind, it presents a socio-legal thriller without exaggerated frills and mannerisms. An auteur with the most original of ideas, Dormishian tackles hugely disturbing happenings in Iran — the miserable condition of the homeless, who do not have an inkling of even what their basic rights are, the illegal trade in surrogacy and the misdeeds in the medical fraternity that go under the guise of community welfare. Golbahar (Pardis Ahmadiyeh), pretty teenager who lives on the streets of Tehran, is recklessly used as a baby-producing machine by a pimp, Mojtaba (Mojtaba Pirzadeh). When she meets with an accident, has a miscarriage and has her fallopian tubes tied up during the procedure at the hospital without her consent, all hell breaks loose. Social-activist lawyer, Sara Nedayi (Negin Javaherian) defends Golbahar, taking on the powerful medical system.

Japanese master Koji Fukada's offering *The Real Thing* is, well, a romance about a salaryman (as employees are referred to in Japan). First produced by Japan's Nagoya TV as a 10-episode series from a comic book and helmed by Fukada, *The Real Thing* has been condensed to nearly four hours for a theatrical opening. And in these 233 minutes, the Tsuji (played by Win Morisaki) flits from one woman to another — and then back to the first and the second in what appears like an endless game of musical chairs.



ASHES ON A ROAD TRIP



NO CHOICE

A mix of physical screenings as well as online events marked the 33rd Tokyo International Film Festival recently

There was something about first-time feature film director David Bonneville's (renowned for his shorts) *The Last Bath*, which reminded one of the celebrated 1960s musical, *The Sound of Music*. Like Maria in the latter film, Josefina (played by Anabela Moreira) is all set to take her celibacy vows to become a nun in a convent near Porto in Portugal when a tragedy pushes her away from this path. Just like Maria is sent to take care of the widowed Captain Von Trapp's seven children, Josefina has to rush to care for her nephew when her father passes away. The 15-year-old boy, Alexandre (Martim Canavarro), has been, in the absence of his mother, staying with his grandfather. Like Maria, Josefina, too, faces an inner turmoil in her relationship with her young nephew. *The Last Bath* is disturbingly complex, intense and even dark as we see a family on the verge of dysfunction.

Writer-director Shen Yu, in his debut work *The Old Town Girls*, weaves a rather sad story of a teenager, the shy Shui Qing (Li Gengxi), who having grown up with her father, is both excited and scared when her mother, the hot-tempered Qu Ting (Wan Qian), returns home after many years. Obviously, there is gnawing tension that the movie underlines exceptionally well. There may not be many surprises in *The Old Town Girls*, but what is remarkable is Shui's innocence which keeps her hoping that her mother has but noble intentions. The teenager is desperate for some kind of stability, harmony and joy, especially after the kind of raw deal she gets from her stepmother. In the midst of lurking sorrow, the director uses daylight and bright imagery for relief, and we are taken through a labyrinth of emotions. Shui's factory-worker father's life is no less complicated, and this presents a third dimension to the plot and also serves as a reason for his placid neglect of his daughter.

in 1966, Punjab was trifurcated, and all the mountain areas went to Himachal Pradesh. We became strangers. I got married, but in later years, my wife and I continued to go to Lahaul. Bhoti Master was always waiting. I kept in touch with Dorje and Lahaul-Spiti.

As Agriculture Secretary, I sent lots of funds for the development of these valleys. I did the same as Sports Minister to encourage trekking and mountaineering. With the new cellphone technology, I was in touch with Dorje almost every other day. From ADC, he became my brother of a kind. I visited him at his home in Guskia village in the valley and his second home, high on a Kullu mountain.

As an MP, I gave funds to programmes in the Lahaul and Kullu valleys on his suggestions, by changing the rules. Normally, MPLAD Fund is given in your own state. Dorje was my life-long bond with Lahaul-Spiti, and I used to say to him that it must be some karma, and I was sure to be reborn as a Lama in a Lahaul monastery. He always agreed.

I always joked that we should go together. Sadly, he left suddenly a few days ago, a victim of coronavirus.

As a young man, Dorje had spent a number of years in a monastery in Tibet. He came back to Lahaul, married and had a family. He was a very learned man, not only in the Buddhist scriptures but also in Sanskrit and Hindu culture. He was widely respected in the hills and by scholars in the West. He wrote considerably and had easy access to the Dalai Lama. His going is a great loss and will leave a void in the hill culture. We had planned to go together to Lahaul through 'Atal Tunnel', for the building of which we worked over long years. I will still go, but without him. Every hill and peak will carry for me a memory of Tshering Dorje.

TRIBUTE



His passing away is a great loss to hill culture

the way to Kaurik, on the Tibet frontier, spending only a night on the way. We were both fit, and I could match Dorje stride for stride. In February, I walked all over Keylong village, while he explained to me Losar, the Tibetan New Year. The heavily bejewelled girls, the Chhang to drink... the culture was unique. In mid-February, I took it into my head to cross the heavily snowed Rohtang with a group of locals who used to bring our 'dak' from Manali. At that time, in 1961, there were no telephone connections. Dorje was always game. We travelled for a week, through the totally snowed in Lahaul valley, climbed to Rohtang at great risk, climbed down to the other side, and walked all the way to Manali.

In 1963, I came away from Lahaul and





How to get children interested in history

ANITA ANAND, DEVIKA CARIAPA & WILLIAM DALRYMPLE

CHILDREN are naturally interested in history. Quite early on, they are curious about what shaped their world, searching for their place in a story that began before they were born. How often have you heard questions like "Where did I come from?" or "Have you always been here?", or "Was Nana always old?"

History is the story of humans. As a subject, it has often been condemned as unworthy of serious study. One common perception is that since it is all about the past, history is irrelevant for our present concerns.

The truth is, however, that we are all historical beings. Our societies, traditions, technologies and even our genetic makeup is the result of centuries of change. The past has made the present. To truly understand our present identity, we have to understand the links between past and present. Links that only history can provide. Only once we have understood the changes and mistakes of the past can we root ourselves in the present and begin to make better choices for the future.

As parents, encouraging children's natural interest in history is part of a vital process of helping them develop a sense of self, of where they fit into their community or their country. This should be a fun and meaningful jour-

ney rather than one loaded with bookish knowledge.

In their early years, they will listen fascinated and wide-eyed to stories of the past. These could be simple tales told by a grandparent or elder — particularly lingering on details of how they lived, what they wore, what they did at school, even what they ate for lunch! Family pictures, including that picture of their Nana as a dashing young Captain in his Army uniform or Dadi driving the old family car, will introduce a sense of time and change.

Pre-schoolers will have fun with history-based activities like making a family tree to hang on their wall or being allowed to handle special artefacts in the house such as medals, an antique saree or a typewriter. These could be simple objects that have a story behind them. Read picture books with historical themes where you can point out different houses, dresses and modes of transportation. Introduce them to biographies of strong historical characters,

and encourage their natural interest in history is part of a vital process of helping them develop a sense of self, of where they fit into their community or their country

and entrench its conception of majoritarian nationalism. Tharoor's observations have been made in the time of CAA and NRC, but it is not just about religious denomination. It is also a sign of a society in retreat where homogeneity is sought, its inherent contradictions notwithstanding.

Thinking historically about current situations builds empathy and understanding of peoples and cultures around the world. These are habits that will enable them to become more informed and responsible citizens. This is also the time to discuss critical thinking about how history is written, the multiple views of an event and how sources of information should be checked carefully.

Children prepare for the future by learning about the past. Whether they choose to be lawyers, politicians, journalists, scientists or entrepreneurs, an understanding of history will be the solid foundation of their education.

— The writer's new book 'The Adventures of Kohinoor' is out now

India today, and the idea of nationalism

SANDEEP SINHA

THE quest for identity comes back to haunt us at some point of time or the other. Occupational mobility, industrialisation, urbanisation, along with globalisation, created multitudes that revelled in the anonymity of a life where only work credentials was all that mattered.

But the search for origins persists, to know who we actually are — ethnically and linguistically, for it helps shape our worldview. It is not for nothing that dignitaries from Mauritius have come all the way to India and to Bihar in search of their roots. The jubilation over Kamala Harris' victory in the US elections has been witnessed in Tamil Nadu also.

In the book, Shashi Tharoor, diplomat, scholar and now a politician, gives an exposition of his views. The BJP government, he says, seeks to promote ethnic nationalism

and entrench its conception of majoritarian nationalism. Tharoor's observations have been made in the time of CAA and NRC, but it is not just about religious denomination. It is also a sign of a society in retreat where homogeneity is sought, its inherent contradictions notwithstanding.

According to Tharoor, the battle today is between two opposing ideas of India — ethno-religious nationalism versus civic nationalism. The Constitution is under siege, institutions are being undermined and the concepts of pluralism, secularism and inclusive nationhood are under threat, he says, while attempting to establish what it means to be a nationalistic Indian in the 21st century.

In the book, there are numerous exam-

ples of the conflicts that assail our thoughts. Born in Britain, the author was eligible for a British passport but preferred to retain his Indian passport, paying huge visa fee instead to enter that country. The dichotomy of getting integrated in a society that is not naturally one's own is illustrated with interesting examples like the liberal Pakistani diplomat Ansar Bhai, who identified himself more with the pre-Partition India but shot his wife and died himself while living in Switzerland, unable to come to terms with the conflicts of

his nationality and origin. It was not that nationalism killed him, but the question of his nationality exercised his complex mind daily. Perhaps this is what happens when

borderlines are drawn through people's hearts and minds. Then there is the Sri Lankan diplomat with Australian citizenship, who despite being politically correct, goes on to cheer the Islanders in the cricket match against the Kangaroos.

It is difficult to explain nativism in one who has spent a lifetime acquiring and embodying a cosmopolitan sensibility, so unfashionable in this world of growing hyper nationalism. The irony of the situation is best described by former British Prime Minister Theresa May, who downplayed the 'anywheres' and 'flexibles' saying, "Today, too many people in positions of power behave as if they have more in common with international elites than with the people down the road, the people they employ, the people they pass on the street... but if you believe you are a citizen of the world, you are nowhere. You don't understand what the word 'citizenship' means."

Unmasking the banking mess

SUBIR ROY

THE title of the book suggests that it is a dramatised exposé of an industry in trouble. But as the author states, it is not a "potboiler" and he has chosen to go for "depth of content over styling the narrative". For this, he has used facts both in the public domain and also hitherto not known.

Sandip Sen, journalist and author who has worked in the energy and manufacturing industries, highlights the financial sector troubles — disruption of credit lines, pressure by banks on corporates to bring in more equity and vendors left unpaid — for the decline in growth in recent years, made worse by the coronavirus-induced slowdown from earlier this year.

The book has three sections, the more important being "The problem" and "The solution". The earlier covers the politics of bank financing of the farm sector, failure of the infrastructure sector, high-growth retail banking and the NBFC shadow, evergreening by rolling over of NPAs, bank frauds and the nexus between bankers, babus and promoters.

At the apex sits the politician. He signals the babus, who make phone calls to bankers, which leads to promoters being obliged and the groundwork for defaults being laid. The Modi government understood this well and thus created the Banks Board Bureau under former CAG Vinod Rai to improve governance in public sector banks by improving the quality of the top management and acting as a buffer between the government and the banks. But nothing came of it; Rai left after completing his term, his many suggestions ignored.

The fact is that this has already taken place, beginning with State Bank of India which in the early Seventies reorganised its business into different customer segments. Branch managers have



The author says 'banking sector will see endless frauds erupting in the next few years.'

their loan sanctioning limits and loan proposals depending on size get referred up the organisational ladder to specialised groups.

Fourth, a key measure suggested by the author is to take a fresh look at consortium lending, under which a group of banks participates in sharing large-ticket loans processed primarily by the consortium leader. This enables banks to grow their asset books at minimum effort. Consortium members find comfort in numbers, taking the view that with the hard appraisal done by the leader and with other members sharing the load, surely things can't go wrong.

The fact is they do, with rigorous monitoring of the end use of funds being nobody's baby. lax supervision makes it easy for borrowers to divert funds and engage in money laundering. Diverted funds are sent to tax havens from where they are round tripped back as promoter equity. Mauritius being a favourite offshore haven.

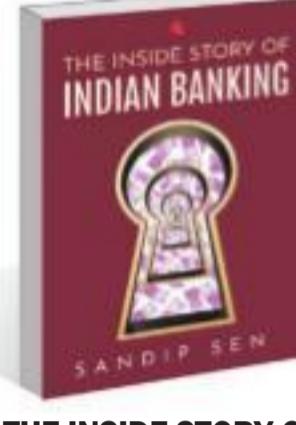
Fifth, there is nothing like number crunching in this day and age, with inputs from several sources and use of algorithms yielding customer profiles and risk rating though scorecards. These forewarn bankers when large borrow-

ers are heading for trouble. Public sector banks need to adopt this practice by developing their own system and not rely on credit bureaus for what their models throw up.

Sixth, NBFCs and cooperative banks have a huge footprint, making it difficult for them to be supervised. Plus, cooperative banks come under the dual supervision of the states' departments of cooperation and also the RBI. The author feels that these institutions need to be consolidated. The government has moved to end the duality in supervision of cooperative banks by bringing them fully under the RBI.

Lastly, the Whistleblowers Act should be strengthened. The fate of such legislation tells a lot. It was even approved by the President in 2014 under the UPA but the government fell that year and the NDA had its own ideas and wanted an amendment. In 2016, the Supreme Court asked the government to get cracking but the Bill did not see the light of day till the 2019 elections. That is where things stand. Neither the NDA nor the Opposition is losing sleep over this.

All the troubles, described by the author, that the financial sector has faced have put India in an unkindly light when compared to other countries. IMF data (for the quarter ended September 2018) has put India at 33 among 137 nations, ranked in descending order (the worst comes at the bottom) with bad banking ratios. What is most disconcerting is the author's final conclusion that "the banking sector will see endless frauds erupting in the next few years".



THE INSIDE STORY OF INDIAN BANKING
by Sandip Sen.

Rupa.

Pages 276.

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Summer of 69, in Himalayas



THE ITINERANT

NECHAL SANDHU

ON commencement of second year of an undergraduate programme in the summer of 1969, I decided to explore what the college hiking club was planning. This curiosity was stoked by colourful accounts rendered by experienced mountaineers amongst our seniors, who had many a success under their belts. From traversing deep crevasses to climbing steep rock faces and overhangs with jumars, en route to successful summit ascents, their renderings rang true. Huddled around them well into the night, we eagerly heard their exploits in varied Himalayan terrains.

The hiking club stewards settled on a trek up the Parbati valley in Kullu area into Spiti tehsil of Himachal Pradesh. Two of us, tyros, decided to join three experienced members and Economics Professor Balbir Singh in this enterprise; it was pitched as being relatively easy. The Dussehra break was nominated for the venture. And so, we bussed up to Kullu, where the senior members arranged provisions and a couple of porters.

Another bus journey took us to Manikaran, a quaint village dominated by a hot spring flanked by a historic Shiva temple and a gurdwara linked with Guru Nanak. Like his disciple Mardana, we cooked rice by suspending raw grain tied in a piece of muslin in the hot spring for barely a few minutes.

Resident mendicants, who were smoking weed packed into clay chillums, were neither moved by the genuflections of the devout, nor the coveting of adventurous visitors who could barely spend a minute or two in the boiling hot sulphurous



Kunzum Pass, at nearly 15,000 ft, offers spectacular views of the Spiti valley.

waters. One was to learn years later that the "valley of cannabis" leading northwards from Jari, a village on the road to Manikaran, towards Mallana had become a major draw for demobilised Israeli conscripts and such like footloose persons wanting to enjoy Malana Cream, a high quality cannabis derivative, that costs US \$25 per tola locally and many multiples of that abroad.

The acclivity commencing outside Manikaran took us 1,500 feet up to Pulga, a quaint little village 8 km away. Striations of flavours maize grains and red chilies drying on the roofs did much to distract attention from the modest but fascinating earthquake-resistant structures made in the traditional *kath kuni* tradition, with wooden beams alternating with stone masonry held in place without mortar.

The next 33 miles involved an ascent of about 7,000 feet over three days on flanks well above the Parbati river rushing through a narrow valley. With no habitation and only the occasional shepherd descending

with his flock, we were by ourselves in meadows dotted with fading irises and wilting mountain daisies and girdled by stately pines. Unappetising fare dished out at the end of the day by the porters doubling up as cooks was an abiding disappointment. And that after an arduous exercise each evening to cut and collect juniper bushes for fuel.

The terrain flattened out the next day at the 13,500 feet high Mantalai lake. Sufficiently acclimatised, we set out the next day for what was to be the zenith of our venture. During the trudge up the eminence towards the brow of the Pin-Parbati Pass at 17,400 feet, wondrous views of the short but wide Mantalai glacier sweeping up from the south to feed the Parbati river provided welcome respite. My Bata Hunter shoe came apart in a softened ice field, allowing snow and ice to surround one foot causing chilblains; fortunately, the other foot remained comfortable amidst the warm caress of good winter socks. My performance was impacted and I remained a laggard, trailing my colleagues by a significant margin; they were, however, graciously waiting for me at the Pass with a hot flask of coffee.

The descent into Pin valley was remarkable for verdant patches dotted a stark Ladakh-like dusty brown landscape under a clear blue canopy. We were overtaken by a middle-aged person maintaining a brisk pace with a muleteer leading an impressive pack pony, sprightly despite what seemed like a heavy load on its back. We saw him again at Sangam, the confluence of Pin and Parbati rivers, when, in his capacity as local Khadi Board secretary, he put us up

in a godown full of quilts and mattresses, a welcome move since our sleeping bags had become damp. And he arranged a fulsome meal.

The next day, we gingerly negotiated an extended scree patch fearing that a misstep could result in a tumble all the way down into the Parbati, hurtling towards an obsequent merger with the Spiti river. The kind soul and his pony, both sure footed, overtook us again as they made their way rapidly, undeterred by the treacherous slope. He disclosed that the animal was a Chamurhi horse, native to the Indian Himalayas and Tibet, adept at negotiating all kinds of terrain with loads in high altitudes. Our arrival at the confluence revealed an unusual sight—a *dhabha* in the middle of nowhere; after partaking of its spicy offerings in large measure, the makeshift shelter served as our abode for the night.

The following week's trek through Kaza, Rangrik, Hansa and Losar proved to be tedious on an unmetalled road winding through topography devoid of contours and verdancy and offering no interesting sights. But Kunzum La at nearly 15,000 feet, though denuded, brown and dry, offered spectacular views backwards into Spiti valley and ahead into the narrow Chandra stream destined to join the Bhaga to form the mighty Chenab river. The tempting possibility of visiting the famed Chandratal, source of the Chandra, was abandoned due to paucity of time. Filching of a prayer stone from a cairn on Kunzum was obviously ill-advised, since bad luck chased me thereafter until, under advice from a benefactor, I made over the stone at Delhi's Budh Vihar.

Sins of the father & the aftermath



MUSINGS & MALEDICTIONS

KEKI DARUWALA

POLITICS being worse than rugby or American football (which is not football) has another element to pull it down. It is quite unfair, I think. This added pitfall happens to be the sins of the father being visited on the children. I was pondering over this in the last phase of the Bihar election. Suddenly, the wind turned. (I am about to mix metaphors, so please excuse me). Mr Modi, past master of timing, did a Balakot on unsuspecting Bihar. He talked of Jungle Raj. When Balakot had occurred, my Help came in smiling. "We have just killed 300 *atankwadis* Sir," he said, his face wreathed in smiles. Then he related what we had done. I delivered a long lecture on propaganda and sent him home. Balakot did the trick, whether we knocked out a Pakistani F-16 or no. This time the Jungle Raj became the *jungle-mein-mangal* slogan and the aspirational Yadav Yuvaraj, Tejashwi, had to take a back seat. Of course it was helped by the usual non-performing Congress.

Before I embark on my personal experience with the times of Lalu Yadav, I wish to state that in other states of North India, the sins of the father will haunt the politics of the sons. Not that I am holding any brief for the sons. A doctor driving his car is stopped by hoodlums in broad daylight and asked to get out. He says, "Do you know who I am?" They nod, they know. "I am the personal physician to the Chief Minister." "We know," they answer as they drive away with his car. He goes to the Chief Minister. The hoods are also present. The CM tells the doctor, these are poor people, so give them some 20,000 or so. Then he barks at the hoods, "Don't you dare hurt this doctor friend of mine." The doctor pays and drives his car back. All is hunky dory.

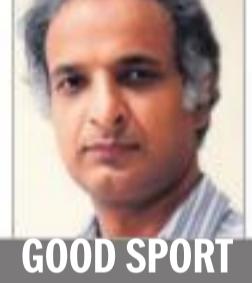
But to turn to Laluji. Mr Modi was absolutely right. A railway officer and friend organised a trip in 2003 across the Himalayas, called 'Riding the Himalayas'. There were 14 of us, some of them car rallyists. Mahindras had loaned us three Scorpios and a Bolero, I was in the Bolero. We went through the entire Himalayas, starting from Judge's Court in Himachal, Siachen base camp, then the rest of Himachal, Garhwal, Kumaon, Nepal, seven glorious days in Bhutan, Sikkim, right up to Kibithu, the last outpost of the Himalayas. We went further into Nagaland though the hills had nothing to do with the Himalayas. Earlier we had to cross the Brahmaputra, plac-

ing each vehicle on a boat, negotiate Army posts in Nepal (the Nepalese army was very jittery in 2003). The trip was just too hectic, starting at dawn and ending at nightfall. Now and then we got two days at a place, time for laundry and sightseeing. I was supposed to write a book, which I did. We went past passes of over 18,000 feet right to the famed Tawang monastery. We even had a film crew, which performed rather poorly. Our cars were broken in because a whisky bottle was visible through the glass. After 78 days, we reached Kolkata and left the cars with the Mahindras. Why? We were told that if you drive back through Lalu's Bihar, you could be robbed, stripped, and of course your cars would be taken away by robbers — meaning political hoods, or regular criminals. The line between political hoods and criminals had all but disappeared. Since our leader was a retired railway officer, we got tickets and we trundled back to Delhi safely on a Rajdhani, I think. Yes, it was Jungle Raj and Mr Modi was dead right in calling a spade a spade. He is a political Goliath and there are no Davids around to take him on, just babes in the woods.

One way, this is good. We could be spared dynasties. If the father had unsavoury escapades, and a poor reputation, the children could choose some other profession. The Bihar election leaves us with things to ponder over. Our thoughtless political thinkers make much of anti-incumbency. It is a mantra. I say, nothing like being in power to win elections. Police, administration, excise, truck operators tilt your way. Even courts favour you. (Though unrelated to elections, look at the way summons are slapped on Kangana Ranaut, and her office demolished without a murmur from the courts.)

There couldn't be a worse administered state than UP. But can one see Mr Bisht of Pauri Garhwal losing the next elections there? Nitish committed blunders, was unwilling to take back the migrants, who trudged hundreds of miles to reach home, and some never did. This bordered on political immorality. Still he wins. The groundswell of resentment was obvious, with the RJD winning the most seats. But the BJP winning over 70 seats showed two things: the subterranean strength of the RSS. A cadre-based party in sync with the current philosophy of Hindutva can stand its ground against any passing phase of resentment. Only in Maharashtra would BJP come up against a force like Shiv Sena, which has similar grassroots, and hard-as-nails philosophy concerning minorities. Regional parties have grassroots, an ideology like the DMK, Sena and the Akalis have, to name a few. It is a lesson for all-India parties to concentrate on their workers, and organise enrolment drives.

Modi to Ganguly, how different is BCCI?



GOOD SPORT

ROHIT MAHAJAN

ELEVEN years ago, when Lalit Modi ruled the roost, the IPL was successfully aping the methods of sports leagues in the West, which are adept at wringing even the last penny out of the grasp of a sports fan. A betting game was introduced by the IPL wherein you could, for the price of a ₹5 SMS, bet money on runs that could be scored in an over. This game worked in real-time, but there was a limit of 20 'bets' one could place during a match — so, potentially, one fan could stake ₹100 during one IPL match.

There was an outcry — betting is illegal in India, and this game seemed designed to inculcate the noble habit of gambling among sports fans, many of whom are teens and pre-teens. MS Gill, then Sports Minister in the Central Government, raised objections. "It is disappointing to see a sports body encouraging gambling," Gill said. The gambling game was withdrawn by IPL.

Eleven years on, with the 'evil' Modi out of the IPL and India, and an all-time great cricketer leading the BCCI, you would expect the BCCI to be very scrupulous about how it promotes cricket among young fans, right? Wrong! The great Sourav Ganguly is the face of a gaming company that also has an avenue that leads to transactions with real money. None other than Sachin Tendulkar — Bharat Ratna, no less — endorses another gaming company, while other greats such as MS Dhoni



Sourav Ganguly's endorsement of a gaming company lowers the dignity of his office. PTI

and Virat Kohli are ambassadors for similar gaming companies.

Earlier this week, the Madras High Court raised important questions about the propriety of the promotion of gaming that involves actual monetary transactions. Hearing a petition, Justice N Kirubakaran observed: "He (Ganguly) is a star. If he appears as a person in ads, people are becoming victims... For the ordinary common man, what does it mean when a star or filmstar appears? They will try to follow Virat Kohli and Sourav Ganguly have so many followers."

Skill or chance?

Gaming companies try to wriggle out of the charge of gambling by claiming that their games involve skill, not chance. This is a predictable line of defence — which was undertaken by the 2009 IPL

game, 6UP, as well — because when it's the fans' ability, rather than luck, that governs a game, it falls out of the 'gambling' category. But this line of defence is not very trustworthy because it's misleading. Is forming a fantasy team by a fan a matter of skill or luck? Luck can be a huge factor because a fan won't know the internal dynamics of a team — for instance, an injury, a dispute, or a pitch affected by changing weather conditions are only a few factors that could determine a playing XI. How, then, are such games based not on chance?

The IPL and the BCCI benefit from powerful connections with the ruling class, which — in the interest of impressionable fans vulnerable to addiction to gambling — must pass on the right message to the BCCI, just as Gill spoke out against the betting game being promoted by the IPL in 2009.

Remember 2013?

Ganguly's promotion of a gaming company — which is a direct competitor of the gaming company sponsoring the IPL — raises questions over conflict of interest too. It also raises uncomfortable questions about how far we've progressed since 2013. That year a betting and spot-fixing scandal hit the IPL. The BCCI swept it under the carpet — after all, then BCCI president N Srinivasan's son-in-law was implicated in it. This shone a bright light on the ills of conflict of interest,

which people have traditionally ignored as harmless.

Then the courts stepped in. Sincere and intense efforts were made to clean up the administration of cricket. The judiciary played a stellar role in the process. Two Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of India took deep interest in the effort to make the operations of cricket administration professional and transparent.

The advent of Ganguly as BCCI president was welcomed by all — a passionate cricketer, unifier of a splintered team in 2000, a man who rose above regionalism in team selection and gave unconditional support to young talent... He seemed the right man for the job. His endorsing a gaming company lowers the dignity of his office, but a more serious cricketing issue sprang up recently — Ganguly believes Rohit Sharma played in the last stage of the IPL despite being "70 per cent fit". If Ganguly is right, Sharma put himself in the danger of aggravating his injury, which in turn would harm the national team's prospects on the tour of Australia. As the BCCI chief, doesn't Ganguly have the power to ensure that Sharma — a contracted player — prioritised India over his club team, Mumbai Indians? If not, it's sad. Sadder it would be if the efforts of the Supreme Court — and two Chief Justices of India, no less — to cleanse the sport went in vain.

Arrival of pets has been the exact disruption we needed



IMMORTAL FOR A MOMENT

NATASHA BADHWAR

THIS is the story of five humans and five animals, all of whom are part of the same nuclear family. The humans take care of the animals, and the animals take care of the humans even better.

Within less than a year, we went from being a family who had never had pets to a family with five pets — one beloved dog, Scarlet, and four cats: Rahat, Faiza, Badal and Aasman. I will take many breaks while writing this column to open doors for four-legged creatures, serve food and treats, lay out a *durrie* in a spot of sun, bring back a runaway cat from the park next door and randomly check on the kittens if I don't hear the sound of them chasing each other for too long. I will tell the dog to kindly leave me alone and call on others in the home to distract her. I might even get up to go take a photo of her when she settles down, because what's the point of being in love if you don't document it?

I'll admit it without hesitation — the

arrival of pets in our life has been disruptive. It is the exact disruption we need. Taking care of them has levelled the hierarchies between the adults, children and staff in our home.

Our children had been adding a dog on a leash in their drawings of the family in their sketch books ever since they were little. Sometimes when I shared photos of these drawings on my Instagram or Facebook, friends have commented that I need to get our daughters a dog. I would be startled by the comment, because I hadn't seen the connection myself.

"We can get pets when you are old enough to take care of them," we told our

"How old do we have to be?" the youngest asked us.

I must have randomly said, "Eleven," because she reminded us of this conversation a few months before she turned 11 last year. To honour her wish, we got a puppy and a kitten, both three months old and rescued by volunteers from the city's streets. That's when the surprises, unexpected joys and moments of great learning began to pile up.

"Priceless!" a friend had messaged when she first saw photos of Scarlet and Rahat. "It's a completely new ball game from here. Pets stretch our hearts out and show us how deep our own reservoirs are. Very soon you will be having deep, meaningful conversations and wonder why others can't understand that he/she is actually responding."

Our third pet, Faiza, entered our lives during lockdown, which was as hard on stray animals on the streets as it was on India's working poor. Faiza was scrawny and timid and probably hadn't eaten for

days when she appeared at our gate. We began to feed her and soon discovered that she was also pregnant. Eight months later, her kittens Badal and Aasman have converted our home into their playground as we try to keep track of feeding and cleaning schedules among us.

One of the surprises of becoming a pet parent is the bond one automatically feels with others who care for animals. An otherwise reticent person, I find myself starting conversations with everyone else in the waiting area outside Friendcoes, the animal shelter where we go to consult the veterinarian for our cats and dog. Most people are holding on to a sick pet or even a dying one, and the empathy flows easily. We acknowledge each other's worries and fears about the animals in our care. We offer solace and are unembarrassed to speak lovingly with the animals, who look back with trusting eyes. Barriers of class and personal politics that otherwise separate us, crumble as we bask in the common love for our pets.

As I follow our energetic Scarlet on her morning run in the forest park next door, I refresh my own mind at the start of every new day. She picks up colourful plastic bags and other trash she finds in the grass and shows me her temporary new toy before running off to play with it. She leaps into puddles and races to startle egrets. Her unnecessary happiness rubs off on those who witness her boundless energy.

Being with animals truly does open our hearts. We find it hard to cross any other street animal without wondering about the quality of their life. We carefully re-calibrate our home budget to fulfil their needs. I sublimate the frustration of not being able to reach out to humans by connecting quietly with a grateful animal. Caring for others heals a part of us that was lying neglected. So, go ahead, do disrupt your life, too, like we have done.

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



Union Home Minister Amit Shah waves at supporters in Chennai on Saturday. PTI

Alliance with BJP for Assembly elections to stay, says AIADMK

Shah lays stone for projects worth ₹67,000 crore

CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 21

The ruling AIADMK in Tamil Nadu on Saturday said its alliance with the BJP will continue for the 2021 Assembly elections and exuded confidence it will win a hat-trick poll next year.

AIADMK top leaders O Panneerselvam and K Palaniswami made the announcement at a government event here, attended by Union Home Minister and BJP veteran Amit Shah. Chief Minister Palaniswami is the AIADMK co-coordinator while coordinator Panneerselvam is his deputy.

"I would like to inform through this meeting that in the coming election (2021), the victorious alliance of AIADMK and BJP will continue," Panneerselvam said.

Palaniswami, who said Prime Minister Modi and Shah were working towards

COVID CARE: HOME MINISTER PATS TN GOVT

Putting the Tamil Nadu Government over its effective handling of the situation under the Palaniswami-Panneerselvam leadership, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the state was duly implementing various instructions of the Centre on the matter.

making the country a super-power, asserted that "the alliance formed for the Lok Sabha polls will continue." "Our alliance will win maximum seats and AIADMK will retain power," he said.

The AIADMK and BJP aligned for the 2019 Lok Sabha poll, along with others, including PMK, but the combine could win only the lone Theni seat out of the 39 segments in Tamil Nadu, with the ruling party clinching it.

Meanwhile, Shah said the country had rallied behind PM Modi to fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and it was doing better than even

developed countries over the handling of the contagion.

Besides, Shah dedicated a Rs 380 crore fifth reservoir to cater to Chennai's drinking water supply and laid the foundation stone for various infrastructure projects, totalling over Rs 67,000 crore, across the state. The projects for which Shah laid the foundation stone included the Rs 61,843 crore phase II of Chennai Metro Rail, elevated highway in Coimbatore at an estimated cost of Rs 1,620 crore, a barrage across Cauvery in Karur district and IOCL's projects worth over Rs 3,000 crore here. — PTI

India, China military talks deadlocked

AJAY BANERJEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

Military-level talks between India and China for de-escalating the present position in Ladakh have been deadlocked, for now. The two sides have been discussing dates for a fresh round of talks over the hotline. However, no formal date for talks has been announced.

There will be talks, but there the date has not been decided so far, said a senior functionary.

The last round of talks, the eighth since June 6, was two weeks ago on November 7. With winter having set in, it was expected that the next round would be



NO FRESH DATES

- The last round of talks, the eighth since June 6, was held two weeks ago on Nov 7
- With winter having set in, it is expected that the next round will be held quickly and some kind of protocol will be established

BSF jawans stand guard at a checkpoint along a highway leading to Ladakh. FILE

held quickly and some kind of protocol would be established. It was after the sixth round of talks on September 21 that the two sides agreed to not add any more troops along the frontline and refrain from unilateral

ly changing the ground situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Lt General-level officers of the two sides have been meeting to resolve the crisis, which flared up on May 6. A series of discussions

programme was also released, but it has not been followed, other than the September 21 agreement of not adding more troops.

The Indian Army is circumspect as the People's Liberation Army (PLA) backed off on agreements to disengage along the LAC in June.

Also, there are fresh areas of confrontation, like the 70-km stretch along the southern part of Pangong Tso where India now dominates the heights overlooking the Moldo garrison of the PLA. China wants India to move back, but New Delhi wants an iron cast assurance that Beijing would not occupy these heights.

Thiem edges past Djokovic; in final for 2nd straight year

LONDON, NOVEMBER 21

Dominic Thiem came back from the brink to beat Novak Djokovic in a gripping semifinal at the ATP Finals on Saturday as he reached the final for the second successive year.

The 27-year-old Austrian appeared to be sliding to defeat when he trailed 0-4 in the third-set tiebreak but stormed back to claim a 7-5 6-7(10) 7-6(5) victory in just under three hours.

World No. 3 Thiem was the better player in the first set, sealing it with an ace after breaking serve at 5-5. An absorbing second-set tiebreak saw Thiem get four chances to seal victory but he



Austria's Dominic Thiem

double-faulted on one match point and Djokovic showed true grit to snatch the set.

Serves dominated in the

decider and when Thiem started the day's second tiebreaker and then lost the next three points, it seemed as though the end was nigh. Instead, he roared back, winning the next six points.

Djokovic saved a fifth match point but Thiem finally got the job done when a Djokovic ground-stroke drifted long.

"It was a mental battle, I got so tight in the second-set tiebreak," Thiem said. "To play these legends is always special and to player here is also something special. I thought after winning the title in New York I would be more calm, but that was a mistake I guess." — Reuters

Up to govt to call winter session: Birla

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

With a focus on discussing complimentary roles played by the three arms of the Constitution — legislature, executive and judiciary — this year's two-day conference of presiding officers of legislative bodies would begin on November 25, said Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, who also noted that calling the winter session of Parliament "is the prerogative of the government".

Briefing the media about the agenda of the 80th All India Presiding Officers Conference (AIPOC) at Kevadiya, Gujarat, which will be inaugurated by President Ram Nath

Kovind in person, Birla, while responding to a question said, "Though the final decision on calling the session rests with the government, as the matter is decided by the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary affairs (CCPA), the Parliament secretariat always remains ready to hold it."

Birla said the participants would brainstorm on various issues concerning the functioning of the legislative assemblies, besides on how ideal coordination among legislature, judiciary and executive could strengthen democracy.

Birla's remarks came amid speculations that the government is mulling not to call the Winter Session of



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla

Parliament in the face of the spike in the Covid-19 cases in the national capital. The monsoon session of Parliament had to be adjourned sine die prematurely earlier on account of a number of the MPs testing Covid-19 positive.

While the monsoon session of Parliament was called to

meet the norms of the duration between the two sessions not exceeding six months, the government currently has no such compulsions.

The government appears inclined to call the budget session of Parliament in the last week of January.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the newly constructed housing accommodations for the MPs on Monday. The multi-storey flats have been constructed, replacing the old bungalows, on BD Marg, which is in the vicinity of Parliament. The eight bungalows, constructed 80 years ago, has given space to 76 flats, which have been built with green technology.

Calling for decisive action by G20, not limited to economic recovery, jobs and trade, but to focus on preserving the Earth, he suggested the creation of a vast talent pool; ensuring that technology reaches all segments of society, transparency in systems of governance; and, invoking Mahatma Gandhi, wanted the global community to deal with the planet in a spirit of trusteeship.

"Based on this, the G20 can lay the foundation of a

At G-20, PM Modi calls for new template in post-Covid world

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called upon world leaders to frame a new template for the post-Corona world.

Speaking at the virtual G-20 summit being hosted by Saudi Arabia, the PM suggested a new "Global index for the post-Corona world" that comprises four key elements.

Calling for decisive action by G20, not limited to economic recovery, jobs and trade, but to focus on preserving the Earth, he suggested the creation of a vast talent pool; ensuring that technology reaches all segments of society, transparency in systems of governance; and, invoking Mahatma Gandhi, wanted the global community to deal with the planet in a spirit of trusteeship.

"Based on this, the G20 can lay the foundation of a



Narendra Modi

new world," he suggested, while steering clear of some contentious topics such as the differences between nations on vaccine pricing and distribution.

The PM sought to look ahead and noting that "Work from anywhere" is a new normal in the post-Covid world, he suggested the creation of a G20 virtual secretariat as a follow-up and documentation repository.

At the end of the G-20 summit on Sunday, Italy will take over the chair of the G-20, while India will be

the next country in line.

The summit under the Saudi Presidency is centred on the theme "Realising opportunities of the 21st century for all". It has two sessions, one on overcoming the pandemic, economic recovery and restoring jobs, and the other on building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future. There are also side events planned on the two days on pandemic preparedness and on safeguarding the planet.

A downsized version of the summit began with an opening address by the King of Saudi Arabia, Salman, calling on the world's most powerful leaders to make the forum relevant at a time when the global Covid pandemic shows no signs of abating. "It is our duty to rise to the challenge together during this summit and give a strong message of hope and reassurance," he said.

After dad's death, Indian bowler Siraj to stay in Oz

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

Indian pace bowler Mohammed Siraj has decided to stay on with the national team in Australia to be available for national duty after the death of his father.

Siraj's father Ghousie, who had been an autorickshaw driver, died on Friday at age 53. He was suffering from a lung ailment.

The Indian cricket board gave Siraj the option of flying back to India to be with his grieving family. However, the Hyderabad cricketer decided to stay in Australia. The Indian squad is going through a mandatory 14-day quarantine in Sydney. Had Siraj opted to fly to India and then back to Australia, he would have had to undergo another 14-day quarantine in Australia, according to government rules.

BRIEFLY

Adverse event in Ph 1 unrelated to Covaxin: Bharat Biotech

New Delhi: Collaborating with the ICMR on one of India's two indigenous Covid-19 vaccines, Bharat Biotech on Saturday said its ongoing trial saw one adverse event in Phase 1 of the clinical trials during August was reported to the CDSCO-DCGI within 24 hours of its occurrence and confirmation. It was investigated thoroughly and determined as not vaccine related," the company said. TNS

National Immunisation Day for polio on Jan 17

New Delhi: The Centre has written to all states asking them to gear up for a National Immunisation Day for polio on January 17, 2021. The move comes at a time when the Covid-19 has slackened public health responses to a range of conditions, posing potential risks of resurgence of many diseases. TNS

Any scope of settlement, court asks Akbar, Ramani

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

A Delhi court on Saturday asked former Union minister MJ Akbar and journalist Priya Ramani whether there was a chance of settlement between them in a criminal defamation complaint filed by him against her.

Akbar had filed the complaint against Ramani for allegedly defaming him by accusing him of sexual misconduct around 20 years ago when he was a journalist.

Ramani had said the allegations against Akbar, made in the wake of #MeToo movement in 2018, were her truth and were made in public good.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Pandey posed the query on Saturday as he started hearing afresh the final arguments in the case since the previous judge

hearing the matter was transferred to another court on Wednesday.

Senior advocate Geeta Luthra, appearing for Akbar, said she needed time to talk to her client before making a decision on the issue.

The counsel for Ramani, advocate Bhavook Chauhan, said there was less chance of any settlement since the facts of the case were peculiar.

The court asked both parties to respond on the point of settlement and get back on November 24, the next date of hearing. — PTI

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Cannabis found at home, comedian Bharti arrested

MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 21

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Saturday arrested comedian Bharti Singh following seizure of ganja (cannabis) from her house in suburban Andheri, an official said.

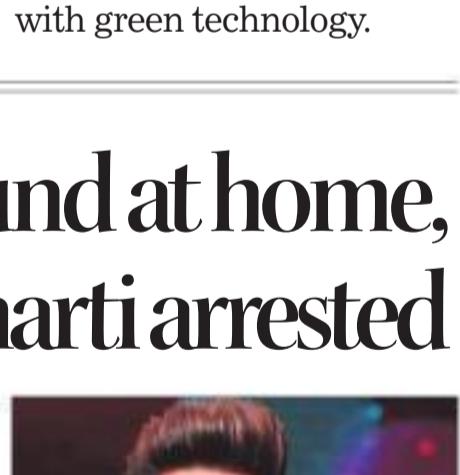
The NCB searched Bharti's house and office in the morning as part of its probe into alleged drug use in the Bollywood industry.

A team led by Sameer Wankhede, the central agency's zonal director, carried out a search at Bharti's residence at Lokhandwala complex as well as her production house based on a tip-off, a release said.

It recovered 86.5 grams of ganja during the search, the release added.

"Both Bharti and her husband Harsh Limbachiya accepted consumption of ganja. Bharti was placed under arrest under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and examination of Limbachiya is underway," the NCB release added.

The quantity allegedly seized from Bharti's possession is considered as "small



Bharti Singh with husband Harsh Limbachiya. FILE

quantity" under the act, as against "commercial quantity", an NCB official said.

Up to 1,000 grams of ganja is considered small quantity, which attracts jail term up to six months and/or fine of Rs 10,000. Possession of commercial quantity — 20 kg or more — can attract up to 20 years in jail. For the quantity in between, the punishment can be as much as 10 years in jail.

"Bharti's name had cropped up during the interrogation of a drug peddler," he added.

The agency also carried out searches at two other locations in the metropolis, the official said