

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | JAMMU | SRINAGAR | VOL. 140 NO. 245 | 14 PAGES | ₹5.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2018-2020 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2020



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COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

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PARAMEDICAL SCIENCES

- B.Sc Radiography & Imaging Technology
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- B.Sc. (Dialysis Therapy)
- B.Sc. (OTT), B.Sc. (OTT-LE)
- B.Sc. (MLT)
- B.Sc (MLT - Lateral Entry)
- M.Sc. (OTT), M.Sc (MLT)
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SCIENCES

- B.Sc Medical, Non-Medical
- B.Sc. (Hons.): Chemistry, Physics, Math, Bio Technology
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- M.Sc. Nursing

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RANKINGS

NIRF 2020

25th

Ranked 25th Amongst Top Dental Colleges in India

28th

Ranked 28th Amongst Top Pharmacy Colleges in India

33rd

Ranked 33rd Amongst Top Medical Colleges in India

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INDUSTRIAL (IoT) SMART WATER MANAGEMENT

- Hardware Architecture
- System Architecture
- Cloud Interfacing
- App Development

DESIGN AUTOMATION SMART MANUFACTURING

- Machine Design
- Microsoft Advance Excel
- CATIA Parametric Model

CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE



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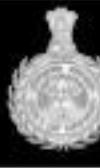
SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR WARDS OF COVID-19 WARRIOR & GIRL CHILD

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GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

TENDER NOTICE



SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, KAITHAL	REPLACEMENT OF HUME PIPE OF 5 FT. SPAN SLAB TYPE CULVERTS AT RD 35/60 ON DHAND PUNDRI RAJOURA ALEWA ROAD IN KAITHAL DISTRICT (ID 6887) + 2 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 07.09.2020	29.64 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01746-234087 eepd2.pwd.ktl-hry@nic.in
2	PWD B&R, SIRSA	CONSTRUCTION OF INDOOR STADIUM (MULTIPURPOSE HALL) AT JIWAN NAGAR IN SIRSA DISTT. (C.M. ANNOUNCEMENT CODE-18092 DATED 24.12.2016)	03/09/2020 17.09.2020	167.33 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01688-222859/ pwd-eepd2.sirsa@nic.in
3	PWD B&R, NUH	SPECIAL REPAIR FOR VETERINARY HOSPITAL AT NUH IN NUH DISTT. + 1 OTHER WORK	02/09/2020 22.09.2020	34.35 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01267-271237
4	PWD B&R SIRSA	DNT FOR THE WORK ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATIONALIZATION OF ICU/HDU IN THE EXISTING TRAUMA CENTER BUILDING IN CAMPUS OF CIVIL HOSPITAL AT SIRSA.	04/09/2020 17.09.2020	35.76 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-220530 pwd-eepd1.sirsa@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R, KARNAL	COLLECTION, CLEANING & SHREDDING OF WASTE PLASTIC COLLECTED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES DEFINED BY HARYANA PWD (B&R) AND SUPPLY OF SHREDDED PLASTIC SUITABLE FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION (PMGSY-III, BATCH-II)	03.09.2020 24.09.2020	202.4 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0181-251029 pwd-eepd.karna@hry.nic.in
6	PWD B&R, NARNAUL.	PROVIDING ROAD FURNITURE ON KANANATEEL ROAD KM 88.07 TO 94.67 (MDR-124) IN MOHINDERGARH DISTRICT. (RE-INVITED) + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 17.09.2020	16.72 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01282-251267/ pwd-eepd-namaul@hry.nic.in
7	PWD B&R, PANIPAT	4- LANNING PANIPAT SAFIDON JIND BHUANI ROAD UPTO CANAL (CARRIER LINED CHANNEL) HON'BLE C.M. ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 22985 DATED 28.08.2018 IN PANIPAT DISTT.	28.08.2020 15.09.2020	741.87 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0180-2368652
8	PWD B&R, FATEHABAD	RE-CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD CUT MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPTT. FOR LAYING OF WATER AND SEWER LINE ON TOHANA BHUNA ROAD KM 26.80 TO 27.50 (ROAD ID 8670) + 1 OTHER WORK	01.09.2020 15.09.2020	22.79 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	90531-14455, 01667-220120 pwd-eepd.fatehabad@hry.nic.in
9	PWD B&R, REWARI	ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN IN MINI SECTT. AT REWARI IN REWARI DISTRICT. (RE-INVITED)	02.09.2020 17.09.2020	50.66 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01274-253703/ pwd-eepd-rewari@hry.nic.in
10	PWD B&R, KAITHAL	HARYANA VISION ZERO ROAD SAFETY OF VARIOUS STATE HIGHWAY ROADS FALLS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF PROVINCIAL DIVISION NO. 1 PWD B&R KAITHAL IN KAITHAL DISTT.	CLOSING DATE 16.09.2020	6.91 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01746-222282 pwd-eepd-kaithal@hry.nic.in
11	PWD B&R, SONEPAT	IMPROVEMENT BY PROVIDING WIDENING & STRENGTHENING & 30MM THICK B.C. ON VARIOUS ROADS OF BARODA CONSTITUENCY IN PROVINCIAL DIVISION NO. 1, SONEPAT (ROAD-ID 2636, 4946, 6194, 9692, 6177, 6216, 4960, 2648, 2616, 6164, 6218) IN SONEPAT DISTT. (GROUP-II) (RE-INVITED)	CLOSING DATE 07.09.2020	382.44 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer,
12	PWD B&R, PANIPAT	PROVIDING & MAKING CENTER LINE AND CAT EYES ON VARIOUS ROADS IN PANIPAT DISTT.	02.09.2020 17.09.2020	16.09 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0180-2368652
13	HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION, PANCHKULA	HIRING PRIVATE VEHICLES FOR EXAMINATION PURPOSE + 1 OTHER WORK	01.09.2020 22.09.2020	3 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2586501 secretary.hssc-hry@gov.in
14	PANCHAYATI RAJ, SONIPAT	1 CONSTRUCTION OF SLWM PROJECT VILLAGE BIDHLAN & 8 NO'S OTHER WORKS DISTT. SONIPAT (RE-TENDER)	02.09.2020 15.09.2020	368.14 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
15	PANCHAYATI RAJ, SONIPAT	1 CONSTRUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE CENTER AT VILLAGE MADINA & 7 NO'S OTHER WORKS DISTT. SONIPAT (RE-INVITING)	02.09.2020 15.09.2020	164.80 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
16	PANCHAYATI RAJ BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICER, SAMPLA	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK SAMPLA IN DISTT. ROHTAK	CLOSING DATE 15.09.2020		https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8059144415
17	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	CONST. OF VILLAGE KNOWLEDGE CENTRE AT VILLAGE JOLLY BLOCK NARANGARH DISTT. AMBALA + 11 OTHER WORKS	04.09.2020 18.09.2020	241.11 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2551368/ prexeeng.amb@hry.nic.in
18	PANCHAYATI RAJ, B.D.P.O. PINJORE PANCHKULA	SUPPLY OF I.P.B.IN BLOCK PINJORE (AS PER ANNEXURE-1) + 11 OTHER WORKS	07.09.2020 25.09.2020	24 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01733-220046
19	PANCHAYATI RAJ, B.D.P.O. PINJORE	SUPPLY OF I.P.B.IN BLOCK PINJORE (AS PER ANNEXURE-1) + 11 OTHER WORKS	03.09.2020 18.09.2020	24 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01733-220046
20	PANCHAYATI RAJ BLOCK LEVEL-E TENDERING COMMITTEE RAIPURRANI	SUPPLY OF INTERLOCKING PAVER BLOCKS (AS PER ANNEXURE 1 IN THE DNT) + 11 OTHER WORKS	07.09.2020 25.09.2020	7.85 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01734-256628 bdpo.raipur_rani@hry.nic.in
21	PANCHAYATI RAJ, SONIPAT	1 CONSTRUCTION OF BRICK ON EDGE RASTA AT VILLAGE BINDEROLI BLOCK RAI DISTT. SONIPAT	02.09.2020 15.09.2020	15.92 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
22	PANCHAYATI RAJ, SONIPAT	1 COLLECTION OF WASTE WATER AT VILLAGE SARDHANA & 34 NO'S OTHER WORKS DISTT. SONIPAT (RE-TENDER)	02.09.2020 15.09.2020	1236.49 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
23	PANCHAYATI RAJ, KARNAL	CONST. OF 2 NO. VILLAGE KNOWLEDGE CENTRES, 8 NO. WORKS ANGANWARI CENTRES & 1 OTHER WORK	31.08.2020 14.09.2020	146.63 LAKH	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0184-2262916/ prexeeng.kn@hry.nic.in
24	PANCHAYATI RAJ, CHARKH DADRI	CONSTRUCTION OF S.W.M SHED AT VILLAGE KARI DHARNI, KARI RUPA DASS, KARI ADU KARI TOKHA, PANCHGAON, SIRSALL + 4 OTHER WORKS	09.09.2020 21.09.2020	47.18 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812175055
25	PANCHAYATI RAJ, HISAR	TENDER FOR 14 NOS CONSTRUCTION WORKS 4 NOS. CONSTRUCTION OF GHV10 NOS. CONSTRUCTION OF GVD	31.08.2020 29.09.2020	336.64 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	94672-51500 prexeeng.hsr@hry.nic.in
26	PANCHAYATI RAJ, HISAR	RE-TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 11 NOS MULTI GYM WORKS 1 NO. MULTI GYM 16 STATIONS 1 NO. MULTI GYM 12 STATIONS 5 NO. MULTI GYM 10 STATIONS 4 NO. MULTI GYM 5 STATIONS TENDER FOR REPAIR/RENOVATION OF PANCHAYAT GHAR AT VILLAGE BIWANI BOLAN, BLOCK AGROHA, DISTT. HISAR TENDER FOR CONST. OF 2ND UNIT OF BIO GAS PLANT AT VILLAGE NAYA GAON, BLOCK BARWALA, DISTT HISAR	03.09.2020 23.09.2020	44.52 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	(9467251500) 01662-234172 prexeeng.hsr@hry.nic.in
27	PANCHAYATI RAJ, FATEHABAD	CONST. OF GOVT VETY DISPENSARY 9 NOS AT BLOCK BHUNA, RATIA, FATEHABAD, JAKHAL, BHATTU KALAN AND TOHANA DISTT. FATEHABAD CONST. OF BUS QUE SHELTER 2 NOS. AT BLOCK FATEHABAD AND TOHANA DISTT. FATEHABAD CONST. OF GOVT. VETY HOSPITAL AT VILLAGE KULLAN BLOCK TOHANA DISTT. FATEHABAD.	04.09.2020 18.09.2020	2.37 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01667-230855
28	PANCHAYATI RAJ BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICER PIPLI	CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY SANITARY COMPLEX	02.09.2020 09.09.2020	14.5 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9300-02020 bdpo.pipli@yahoo.com
29	FOREST DEPARTMENT SIRSA	LABOUR RATE CONTRACT TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RANGE FOREST OFFICE DABWALI RANGE + 5 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 15.09.2020	19.97 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-243307/ forest_sirsa@yahoo.com
30	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING KARNAL	MADHUBANI BASTI - ESTIMATE FOR PROVIDING FHTC AND DISTRIBUTION PIPE LINE UNDER JIM BLOCK KARNAL DISTT. KARNAL "LAYING OF DI PIPE LINE IN BALANCE STREETS, PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION IN VILLAGE (KUTAIL) MADHUBANI BASTI AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO	01.09.2020 08.09.2020	8.45 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 2020_HRY_142128_1	0184-2266004/ eepkarnal@gmail.com
31	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AMBALA	INSTALLATION OF TUBE WELL IN LIEU OF FAILURE TUBE WELL IN DALIPGARH, AMBALASADAR TOWN, DISTT. AMBALA EMD AMT. RS. 11060/-	01.09.2020 10.09.2020	5.53 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2613402 eemambala@phedharyana.gov.in
32	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, HARYANA REWARI	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE ESTIMATE FOR SEWERAGE SCHEME REWARI TOWN, DISTRICT REWARI. DNT FOR Q&M OF SUPER SUCKER MACHINE FOR A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS. + 3 OTHER WORKS	04.09.2020 11.09.2020	47.23 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in Tender No. 2020_HRY_142339. + 3 OTHER	01274-260317 ee1rewari@phedharyana.gov.in
33	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION, SIWANI	AUGMENTATION WATER SUPPLY SCHEME LOHARU, "PREPARATION OF DETAILED PROJECT REPORT FOR PROVIDING WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES IN VILLAGE LOHARU TOWN AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO + 2 OTHER WORKS	02.09.2020 10.09.2020	16.23 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in Tender ID 2020_HRY_142225.1 + 2 OTHER	01255-277066 eesiwani@phedharyana.gov.in
34	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AMBALA	RECALL PROVIDING 4 NOS. T-WELL IN PLACE OF FAILED TUBE WELL FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION AND LAYING OF DI PIPELINE IN BALANCE STREETS UNDER JALJEEVAN MISSION IN VILL. BAPDA, KALAL MAJRA, SOODPUR AND SAMALKH; DISTT. KURUKSHETRA. EMD AMT. RS. 60600/- + 1 OTHER WORK	02.09.2020 17.09.2020	59.22 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO. 2020_HRY_142260 + 1 OTHER	0171-2613402 eemambala@phedharyana.gov.in
35	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION, FATEHABAD	PROVIDE FUNCTIONAL HOUSE HOLD TAP CONNECTION (FHTC) TO HOUSE HOLD & CONSTRUCTION OF BOOSTING STATION IN VILLAGE SULLI KHERA TEHSIL & DISTT. FATEHABAD (UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION)	04.09.2020 25.09.2020	29 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO. 2020_HRY_142444	eefatehabad@phedharyana.gov.in
36	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIVISION HANSI	KAPRO :- KAPRO DPR FOR AUGMENTATION OF W/S SCHEME AND CONST. OF 2ND WATER WORKS AT KAPRO "PROVIDING ERECTION AND COMMISSIONING OF DIESEL GENERATING SET 1 NO. 10 KV CAPACITY AT PHE CIRCLE HISAR AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERE TO + 1 OTHER WORK	01.09.2020 14.09.2020	123 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01663-256145@ehansi@gmail.com
37	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT REWARI	JHAMUWAS- PROV. AND INST. OF 1 NO. TW AGAINST FAILED TW AND LAYING OF 100MM DIA DI CONNECTING PIPELINE IN VILLAGE JHAMUWAS AND JORASI-PROV. AND INST. OF 1 NO. TW AGAINST FAILED TUBE WELL AND LAYING OF 100MM DIA DI CONNECTING PIPELINE IN VILLAGE JORASI AND SEWKA- PROV. AND INST. OF 1 NO.	31.08.2020 07.09.2020	32.45 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in Tender No. 2020_HRY_142002	01274-260344 eegwireware@phedharyana.gov.in
38	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT REWARI	GAIRATPUR BAS- PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAPS CONNECTIONS (FHTC) AND LAYING OF PIPE LINE IN VILLAGE GAIRATPUR BAS AND NAKHROLA-PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAPS CONNECTIONS (FHTC) AND LAYING OF PIPE LINE IN VILLAGE NAKHROLA AND SHIKHOPUR-PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAPS CONNECTIONS (FHTC) AND LAYING OF PIPE LINE IN VILLAGE SHIKHOPUR DISTT. GURGAON	28.08.2020 07.09.2020	26.62 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in Tender No. 2020_HRY_141743	01274-260344 eegwireware@phedharyana.gov.in
39	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT REWARI	KHERLA ESTIMATE FOR PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION LAYING OF DISTRIBUTION PIPELINE AND INST. OF 3 NO. T/W ABANDONED IN VILLAGE KHERLA AND ULLHAWAS ESTIMATE FOR PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION LAYING OF DISTRIBUTION PIPELINE	28.08.2020 07.09.2020	24.20 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in Tender No. 2020_HRY_141744	01274-260344 eegwireware@phedharyana.gov.in
40	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT REWARI					

The Tribune

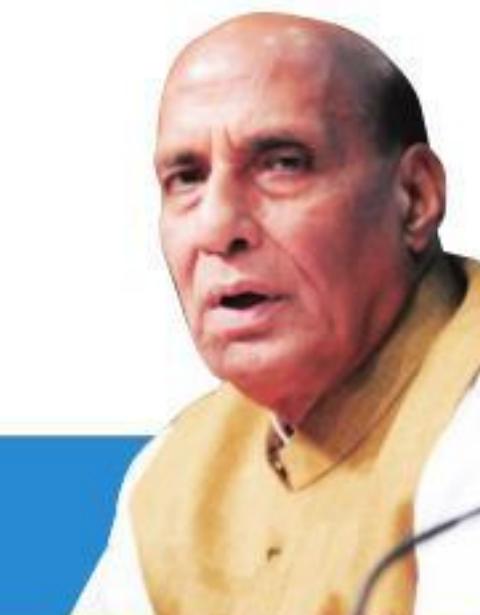
VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | JAMMU | SRINAGAR | VOL. 140 NO. 245 | 14 PAGES | ₹5.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2018-2020 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

US NOT TO PAY WHO ITS DUES THIS YEAR WORLD

271 FIRMS SHUT OPERATIONS IN REGION AMID PANDEMIC BUSINESS

NO ARMS FOR PAK, RUSSIA ASSURES INDIA BACK PAGE



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

3 months on, ED files case, will probe role of distilleries

AMAN SOOD
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, SEPTEMBER 3
Over three months after an illicit liquor unit was sealed by the Punjab Police in Ghanaur, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) registered a case on Thursday.

It will look into the politician-smuggler nexus, if any, and the role of legal and illegal distilleries that minted money, hiding actual profit figures. A formal ED case report has been lodged with the Jalandhar zonal office, said sources.

The say the 12 FIRs lodged in the scam, including in Ghanaur, Mohali, Rajpura and Khanna, have also been attached. The case will probe alleged irregularities by politicians, distillery managements, liquor traders, smugglers and excise and police officials. The flow of money made through shady deals will be probed too.

The ED reportedly received little cooperation from the police and excise officials. It had sought details of FIRs, raids, arrests and probe reports in the past two years. A letter seeking information to the Excise Department on June 15 went unanswered. Letters to the Patiala SSP (June 6 and 12), Mohali SSP (June 17) and the



THE MODUS OPERANDI
FUDGING QUANTITY

Distilleries allegedly produced more liquor than permitted during the Covid-19 lockdown

LOW-GRADE LIQUOR

It was packed in bottles faking expensive brands and sold at the original price

ILLEGAL SALE AT VENDS

Authorised dealers illegally sold the bottles at vends and evaded tax, said sources

Ludhiana (Rural) police (June 18) met the same fate.

Sources said liquor from Punjab was allegedly smuggled to Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, among other states, which could not have been possible without political patronage.

The recent spurious liquor tragedy in three Majha districts that killed more than 120 persons too is under the ED scanner.

The ED will proceed as per the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and summon all accused, said sources.

LOAN RECAST SCHEME BY SEPT 15: FM

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday held a meeting with chiefs of banks. She stressed on immediate support to borrowers when the moratorium on loan repayments was lifted. She asked the bankers to get their boards to approve loan recast schemes and unveil these by September 15. The lenders said they had begun identifying and reaching out to eligible borrowers, as per a ministry note. PTI

SC BREATHER FOR DISTRESSED BORROWERS PAGE 10

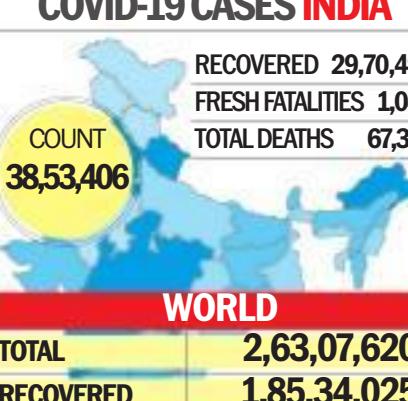
Mask not must while driving, cycling alone

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3

The number of Covid-19 deaths reported in Punjab during August was around three times higher than the total such deaths reported between March and July this year.

The state reported first Covid-19 case on March 8 and the first such death on March 18. According to the state Covid cell, 386 deaths occurred between March 19 and July 31. However, 1,067 persons died due to it in August (34 persons a day). March saw four Covid deaths, while the number went up to 16 in April, 25 in May, 99 in June, 242 in July and 1,067 in August. The first three days of September have seen 237 deaths. —TNS

Covid-19 Cases India



dating the use of masks if someone was cycling alone.

Bhushan said the number of recovered Covid cases had reached 29.70 lakh, which was 3.5 times more than active cases in the country. "In 24 hours, over 11 lakh tests were conducted," he said. —TNS

FB says no bias, bans Telangana BJP MLA

NEW DELHI: Facebook on Thursday said it has banned Telangana BJP MLA T Raja Singh from its platform and Instagram for violating its policy on content promoting hate, even as the MLA claimed he had no account with the site for over a year. Meanwhile, responding to Congress' allegations, the firm said it would ensure it remained non-partisan. INSIDE

Twitter a/c linked to PM website hacked

NEW DELHI: Twitter on Thursday said the account linked to PM Narendra Modi's personal website was hacked, and it has now been restored. "We're aware of this activity and have taken steps to secure the compromised account. We are actively investigating the situation," a Twitter spokesperson said. —PTI

JEE row: Apex court to take up plea today

NEW DELHI: The SC will on Friday take up a petition filed by six Cabinet ministers from six non-BJP states seeking review of its Aug 17 decision giving a go-ahead to JEE-NET. The plea wants the SC to reconsider its decision declining to postpone NEET-UUG and JEE (Main) amid pandemic. —TNS

Despite resolution, MC paid firm ₹16 cr

MUKESH TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANIPAT, SEPTEMBER 3
The Panipat Municipal Corporation (MC) allegedly made unverified payments of Rs 36.46 crore to a solid waste management firm. A sum of Rs 16 crore was released despite a House resolution in July 2019 to rescind the contract over the firm's "poor functioning", as per the information gathered by Samalkha-based RTI activist PP Kapoor.

Panipat Mayor Avneet

Councillors wanted garbage co's contract rescinded for 'poor' show

Kaur said it was "shameful" that the file of the resolution had gone missing.

The MC failed to set up a project management unit (PMU), which was mandatory as per the tender agreement with JBM Environment Management. Bills were to be verified by the

PMU before payment. Haryana had in 2017 signed the agreement with JBM as part of a solid waste management project in the Sonepat cluster. Panipat MC paid JBM Rs 36.46 crore for lifting garbage (February 2018-July 2020) and Sonepat MC Rs 2.11 crore (March 2018-June 2020). "The MCs cleared the bills without verification," alleged Kapoor. JBM's Rajender Singh had claimed credit for Panipat's 160th cleanliness ranking this year. —TNS

Paper: tribuneindia.com

China squarely to blame for tension, talks the way out: MEA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3
The Ministry of External Affairs today said tensions on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) could only be resolved by talks. "The Indian side is firmly committed to resolving all outstanding issues through peaceful dialogue," said MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava at the regular media briefing when asked about the usefulness of previous rounds of talks in view of fresh tensions on the LAC.

Squarely blaming the Chinese troops for four months of tensions on the LAC, the MEA spokesperson regretted that the net result of violations of bilateral agreements and protocol was a

breach in peace in the border areas after three decades of tranquillity.

"We therefore strongly urge the Chinese side to sincerely engage with the Indian

side with the objective of expeditiously restoring the peace and tranquillity in the border areas," he added.

Meanwhile, Army Chief Gen MM Naravane on

EMBASSY TO ATTEND SCO MEET

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will travel to Moscow to attend a meeting of foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on September 10, said the MEA

ITBP, SSB ON HIGH ALERT

The Secretary, Border Management (under the MHA), has asked ITBP and SSB chiefs to put their forces on high alert on China, Nepal & Bhutan borders

Thursday began a two-day visit to Ladakh while Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria on Wednesday reviewed IAF's preparedness in the eastern sector.

Pacts undone, LAC sanctity under threat

AJAY BANERJEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



BREACH OF AGREEMENTS

Don't confront patrols in disputed areas, show a banner and retreat

REALITY: Troops of both sides are now within rifle-shot range of each other

Don't tail patrols

REALITY: Both sides have had casualties in clashes

Control over aircraft flying

REALITY: LAC seeing unprecedented activity by fighters, fighter jets

Resolve local issues at border meeting points

REALITY: Till now, no impact of border meetings

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

Govt agrees to written questions

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3

Amid Opposition pressure against doing away with Question Hour in the coming monsoon session of Parliament, the government has announced to answer questions in the written format (un-starred).

The session is scheduled between September 14 and October 1 without any break,

Queries in House to be selected via ballot

with the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha holding a four-hour meeting each day during separate time slots.

On Wednesday, the parliamentary bulletin gave sched-

App firms must follow rules: Govt

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3

India has hit back at a Chinese government statement opposing a ban on apps with Chinese content. The MEA said: "While India has one of the world's most open regimes for FDI, they must abide by the government's rules and regulations." —TNS



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Ex-DGP underground, security not pruned: Govt

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 3 More than 60 persons from the CRPF, Punjab Police and Chandigarh Police continue to be posted for the security of former DGP Sumedh Singh Saini, who is reportedly on the run fearing arrest in the 1991 Multani murder case.

Though Saini's wife has, in a communication to DGP Dinkar Gupta, complained that the security personnel had been withdrawn, a police spokesperson said not a single guard from the police or paramilitary force had been withdrawn.

Police sources said the Z+ security besides a cook and a gardener given to Saini and his family was reviewed last week and a month ago. "The Punjab Police, Intelligence Bureau and the Chandigarh Police reviewed his security

LEFT SANS ESCORT

66 The fact of the matter is that Saini seems to have left his Chandigarh residence without Punjab Police security personnel and his escort vehicles, thus jeopardising his own safety. GOVT SPOKESPERSON

at the highest level and no decision to prune it was taken," said a senior official.

The security guards are stationed at Saini's house in Sector 20 here along with a bullet-proof car, a Jeep equipped with jammers and an escort car. The whereabouts of Saini and his family were not unknown as they have reportedly gone underground after a Mohali

court rejected his plea for an anticipatory bail in the Multani murder case.

Raveen Thukral, media adviser to the Chief Minister, in a statement said Saini had gone underground.

A Punjab Government spokesperson said, "The fact of the matter was that Saini seemed to have left his Chandigarh residence without Punjab Police security personnel and security vehicles, thus jeopardising his own safety. The security vehicles can still be seen outside his Chandigarh residence, where the personnel are waiting for his return."

The letter written to the DGP by Saini's wife, who also seemed to have disappeared from the residence, appeared to be an attempt to strengthen his claim for grant of anticipatory bail in the murder case, the spokesperson said.

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 3 Union Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal today announced that the Centre had approved construction of 18 road projects comprising 1,000-km roads in Punjab after she and SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal took up the issue with Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari.

In a statement here, the Union Minister said three new road links of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra four-lane expressway had also been approved. Harsimrat said the approved projects included the Delhi-Katra expressway portions in Punjab, including the Patran-Nakodar, Nakodar-Gurdaspur and Nakodar-Amritsar stretches.

"Detailed project reports are being made with regard to all the projects. Work is likely to start within a year," she said. — TNS

Excluding Punjabi from J&K Bill unfair: Ministers

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 3 Cabinet ministers Charanjit Singh Channi and Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa today flayed the Centre over the exclusion of Punjabi from the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill. They said it was another attack on the federal structure of the country.

They termed the move "anti-minority" and said the BJP-led Modi government and the Shiromani Akali Dal, which was a part of the NDA government, was equally responsible for the move. The ministers said Punjabi was the part and parcel of the constitution of Jammu and Kashmir before the abrogation of Article 370.

They said Punjabi was popular among a large population of Jammu and Kashmir and the move had hurt the sentiments of lakhs of Punjabi-speaking people in the UT. "The Government of India has taken an extreme step. It has caused resentment among the minorities of not only Jammu and Kashmir, but also of Punjab," one of the ministers said.

"Countries like Canada and UK have given due recognition to Punjabi at the international level, but in the country of its origin, the BJP-led NDA government has done this shameful act," he added.

Centre's nod to 18 road projects

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 3 The gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collections for Punjab stood at Rs 987.20 crore during the month of August 2020 against Rs 1,014.03 crore for the corresponding period of the last year, thus registering a decline of 2.64 per cent.

Notably, taxpayers had been provided relief in filing of returns for the previous months due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Further, taxpayers with a turnover less than Rs 5 crore in the previous year continue to enjoy relaxation in the filing of returns till September 2020.

According to a spokesperson of the Punjab Taxation Commissioner's Office, the gross GST revenue collections for the period of April to August stood at Rs 3,630.48 crore in comparison

Hit by pandemic, traders switch to 'kirana' stores

Left with no choice, fabric, hardware retailers opening grocery shops to eke out living

VIJAY C ROY

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 3 Dealing in fabric retail business for the past 45 years, Ludhiana's Opesh Gupta had never seen a slump in the business that he witnessed during the Covid pandemic. Left with no choice, he diversified and opened a departmental store dealing in dry fruit and spices two months back, seeing a surge in the demand for these products.

Opesh is not a lone example. Many traders in Punjab and Chandigarh have already diversified and opened 'kirana' stores. Amid the pandemic, except for grocery, medicine and vegetables, the demand for other merchandise came to a standstill. So, many of them either closed down their businesses or are on the verge of shutting



Grocery store owners did a brisk business during the lockdown. FILE

OPPORTUNITY IN CRISIS

66 We were dealing in fabric, suits and saris. Like other sectors, we were also affected as the demand for these items came to a standstill. Sensing an opportunity in dry fruit and spices, we diversified into the segment two months back. Opesh Gupta, RETAILER

they down. Besides dealing with items of daily need and being less labour-intensive, it's the margin hovering between five and 25 per cent (depending upon the product) which is propelling the growth of 'kirana' stores.

According to estimates, many such stores have already come up and hundreds of departmental stores are in the offing in Chandigarh and Punjab.

"We were dealing in fabric, suits and saris. Like other sectors, we were also affected as the demand for these items came to a standstill during the lockdown. Sensing an opportunity in dry fruit and spices,

Chandigarh-based Amit Goyal, who runs a software firm, opened a departmental store at Aerocity in Mohali.

"Our departmental store was scheduled to be operational by the end of this year. However, amid a surge in the demand for groceries, we expedited the project and opened it in July," Goyal said.

"It's an open secret that during the pandemic, only two businesses did well. One was the local 'kirana' stores and the other was the chemist shops. We receive queries from small businesses almost on a daily basis expressing their keenness to shift to food or grocery-related products as there is a lot of hassle in opening a chemist shop because of the need to get regulatory approvals," said the president of the Confederation of All India Traders, Punjab Chapter.

Covid effect: GST collections drop 31% during April-Aug

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 3 The gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collections for Punjab stood at Rs 987.20 crore during the month of August 2020 against Rs 1,014.03 crore for the corresponding period of the last year, thus registering a decline of 2.64 per cent.

**₹3,630 CR COLLECTED**

According to a government spokesperson, the gross GST revenue collections for the period of April to August stood at ₹3,630.48 crore in comparison to ₹5,266.06 crore for the same period last year, thereby denoting a fall of 31.05 per cent.

to Rs 5,266.06 crore for the similar period last year, thereby denoting a fall of 31.05 per cent. The spokesperson said the projected revenue for the month of August was Rs 2,403 crore against which the state had collected Rs 987.20 crore that corresponds to approximately 41.08 per cent

of the projected revenue. Thus, an amount of Rs 1,415.8 crore is awaited for the month of August. Further, Rs 6,965 compensation is due for April to July.

In addition to the GST, Value Added Tax (VAT) and Central Sales Tax (CST) collections stood at Rs 539.44 crore in August whereas these were 394.14 crore for the month of August in 2019, thus indicating an increase of 26.78 per cent. The VAT and CST revenue collections for the period of April to August are Rs 2,032.75 crore in comparison to Rs 2,397.15 crore for the same period last year. As a result, they showed a decline of 15.20 per cent, the Taxation Commissioner added. If GST, VAT and CST are put together, tax collections during August this year stood at Rs 1,526.54 crore against Rs 1,408.17 crore in August 2019.



AAP leaders protest in Bathinda on Thursday. PAWAN SHARMA

'Pressure' on minister to give up Social Welfare portfolio

RAJMEET SINGH

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 3 Even as the state government is learnt to have stepped up its efforts to bail out Social Welfare Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot in the SC post-matric scholarship scam, pressure is building on the lawmaker from within the Punjab Congress to relinquish his charge of social welfare till he is cleared of the taint.

Already, the anti-Dalit narrative being built by the Opposition, especially in the Doaba region, has left the Congress leadership worried.

Some Cabinet colleagues of Dharamsot, who did not wish to be named, said, "Volunteering to give up the social welfare charge till the pendency of the inquiry will not only boost the image of the government but will also go in Dharamsot's favour. He can still remain a minister. The party had ordered an audit of bungling that occurred during the Akali regime, but now, we have to prove ourselves to the people."

Senior Dalit leader from Majha Raj Kumar Verma said the Congress government should take the initiative to punish those behind the bungling of funds meant for SC students. He also blamed the Akalis for the scam.

Expressing concern, some

Move will help govt counter Oppn's anti-Dalit narrative'

SCHOLARSHIP SCAM: AAP STAGES PROTEST

Bathinda: AAP members staged a protest against the state government and demanded that Social Welfare Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot be sacked for his alleged role in the scholarship scam. TNS

Dalit MLAs are learnt to have taken up the issue with PPCC chief Sunil Jakhar.

Jakhar said the Chief Minister had sought a report from the Chief Secretary and had already stated that there was no question of protecting or shielding anyone. MLA Sushil Rinku said there should be no leniency in acting against those involved in the wrong disbursal of funds. "A proper and transparent investigation should be done and the inquiry should reveal who has been benefited," he said. With the Opposition parties gunning for Dharamsot's resignation, Dalit politics in the Congress has heated up. Sources said Dharamsot could lose his berth in the event of a Cabinet reshuffle.

Can file fresh bail plea if drug not psychotropic: HC

SAURABH MALIK

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Row continues over possessing buprenorphine



Taking up one such matter, the High Court asserted there was a conflict between the judgements as to whether the possession of buprenorphine injections would constitute an offence under the NDPS Act and the rules framed thereunder.

The High Court stated that the matter had already been referred to a larger Bench in the case of Anil Kumar alias Nehla versus the State of Punjab on October 1, 2018. The case, last heard on January 13, was adjourned for further hearing in April. But the matter could not make headway as the High Court went

into restrictive functioning mode following Covid outbreak. The case is now listed for November third week.

The issue was once again raised before the High Court after a woman filed a petition seeking regular bail in a drugs case. Her counsel contended that the petitioner had been falsely implicated. The Bench was told that 14 injections each of buprenorphine and Avil were allegedly recovered from the petitioner and that too without following the mandatory provisions of the NDPS Act.

Her counsel denied the allegations. But he added that

Rule 66 of the NDPS Act would be applicable, even if the allegations were believed to be true. It allowed any person to possess up to 100 doses of the said psychotropic substance without any prescription from a registered medical practitioner.

The High Court asserted that the accused had a history of conviction for 10 years in a case and was already facing trial in another for recovery of 20gm of heroin.

"Consequently, the petition for grant of regular bail stands dismissed. However, it is held that the petitioner would be entitled to file a fresh petition for grant of regular bail in case the Division Bench decides the reference holding that buprenorphine is not a psychotropic substance," the High Court added.

Badal misleading farmers on agri ordinances: Jakhar

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 3

Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee chief Sunil Jakhar today accused former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal for misleading farmers on the issue of Central ordinances related to agricultural reforms. He said Badal was adopting double standards on the issue.

Earlier, Badal had said

Union Minister for Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar had promised the SAD in writing that the minimum support price (MSP) system of crops would continue. He said Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh was misleading farmers by spreading rumours on agriculture ordinances. — TNS

First batch of yatris leaves for Hemkund Sahib

AMRITSAR, SEPTEMBER 3

The maiden batch of pilgrims today set out for Gurudwara Sri Hemkund Sahib from Gurdwara Gobind Ghat in Uttarakhand.

The annual pilgrimage was suspended in the wake of the Covid crisis, but it was later announced that it would restart on September 4.

Meanwhile, an 'akhanda path'bhog was performed at Gurdwara Gobind Ghat after which 100 pilgrims led by 'Panj Pyaras' started their journey to Gurdwara Gobind Dham. They will reach their

Shrine portals reopen today

final destination tomorrow, which is 6 km away.

"The 'parkash' (installation) of Guru Granth Sahib at the 'diwan' hall of Hemkund Sahib has been scheduled for September 4 at 9 am in the presence of 'Panj Pyaras'. The maiden 'ardas' will be performed after the 'Sukhmani Sahib' prayers," said Seva Singh, manager. — TNS

Family of ailing 20-yr-old footballer pins hope on AIFF

DEEPMALA KAUR

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DECISION IN 10 DAYS

■ The All-India Football Federation is to decide Anwar Ali's fate in competitive football in the next 10 days. The footballer was diagnosed with a congenital heart disease last year.

■ Razaak Ali, Anwar's father, said the biggest solace for him was that a Kolkata-based hospital, where Anwar had undergone some medical tests, had given him clearance.

him, why should I worry?" says Razaak.

"The biggest solace for me



Anwar Ali at a stadium in Jalandhar. TREBUNE PHOTO

pit, where Anwar has undergone some medical tests, has given him clearance. So, on the basis of this report, the AIFF may also give him the go-ahead," says his father.

Razaak says, "We never

knew Anwar had a heart disease. He has never shown any signs of fatigue. He started playing when he was barely eight and has played quite a few international events. Anwar has undergone so many medical tests but this problem never surfaced. We were shocked when he was diagnosed with this disease by a Mumbai hospital. We were told that he has the disease since childhood. When he stayed with us during the lockdown, we did not notice any slackness in him even after rigorous exercise. As soon as

Minerva Academy, Chandigarh, opened two months ago, he left for his training."

He says last month, his son came home for a few days, but soon left for Kolkata to take part in a training camp ahead of a tournament starting there on September 20.

Asked if he felt that the decision could impact the financial prospects of the family, Razaak says, "Surely... but we are very optimistic. Though Anwar has been doing well in the game for the past few years, he has been doing especially well on the financial front for the past two years."

State saw 34 deaths a day in August

VISHAV BHARTI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 3
August proved to be a fatal month for the state as the number of Covid-19 deaths reported were over three times higher than the fatalities reported between March and July.

The first case was reported in the state on March 8 and 10 days later, on March 18, the first casualty due to Covid took place. Since then, 1,690 deaths have been reported due to the virus. But August proved to be the worst month as around 1,100 people succumbed to the virus.

As per the data compiled by the state's Covid cell, between March 19 and July 31, just 386 deaths were reported. However, 1,067 persons died due to it in August (34 persons a day). In the month-wise breakup, March witnessed four deaths, in April the number rose to 16, while in May there were 25 deaths. However, the number started swelling after June, when 99 deaths took



A health official collects a swab sample in Bathinda. PAWAN SHARMA

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Ludhiana	11,310	460
Jalandhar	7,179	188
Amritsar	4,416	178
Patiala	6,733	180
Sangrur	2,322	92
SAS Nagar	4,179	93
Gurdaspur	2,536	60
Bathinda	2,658	38
Hoshiarpur	1,690	53
Ferozepur	1,959	39
Pathankot	1,389	24
Total positive	58,515	
Deaths		1,690

INFECTED DOCTORS CRY APATHY

Faridkot: Doctors who have tested positive for Covid-19 on Thursday objected to the "apathetic attitude" of the authorities as they were not served food in the Covid ward at Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and Hospital. In a Facebook post, a doctor alleged that on Thursday, 12 of her colleagues got infected by the virus while performing duty in the isolation ward. All were admitted to the hospital. The doctor said, "On Wednesday night, they received the dinner in almost empty plates. And on Thursday, no breakfast was given till 11 am."

Fatalities since March

Month	Deaths
March	4
April	16
May	25
June	99
July	242
August	1,067

place. In July, the number was 242 and in August there were 1,067 deaths.

Even in terms of cases, over 36,000 cases were reported in August, which is more than double the cases reported between March and July combined. At present, the death rate in the state is 2.39 after 100 confirmed cases. It is much higher than the national average as well as that of the neighbouring states.

Meanwhile, 1,527 fresh cases and 73 deaths were reported on Thursday. With these, the total toll has reached 1,690 and the number of cases has peaked to 58,515.

As far as the deaths are concerned, Ludhiana reported 18, followed by Kapurthala 10, Jalandhar seven, Patiala, Ferozepur and Moga five each, Amritsar four, Ropar three, Faridkot, Fatehgarh Sahib, Fazilka, Gurdaspur, Sangrur and Hoshiarpur two each, Bathinda, Fazilka, SBS Nagar, SAS Nagar and Tarn Taran one each.

Instead of Covid test, Ludhiana docs prescribing costly CT scan

Provide patient info to Civil Surgeon, radiologists told

ALL FOR COMMISSION

It is unfortunate that some practitioners are thinking about minting money from patients.

Instead of the Covid test, patients are being prescribed the costly CT scan.

Besides the standard Covid test, infection can be detected through the CT scan and X-Ray and is normally done on patients under intensive care.

Such patients go unnoticed and the Health Department remains unaware of their status. Taking note,

Deputy Commissioner Varinder Sharma has directed all radiologists to provide the Ludhiana Civil Surgeon complete information about patients whose CT scans show symptoms of Covid infection.

"In view of larger public interest and to save lives, all radiologists of Ludhiana have been directed to give necessary information to the Civil

surgeons get by referring patients to radiologists. They get no such benefit by prescribing the Covid test," he said.

A patient said he approached a doctor after developing fever. "The doctor asked me to go in for CT scan. When I tested positive for Covid, he said I should self-quarantine. He said it was convenient and painless, unlike the Covid test, and the patient does not have to visit hospital for review," he said.

Dr Anakvir Singh, a city-based radiologist, said doctors were prescribing CT scan to those patients who had mild symptoms just to save the time it takes to go through the standard test. "There are some cases where emergency surgeries need to be conducted and that is why patients are prescribed the CT scan instead of the Covid test. The result of the CT scan is as accurate as the standard test," he added.

BRIEFLY**Protesters seek revival of old pension scheme**

Bathinda: Members of the Contribution Pension Fund Karamchari Union on Thursday staged a protest against the state government for not reviving the old pension scheme. Amrik Singh, general secretary of the union, said, "The state government had constituted a committee to expedite the process of reviving the old pension scheme in March 2019, but nothing has been done in this direction."

SFJ's ₹3,000-grant offer alarms intel agencies

Moga: Intelligence agencies are alarmed over secessionist group Sikhs for Justice's announcement to give Rs 3,000 monthly grant to farmers who are defaulting on loan payments. The agencies are trying to find out if the SFJ's source of funds. A senior intelligence official said a special desk had been set up to keep an eye on SFJ activities. TNS

Dr Karamjit first VC of Guru Nanak Dev Open varsity

Chandigarh: Dr Karamjeet Singh has joined as the first Vice Chancellor of the Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University. He has been appointed for three years. TNS

'iRakhwali' mobile app to save environment

Chandigarh: The state government has decided to induct common people as 'Greenery Saviours' to further strengthen its drive to preserve the environment in the state. The state Forest Department has announced to launch a dedicated app 'iRakhwali' in this regard, said Forest Minister Sadhu Singh Dharmsoo. TNS

Icons to be part of poll campaign

Chandigarh: The state Chief Electoral Officer is launching an awareness drive, wherein icons belonging to various fields are being roped in to create an impactful communication with public. A virtual meet was held on Thursday in which icons of all 22 districts interacted with Madhvi Kataria, Additional Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab. TNS

Now, panchayats withdraw resolutions against Health Dept

Tribune News Service

SANGRUR, SEPTEMBER 3

At a time when Health Department teams have been facing resistance in villages over Covid-19 tests, a reverse trend has started in Sangrur, with many panchayats announcing support to testing of villagers.

"The Malerkotla SDM had called a meeting of area panchayats on Wednesday. He assured us that the Health Department will fully cooperate with us. We will keep Covid-positive patients in our village school and not shift them to hospital," said Sukhdeep Singh Goldy, sarpanch, Banbhaura village.

According to information, Badhes, Nathoheri and Bahadurpur panchayats had passed resolutions against villagers undergoing Covid tests. Now all three panchayats have withdrawn their resolutions and announced to support the Sangrur administration in this regard.

"To prevent the spread of virus, our village will fully support the administration," said Avtar Singh of Bahadurpur village.

that were opposing the Health Department. "Hopefully, there will be no action as all panchayats have announced to support the campaign of the government for sampling after we assured them full cooperation," said the SDM.

With 54 more persons testing positive in Sangrur district today, the number of active cases has reached 299. With death of one more local resident, the toll has reached 91 in the district.

Sangrur Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ramvir said after some miscreants spread false information about forcible shifting of Covid-positive patients to hospitals, some panchayats had started opposing the testing.

Nod for free walk-in tests in govt hospitals

Pvt hospitals can also conduct tests with charges not exceeding ₹250

Tribune News Service

RESULTS TO BE AVAILABLE IN 30 MINUTES

It is unfortunate that some practitioners are thinking about minting money from patients.



CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 3

In order to combat the Covid-19 outbreak, the government has decided to allow free walk-in testing in the government hospitals and mobile vans. Similar testing method will be adopted in private hospitals with charges not exceeding Rs 250.

People who want their results immediately can opt for rapid antigen tests while RT-PCR tests will also be carried out. The government will explore similar arrangements for rapid antigen tests by pharmacists/chemists.

Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan said the government will provide training and kits to private hospitals and doctors to conduct tests, which will be

allowed on the basis of Aadhar card and mobile numbers, without any questions asked or need for "parchis".

"As results of rapid antigen tests will be available in 30 minutes, this will lead to substantial increase in testing and early diagnosis," she said.

"Those who test positive through rapid antigen tests or are symptomatic, but negative can be tested again through RT-PCR test for confirmation," said the Chief Secretary.

She reviewed the situation with the Deputy Commis-

sioners (DCs) and Civil Surgeons of Patiala, Bathinda, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Mohali. The Chief Secretary asked the DCs to explore rapid antigen tests at private hospitals and pharmacies/chemist shops, at a nominal cost. She instructed that 104 helpline no. should provide real-time availability of beds in the districts. She directed the Civil Surgeons to ensure adequate supply of Oxygen cylinders.

Mahajan further asked the

Capt warns AAP against spreading rumours

Tribune News Service

CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY

It is a clear case of a deadly criminal conspiracy against the people of the state who are already suffering due to Covid.

Capt Amarinder Singh, CHIEF MINISTER

provoking people not to cooperate with the health authorities, thus endangering the health and safety of the citizens of the state.

Such rumours are provoking a section of the community to resist proper medical care which needs to be provided to all Covid-affected citizens. This is a clear case of a deadly criminal conspiracy against the people of the state who are already suffering due to the pandemic," Capt Amarinder said.

Icons to be part of poll campaign

Chandigarh: The state Chief Electoral Officer is launching an awareness drive, wherein icons belonging to various fields are being roped in to create an impactful communication with public. A virtual meet was held on Thursday in which icons of all 22 districts interacted with Madhvi Kataria, Additional Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab. TNS

ERTIGA

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PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Arun Kumar Gupta s/o Sh. Charan Adhar r/o # 5263 B, Sector- 38 West, Chandigarh have changed my name to Arun Kumar. (CL20036131)

I, Neera w/o Arun Kumar r/o # 5263 B, Sector- 38 West, Chandigarh have changed my name to Neera Garg. (CL20036133)

I, Gurpreet Singh Sagoo s/o Avtar Singh, H.No. 184, Palam Vihar, Pahowal Road, Ludhiana, have changed my name to Gurpreet Singh. (CL20036219)

I, Ramesh Kumar Jaswal s/o Ram Sarup r/o House No. 1079, Ramdarbar, Phase-2 Chandigarh have changed my name to Ramesh Kumar. (CL20036369)

I, Kamlesh Kumar Jaswal s/o Ram Sarup r/o House No. 1079, Ramdarbar, Phase-2 Chandigarh have changed my name to Kamlesh. (CL20036372)

I, Rohit Kumar s/o Mohinder Kumar, # 13477, St. No. 6A, Ganesh Basti, Bathinda, have changed my name to Rohit Kumar Thakur. (CL20036377)

I, Seema w/o Sukhveer Singh s/o Jangir Ram resident Dhabli Gujran, Tehsil Patran, District Patiala, I have changed my name to Seema Devi. (CL20036445)

I, Nishant s/o Sh. Sudesh Raj r/o VPO Tang Via Yol, Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra, HP declare that I have changed my name from Nishant to Nishant Dhiman. Concerned note. (CL20036482)

I, Sanjeev Kumar s/o B.S. Mandyal r/o Village Balakrupi, Tehsil Jodinagar Distt. Mandi, HP have changed my name from Sanjeev Kumar to Sanjeev Mandyal for all purposes. Concerned note to note please. (CL20036410)

I, Sanjeev Kumar s/o B.S. Mandyal r/o Village Balakrupi, Tehsil Jodinagar Distt. Mandi, HP have changed my name from Sanjeev Kumar to Sanjeev Mandyal for all purposes. Concerned note to note please. (CL20036463)

I, Pinki Patial d/o Hari Ram Patiyal, 19.03.1971, Spouse of No. 1374694-A, Rank Ex Hav. Ajmer Singh, Village Malon, PO Gindpur, Tehsil Amb, Distt. Una (HP) have changed my name to Sudesh Kumar d/o Hirra Singh and DOB 16.08.1968, vide Affidavit Dt. 31.08.2020, before Executive Magistrate Amb (Una) HP. (CL20036361)

I, Army Number JC 732596L Subedar Rajendra Kumar, Village Sultanpur Biloni, PO Rahim Kot, Tehsil Devai, District Bulandshah (UP) declare that my wife's and son's names in my Army record have wrongly entered Kumari Madhu and Maneesh whereas their correct names are Madhu and Manisha Kumar. Concerned note. (CL20036487)

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COURT NOTICE

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Sh. Tanveer Singh

Civil Judge,
Junior Division,
Chandigarh.

Zohra Khatoon @ Johara
Khatoon
Versus

General Public
For Declaration and
Mandatory Injunction
CNR No.:

CHCH02-001838-2020
Next Date: 06.10.2020

Publication issued to:
General Public
Chandigarh.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 06.10.2020 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to
<https://highcourtchd.gov.in/>?
trs=district_notice&district=chandigarh

Dated, this day of

02.09.2020.

Sd/-
Civil Judge,
Junior Division,
Chandigarh.
CL20036479

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**Himachal Pradesh
Public Works Department
TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE**

Tender reference No. 2023/2020-2021, which was published in daily Newspaper ("Advertisement No. Ro. No. 2023/2020-2021 dated 05.08.2020") Expression of interest for empaneling DPR consulting Agency is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

(Ajay Gupta),
Chief Engineer (PMGSY),
HPPWD Nirman Bhawan, Shimla-2.

DPR/HP/2655

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ

ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਕੰਟਰੋਲ ਖੁਗ਼ਾ ਸਿਵਲ ਸਪਲਾਈਜ਼ ਅਤੇ ਖਪਤਕਾਰ ਮਾਮਲੇ, ਬਿੰਡਿਆ

ਸਾਲਾਰ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੈਟਵਰਕ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੈਟਵਰਕ

ਸਾਲ 2020-21 ਲਈ ਸਟੇਟੇਸ਼ਨ ਸੈਂਟਰਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਲੇਖਕ ਕਾਰਟੇਸ਼ ਦੇ ਕੰਮ ਲਈ
ਡੈਂਡਰਿੰਗ, ਖੁਗ਼ਾ ਸਿਵਲ ਸਪਲਾਈਜ਼ ਅਤੇ ਖਪਤਕਾਰ ਮਾਮਲੇ, ਬਿੰਡਿਆ

ਡੈਂਡਰਿੰਗ, ਖੁਗ਼ਾ ਸਿਵਲ ਸਪਲਾ

JJP MLA takes on govt over 'errant' electricity officials

Says staff harass farmers in name of fines for unregularised power load

GEETANJALI GAYATRI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 3
The alliance between the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Haryana didn't stop Tohana legislator Devender Singh Babli from training his guns on the government for "failing farmers of his area".

In a video posted on social media on Thursday, the JJP legislator went all out against the Manohar Lal Khattar government for failing to rein in "errant" Power Department officials, who, according to him, had been harassing farmers in the name of fines for unregularised electricity load.

Babli said he received 15 to 17 complaints from farmers every time he visited his segment for two days in a week.

The immediate trigger of the rant was the harassment faced by a farmer from Talwara village of the Tohana

WANTS VIGILANCE PROBE



"I want a vigilance inquiry against a few officials who have retired and suspension of some in service. A strong message has to be sent out to these officials. I wonder who is protecting them and how they are able to wield their clout as nobody from the CM to ministers are able to take action against them."

Devender Singh Babli, TOHANA LEGISLATOR

constituency on the pretext of undeclared power load.

Babli said, "It seems a gang of extortionists is operating in my area. It picks on farmers and harasses them by imposing unwarranted fines... An official of the department was in the midst of imposing a fine on a farmer on the pretext of installing a 45 horsepower (HP) motor. The reality was the farmer had installed a 40 HP motor. In spite of furnishing bills for the pump and the approval from the Power Department, the official was not convinced. Only when

the motor was taken out after about five hours, he backed off as the motor's capacity was indeed 40 HP. Even then, the official tried to impose a fine on the farmer on the pretext of undeclared load claiming he was drawing more power than approved."

Babli told *The Tribune* farmers were unaware of the technicalities of power load. "I have flagged the nexus among power officials and rampant corruption in the department with CM Khattar and his deputy Dushyant Chautala."

"No action has been taken.

Sources in the department said there was a provision which provided for a farmer to apply for upgrading the power load, pay the fees and get the connection regularised.

Every time I protest, some changes are made on the ground. But overall, the situation remains the same. Officials here (in Tohana) look for newer ways of "extorting" money on the pretext of imposing fines," Babli said.

"I want a vigilance inquiry against a few officials who have retired and suspension of some in service. A strong message has to be sent out. I wonder who is protecting them and how they are able to wield their clout as nobody from the CM to ministers are able to take action against them," the legislator claimed, adding "nobody seems to have the authority to rein in power officials".

Sources in the department said there was a provision which provided for a farmer to apply for upgrading the power load, pay the fees and get the connection regularised.

SPIO to pay ₹5K relief for partial info

YAMUNANAGAR, SEPTEMBER 3

Taking note of the detriment suffered due to incomplete information, State Information Commissioner (SIC) Jai Singh Bishnoi has directed the State Public Information Officer (SPIO)-cum-Drug Control Officer, Yamunanagar, to pay Rs 5,000 as compensation to the appellant (complainant).

Jai Chand Chauhan, an RTI activist, had sought information on several points, including samples taken from shops in the past two years and their results and about the posting tenures of some officers of the Drug Control Office here.

As per the SIC order passed on August 10, the appellant had filed the second appeal on April 29 on the ground that in response to his RTI application dated November 18, 2019, the SPIO provided incomplete information despite filling of the first appeal.

The appellant requested the SIC the respondent be directed to furnish information to him. He prayed for the initiation of action against the respondent and compensation for him. —TNS

2 Murthal dhabas sealed as 75 employees test positive

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 3
With 1,881 new cases of Covid reported on Thursday, which is the highest in a day so far, the tally crossed the 70,000 mark. So far, 70,099 persons have been infected by the virus. Besides 19 persons died, taking the toll to 740.

Among the 1,881 new cases are 65 workers of Sukhdev Dhaba and 10 staffers of the adjoining Garam Dhamar Dhaba, in Murthal (Sonepat).

The Sonepat district administration has sealed the two eateries till further orders.

Health teams collected samples of about 300 workers at Sukhdev Dhaba. Of them, 65 tested positive for Covid. Its owner had called his workers from Bihar in a bus four days ago and told the Health Department to conduct their tests.

Sonepat DC Shyam Lal Poonia said, "A special testing drive has been launched in Murthal. All those working in eateries and hotels will be tested."

Meanwhile, three deaths each were reported from Kar-



Officials at a dhaba, which has been sealed, at Murthal in Sonepat district on Thursday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Faridabad	13,118	174
Gurugram	12,535	135
Sonepat	4,747	41
Ambala	4,108	36
Panipat	4,066	50
Rewari	3,756	21
Karnal	3,252	37
Rohetak	3,167	32
Panchkula	2,672	24
Hisar	2,647	18
Kurukshetra	2,071	39
Mahendragarh	1,902	1
Yamunanagar	1,901	24
Sirsia	1,589	20
Palwal	1,568	12
Bhiwani	1,547	12
Jhajjar	1,334	17
Kaithal	1,258	11
Fatehabad	1,047	11
Nuh	782	14
Jind	728	10
Charkhi Dadri	304	1
Total	70,099	740

State issues norms for shooting films

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 3

With Unlock 4.0 guidelines regarding the Covid pandemic already in place, the state government on Thursday issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidelines for film shooting.

As per guidelines, all applications must include details about the location, number of shooting days and timings.

A government spokesman said that in view of the pandemic, all applications seeking permission for shooting would be received on the online portal. The initial approval will be granted by the Director General of Cinematography.

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY AMRITSAR Advertisement No. 06/2020 WALK-IN-INTERVIEW Online Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the Post of Senior Consultant as Incubation Manager in Golden Jubilee Centre for Entrepreneurship & Innovation under RUSA 2.0, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. Online registration process will start on 07.09.2020 and close on 21.09.2020. For interview schedule and further details visit www.gndu.ac.in.

03.09.2020 REGISTRAR

Liquor contractor shot dead in G'gram

GURUGRAM, SEPTEMBER 3
The contractor of a liquor shop was shot dead, while his friend was wounded at Jatauli village in Pataudi block of the district on Wednesday night. The contractor received 17 bullets, while his another friend managed to save himself by hiding behind a wall. The police complaint accusing 12 persons states personal enmity as the reason for the crime.

The contractor was attacked last year also. An FIR has been registered.

The incident happened when contractor Inderjeet and his friends Vishal and Vikram were returning home in a car after collecting cash from the liquor shop. When they reached Jatauli, some cows obstructed their way and they stopped. Meanwhile, six persons arrived there and open fired at them. —OC

High Court imposes ₹1,000 cost on Central govt in Khemka case

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 3
The High Court today imposed a cost of Rs 1,000 on the Union of India for its failure to file a reply on a plea filed by Haryana's senior IAS officer Ashok Khemka. In his main petition pending before the High Court, Khemka is seeking directions to consider him for empanelment at the level of

Additional Secretary to the Government of India. Khemka is posted as the Principal Secretary, Science and Technology Department, Haryana. The High Court also asked the Union Government to file its reply within a week.

In his plea, Khemka had sought the summoning of certain records but the Central Government failed to respond. "This case has been

taken up for hearing through video-conferencing. The counsel for the respondent — Union of India — prays for and is permitted to file a written statement within one week from today, subject to the payment of Rs 1,000 as cost," observed the Division Bench of Justice Rajiv Sharma and Justice Harinder Singh Sidhu. The case would now come up for hearing on September 15.

With Unlock 4.0 guidelines regarding the Covid pandemic already in place, the state government on Thursday issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidelines for film shooting.

A government spokesman said that in view of the pandemic, all applications seeking permission for shooting would be received on the online portal. The initial approval will be granted by the Director General of Cinematography.

नेत्रदान परवाड़ा

जीवन का अमूल्य वरदान
नेत्रहीन को नेत्रदान



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नेत्रदान से मिलता है स्वयं परमात्मा

नेत्र कोष

- आईजीएमसी शिमला
- डॉ. आर. पी. राजकीय आयुर्विज्ञान महाविद्यालय, टांडा

आई बॉल संग्रहण केंद्र

- डॉ. गार्ड. एस. पटमार राजकीय आयुर्विज्ञान महाविद्यालय, नाहन
- आंचलिक अस्पताल धर्मशाला, काँगड़ा

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स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश



DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' WELFARE, HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

0172-2570662, 2563242 (Fax)

No.: 2250/11-S Date: 02/09/2020

Open auction of Fishing Rights for the year 2020-21 i.e. 01.09.2020 to 31.08.2021 (except for the period from 15 June to 31 August off season) on Rajasthan Feeder Canal RD Head to tail will be held on 10.09.2020 at 12:30 P.M. in the office of the undersigned.

Note: All terms and conditions will be intimated to the bidders at the time of bidding.

Sd/- Er. Sukhjit Singh Randhawa, Executive Engineer, Rajasthan Feeder Division, C.C. Ferozepur.

DPR/Pb/72558

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, DAGSHAI DISTT - SOLAN (HP) 173210 TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NOTICE

1. Sealed Tenders are invited from reputed and experienced firms/ contractors for the following works as per the specifications mentioned in the Tender Form:-

(a) Establishment of shooting range (b) Renovation of computer Labs, (c) Tiling works (d) Procurement of furniture items.

2. Interested firms/contractors may download Tender form from school website www.apsdagshai.org. Tender form accompanied by DD of Rs. 500/- payable to APS Dagshai should reach undersigned within 20 days of publication of advertisement.

For further details, please contact school office Phone No 01792-266147

PRINCIPAL

BOQ and tender related conditions can be downloaded from the website www.hptenders.gov.in.

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

No. 3678-85 dated 14/09/2020

DPR/HP/2691

BOQ and tender related conditions can be downloaded from the website www.hptenders.gov.in.

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

No. 3678-85 dated 14/09/2020

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HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Good riddance

PUBG ban welcome, but it's only half the battle won

A DAY before the Indian government banned 118 mobile apps with a Chinese link, including PUBG (Player Unknown's Battlegrounds, for the uninitiated), a 17-year-old boy killed himself in Gujarat's Anand district after being scolded by his father for playing the addictive video game. This suicide illustrates how PUBG had driven a wedge between impressionable youngsters and their parents. Not surprisingly, many parents and teachers have welcomed the ban, even as gamers have been left shell-shocked. The game has about 50 million active players globally, including millions in India. Of its more than 600 million downloads worldwide, India is on top with a share of 175 million. PUBG Mobile recorded a global revenue gain of \$1.3 billion (over Rs 9,700 crore) in the first half of 2020; obviously, a sizeable proportion of this moolah came from India.

The PUBG craze rose sharply in the country during the Covid-induced lockdown as online entertainment became a lifeline for homebound people. However, the game's enormous popularity triggered apprehensions about its impact on children's studies as well as their mental health. Though the government has cited concerns over citizens' privacy and national security for the app ban — the third in just over two months — there is more to it than meets the eye, considering the ongoing standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in Ladakh. It is hoped that Indian startups will make the most of this opportunity to come up with quality apps that are in consonance with local laws and sensibilities and make a significant contribution towards reviving the Indian economy.

There is also a need to take a hard look at the larger picture — the deep penetration of Chinese brands into India's entertainment and news industries. With Chinese telecom giants such as Oppo and Xiaomi accounting for eight out of every 10 smartphones sold in India, their stakes in India's online market (second largest in the world after China's) are quite high. The Indian online gaming industry is expected to be worth \$1.1 billion (around Rs 8,250 crore) by 2021. Stricter quality regulations and import controls, along with innovation, can help India resist the revenue-devouring Dragon.

Fighting for her phone

Jalandhar girl shows grit, determination

THE sheer desperation was reflected in the courage shown by 15-year-old Kusum who fended off the snatchers who tried to take away her smartphone in Jalandhar. The daughter of a daily wager, the braveheart, who aspires to be a police officer and is taking lessons in taekwondo, realised that she could not afford to lose the phone, for it had not come easy and that her father had toiled hard for it. Besides, it stored all her notes sent by teachers. Attacked with sharp weapons, she managed to catch hold of a snatcher before passersby came to her rescue. The incident also illustrates how smartphones have now become a necessity with virtual teaching replacing the classrooms of schools and colleges as the coronavirus pandemic brings about a technological shift in the field of education.

But it is not without its share of problems. Not all students possess their own phone. Lack of proper connectivity and buying data reinforces the fact that those from weaker sections must not be left out for lack of resources as the realisation dawns that online education will be co-opted along with offline teaching after the pandemic is over. It may not be possible to teach all the subjects online but this mode is turning out to be the mainstay of teaching in the crisis.

In Punjab, the state government has launched a scheme to provide free smartphones for government school students. Ensuring that it reaches the real beneficiaries is important. The Internet infrastructure is also inadequate and needs strengthening. The government should also assess if the normal law and order situation has been affected on account of police personnel being deployed for Covid-related duties. Snatching is indulged in mostly by drug addicts who take away phones, earrings and chains to pay for their daily fix and women have been a prime target. Whether Kusum makes it to the list of bravery awards or not is immaterial, but her feat has highlighted the shift in the field of education, ensuring access to which remains as arduous now, as it has always been.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

No race can prosper till it learns there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem. — Booker T Washington

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

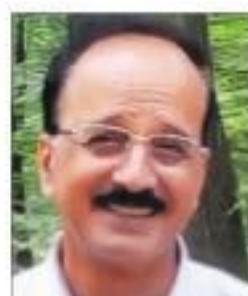
The Tribune.

LAHORE, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1920

The Gujranwala Indemnity and How it was Recovered.
WE publish elsewhere a memorial submitted by L. Kidar Nath, flour merchant of Gujranwala, to His Honour, protesting against the assessment of indemnity money and the mode in which it was collected. With the legality or otherwise of the assessment we are not concerned at present, although it is still doubtful whether Section 15 (A) of the Indian Police Act under which this tax was imposed upon the inhabitants of that afflicted town could be made applicable to any disturbed area retrospectively and whether the Gujranwala people alone were responsible for the acts of violence resulting in the destruction of property. But the most deplorable feature of the case is the way in which the aforesaid penalty was recovered from the defaulters. The facts disclosed in the memorial show that the first instalment of the tax was refused by the Receiving Agency on some technical ground, in spite of the orders of the Assessment Officers to the contrary, thus making the petitioner liable for the payment of all the three instalments. But the process of making an example of defaulters did not end here. Property worth more than the whole amount payable was attached and sold nearly six months after, with the obvious result that it brought only one-third of its original value. We are strongly of the opinion that such acts of injustice on the part of subordinate officials tend to perpetuate the bitter memories of the terrible times, and makes difficult the restoration of those cordial relations between the Governors and the governed, for which we are all anxious. We think that this is a fit case for the intervention of the Local Government, which should make a full inquiry.

Agriculture comes up trumps

With good monsoon and kharif sowings, it looks like another record harvest



DEVINDER SHARMA

FOOD & AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST



PROMISING RETURNS: Now is the time for bold reforms in agriculture.

IN the midst of an economic slump, reflected through the tumbling of GDP figures for the first quarter of this financial year, agriculture has emerged as the only bright spot. Riding on the back of a bountiful rabi crop harvest, agriculture has turned out to be the real saviour. With kharif sowings exceeding by over 8 per cent, and the monsoon rain being normal so far, India is expected to be heading towards another record harvest.

At a time when the gross value added (GVA) — value of goods and services produced minus the cost of inputs and raw materials that has gone into its production — declined across the spectrum, agriculture and allied activities grew by 3.4 per cent.

With most industrial houses pulling down shutters, at least for the first two months of the lockdown, economic activity got severely curtailed. The GDP growth therefore tanked by a steep minus 23.9 per cent — the lowest among the 20 big world economies — the sharpest decline since India began computing quarterly GDP numbers in 1996. Add to it the staggering job losses; the economic hit for the average citizen has been too traumatic. Private consumption being limited to essential buying only, salary cuts and leave without pay added to their woes. As if this is not enough, 1.89 crore salaried people and another 68 lakh daily wage workers lost their jobs since April, as per the estimates of the Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy (CMIE).

This is in addition to the estimated 3 crore migrant workers (if intra-state migration is considered, the number swells to 8 crore) who trudged back home, some walking hundreds of kilometres, carrying their children on their

shoulder or in tow, in what is seen as the biggest reverse migration since Independence. Besides the large numbers, the painful long march in a way brought out the failure of economic policies that had rendered farming uneconomical over the decades. With the cost of production rising, and the output prices remaining stagnant or declining, the terms of trade in agriculture had remained negative. Therefore, instead of making all provisions to bring the migrant workers back to the cities, the effort should now be directed to reverse the economic model that continues to push people out of rural areas. Considering that 70 per cent of the rural households are engaged in agriculture, the time has come to bring the focus back on revitalising agriculture. Turn it into a powerhouse of economic growth.

While the pandemic has certainly exposed the fault lines, it will require a set of new ideas and a strong political will to reshape the new economic agenda that will spur economic growth, create employment, and, at the same time, protect nature and environment. Fol-

lowing the old prescription of economic growth — sacrificing agriculture for the sake of industry — has outlived its utility. Agriculture being the biggest employer, the post-Covid-19 challenge instead should be to strengthen rural livelihoods, bring more income in the hands of the farming community, which alone has the potential to realise the dream of 'Sabka saath sabka vikas'. As Qu Dongyu, Director General of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN, said: 'Past progress was sustained by the benign trickle-down effects of strong economies. This is not the case anymore. The facts have changed, and so must our minds.'

It certainly was not an act of God that pushed agriculture into the throes of a continuing agrarian distress. Agriculture has in reality been a victim of a biased economic thinking perpetuated by the World Bank/IMF aimed at drastically reducing dependence on farming. Over the decades, farm incomes have therefore been deliberately kept low so as to bring in macroeconomic stability required to

protect the environment.

Agriculture has served as the lifeline during the pandemic. The challenge now is to ensure that it becomes an equal partner in growth.

Principal's hidden message in couplet

JAIDEEP MONGA

IT is common for people to read obituaries in newspapers. For me, it is a compulsive behaviour. I read the full text, and also the names of relatives, etc. When you stay at a place for more than two years and stick to the same newspaper, you can recollect the obituary of the person read last year.

After moving across India for over 30 years, I finally settled down on the periphery of Chandigarh, the city where I started my career in the 1980s, the city which has transformed like anything, the city that has its own panache.

After teething troubles of settling down, the routine started, includ-

ing reading newspapers and obituaries. Recently, I read one of respected Gurbax Singh Shergill, Principal of Khalsa College, Amritsar. He also headed other colleges and was a former chairman of the Punjab School Education Board.

Reminded of an era gone by, I felt sad and prayed for the departed soul. I did my graduation from a college in Amritsar and was planning to go for PG in English literature, but my father, who did his PG in economics was keen that I should follow him — perhaps at the back of his mind was one of his class fellows who did PG in economics and turned out to be an eminent economist, heading the RBI.

And later, went on to become the PM — Dr Manmohan Singh.

So, following the diktat, I applied for admission to the college, where I completed graduation, but somehow the head of the economics department, who used to teach us, had some 'vague' views about me. I did not get admission.

My father then suggested his alma mater — Khalsa College, Amritsar. I decided to take the plunge. The college was far away from our house. When I went inside the chamber of the college principal, Gurbax Singh Shergill, for obtaining signatures on the admission form, he looked at me, signed it, and recited an Urdu couplet: 'En kund hawaon se na ghabra ay ukab, yeh toh chaiti hain uncha udane ke liye'. He explained the meaning as I jotted down the lines.

('Ukab' is a bird from the eagle family. You should not be scared of the fast wind, it enables one to fly high.)

I could not understand why he had recited this couplet. Later, when I discussed this with Sardul Singh Gill, then vice principal and head, economics department, and my father's former teacher, he explained that perhaps I was being counselled to not get distracted by student politics, etc., and concentrate on studies.

Principal Shergill was an able administrator, educationist, disciplinarian and a great human being, always polite, open to suggestions and improvement in the education system. My two years in the college were the best part of my life.

RIP, principal Shergill.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Question Hour must

Refer to 'No Question Hour in monsoon session' (Sept 3); Question Hour is an integral part of a sitting session of the Lok Sabha, exclusively devoted to questions that MPs raise about any aspect of administrative activities of the government. The ministers concerned are duty bound to answer to Parliament either orally or in writing, depending on the nature of the questions.

Questions raised are one of the ways by which Parliament can hold the executive accountable. The cancellation of Question Hour has generated resentment among Opposition MPs, because they see it as a ploy to muzzle their voice. It is a must for dynamic parliamentary democracy. Zero Hour cannot be a substitute, as it is held after Question Hour. Moreover, Question Hour is mentioned in the rule of procedure, Zero Hour is not.

TARESM S BUMRAH, BATALA

Violation of rights

Apropos of the editorial 'Upholding civil rights' (Sept 3), picking up anybody and putting them in jail, denying even bail, in the name of UAPA, scuttles the constitutional idea of freedom, equality, justice and law. Misuse of such draconian Acts to settle political scores is not a new thing in our country. It marks an authoritarian regime, which terrifies

its citizens in the garb of peace and normalcy. The Blackstone's ratio that it is better that 10 guilty persons escape than that one innocent suffers is no more a guiding principle with the police or politicians. Rather, the regime's revengefulness is engulfs many innocent activists.

ABHIMANYU MALIK, JIND

Unfair detention

Refer to 'Upholding civil rights'; the grounds for detention under the NSA provided nothing that indicated any attempt by Dr Khan to disturb peace. He was kept under detention in violation of his rights. Does it not threaten secularism? The administration is liable and must be held accountable.

GEETA THAKUR, SHIMLA

Punjabi left out

Refer to 'Hindi, Dogri among 5 official languages in J&K' (Sept 3); it is strange that Punjabi is not being included as another official language, though most of the people there speak Punjabi. I visited Jammu to attend a conference on Indian languages organised by the National Translation Commission in January and found that majority of Jammu residents were speaking in Punjabi. Dogri has since been considered as a dialect of Pun-

jabi in Punjabi literature, but now it has been considered as one of the Indian languages, the translation of books must also be discussed.

VIDWAN SINGH SONI, PATIALA

PUBG ban a boon

The ban on PUBG was long awaited, and hence a good decision. The eighth most successful mobile game in the world, it had become a morbid obsession with both children and adults. The showcasing of violence and spending money lavishly to be a pro-player has been put to an end by this ban. This might hurt the players, but in the long run, it is only for their well-being!

MANDEEP KAUR, JALANDHAR

HAU entrance test

CCSHAU-Hisar has decided to hold the entrance test for PG courses in basic sciences on September 9. All state universities of Haryana are conducting final-year graduation exams from September 4, under special instructions from the UGC and the state government. Aspiring students will be deprived of a golden opportunity to appear in the HAU entrance test, owing to the clash of exams and admission counselling dates of the HAU. The authorities should look into the matter and post-

pone the PG entrance test to October, as has been done by Panjab University, Chandigarh.

SAYJYA SHARMA, HISAR

India high on innovation

Apropos of 'Global Innovation Index', gone are the days when India used to be known as a nation of snake-charmers. It is now making inroads into several significant domains. India's position in the top 50 nations on the index bears testimony to the fact that it is leading in innovation also. It is heartening to acknowledge that India ranked first among Central and Southeast Asian countries. Compared to last year, India climbed four spots to reach 48 from 52. India is now the third-most innovative lower middle-income economy in the world.

RAHUL CHOUHAN, BY MAIL

Bravo, girl!

It was very satisfying and heartening to read the news report, 'Dad toiled hard...' (Sept 3). A 15-year-old girl bravely took on two snatchers and saved her mobile phone and herself. She fought resolutely. This should be a lesson to our youth, especially girls. Martial arts helped her. Let the winds of change blow. Girls should start taking self-defence classes.

MOHINDER SINGH, PATIALA

How dissent over JEE, NEET impacts govt, BJP



RADHIKA RAMASESHAN

SENIOR JOURNALIST

THE Human Resource Development Ministry, recently rechristened as the Education Ministry, is beset with yet another dispute: this time, over the scheduling of the Joint Entrance Exam (Main) or the JEE and the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) or NEET. Twice deferred because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Centre bit the bullet and rolled in the qualifying exams on September 1, ostensibly on the 'advice' of a four-member panel chaired by the Director-General of the National Testing Agency.

Amid an outcry, marked by genuine anxiety and concern over the fate of over 20 lakh students who registered to enter the gateways of the exalted IITs and medical colleges, the Opposition parties pressured the government to put off the exams. The government refused to yield. Have the Congress and the regional parties latched on to an issue bristling with political implications for the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi? Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Education Minister, would hardly act independently. So, the buck will stop at the doors of the top brass.

At the best of times, overseeing the Education Ministry is unenviable for an incumbent, particularly if the minister is from the BJP. Its ideological mentor, the RSS, was fascinated with education and culture and preoccupied with the

enterprise of repriming the sectors from the 'stranglehold' of the 'liberal-left', a loose grouping of intertwined ideologies which it divined was opposed to its worldview. Unlike economics, on which the views of the RSS never congealed into a cohesive perspective, swinging as they did between the Gandhian philosophy, a vague swadeshi model, and the pro-NRI reformism, the ideas of the RSS on education and culture, however disputatious, were clear.

The Education Minister in a BJP dispensation, regardless of whether the party led a coalition with unlikely allies or was in a majority, was expected to toe the Sangh's line.

In the NDA-1 dispensation, Murli Manohar Joshi was influenced by the RSS's education fronts — Vidy Bharati and Ekal Vidyalaya — but the BJP's constituents, which continued to be avowedly 'secular', stopped him from implementing their proposals. In Modi 1.0, Smriti Z Irani was controversy's child. From stirring up a storm over her academic qualifications to replacing the German language with Sanskrit in the Kendriya Vidyalayas and making gratuitous remarks on the suicide of Rohith Vemula, a Hyderabad University Dalit student, and the protesters at Delhi's JNU, Smriti was a red rag for academics and students.

Pokhriyal, who taught at the Sangh-aligned Saraswati Shishu Mandir, second-guessed the RSS. Addressing an IIT-Mumbai convocation in August 2019, he made a series of contestable, if laughable, claims: Rishi Charaka, who goes back to antiquity, was the first person to study atoms and molecules; NASA chose Sanskrit as the base for a spoken language-designed computer and so on.

To be fair, it seems unlikely that the RSS fully endorsed the Centre's resolve to go ahead with the JEE and



OUTCRY: The JEE and NEET dissenters — the youth — defied the stereotypes the BJP and RSS fit their opponents into.

Modi is not known to be swayed by feedback and unpopular opinion. Perhaps, the only occasion when he heeded dissent was over the

Land Acquisition Act amendments that he shelved as the changes were perceived as 'pro-rich'. He never budged on demonetisation. The move paid off for the BJP in the elections that followed, the victory in UP being the best illustration. Modi and the BJP probably believe the JEE and NEET uproar too shall pass.

NEET entrance tests. Faced with a done deed, it tried to ease the pain for the candidates, especially those having to travel to the designated centres from other places, by arranging transport, food and lodging. The pandemic and the hardships it imposed were at the core of the candidates' protests.

The aspirants feared that even if they did not get infected, they might carry the virus back home to their parents. Transportation got wildly expensive as private operators were out to make big bucks. Those stuck in the flood-inundated parts of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh despaired at the thought of missing the exams. Some aspirants wondered that even if they made it to the centre, how would they write their papers wearing masks and gloves?

None of the problems apparently made sense to the Centre or the BJP, not even when social media was deluged with petitions seeking postponement. The petitioners were young men and women, central to

Modi and the BJP's 'demographic dividend' narrative, who beseeched him to put off the exams.

Did the campaign strike a chord with the Opposition? Ostensibly yes. Sonia Gandhi, in the throes of a simmering revolt in the Congress, collected her nerves and convened a video conference that many regional leaders participated in, Mayawati being a notable exception. Hemanth Soren, Jharkhand Chief Minister and Congress ally, launched an online feedback site in which over one lakh applicants said a conclusive no to holding the scheduled exams. Rahul Gandhi delivered the most damning critique when he questioned the PM's silence in the last *Mann ki Baat*. When Modi made a big pitch for locally made toys and indigenous breeds of dogs and exhorted people to shun the foreign ones, the Congress MP wondered why there was 'khilone pe charcha' instead of 'pariksha pe charcha'.

Has the Opposition's reaction and

the JEE and NEET competitors' entreaties impacted the government and the BJP? Typically, the scenario was cast in a 'BJP-versus-others', a 'liberal-versus-conservatives' framework that might have worked if the trigger was a polarising one.

Think of the police crackdown on the Jamia Millia Islamia, JNU and AMU campuses and the arrests during the anti-CAA protests and the pieces fall in place. There were elements of everything that was depicted as socially and politically abhorrent by the Sangh and the BJP in those episodes. 'Islamic radicalism' fomented by external forces, 'Naxalites' at war with the state, 'enemies' of Hindus and so on — tropes that made for a scary picture of a besieged nation to those who bought into the narrative.

The JEE and NEET dissenters defied the stereotypes the BJP and RSS fit their opponents into. These were young people who hoped that good times — *achhe din* — would arrive through a robust job market, handsome salary packages and perks, EMIs on easy terms and disposable incomes to splurge on leisure travel. Is it fair to force an exam on candidates who invested everything they could muster in the hope of seeing better times?

Modi is not known to be swayed by feedback and unpopular opinion. Perhaps, the only occasion when he heeded dissent was over the Land Acquisition Act amendments that he shelved because the changes were perceived as 'pro-rich'. He never budged on demonetisation. The move paid off for the BJP in the elections that followed, the victory in Uttar Pradesh being the best illustration. Modi and the BJP probably believe the JEE and NEET uproar too shall pass.

Proactive approach shapes HP's Covid battle



JAI PRAKASH NARAIN

EX-DIRECTOR, COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, WHO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

One state which has done quite well to contain Covid-19 but is not much talked about is Himachal Pradesh. While this is reassuring, experience shows that the situation could change quickly unless strict vigilance is maintained. As the pandemic accelerates in the country, there is need for a proactive and sustained response. The virus is unpredictable and can surge if we let our guard down.

THE pandemic has brought devastation on a scale never seen before as it has brought national economies to a standstill. The virus — SARS-CoV-2 which causes Covid-19 — came to India later than many other countries and is now spreading relentlessly. The situation is evolving rapidly as states hitherto not much affected are now reporting a spike in cases. Kerala has been talked about as a successful example, as it was initially able to contain the virus.

One state which has done quite well but is not much talked about is Himachal Pradesh — with a population of about 75 lakh, spread over 12 districts. The fact that a large number of the population is living out of the state — either employed or studying in cities, including those having a high transmission rate — and the flourishing tourism industry within the state render it particularly vulnerable to the risk of disease transmission.

The first case in HP was a 63-year old woman from Kangra who tested positive on March 20. She had recently returned after travel to Dubai. Over 6,400 infections and 43 deaths have been reported till September 2, with a fatality rate of 0.6 per cent (national average is 1.8 per cent). The largest number of cases is from the district of Solan, followed by Sirmaur, Kangra, Hamirpur and Una; these five districts contribute more than two-third of all cases. The lowest number of infections is in Lahaul and Spiti, with only eight cases detected in this geo-



STRICT STRATEGY: Movement of people within Himachal Pradesh — from one district to another and also from outside the state — was restricted.

graphically remote district.

The majority of those testing positive are in the age-group of 20-60 years and nearly three-fourth are males.

Almost all cases in the state either had a history of travel outside or had recently come from other states with a known high incidence, such as Maharashtra or Delhi. The remaining were the primary contacts of these cases who got infected as they had attended a social gathering attended also by a positive case and did not adhere to the guidelines on social distancing and the use of masks. The near-absence of secondary transmission is indicative of a limited local transmission within Himachal Pradesh so far.

The ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) and other health

workers undertook the initiative of active case finding by visiting house to house, and in most districts, found no cases of Covid-19. So far, more than 2,15,000 RT-PCR tests have been carried out in accordance with the ICMR guidelines, with a test positivity rate of 2.9 per cent — much lower than the national rate of 8.6 per cent. Surprisingly, more than 90 per cent of those testing positive were asymptomatic.

Samples taken during a sero-survey carried out in May as a part of the ICMR national survey were all found negative, indicating that there is no community transmission in the state.

The reasons for these achievements are fairly straightforward. From the beginning of the pandemic, HP has strictly followed the strategy of early

case detection, contact-tracing, quarantine, and treatment. As the country went under lockdown, Himachal imposed a curfew throughout the state and all movements of people within the state — from one district to another and also from outside the state — were restricted. All those entering the state with permission were mandatorily placed in quarantine, institutional or home, for a period varying from two to four weeks. Hiding the testing status was made a criminal offence liable for imprisonment under the emergency Act, perhaps the only state to do so.

Rapid response teams at district and block levels were mobilised for contact-tracing and follow-up. Remarkably, communities have played an extremely proactively role, especially in the rural areas where panchayats were fully committed to ensuring that home quarantine rules were strictly adhered to and arranging for institutional quarantine.

Any violations were tracked through GPS and by frequently visiting those in home quarantine. Many NGOs, such as Annapurna in Kullu town, took upon themselves the responsibility of serving food free of cost to those in institutional quarantine. Recently, the government passed a notification to levy a fine of Rs 500 or more for those violating the rules of wearing mask or maintaining social distancing.

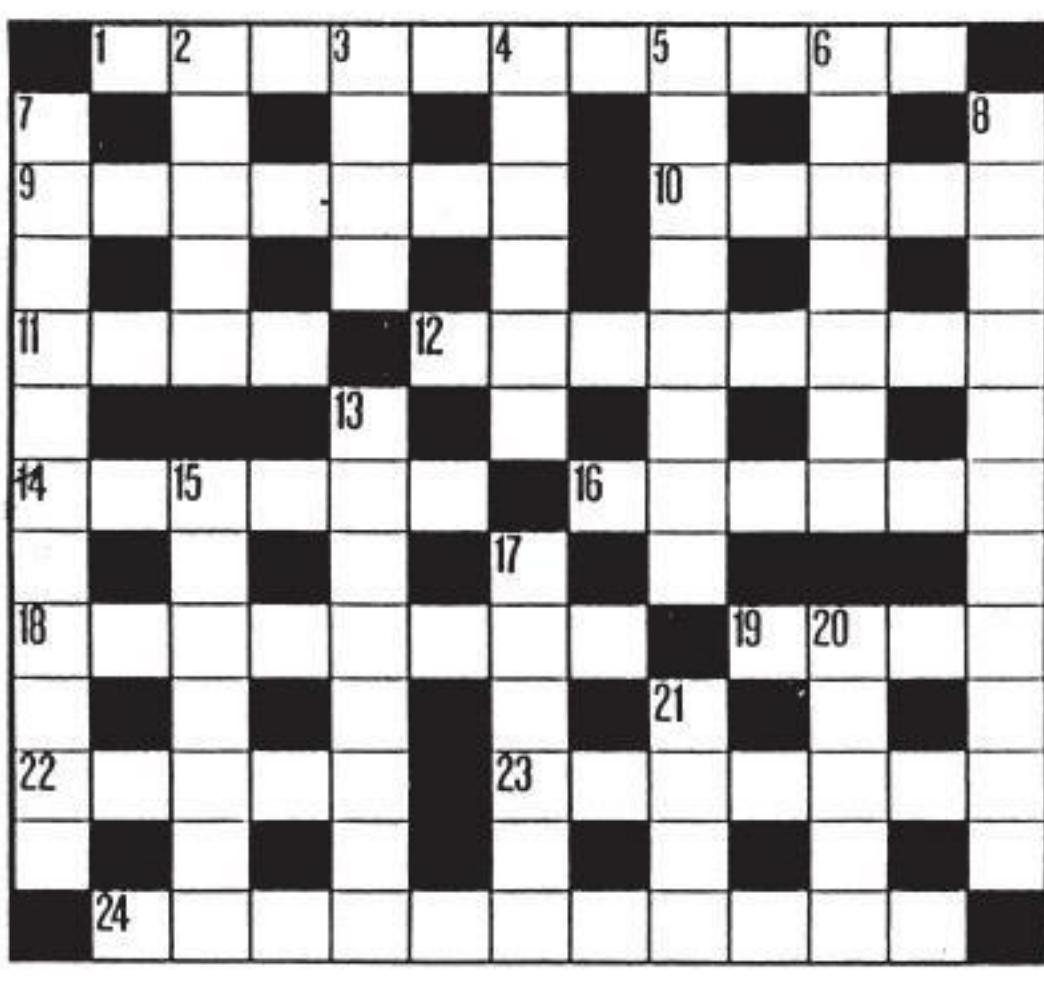
While this is reassuring, experience shows that the situation could change quickly unless strict vigilance is maintained and the gains made are sus-

tained. As the pandemic continues to accelerate in the country, there is need for a proactive and sustained response. The virus is highly unpredictable and can surge if we let our guard down. For example, Kerala, which was identified earlier as the best performing state in the country, has had to again resort to lockdown. Despite this, local transmission has increased as there are instances of people violating quarantine and not maintaining social distancing.

Himachal will do well to learn from these experiences and continue with what it has been doing so far: strict enforcement of quarantine, early detection of cases with testing and isolation of those who test positive. It must also focus on behaviour change intervention as high-risk behaviours are still prevalent in many towns and localities, such as no use of masks or wearing them on the chin or only covering either the mouth or nose, no physical distancing or adherence to cough etiquette or hand hygiene. Only extensive public education campaigns can make the people shed complacency that 'it cannot happen to me' and prevent any lapses in following these public health measures.

While continuing to improve the testing, tracing and treating strategy, we should also ensure that quarantine facilities are managed properly — they should make available at least the basic facilities and also strictly follow social distancing and mask wearing, thereby preventing them from becoming a source of infection.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 On oath, 4 Shocking, 9 Endure, 10 From A to Z, 12 Firm, 13 Power, 14 Oral, 17 Recalcitrant, 20 Bow and scrape, 23 Riot, 24 Sting, 25 Lens, 28 Fidelity, 29 Honour, 30 Turnover, 31 Elated.

Down: 1 Open fire, 2 Obduracy, 3 Tart, 5 Horse-trading, 6 Comb, 7 Intern, 8 Guzze, 11 Cosi fan tutte, 15 Bloom, 16 Snack, 18 Take root, 19 Measured, 21 Profit, 22 Yonder, 26 Also, 27 Poll.

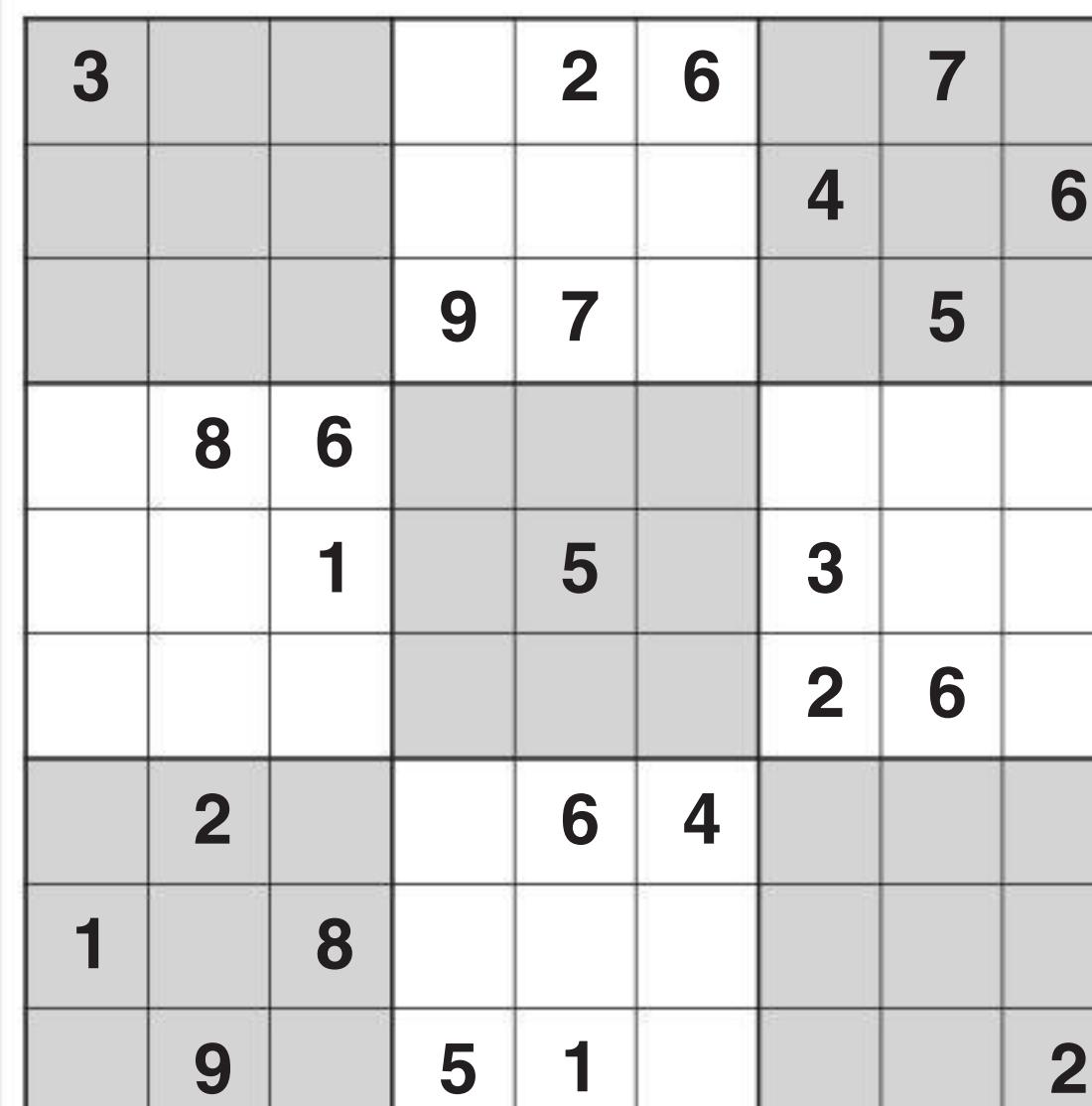
ACROSS

- 1 Defuse tense situation (5,3,3)
- 9 Oscillate (7)
- 10 Discourse (5)
- 11 Part to be played (4)
- 12 Bring about (8)
- 14 Only just (6)
- 16 Summary of information (6)
- 18 Regular (8)
- 19 Network fabric (4)
- 22 New England state (5)
- 23 Silver paper (7)
- 24 Rescuer of threatened firm (5,6)

DOWN

- 2 Written defamation (5)
- 3 In a secure place (4)
- 4 Long narrow ditch (6)
- 5 Rapturous (8)
- 6 Conceive (7)
- 7 Past the crisis (4,3,4)
- 8 Concise (2,1,8)
- 13 To abuse (3-5)
- 15 Trash (7)
- 17 Hungarian composer (6)
- 20 Notable period of history (5)
- 21 Opposed to (4)

SU DO KU



HARD

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 4, 2020, FRIDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Bhadrabudha Shaka	13
■ Bhadrabudha Parvishtha	20
■ Hijri	1442
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 2, up to 2:24 pm	
■ Shoola Yoga up to 1:52 pm	
■ Uttarabhadra Nakshatra up to 11:28 pm	
■ Moon in Pisces sign	
■ Gantmool start 11:28 pm	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: FRIDAY 18:42 HRS
SUNRISE: SATURDAY 06:01 HRS

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	32	26
New Delhi	33	26
Amritsar	30	26
Bathinda	32	26
Jalandhar	30	26
Ludhiana	32	26
Bhiwani	33	26

Baddi-Nalagarh highway four-laning to begin soon

State govt agrees to bear excess cost of land acquisition

AMBIKA SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, SEPTEMBER 3
The four-laning of the 17.6-km-long section of the Baddi-Nalagarh national highway is likely to begin soon as the state government has agreed to bear the excess cost of land acquisition of the pending 4.43 hectares of land.

A decision to this effect was taken at a recent meeting held between officials of the state government and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). A stretch of 36 km is supposed to be four-laned from Pinjore to Nalagarh, out of which 17.6 km lies in Himachal.

Dinesh Punia, an NHAI official, said, "Once the state government communicates its consent to bear the balance cost of land acquisition, it will finally pave the



The project has been hanging fire for several years.

COMPENSATION GIVEN TO 1,604

- A stretch of 36 km is to be four-laned from Pinjore to Nalagarh, out of which 17.6 km lies in Himachal
- An amount of Rs 124 crore has already been disbursed in Himachal to 1,604 of the 2,200 beneficiaries but the NHAI is yet to acquire the balance 4.43 hectares

way for further action like calling tenders for this long-pending four-laning work. This was agreed upon during a recent meeting held

with the state government."

Notably, the state government is keen on initiating this project soon as traffic influx is a major problem in

the state's industrial belt of Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh, where 89 per cent of the state's industries are located. The project has been hanging fire for several years.

As against the 45-m road, the width of the road is likely to be reduced to 39 m, informed officials involved in the land acquisition process.

An amount of Rs 124 crore has already been disbursed in Himachal to 1,604 of the 2,200 beneficiaries but the NHAI is yet to acquire the balance 4.43-hectare land. The circle rates were recently revised and the cost of land acquisition of the remaining 4.43-hectare has been brought down to Rs 14 crore, informed an official.

He said the state government had agreed to bear this cost and they were awaiting its official communication.

Funds for two helipads in Una sanctioned

UNA, SEPTEMBER 3

In pursuance of the state government's decision to develop a helipad in each Assembly segment, the Himachal Pradesh Tourism and Civil Aviation Department has sanctioned funds for two helipads in Una, while the process for constructing two more is likely to be initiated soon.

As per the information gathered from the Assistant Tourism Development Officer, Ravi Dhiman, who is responsible for Una and Hamirpur districts, helipad sites at Pubowal in Haroli segment and Thanakalan in Kutlehar segment have been finalised and the first installment of funds have been released.

A sum of Rs 87.14 lakh will be spent on developing the helipad at Pubowal. The cost of developing the helipad in Thanakalan will be Rs 30.43 lakh. While Rs 30 lakhs have been released for the Pubowal helipad, Rs 10 lakhs have been released for the infrastructure in Thanakalan, said the officer. — OC

Paragliding to resume at Billing from September 15

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PALAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 3

Paragliding will resume at Billing after a gap of six months from September 15. Following the Covid-induced lockdown in March, the state government had imposed a complete ban on paragliding.

The state government allowed paragliding in the first week of July but the ban continued on tandem flights keeping in view the safety of tourists. Now all types of paragliding would be allowed from September 15 which would boost the tourism activities in Kangra valley.

However, there is no confirmation on the holding of the International Paragliding World Cup Championship 2020 at Billing in the last week of October.



There is no confirmation of the International Paragliding World Cup Championship at Billing in the last week of October.

tion are not ready to confirm whether the event will be held or not.

Last year too, the International Paragliding World Cup Championship was cancelled because of Global Investors Meet at Dharamsala.

The championship is organised at Billing every year. On earlier occasions prior to the year 2014, only pre-World Championships were held.

The Bir Billing site, which

ranks among 10 best paragliding sites in the world, is situated on a height ranging from 5,000 feet to 9,000 feet above sea level in the foothills of the Himalayas. The lush green Bir Billing valley has emerged as the first choice of domestic and foreign tourists for paragliding.

Billing hosts International Paragliding World Cup every year in the month of October.

IPH Minister tests positive

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 3
Irrigation and Public Health Minister Mahender Singh tested Covid positive today. He is the second minister after Power Minister Sukh Ram Chaudhary, who had tested positive. He is in home isolation here since his health parameters are normal.

Mahender Singh had returned from Delhi on



August 22 after meeting national BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda. He also visited Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) yesterday to get his blood pressure checked as he was feeling uneasy. However, he was tested for Covid this morning after he developed high fever, with the report coming positive this afternoon. "Though Covid testing has not been made

mandatory for ministers and MLAs attending the session, if anyone has symptoms and wants to get himself tested, it will be done as a testing van, along with doctors and paramedical staff, will remain stationed outside the Vidhan Sabha complex," said Vipin Parmar, Speaker.

Now the health authorities and the district administration face a tedious task of tracking the contacts of the minister.

Tribune News Service

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 3
The steep rise in Covid cases continued with 199 cases and three deaths being reported today, taking the total number of positive cases to 6,615, and fatality to 46.

Those tested positive included Ram Kumar, Chairman of the HP Small Industries Development Corporation (HPSIDC), BJP leader from Haroli in Una. There were three deaths in Solan,

taking the toll in the district to 13, the highest in the state.

The highest number of 52 cases were reported in Sirmaur, 41 in Solan, 40 in Kangra, 19 in Una, 13 each in Bilaspur and Hamirpur, 11 in Shimla, six in Kinnaur, two in Kullu and one each in Chamba and Mandi.

Two deaths in BBN belt

A 45-year man from Khera village in Nalagarh, who was brought dead at the Community Health Centre, Nalagarh,

late last night, also tested Covid positive. He had fever for the past three days, said health officials.

Another 35-year-old resident of Nalagarh, who was the human resource manager in Theon Pharma, died due to a cardiac arrest on September 1. His sample was drawn yesterday and he was found positive, added health officials.

Meanwhile, 41 positive cases, including 18 in the BBN belt, were reported in Solan district.

Medical Officer Dr NK Gupta said there were 18 cases from Parwanoo, four from Solan and one from Kasauli.

Those tested positive included an employee of the drug control administration, Baddi, a frontline worker, interstate travellers and a pregnant woman.

The Vardhman unit management claimed that none of their employee had tested positive in Baddi as claimed by the health officials yesterday.

Three more die in Solan, 199 cases reported

Tribune News Service

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 3
The steep rise in Covid cases continued with 199 cases and three deaths being reported today, taking the total number of positive cases to 6,615, and fatality to 46.

Those tested positive included Ram Kumar, Chairman of the HP Small Industries Development Corporation (HPSIDC), BJP leader from Haroli in Una. There were three deaths in Solan,

taking the toll in the district to 13, the highest in the state.

The highest number of 52 cases were reported in Sirmaur, 41 in Solan, 40 in Kangra, 19 in Una, 13 each in Bilaspur and Hamirpur, 11 in Shimla, six in Kinnaur, two in Kullu and one each in Chamba and Mandi.

Two deaths in BBN belt

A 45-year man from Khera village in Nalagarh, who was brought dead at the Community Health Centre, Nalagarh,

DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Una	533	3
Solan	1,533	13
Kangra	966	8
Chamba	442	4
Hamirpur	611	5
Sirmaur	980	2
Mandi	403	7
Bilaspur	374	-
Shimla	376	4
Kullu	287	-
Kinnaur	102	-
Lahaul & Spiti	8	-
Total	6,615	46

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

Short Term Tender Notice No. 64/XEN/ZA/O&M

Dated: 2.9.2020

The Department of Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana invites online bids for the following:

SR. No.	Items	Amount
1.	Prov./Installation of T/wells	As per uploaded DNIT
2.	Prov./Laying Water Supply & Sewer lines	

Closing Date & Time: 10/09/2020 till 01.00 p.m.

Opening of Technical Bid: 11/09/2020 till 02.00 p.m.

Opening of Financial Bid: Date will be fixed after Technical bid opening.

Note: Any Corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-O&M, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

DPR/Pb/72425

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

Short Term Tender Notice No. 64/XEN/ZA/O&M

Dated: 2.9.2020

The Municipal Council, Gobindgarh invites online bids for the following:

Ref.: 2208	Items	Amount
	Government of Punjab	
	Tender Reference No.: E-tender-ME/AME/015(2020)	
	The Department of : Municipal Council, Gobindgarh, Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib invites bid for Civil Works.	
	Closing Date and Time : Closing Date: 17.09.2020, Time up to 05.00 P.M.	
	For Details logon to : http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in	
	Note:- Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.	
	Sd/- Municipal Engineer, Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Gobindgarh.	DPR/Pb/72420

Closing Date & Time: 10/09/2020 till 01.00 p.m.

Opening of Technical Bid: 11/09/2020 till 02.00 p.m.

Opening of Financial Bid: Date will be fixed after Technical bid opening.

Note: Any Corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, W/S and Sanitation Div. No. 2, Tarn Taran

Phone No. 0182522688 Email id eedwssdiv2tt@gmail.com

DPR/Pb/72540

DEPARTMENT of Water Supply and Sanitation, Government of Punjab (Punjab Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Improvement Project (World Bank Funded))

1. The Chairman GPWSC's invites bids (to be submitted in the e-Procurement Portal) for the construction of following works:

Sr. No.	Name of work	Est. Cost (in Lacs)	Date/Time of submission of Bid	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid
2.	Water Supply Scheme Chutala Block Patti Taran. (Under Component 2A-1)	10.32	From 04.09.2020 to 21.09.2020 up to 17:00 hrs.	22.09.2020 at 12:15 hrs.
3.	Water Supply Scheme Warana Block Naushera Pannuan, District Tarn Taran. (Under Component 2A-1).	6.09	From 04.09.2020 to 21.09.2020 up to 17:00 hrs.	22.09.2020 at 12:30 hrs.
	Completion Period:- 3 Months each			

2. Bidder advised to note minimum qualification criteria & instruction in bidding document.

1,069 fresh cases, UT's tally nears 40,000 mark

TREASURE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 3
 With 1,069 new cases — 622 in the Jammu division and 457 in the Kashmir province — the Covid count in J&K reached 39,943 in the past 24 hours.

Eleven deaths — three in Jammu and eight in the Valley — were reported during the same period, taking the deadly virus toll to 743 in the UT.

For the first time, the Jammu division recorded more than 600 cases in a single day. The Jammu district alone reported single-day highest 484 positive cases out of which only 34 have travel history.

Meanwhile, 680 patients recovered and were discharged from various hospitals (104 in Jammu and 576 in the Valley). With 680 patients recuperating on Thursday, recoveries in J&K reached 30,759.

According to the official bulletin issued on Thursday evening, out of the 39,943 positive cases, 8,441 were active, 30,759 had recovered and 743 died (78 in the Jammu division and 665 in the Kashmir valley).

The bulletin further said out of the 10,12,892 test results available, 9,72,949

samples had tested negative.

Meanwhile, the J&K Government has evacuated about 3,89,213 of its residents, stranded in other parts of the country due to the Covid lockdown, via Lakhimpur and through special trains and buses so far amid the strict observance of all necessary guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs).

As per the official data received in this regard, the J&K Administration has received 134 special trains at the Jammu and Udhampur railway stations from different states and UTs.

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Bandipora	2,284	26
Srinagar	9,636	228
Anantnag	2,416	52
Baramulla	2,876	101
Shopian	1,731	28
Kupwara	2,166	50
Budgam	2,644	64
Jammu	4,060	52
Udhampur	865	03
Ganderbal	1,578	24
Kulgam	1,961	37
Pulwama	2,733	55
Samba	764	03
Rajouri	972	05
Kishtwar	291	01
Kathua	972	05
Ramban	667	01
Reasi	433	00
Poonch	458	04
Doda	459	04
Total	39,943	743

Positive cases 39,943
 Patients cured 30,079
 Total deaths 743

UT TRACKER

Total persons under surveillance 4,69,980

Persons completing surveillance 3,68,449

Samples tested 10,12,892

Negative results 9,72,949

Positive cases 39,943

Patients cured 30,079

Total deaths 743

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Condemning the exclusion of Punjabi language from the J&K Official Language Bill, the Sikh groups held protests against the "total neglect" of Punjabi language in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Till 1981, Punjabi language was a compulsory subject like Urdu in J&K and now, its total neglect is another assault on the iden-



Members of the Sikh community stage a protest in Jammu on Thursday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Sikhs miffed over exclusion of Punjabi from language Bill

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 3

Sikh groups in Jammu and Kashmir are miffed over the exclusion of Punjabi from the J&K Official Languages Bill and have threatened to launch an agitation if the government does not review its "discriminatory move" against the minority community.

Sudershan Singh Wazir, chairman, Sikh United Front, J&K, while addressing a press conference here. The leader alleged that the government was sending contradictory signals. On the one hand, the new education policy announced by the Centre envisaged that the compulsory education to children up to Class V should be in their mother tongue and on the other, the government only granted official status to five languages, which was against the spirit of the new education policy. — TNS

with an ulterior motive to demolish the spiritual, cultural and emotional quotient of the Sikhs living in J&K," said Sudershan Singh Wazir, chairman, Sikh United Front, J&K, while addressing a press conference here. The leader alleged that the government was sending contradictory signals. On the one hand, the new education policy announced by the Centre envisaged that the compulsory

education to children up to Class V should be in their mother tongue and on the other, the government only granted official status to five languages, which was against the spirit of the new education policy. — TNS

Row erupts as PDP meeting disallowed

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 3

A major controversy erupted here as the Jammu and Kashmir Government disallowed the meeting called by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Srinagar on Thursday and disallowed leaders from leaving their homes.

The Thursday's meeting was disallowed just five days after the National Conference had organised a meeting of its political affairs committee to discuss the political situation in Jammu and Kashmir post the revocation of the special status.

"We were not allowed to meet," said general secretary of the PDP and former minister Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura, who had called the Thursday's meeting at the party's Srinagar office. "Our leaders weren't allowed to move out of their houses. Even I was stopped at the gate of my house by the police." Hanjura said the party had

written a letter to the top civil and police administration, including Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir Pandurang Pole and Kashmir IGP Vijay Kumar, informing them about the meeting.

The senior leaders, who weren't allowed to move out of their houses, included former ministers Naeem Akhtar and Abdul Rehman Veeri, senior leaders Sartaj Madni, Khursheed Alam and Peerzada Mansoor and former legislator Ajaz Ahmad Mir. — TNS

Since August 22, NC has

been organising its meetings and its leaders travelling across J&K to increase the party's footprints in the UT. BJP's national general secretary Ram Madhav had been advocating political activity in the UT.

But the PDP after its meeting was disallowed, has questioned;

"Why is the PDP being discriminated against? Why are these people being detained unlawfully? Under what law is their detention justified?" These tweets were put up by Iltija Mufti, daughter of Mehbooba Mufti.

It is believed that the PDP may take the Gupkar declaration of restoring the special status and statehood to the next level.

On Thursday morning, the PDP leaders were preparing to step out of their homes to attend the meeting, the schedule of which they had announced on Tuesday, saying senior leaders will meet to discuss the prevailing political situation in Kashmir.

The meeting that did not take place would have been the first of the party since August 5 last year. It was to be attended by senior leaders of the party since the party chief Mehbooba Mufti continues to be under detention under the stringent Public Safety Act for almost 13 months now.

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GLOBE TROT



PLAYTIME: Elephant calf Ayoka, born in the beginning of August, stands next to her mother Csami at a zoo in Germany. AP/PTI.

Nintendo to re-release Mario games on 35th anniversary

TOKYO: Nintendo Co Ltd said it would re-release classic titles featuring popular character Mario for a limited time on its hit Nintendo Switch console to mark 35 years since the launch of landmark game 'Super Mario Bros'. Three titles featuring the moustachioed plumber — 1996's 'Super Mario 64', 2002's 'Super Mario Sunshine' and 2007's 'Super Mario Galaxy' — will go on sale from September 18 under the title 'Super Mario 3D All-Stars'. REUTERS

Actor Dwayne Johnson, his family recover from Covid

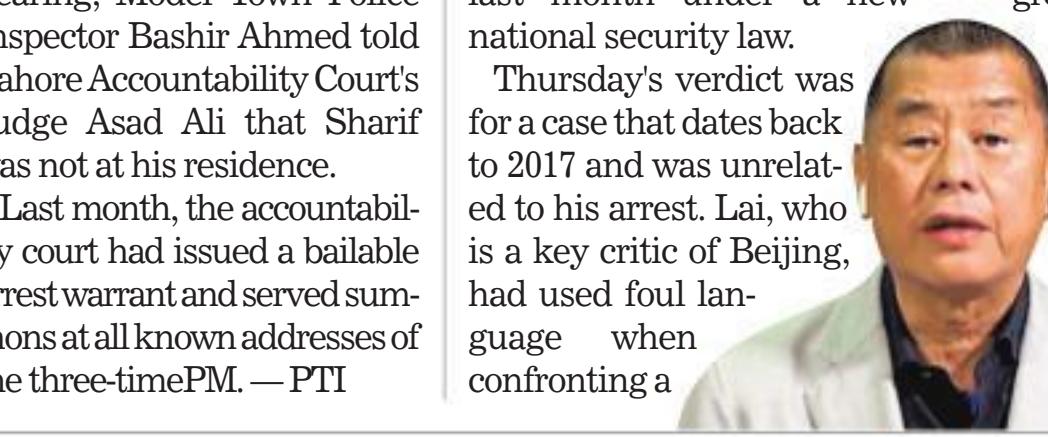
LOS ANGELES: Pro-wrestler-turned-actor Dwayne Johnson said in a video message that he, his wife and their two children had recovered from Covid. Johnson, 48, said in an Instagram post that he and his spouse, Lauren, 35, and their daughters, Jasmine, 4, and Tiana, 2, caught the virus from "very close family friends". REUTERS

Arrest warrant against Sharif

LAHORE, SEPTEMBER 3 A Pakistani court on Thursday directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to execute a non-bailable arrest warrant against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in a 34-year land allotment case, according to media reports.

During the plot allotment hearing, Model Town Police Inspector Bashir Ahmed told Lahore Accountability Court's Judge Asad Ali that Sharif was not at his residence.

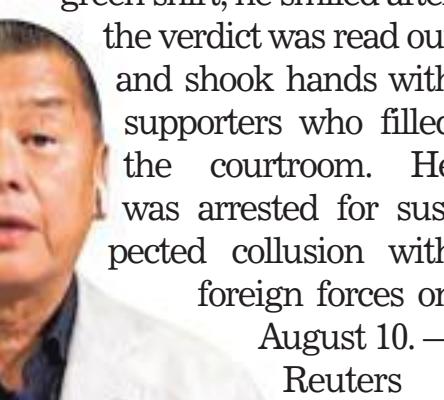
Last month, the accountability court had issued a bailable arrest warrant and served summons at all known addresses of the three-time PM. — PTI



HK media mogul cleared of intimidation charge

HONG KONG, SEPTEMBER 3 A Hong Kong court declared media tycoon and pro-democracy activist Jimmy Lai not guilty of criminal intimidation on Thursday, ending one several cases against him after his high-profile arrest last month under a new national security law.

Thursday's verdict was for a case that dates back to 2017 and was unrelated to his arrest. Lai, who is a key critic of Beijing, had used foul language when confronting a



reporter from Oriental Daily News, a major competitor to Lai's tabloid Apple Daily. The police, however, only charged him in February this year. The mainland-born media magnate had pleaded not guilty. Dressed in a light grey suit and green shirt, he smiled after the verdict was read out and shook hands with supporters who filled the courtroom. He was arrested for suspected collusion with foreign forces on August 10. — Reuters

Australia's cases hit eight-day high

SYDNEY, SEPTEMBER 3 Australia on Thursday reported the biggest one-day rise in Covid-19 cases in more than a week, denting optimism that a stringent lockdown of its second-largest city will soon be lifted. The authorities said 127 cases were detected in the past 24 hours, up on the 109 cases recorded on Wednesday and the biggest one-day jump since Aug 28.

The bulk of the cases were detected in Victoria state, which reported 113 new cases in the past 24 hours, despite the state capital, Melbourne, nearing the end of a six-week lockdown. — Reuters

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 3 The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has asked state public health officials to prepare to distribute a potential Covid vaccine to high-risk groups as soon as late October, documents published by the agency showed on Wednesday.

The timing of a vaccine has taken on political importance as US President Donald Trump seeks re-election in November, after committing billions of federal dollars to develop a vaccine.

"For the purpose of initial planning, the CDC provided states with certain planning

assumptions as they work on state specific plans for vaccine distribution, including possibly having limited quantities in October and November," a CDC spokeswoman said. — Reuters



TRACKING COVID	
NATIONS	DEATHS
US	190,293
BRAZIL	123,899
RUSSIA	17,528
UK	41,527
SPAIN	29,194

WORLDMETER
TILL SEPT 3, 10 PM

In US, vaccine distribution by Oct-end

Moderna Inc, AstraZeneca Plc and Pfizer Inc lead the race to develop a safe vaccine



BSE	NSE	GOLD	SILVER
95.09 38,990.94	7.55 11,527.45	₹50,700 Mumbai (MCX)	₹65,150 Mumbai (MCX)

BUSINESS



New business and output continued to contract, albeit slower than the records seen in April and May

ing lockdown restrictions in both domestic and foreign markets have weighed heavily on the health of the industry," said Shreeya Patel, economist at IHS Markit.

However, the Indian services sector activity contracted for the sixth successive month in August. A print above 50 means expansion and a score below that denotes contraction, as per the IHS Markit India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

"August highlights another month of challenging operating conditions in the Indian services sector. Sustained periods of closure and ongoing

lockdown restrictions in

Moratorium: SC breather for distressed borrowers

Status quo on non-NPA accounts till further orders

SATYAKRISHNA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3 The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered banks not to declare any loan account non-performing asset (NPA) if it was not so on August 31 when the loan repayment moratorium scheme announced by the RBI ended.

"The accounts which were not declared NPA till August 31, 2020 shall not be declared NPA till further orders," a three-judge Bench led by Justice Ashok Bhushan said in an interim order.

The court issued the order after Harish Salve, representing the Indian Banks' Association, submitted that no account shall become NPA at least for a period of two months. The order protects those accounts from being declared as NPAs which were not NPAs as on August 31.

New business and output continued to contract at marked rates, albeit slower than the records seen in April and May, the survey said. — PTI

The protection from being declared NPA for such



The accounts which were not declared non-performing asset (NPA) till August 31 shall not be declared NPA till further orders — Supreme Court Bench

accounts will continue till the petitions seeking interest waiver on loans during Covid lockdown were disposed of, it said posting the matter for further hearing on September 10.

While passing the interim order, the Bench, which also included Justice R Subhash Reddy and Justice MR Shah, noted that borrowers needed to be protected. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, tried to convince the court as to why interest has to be kept alive in

order to save banks.

Mehta said banks were free to deal with borrowers and offer them solutions depending upon their specific problems and needs. A one-size-fits-all solution can't be granted due to the difference in difficulties faced by different categories of borrowers, he said. However, the Bench said the RBI needed to issue certain directives to deal with the situation.

"What you do, that's for you to decide. Certain things have to be decided by the Government

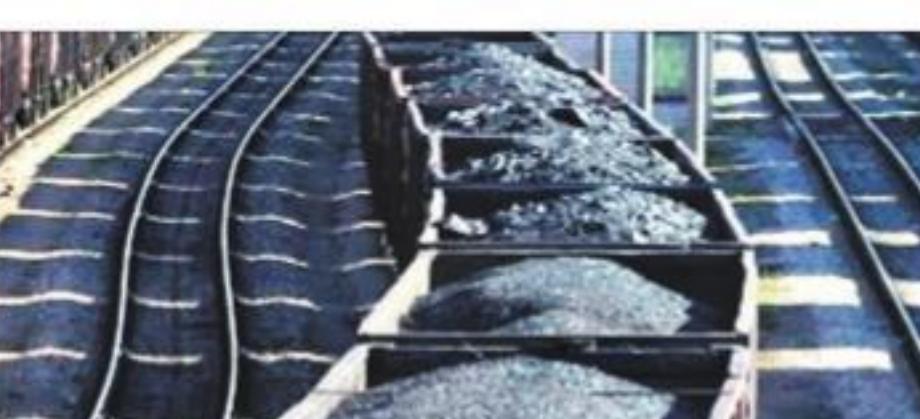
ment of India and the RBI. Everything can't be left to the banks," the top court said.

During Thursday's hearing, the Bench made it clear that it was mainly considering two issues — if banks should be charging interest on interest and if the National Disaster Management Authority under the Disaster Management Act can provide relief with regard to loan repayment in disaster situations.

Announced by RBI in March for three months, the loan moratorium is a legal authorisation to debtors to postpone payment of EMIs. It was later extended to six months till August 31, 2020.

The RBI and Centre maintained that a complete interest waiver was not possible as banks too had to pay interest to depositors. It had said forced waiver of interest would jeopardise the financial health of banks.

38 coal blocks to go under the hammer



NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3 The Coal Ministry on Thursday said it has revised the list of mines to be auctioned for commercial mining and now 38 blocks would go under the hammer instead of 41 mines announced earlier.

The revision in the list includes addition of three blocks Dolesara, Jarekela and Jharpal-Tangarghat (in Chhattisgarh) and withdrawal of five blocks — Morga South, Fatehpur, Madanpur (North), Morga-II and Sayang (in Chhattisgarh).

The Coal Ministry had earlier withdrawn Bander mine in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra from the list of 41 coal blocks put up for auction for commercial mining as the mine lies in the eco-sensitive zone of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve.

The ministry said there has been "addition of Dolesara, Jarekela and Jharpal-Tangarghat Coal Mines to the 1st tranche of auction under the MMDR Act, 1957." The ministry also said there has been "withdrawal of Morga South Coal Mine from the 1st Tranche of Auction under the MMDR Act, 1957...and Fatehpur East, Madanpur (North), Morga-II, and Sayang Coal Mines from the 11th Tranche of Auction under the CM(SP) Act, 2015." — PTI

not filing their annual returns, balance sheets and other violations.

The maximum number of companies which ceased to exist were in Punjab (136), followed by Haryana (70) and Chandigarh (65). As many as 1,002 companies in Haryana are in process of being struck off from the MCA list, followed by Punjab (451) and Chandigarh (245).

PUNJAB WORST AFFECTED

The maximum number of companies which ceased to exist were in Punjab (136), followed by Haryana (70) and Chandigarh (65). As many as 1,002 companies in Haryana are in process of being struck off from the MCA list, followed by Punjab (451) and Chandigarh (245).

According to sources, the pandemic affected all sectors and led to decline in industrial

production, resulting in closure of many companies. For the month of April and May, the Index of Industrial

Production (IIP) witnessed a steep negative growth (year-on-year) of -57.6% and -33.9%, respectively. However, as the industrial activity resumed, the growth for June stood at -16.6% as compared to June 2019. Among the worst-impacted sectors were auto parts, textiles, garments, hand tools and sports goods.

In addition to this, the start-

ups were also hit badly as they had limited cash reserves to meet the fixed expenses. "Lack of working capital and cash flows led to layoffs initially and later closure of units," said an official associated with a startup.

As on July 31, 116 companies in the region have achieved "dormant" status u/s 455 of the Companies Act.

However, no reason was provided by the ministry for the revision of the list.

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As on July 31, 116 companies in the region have achieved "dormant" status u/s 455 of the Companies Act.

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World Championships silver medallist Deepak Punia is among the three wrestlers who have tested positive for Covid-19. FILE PHOTO

Wrestler Sumit leaves Sonepat camp

Cites mother's illness; Deepak Punia, two others test positive for coronavirus

VINAYAK PADMADEO
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3
Wrestler Sumit Malik has left the national camp in Sonepat under mysterious circumstances. The 125kg freestyle wrestler, who hails from Rohtak's Karor village, abruptly left the camp while other campers were being administered the RT-PCR test for Covid.

Both the wrestler and Sports Authority of India

(SAI) claim that, he left the camp due to personal reasons. However, a source said Malik was allowed to leave the camp because he had fever.

"Sumit Malik reported to the camp but wanted to leave owing to some personal reasons. He was relieved and has left for home," SAI said in a statement.

Malik confirmed this. "My mother is very ill, I think she will be operated on

soon," said Malik.

However, it has been reliably learnt that the wrestler had complained of being feverish. After consultation with chief coach Jagmander Singh and Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) officials, he was given permission to leave the camp. "They were worried that the camp may be cancelled if other wrestlers fall ill because of him, so he was permitted to leave the

camp," the source said.

Surprisingly, Malik left without taking the RT-PCR test.

Three test positive

Meanwhile, three wrestlers, including 2019 World Championships silver medallist Deepak Punia, have tested positive and have been moved to a SAI empanelled hospital as a precautionary measure and for further monitoring," SAI said in a statement.

"As per protocol all wrestlers along with the coaches and support staff were made to undergo mandatory RT-PCR test for Covid-19. During the test, wrestlers Deepak Punia-86KG, Navin-65KG & Krishan-125KG were found positive and have been moved to a SAI empanelled hospital as a precautionary measure and for further monitoring," SAI said in a statement.

BRIEFLY
Inspired Garcia ousts top seed Pliskova; Djokovic overcomes slow start to enter Rd 3

CHENNAI
Indian GM Iniyian wins World Open online chess
Indian Grandmaster P Iniyian won the Annual World Open online chess tournament held recently, having practised at night to get used to the American time zone. The Tamil Nadu player finished with 7.5 points out of a possible nine, with six victories and three draws, to finish ahead of many higher-rated Grandmasters. The event was held in American time zone, meaning that Iniyian was playing from 9:30 pm till 6 am every day. The 48th edition of the annual event was held online due to the Covid-19 on August 7-9. Iniyian had recently defeated world No. 2 Fabiano Caruana in an online blitz event.

MONT AIGOUL (FRANCE)
Kazakhstan's Lutsenko wins Stage 6
Kazakh Alexey Lutsenko claimed his maiden victory on the Tour de France when he won the sixth stage, a 191-km trek from Le Teil, today. The Astana rider prevailed from an eight-man breakaway at the top of the Mont Aigoual.

Spain's Jesus Herrada took second place, 55 seconds behind. Briton Adam Yates retained the overall leader's yellow jersey after staying tucked in the main peloton, which crossed the line with a deficit of 2:53.

DAY 3 HIGHLIGHTS



MASKED WARRIOR
Naomi Osaka stepped into the Arthur Ashe Stadium wearing a mask that read "Elijah McClain" ahead of her second-round victory, harnessing tennis's global appeal in her fight for racial justice. The 22-year-old's mask honored McClain, the 23-year-old Black man who died after a violent encounter with Aurora, Colorado, police officers in 2019.

Naomi Osaka beat Camila Giorgi 6-1 6-2. TODAY SPORTS/REUTERS

TSITSIPAS TOO GOOD FOR CRESSY
Fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas powered past Maxime Cressy in a late encounter, beating the American 7-6(2) 6-3 6-4. He will take on Croatian 27th seed Borna Coric next.

INDIA'S SHARAN AND CACIC BOW OUT
India's Divij Sharan and Serbia's Nikola Cacic lost 4-6 6-3 3-6 to eighth seeds Nikola Mektic and Wesley Koolhof in the men's doubles first round.
ZVEREV OVERCOMES TEENAGER NAKASHIMA
Fifth seed Alexander Zverev was stretched to four sets in a 7-5 6-7(8) 6-3 6-1 second-round win over American teenager Brandon Nakashima.

MATCH STATS	
GARCIA	PLISKOVÁ
3	ACES
4	DOUBLE FAULTS
55	1ST SERVE IN (%)
63	WIN 1ST SERVE (%)
61	WIN 2ND SERVE (%)
3/4	BREAK POINTS WON
10/16	NET POINTS WON
30	WINNERS
17	UNFORCED ERRORS
Match duration: 1hr 33min	

2014

The last time the women's top seed won the title at Flushing Meadows. Serena Williams won her third successive title that year

MATCH STATS	
DJOKOVIC	EDMUND
16	ACES
3	DOUBLE FAULTS
67	1ST SERVE IN (%)
83	WIN 1ST SERVE (%)
58	WIN 2ND SERVE (%)
6/12	BREAK POINTS WON
16/23	NET POINTS WON
52	WINNERS
34	UNFORCED ERRORS
Match duration: 3hr 13min	

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PM Modi invites overseas bizmen to invest in India

TRENDING NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3 Prime Minister Narendra Modi utilised a surprise appearance at a high-powered webinar on Thursday to tell the world that India is resolutely battling the Covid-19 pandemic, but is now prepared for more investments.

Pointing out that the pandemic period has seen India opening up opportunities in public and private sectors, in core industries as well as the social sector, the PM called on US industrialists at the webinar to "come be a part of journey with us where ease of living is as important as ease of doing business".

The PM opted to deliver the keynote address at the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) on Wednesday, after India's first quarter GDP growth was estimated at minus 29 per cent.

"Companies are looking for reliability and policy stability. India is the location which has all these qualities. Hence, India is becoming the leading destination for foreign investment. Narendra Modi, PRIME MINISTER

LEADING DESTINATION FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Companies are looking for reliability and policy stability. India is the location which has all these qualities. Hence, India is becoming the leading destination for foreign investment. Narendra Modi, PRIME MINISTER



RAWAT: CAN HANDLE CHINESE AGGRESSION

Of late, India has been seeing some aggressive actions by China but we are capable of handling these in the best suitable ways Gen Bipin Rawat, CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF



lion in foreign investment this year. It rose 20 per cent in 2019 when globally, overseas investments fell by one per cent. This shows the success of our FDI regime," the PM noted.

To emphasise the point that India is safe for business, the PM recounted the steps taken to shore up the health infrastructure. The outcome of these efforts was that a country with 1.3 billion people and limited resources has one of the lowest death rates per million in the world and the recovery rate is also steadily rising.

Apart from detailing all business friendly measures taken

so far in a 15-minute speech delivered in English, the PM was also keen to underline that the international audience that the country also looked after its poor and maintained social stability despite the loss of earnings due to the lockdown.

In the last four months, the nation has battled Covid and other natural crises such as floods, two cyclones and a locust attack. But, it made people's resolve stronger. Throughout, the government was clear on one thing: the poor have to be protected. This led to the largest support system seen everywhere globally," he observed.

Enhance position in global supply chain: US to Delhi

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 3

The US has urged India to create an environment that will foster its position in the global supply chain and said the country continues to face challenges on the market access front despite improvement in the ease of doing business.

Observing that the Covid-19 pandemic may give rise to self-sufficiency and self-reliance sentiments among struggling economies, Joseph Semsar, Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, said India with its "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative has put forward a programme that puts a question mark on the notion of self-reliance. "Our thought is that isolationist policies can also cause a decrease in exchange between businesses and economies, less technology and best practice sharing, fewer joint research and development projects and stifled innovation," Semsar said at the third India-US Leadership Summit organised by the USISPF. — PTI

Sushant case: NCB apprehends another suspect

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 3 The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is questioning another person, suspected to be a drug trafficker, in connection with the drug trafficking probe linked to the case of actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death, officials said on Thursday. The

man has been identified as Kaizan Ibrahim. It said he has been apprehended after the questioning of Abdel Basit Parihar, who has already been arrested by the agency. The NCB has arrested two persons in this probe till now, the other being Zaid Vilitra (21).

CBI questions psychiatrist

The CBI questioned Rajput's psychiatrist Susan Walker for the first time on Thursday in connection with his death.

Exercise restraint: HC to media The Bombay High Court on Thursday said it expected

media organisations to exercise restraint while publishing or reporting any details about investigation in the case of actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death. A Division Bench said the media should report in such a manner that it does not hamper the investigation. — PTI

Sharad Yadav may follow Manjhi, return to JD(U)

VIBHA SHARMA
TRENDING NEWS SERVICE



NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3 With the "ghar wapsi" of Jitan Ram Manjhi-led HAM-S to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the upcoming Bihar elections to the 243-member Assembly have taken yet another turn. Meanwhile, the stage is also set for the return of senior and experienced leader Sharad Yadav to the JD(U) fold.

With Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party "sulking", it remains to be seen if Chirag will experiment with something radical or allow his ambitions for a larger political role to fizzle out for a compromise settlement within the NDA. With Manjhi joining in, the tussle for seats will increase though BJP says aspirations of HAM (S) are more of Nitish Kumar's problem. The LJP has called a meeting on its future course

of action, including whether to field candidates against Nitish Kumar.

So far, Chirag has played safe, targeting Nitish and praising Narendra Modi. However, observers say the political space of Bihar is wide open for fresh leadership and the upcoming elections is an opportunity for young blood like Chirag. However, Chirag's father Ram Vilas Paswan (LJP founder) is a Central minister.

BJP sources say Chirag is unlikely to disturb the existing status quo.

FROM PAGE 1

PIL in apex court on Special Marriage Act

NEW DELHI: A PIL has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the validity of certain provisions of the Special Marriage Act, 1954, which call for making public personal details of the couple intending to marry. Filed by a law student, the PIL contended that such provisions seriously damaged one's right to have control over one's personal information and violated their right to privacy. — TNS

LAC sanctity under threat

trying to alter the status of the LAC and is not open to reasoning. India's plan for the short term is restoration of the April status quo ante while its long-term strategy demands demarcating the LAC on ground.

Since May this year, the PLA has been making a westward push to capture more territory. The PLA first prevented Indian patrols in 'grey areas' – the points where the perception of the LAC varies and both have been making claims and counter-claims.

"The situation is by far

more serious than that in 1962," said a functionary referring to the India-China war that year. This time, forces on either side are backed by latest technology such as satellite imagery, UAVs, long-range guns, missile launchers, fighter jets and radars.

After months of negotiations having yielded nothing, the PLA made another westward movement on August 29-30 night. The Indian Army quickly rushed to occupy mountain tops along a 70-km stretch on the southern bank of Pangong

Tso, a 135-km glacial lake. The PLA had done the same on the northern bank of the lake when it prevented Indian movement east of Finger-4, a mountain ridge.

The LAC is at present not demarcated, but is assessed by the area under the control of troops of each country.

China has been rejecting every proposal to define the boundary in the last 174 years, or since 1846.

The British made five different proposals to define the boundary in 1846-47, 1865,

1873, 1899 and 1914, but China rejected all of them.

In 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggested demarcation of the LAC. China wanted special representatives (National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi) to resolve the issue. The talks are going on.

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Won't supply arms to Pakistan: Russia

TRENDING NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3

Russia has assured India that it will not supply arms to Pakistan during an India-Russia meeting in Moscow on Thursday evening.

Moscow also assured that it stands by New Delhi's security interests at a wider level.

The discussions were part of an hour-long meeting the Indian delegation led by Rajnath Singh had with the Russian delegation led by Defence Minister Gen Sergey Shoigu.

The two sides also discussed the making of a new

type of rifle, the AK203, in India. Both sides said the discussions were at an advanced stage for the establishment of an India-Russian joint venture for the production of the rifle, which is considered one of the most modern weapons available for infantry forces.

Besides, the two countries started a vital two-day

"Indra" naval exercise to be conducted off the Straits of Malacca on September 4 and 5. At the meeting, Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh noted "these exercises demonstrated the common interests of both countries in maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region".

The Indian delegation comprised Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and other senior officials. Singh will also attend a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation here on Friday.

104 CAPF jawans died in mishaps in 2019: NCRB

TRENDING NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3 The latest data of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has revealed that 104 personnel of the paramilitary forces lost their lives in 2019 due to accidents, as the figures stand at 2,006 in the past six years.

A break-up of the data for 2019 indicates that at least two personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), which work under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), died in accidents every week.

Of the total 2,006 such fatalities in the past six years, the maximum of 1,232 died in 2014 and the minimum of 104 each in 2018 and 2019.

Fourteen personnel were killed in action in 2019. As on January 1, 2019, the CAPF had an actual strength of 9,23,800 personnel.

In reply to Congress, FB says it is non-partisan, denounces hate

BANS BJP POLITICIAN RAJA SINGH



NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3 Amid a raging controversy over Facebook's alleged political bias and interference in India's democratic process, the social media giant has told the Congress that it is non-partisan, denounces hate and bigotry in all forms and strives to ensure that its platforms remain a space where people can express themselves freely.

Responding to concerns raised by the opposition Congress, Facebook's Public Policy, Trust and Safety Director Neil Potts has said it has taken the party's allegation of bias very seriously and will ensure that it remains non-partisan and is committed to maintaining the highest levels of integrity.

The Congress accused Facebook of interfering in India's democratic process and being soft on members of the ruling BJP while applying its hate-speech rules. The Congress had written to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg after reports by

the Wall Street Journal and the Time magazine about the conduct of Facebook and WhatsApp India's leadership team flagged bias and proximity with the ruling BJP.

In his letter to AICC general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal, who had written to Zuckerberg twice, Potts said, "On hateful content by public figures, we want to assure you that our community standards prohibit attacks against people based on their protected characteristics, including religion, caste, ethnicity and national origin. In line with our hate speech policy, we

have removed and will continue to remove hateful content by public figures in India on our platforms."

Facebook is at the centre of a raging political debate in the country with both ruling BJP and the opposition Congress accusing it of colluding and influencing opinion.

Congress's Data Analytics department head Praveen Chakravarty said Facebook has responded to concerns of the Congress about interference in India's affairs and has promised corrective measures, but awaits further concrete measures. — PTI

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA		TENDER NOTICE	
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH.	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)
1	GURUGRAM UNIVERSITY, GURUGRAM	PROVIDING CANTEEN SERVICES	02.09.2020 21.09.2020 EMD 1 LAKH
2	MDU, ROHTAK	TENDER FOR DESKTOP COMPUTERS AND FURNITURE ITEMS IN U.I.E.T. + 3 OTHER WORKS	02.09.2020 12.09.2020 58.36 LACS
3	CHAUDHARY RANBIR SINGH UNIVERSITY, JIND	SMART ENTRANCE SYSTEM WITH BODY TEMPERATURE AND MASK DETECTION SOLUTION ON FACE & PALM VERIFICATION FOR BUILDING ENTRANCE ON TURNEY BASIS	03.09.2020 10.09.2020 60 LACS
4	GMDA, GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF MASTER DIVIDING ROAD OF SEC-88 OUTER GURUGRAM."PROVIDING AND FIXING OF RCC PIPE NP-2 VERTICALLY IN SHAPE OF VERTICAL POLE AFTER EXCAVATION & FILLED WITH EARTH INCLUDING PROVIDING TWO COATS EXTERIOR ACRYLIC EMULSION PAINTS ON VERTICAL RCC PIPE POLE FROM SECTOR 68 TO 80, GURUGRAM AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO"	02.09.2020 10.09.2020 7.19 LACS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

PRDH/82583

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH.	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/AUTH.	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL, PANCHKULA	PROCUREMENT OF 33KV VCBS (630A)	03.09.2020 01.10.2020	92.28 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
2	HVPNL, PANCHKULA	PROCUREMENT OF RELAYS	01.08.2020 16.09.2020	40.25 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
3	HVPNL, ROHTAK	CONST. OF 33 KV CAPACITOR BANK AND ODSG FOUNDATION AT 220 KV S/STN. NUNA MAJRA (B.GARH) (CIVIL WORKS ONLY				