

# The Sunday Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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CM TESTS NEGATIVE, ENDS SELF-ISOLATION PUNJAB

PASH, MY FATHER – DAUGHTER'S TRIBUTE TO POET ON ANNIVERSARY SPECTRUM

TURNED COVID TRAGEDY INTO OPPORTUNITY: NADDA BACK PAGE



PLA 'abducts' five Arunachal youths, probe on

KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 5  
The Arunachal Pradesh Police have launched a probe after it was alleged the People's Liberation Army (PLA) had abducted five youths from the state in Upper Subansiri district along the China border.

The youths, all residents of the district, had gone into a jungle, near Nacho, on Friday to carry loads for the Army as hired porters. After their job, they were out fishing when PLA soldiers reportedly picked them up.

Lt Col Harsh Wardhan Pandey, a spokesperson for the Army's Tezpur-headquartered 4 Corps, which oversees operations in Arunachal Pradesh, said they were ascertaining the "veracity of the incident". The families have urged authorities to take steps to bring them back. — TNS

## Dialogue key to peace, Rajnath tells Wei; MEA-level meet next

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 5  
India and China have talked about bringing peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). This even as both sides, in separate statements, have spoken about their troops being ready to defend their territorial integrity.

Heavily armed troops on either side have been locked in a fierce military standoff since May this year. China has, so far, stalled the disengagement process and several rounds of military talks have yielded nothing.

Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met his counterpart General Wei Fenghe, State Councillor and Defence



Minister of China, in Moscow last night. The meeting ended at 11.50 pm IST. The delegations of India and China were attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting. The Chinese had invited the Indian delegation for talks.

An Indian statement released on Saturday said: "The two sides should resolve the ongoing situation and outstanding issues in the border

areas peacefully through a dialogue. The Chinese Defence Minister conveyed that the Chinese side too desired to resolve the issues peacefully."

Very nasty situation, we stand ready to help, says US Pres Trump

Rajnath Singh conveyed that the two sides should continue their discussions, including through diplomatic and military channels, to ensure a complete disengagement and de-escalation and full restoration of peace and tranquility along the LAC at the earliest. Clearly, all eyes are now on a meeting

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

## Three Chinese motorists stray into Sikkim, rescued by Army

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 5

Amid the ongoing tensions with China, the Indian Army has come to the rescue of three Chinese nationals who lost their way while travelling in a car in the higher reaches of the Tibetan plateau and accidentally reached the northern Sikkim plateau.

The Tibetan plateau and northern Sikkim plateau, located at an altitude of 17,500 feet, are contiguous with ample gaps in the mountains. An Army post noticed the vehicle and asked the occupants to reveal their IDs. The three, including a woman, possibly took a wrong turn in the barren landscape and reached the northern Sikkim plateau. The incident happened on September 3.



A soldier even checked the oil, fuel pump and other parameters of the car. "The Chinese citizens expressed their gratitude to India and the Indian Army for their prompt assistance," an Army spokesperson said. — TNS

## 80 special trains from Sept 12

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 5  
Eighty new special trains will be operational from September 12, reservations for which will begin from September 10, Railway Board Chairman VK Yadav said today.

"Eighty new special trains or 40 pair of trains will start operations from September 12. These will run in addition to the 230 trains already in operation," he said.

The Railways would be monitoring all trains that were currently in operation to determine which trains had long waiting lists. "Wherever there is a demand for a particular train and wherever the waiting list is long, we will run a clone train ahead of the actual train, so that the passengers do not face inconvenience," the official said. — PTI

## AP tops 'ease of doing business'

UP jumps 10 places to 2nd | Haryana slips to spot 16

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 5

Andhra Pradesh for the third time in a row has topped in the 'ease of doing business' annual ranking of states and UTs by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

The ranking is based on the implementation of the business reform action plan, 2019.

Registering a jump of 10 places in the rankings, Uttar Pradesh occupied the second position in 2019 as against 12th in 2018. Telangana slipped to the third position from second in 2018 followed by Madhya Pradesh (4th), Jharkhand (5th), Chhattisgarh (6th), Himachal Pradesh (7th), Rajasthan (8th), West Bengal (9th) and Gujarat (10th).

### BUSINESS REFORM ACTION PLAN-2019

RANKING	STATE/ UT	RANKING	STATE/ UT
1st	Andhra	8th	R'sthan
2nd	UP	9th	Bengal
3rd	T'gana	10th	Gujarat
4th	MP	12th	Delhi
5th	Jharkhand	16th	Haryana
6th	C'garh	19th	Punjab
7th	Himachal	21th	J&K
			29th

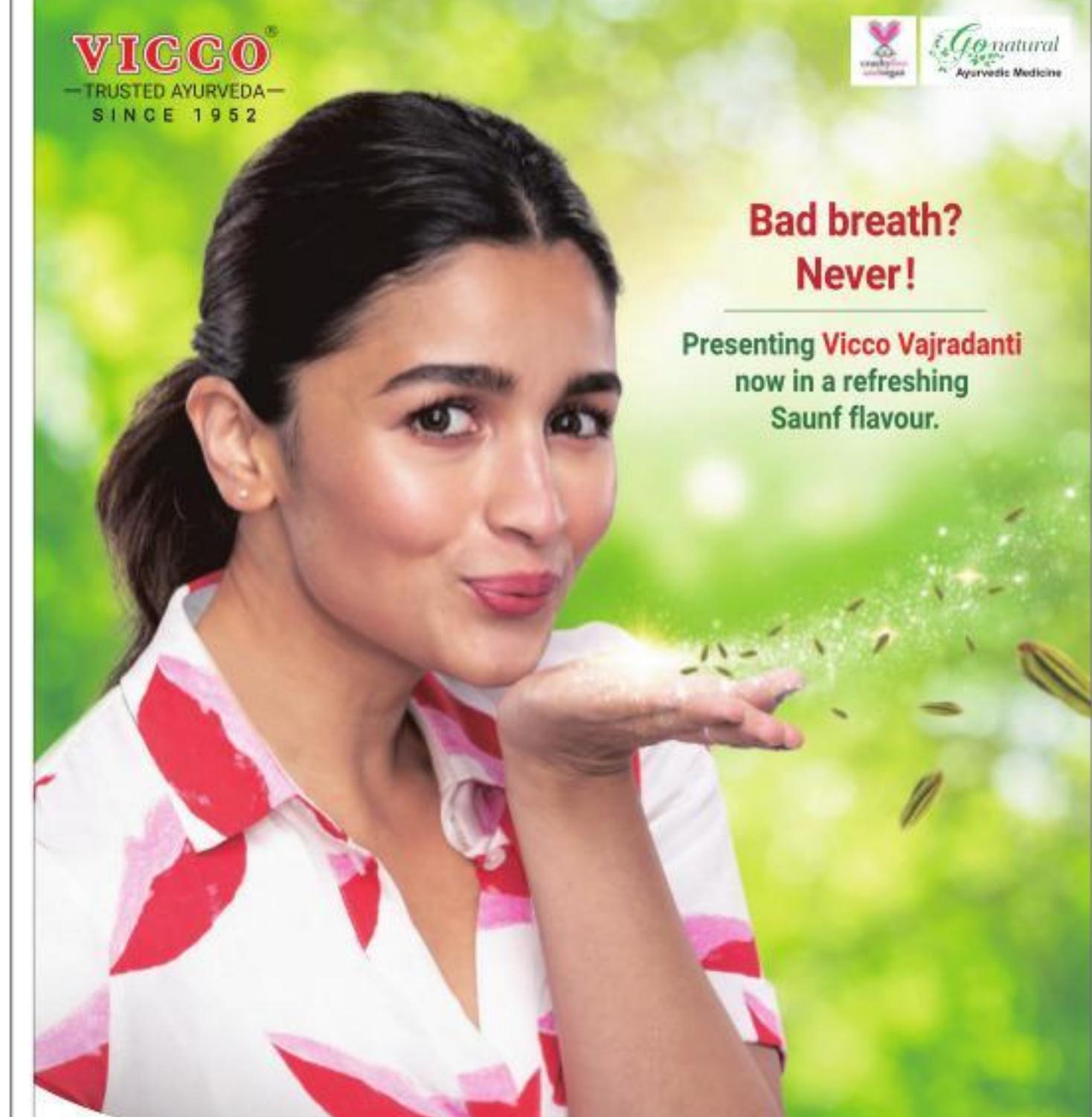
In World Bank's latest 'Doing Business' report, India is on 63rd spot

Delhi's position improved to 12th from 23rd in the last edition while Gujarat slipped from 5th place in 2018. Among the laggard states/UTs in the ranking, Assam was at 20th, J&K 21st, Goa 24th, Bihar 26th and Kerala 28th place. Tripura was ranked at the bottom 36th.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said they were working on creating a single-window system for approvals. The Business Reform Action Plan 2018-19 includes 181 reform points covering 45 regulatory areas such as access to information and single-window system. — PTI

## Bad breath? Never!

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Vicco Vajradanti is now available in a refreshing Saunf flavour. The power of original Ayurveda helps treat swollen and bleeding gums, pyorrhoea and other periodontal disorders with refreshing Saunf flavour. Get the all-new Vicco Vajradanti in Saunf flavour, infused with 18 herbs and barks and give an energetic start to your day.



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## Pehowa man runs racket in minister's name

NITISH SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KURUKSHETRA, SEPTEMBER 5  
Sandeep Singh, former Indian hockey captain and now Haryana Sports and Youth Affairs Minister, has lodged an FIR against Kurukshetra resident Mandeep Saini for 'duping' seven youths.

Mandeep has been arrested. Introducing himself as a Hinddi daily scribe and an aide of the minister, he would offer

### JOB FOR ₹20,000

- Mandeep would offer jobs for a mere ₹20,000
- Duped seven youths and pocketed ₹78,560
- Introduced himself as minister Sandeep Singh's aide



SANDEEP SINGH

jobs in lieu of Rs 20,000, realising Rs 10,000-Rs 15,000 as advance payment. In two cases, he even provided fake job letters.

shetra SP to register a case. Maya Ram claimed Mandeep would introduce himself as Singh's media adviser.

"He promised to help my son get a job with Kurukshetra University and sought Rs 20,000-Rs 15,000 in advance. He also assured jobs to my two cousins in the electricity department. In all, he pocketed Rs 78,560 from seven youths," alleged Maya Ram.

## Covid norms: Cops more harsh on activists than netas, suggest 10 FIRs

ARCHIT WATTS  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUKTASAR, SEPTEMBER 5  
The Muktsar police have been accused of adopting double standards when it comes to lodging FIRs over violation of Covid safety norms.

A closer look at 10 related FIRs over the past fortnight suggests the violators who participated in political protests have been booked by the police as unidentified persons.

On the other hand, whenever any farmer outfit or student body organised a demonstration, their activists were booked by name.

For instance, some Akalis protested in Malout on September 2 against Cabinet

from Faridkot district, in Muktsar on September 1.

But an agitation by farm activists against the Centre's ordinances on agricultural reforms didn't meet the same fate. The protesters had their names registered in FIRs lodged on August 20, 25, 26 and 27. At Doda village on August 21, people were booked by name for holding a gathering at a house.

"The law should be same for all. Why aren't the police naming politicians," asked a farm leader.

While Muktsar SSP D Sudarvizhi wasn't available for comment, another senior official said he would look into the matter.

## NCB arrests actor Sushant's staffer

MUMBAI: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Saturday arrested Dipesh Sawant, a member of Sushant Singh Rajput's personal staff, in connection with a drugs probe linked to the actor's death, officials said. The total number of people arrested in this case has now risen to six. The officials said Dipesh Sawant, who was being questioned since morning, had been arrested under the NDPS Act. BACK PAGE

Ludhiana: At least 54 persons attending a pool party at a farmhouse in Jhammat village were booked by the Ludhiana police late Friday night for violation of lockdown norms. Among them were wards of politicians. The resort owner was booked too.

Bottles of liquor, cases of beer and two hookahs were seized.

Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamot over alleged SC scholarship scam. The case, however, was registered against unidentified persons.

The police followed a similar pattern during an AAP protest, led by its two MLAs

## SGPC ex-chief secretary Harcharan Singh dead

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE



AMRITSAR, SEPTEMBER 5

Former chief secretary of the SGPC Harcharan Singh, 75, died of a heart attack this morning. He is survived by his wife Dalwinder Kaur and daughter Nirmala Kaur.

Though the attack was mild, Harcharan Singh could not be saved, his nephew Navjot Singh said. The SGPC executive had on August 27 announced to initiate criminal proceedings against him as he, along with other officials, was held accountable for misappropriation of 328 "saroops" of Guru Granth Sahib.

He was also summoned at Akal Takht, along with the 2016 SGPC's executive body, on September 18 for not maintaining records and performing mourning prayers for the loss of "saroops" in an accidental fire in May 2016 at Guru Granth Sahib Bhawan in Gurdwara Ramsar Sahib.

A former Deputy Chairman of Punjab and Sind Bank, Harcharan Singh was hand-picked in August 27, 2015, by

Harcharan Singh

SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal on a contractual basis for three years.

His hefty salary of Rs 3 lakh per month and perks had also courted controversy, which he volunteered to reduce to Rs 1 lakh in March 2017.

Short of completing a two-year term, he resigned in July 29, 2017, citing "personal reasons". The post was created first in 2003 for veteran Akali leader Manjit Singh Calcutta for a paltry sum of Re 1 for a brief stint.

It was specially revived for Harcharan Singh for the second time in the SGPC's history to look after the financial affairs.

## SGPC makes U-turn, won't file criminal case against guilty

**MISSING 'SAROOPS'** Says will punish them as per Panthic tradition

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

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Taking a U-turn on the registration of a criminal case against those responsible for the misappropriation of records of 328 "saroops", the SGPC executive, which met today, decided to punish them as per the Sikh Gurdwara Act and Panthic tradition.

A partial report of the probe has been uploaded on the SGPC's website. Earlier, the executive, at its August 27 meeting, favoured criminal proceedings against these employees. SGPC president Gobind Singh Longowal said no external authority could be allowed to interfere in the affairs of the Committee.

He categorically stated: "No desecration of holy scriptures had taken place and to take mileage out of the mistake committed by some black sheep, the opposition initiated



SGPC president Gobind Singh Longowal in Amritsar. SUNIL KUMAR

### 'WON'T ALLOW EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE'

No external authority can be allowed to interfere in the Shiromani Committee's affairs. **Gobind Singh Longowal, SGPC CHIEF**

a 'smear campaign' against the entire Shiromani committee." Longowal claimed that the employees did not deposit the "Bhetia" (monetary value) of these "saroops" and pocketed the amount.

The "saroops" did not figure

in the records of the Shiromani Committee. He said these were in the houses of the Sikh Sangat as per the Rehat Maryada.

All members of the executive and office-bearers of the Shiromani Committee will tender an apology at Akal

Takht on September 18.

He said the executive also called upon the erring employees to appear before the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs to seek an apology.

In a separate decision, the committee called its budget session on September 28, which could not be held due to Covid-19 restrictions. The members also mourned the death of SGPC members Sajjan Singh, former member Chetan Singh Samao and former chief secretary Harcharan Singh.

Meanwhile, the Punjab Human Rights Organisation

stated that it was an attempt to brush the matter under the carpet. Its members requested Giani Harpreet Singh, Jathedar, Akal Takht, to take stern action against the guilty.

Meanwhile, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Cabinet Minister, demanded the SGPC president's resignation for dereliction of duty.



POSER TO SGPC

If I was among the guilty officials, why was my resignation accepted? I should have been charged sheeted.

Dr Roop Singh, SGPC EX-CHIEF SECRETARY

"At whose behest the "saroops" were sent is yet to be disclosed," he said.

"An office note that speaks about 80 "saroops" getting damaged in the May 2016 fire was deliberately leaked because it had got my signatures on it. The truth was that the note was written by assistant supervisor Kanwaljit Singh and I had just forwarded it to my subordinate to take necessary action. How could I be held responsible for it," he said.

"I was unnecessarily tortured. It was only after I tendered my resignation, voices were raised against the SGPC president. If I was among the guilty officials, why was my resignation accepted? I should have been charged sheeted. I didn't even get any official confirmation about the acceptance of my resignation," he said.

said, "The deceased's son said that a false case was foisted on his father for obstructing the construction work of streets in the village.

Shyam Singh claimed it to be his property while the accused claimed that it was village land." A village panchayat was called where the deceased was asked to apologise by placing his turban at former sarpanch Jai Singh's feet. Feeling humiliated, my father committed suicide," said Virender Singh.

## HC directs state to submit FIR details against police officers



### GRANTS BAIL TO GUGNI

The High Court has granted regular bail to Dharaminder Singh, alias Gugni, accused of arranging weapons for killing "various leaders".

cases were still in service. Justice Grewal was hearing a petition filed against the State of

Punjab and other respondents by Surjit Singh, dismissed from service by Moga Senior Superintendent of Police.

Appearing before the Bench through videoconferencing, his counsel submitted the impugned order of dismissal from service were passed without taking into consideration another order passed by an Inspector-General of Police, whereby the petitioner had been reinstated in service after the registration of an FIR against him. — TNS

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TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE



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Inspector Gurwant Singh

## 30 years on, woman moves court to claim house papers from CBI

SAURABH MALIK

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

alive, the petitioner's husband entered into an "agreement to sell" for the purchase of a house in Mohali. But the house documents were taken into custody by the CBI authorities. The petitioner approached PUDA and GMADA functionaries for the transfer of the house on the basis of the "agreement to sell" and a Will executed by the seller. But the Estate Officer, Urban Estate, Punjab, informed the petitioner that papers were in CBI's possession.

The CBI was required to return the papers to the PUDA/GMADA authorities following the acquittal of the accused. "If the papers are in the court, the CBI is required to get the same released to respondents PUDA and GMADA. The respondents should approach the CBI for the same.... The fact that the trial has resulted into acquittal by the Supreme Court, all the papers of the house in question are liable to be returned," he added. The Bench has put the State, PUDA, GMADA and the CBI on notice. The case will now come up in November first week.

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## Farmers burn copies of new ordinances

KURUKSHETRA, SEPTEMBER 5 Farmers under the banner of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni) held protests at the village level in Kurukshetra and Ambala against the Centre's three ordinances on agriculture sector.

They burnt the copies of the ordinances and the effigies of the BJP government. The protests were held against the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, the Farmers Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance and the Ordinance to amend the Essential Commodities Act.

BKU (Charuni) chief Gururam Singh said: "Protests were held at the village level on Saturday to make people aware of the new ordinances. We have received a good response. The union has now decided to use Twitter to raise the demand of 'MSP Garanteer Kanoon Banao' on September 7 and then a rally will be held on September 10 in Kurukshetra."

"The Kurukshetra administration has warned us of registering a case if we hold the rally, but we are not going to withdraw our decision. We have been making the preparations for the last over 20 days now and the administration must understand that the farmers have been forced by the government to take such a step," he added. —TNS

# State slips from 3rd slot to 16th

Hooda attacks govt, says industry fleeing

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



### BJP STANDS EXPOSED

**◆◆◆** The BJP's six-year directionless rule has created a situation where far from new industries setting up base in Haryana, even existing ones are leaving the state. **◆◆◆**

Bhupinder Hooda, LOP

ranked 36th and last.

The exercise is aimed at promoting competition among states with a view to improving the business climate to attract domestic and foreign investment. This was the fourth edition of the report, which was first released in 2015.

The Business Reform Action Plan 2018-19 includes 181 reform points covering 45 business regulatory areas such as access to information, single window system, labour and environment.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda today targeted the BJP government after the decline in Haryana's "Ease of Doing

Business" rankings.

He said with Haryana falling 13 places from third to 16th position, the government stood exposed and it had become clear why the state had reached the top position in unemployment.

He said the government had organised "Happening Haryana" in 2015 and claimed to have signed an MoU for Rs 5.87 lakh crore. In reply to an RTI plea filed in 2019, the government had admitted that only 4 per cent of this much-hyped investment came through and there had not been a significant increase over this period.

Hooda said during Congress tenure, Haryana was number one in per capita investment and IMTs were opened across Haryana for industrial development of every part of the state. He said the situation had become such that industries were either forced to lay off workers or were thinking of moving to other states due to deteriorating conditions.

He said due to bad condition of the private sector and layoffs in the government sector, Haryana had reached on top in unemployment.

Hooda said the declining business had also affected the state's economic condition, putting it under a mounting burden of debt. He said a strategy should be formulated to improve the state's business and fiscal condition.

## Surjewala flags unemployment

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 5

Congress communication incharge Randeep Surjewala today lambasted the BJP-JJP government over the high rate of unemployment in the state.

Quoting the fresh report of the Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy, he said the rate of unemployment in the state was 33.5 per cent.



Randeep Surjewala

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and his deputy Dushyant Chautala should be ashamed over the figures, he said. "Entrance exam papers are getting leaked, results are being delayed, sacked Physical Training Instructors are being locked in police stations and National Health Mission employees are being removed from service. In the name of Covid, about 10,000 contractual employees are being sacked," Surjewala said.

"Khattar and Dushyant are pushing the future of the youth into darkness. Either they should give jobs or resign," he added. —TNS



Sacked Physical Training Instructors protest in Gurugram on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: S CHANDAN

## Lockdown broke the back of private schools, say teachers

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

### PTIs OBSERVE 'BLACK DAY'

Gurugram: Hundreds of sacked Physical Training Instructors (PTI) burnt the effigy of Education Minister Kanwar Pal here on Teacher's Day, which, they said, had lost relevance as the state had turned its back on them. Teacher's Day, they said, was a "black day" for them. They started marching towards Medanta Hospital, where the CM is admitted for the treatment, when the police stopped them at Rajiv Chowk. They accused the police of using force against them. oc

ciated with the NISA.

Kulbhushan Sharma, NISA chief, said: "We demand moratorium on school buses till March 2021, education vouchers to students through the direct benefit transfer scheme, unsecured loans at low rate of interest to school management with a moratorium of 12 months and salaries to teachers for the lockdown period."

He added the NISA had written to PM Narendra Modi a month ago, seeking relief but it got no response. and the subsequent lockdown led to economic crisis, resulting in job loss. "Some of the parents couldn't pay the fee. As per a survey conducted by the NISA in 3,690 schools in 22 states, only 38 per cent parents of 16.5 lakh students paid the fee during the lockdown."

He added the NISA had written to PM Narendra Modi a month ago, seeking relief but it got no response.

## Man held with heroin worth ₹35L in Sirsa

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 5 The police have arrested a person on the charges of possessing heroin weighing 350 gram in Sirsa district. The estimated value of seized contraband is Rs 35 lakh.

A police spokesperson said a team of Anti-Narcotic Cell was on routine patrolling at Barnala road. The team noticed suspicious movement of a person in a car who tried to escape by taking a U-turn after seeing the police team. The police caught the person and when searched, it recovered 350-gram heroin from his possession.

During preliminary interrogation, accused Jitender Kumar, alias Jitu, of Adampur Mandi revealed that the seized heroin was to be supplied among drug addicts in various parts of Punjab.

Two cases under the NDPS Act were already registered against the accused. He would be taken on remand by producing in a court. Further probe is underway.

In a separate development, a CIA team seized 13 kg 100 gram poppy husk from the possession of two accused in Kalanwali area. —TNS

## No. of Covid cases, deaths reach new record

2,289 cases reported in a day, highest so far | 22 die | 1,409 recover

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

### COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Faridabad	13,622	176
Gurugram	13,029	137
Sonepat	4,970	41
Panipat	4,430	51
Ambala	4,395	39
Rewari	3,888	23
Karnal	3,713	41
Rohtak	3,332	34
Panchkula	2,941	28
Hisar	2,814	21
Kurukshetra	2,224	44
Yamunanagar	2,064	27
Mahendragarh	2,029	1
Sirsa	1,712	21
Bhiwani	1,623	13
Palwal	1,616	13
Jhajjar	1,409	18
Kaithal	1,380	14
Fatehabad	1,123	14
Jind	823	10
Nuh	819	14
Charkhi Dadri	316	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,272</b>	<b>781</b>



Sonepat DC Shyam Lal Poonia and other officials at a dhaba in Murthal on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## Notice to 2 Murthal dhabs

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANIPAT, SEPTEMBER 5

The Sonepat administration has served a show-cause notice to Sukhdev Dhaba and Garam Dharam Dhaba in Murthal on National Highway-44 after 75 workers were found Covid-positive.

A team led by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shyam Lal Poonia visited the dhabs this evening to take stock of the situation. They directed the dhaba operators to maintain cus-

tomers' registers.

He warned dhaba owners of stringent action if used masks were found lying in the open or in the garbage.

The DC said, "The SDM and the Civil Surgeon have been directed to hold a meeting of dhaba owners and sensitise them about the Covid guidelines."

The Haryana Human Rights Commission on Friday sought a detailed action taken report from the Sonepat DC and the Civil Surgeon.

## Soon, policy for residents to allow homestay: Gurjar

MAHENDRAGARH, SEPTEMBER 5 Tourism and Education Minister Kanwar Pal Gurjar said the government had framed a 'Stay home' policy to promote tourism in the state. The policy would not only add to the people's income but also strengthen the economy.

Gurjar was interacting with mediapersons after visiting historical Madhogarh fort in the district on Saturday. Former minister Ram Bilas Sharma and Ateli MLA Sitaram Yadav were also present.

"Under the policy, locals will be allowed to make available one to two rooms for the visitors to stay at their home.

The concept of homestay is being liked by the visitors as they want to closely observe the culture, customs and lifestyle of the village," said the minister. —TNS

### U.P. RAJKIYA NIRMAN NIGAM LTD.

(ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company)

Visheshwaryal Bhawan, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

Notice Inviting e-Tender

The Project Manager, Electrical Unit-1, Lucknow invites for and on behalf of General Manager (Electrical Zone-4) U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd. online percentage rate bids for Fire Fighting Work at District Court Hardoi.

Sl. No. Work Tender No. Estimated EMD Last Date of Submission

1 SITC OF FIRE FIGHTING INERT GAS EXTINGUISHING SYSTEM AND FIRE ALARM SYSTEM AT DISTRICT COURT HARDOI (U.P.) 386/P.M. (E)-U-1-E-TENDER/ RNN/2020 DATE 31/08/2020

Tender closing Time 15:00 hrs.

Item marked with \* is reserved for procurement from ICF. Item marked with \*\* is reserved for procurement from RDSDO, Item marked with \*\*\* is reserved for procurement from CLW.

The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> or <http://www.dmw.indianrailways.gov.in> for detailed description of items & other terms and conditions of tender document. Please note that tenderers can submit their quotations only through <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.

Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. 11 ET/2020-21

Tender No 03202428 Closing date may be read as 24.09.2020 1946/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

The bid forms and other details can be obtained / downloaded from the website: <https://etender.up.nic.in>. The NIT is also available on <http://www.uprnn.co.in>.

Project Manager, Electrical Unit-1



## 2 J&K teachers, one from Ladakh get National Award

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 5 Two teachers from government schools in Jammu and Kashmir and a teacher from Ladakh were today conferred with National Teachers' Award by year 2020.

In Jammu region's Udhampur, Sunil Kumar, a teacher posted at Government Middle School Jakhar, Tikri, was given the National Award by Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Piyush Singla.

In Kashmir, Roohi Sultan, a teacher posted at Middle School, Kashipora-talbal, Gulab Bagh, Srinagar, was given the award by the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary.

In Ladakh, Sonam Gyaltsan, a head teacher posted at Middle School, Taknak Sakti, Kharu, Leh district, was given the National Award. He became the first-ever teacher from the Union Territory of Ladakh to bag the award, which was given to him by Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Sachin Kumar Vaishya.

The President of India conferred teachers with National Awards in a virtual ceremony held today.

## Learning in the lap of nature



Children of the Bakarwali community attend a class at an open-air mobile school on Teacher's Day in Sanasar. PTI

## Drishti girls celebrate Teacher's Day with ISRO visitors

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 5

Jammu-based Drishti Girls Hostel today celebrated Teacher's Day with Swapnil Acharya, the twin brother-sister and young scientists of India who had recently been invited by

the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Swapnil and Swapnil distributed home-made cloth masks to each girl student residing in the Drishti hostel. The twins also gave them health, sanitisation and hygiene items.

An interactive session was

organised with the hostel children and the twins strictly maintained social distancing and Covid norms. Hostel children talked about their daily activities with the duo.

Swapnil, a national award winning photographer, shared his ISRO experience with the hostel residents.

Swapnila, a national level painting artist, then demonstrated the making of crafts and home décor items from wastage materials to the girls.

Swapnila and Swapnil Acharya are Class XI students of JK Public School, Kunjwani, Jammu.

The bulletin said out of

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC



DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Bandipora	2,330	26
Srinagar	9,985	233
Anantnag	2,499	52
Baramulla	2,988	104
Shopian	1,739	28
Kupwara	2,289	54
Budgam	2,797	64
Jammu	4,902	59
Udhampur	981	04
Ganderbal	1,671	25
Kulgam	1,986	37
Pulwama	2,807	56
Samba	800	03
Rajouri	989	05
Kishtwar	335	01
Kathua	1,039	08
Ramban	692	01
Reasi	439	00
Poonch	480	05
Doda	493	05
Total	42,241	770

the 10,51,826 test results available, 10,09,585 samples tested negative.

Meanwhile, amid surge in the Covid cases, court complexes and two police stations along with one police post of Jammu district have been closed as precautionary measures.

The Akhnoor police station and Pallanwala police post have been closed till further

## Covid-19 Cases District-Wise Count



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Reasi	439	00
Poonch	480	05
Doda	493	05
Total	42,241	770

orders after some cops tested positive. Six policemen, including SHO, Akhnoor police station, tested positive for Covid on Friday evening. Three policemen from the Pallanwala police post and two policemen from the Jourian police post also tested positive for Covid.

The High Court, Jammu wing, and district courts have been closed for two days.

## Hizbul trying to regroup in north Kashmir, says Army

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 5 A day after three militants were killed, a senior security official said the Hizbul Mujahideen was trying to regroup itself in north Kashmir.

The three militants were killed in a day-long gunfight and three security men, including a Major, were injured at Yedipora Patti in Baramulla district on Friday. The police said two of the slain persons were local militants who were associated with the Hizbul Mujahideen.

"The activity of the Hizbul was very less in north Kashmir. It now seems the Hizb is trying to re-establish its base in north." —

Brig NK Mishra, Commander, 10 SECTOR RASHTRIYA RIFLES

is trying to re-establish its base in north," Commander, 10 Sector Rashtriya Rifles, Brigadier NK Mishra, said at a joint press conference which was also addressed by Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) North Kashmir Range, Muham-

mad Sulaiman Choudhary. The Army officer said the forces would foil all plans of the outfit aimed at its revival in the north Kashmir.

DIG Choudhary said three militants killed in Patti were affiliated with the Hizb and it was after a long time that any militant of the outfit was killed in north Kashmir.

"Two of the slain militants were locals and have been identified as Shafkat Ali Khan of Rawatpora, Delina and Hanan Bilal Sofi of old town Baramulla. The identity of the third one is being ascertained," he said, adding that arms and ammunition were also recovered from the gunfight site.

## Quota for Vaishno Devi pilgrims from outside UT up

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 5

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has raised the quota of pilgrims from outside Jammu and Kashmir to 500 per day from the existing 100 per day, out of a ceiling of 2,000 pilgrims daily.

The Shrine Board claimed that the yatra to the holy cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi, after its resumption on August 16, was proceeding smoothly and picking up pace with each passing day.

Giving details, chief executive officer (CEO), Shrine Board, Ramesh Kumar, said the booking by the devotees for Shradha Suman Vishesh Pooja (SSVP) had also commenced through the online mode.



"The accommodations of the Shrine Board at Bhawan, Adhkuwari, Katra and Jammu have also been thrown open to the pilgrims following all pre-scribed SOPs," he added.

For the ease and comfort of pilgrims, all other supplementary facilities set up by the Board like the battery-operated vehicles, passenger ropeway and helicopter services were also operating smoothly by strictly following the social distancing norms and other precautionary measures.

Free langar at Tarakote Marg and Prasad Kendra at Sanjichhat have also been operationalised by the board for the facility of the pilgrims; besides opening of bhojanalayas in the shrine area enroute to Bhawan.

People are allowed to undertake the pilgrimage after registration through the online mode only in order to avoid any assembly of persons at the yatra registration counters.

The Covid negative test report of the pilgrims from outside J&K and also from the red zone districts of J&K was being checked at the helipad and the yatra entry points at Darshani Deodi, Banganga, Katra. Only those with negative reports were allowed to move beyond towards Bhawan.

## Dharna against temple 'land grab' move by civic body

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 5 The caretaker of Jammu's ancient Panchvaktra Mahadev temple, Suresh Sharma, a retired District and Sessions Judge, has moved court to restrain the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) from "grabbing" the prime land of historic Panchvaktra Mahadev temple, the worth of which is said to be in crores.

The retired judge, along with many residents, has begun an indefinite dharna on the premises of the temple on the issue.

Meanwhile, Congress



leaders on Saturday joined the dharna and demanded the immediate sacking of the Mayor, Chander Mohan Gupta, for "hurting sentiments" of the people.

Ex-ideologue of the BJP and former Dean of Jammu University, Prof Hari Om, has also started a campaign on social media in this regard.

"As per the documents available with us, the whole land belongs to the temple," the care-taker said, adding that a CBI inquiry should be conducted in the matter and action taken against those who were trying to grab the temple land.

would start on September 10. "This time, prior to the launch of B2V-3, the officials would be holding a three-week event in all panchayats which would see the works of the previous B2V programmes. They would also listen to the people on the ground," he said.

Like the earlier editions, a gazetted officer would visit a panchayat and stay there overnight.

Kansal said this time, the government had decided to come up with a pre-B2V-3 programme which, he said, would start on September 10. "This time, prior to the launch of B2V-3, the officials would be holding a three-week event in all panchayats which would see the works of the previous B2V programmes. They would also listen to the people on the ground," he said.

He termed the first two phases of the B2V programmes as a huge success. Under the B2V programme, gazetted officers visit far-flung villages to interact with people and redress their grievances. — TNS

The party's disciplinary committee took a serious note of the repeated acts of indiscipline and anti-party activities by Yattoo and recommended his expulsion following his inability to satisfactorily explain his position when asked to," the spokesman said.

While the party did not elaborate the reasons to expel him, it is learnt that Yattoo, in a recent interview, had hit out at the PDP leaders and levelled various charges against them.

The PDP has been facing crisis ever since the fall of the Mehbooba Mufti-led coalition government in 2018, as many top leaders, including former ministers, have either resigned or were expelled from the party.

## CALENDAR

September 6, 2020, Sunday

- Vikram Samvat 2077
- Shaka Samvat 1942
- Bhadrapad Shaka 15
- Bhadrapad Parvashite 22
- Hijri 1442
- Krishna Paksha Tithi 4, up to 7:07 pm
- Vridhhi Yoga up to 3:36 pm
- Ashwin Nakshatra up to 5:24 am
- Moon in Aries sign

## Inclusion of Punjabi in official languages sought

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 5 Former lawmaker of the BJP Charanjeet Singh Khalsa today demanded the inclusion of Punjabi as the official language of Jammu and Kashmir along with other languages.

Khalsa, who is a former member of the J&K Legislative Council, has written a letter to BJP presi-

## JU VC releases book on tourism

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 5

Prof Manoj K Dhar, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu, released a book titled "Changing dimensions of contemporary tourism" here today. The book, covering various aspects of tourism industry and challenges confronting it amid Covid, has been authored by senior assistant professor, department of lifelong learning/rural development, Dr Vivek Sharma, and research scholar, department of commerce, Dada Ab Rouf Bhat. — TNS

## Ranked 21, J&K among 'slow-moving' states

ARTEEV SHARMA

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 5 Jammu and Kashmir continues to find a place among the laggard states and Union Territories (UTs) having taken measures for ease of doing business.

According to the national level rankings, Jammu and Kashmir is placed 21st among 36 states and Union Territories — improving its previous ranking by single place. In 2018, Jammu and

Kashmir was ranked 22nd among 32 states assessed, thus making it figure among the "worst states to do business with".

For the purpose of State Reform Action Plan 2019, Jammu and Kashmir has been evaluated as a state since the reforms have been implemented jointly. However, from next exercise onward, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will be considered as separate Union Territories.



Recently, Jammu and Kashmir had also fared poorly on the NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2020, achieving 36th rank, below Nagaland and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

# MATRIMONIALS

## BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

### KHATRI/ARORA

**Suitable match for Hindu Arora girl** 26.04.92, 12.15 p.m., 5'-4", Chandigarh born. Done CA, CS, MBA (Finance), UGC Net working in MNC at Panchkula. Contact after matching kundli. 89686-36688, 98782-55688. (CL20037619)

**Hindu Khatri M.Tech. (Er.) working girl** Chandigarh, Anshik Manglik, 5'-5", March 94. 79738-24491. (CL20037620)

**PQF teetotaller Hindu Khatri/Arora** match for M.Tech/NTT working girl in IT MNC at Mohali, 13.08.93, 10.20 a.m., Karnal, 5'-4", Email: c4pt4kn1@gmail.com M: 97298-75176. (CL20035854)

**PQM for an Architect girl, Sept. 86** born, working in Chd. 94186-86115, s/o vino d 1958 @ g m a i l . c o m (CL20035949)

**Suitable match for Hindu Saini beautiful girl**, 1988, 5'-3", MBA, working as officer in Govt. Bank at Chandigarh, upper caste no bar. WhatsApp: 73408-01246. (CL20036208)

**Wanted Punjabi Tricity boy for** B.Com, CA final Arora girl, 27th August 1992, 5.45 pm, 5'-2", Manimajra, Chandigarh, 78886-47184, 85298-90001. (CL20036339)

**Arora beautiful vegetarian girl** January 93, 5'-5". M.Tech Govt Job in Moga. Seeks Govt Employee near Moga. 94177-54234. (CL20036669)

**PQM4 NM Hindu Punjabi Khatri b'ful girl** 42/5'-2", BA, PGDCA, wkg as ASM in MNC Bank, Punjab, early marriage, only serious alliance pls contact, no divorcee pls. Call 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. only @ 88009-66700 or d'me en a jagg a @ y a h o o . c o . i n (CL20036793)

**Edu. PQM4 b'ful fair, slim Khatri girl** 84, 5'-4", B.Engg & PG wrkg. in Dubai. Prev mg last 2 wks. NRJ also welcome. Family Pune. E: shiv14kripa@gmail.com (CL20036884)

**Suitable match for fair, Punjabi Khatri girl, 26 years, 5', MBA, package 5 Lac PA, working as credit Manager in Financial Banking services, company at Chandigarh. 94178-69191. (CL20037253)**

**Our daughter slim, charming, fair complexion, 5'-3", born 1990 has completed Graduation in CA Com. Fashion Designing from NIIFT. We are Hindu Arora community, well educated, vegetarian business family. Looking for well settled, well educated like minded match preferably from business family. Kundli match must. Contact: 9876048650. (CL20037730)**

**Suitable Hindu match for Prajapati girl** 31, 5'-3", MBA, Assistant Manager Govt. Bank Chandigarh based well established family. Upper caste welcome. 96465-25026, alliance 2 3 3 4 @ g m a i l . c o m (CL20037802)

### KHATRI

**Khatri regular Staff Nurse Health Dept.** Patiala 1988, 5'-5", seeks Govt. employee boy. Upper caste no bar. 94633-30866, 99159-17670. (CL20035976)

**Status match for beautiful, Veg, Punjabi Khatri girl** M.Com, B.Ed, CTET qualified, 15.02.1994, 3.18 pm, Ht. 5'-3", excuse marriage bureau/ Arora's. Mob: 98781-62589. (CL20036086)

**Beautiful Khatri girl 15-June-1987,** 01.30 pm, 5'-4", UGC, NET qualified, Lecturer. Nearby Ambala Govt employee preferred. 70820-26309 (CL20036119)

**Suitable match for Hindu Khatri 27 years, 5'-4", Graduate, Computer Diploma, Working Pharmaceutical Company Chandigarh. 82648-79546. (CL20036154)**

**Suitable match for Khatri beautiful homely girl** 1981, MA.B.Ed, 5'-3", nearby Ambala 1071-93124. (CL20036259)

**Dhir Khatri Manglik/non-manglik 1988, 5'-4", M.Com.** Divorcee short time issueless girl. Preferred for Govt. emp. Businessman NRI boy, 9814158018, 9417010107. (CL20036363)

**Match for beautiful, smart, well educated (BA LLB) extremely intelligent Khatri girl** (Anshik Manglik), Dob 25.02.1987, 10.30 pm, DoP Ferozepur, height 5'-3/2", looks younger. Upper middle class family. Decent marriage. Preference Legal professional or Gazetted Officer. Mob: 70095-04332, 98997-25328, Email: dpah9991@gmail.com (CL20036453)

**Smart and elegant girl 28, 5'-2", BE (MIT, Manipal), MBA, (IBS Hyd)** Managing a family owned educational institution, looking for a well educated, board minded businessman/ professional in the Tricity, Ludhiana and Patiala. WhatsApp 98726-33742. (CL20036456)

**Chandigarh settled groom for** beautiful girl 35, only groom should contact directly. 62390-24530. (CL20036176)

**SM4 Hindu Khatri Sahi handsonne widow girl MBA (HR), 5'-6", 30, having 3.5 years son. 98151-73554. (CL20036123)**

**Suitable match for professionally qualified, B.Com. (Hons.), LL.B., LL.M. Chandigarh based girl 5'-2", 17.04.1993, 6:50 am, Chandigarh, 94648-80990, 08488-09007. (CL20036737)**

**Match for Hindu Khatri girl, 03 January 1994, 12:55 am, 5'-4", Kotkapura, M.Sc. Maths, B.Ed, PTET, CTET clear. Contact. WhatsApp: 98154-16589. (CL20036868)**

**For Circulation and Advertisement booking and other related queries please call at following numbers from Monday to Saturday between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.**

**Advertisement:**

**Classified:** 0172-2670257, 2670338, 2670258

**E-mail at:** classified@tribunemail.com

**Display:** 0172-2670256, 2670342

**E-mail at:** advt@tribunemail.com

**Circulation:** 0172-2670319, 2670250, 2670442

**E-mail at:** circulation@tribunemail.com

**Suitable match for Arora fair colour girl** 30.09.1993, 5.32 pm, Sri Gangagar (Rajasthan) 5/6'-2", MBA Finance Marketing, Working in Private Company Mohali. 1.5 year experience. Mobile 9413885076. (CL20037023)

**Match for Hindu Arora girl 1994 born, 5'-1". Pursuing PG (Ophthalmology). Vegetarian Doctor is preferred.** 9779459677. (CL20036477)

**Wanted groom age 24, height 5'-4", MCA, working Punjabi girl** wants suitable match. 9520-80071, 82250-80959. (CL20036404)

**NRI Arora girl 1992/5'-4", B.Tech, Diploma, working in MNC, Hindu/Sikh allowed.** 74895-90144, 88151-01801. (CL20037037)

### SAINI

**Suitable match for Saini fair, beautiful girl, 5'-2", 28.01.1994, M.Com, pursuing (CS), Accounts Officer in MNC near Chandigarh. Required clean shave well educated, well settled boy. Tricity preferred.** 94174-66088. a1100542315 @ g m a i l . c o m (CL20035845)

**Match for Saini girl 25/ 5'-4", M.Tech CSE, Tricity preferred.** Contact 88377-14609. (CL20035879)

**Suitable match for Mohali based Saini girl, April 1991/5'-1", CA Inter, Govt job, Mohali. Tricity/Nearby family. Upper caste welcome. Govt. job preferred.** 96476-79092, 62884-26854. slabs.2388@gmail.com (CL20036644)

**SM for beautiful Punjabi Saini Hindu girl, March 1989, 5'-2", M.Sc. B.Ed. Teaching reputed school Chandigarh. Preferred Tricity.** WhatsApp 94173-92651, 79860-47502. (CL20037136)

**Saini Sikh girl Dec 92, 5'-3", MCA State University California working MNC USA Software Engineer.** Preferred clean shave / Sikh / H1B / PR. 99886-02103, 99886-02106. (CL20037267)

**Qualified match for Saini Sikh girl 1989, 5'-5", M.Sc. Nursing Professor Medical College. Preferred abroad.** 73409-13140. (CL20035759)

**Match for Saini slim girl, 1990, 5'-3", B.Tech (CSE), employed England. Traveled. Preferred Saini Canada/Aus/US PR boy or (Govt job) Punjab. 9814065856. (CL20037581)**

**Saini Sikh divorce girl 1983, 5'-7", Govt. teacher (6 yrs baby) preferred near Ludhiana/Jalandhar.** 93540-39122. (CL20037591)

**SM4 Saini girl 1992, 5'-3", BA, Amritsar. Prefer non-turbated or NRI.** 94179-58356. (CL20037623)

**PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED**

**Physically challenged Sikh Khatri girl, low vision. Govt Teacher, 1993/ 5'-6". 75086-58765. (CL20037485)**

**Arora girl 1986 born, Govt. employee reg. Haryana Education Dept. minor defect in right side. Govt. employee preferred State or Centre. Contact No. 97298-87808, 62841-8194. (CL20037567)**

**Rajput Rathor 5'-5", 11.10.1989, Govt. Employee Stenopist, Excise Taxation Dept. Wanted Govt. Employee boy. Caste no bar. 97803-14756. (CL20037569)**

**Match for issueless Khatri divorce girl (short marriage) 12 Nov. 1993 (3:38 pm, Kapurthala), 5'-5", M.Sc (Physics).** 97816-01495, 98550-2819. (CL20037543)

**Khatri Punjabi beautiful girl, 30, 5'-7", Bachelors in Elect, Comm & Engineering working as Air India, brother settled in Canada required well educated settled Canada boy.** +61(47)8012783. 94649-10945. (CL20037567)

**Suitable match for Hindu Khatri girl, 1983, 5'-3", MDS. Presently working in a Hospital. 98723-01807. (CL20037530)**

**Match for Hindu Arora girl, 1988, 5'-2", Ph.D, wanted teetotaller** vegetarian educated boy. Contact: 83603-50672. (CL20037645)

**Match for Khatri beautiful girl, 1988, 5'-2", Ph.D, wanted teetotaller** vegetarian educated boy. Contact: 83603-50672. (CL20037645)

**Khanna based Hindu Khatri Business family seeks unmarried match for their beautiful daughter (Short term divorcee).** BDS, 09.10.1991, 12:27 pm. (Rajpura), 5'-1". High status alliance from other Hindu caste will also be considered.

**Unmarried/widower profile from a decent family solicited. Request contact:** 82698-34400. (CL20037538)

**Match for issueless Khatri divorce girl (short marriage) 12 Nov. 1993 (3:38 pm, Kapurthala), 5'-5", M.Sc (Physics).** 97816-01495, 98550-2819. (CL20037543)

**Khatri Punjabi beautiful girl, 30, 5'-7", Bachelors in Elect, Comm & Engineering working as Air India, brother settled in Canada required well educated settled Canada boy.** +61(47)8012783. 94649-10945. (CL20037567)

**Match for Hindu Khatri girl, 1988, 5'-2", Ph.D, wanted teetotaller** vegetarian educated boy. Contact: 83603-50672. (CL20037645)

**Professionally qualified match for** Doaba based Hindu Khatri Manglik girl, 28.10.89, 7:10 a.m., Banga, 5', M.Sc. (Maths), B.Ed., Pvt. Teacher. 98766-60147. (CL20037805)

**Match for Hindu Khatri Jaggi working girl, MA & MBA, 26/5'-6", 24.02.1994, 08:58 a.m., Solar (H.P.). Contact/WhatsApp:** 98169-80704. (CL20037870)

**Match for Hindu Khatri girl , Feb 87, 5'-7", Chandigarh, Govt. employee for Advocate girl 30/5'-2".** Contact: 83602-40852, 88725-41191. (CL20037782)

**RAJPUT**

**Suitable match for Chauhan Hindu Rajput girl, 5'-3", 29.03.1992, 11:19 a.m., Chandigarh, working in Chandigarh school as Teacher. 91151-21034. (CL20037813)**

**Punjabi Varma 38% / 5'-5", beautiful, slim, converted, Graduated, unmarried, homemaker, legal heir assets.** Wanted: Crorepati Hindu parents settled match. Unacceptable employed seeker, demands, divorcee, middleman. WhatsApp details: 94787-28105.

**Match for Lodhi Rajput girl, 5'-4", 10.12.1993, B.A., PGDCA, M.Sc. IT.** Contact only Lodhi Rajput. 94179-39992. (CL20037591)

**S/M required for Himachali Katohi girl, Dob: 31.07.1992, POB: Mumbai, time: 3:43 am, age: 5'-3", qualification: B.Tech (CSE), MBA. Preference: Defence Officer. Contact: 88283-71897. (CL20036000)**

**Kashyap Rajput (Mehera OBC) girl 1991 born, Gurdaspur, 5'/7", B.Tech, Scale-I Officer in Govt. Bank. Only Govt. employee call. Upper caste welcome. Veg. and Hindu family preferred. Mob. 94175-74061, 99143-43386. (CL20036045)**

**Well qualified settled businessman,** Civil servant/ Judge, teetotaller for affluent Arora family girl. Born 1989, 5'-1", convert educated M.A, M.Ed., LL.B pursuing Judiciary. 98729-54007. (CL20036455)

**Match for Arora Manglik girl 1990, 5'-4", B.Tech, convert educated M.A, M.Ed., LL.B pursuing Judiciary. 98729-54007. (CL20036455)**

**Smart and elegant girl 28, 5'-2", BE (MIT, Manipal), MBA (IBS Hyd)** Managing a family owned educational institution, looking for a well educated, board minded businessman/ professional in the Tricity, Ludhiana and Patiala. WhatsApp 98726-33742. (CL20036456)

**Chandigarh settled groom for** beautiful girl 35, only groom should contact directly. 62390-24530. (CL20036176)

**SM4 Hindu Khatri Sahi handsonne widow girl MBA (HR), 5'-6", 30, having 3.5 years son.** 98151-73554. (CL20036123)

**Suitable match for professionally qualified, B.Com. (Hons.), LL.B., LL.M. Chandigarh based girl 5'-2", 17.04.1993, 6:50 am, Chandigarh, 94648-8099**

**MANGLIK**

**SM4 Parjapati Manglik girl**, M.Sc. Fashion Design, 13 Dec. 1992, 10.00 p.m., Ludhiana. Businessman/ NRI preferred, 887225582. (CL20037374)

**SM4 Manglik Ramdasia girl** 29/5'-4", MA, M.Ed. ETT (TET pass). WhatsApp: 92562-51961. (CL20037533)

**KAMBOJ**

**Kamboj Sikh beautiful girl**, 5'-3" / 1994 B.Tech, MBA, preparing for competitive exams. Parents Pb. Govt. Officers, settled in Mohali. 94171-32385. (CL20035989)

**Kamboj Sikh beautiful girl**, 5'-3" / 1991 BDS, preparing for State Civil Services. Landlord family. Canadians preferred. 78145-15599, 62392-96293. (CL20035991)

**Match for Kamboj Sikh girl** 5'-6", 26. B.Sc. (Computer Sci), M.Sc. (Maths) from GNDU, IELTS 8.5 band. Well-settled boy from Melbourne preferred. Mob. 98152-65791. (CL20036975)

**JAT SIKH**

**MD/ MS/ MBBS match preferred** for beautiful, Jatt Sikh 1990/ 5'-5", MBBS girl. Contact: 92177-6939. WhatsApp 70098-60490. (CL20034372)

**Suitable match for oct. 89 born**, Bajwa Jat Sikh girl, 5'-4", M.Sc., B.Ed. MBA (Global business), M.Lib. ISc. Librarian/Assst. Professor under Grant in Aid Scheme in Aided College. Contact Email: galantsikh@gmail.com, Mobile/ WhatsApp: 79738-14615. (CL20036044)

**Jatt Sikh girl 5'-3", 1991**, M.Tech. Parents Govt. employees agricultural background seeks similar match. 99882-94946. (CL20036257)

**Highly Placed Officer/Landlord** match for Jat Sikh well qualified girl, 5'-3" feet/ 32 yrs. Property in Tricity. Match from Tricity preferred. Parents Ex-Senior Officers. Email: jsb4663@gmail.com Mob: 89729-40224, 93163-34063. (CL20036331)

**Suitable match for professionally qualified** 27 years, 5'-4" girl (B.Com, CA Inter), PGD in business management from Canada, on work permit in Surrey. Looking for PR/work permit boy preferred in BC, vegetarian, non drinker. (CL20036262)

**Suitable Jat match for Jat Sikh girl** 29, 5'-6", M.Pharmacy, Canada PR. 98851-01371. (CL20036360)

**Jat Sikh girl 1990, 5'-4", Amritsar** B.Com., MBA job MNC Gurgaon, shortly marriage. Required well settled Canada PR boy. 78885-18903. (CL20036364)

**SM for beautiful Jatt Sikh girl**, 32, 5'-4", B.Com., MBA working as Senior Analyst in MNC Gurugram, educated family from Haryana. Interested can contact 94662-52665, singhto061@gmail.com (CL20037625)

**Professional qualified match for** conventional educated beautiful girl, 1987/5'4". MBA (Healthcare), working in reputed Hospital on Managerial Profile. Send biodata and pictures. chitveer@ymail.com mobile/ WhatsApp 98140-51127. (CL20036221)

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**Beautiful farm house buildup in 6 kanal with duplex house 4200 sq. ft. 30 km from Mohali. 98145-16901, 81468-85000. (CL20036190)**

**Ultra beautiful super luxury apartments/ Penthouses Chandigarh for rich taste persons. Contact: 98140-66052. (CL20036233)**

**100 Yards SCO No. 99 Sector 95-A Mohali. Contact Dhanoo Ph. 81464-14828, 98140-15945. (CL20036307)**

**5 bedroom duplex Pent House plus servant room, Prestigious Society of Zirakpur. Contact: 98150-13032. (CL20036318)**

**Panchkula: For sale/ purchase of plots/ kothies 8, 10, 14, 20 marta. Contact: Verma Ji 98888-17007. (CL20036320)**

**Panchkula: Sector 6, 7, 8 prime location "B" Road canal bungalow. Ashwani 96121-78567, 78373-70074. (CL20036323)**

**Beautiful, corner 2 kanal duplex house in Sector 38, Chandigarh. Contact: Gurjeet Singh 98158-76007. (CL20036391)**

**Chandigarh commercial SCO number 30, Sector 21-C, first floor, freehold, newly built, big size, only at 2.30 Cr. Owner: 98150-00332. (CL20036395)**

**11 Marla house corner NE facing, 1st & 2nd floor for sale. 1st floor partially constructed. Ample parking in Sector 43-A Chandigarh. Contact: 96716-25051. (CL20036597)**

**46000 square feet warehouse with basement for sale, Godown Area, Zirakpur. Rent: 6 lakhs. 90343-40595. (CL20036893)**

**10 marla exclusive location Sector 35 and 21. Contact: JB Realtors 95019-00027. (CL20036905)**

**Kanal Sectors 8, 10, 11, 16, 19, 33. Confirm deals. Contact: JB Realtors: 95019-00027. (CL20036908)**

**SALE/ PURCHASE 1 Kanal, 2 Kanal Properties in Chandigarh & Panchkula SUBHASH MANGAT & CO. 98720-99999 CL20037617**

**HIG first renovated Sector 51A. MIG first corner Sector 63, MIG second Sector 61, MIG duplex independent Sector 38W. HIG first floor Sector 43B, 44A. Rajesh Estates 98140-12730, 98148-22730. (CL20036911)**

**6 Marla Newly built Three Storey Sector 78, 8 Marla Single Storey Phase 3B2, 10 Marla first floor Phase -7. Mohali. Call 9850530372. (CL20037218)**

**Available/ wanted HIG/ MIG Sector 38W, 39B, 43B, 44A, 45A, 49D, 51A, 61, 63. Society flats 48, 49, 50, 51. Rajesh Estates: 98140-12730, 98148-22730. (CL20036914)**

**300 yard newly built kothi modern amenities in posh locality of Patiala city. 78142-67258, 98144-37865. (CL20036931)**

**Available/wanted full/floorwise kanal 11, 21, 33, 34, 35, 40, 44, ten marla 15, 27, 21, 37, 38, 40, 42, 44, eight marla 18, 20, 38, 40, 44, 46, seven marla Sector 35, 37, five marla 22, 23, 40, 46, 38. Rajesh Estates: 98140-12730, 98148-22730. (CL20036920)**

**Society flats all categories all floors Sector 48, 49, 50, 51. Recent Estates: 97794-64287, 98143-42287. (CL20037559)**

**Chandigarh: 8 marla duplex house, nicely built Sector 22, 5 marla double storey, facing park Sector 46, 5 marla adjoining houses Sector 22. Goel Properties: 98551-23123. (CL20037536)**

**One kanal kothi 19 (6.25), 10 marla triple 34 (3.60), 11 marla corner 15 (4.50), 8 marla triple new 18, 22, 28888-78339, 98767-82699. (CL20037446)**

**1 kanal B-road, Sector 21, HIG upper first floor facing park, Sector 38 West. Verma 98766-35909. (CL20037462)**

**PANCHKULA Sale/purchase in Panchkula (Plots, kothies, residential floors) 2 kanal/1 kanal/ 14 marla/ 10 marla/ 8 marla/ 6 marla. (Prime locations/ordinary locations). Goyal 098886-56504. (CL200385849)**

**10/14 marla with huge parking share Ground / Basement. ample parking 78, Phase-11. Genuine parties: 99143-27641. (CL20036938)**

**1 kanal duplex 7, 8, 17 (4.50) plot 2, 4, 12-A (3.25). Contact: 98767-82699. (CL20036940)**

**Four BHK super spacious brand new fully furnished ultra modern flat Sector 17. Owner: 99882-75580. (CL20036627)**

**One kanal facing park superb location Sector 6, MDC, another A-road, Sector 4, MDC. Sankalp Estate 98888-85850. (CL20036230)**

**One kanal facing park superb location Sector 6, MDC, another A-road, Sector 4, MDC. Sankalp Estate 98888-85850. (CL20036230)**

**1 kanal 14 & 10 marla new builder floors & duplexes with stilt parking, lift, servant quarter, facing park, corner/A-B road option in MDC 4, 6 & Sector 6, 7, 8, 16, 21. Gulati Estates 88006-66233. (CL2003629)**

**10 marla (268 sq.yds) single storey, liveable, maintained house Sector 15, Panchkula. Gyan 98880-09586. (CL20036828)**

**Panchkula: 182 gaj double storey house Sector 11, 10 marla B-Road plot Sector 23. JK Estates: 96531-11222. (CL20036841)**

**1 kanal old demolished house in Sector 7. Satya Estates 99157-86900. (CL20036867)**

**One kanal B-Road single storey house in Sector 12. Satya Estates 99157-86900. (CL20036872)**

**14 marla brand new ultra luxury duplex houses with lift in Sector 27. Satya Estates 99157-86900. (CL20036876)**

**Panchkula: Hot deals 6.5 marla single Sector 9, Rajan Estates 98147-02255, 98153-86161. Plot No. 42, Industrial Area, Phase 1, Panchkula. 98147-00355. (CL20036719)**

**All size 90, 125, 140, 150, 200, 250, 300 and above. Plots/ kothies/ flats/ Villas/ showroom/ Bayshop available in Sunny Enclave Sector 123, 124, 125. Genuine rates. RK Estates, Opp. Arista Hotel, New Sunny Enclave, Kharar. 98780-03848, 98722-04040. (CL20036811)**

**Industrial one kanal Phase 8-A, prime location, opp Radha Swami Satsangs, Mohali. Gemini Realtors: 98551-70013, 85679-00007. (CL20036864)**

**Buitup booth with basement, prime location, registry case, Phase 7, Mohali. Contact: Gemini Realtors: 98551-70013, 85679-00007. (CL20036864)**

**10 marla newly built corner duplex house, facing A-Road & Herbal park, with Italian marble, modular kitchen, wooden flooring, constructed with the best quality construction, Sector 26, Panchkula. +91 98555-66415. (CL20037380)**

**10 marla newly builtup floors with lift available in Sector 4, 16, Panchkula. Contact: 98555-66415. (CL20037380)**

**7.5 marla North East facing double storey good liveable freehold reasonable rate 346 Sector 46A, Chandigarh. Contact Sahab-Karam Properties: 98786-90761. (CL20037464)**

**1 kanal North facing, well maintained marble duplex house in Sector 7, another East facing, facing park, Sector 7, RR Estates: 98761-32333. (CL20037464)**

**10 marla duplex, well maintained, ready to shift in Sector 42, Chandigarh. Safeways Real Estate, Booth No. 6, Sector 44C, 98786-30748, 98786-30748, 98786-11225. (CL20037467)**

**7 marla first floor corner 65% covered area liveable, Sector 37. Safeways Real Estate, Booth No. 6, Sector 44C, 98786-30748, 98786-30748, 98786-11225. (CL20037469)**

**10 marla North facing old house near market Sector 7, another double storey East facing old house Sector 8. RR Estates: 98761-32333. (CL20037469)**

**1 kanal North facing, well maintained marble duplex house in Sector 7, another East facing, facing park, Sector 8, RR Estates: 98761-32333. (CL20037469)**

**Kothi 8 marla floorwise brand new, Sector 33, extraordinary work, reasonable price, construction linked payments. GG Homes. 98172-7775, 98770-1775. (CL20037797)**

**# 3048, Sector 35D, 350 sq yards, three bedroom, single storey house Chandi, very reasonable price. Best deal in 14 marla house in Chandigarh, rate revised. Contact: 98140-06052. (CL20037810)**

**Chandigarh 2 kanal corner facing park, 6 BHK, well maintained bungalow, Sector 15, 18, 33, Sampark Estate: 98142-11400, 0172-4627889. (CL20037368)**

**Chandigarh 4 kanal front huge green belt, ultra rich superb location/surrounding facing North in Northern Sector very near to Sukhna Lake. Sampark Estates: 98142-11400, 0172-4627889. (CL20037372)**

**5 marla facing park newly built Sector 22, best for Doctor, CA, genuine buyers. Sharma: 98722-65897. (CL20037891)**

**Beautiful farm house buildup in 6 kanal with duplex house 4200 sq. ft. 30 km from Mohali. 98145-16901, 81468-85000. (CL20036190)**

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**Industrial plots/ JPIL Sector 82, Phase 8B, 1 kanal, 2 kanal, 4 kanal, acre. Property Network 98760-00719, 96460-35758. (CL20037460)**

**Aerocity available 200, 300, 500 Gaj plots. Contact: JS Property 7006, Aerocity-99157-00049, 80543-00049. (CL20037493)**

**Aerocity available 100, 125, 150, 150 gaj plot contact: JS Property 7006, Aerocity-99157-00049, 80543-00049. (CL20037496)**

**40000 square feet warehouse with basement for sale, Godown Area, Zirakpur. Rent: 6 lakhs. 90343-40595. (CL20036893)**

**10 marla kothi triple storey H.No. 311, Sector 21, Chandigarh. Contact: 98142-12087. (CL20037422)**

**Industrial plots/ JPIL Sector 82, Phase 8B, 1 kanal, 2 kanal, 4 kanal, acre. Property Network 98760-00719, 96460-35758. (CL20037460)**

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**One kanal newly built old house Sector 35 & 37, Chandigarh. Safeways Real Estate, Booth No. 6, Sector 44C, 98786-30748, 98786-30748, 98786-11225. (CL20037467)**

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What happens when a parent contracts Covid-19? Doubts and fears overpower thoughts. Understanding the science of the virus can help children

**SOCIETY page 12**



India's joint win in the Chess Olympiad shows the game has deep roots in the country. But there are only 4 Indians in global top-100. Our players must work to reach the next level

**SPORT page 13**



India's World: How Prime Ministers Shaped Foreign Policy traces the country's successes and disappointments under eight Prime Ministers

**BOOKS page 14**

# PASH, MY FATHER

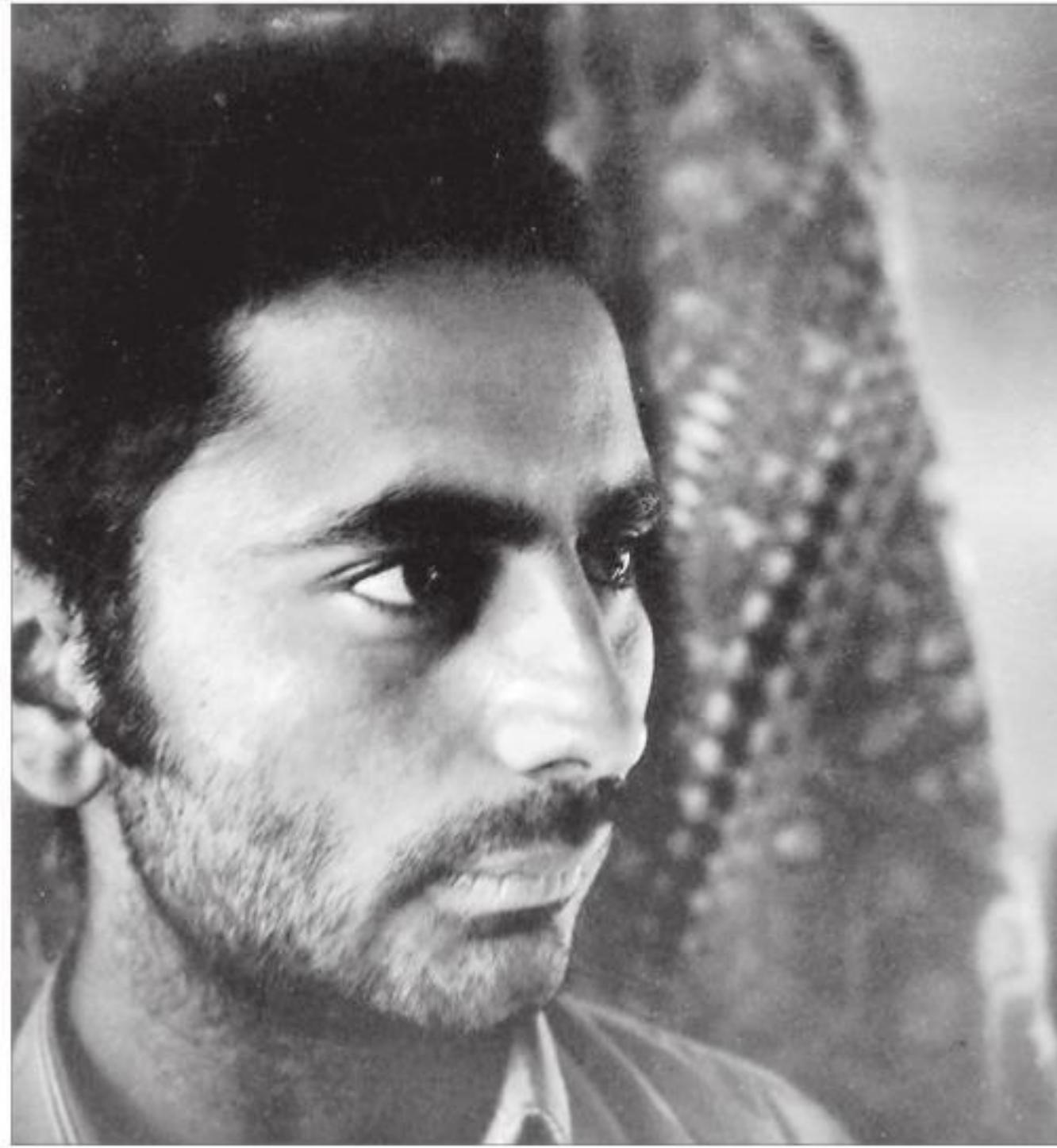
Her tiny hands were finding it difficult to cut the cake. She was stunned to see the candles, first lit and then blown off. Winkle had turned one. Thirty-eight winters ago, Pash had made an entry of his daughter's first birthday in his diary. A few months later, he was celebrating the way she had suddenly started picking up new words. He called it her gaining a grip on 'human language'. Ahead of the late Pash's 70th birth anniversary on September 9, Winkle Sandhu — who was seven when he was killed in 1988, and is now an elementary schoolteacher in the US — pays tribute to her father, with the belief that he will live on through his words

**O**UR journey together was horrifically and abruptly cut short. On Wednesday, March 23, 1988, a group of Khalistanis assassinated my father. But, they were never able to touch the most crucial parts of Pash's being: his beliefs, ideology and spirit.

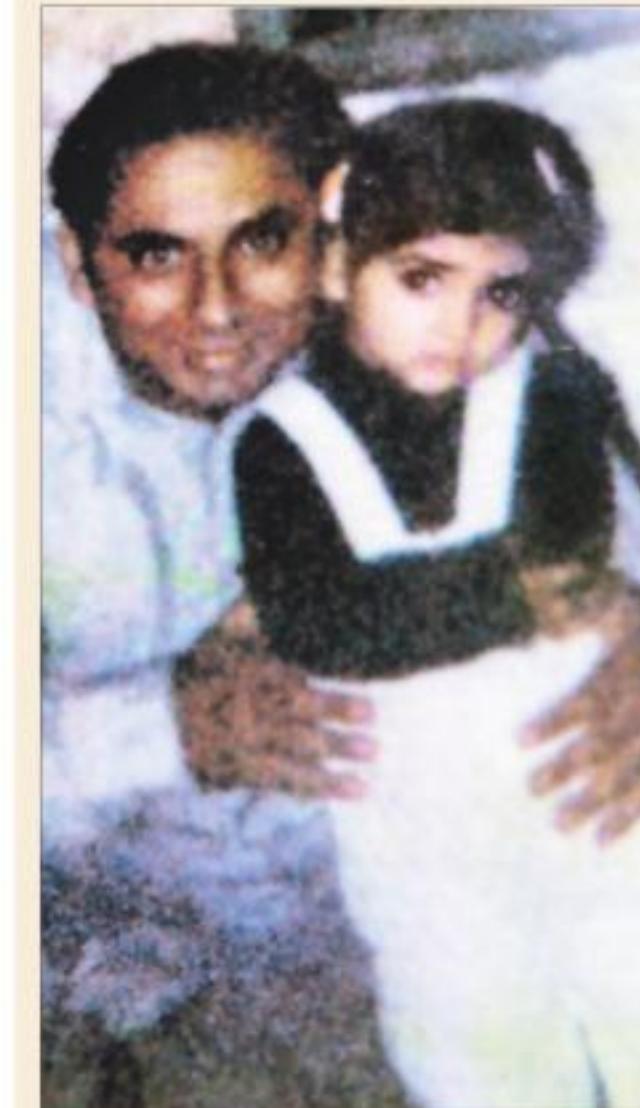
Thirty-two years hence, my father lives on and inspires people's hearts, ignites discussions, makes it to university syllabuses and is often the theme of research scholars' PhDs. Even today, his poetry changes lives of the youth and inspires young men and women to follow in his footsteps. It goes without saying, I am proud to be the daughter of this revolutionary, powerful, influential, progressive and daring poet.

I was born in a small village of Talwandi Salem (Jalandhar) in January 1981. Those were times when people would shed tears at a daughter's birth. But here was my father — celebrating my coming into this world, distributing sweets to everyone in our village and playing loud music on the speaker! Many were perplexed at his happiness, but only he understood the beauty, sincerity and value of a daughter's birth and what she brings to a family.

I was seven when tragedy struck. A first-grader, I didn't realise what a loss it was for Punjab. I just knew I would never be able to run into my father's arms again, or hear his voice, share milestones together, or be able to be loved by him. Slowly, the memories faded. As I grew up, my family helped me understand him, who he was, as a father, more so as a writer. My aunts Pammy and Rajinder, uncles Ajit and Sucha, my mom, my grandmother and some of my father's closest friends — Surinder Dhanjal, Chaman Lal, Sukwinder Kam-



Pash. August 1973. Nakodar. PHOTOS COURTESY: AMARJIT CHANDAN & THE WRITER



Pash with daughter Winkle (right) when she was four.

**B**ORN on September 9, 1950 at village Talwandi Salem in Jalandhar, Avtar Singh Sandhu wrote under the pen name of Pash. Inspired by the Naxalite movement, he was known for his poetry of resistance. The four volumes of his poetry — 'Loh Katha', 'Udadiyan Bazan Magar', 'Saddey Sameyaan Vich' and 'Khilre Hoye Warke' — have been translated into several languages. He was gunned down by militants on March 23, 1988. He was 38.

boj and Amarjit Chandan, to name a few — told me what he was like and I today feel that even though he isn't here, I know him. I am forever indebted to my grandfather, Maj Sohan Singh Sandhu, who was my best resource person on my father. After Papa's death, he was the father figure in my life.

In the past three decades, people have come to me from all over the world to express how much love and admiration they have for my father. To say the least, it makes me feel immensely proud, speechless with gratitude and taken aback by all their words. Every time I go back to Talwandi Salem, it brings me great pleasure to live in our home, to see and feel the 'khet', the fields he loved so much, and to live the simple 'pind' life he wrote about. I can't wait to share these moments with his grandchildren.

Every poetry festival I have ever attended across the world has a dedicated segment to recognise Pash, and there's always a follower, believer or passionate human being who wants to connect with his poetry and follow in his footsteps. Organisations such as International Pash Memorial Trust and radio and TV channels across the world help keep Pash's poetry alive.

As the years go by, I have taken the place of my Dadaji by teaching my own children, Armaan and Anayat, about their grandfather and make sure they know who he truly was, his importance, and what powerful poetry he has left behind for the world to read and experience.

If he were alive today, I feel my family would have been living a very different life, but I try my best to live by his words and ideology.

Some of my father's poems have guided me in some of my most difficult life decisions and I will be forever grateful to him. He has also shaped me into the woman I am today. He has given me and my mother the strength to live on through his words.

His portrait hangs in my living room with the poem 'Sab Ton Khatarnak' right beside it. I feel he looks at us every day, making sure we don't let anyone destroy our dreams. When recently faced with a seemingly insurmountable challenge, this poem carried me through, serving as the wind beneath my wings.

Pash's poetry provides succour and strength, sustenance and hope to carry forth and guide the next generation to carve its own path. Such powerful and progressive poetry is and should be recognised, celebrated and lived by.

PASH HAD A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS CONTEMPORARIES, BUT BELIEVED IN CONSTANT DIALOGUE

# He may have gone, the conversation continues

SARIKA SHARMA

**I**n a letter from jail in 1975, Pash cautioned Surjit Patar against sycophants. "Don't be too enamoured by their praise," he warned. "Popularity is a noose around your neck. Don't let it sway you."

Pash had a love-hate relationship with his contemporaries. In a beautiful poem, he told Amrita Pritam to move beyond 'Ajj Akkhan Waris Shah Nu' and asked her to respond to the age of revolt. From Shiv Kumar to Amrita Pritam, from Harbhajan Singh to Patar, he engaged with all. When Harbhajan Singh said Pash's poetry did not hold value more than that of a red rag, he responded with a poem titled 'Inkaar'.

He refused to change his metaphors to please someone else. Drawing a line between their poetry, he said he would not write about flowers, women, fine music. He would rather write about the village cobbler's blindness, the ironsmith's blistered skin, or the woman whose hands have cracked with washing utensils. When Pakistani poet Ahmed Salim was sentenced to jail for his writings, Pash wrote him a poem, 'Ahmed Salim De Naam', saying Salim's poetry had finally bore fruit.

Fame never eluded Pash even when he was alive, but acceptance from fellow poets certainly did. In his death, however, the paradigm shift he brought to Punjabi poetry was well accepted and documented in the poems and essays his contemporaries wrote remembering him.

More than 150 poems were penned on

Pash by 95 poets and authors after his death; his father, Maj Sohan Singh Sandhu, had compiled these as his last project before his death in 2013. The writers came from a colourful spectrum and included famous names such as Patar, Amarjit Chandan, Santokh Singh Dhir and Harbhajan Singh, underground leader Harbhajan Sohi and Pakistani poet Mazhar Tiraz. Critic Ragbir Singh admitted to the bias Pash faced and acknowledged that his contemporaries had righted him in his death. "With time, his work became a toast of poetic circles," he wrote in the preface to a book on Pash.

Over the years, Pash's symbolism, that arose from everyday life, his unpoetic idioms have become a cult. Perhaps the first Punjabi poet to have been killed for his writings, he is a favourite with Left-leaning scholars and is recited at protests.

His friend of 20 years, London-based Chandan, says he still cannot believe it is Pash's 70th birthday. "His young handsome face is etched in my memory." A student of Chandan's uncle, Pash had coloured his hair blonde when they first met. He still remembers his eyes, his beautiful naturally kohled eyes that Pash himself mentioned in several of his poems. As the image, his poetry too doesn't fade.

"His untimely death at the hands of the enemies of Punjab made this image and every word written by him permanent. It is rather ironic that both Sikh and Hindu fundamentalists are united in hating the truthful poems he wrote close to his death. He will always be remembered for these

Punjab was gripped by terrorism and death haunted Pash. He said it wasn't really death that scared him, but the constant uncertainty, the ever-present shadow of death that followed him. 'It is deadly and doesn't let you do anything creative,' he had told me," says Rode, who recently wrote a book, 'Pash Da Sath'. As a spontaneous response to Pash's death, he had written 'A Movie Scene'.

*A tubewell, with no concern for virtue or sin, pumps fresh water for the fields*

*A poet's body with bullet holes in its bare back spews warm blood on the earth*

*A manuscript of mutilated unwritten poems flutters in the deepening pool of blood*

*This grotesque scene was shot for a horror movie to spread scare and silence*

*Pash who played the poet in it didn't shut up, when they wanted him to shut up. The producers blew him to pieces. For real.*

Whether they were of opposing ideologies or his friends, frankness marked Pash's relationship with his contemporaries. In his letter to Patar, he had said: "Good ideology can give birth to bad poetry; bad ideology can birth good poetry."

poems," Chandan says. When he went to meet Pash in California (where he had moved following Khalistani threats in 1986) in January 1988, the latter was in India. Chandan had then penned a poem (see box) imagining him there and wondered how Pash would react. Alas, Pash was assassinated during that trip. Chandan's last meeting with Pash remained unrealised, his poem never reached him.

The shadow of death had been on Pash's mind for long. He had confided in poet Ajmer Rode. "Those were the days when

He will always be remembered for these

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# Overcoming Covid fear

SANGEET TOOR

I HAD fever one day. Then breathing became difficult. I told my children about my sickness and that I would isolate myself in my room. Two days later, my Covid-19 test came positive. The medical officer who attended to me said my blood oxygen levels were not too bad, and there were no other serious conditions involved; it would be manageable from home. Her assurance put my mind at ease. The real test, however, was yet to begin.

Even before the lockdown in India, children grasped information on the potentially deadly disease. Thousands of deaths per day in Italy freaked out every household. The number of fatalities was discussed within the family and on phone calls. Adults all over the world consumed macabre stories of bodies piling up on the sidewalks with morning tea. Italy, followed by Spain, and then United States of America, the early information that our fear fed into our children was that the only escape from Covid-19 was death. Little did I know that as soon as I brought my positive diagnosis home, my children would be overwhelmed by the same apprehension.

My elder son, nine years old, could not sleep. His muffled voice reached my room late at night. He feared for his mother. Would she survive? Suddenly, he found himself in a dangerous, inescapable reality that society's collective fear has built up over the months.

Nothing would happen to me, I told him. Why his mother would be an exception when the rest of the patients had died, he asked. To make the situation worse, my younger son tested positive two days later. Sleep became more elusive to all three of us. It was time for us to talk about Covid-19 from the perspective of survival rate rooted in reason.

According to Johns Hopkins University, the observed case-fatality rate for India is 1.8 per cent, which means 1.8 people die per 100 confirmed positive cases. That is, if the numbers reported are right. I looked it up after testing positive. People who are old and have comorbidities are at a greater risk of ending up in the aforementioned percentage. Cardiovascular diseases, respiratory conditions and diabetes raise the chances of death by Covid-19. Since I do not have any of these, I was going to be among the 98.2 per 100 con-

firmed cases that survive. The comparison 98 to 2, for the sake of simplicity, was encouraging.

When chaos rules, control becomes necessary to bullet through difficult times. The younger one, who came out positive, is merely six years old. He said he did not want to die. His fear had foundation, and it was necessary to dismantle it. The foundation was the lack of control over the situation. Control comes through what one believes in. Our belief, in this case, came from the scientific knowledge available at the moment.

We talked about his health in general, and that he did not have symptoms. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 45 per cent of paediatric cases are asymptomatic. Those who require intensive care have underlying health conditions. He did not have any.

Actions set-up in a routine also drive control. Checking the vitals, taking the medication, eating balanced diet, drinking plenty of fluids, taking steam multiple times a day, washing hands, wearing a mask and maintaining physical distance from the rest of the family are some of the tasks that a Covid-19 positive child will have to do on a daily basis. When these tasks are discussed with underlying reason to perform each one, children do take on the

responsibility of their own wellbeing pretty diligently. These concrete actions were in his control, and the daily routine based in these actions prevented him from brooding over the popular narrative around Covid-19.

Survival is an empty word without future. Children want to know what they are looking forward to. What will they do after they test negative? Every evening, we talked about the future — travelling, visiting favourite people, and meeting classmates. Life after beating the disease is full of prospects.

It can be tricky to manage the fears of children who have underlying conditions. But again, fear can't drive the narrative. My older son, who tested negative but has asthma, started taking his condition seriously. He set up his bronco-inhaler, stopped eating cold and icy things, and cleaned his room for allergens. For Covid-19, he mirrored what we were doing.

Reason must prevail over fear. Children need assurance and confirmation that they and their loved ones will sail through the disease. To effectively be the driver of a positive narrative, a parent will have to start from herself first — from scientific knowledge to reason to control. It's the least we, as parents, can do to channel the chaos around the known and the unknown.



# Your sanitiser could be fire safety hazard

Highly inflammable, its vapours are dangerous



**CONSUMERS BEWARE!**

PUSHPA GIRIMAJI

Covid-19 has forced us to use the sanitiser extensively to disinfect our hands and protect ourselves from the deadly disease.

But most of us are unaware of the precautions that we need to take while using it.

Can you give us some information on this?

One of the first things that every consumer should be aware of is the highly inflammable nature of alcohol-based sanitisers. The alcohol in the hand rub evaporates readily at room temperature and it is these vapours that mix with air and ignite in the presence of a fire source. In fact, one should know that the vapour can spread or travel and if this vapour trail comes in contact with an ignition source, it not only catches fire, but the fire produced can flash back or travel back to the liquid.

on both the hands.

Such cases are rare, but can happen. In fact, a severe burn injury caused to an 11-year-old girl in a children's hospital in Oregon, USA, in 2013, was traced to fumes from the sanitiser spill on the girl's dress igniting on account of static electricity. Olive oil was used on her head to remove the glue used for an EEG test earlier and had dripped on to her dress. That fed the flames further, the report on the cause of the fire said. There are similar reports of burn injuries caused by static electricity and sanitisers in two hospitals in the United States — in 2006 and 2002.

So whenever you use a sanitiser, allow it to dry completely and the vapours to disperse before you touch any surface. Never touch anything with hands still wet from a sanitiser. I would suggest similar precautions while lighting a matchstick or operating an electric switch or any electric gadget that could give out a spark.

Are there any other precautions that one needs to take?

Yes, you need to ensure that these sanitisers are kept out of reach of children. If at all they need to use them, it has to be only under adult supervision. These days because of the Covid pandemic, wherever you go, you find large hand rub bottles in spray dispensers. There is every possibility of a child accessing them and trying to use them. So, watch out!

I must also mention that a friend recently told me about a persistent eye problem that was eventually traced to continued exposure to the sanitiser spray. In fact, in 'Sanitiser aerosol driven ocular surface disease — a Covid-19 repercussion', a paper published in the Indian Journal of Ophthalmology, doctors from the Narayana Nethralaya Eye Institute, Bengaluru, refer to a number of cases of eye irritation, redness and dryness that they came across and traced to increasing and constant use of sanitisers.

The doctors advised consumers to close their eyes while pressing the dispenser and also keep it below eye level during usage. And use the sanitiser prudently, they said.

The bottom line is: use soap and water to disinfect your hands and use sanitisers only when the first option is not available.

## To mince matters



**FOOD TALK**

PUSHPESH PANT

WE have always had a weakness for mince — be it in the form of kebab, kofta or in a pie or patty. The good old *keema kaleji* curry makes us drool and, of course, the role that mince plays in *rara gosht* is nothing short of stellar. We have enjoyed *keema samosa* and *keema pulao* but have found mince delicacies missing from restaurant menus in the recent times. The reason, it seems, is that customers are apprehensive about the quality of meat that goes into the mince. The thumb rule should be: procure from a butcher trusted over time and try to get it minced in front of you, preferably not in a machine but done manually with a heavy cleaver from boneless chunks. And in there we digress again!

Now, what do you cook after you have laid your hands on the mince? *Kebab* and *kofta* are too complicated for a person as lazy as the writer of these lines. In winters, we like to pair it with *methi* or a little bit of *saag*. And when the rains come calling, we treat ourself to *hari mirch ka keema*. When we had it for the first time, it had been done to perfection at the royal spread laid out for his guests by Tika Aishwarya Singh of Kangra in Himachal Pradesh. The recipe was given to him by his father-in-law, scion of the erstwhile royal house of Sailana in Madhya Pradesh. We dare not experiment with that sublime classic. Hence, what we offer our readers is a simpler home-style recipe from a friend's family repertoire.

### HARI MIRCH KA KEEMA

Ingredients	
Mutton mince	500g
Green chillies	200g
Onions (sliced fine)	100g
Garlic-ginger paste	1 tbsp
Bay leaf	1
Whole red chilli	1
Cloves	2-3
Black peppercorns	1/2 tsp
Cardamom (brown)	1
Cinnamon stick	2-inch piece
Coriander powder	1 tsp
Cumin powder	1/2 tsp
Oil	1/2 cup
Salt to taste	



### Method

- Heat oil in a pan and when it reaches smoking point, add the bay leaf and whole spices to it. As these change colour, add onions and stir fry till translucent. Then add garlic-ginger paste and continue stir frying for another minute. Now put in the mince and stir fry on high flame, breaking the lumps. Take care not to brown the mince too much. Reduce the heat to medium and stir in the powdered spices dissolved in a little water to avoid scalding. Add salt and let the mince cook for about 20 minutes; scrape the bottom of the pan to ensure that the mince isn't burnt. Add half a cup of hot water, if required.
- As the mince cooks, wash the chillies and cut into 1-1/2 inch pieces. Heat a little oil or butter in a pan and glaze the chillies in it. Do not fry or allow to blister. When the mince is done, add the chillies and mix well. Garnish with fresh coriander/mint and thin slices of lemon.
- The mince should retain enough moisture to be equally enjoyable with bread of choice or steamed rice. We strongly advise to eschew garam masala as the idea is to enjoy just the flavours of mince and green chillies.

## Garden fresh

BINDU GOPAL RAO

**H**YPERLOCAL cuisine is exactly what the name implies — extremely local cuisine. And it is local to the extent that the produce is cultivated or grown on the premises of the restaurant offering the cuisine.

Eating local and hyperlocal food is one way to get the healthiest of dishes while making a small contribution to the environment. "There are 22 varieties of greens, including kale and lettuce, that Pullman & Novotel, Delhi, grows in its in-house farm of 5,000 sq ft," says chef Neeraj Tyagi, culinary director. The upscale property offers 'Rooted in Nature' buffets over lunch and dinner that focus on micro greens, sustainable farming and endless varieties of greens.

Andaz, Delhi, too sources organic vegetables, asparagus, lemony curried dressing and 780 edible flowers from Tijara Farm, its artisan partner. "The use of edible flowers in dishes sparks creativity, making a dish visually appealing to the eye. Some of our dishes, like the Nutrition Bomb, also involve the use of microgreens which are grown in house under controlled conditions," says executive chef Vikram Ganpule.

As 'buy fresh, buy local' becomes a global slogan, chefs are scurrying to be in the race. Chef and entrepreneur Tarun Sibal says, "The interest in sustainable development, where food is produced with an equal importance to responsibility towards the environment as well as economic growth and viability, has created a demand for locally sourced and hyperlocal food. Parmesan in India can't be hyperlocal, but a soft burrata coming from the dairy farm next-door is hyperlocal. Though a lot of things can be hyperlocal, it is primarily kitchen gardens, backyards, window sills, rooftop and terrace gardens that are now used for growing herbs and plants which do not need too much space or maintenance. In Goa



we use lot of avocado, passion fruit and papaya in our dishes as they are grown there. In Delhi/NCR, we use lot of black carrot, saag and bathua in winters."

The onus lies with the chefs and how much and how quickly they can innovate. Rachel Goenka, founder of The Chocolate Spoon Company, says chefs have a better understanding of where their produce is coming from can translate this message through their food to customers as well. "Hydroponic farming has also made it easier for restaurants to grow their own produce. There is also the social responsibility of supporting local farmers and organic farming."

The rationale behind the concept of hyperlocal food is freshness and high nutrient value. Hyperlocal food eliminates the process of artificial storage of food as the gap from farm to plate gets minimised. Chef Abhijeet Khot, sous chef at The Den, Bengaluru, says, "Hyperlocal ingredients are grown in the climatic condition of the place and space available. They need lots of care and attention too." However, it also means tweaking the menu as per the seasonal produce. And a green plate is worth the trouble.

### NUTRITION BOMB SALAD

INGREDIENTS	
For salad	
Cucumber (diced)	40gm
Cherry tomato (halves)	40gm
Basil	10gm
Mint	10gm
Focaccia croutons	20gm
Microgreens	160gm
Flax seeds	5gm
Lime dressing	20ml
For dressing	
Lime	400 mls
Oil	1.2 lits
Salt	10 gms
Black pepper	20 gms
Focaccia bread croutons	30 gms

### Method:

- For dressing: Whisk all dressing ingredients together in a bowl.
- For focaccia crouton: Cut the focaccia bread into cubes and dry them in oven at 140 degrees till golden brown.
- For salad: Toss all the ingredients together with lime dressing, salt and pepper. Add focaccia croutons to the salad. Sprinkle flax seeds as garnish.



Courtesy: Andaz, Delhi

Chefs pluck lettuce leaves from the courtyard of a restaurant in New Delhi.

# Crowning glory

India's joint win in the Chess Olympiad shows the game has deep roots in the country. But there are only 4 Indians in the global top-100 and our young players must work to reach the next level

VINAYAK PADMADEO

**R**EIGNING World Rapid champion Koneru Humpy was finally forced out of her social media hibernation to accept the new world. She prefers to concentrate on her game or her young family, but to celebrate the Indian team's 'historic' gold at the FIDE Online Olympiad, the queen of the chessboard broke her social media exile.

The customary 'thank you' replies to influential stars and politicians were followed by a message to her fans about the existence of a fake account. "Following account is not mine: twitter.com/HumpyKoneru. I request Twitter India to take appropriate action," Humpy, world's No. 2 ranked woman player, wrote on her verified Twitter page.

This was unlike anything the 32-year-old star with a FIDE rating of 2586 had done, but with the surge in interest in chess, she realised she had to get real online. "I was never interested in social media. I always knew there was a fake account but I never really bothered. But after this victory, many wanted me to respond to fans so I thought OK, I should better clarify now," said Humpy, who played a stellar role in the Indian team's passage to the final by clinching the tie-breaker against Poland.

If the discussion on her new dalliance with social media brought a big chuckle over the phone, Humpy broke out into laughter when describing how fans, mediapersons and everyone got involved to solve the power outage issue that caused defeat from a seemingly winning position for both her and captain Vidit Gujrathi against Mongolia. The duo lost on time after the power breakdown.

The minor setback got both Gujrathi and his deputy Srinath Narayanan to use their connections to ensure that the team suffered no such misfortune in the knockouts. As a result, an engineer and a line worker were positioned near Humpy's house in Hyderabad for every game and Viswanathan Anand's apartment complex in Chennai saw no power outage.

"This, perhaps, was the first instance where everyone joined hands... Many from the media used their contacts with the local internet guys (to ensure connectivity) and even the fans helped out," Humpy explained.

"We never got such attention before. But this Olympiad is historic as everyone will remember this for a very long time," she added.

#### Historic moment

It was indeed historic — the tournament began in 1927, and India debuted in it at Moscow in 1956 and promptly finished at the bottom of the pile. But an Indian had figured in the tournament previous-



ly — Sultan Khan, of Sargodha in the undivided Punjab, played at three Olympiads for England.

India won a medal for the first time in 2014, when the team of Parimarjan Negi, P Sethuraman, K Sasikiran, B Adhiban and Lalith Babu finished third behind China and Hungary.

India's greatest player, Viswanathan Anand, had not prioritised this event; he played in the biennial tournament five times in a row from 1984 to 1992, and then in 2004 and 2006, before making a return in 2018. His best is a individual silver in 2004, the year he took India to their then best of sixth position. But Anand was not India's first medallist at the Olympiad — that honour goes to Rafiq Khan,



I hope this will lead to many positive things, such as reconsideration in the Sports Ministry of the Arjuna Award and the Dronacharya Awards for chess.

— VISWANATHAN ANAND

Anand was wise to focus on his individual career as he was challenging for the world title, which he won several times; also, he probably did not have the motivation to compete in a tournament in which most of his teammates would be floundering.

However, as the GMs inspired by him became stronger, India's standing in the world of chess improved. India were ranked No. 7 for the Online Olympiad — a sign of the depth of talent in the country. And this time, India had an ace up their sleeves — the top-class teenagers.

#### Format, juniors clicked

For the first time, junior boards were included this year — each team had to have one male and female player aged 20 or below. This proved advantageous

for India as several talented youngsters such as Nihal Sarin (age 16, with ELO rating of 2620), R Praggnanandhaa (16, ELO 2608) and Raunak Sadhwani (14, ELO 2545) have emerged in the past few years. India has added an impressive 21 GMs in the last three years — and eight of them were in the 10-19 age-group when they got their final GM norm.

When called into action at the Online Olympiad, the teens held their own. Nihal beat Igor Janik in the semifinals against Poland when many of the accomplished names in the team, including Anand and Gujrathi, lost.

The other thing that clicked was the team spirit. "It was easy. Both Anand and Humpy are legends and made my life very easy, practically left all the decisions to me," captain Gujrathi explained.

#### Tough act to follow

Observers are quick to point out that while getting on the podium as joint winners with Russia (seven-time winners, plus 18 times as part of USSR) is big, a full-fledged Olympiad, where the top-five ranked players of a country participate, would be another ball game altogether.

International Master V Saravanan is delighted but also cautious. "US did not make it to the final because Hikaru Nakamura and Fabiano Caruana were not in the team. When teams like Russia, USA and China compete with their full bench strength, then India is out of contention," Saravanan said.

"But there is no denying that it is a significant achievement as they finished joint first amongst 163 countries."

#### Online boom

The Covid pandemic has given a big fillip to India's booming chess fraternity. More than 69,000 Indians were logged online to watch the final. Websites like ChessBase India and lichess.org and talk shows by Suryashekhar Ganguly had fans riveted to their screens.

"There is a feel-good factor. There is a lot of online activity because of the pandemic. You have more than 150 GMs playing Title Tuesday, which is featured on chess.com. It is here Arjun Kalyan beat Alireza Firouzja, who is touted as Magnus Carlsen's next biggest contender," Saravanan said.

Gujrathi is hopeful of a golden future. "We cannot sit on this thinking we have talented young players," he said. "We have to have a proper system so that the talent doesn't go to waste.

Olympians train for four years to have one shot at glory. We need a similar professional approach."

At present, it is all down to individual effort. And the fact that Anand, in his 51st year, is still easily India's best, despite obvious decline, speaks volumes. Since he became India No. 1 in 1986, only Pentala Harikrishna was able to overtake Anand, albeit for only one day in 2016! The juniors need to work hard to catch him before trying to catch the world.

"People like Vidit, Praggnanandhaa and Nihal are on par with Anand's talent when he broke out. But talent almost doesn't matter after reaching the 2700 rating mark. A person's approach, how happy and settled he is in life... Things like these will decide careers," Saravanan said.

India have four GMs in the world top-100 — the number is 24 for Russia, 10 for USA and nine for China. Ex-USSR countries such as Armenia and Azerbaijan have five each. It's clear that while possessing 66 GMs is impressive, to become a real chess power, India must get more of them in the top-100. The pre-teens and teens have their task cut out.

— With Rohit Mahajan

# The unsung sultan of chess

JUPINDERJIT SINGH

MORE than nine decades back, a man from Mitha Tiwana village of Punjab (now in Pakistan) travelled to England by sea. Two days upon his arrival, he beat the reigning world champion Jose Capablanca in a simultaneous chess exhibition match.

That win was no fluke as Capablanca was playing against 40 players, known as a simultaneous chess match. This man was Sultan Khan, who had only recently learnt the international format of chess after his first appearance in the Indian national championship.

Khan stayed in London for about four years. He beat the world champion again in a one-to-one match and won the British Chess Championship thrice. He also beat Czech Grandmaster Solomon Flohr and had a draw with Grandmaster Alekhine.

Despite beating the English, Sultan Khan passed into obscurity with neither the Indian nor the Pakistani government remembering his feat. FIDE, the world chess governing body, also did not commemorate his mastery. He died of tuberculosis in 1966 in his village, with not even an obituary for him in mainstream media.

He was part of the chess folklore in Punjab, though, as some old-timers often narrated his remarkable feat to youngsters.

According to chessmetrics.com, which calculates historical chess ratings, Khan was for at least a couple of years among the world's top 10 players, and ranked No. 6 in the world at his best. Sultan's feat is being remembered with the discovery of some rare games he had played, including the one against Capablanca in the simultaneous chess match, much before his game against the same player in 1930 in the British Chess Championship, which saw him in the headlines. A well-known chess player and commentator, Daniel King, has discovered these games and reproduced with modern analysis in his book, *Sultan Khan — The Indian servant who became chess champion of the British Empire*.



Sultan Khan beat top international players of his time to be among the world's top 10. But apart from his story being recounted in the chess folklore in Punjab, he remains largely unknown

RN Coles' book on him, *Mir Sultan Khan-Biography and games from the first Grandmaster of chess from India*, was published in 1965 but it did not have details about his personal life. In his book, King mentions that one Sir Umar Hayat Khan, a Muslim landlord and politician, saw his servant's brilliance in chess and sponsored him. He claimed Umar Hayat "used his servant's successes to promote his political interests in the turbulent years before India gained Independence."

In an online petition, Indian players through chessbaseindia.com are seeking the Grandmaster title for him. Meanwhile, players in Kolkata have kept his memory alive by naming a indoor sports hall as Sultan Khan Memorial Hall in the Salt Lake Football stadium.

#### From The Tribune archives

King's book says Khan passed into obscurity after he arrived in India. However, *The Tribune* newspaper archives reveal that Khan was active till 1940. News reports said he played simultaneous matches with 40 players just after he landed in Mumbai after making it big in the UK. Another report said he played simul tournaments against 20 players, and won all games. That tournament was held at Dera Ismail Khan in February 1940. Khan won the Governor's Trophy for his feat.

# Making all the right moves

JUPINDERJIT SINGH

WHEN Saanvi Aggarwal from Chandigarh won the second position in the Under-5 category of National Chess in 2018, she underlined the potential of chess players in North India.

Though presently Himanshu Sharma of Haryana is the only Grandmaster from North India to figure among the 66 GMs of the country, the game and level of chess players have improved manifold.

International Master (IM) Himal Gosain may soon be the first Grandmaster from Chandigarh. At 27, he already has two of the three mandatory norms required to win the title.

Tarini Goyal, who already has one international norm in her kitty, is all set to become a Woman International Master. Jalandhar's Dushyant Sharma, barely 17, got an IM norm last year.

Arvinder Preet from Ludhiana, working with the Railways, won the FIDE World Amateur Chess championship in the Under-2300 rating category in 2018.

Shaurya Kumar of Chandigarh won the prestigious Delhi Open tournament (Category C) in which more than 1,300 players took part.

Before, Baj Nath and Abhinandan Vohra, both trained Himal Gosain, and Naveen Bansal, who coached Tarini Goyal in the initial years of her career, had made a mark on the chess scene.



With nearly 1,000 active players at present, the game of chess and level of players from the region have grown manifold

The brother-sister duo of Punjab women's chess champion Shweta Rathore and Nitin Rathore run Chess Mantra coaching club in Mohali and Chandigarh. The duo came into limelight after the two appeared on TV show *Kaun Banega Crorepati*, hosted by Amitabh Bachchan. Nitin has coached Saanvi Aggarwal. "There are at least 1,000 active players in the region," said Nitin.

Indicating the growth of the game, former Uttar Pradesh champion Ram Parkash has opened a coaching club in Chandigarh. Mohammad Ibrahim, a

prominent player from South India, has also set up base here.

Though Himal Gosain and some other players got jobs on the basis performance in chess in the Railways and banks, lack of support from the governments in this region is seen as a dampener.

Gaurav Bansal, who runs the Chandigarh Shatrughna Parents Association, rues that Chandigarh and Punjab do not recognise chess as a graded game. "Players have to often travel to New Delhi and beyond if they want their child to reach a achieve a good level. This requires time and money," he says.

Juhil Goyal, mother of Tarini, did exactly that. "Juhil was working as a vice-principal with a prominent school in Chandigarh. She quit her job when she saw potential in our two daughters, Arunima and Tarini," says Ashish Goyal, her husband. He later became president of the Chandigarh Chess Association.

According to coach and international arbiter Naveen Bansal, to make a chess champion, the right kind of combination is a must. The foremost is the child's passion for the game, then comes the dedication of the parents, besides finding the right trainer with a good experience. It is important that he should have an in-depth understanding of the game.

"Making the parents understand the game and performance is more challenging than training the children," Bansal insists.

#### CAPTION CONTEST 1271

PALLAVI PINGE



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

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

#### Selected entries for Caption Contest 1270

August 29 issue (see photo)

- Blurred reality — Ankita, Chandigarh
- The virtual clarity — Shivani Jain, Ludhiana
- Focus on past — Jagmit S Pandher, VPO Kalahar, Ludhiana
- Epic to e-pic — Alka, Baltana, Mohali
- Up close and personal — Arafat Alam, New Delhi



# PMs' role in shaping Indian foreign policy

SANDEEP DIKSHIT

**B**OOKS by diplomats, as they are wont to do in service, generally mask their true feelings. The exceptions include books by Chinmaya Gharekhan where he laid bare the harsh truth about how and why the UN Security Council will never be expanded, or JN Dixit's take on Indo-Pak ties where he gives arguments from both sides of the fence to establish that the relationship can only be managed, never forcefully superimposed. Rajiv Dogra joined these ranks with his 'Durand's Curse', laying bare the British designs behind the vilification of the Pathans (as with every community the British fully or partially colonised) and the massacres portrayed as civilising missions.

Dogra's third book also opts for a no-holds-barred approach. Archival documents, facts on the ground and his rich experience rather than loyalty to service or trans-Atlantic lecture tours and fellowships guide the writing between the covers.

Tracing the foreign policy successes and disappointments under eight Prime Min-



The epilogue of the book focuses on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the master of surprises, spontaneity and drama in the conduct of foreign policy. FILE PHOTO: PTI

isters, barring Lal Bahadur Shastri, who served their full terms (IK Gujral, VP Singh and HD Deve Gowda also recorded modest successes in their all-too brief tenures as PM), Dogra admits their true feelings will never be known because the mask of a celebrity hides the real face from the public.

As Dogra traces the many well-known

of spontaneity, sudden surprises and frenetic activity emanating from South Block, India, which is viewed as a "swing power", is still to grease its hinges.

Nehru, like Fidel Castro, was not enamoured of non-alignment or the socialist bloc at the start of his innings. Rather, being the prima donna of non-alignment, he initially found his peers, Tito and Nasser, too radical and unpredictable. If non-alignment was a compulsion, Dogra takes apart Nehru for compounding the folly of Article 370 with Article 35-A both and upholds Modi for scrapping these.

Twice, goes the lore, Nehru was offered membership of the UN Security Council, first by the Russians and then by the Americans. The basis for both is reproduced for the readers to draw their conclusions. From appearances, both offers were hooks at the end of a string; as hard-boiled survivors of two world wars, Moscow and Washington were unlikely to give a free ride to a distant neighbour when they were remorselessly squeezing their near allies to subscribe to their worldview.

Dogra answers several subsidiary queries that have not been adequately addressed, besides studding the books with delicious tidbits — of how Modi went to meet Merkel (in Berlin), who was away in Latin America watching the football World Cup finals! Or that there was no

shady business behind Shastri's sudden passing away in Tashkent. In frail health, Shastri had a near-definite heart attack. Attacked from within (mostly by Nehru acolytes), he ran into foreign policy sandstorms right from the start. China tested its first nuclear device, his invitation to visit the US was withdrawn and finally hostilities with Pakistan broke out.

Dogra holds his own views and is convinced Pakistan will be irascible and petulant for all times to come. Hence, no PM is spared for softening towards Islamabad. These are the portions that need to be carefully pursued to get a fix on the Modi regime's approach to Pakistan and Kashmir, for their views coincide. Each PM had a unique style and while Indira Gandhi's exploits in Bangladesh need no retelling, a common thread that ran through her tenures was the concept of non-reciprocity with neighbours, which perhaps forced them to swallow her imperial style.

What of Modi, the master of surprises, spontaneity and drama in the conduct of foreign policy? Unlike most books, the epilogue here is focused on him. A country that aspires to become a stabiliser on a global scale, he feels, needs to heed that now-departed wise old man of Asia Lee Kuan Yew: India has to solve its economic and social problems before it can play a major role in Southeast Asia.

## Enigma called Parveen Babi

JASMINE SANDHU SANDHAWALIA



DONALD MARKS

**S**ENSUOUS, glamorous and bold, Parveen Babi set Indian cinema ablaze, making the stereotypical nice-pious heroine take a backstage and catapulting the industry into an era of contemporary western fashion and style.

Parveen did not have one conservative bone. An only child born to a middle-aged mother and a much older father, she grew up in a *haveli* with 54 rooms. The aristocrat graduated from Ahmedabad's St Xavier's. In Sanjay Khan's words, "Parveen read Richard Bach and could discuss Jean-Paul Sartre and existentialism; she was extremely extraordinary." It was this extraordinary streak which made her fiercely independent, successful and erratic.

The epitome of brains and beauty, however, went through three decades of intense love affairs with intelligent, famous and "not so common men" — from Kabir Bedi, Danny Bhett, to the rumoured affair with Amitabh Bachchan. In times when it was all hush-hush, the bold and beautiful woman from Junagadh could speak about her personal life and the men who she loved at different stages with great elan, while hiding behind a veil of cigarette smoke.

In her quest to find a family, love and the elusive God, Parveen was not doomed to find solace in Kabir, Bhett or Danny. The three buried her on January 30, 2005 to say a final goodbye.

Parveen lived with Danny in his apartment before they broke up after years. Then came the charming Kabir Bedi. They loved each other. Protima Bedi probably explained the enigma best in one line: "Parveen is a one-man woman." However, she lost Kabir and

Glamorous, bold and successful, Parveen Babi, however, led a life full of colours without any real hue in them.

had a tumultuous and intense relationship with Bhett. "She whispered 'I love you'; they were just three little words but the ache and anxiety in her voice betrayed how desperately she needed me to say those words to her. I did not," Bhett told the author Karishma Upadhyay. Parveen's was a life full of colours without any real hue in them. What shone through were empty words, lonely nights and the need to find a protector.

Was Parveen looking for a lover, or a man who would be her mother and father? She was six when her father died. Her relationship with her mother was rocky. There were no siblings. She held on to the crumbs of human affection. A series of nervous breakdowns began, coupled with the obsession with Amitabh. Her first hiatus in Bollywood was shorter than her second. She left the country and lived in the US for years. With 56 movies and a career which saw huge ups and downs, Parveen Babi like her favourite author Richard Bach covered an expanse which no ordinary woman could have done.

The one constant though was loneliness. She was alone in life and in death. The only man she did not blame was Danny. The book is an excellent read, it flows like poetry.

## Crossing over to the other side

PRIYANKA SINGH

**A**LL my friends have a phone, why can't I have one?" is an agonising plea, among several that would follow, which parents dread. Withholding it makes a parent instantly unfriendly, unreasonable, while capitulating to the demand will not be free of regret for handing the key to doors you'd wish they'd not walk through.

Parenting in these reckless times is as deeply frustrating as it is challenging. The value system lies turned on its head, imploded as it were. Restraint is a rusty relic. The easily bored 'Insta' generation is careening on thin ice, flirting with instant gratification to push boundaries that are disabling social skills and creating dysfunctional social beings.

At every turn is a dark temptation for a generation in a 'frightening hurry to expose itself body and soul'.

With things madly spinning out of control, parents — themselves under the grip of all things media — are battling on multiple fronts: cyberspace, drugs on school campus, alcohol abuse, voyeurism, rave parties, circulation of nude photos, promiscuity, behavioural issues.

Sometimes victims, often times perpetrators, children, too, have more coming at them than they can deal with: self-esteem issues, peer

pressure, burden of unreal expectations, competition, 'sexortion', cyberbullying, body-shaming, fitting in, even depression. They are sizing, and being constantly sized up for what they are, what they possess, how they look, in a world of near-perfect projections.

A future is a maybe, a contingent. All must happen 'now'. Everything, every act is to impress the sea of audience out there — already half the batte lost. The warm comfort, the exquisite intimacy of smaller circles is long vapourised.

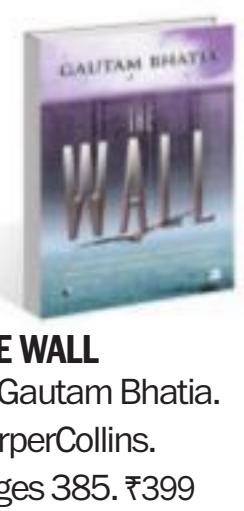
'Smells like teen spirit' was a chartbuster anthem for dispassionate Gen X kids. That was in the '90s, when the world was still on the cusp of digital revolution. Apathy has since assumed eerie dimensions.

Schools in the national capital are on the radar of drug cartels. Among the users are mid-schoolers, some as young as 12, who use drugs as 'experience enhancers', and also to 'make studies bearable'.

It may well be the story of every city. Parents and schools can't be on maximum alert. The disturbing trend is at the door.

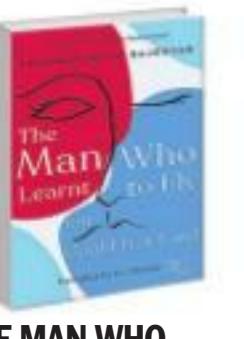
Intensively researched, 'Stoned... is a handbook for parents and children alike, with both playing a lone hand. It serves as a source book for the fermenting times, when cyber is the anonymous world teens wish to inhabit; where it is tough to be a parent, tougher to be a teenager.

**M**ITHILA'S world is bound by a wall enclosing the city of Sumer — nobody goes out, nothing comes in. Within the city, everyone knows their place. But when Mithila tries to cross the wall, every power in Sumer comes together to stop her. To break the rules is to risk all of civilization collapsing. But to follow them is to never know: who built the wall and why. Gautam Bhatia's fresh voice explores what it means to truly be free.



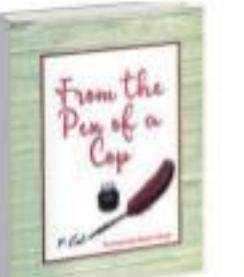
**THE WALL**  
by Gautam Bhatia.  
HarperCollins.  
Pages 385. ₹399

**T**HIS is a deeply personal and political story of KTN Kottoor, who is born into a family of rural wealth in a village nestled in British Malabar. As patriotic fervour grips the country, a veritable avalanche of new ideas and ideals shapes the young KTN. Award-winning author Thachom Poyil Rajeevan weaves a magical biography of a fictional writer, one inhabited by goddesses and ghosts, a fortune-telling parrot, dead humans in the avatar of crows, and a blind woman who hears — and sees — better than anyone else.



**THE MAN WHO LEARNT TO FLY BUT COULD NOT LAND**  
by Thachom Poyil Rajeevan. Translated by PJ Mathew.  
Hachette.  
Pages 328. ₹450

**S**OMETIMES serious, sometimes funny, 'From the Pen of a Cop' is a compilation of middles penned by P Lal, former IPS officer of Punjab cadre (1969 batch). The tragedy at the Kumbh of Allahabad in 1954, how to say no to gifts, the connection between babu and babudom, the proliferation in bureaucratic ranks — he writes in a simple yet lucid style. There is also a section on poems; a small section is dedicated to *bhajans*. Others books by him include 'SAMM', a collection of stories and motivational messages, and 'Let's Laugh and Laugh', a compilation of jokes.



**FROM THE PEN OF A COP**  
by P Lal.  
Mohindra Publishing House.  
Pages 348. ₹499

## Witness to unrest unravels Punjab's crises

PRABHJOT SINGH



Tribune File Photo

Acceptance of its 'rightful claim over river waters' continues to be a longstanding demand of Punjab.

Pramod Kumar, Director, Institute for Development and Communication, in his Foreword, says that to revisit the recent past by an actor, in this case a journalist who actively covered the decade-long politics of extremes, is always fraught with danger. These explorations provide crucial information for historical scrutiny. The process of reconstruction of facts involves subjectivity laced with political and ideological positioning.

Going by the author, the book in hand is about the Sikh religio-political discourse in the context of both the peaceful and militant struggle from the earlier days. He has taken up only selective militant actions, as these were the incidents which shaped the discourse at crucial moments. This book shatters several myths about the struggle and the players involved.

The prime focus, as the title suggests, is on the emotive issue of sharing river waters. Most of the essays are well documented. However, a few important revelations made in the book, including one about the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, need corroboration. The author says that while the names of all those who assassinated her and those part of the design are in public domain, at least three more people were part of the plan to avenge Operation Bluestar.

He mentions that one of these three, Manbir Singh Chaheru, purchased a plot in Mohali for Bimal Kaur Khalsa, wife of Delhi Police SI Beant Singh, one of the two

assassins. It appears to be a post-action (assassination) association that brought Bimal Khalsa in contact with Chaheru and Damdami Taksa. All said and done, it was the religious hurt that made Beant and Satwant kill Indira Gandhi. The author's revelation, however, cannot be dismissed as he may have gathered new information.

On the divisive subject of river waters, Jagtar Singh has tracked history very well. As expected, he has also talked about riparian law or principles. He has been successful in bringing out another important legal aspect that the state legislature never ratified any of the water awards. The Assembly took up the issue twice, first during the Akali government of Surjit Singh Barnala that annulled the 1981 award, and the action taken by the Congress government of Capt Amarinder Singh to annul all water agreements. It may sound strange that none of these legislative pronouncements could become effective. The issue has once again been thrown open by the apex court, necessitating the Centre to get back to the rigmarole of holding meetings with the Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana.

When the Barnala government annulled the 1981 award (Indira-Darbara Award), the Assembly simultaneously endorsed the Rajiv-Longowal Accord that mandated setting up of a tribunal to resolve the water-sharing dispute. The Eridi Tribunal, after an interim report in 1987, failed to give its final report. The author has obliquely mentioned the Tribunal.

## JCB Longlist out, winner on Nov 7

**I**NDIA'S richest literary award, the JCB Prize for Literature, has announced its longlist for 2020. In its third edition now, the award carries a prize money of ₹25 lakh. The shortlist of five will be announced on September 25, and the winner on November 7.



**DJINN PATROL ON THE PURPLE LINE**  
by Deepa Anapara | Penguin Random House

**IN SEARCH OF HEER** by Manju Bajaj | Westland

**UNDERTOW** by Jahnavi Barua | Penguin Random House

**CHOSEN SPIRITS** by Samit Basu | Simon Schuster

**THESE, OUR BODIES, POSSESSED BY LIGHT** by Dharini Bhaskar | Hachette

**MOUSTACHE** by S. Hareesh | HarperCollins

**A BURNING** by Megha Majumdar | Penguin Random House India

**A BALLAD OF REMITTENT FEVER** by Ashoke Mukhopadhyay | Aleph

**THE MACHINE IS LEARNING** by Tanuj Solanki | Pan Macmillan

**PRELUDE TO A RIOT** by Annie Zaidi | Aleph



## REFLECTIONS

## Bill Brady and the riding 'ustad' at Mt Abu



THE ITINERANT

NECHAL SANDHU

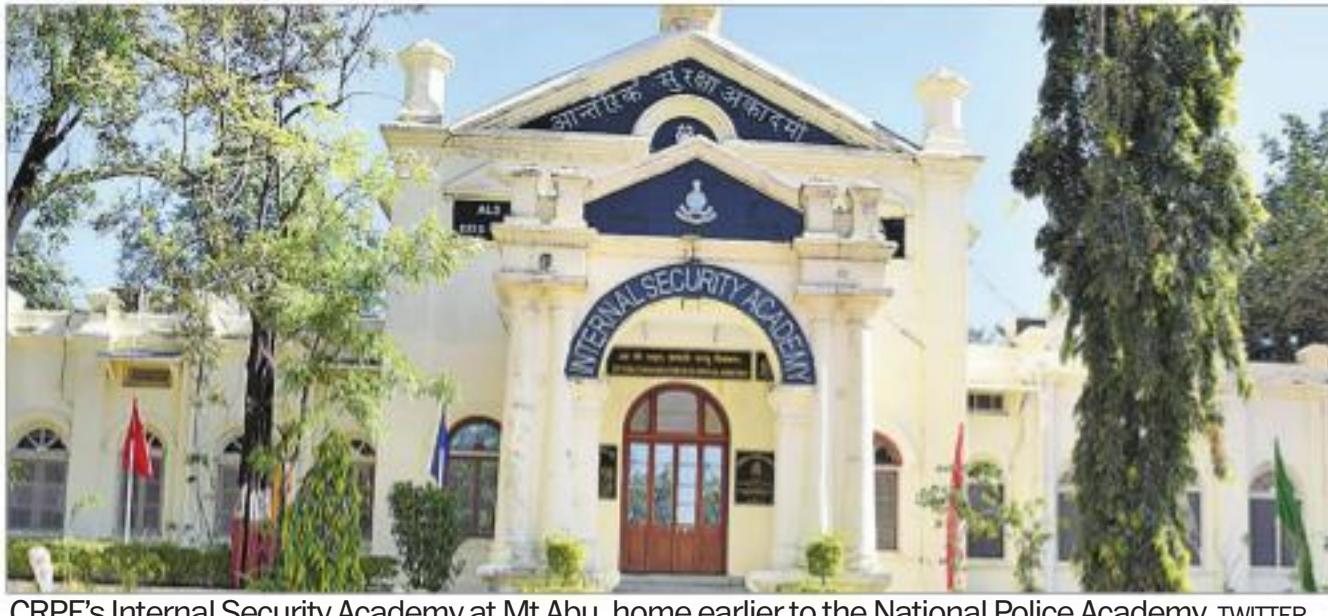
Nostalgia seeps in during the visit to the hallowed institution that had transformed naïve lads into strapping police officers over 45 years ago

**O**PPRESSIVE temperatures in the sultry plains of northern Gujarat ceded ground to a cool environment as we lumbered up the winding road towards Mount Abu, a verdant oasis on the trailing edge of the Aravallis in Rajasthan, in April 2018. An enthusiastic mix of 40-odd septagenarians and sexagenarians, travelling in two buses, craned their necks in anticipation of a view of the brainery that they had joined four-and-a-half decades earlier.

Not sharing the enthusiasm of their spouses, the accompanying wives and widows of three fallen colleagues remained unmoved by the wondrous portal of the hallowed institution that had transformed their husbands from naïve lads into strapping police officers.

This six-hour transit to Mount Abu was nothing like our 36-hour peregrination from Nagpur to Abu Road in the winter of 1973. From the fecund Vidarbha, known for oranges and sugarcane, our unshaken train took us to famine-stricken Nandurbar; parched fields bore testimony to the misery confronting the majority Bhil tribal population. Having traversed that tragedy-hit stretch, we coursed into a prosperous Gujarat culminating in Ahmedabad, seat then of the broad gauge-metre gauge fluxus.

The connecting steam locomotive-powered train pulled out on schedule but its slow speed and stops at obscure railway



CRPF's Internal Security Academy at Mt Abu, home earlier to the National Police Academy. TWITTER

stations made for halting progress. A dash to the head of the train at one of such halts revealed a delight — Bill Brady, the engine driver in his mid-fifties. An Anglo-Indian settled in Gujarat, he looked every bit an Irishman like his forefather. Bearded and dressed in impeccable white with a peak cap to match, he was an impressive figure. Invited into the engine driver's open cabin, two of us were spared the smoke and coal particles being blown backwards onto the passenger compartments. And so we rode with the unabashed Bill, who would occasionally break out into an old English number mindless of the company and the evident inability of the fireman to comprehend what was being intoned.

Dedicated to the point of being reverent, Bill's alertness did not flag; he would

dutifully lean out at intermediate stations with the train at full clip to throw the ball-shaped 'signalling token' onto the platform and to collect the next one with his forearm from the Station Master holding a hoop aloft. A bundle of energy, Bill outdid his fireman in shovelling coal from the tender into the firebox. The sight of men in white clothes and brightly-coloured turbans proceeding for work in the fields and women in a smorgasbord of bright and swirling dresses with brass pots on their heads made a memorable impression, which is yet to lose its original intensity and vibrancy.

Determined we were to savor every moment of our short stay and to show our wives what we had endured over a period of 12 months. Home to the Central Police

Training College (CPTC) since 1950, two years after Sardar Patel had fostered the formation of the All India Services, the Abu Lawrence School, built in 1849, had not changed. Nor had the parade ground. Only the gymnasium had been turned into an indoor chamber, which we used for an event to pay homage to our fallen colleagues.

Our digs in the Rajputana Hotel Estate, not too far away, had sadly deteriorated. It had been run as a hotel for Rajasthan royals and well-heeled Europeans quite profitably for 45 years by the Merwanjis since 1905. Peeved at the government decision (1950) to requisition the premises for housing IPS officer trainees, at a rent not even approximating the hotel's revenue potential, the Merwanjis allowed it to degenerate. Cash-strapped, the CPTC, rechristened as the National Police Academy in 1967, could not put up adequate money for satisfactory maintenance. And so it decayed, until the Academy moved to Hyderabad in 1975, leaving the campus to the CRPF for its Internal Security Academy.

Barracks that CPTC trainees had originally occupied (1948-1950) had reverted to the Army. The Sirmoor Rifles, the first Gurkha unit raised by the East India Company in 1824, which became 5/8 Gorkha Rifles after Independence, was the incumbent in our time. The then CO, Lt Col Jasbir Pal Singh Randhawa's commanding presence, commitment to high standards and ability to do better than most of his

younger colleagues was a source of inspiration. No wonder, reporting on the Chhamb battle in 1971, veteran broadcaster Melville de Mellow had portrayed him as 'an officer with enough 'josh' to set the (river) Tawi on fire'.

Visits to Guru Shikhar, Dilwara temples, Nakki lake and Sunset Point, for acquainting the wives with the sights, were disappointing with tourists in significant numbers thronging every venue. Fortunately, the game sanctuary built by Col GH Trevor, an engineer who wrote "Rhymes of Rajputana" about the chieftains and leading families in Rajputana at the turn of the 20th century, appeared unscarred by visitors. The significant crocodile population in the lake central to this wildlife habitat might have been the deterrent.

Trevor likewise built the Oval, a stadium used for our parades and advanced levels of equestrian training. Bystanders would revel in our humiliation as we tumbled off our steeds amidst bids to jump over fences with stirrups crossed. Artless efforts by unsure riders to feed jaggery to the horses before the session did nothing to ingratiate the mounts. While conducting our wives around what is now Barkatullah Stadium, we chose not to reveal the ignominy heaped on us by the riding *ustad*.

As the sojourn concluded, we departed with refreshed memories of happy times spent together, deepened bonds and a silent prayer on our lips for our 17 fallen colleagues.

## Immeasurable pleasure of small things



Pandemic's been a trying experience, but all we can do is wait, hold ourselves together. PTI

'**F**UN,' says author Bill Bryson recalling his childhood, 'was a different kind of thing in the 1950s, mostly because there wasn't so much of it... You learnt to wait for your pleasures, and to appreciate them when they came.' If Bryson can say this of his childhood in the America of the Fifties, surely the most prosperous and hedonistic country of those times, then where does one even begin to describe the kind of waiting that we did here in India when we were growing up in the Fifties in small towns and in middle class homes?

Lucknow in the Fifties or Allahabad in the Sixties seem so far away in time, yet the life we had there often comes back to me now in black and white dreams. I am constantly taken aback by how much I remember from that time and how a stray taste, smell or melody can set off a train of thoughts, always accompanied by an unheard-by-others-but-clearly-by-my-ears Raga Piloo played by Pannalal Ghosh. Perhaps it is because it was the signature tune that always accompanied the Films' Division newsreel screened before the Sunday morning show of the children's film at Lucknow's Mayfair Theatre. The sonorous voice of Melville de Mellow or Romesh Thapar that accompanied the film footage of a drought or villages marooned by flood waters in Assam rings clearly in my ears even now after almost half a century.

We suffered these delaying tactics because they made the whole experience of watching a film on a Sunday a treat that would last us for the next month. Seeing films at reduced rates, as at special children's shows, were the only indulgence allowed by our frugal parents. We were also allowed either a packet of chips or a small bar of chocolate, not both together. So my brother and I shared our packet of chips, down to the last one broken in two neat

halves, and a small bar of Cadbury's measured and carefully cut into two. To date, I feel guilty about eating a packet of potato chips or a whole bar of chocolate all by myself.

And how we waited for those interminable train journeys with masses of messy luggage: holdalls, a word that will probably send youngsters to Hobson-Jobson for reference, tin trunks (suitcases were an unheard-of luxury in my family) that required determined haggling over coolie rates on platforms that were always reeking of stale pee and phenyl. The wars fought over window seats and the lurching rattle of the steam engines as they were finally flagged off. We bought comics (only allowed to be bought on railway platforms) and re-read them for months. Superman, Phantom, Illustrated Classics were the stuff we'd sell our souls for. I cannot now remember whether I read *Lorna Doone* in the original or as an Illustrated Classic. For this reason, perhaps, the new graphic novels, hailed as an exciting new genre, move me not: how can something that gives you secret pleasure be liked and encouraged by grown-ups?

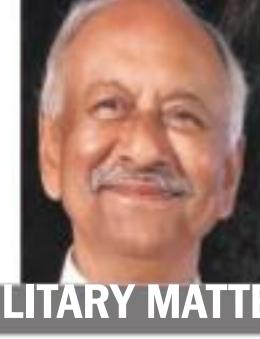
How times have changed and how indulgent today's parents seem when compared with ours. Among the many lessons that were instilled into us as children, I think the most valuable was patience. I considered myself quite im-

tient but when I see the world around me, I realise that it is not just patience that was inculcated at a subliminal level into us but forbearance, the quality that gave us the courage to take things in our stride and not complain about those things we cannot change. It seems to me — and no doubt to many of my generation — that we have adjusted very well to the lockdown. It has been months since we have stepped out except for our walks and the occasional visit to a bank. I would be lying if I said it has not become tedious to spend day after day inside the same house, with just each other. Yet we know that we cannot do anything but wait and hold ourselves together.

Of course, one must admit that there is much cause for the young to feel anxious, what with the dismal economic situation and shrinking salaries. Life no longer seems as secure as it was just a few months ago and many young people, after spending huge amounts of money and time on earning their degrees, are no longer sure whether they can earn enough to pay back the loans they have taken. For those who have jobs, the worry is how to pay their EMIs and the school fees for their children after their salaries have been cut. Despite this, few are willing to give up certain luxuries that are now no longer affordable. They had become accustomed to instant gratification of their desires and were easily seduced into buying whatever was dangled in front of their eyes — a larger flat, a bigger car, a more expensive vacation or whatever. Now that that is not always possible, panic attacks and depression have overtaken many young people. The most recent example is that of the actor Sushant Singh Rajput, whose life and death are being played out every day as a morality play for the millennials.

Never forget you are not alone and that it is within your own power to keep your head above water.

## Sgt Uday Singh, salute



MILITARY MATTERS

LT GEN SR GHOSH (RETD)

sacrifice too great — Duty first'.

On December 11, Uday was cremated with full US honours at his hometown Chandigarh in the presence of a large American contingent. In his homage, General James Campbell, Commander of the US Pacific Army, who flew in from Hawaii, said, "Today, we stand tall as a nation and an army and in our grieving take enormous pride in saluting Sergeant Uday Singh for his noble stance to make the world safer, his sense of honour and commitment and his loyal and faithful service to our country."

On January 8, 2004, the urn containing Sergeant Uday's ashes was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington DC. Amongst the mourners stood his parents, relatives and the three Indian Military Attachés in full ceremonial dress. There was not a single dry eye as both parents, in very emotional eulogies, spoke of their son, who lived an Indian but died under the flag of the United States in another foreign land. As the seven-member rifle squad fired three volleys in salute and Sergeant Major Henry Sgreccio's bugle call adapted from 'Extinguish Lights' faded away, Brigadier General Mark O'Neill presented the parents with the US flag, citations posthumously awarding Uday Singh the Bronze Star for valour and the Purple Heart and citizenship of the United States.

Today, Grave Number 8,122 in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery is just like thousands of other graves of US soldiers, except that the headstone has a 'khanda' instead of a cross and under it lie the ashes of Sergeant Uday Singh, the gallant young soldier from India who could not don stars on his shoulders or the badge of 2 Lancers, his father's armoured regiment.

A salute to you, warrior Uday. May you be at peace at the hallowed Hall of Valhalla.

## Educational disaster looms if no solutions are quickly found



Amid the pandemic, not enough attention has been paid to students, who are the foundation of our future. TRIBUNE PHOTO

**T**HE Covid-19 pandemic has been with us since almost the beginning of the year. And it is likely to continue till at least the end of this year, and perhaps beyond. It has had the most profound effect on the lives of virtually every person on the planet. One can only think of the two World Wars of the 20th century that have had a comparable impact. Most of us have been confined to our homes, having to adjust our existence as best as we can. Tens of millions of jobs have been lost and the economy of every country has suffered in varying degrees. The hospitality, travel, tourism, entertainment and sports sectors have been the most calamitous hit. In India, the plight of millions of migrants, forced to get back to their homes one way or the other, has perhaps been the most pitiable sight of all.

However, not enough attention has been paid to school and college-going children, who are the foundation of our future. From March, when an official lockdown started, schools and colleges all across the country have been closed. And the closure will remain in effect till at least the end of this month, perhaps even longer. In most other countries, the lockdown was announced earlier than March, but has now been lifted

for many educational institutions, with restrictions, of course, like the compulsory wearing of masks, social distancing and sanitising of classrooms. In the UK, for instance, schools have reopened, despite continuing coronavirus infections. It has taken into account the risks involved, arguing that there is no real substitute yet for providing children with physical classrooms and face-to-face interaction with their teachers, even though the number of children in the classroom will be restricted. India has not taken that step yet but may have to do so in the near future. Earlier, a staggering 1.3 billion of the world's children — the entire

population of India — were out of school in 186 countries for at least six months. Hence, this has been a global challenge, for which global solutions need to be found urgently. If not, we face the prospect of a generation of educationally-stunted children who will find it difficult to cope as adults.

Here, I intend to only deal with the challenge faced by our country. Being a member of the Delhi Public School Society, which either directly runs or has franchised out over 200 private schools all over India, I have been exposed to the problems that schools are now grappling with, consequent to the pandemic. With the sudden physical closure of schools, online teaching has become absolutely essential for 240 million children and nine million teachers. The wide-ranging implications of this are slowly dawning on us — children, parents and teachers.

Four years ago, there were only 1.6 million Indian users for the online education market. By next year, that number is expected to skyrocket to 10 million, giving an indication of the phenomenal growth and importance of online learning. Enormous adjustments are going to be needed for teachers and their students alike. Eye-to-eye contact between teacher and students in a physical classroom, even with 30-40 students, is essential

to gauge how much, or how little, attention the student is paying. Teachers also gain the respect of students with their physical presence before them. This is clearly not possible with online teaching and studying. Hence, teachers need to develop different skills, while students need to get used to being taught via a smartphone or computer.

However, even before coming to that, let's look at the digital infrastructure at hand. And there the situation is truly bleak. Yes, we have an estimated 450 million Internet users, the second largest of any nation except China, but the proportion between urban and rural users is badly skewed: 40 per cent of those living in cities and towns, just 15 per cent in villages (where over 50 per cent of Indians reside and work). In fact, 55,000 villages have no mobile network coverage at all. In other words, only a minuscule percentage of students in the countryside have access to online teaching. That is a tragic statistic, especially now.

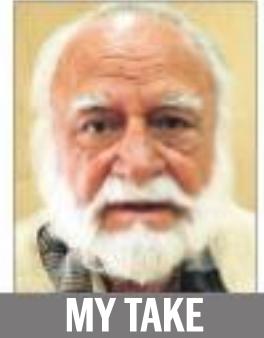
But the reality on the ground is even worse. Internet coverage is not the only requirement for online teaching and studying. The students, or parents, must have one of three digital devices: a smartphone, tablet or computer. Most Indian families have ordinary, inexpensive cell phones,

and a non-smart TV set. A revealing survey by the Maharashtra State Council of Educational Research and Training, along with UNICEF, shows that two-thirds of households in the state don't have access to smartphones, and that less than 1 per cent have desktop computers or laptops. So, no online teaching is possible for them. The position in other states could not be any better. In sum, only a small percentage of our population has the basic infrastructure for online teaching and studying. And, needless to say, the government-run "free" schools are even worse off in this respect than private fee-paying ones.

The new National Education Policy that has just been unveiled says that the outlay on education, which is only a little over 2 per cent of GDP, should be increased to at least 6 per cent. Such laudable intentions have been announced before, but have never been fulfilled. In May, the Prime Minister had outlined a fairly large "stimulus package" to revive the economy in the wake of the pandemic. Another similar "package" is urgently needed to provide smartphones and tablets to students whose parents cannot afford them. Otherwise, an educational disaster looms ahead.

*The writer is a veteran journalist*

1.3 billion children were out of school in 186 countries for at least six months. In India, the challenge is more pronounced as only a small percentage has the basic infrastructure for online teaching and studying



MY TAKE

RAHUL SINGH

# Nadda: Govt took care of economy, turned tragedy into opportunity

Says BJP will form next govt in Odisha | Lashes out at CM Patnaik

TRENTUE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 5

Launching a strong attack against the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD government in Odisha, BJP president JP Nadda today said it would not be long before the saffron party, which has emerged as the lead opposition in the state, would form the government there with an absolute majority.

"Undoubtedly, the next government in the state will be that of the BJP," Nadda said, addressing the Odisha BJP state executive meeting.

The party has moved forward at a fast pace since the 2014 Lok Sabha elections when it got 21 per cent of the vote share, he said. "In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, with nearly one crore votes the BJP received 38 per cent of the votes. Similarly, in the 2014



BJP president JP Nadda addresses the Odisha BJP state executive meeting via video-conferencing in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

**While powerful nations were helpless in combating the Covid-19 pandemic, PM Narendra Modi was clear in his mind as he took the decisive action of imposing the lockdown.**

JP Nadda, BJP PRESIDENT

Odisha Legislative Assembly elections, the BJP got 18 per cent votes and in 2019 it got 32 per cent votes. The BJP's vote share has to increase above 50

per cent," Nadda said, asking the party cadres to take a pledge regarding this.

"India not only took the bold and timely step of

imposing a lockdown to save the lives of 1.3 billion people from Covid-19, but also took care of the economy to turn the tragedy into an opportunity," he added.

Nadda said while powerful nations were helpless in combating the pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was clear in his mind as he took the decisive action of imposing the lockdown in order to save the lives of the people.

He accused the Odisha Government of indulging in "rampant corruption". "Be large hearted to give credit to the Centre for its welfare schemes," he advised Patnaik, claiming that they had been "hijacked" by his government as its schemes. He also came down heavily on the state government for not implementing the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

SC refuses to stay order on teachers' appointment

TRENTUE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 5

The Supreme Court (SC) has refused to stay an Allahabad High Court order upholding the Uttar Pradesh Government's directions amending the rules governing the appointment of teachers in minority-run aided institutions in the state.

"The prayer for interim relief to stay the judgment dated April 22, 2020, is rejected," a three-judge Bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said in an order on September 3.

The Bench, which also included Justice R Subhash Reddy and Justice MR Shah, however, issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh Government, asking it to respond in eight weeks to the petition filed by the Management Committee of National Inter College, Bulandshahr.

It allowed the petitioner's counsel to serve a copy of the plea to the UP standing counsel.

# Rhea's brother in NCB custody

CBI team visits actor Sushant's home yet again

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 5

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), which on Saturday obtained the custody of Rhea Chakraborty's brother Showik in the drugs case linked to the probe into actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death, said it had got "inkling" of the narcotics network and penetration in Bollywood.

Showik "dealt in drugs with many others", the NCB told a court here as it obtained his custody along with that of Rajput's house manager Samuel Miranda till September 9.

NCB Deputy Director General of the south-west region Mutha Ashok Jain told mediapersons that while the agency's mandate is to "look for the big fish" and probe international and interstate drugs transactions, it will "not shirk its responsibility" now that it is getting information about this alleged drugs nexus.

"Normally this is not part of our mandate, but now that we are getting information... This case has given us an inkling of



Actor Rhea Chakraborty's brother Showik being brought back from a court hearing to the NCB office in Mumbai on Saturday. PTI

the network and the extent of the penetration," he said.

"The whole idea of taking custody remand (of Showik and Miranda) is to make people confront each other to clarify their individual role. So, yes we will be asking her (Rhea) to join investigation and may be some other people because we also need a clarity as to who did what," Jain added.

Showik and Miranda were arrested on Friday night by the NCB under the NDPS Act after questioning them for 10 hours. The NCB produced them in a court here on Saturday. Seeking their custody, it said Showik needs to be confronted with Rajput's personal staff Dipesh Sawant, and Rhea who is the main accused in the actor's death case. Meanwhile, a CBI team visited Rajput's Bandra flat again on Saturday as part of its investigation into the suicide case. — PTI

# NIA chargesheets two for theft aboard aircraft carrier

TRENTUE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 5

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today said it has charged two accused in a case pertaining to theft of computer devices, including hard disc and RAM, from under-construction indigenous aircraft carrier at the Cochin Shipyard between July and September 2019.

NIA officials said accused Sumit Kumar Singh, a resident of Munger, Bihar, and Daya Ram of Hanumangarh district, Rajasthan, were booked under various sections of Indian Penal Code and Information Technology (IT) Act for criminal trespass and theft of critical electronic components, including processors, random access

'Stole' computer hardware from warship being built at Cochin

memory and solid state drives, installed aboard the Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) under construction at the shipyard.

The case was originally registered at the Ernakulam town south police station of Kochi on September 16, 2019, under sections of the IPC based on the complaint of the Deputy General Manager of the shipyard, the official said.

Anti-terror probe agency took over the case on October 16, 2019, and after "meticulous, extensive and scientific investigation" spread over nine months across several

states, the agency zeroed in on the two accused persons, who were arrested from their native places.

During interrogations, the accused confessed to the crime and revealed they were engaged as contract employees for painting work aboard the IAC between February and September 2019.

While working aboard the IAC, they had observed the computer systems functioning on the warship and conspired to commit theft of computer hardware components for monetary gain, the officials said, adding they sold one stolen processor well before the theft was detected and the case registered. Other devices were recovered from them after their arrest on June 10 this year, they said.

# BJP battles growing PM Modi video 'dislikes'

TRENTUE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 5

The trend that started last Sunday with an unprecedented number of 'dislikes' on Prime Minister Narendra Modi monthly radio show 'Mann ki Baat' does not appear to be showing any signs abating.

A video posted today by the BJP on its official channel, where the PM can be seen interacting with a woman probationer again saw 'dislikes' outnumbering 'likes' by a huge number.

**Coric stuns Tsitsipas, Bopanna in Round 2**  
NEW YORK: Croatian Borna Coric saved six match points as he rallied from 1-5 down in the fourth set to stun Stefanos Tsitsipas 6(7)-2 6-4 6-7(5) 7-6(4) and send the fourth seed tumbling out of the US Open in the third round. The Indo-Canadian pair of Rohan Bopanna and Denis Shapovalov made it to the second round of the men's doubles after defeating the American pair of Ernesto Escobedo and Noah Rubin 6-2 6-4 in one hour and 22 minutes. — Agencies

## England fight back to beat Oz in T20 thriller

SOUTHAMPTON: England produced a brilliant comeback to beat Australia on the final ball of their first T20 international on Friday after the visitors looked to be cruising to victory in their first competitive match for six months. England posted 162/7 after 44 from Jos Buttler and 66 from Dawid Malan, but Australia were in command after a brilliant 98-run opening stand by David Warner (58) and Aaron Finch (46). The win put England one up in the three-match series. — Reuters

## STARTED WITH 'MANN KI BAAT' LAST SUNDAY

- Trend started last Sunday when 'Mann ki Baat' received record 'dislikes'. It was attributed to outrage among JEE/NEET aspirants
- A video of PM Modi interacting with a woman probationer again saw 'dislikes' outnumbering 'likes'
- PM's address at US India Strategic and Partnership Forum too registered over one lakh dislikes

In fact, a worried BJP chose not to provide the option (of hitting the 'like' or 'dislike' button) on the video of his interaction with IPS probationers posted on the channel yesterday.

This comes after PM's address at the third leadership summit of the US India Strategic and Partnership Forum registered more than one lakh dislikes compared to about half the number of 'likes'.

An animated video of the work done by his government during the Covid pandemic also saw 'dislikes' outnumbering the 'likes'. Though the BJP blames it on 'Opposition conspiracy', the trend is coinciding with outrage among students, appearing for JEE and NEET and also those aspiring for various government jobs, who are upset over delay in results, recruitment notification and issuance of admit cards.

It all began last Sunday when PM Modi's 'Mann ki Baat' received a record number of 'dislikes' to become one of the most disliked videos on the channel. While students and those aspiring for jobs expected him to address the issue, the PM skipped talking about them. Soon social media trend started with users asking why he did not address the important issues involving lives and career of lakhs across the country. The BJP claims only a fraction of those hitting the 'dislike' button is from India, terming it all a 'Congress game plan' to pull down PM's image.

## INDIAN RAILWAY FACILITATES THE CANDIDATES APPEARING IN NATIONAL DEFENCE ACADEMY AND NAVAL ACADEMY EXAMS

### EXAM SPECIAL TRAINS

**It is notified for the information of all concerned that following trains will be run by Northern Railway on 06.09.2020 to facilitate the candidates appearing in National Defence Academy and Naval Academy Exams:-**

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Stoppages
04601	Chandigarh	23:00	Pathankot Jn	04:45	Jalandhar Cantt. - Ludhiana Jn - Sahibzada Ajitsingh Nagar (Mohali)
04603	Chandigarh	22:00	Gurdaspur	05:25	Amritsar - Jalandhar City - Ludhiana Jn - Sahibzada Ajitsingh Nagar (Mohali)
04002	Chandigarh	23:30	Delhi	04:30	Sonipat - Panipat - Karnal - Kurukshetra Jn - Ambala Cantt. Jn
04502	Una Himachal	04:00	Chandigarh	07:00	
04501	Chandigarh	21:00	Una Himachal	23:45	Roop Nagar - Sahibzada Ajitsingh Nagar (Mohali)
04605	Chandigarh	22:30	Faridkot	05:15	Bhatinda Jn - Barnala - Patiala - Ambala Cantt. Jn
04607	Chandigarh	21:30	Fazilka Jn	04:30	Firozpur Cantt Jn - Moga - Ludhiana Jn - Sahibzada Ajitsingh Nagar (Mohali)
04503	Saharanpur	04:45	Chandigarh	06:55	Yamunanagar Jagadhri - Ambala Cantt. Jn
04504	Chandigarh	21:05	Saharanpur	23:30	
04004	Chandigarh	21:55	Bhiwani	05:15	Rohtak Jn - Jind - Narwana Jn - Kaithal - Kurukshetra Jn - Ambala Cantt. Jn
04006	Chandigarh	23:45	Sirsia	08:00	Hisar - Sangrur - Dhuri Jn - Ludhiana Jn - Sahibzada Ajitsingh Nagar (Mohali)
04008	Dehradun	23:00	Delhi	06:40	Delhi Shahdara - Baghpat Road - Shamli - Saharanpur - Roorkee - Haridwar Jn
04012	Dehradun	22:00	Delhi	05:45	Delhi Shahdara - Ghaziabad - Meerut - Muzaffarnagar - Saharanpur - Roorkee - Haridwar Jn
04302	Dehradun	21:30	Moradabad	04:30	Amroha - Gajraula Jn - Bijnor - Muzaffarpur Narain Jn - Haridwar Jn
04013	Mathura Jn	05:00	H. Nizamuddin	07:00	Palwal - Faridabad
04014	H. Nizamuddin	21:00	Mathura Jn	23:15	
04016	Hisar	00:30	Delhi	04:30	Hansi - Bhiwani - Rohtak Jn - Bahadurgarh - Shakurbasti
04015	Delhi	18:00	Hisar	22:00	
04018	Jind	04:00	Delhi	06:30	Rohtak Jn
04017	Delhi	20:30	Jind	23:00	
04020	Karnal	04:00	New Delhi	06:25	Panipat Jn - Sonepat
04019	New Delhi	20:00	Karnal	22:30	
04304	Bulandshahar	04:15	Delhi	07:00	Hapur - Ghaziabad - Delhi Shahdara
04303	Delhi	20:00	Bulandshahar	22:45	
04022	Rewari	04:00	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	05:45	Gurgaon - Delhi Cantt
04021	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	20:00	Rewari	21:40	
04202	New Delhi	20:50	Lucknow	05:15	Unnao Jn - Kanpur Central - Etawah - Firozabad - Hathras Jn - Aligarh Jn - Dadri - Ghaziabad
04204	Delhi	19:50	Lucknow	05:30	Hardoi - Shahjehanpur - Bareilly - Moradabad - Amroha - Ghaziabad
04609	Gurdaspur	04:00	Jammu Tawi	07:20	Pathankot Jn - Kathua - Samba
04610	Jammu Tawi	19:00	Gurdaspur	22:15	
04506	Saharanpur	04:00	Delhi	07:30	Muzaffarnagar - Meerut City Jn - Ghaziabad - Delhi Shahdara
04505	Delhi	19:00	Saharanpur	22:45	
04024	Shamli	05:00	Delhi	07:15	Baghpat Road - Delhi Shahdara
04023	Delhi	19:30	Shamli	21:45	
04507	Solan	04:30	Shimla	07:10	Budgam
04508	Shimla	18:30	Solan	21:10	
04612	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	05:10	Jammu Tawi	06:45	Udhampur
04611	Jammu Tawi	19:00	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	20:40	
04613	Baramula	05:30	Srinagar	06:40	
04614	Srinagar	18:30	Baramula	19:50	
04615	Banihal	05:00	Srinagar	06:45	Anantnag
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