

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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TIME TO TURN THE PAGE, SAYS
BIDEN AFTER OFFICIAL WIN WORLD

FACEBOOK ACTED AS CATALYST FOR
RECORD FDI IN INDIA: AMBANI BUSINESS

UK PM TO BE CHIEF GUEST
ON REPUBLIC DAY BACK PAGE

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

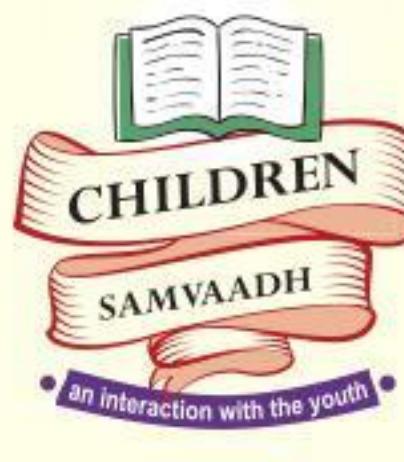


4th Military Literature
Festival 2020 (Virtual)

f LIVE @MilLitFest

YouTube LIVE Military Lit Fest

www.militaryliteraturefestival.com



Wednesday, 16th DEC 2020 | Time: 11 AM

Motivational talk by Cadets of The Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed Forces Preparatory Institute & Mai Bhago Armed Forces Preparatory Institute



Thursday, 17th DEC 2020 | Time: 11 AM

Capture of Tiger Hill - Video & Talk by Sub Maj Yogender Singh, PVC



IN BRIEF

US court dismisses case against Modi

NEW DELHI: A US court dismissed a \$100-million lawsuit against PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. The case, filed before the Howdy Modi rally last year, challenged the re-organisation of J&K into two UTs. The case was dismissed on October 22. [BACK PAGE](#)

K'taka sees ruckus over no-trust motion

BENGALURU: The Karnataka Legislative Council witnessed high drama on Tuesday with BJP-JDS and Congress members hurling abuses and pushing each other and the Deputy Chairman being pulled down from the Chairman's seat over a row pertaining to the no-trust motion. [PTI](#)

Tablighi Jamaat: 36 foreigners acquitted

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Tuesday acquitted 36 foreigners, who were charged with attending a Tablighi Jamaat event, allegedly in violation of the Covid guidelines. The court acquitted the foreigners from 14 countries of all charges. [PTI](#)



RLYS EXTENDS PARTIAL CANCELLATION TILL DEC 18

Ludhiana: Attributing disruption of rail traffic in the region to farmers' stir, the Northern Railway has extended the cancellation, partial cancellation and diversion of trains till December 18. [INSIDE](#)

BJP REAL 'TUKDE TUKDE' GANG, SAYS SUKHBIR

SAD chief Sukbir Badal said the BJP was the real 'tukde tukde' gang. "It has smashed national unity, inciting communities against each other."



Unions frown upon religious symbolism

VISHAV BHARTI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

TIKRI, DECEMBER 15

After keeping politicians at bay, farm union leaders have now said they won't allow their protest to become a religious platform.

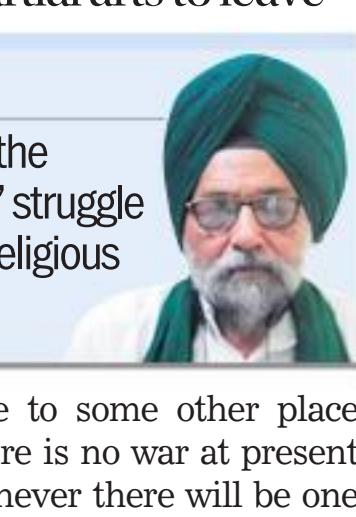
With members of various religious organisations turning up in support of the farmers, union leaders today decided not to let anyone indulge in religious symbolism.

In one such move, Balbir

Tell Nihangs practising martial arts to leave

DON'T WANT STIR TO LOSE FOCUS

The decision is taken to keep the movement focused. It is a farmers' struggle and we don't want any branding, religious or political. Jagmohan Singh, BKU (DAKAUNDA)



Singh Rajewal, while conveying the decision of 32 farm bodies, asked Nihangs camping near barricades to move to some other place. "There is no war at present. Whenever there will be one, we will call you. It is a peace-

ful struggle," he said, while asking the Nihangs not to practise martial arts at the protest site. Nihang leader Deep Singh Khalsa said they had come to support farmers. "The leaders because of their selfish interests want us to go back," he alleged.

Rajewal's statement was also criticised on social media. He later said his motive was not to hurt anybody's sentiments. [CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE](#)

Warships, jets part of maritime command; contours finalised

AJAY BANERJEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 15

India is set to create an overarching maritime command. It will have warships, fighter jets, helicopters, submarines, aircraft carriers and special amphibious brigades of the Army.

To be headed by the Navy, the command's contours were finalised and shared with the chiefs of the three-armed forces a couple of weeks ago.

Before the year ends, the plan is expected to be sent to the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat for a decision and government's approval.

Creating theatre commands with elements of all three armed forces operating jointly is the mandate of the CDS, a post created in January this year. The command will not just cover both sides of the peninsula but also aims to dominate a vast area.

The Navy assumes its area of influence from the Straits of Hormuz to the west and Straits of Malacca to the east.

BASED IN KARNATAKA

- Likely to be based in Karwar (Karnataka), the maritime command will be the sole point for sea operations.
- All naval commands will fall under a maritime theatre commander.
- It will comprise warships, submarines, fighter jets, helicopters, etc.

Sources said the proposal is to have a maritime theatre commander, an Army commander-level officer, based out of Karwar (Karnataka), just south of Goa. The Western, Eastern, Southern and Andaman and Nicobar Naval Commands along with two specialised Army brigades will be under the maritime commander.

The various elements of Coast Guard on east and west coasts will be woven into the same architecture.

In other words, the maritime theatre commander will be responsible for securing the sea lanes of communications and maritime security along the 7,500 km coastline.

Count dips, but Pb fatalities worrisome: Govt

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

After 5 months, daily cases fall below 23,000

CO-WIN TO COLLECT VAX REACTION DATA

The government on Tuesday said a mechanism was being put in place for the management of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) as and when the Covid-19 vaccination starts. Each event will have to be reported on the digital delivery platform — Co-WIN.



VICE ADMIRAL SRIKANT DIES OF COVID [BACK PAGE](#)

below 23,000 after five months, bringing the country to the situation as it existed in July.

COVID-19 CASES INDIA

RECOVERED 94,22,636
FRESH FATALITIES 354
TOTAL DEATHS 143,709

WORLD

TOTAL 7,35,35,996
RECOVERED 5,15,99,044
DEATHS 16,35,351

29K COLD CHAIN POINTS

The Centre said logistics were in place for vaccine delivery for which the country will use 29K cold chain points, 45K ice-lined refrigerators & 41K deep freezers.

Below 23,000 after five months, bringing the country to the situation as it existed in July.

week starting December 9. It was 22 for the week starting November 18. Five states with the highest fatalities are Delhi (52 deaths in the week starting December 9); Maharashtra (70), Kerala (30), Bengal (47) and Punjab (24).

Average daily new cases on a weekly basis are the highest in Kerala (4,624), Maharashtra (4,003), Rajasthan (1,432), Bengal (2,653) and Delhi (2,129). "Our comparison vis-a-vis the world is satisfying. Daily deaths are under 400 and daily new cases have fallen below 23,000. This situation prevailed in July. We are happy, but cautious. We can't be lax as the situation can change unexpectedly," said VK Paul, member, Health, NITI Aayog.

However, Punjab's weekly average for daily deaths has been high at 24 for the

Parl to skip winter session, may meet for Budget in Jan

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 15

Amid the ongoing protests by Congress MPs from Punjab, the government said a majority of parties in Parliament prefer doing away with the winter session and it is willing to call the Budget session in January 2021.

"At present, we are in the middle of December and a Covid vaccine is expected soon. I have informally contacted floor leaders of various political parties, and they have expressed their concerns about the pandemic and suggested doing away with the winter session," Parliamentary Affairs Minister

PARTIES SUPPORTED MOVE DUE TO PANDEMIC: MIN

I have informally contacted floor leaders of various political parties. They have suggested doing away with the winter session due to the pandemic. Pralhad Joshi, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER

Pralhad Joshi said in a letter to Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha.

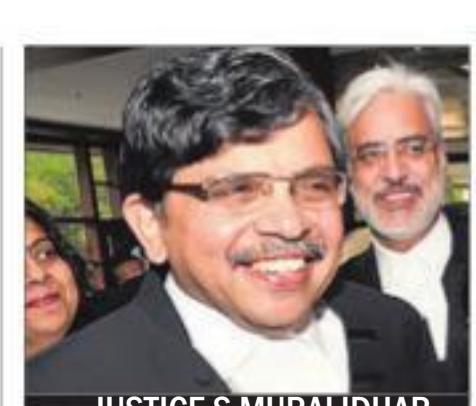
In his December 3 letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla,

Chowdhury mentioned a number of issues such as farmers' agitation, status/preparation of Covid-19 vaccine, Chinese intrusion, economic slowdown and unemployment scenario to press for a short winter session.

MPs from Punjab and Congress leaders from Haryana have been protesting at Jantar Mantar over their demand for calling a session.

"The government is willing to hold the next session at the earliest. It will be appropriate to have the Budget session in January 2021, keeping in mind the unprecedented circumstances created by the pandemic," Joshi said.

EDIT: NO WINTER SESSION



Justice Muralidhar elevated as CJ of Orissa High Court

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 15

Transferred at "midnight" to the Punjab and Haryana High Court in February from the Delhi High Court in midst of the Delhi violence case hearing, Justice S Muralidhar was today elevated as the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court.

Justice Bindal goes to Calcutta High Court

The senior-most Judge of the court, Justice Rajesh Bindal, was transferred to the Calcutta High Court.

Currently the Acting Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court, Justice Bindal joins there as the first puisne Judge or the senior-most Judge after the Chief Justice. The transfers are yet to be notified.

Justice Bindal may eventually take over as the Chief Justice there. His name was considered as a viable option as Justice Bindal is senior to another Judge in the Calcutta High Court elevated way back in June 2006.

Justice Hima Kohli of the Delhi High Court will take over as the new Chief Justice of the Telangana HC. —TNS

52 waterbodies vanish in Faridabad

BHARTESH SINGH THAKUR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 15

Once there used to be 77 waterbodies in Faridabad district of Haryana. Over the years, many failed to exist due to various reasons. While some were acquired by the Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (earlier HUDA) for carving out sectors, a few were converted into burial grounds. At one place there is a public road now while there are schools, parks, temples, cowshed and water pumping stations at other places.

The Haryana Government submitted this information

Roads, schools, parks have come up at sites encroached upon

to the NGT where a case has been filed for restoration of waterbodies.

The Haryana Pond and Waste Water Management Authority (HPWWMA) told the NGT that only 25 waterbodies could be revived while 52 had already been encroached upon.

The NGT was told that at 11 dry pond sites, the HSVP had either planned or developed sectors. Now, houses

and plots exist at the sites.

Regarding three waterbodies, it said in 1995, the then CM Bhajan Lal had allotted these as burial sites to the Muslim community.

At one site, owned by the PWD (B&R), there is a public road while another place (5.31 acres) was allotted to Aggarwal Pracharini Sabha in 1991. The NGT Bench headed by chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel had called for an action taken report in the matter on March 5. The HPWWMA told the NGT that 25 waterbodies could be restored after receipt of approvals and funds by December 31, 2021.

Pranab's family spars over his memoirs

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 15

Late President Pranab Mukherjee's children are on the warpath over the publication of his memoirs that appear to contain certain negative references to Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

In a dramatic turn of events today, Mukherjee's son and former Congress MP Abhijit Mukherjee wrote to Rupa Publications, asking it to stop the publication of the book "The Presidential Years". The book is slated for launch in January 2021.

Mukherjee's daughter Sharmishtha, who has custody of his diaries, however, snubbed her brother, saying he should not do disservice to their father for some "cheap publicity".

"I, daughter of the author of the memoir 'The Presidential Years', request my brother @ABHIJIT_LS not to create any unnecessary hurdle in the publication of the last book written by our father. He completed the manuscript before he fell sick. The final draft contains my dad's handwritten notes and comments that have

been strictly adhered to. The views expressed by him are his own and no one should try to stop it from being pub-

lished for any cheap publicity. That would be the greatest disservice to our father," she said. Her reaction came after her brother earlier tweeted tagging Rupa, "I, the son of the author of 'The Presidential Years' request you to kindly stop the publication of the memoir as well as motivated excerpts which are already floating around certain media platforms without my written consent." Abhijit said his father would have done the same had he been alive.

Last week, Rupa released excerpts from the book in [CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE](#)

Late President's son for stopping of publication, daughter opposes it



PRANAB MUKHERJEE

been strictly adhered to. The views expressed by him are his own and no one should try to stop it from being pub-

Railways extends cancellation, diversion of trains till Dec 18

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LUDHIANA, DECEMBER 15 Attributing disruption of rail traffic in the region to the farmers' agitation, the Northern Railway authorities have further extended the cancellation, partial cancellation and diversion of trains till December 18.

Accordingly, the 05211/12 Dibrugarh-Amritsar-Dibrugarh Express special train (December 16 and 17) and 09613/14 Ajmer-Amritsar-Ajmer Express (December 16 and 17) will remain cancelled.

Railways officials said the 08237/38 Korba-Amritsar-Korba-Chhattisgarh Express train (December 16 to 18); 02357/58 Kolkata-Amritsar-Kolkata Durgiana Express (December 16, 17); 05933/34 Dibrugarh-Amritsar-Dibrugarh Express (December 17, 18), 02407/08 Newjalpaiguri-Amritsar-Newjalpaiguri Express (December 16 to 18) and 04651/52 Jaynagar-Amritsar-Jaynagar Humsafar Express (December 15, 16) will be short-terminated at and short-originated from Ambala Cantt. All these trains will remain partially



Farmers protest against the Central laws at the Ghazipur border on Tuesday. PTI

cancelled between Ambala Cantt and Amritsar.

Further, the 02715/16 Nanded-Amritsar-Nanded Sachkhand Express (December 16 to 18) will be short-terminated at and short-originated from New Delhi. The train will remain partially cancelled between New Delhi and Amritsar.

In addition, the 04653/54 Newjalpaiguri-Amritsar-Newjalpaiguri Express (December 16, 18) will short-terminate at and short-originated from Saharanpur. The train will remain partially cancelled between Saharanpur and Amritsar.

Even though the Railways blames the farmers' agitation for not being able to run

trains as per schedule, it is beyond comprehension as to why several trunk-route trains like the New Delhi-Amritsar-New Delhi Swarn Shatabdi Express, New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi and New Delhi-Lohian Khas-New Delhi Sarbat Da Bhala Express trains, which had resumed operation after the unlock, are still not being operated while other trains on these routes have resumed operations.

BJP real 'tukde tukde' gang: SAD

Claims bid to incite communal tension in state

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, DECEMBER 15 Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal today said the BJP was the real 'tukde tukde' gang in the country.

"The BJP has smashed national unity to pieces. It's shamelessly inciting Hindus against Muslims and now desperate to set peace-loving Punjabi Hindus against their Sikh brethren, especially farmers. It is pushing patriotic Punjab into communal flames," he said.

Blaming the BJP of trying to replace the bonds of blood with bloodshed, Sukhbir said if one agreed with the NDA government, he was a 'desh bhakt' (patriotic), but if not, he was an anti-national or from the 'tukde tukde' gang.

"The BJP has been resorting to dangerous conspiracies to sabotage the atmosphere of peace and communal harmony just for petty political goals. The BJP leadership must realise that the party has become the most powerful divisive force today. It has been resorting to dividing the country and its people by spreading hatred in the name of reli-



Sukhbir Singh Badal addresses the media in Bathinda on Tuesday.

DANGEROUS CONSPIRACY

“The BJP has been resorting to dangerous conspiracies to sabotage the atmosphere of peace and communal harmony just for petty political goals. **Sukhbir Singh Badal, SAD PRESIDENT**

gion," Sukhbir said.

Referring to the ongoing farmers' movement, he

said the whole country, except the BJP, acknowledged the debt all owed to patriotic farmers and soldiers. "The BJP is provoking the people to deny that debt. It believes only in emotionally exploiting the farmers' sacrifices but remains so ungrateful to them that it is painting them as anti-national. Today, it is the farmers. Nobody knows what the BJP might say even about

soldiers tomorrow if it suits the party," he said.

Sukhbir was in the city to boost the morale of party cadre ahead of the Municipal Corporation polls in Bathinda. He addressed the workers at Handi Resort in Bathinda where former councillor and Congress leader Bant Singh Sidhu and others joined the SAD. Addressing mediapersons, Sukhbir said the screening committee of the party would finalise the names of the candidates for the MC polls.

45-yr-old farm labourer dies at Singhu border

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, DECEMBER 15 A 45-year-old farm labourer of Binder Kalan village in Moga district died of a cardiac arrest during the farmers' protest at the Singhu border. The village panchayat and family members have asked the state government to compensate the family of the deceased.

Family demands compensation

Three days after joining the protest at the border, Makhan Khan, a labourer from Binder Kalan village, died on Monday morning. Mohan Singh, sarpanch of the village, urged the state government to extend financial help to the family of the deceased.

The deceased is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter. Jagraj Khan, younger brother of the deceased, said the family had decided not to cremate Makhan Khan till the state government announced a compensation for the family. He was the sole bread earner in the family, Jagraj said.

BJP raking up SYL issue to divide farmers, says Jakhar

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE



BID TO BREAK UNITY

It is typical of the BJP to use the divide and rule policy to create a wedge between Punjab and Haryana farmers at a time when they are fighting together against the farm laws.

Sunil Jakhar, STATE CONGRESS CHIEF

Earlier, they imposed economic sanctions and stopped trains to Punjab to sabotage the farmers' stir and now, they are trying to rake up an issue that is highly sensitive and emotive for the Punjabis," he said.

Referring to the meeting

Capt hand in glove with Centre: AAP

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 15 Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab president and MP Bhagwant Mann levelled serious allegations on Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, calling him a "puppet in the hands of the Modi government".

Mann said Captain had bartered the interest of Punjab to protect the members of his family involved in serious cases of money laundering. He challenged Captain that if he had the guts, he should tell the Modi government to address the concerns of the country's 'annadata' by rolling back the farm laws.

In a statement issued from the party headquarters, Mann said, "As the Chief Minister of Punjab, Captain Amarinder should tell the people of the state, especially the farmers, what decisive steps he has taken for the farmers in the

four years of governance and during the ongoing farmers' movement."

He asked the Chief Minister, "Why don't you utter a word against the Prime Minister?"

The AAP MP alleged that if the Chief Minister of Delhi could meet the agitating farmers and speak in support of their demands, besides providing them all kinds of facilities at the dharna sites, why Captain Amarinder was not moving out of his farmhouse and speaking in favour of the farmers fighting for their bread and butter at the Delhi borders.

The leaders, who till now were working in the shadow of their more prominent colleagues, are vociferous in their demand for the revocation of the laws.

Dr Darshan Pal of the Kranikari Kisan Union and Jagmohan Singh Patiala of the BKU (Dakaunda) were among the prominent leaders of the 'morchas' outside Delhi, who have now fallen ill.

Talking to *The Tribune*, Deepsinghwala said the younger leaders were as resolute in demanding the repeal of the farm laws as the elderly. "We are monitoring which way the propa-

ganda machinery of the BJP goes. We are extremely cautious that except the farm laws, no other narrative is allowed to propagate from the joint stage of all farm unions," he said, adding that instructions had been issued to their cadres to practise religious beliefs and prayers only in their tents or individual resting places.

Jangveer Singh echoes similar sentiments. Having led many stirs in Punjab in favour of sugarcane farmers, he says he knows how corporates operate and dominate farmers. "It is for this reason that we are adamant that a stir be launched against the corporate houses who are the intended beneficiaries of the new laws," he says.

The young farm leaders are also meeting the youth and advising them to maintain the seriousness of the struggle, rather than using their time for fun.

Gurmeet Singh from the Krantikari Kisan Union, Rajinder Singh Deepsinghwala of the Kirti Kisan Union and Jangveer Singh of the Doaba Kisan Committee came forward and sat on a day-long fast yesterday.

The young farm leaders are also meeting the youth and advising them to maintain the seriousness of the struggle, rather than using their time for fun.

Stickers supporting movement new fad among youth

ARCHIT WATTS

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE



A sticker supporting farmers' stir.

farmers' protest', among others, have become a common sight.

Advocate Gursimranjit Singh Dhaliwal, who recently went to support the protest at the Delhi border, said, "I am a farmer. It is my duty to support and promote farming in this hour of crisis. The Centre has become so adamant, forcing us to protest in

every possible manner. Any vehicle bearing a sticker in support of the farmers' agitation is also a way of lodging a protest."

Similarly, Harender Pal Singh, who owns a fuel station at Rupana village here, said, "Before leaving for Delhi on Saturday, I especially asked my son to paste a sticker on our car to support the protest.

We saw a number of cars bearing similar stickers on the way to Delhi. Some people were even distributing stickers free of cost on the highway."

A local trader said, "A number of youngsters are coming daily to buy stickers in support of the farmers' protest. We have designed some keychains as well."

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The young farm leaders are also meeting the youth and advising them to maintain the seriousness of the struggle, rather than using their time for fun.

BKU begins indefinite stir at SDM office in Sangrur

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Wants ₹10 lakh financial aid for deceased farmer's kin

complete debt waiver and a government job to a family member of the deceased. Her body has been lying at the Rajindra hospital, Patiala, and the cremation will take place only after our demands are met," said Harjinder Gharachon, a BKU (Ugra) leader.

At protest venues, art drives activism, and vice versa

SUKHEET BHASIN

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, DECEMBER 15

With farmers' protests has resurfaced the age-old connection between art and activism. 'Nukkad nataks' at the protest venues in Delhi are not only boosting the farmers' morale but also keeping them amused in difficult times. On Sunday night, 'Samay Wali Dang', directed by famous playwright Sahib Singh, was performed at the Tikri border. Singh, along with his team, is camping at the protest venue with farmers. Director of Adakar Manch, Mohali, Singh's plays are known to raise issues and concerns of today.

Street plays, exhibitions, music keep spirits high



Farmers take part in a painting exhibition at the Singhu border.

and are screening plays for the protesters in Delhi.

Several Punjabi songs have gone viral during the ongoing

agitation against the Centre's farm laws. Many prominent singers who have supported the farmers are planning to come out with more songs to keep the spirits high. Gurpreet, a famous artist from Bathinda, has made many paintings on the farmers' issue. On Friday, he put up his work on the shutter of a beer and wine shop at the Singhu border. His work of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur and a humorous painting depicting Diljit Dosanjh and Kangana Ranaut attracted many viewers.

works were also sold in no time at the protest site. Theatre shares a long relationship with India, dating back to 5,000 years. Even after Independence, Indian street theatre evolved as a means to voice concerns of the common man. It had immediately struck a chord with the masses. Street plays are short and the exchange is close, direct and intimate. To be more effective, these are usually loud and larger than life. To draw crowds from all walks of life, focus is on humour as well.

Youth dies as bike hits stray cattle

FATEHGHAR SAHIB, DECEMBER 15 A youth was killed and another critically injured after their motorcycle bumped into a tree after hitting a stray cattle at Mahadian village here.

Rahul died on the spot, while his friend Harman was rushed to the Civil Hospital, Fatehgarh Sahib, in critical condition. ASI Jatinder Pal Singh said both were students of Class 12 and hailed from Hamayunpur area of Sirhind.

Meanwhile, in another incident, Rajni Kant, a resident of Himachal Pradesh, died after his motorcycle fell off an overbridge at the GT Road, Sirhind, near Nabipur village last night. ASI Harbans Singh said Rajni Kant was on his way from Ludhiana to Rajpura and when he reached near Nabipur, he could not notice the boundary of the overbridge and died on the spot after falling off. — OC

Drones used to smuggle arms, drugs from Pak; two arrested

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 15

ACCUSED WAS IN TOUCH WITH JAIL INMATES

- Lakhbir Singh was in contact with four major drug smugglers of Ajnala, who are lodged in Amritsar jail
- A search in the prison led to the recovery of a smartphone from Lakhbir's associate Surjit Masih, a drug peddler
- Simranjit Singh, another inmate, persuaded Lakhbir to purchase a drone for cross-border smuggling

alias Lakha, and Bachittar Singh. Gupta said a quadcopter drone with a full supporter stand and a SkyDroid T10 2.4GHz 10CH FHSS transmitter, along with a mini-receiver and camera support, had been seized. A .32 bore revolver, a Scorpio, live cartridges and drugs have also been confiscated.

Gupta said Lakhbir Singh of Chak Mishri Khan village was nabbed from near Gurdwara Tahla Sahib, PS Chatiwind,

Amritsar (rural), on Monday. He said the accused had procured a quadcopter drone from Delhi four months ago and the equipment was currently with his associate Bachittar Singh at Guru Amardas Avenue, Amritsar.

Investigations revealed Lakhbir was in contact with four major drug smugglers of Ajnala, who are lodged in the Amritsar jail. A search in the prison led to the recovery of a smartphone from Lakhbir's



associate Surjit Masih, a drug peddler. The DGP said investigations so far showed Lakhbir had established an extensive network with foreign smugglers and was in touch with Chishti, a notorious Pakistan-based smuggler.

Simranjit Singh, an Amritsar jail inmate, persuaded Lakhbir to purchase a drone for cross-border smuggling of narcotics and weapons. Simranjit has also been named in the case, said Gupta. — TNS

Wife, cousin held for man's murder

SANGRUR, DECEMBER 15

With the arrest of the wife of deceased Amandeep Singh, who was murdered during the intervening night of December 10 and 11 in Lehra, and Amandeep's cousin brother, the Lehra police claimed to have cracked the murder case.

Sangrur SP Harpreet Sandhu said that after the murder, accused Ramandeep Kaur, wife of the deceased, had got a murder case registered against Amandeep's uncle and some other persons.

"But during investigation, it came to light that Ramandeep Kaur had illicit relations with Ramandeep Singh, cousin of the deceased. Ramandeep and Amandeep had some financial dispute. During the night of the murder, the accused took Amandeep to Shiva colony 'to settle the issue' and murdered him" said Sandhu. — TNS

Cops to again look into 'terror' angle in Balwinder's murder

GURBAXPURI

TARN TARAN, DECEMBER 15

Even as a police team would be dispatched to Delhi for bringing two gangsters — Sukhdeep Singh Bura and Gurjot Singh Bhaa — on production warrant from the Delhi Police, the Punjab Police are "reconsidering" the terrorist angle behind the killing of Shaurya Chakra awardee comrade Balwinder Singh.

Comrade Balwinder was shot by two persons at his residence-cum-school on October 16. Bura and Bhaa, who were arrested by a special cell of the Delhi Police along with three Kashmiri residents, had claimed that they had shot him dead.

Earlier, the police had claimed that the incident was an outcome of the personal enmity of his son and that he was killed by the gangsters.

Comrade Balwinder along with his wife Jagdish Kaur, brother Ranjit Singh and his wife Balraj Kaur were awarded the Shaurya Chakra for bravely fighting terrorism during militancy in Punjab. The family of the slain leader, especially his wife, had been calling the murder a handiwork of the militants. The police had claimed that the family's personal enmity, especially of Arashdeep Singh, with the gangsters was the cause of the murder.

"We have not ruled out the radical angle in the murder of comrade Balwinder. Bura and Bhaa, who gunned down Balwinder, were not aware about the reason behind his killing," said Tarn Taran SSP Dhruwan Nimble.

Bura and Bhaa were

To bring 2 gangsters who shot him on production warrant from Delhi



BALWINDER SINGH
FAMILY THAT FOUGHT PUNJAB MILITANCY

- Comrade Balwinder was shot by two persons at his residence-cum-school on October 16
- Along with his wife, brother and wife, comrade Balwinder was awarded the Shaurya Chakra for fighting terrorism during militancy in Punjab

arrested by the special cell of the Delhi Police, while prime suspect Sukhmeet Singh Bhal and Pal Singh Bhikhariwal was arrested in Dubai.

Nimbale said: "We must corroborate the findings of the Delhi Police with our investigations before reaching any conclusion. The facts will be cleared with the interrogation of Bura and Bhaa in the presence of Bhikhariwal. We have also written to the DGP to bring Bhikhariwal from Dubai."

Eleven suspects, including Sukhraj Singh Sukha and Ravinder Singh Gyann, who had hatched the conspiracy to kill Balwinder at the behest of Bhikhariwal, had been arrested. Nimbale said Bura and Bhaa were asked to execute the task.

State submits affidavit on tainted policemen

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 15

Less than two months after the Punjab and Haryana High Court was told that 1,326 police officers/officials were facing criminal cases, the Punjab Government on Tuesday submitted another affidavit giving further details of accused and convicts in uniform.

The matter was placed before the Bench of Justice Ritu Bahri. But it was referred to the Bench of Justice Anupinder Singh Grewal as it was originally hearing the case. The figure furnished before the High Court was, on the previous date of hearing, disputed by a policeman dismissed from service.

His counsel has claimed that entire information earlier sought by the HC in the matter has not been forthcoming. In fact, several other police officers were facing criminal cases. Some of them were continuing in service even after their conviction.

Policing the police, the HC had then called for details of accused and convicts in uniform. It has asked the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Home Affairs and Justice, to file the affidavit setting out the details of FIRs registered against the serving police officers of all ranks in the state.

1,326 police officials are facing criminal cases

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WINTER HAVEN

- Considered the largest wetland in North India, this Ramsar site is spread over 86 square km
- It is a winter haven for migratory birds which arrive here from Siberia, Europe and other parts of Central Asia.



Nature interpretation centre, cafeteria and watchtowers have been set up at Harike. FILE

Harike wetland to be developed as eco-tourism spot: Minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FEROZEPUR, DECEMBER 15

Harike will be developed as hub of eco-tourism to attract tourists and bird watchers from all parts of the globe, said Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, Forest and Wildlife Minister, during his visit to the sanctuary on Tuesday.

The minister took stock of various developmental works which have been initiated at this "Ramsar site" with funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The minister said that various projects, including

without disturbing them. "After the Covid pandemic, Harike has been opened for tourists," said Dharamsot. "More than 55,000 birds of 55 species have arrived this year in Harike. The number is likely to swell by the end of the year," said the minister.

The Cabinet Minister was accompanied by Harminder Singh Gill, MLA (Patti), Chief Wildlife Warden RK Mishra, CCF (Wildlife) Basant Raj Kumar, Conservator of Forest (PPA) Manish Kumar and Nalin Yadav DFO (Wildlife) Ferozepur and others officials.

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VAISH EDUCATION SOCIETY ROHTAK
PUBLIC NOTICE
All the life members of Vaish Education Society, Rohtak are hereby informed that in order to hold the forth coming triennial Election (Collegium & Governing Body) as per the decision taken by Adhoc Committee (Governing Body) in its special meeting dated 27/11/2020, final voter list of eligible member has been finalized and published by Adhoc Committee (Governing Body), Vaish Education Society. Eligible voter list can be seen at society notice board and website www.vesrohtak.org. In this regard, any member can submit his/her suggestion, claim and objection if any, up to 28/12/2020 (Time 10 AM to 4 PM) in the society office on any working day, otherwise published voter list shall be assumed as final voter list.
Dr. Naresh Kumar (Returning Officer)
(Vaish Education Society, Rohtak)

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Registrar

At protest sites, players practise for championships

AJAY JOSHI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, DECEMBER 15 While on the one hand, veteran sportsmen in the state have launched their "award wapsi" campaign to lend support to the farmers' protest, the contemporary brigade of sportsmen, on the other hand, has caught people's attention with their makeshift gym at the Singhu border.

In order to continue their training while adding fuel to the voice of peasants, national and international players are working out at the border to keep their form intact. Most players have to take part in championships in February next year.

The players include international power lifter Aman Hothi from Talwan village, Mangi Bagga, an international circle kabaddi player, and many others.

Aman Hothi said, "I and my friends from Talwan have brought all the gym equipment. We can't take the risk of missing out on our training. Hence, till the time the Centre does not agree on the farmers' demands, we will exercise here only."

"Exercise is part of our daily routine. So we decided to set up a gym here. When we don't practice, we work in the fields. Hence, we understand how much it takes to grow a crop," added Sonu, player.

"Exercise is part of our daily routine. So we decided to set up a gym here. When we don't practice, we work in the fields. Hence, we understand how much it takes to grow a crop," added Sonu, player.

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FACTORY FOR SALE For sale: A Pharmaceutical unit in Paonta Sahib, Himachal Pradesh. Plot area- 6 acres, built up 150000 sf. Cont. 98338-34482, 022-67214545. (CL20073705)

COURT NOTICE In the Court of Sh. Jagbir Singh Mehendiratta Additional Civil Judge Sr. Division, Sri Anandpur Sahib.

CNR No.: PBR0A-000152-2019 Next Date: 01.02.2021

Kewal Krishan son of Daulat Ram, resident of Village Kheri, Tehsil Anandpur Sahib, District Ropar.

Versus Amarjeet Singh son of Mohinder Singh, resident of Village Kolapur, Tehsil Anandpur Sahib, District Ropar.

Suit for Possession Petition U/S 7 Rule 1 Publication issued to: Sangat Singh son of Mohinder Singh, resident of Village Kolapur, Tehsil Anandpur Sahib, District Rupnagar.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/ respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 01.02.2021 at 10:00 am.

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

Dated, this day of 03.12.2020.

Sd/- Additional Civil Judge Sr. Division, Sri Anandpur Sahib.

epepo777@tribuneindia.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Simranjeet w/o Chiranjiv Suri r/o # 130, Professor Colony, Opp. Punjabi University, Patiala, have changed my name to Simran Suri. (CL20073632)

I, Rajiv Kumar s/o Roshan Lal r/o Q. No. 183-E, Type- 3, Model Town, Patiala, have changed my name to Rajiv Kumar Thaman. (CL20073749)

I, Jarinder Pal Singh s/o Sh. Gurdev Singh Chahal r/o Vill. Kot Mushtarka, PO Kot Kalsia, Tehsil Chachhaura, Distt. Yamuna Nagar (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Jarinder Pal Singh to Jarinder Pal Singh Chahal. Concerned please note. (CL20073759)

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COURT NOTICES

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of Harreet Kaur Kaleka Additional Principal Judge Family Court-I, Jalandhar.

Camp Court at Nakodar. Prabhjot Kaur Versus Gurpreet Singh Petition U/S 13 of Hindu Marriage Act for Dissolution of Marriage by a decree of divorce. CNR No. PBLL01-016930-2019 Next Date: 27.01.2021

Publication issued to: Gurpreet Singh Father: Jagtar Singh R/o Village Chuchak Wind, P.O. Mallan Wala, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozepur.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 27.01.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Dated, this day of 26.11.2020 Sd/- Additional Principal Judge Family Court-I, Jalandhar. Camp Court at Nakodar. CL20073713

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of Sh. Prateek Gupta Civil Judge, (Junior Division), Ludhiana. Kiran Beri Versus Rakesh Sood CNR No.: PBLL02-002453-2020 Next Date: 01.02.2021

Publication issued to: Mohinder Pal Sood s/o Late Sh. Goverdhan Dass Sood.

3. Suresh d/o Late Sh. Goverdhan Dass Sood.

4. Ramesh D/o Late Sh. Goverdhan Dass Sood.

5. Kamlesh D/o Late Sh. Goverdhan Dass Sood.

6. Ram D/o Late Sh. Goverdhan Dass Sood.

7. Anshu D/o Late Sh. Goverdhan Dass Sood. All r/o H.No. B-19-22/5, 56, Club Road, Civil Lines, Ludhiana.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 01.02.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Dated, this day of 24.11.2020. Sd/- Civil Judge, (Junior Division), Ludhiana. CL20073738

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of Sh. Rakesh Kumar Sharma Additional Principal Judge, Family Court, Ludhiana. Ramandeep Kaur Vs.

General Public CNR No.: PBLL01-020849-2019 Next Date: 03.02.2021

Publication issued to: General Public

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/ respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 03.02.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Dated, this day of 03.12.2020. Sd/- Additional Principal Judge, Family Court, Ludhiana. CL20073753



Farmers gather at the Ghazipur border against the farm laws on Tuesday. PTI

Farmers to mark Dec 20 as 'Shradhanjali Diwas'

MUKESH TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SONEPAT, DECEMBER 15

Farmers will observe 'Shradhanjali Diwas' across the country on December 20 to pay homage to those farmers who had lost their lives during the ongoing agitation.

Farmer leader Jagjeet Singh Dalwale said 14 farmers had died during the ongoing protest. The united forum of farmers had decided to pay homage to them at the village and block levels from 11 am to 1 pm, he said.

Rishipal Aramwata, a farmer leader from UP, said the Union Government wanted to defame protesters, but farmers across the country had woken up and knew everything. He said the protest was not limited to farmers now as it had become the agitation of all people of the country.

Sandeep Gidde, a farmer leader from Maharashtra, said the three farm laws were a death warrant for farmers.

LAWS WILL AFFECT EVERY PEASANT: BKU

■ **Jhajjar:** BKU leader Rakesh Tikait reached Dhansa on the Delhi-Jhajjar border on Tuesday and joined the dharna

■ "The Centre has been persistently executing anti-farmer policies. Farmers are united and demanding only one thing: repeal the three farm laws," he said

■ He said the battle was for farmers of the entire nation as the three laws would affect every farmer.

He further said, "The Centre must have awakened from its slumber after the Bharat Bandh and Monday's fast by leaders. It is answerable for every farmer dying at the protest."

Inderjeet Singh, a farmer leader, said the government wanted to divide farmers, but its tactics would not work.

72-year-old dies at Singhu

SONEPAT, DECEMBER 15

A 72-year-old farmer, camping at the Singhu border for 11 days, died on Tuesday after he complained of pain in the chest. The deceased has been identified as Gurmeet Singh of Kandala village in Mohali district (Punjab).

Jagbeer Johal, also from Kandala village, said: "Gurmeet Singh was fine in the morning. He went for a walk and had breakfast. Around 12.30 pm, he complained of pain in his chest and sought help. As we tried to help him, he fell and died at the spot."

Ravi Kumar, SHO, Kundli, said the body was handed over to victim's family after the autopsy. "Prima facie, the cause of death seems to be heart attack. The exact cause will be ascertained in the autopsy." Gurmeet's death was third at Singhu. — TNS

Two returning from dharna die in mishap

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, DECEMBER 15

Two farmers were killed while four others sustained injuries as a truck rammed into their tractor-trolley near the Taraori flyover in the wee hours of Tuesday, the police have said. They were returning from the protest at the Singhu border.

The deceased were identified as Gurpreet (24) and Labh Singh (60), residents of Sapeda village in Patiala district (Punjab). Taraori police station SHO Inspector Sachin said Gurpreet died on the spot, while Lab Sabh died in Patiala. "A case has been registered against an unidentified truck driver under Sections 279 and 304-A of the IPC," the SHO said.

There were 11 persons in the tractor-trolley.

Narinder Singh, one of the farmers in the trolley, said he and others decided to return home as more people had joined the protest.

"Around 1.30 am, a truck hit the trolley, killing Gurpreet on the spot. He was the only son of his parents," he said.

FARMERS BLOCK NH

Scores of farmers blocked the National Highway-44 after a roadways bus hit a tractor-trolley of farmers near Nilokheri on Tuesday. Some farmers sustained minor injuries. The situation remained tense for around 20 minutes. DSP Rajiv, Butana police station SHO Surinder Sidhu and Nilokheri police post in-charge Satpal pacified the

Kufri to be year-round ski destination

India's first indoor ski park to be built at a cost of ₹120 cr | To come up in 25,000 sq ft

BHANU P LOHUMI

Tribune News Service

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 15

Kufri, in the suburbs of Shimla, is all set to be revived as a 365-day ski destination with India's first indoor ski park to be developed at a cost of Rs 120 crore.

Spread over an area of 25,000 square feet, the project, slated for completion within a year, is expected to generate employment for about 1,000 people. Out of these, 75 per cent beneficiaries will be from Himachal.

Designed by Infinity Design Studio, the project work will be executed by Unlimited Snow – makers of Ski Dubai and Ski Egypt. The project, expected to start in March 2021, will become functional by April 2022, says the promoter of the mega project, Nishant Nag, who is the owner of Nagsons Developers.

The theme of the park is snow village. Steel structures will be used which will escalate the cost by Rs 20 crore but reduce the construction time



by two or three years as executing works during the peak winter season is a daunting task in an area like Kufri, where mercury hovers around the freezing point, he added.

He said the construction would be a fusion of contemporary and local style and the idea is to reestablish Kufri as a 365-day ski desti-

nation. The project is in the pipeline and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in this regard would be signed between the state government and the developers soon, said highly placed sources in the Tourism Department.

The total cost of the project, which is to come up over 5.04

acres in the heart of Kufri, is Rs 250 crore, which includes an indoor ski park, a palatial mall, residential villas and other amenities.

Skiing was a major winter attraction of Shimla and Kufri slopes covered under thick blanket of snow. The last ski carnival was held at Kufri in February 1968 but over the

WORK LIKELY TO BEGIN IN MARCH

- Designed by Infinity Design Studio, the project will be executed by Unlimited Snow – makers of Ski Dubai and Ski Egypt.
- The project work, expected to start in March 2021, will become functional by April 2022, says the promoter of the mega project, Nishant Nag, owner of Nagsons Developers.

<< Snow-covered hills at Kufri, about 17 km from Shimla. FILE PHOTO

years, the snowline started shifting upwards and barring few sessions in 1991 and 1982, skiing became a thing of past in Kufri. The project will boost tourism round the year in the Kufri area and also generate economic activity in Shimla and adjoining area besides increasing the stay duration of tourists.

MBU owner bought ₹572 cr properties in Rajasthan

AMBika SHARMA

Tribune News Service

SOLAN, DECEMBER 15

Properties worth hundreds of crores of rupees were bought by the Chairman and owner of Manav Bharti University (MBU) and his family members in Sirohi district of Rajasthan from the proceeds of fake degrees sold in the last about 10 years.

An in-depth investigation conducted by the 19-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by ADGP (CID) N Venugopal has revealed properties worth Rs 572 crore till now, though their actual value is yet to be assessed. A huge chunk of land was bought in Sirohi and Udaipur districts, along with an under-construction palatial bungalow, flats and a university.

The family also owns 115.10 bighas in Pacchad tehsil of Sirmaur district, besides several properties in Solan district. Investments have also been made in properties

abroad, as per the SIT probe.

"University Chairman Rajkumar Rana has bought a conglomerate of properties worth several crores of rupees in Udaipur and Sirohi districts of Rajasthan through multi-layered transactions in a piecemeal manner to camouflage his fraud. The worth of these properties has been grossly undervalued and the SIT is assessing its scale. Agents in several states such as Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, and Chandigarh have also been interrogated about the fake degree scandal."

Rana was granted bail in November. The services of financial experts, including the Income Tax Department, have also been taken to unravel the fraud given its scale. Agents in several states such as Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, and Chandigarh have also been interrogated about the fake degree scandal.

The Enforcement Directorate is also probing the case under the Prevention of Money Laundering (PML) Act, 2002. A case under Sections 420, 467, 468 and 471 of the IPC was registered against the university management for cheating and forgery in March this year.

Youth jumps into Sutlej

UNA, DECEMBER 15

A young man reportedly jumped into the Sutlej river from a bridge at Olinda village in Kutlehar Assembly segment. The body is yet to be recovered.

Sources said according to eyewitnesses, around 2.30 pm, the youth came on a black motorcycle bearing registration number PB08 CG 4788. He parked his bike

on the roadside and hung his jacket on it before walking up to the bridge. He then jumped into the river.

Inside a pocket of the jacket, an Aadhaar card and a PAN card were recovered, on the basis of which the man has been identified as Abhijeet Singh (24) of Ludhiana district of Punjab. — OC

435 cases take count past 50K

Tribune News Service

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 15

The state recorded 435 Covid cases today, taking the tally to over 50,000. Besides, 12 persons died of the virus in the last 24 hours.

While six persons succumbed to the virus in Shimla, two died in Kangra and one each in Mandi, Una and Kullu. — TNS

Covid hits Spiti village

No respite from cold, lakes freeze

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 15

Biting cold wave conditions continued unabated in most parts of Himachal, as minimum temperatures stayed two to six degrees below normal. More than 12 places reeled under severe cold with night temperatures hovering close to the freezing point.

Keylong and Kalpa in Lahaul and Spiti and Kinnaur districts recorded the minimum temperatures of -6.4°C and -1.7°C, respectively. Thick fog engulfed several towns in lower hills while thick ground frost occurred in mid and higher hills, rendering roads slippery and driving hazardous.

The high altitude tribal areas reeled under Arctic-

like conditions with the minimum temperatures staying between -10°C and -15°C and all natural resources of water such as lakes and springs and the 70-km stretch of the Chandrabhaga river have frozen. The local Met office has predicted dry weather in the state for the next five days from December 16 to 21. — TNS

E-TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Chamba invites the tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work(s) through e-tendering process.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Form	Opening Date
1	Rem./Aug of WSS Kiri Chachoh Saluin in GP Kiri Tehsil & Distt. Chamba (HP) SH- Construction of Intake 2 Nos. Construction of RCC sedimentation tank 10000 lit. cap., Construction of Filter bed 20.00 Sqm cap., Construction of RCC Main Storage tank 24000 lit. cap., Construction of RCC Main Storage tank 10000 lit. cap., Excavation, Laying, jointing & testing of GI Pipe & Providing House Hold connection 16 Nos.)	32,23,399/-	Rs. 55851/-	One year	Rs. 400/- 21.12.2020

The tender form and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website www.hipiph.org.
No. EE-JSD-CBA-GA-Tender/2020-13588-89
Dated 15.12.2020
DPR/Pb/5047 Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Chamba.

CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION

Department of Culture, Chandigarh Administration

Expression of Interest (E.O.I)

Expression of Interest (E.O.I) is invited from any Firm/Company/ Registered Society/Registered Club for setting up a Museum for display of Classic & Vintage Cars, Motorcycles and Scooters at Ground Floor of Government Press Building Sector-18, Chandigarh. The details relating to eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other information relating to this E.O.I can be downloaded from the website www.chdpr.gov.in and www.chdca.gov.in. The last date for submission of proposal is 31.12.2020 by 5:30 p.m.

The Schedule of Events is as under:-

- Start Date for submission EOI 16.12.2020
- End Date for Start Date for submission EOI 31.12.2020 by 5:30 p.m.
- Project Briefing Meeting 07.01.2021 at 3:00 p.m.
- Date of Presentation To be notified separately

Secretary,
Department of Culture,
Chandigarh Administration.

Government of India Ministry of Science & Technology Department of Science & Technology

ADVT. NO. DST / 01 / 2020- E-III.

Applications are invited for filling up of one post of Mission Director, National Mission-Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems, Group 'A' Gazetted Non-Ministerial, [Level- 14 in the pay matrix (Rs. 1,44,200-Rs. 2,18,200)] on deputation (including short-term contract) basis in the Department of Science & Technology. For application process and details of qualifications, experience, age limit, last date of application & other requirements etc. visit our website www.dst.gov.in.

Sd/- (J. Sivaramakrishnan),
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.
davp 36101/11/0012/2021

e-Procurement Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer, Seraj Division HP.PWD Janjehli Distt. Mandi on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the on EPC mode bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender
1	Construction of Double Lane Traffic Tunnel between Thunag to Lambathach on Mandi Gaghal Chail Janjehli Chhatar Ranabagh road MDR-24 (SH: Construction of 140 M Long Double Lane traffic Tunnel with Footpaths including Approaches in EPC mode).	17,70,30,502/-	35,00,000/-	5000/-

Eligible class of Contractor:- Class A

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://htptenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <https://htptenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:

- Invitation of REP (NIT) 23/12/2020
- Last Date for receiving quaries 30/12/2020
- Pre bid meeting 04.01.2021
- Department response to quaries latest by 09/01/2021
- Last date of purchase of bid document 19/01/2021 up to 1100 hrs IST
- Bid due date 19/01/2021 up to 1300 hrs IST
- Physical Submission of bid security/POA 19/01/2021 up to 1300 hrs IST etc.
- Opening of Technical Bid 19/01/2021 up to 1530 hrs IST
- Date of release of invitation for Bids through e-procurement 23.12.2020 for further details regarding availability of bid documents, mode of submission, detail of works & PIUs, DNT, Bill of Quantities, eligibility of bidders, submission of bids and last date/time for receipt of Bids for each package logon to website <https://htptenders.gov.in>. Tender notice will be also available on websites <https://htptenders.gov.in> w.e.f. 23.12.2020.

Executive Engineer,
Seraj Division HP.PWD
Janjehli Distt. Mandi H.P.

RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS (ON REGULAR BASIS) FOR APS JALANDHAR, BEAS, AMRITSAR, TIBRI, FEROZEPUR AND KAPURTHALA

The interview for following vacancies in the above mentioned schools will be held at APS Jalandhar :-

S. No.	Post	Subjects
(a)	PGT	Physics (01), Chemistry (02), Biology (01), English (05), Political Science (01), Psychology (01), History (02), Geography (01), Economics(01), Informatics Practices(01).
(b)	TGT	Maths (02), English (06), Social Science (06), Science (03), Hindi (03), Computer Science (02), Physical & Health Education (01), Music (02), Art & Craft (01).
(c)	PRT	Computer (01)

Fresh Candidates below the age of 40 years and experienced candidates (minimum 5 years teaching experience in the last 10 years) below the age of 57 years (including Ex-servicemen personnel), can apply.

Education Qualifications: As per CBSE Bye Laws for all the posts. CSB qualified for PGT/TGT/PRT. Qualifying CTET/TET is mandatory for TGT/PRT. The post is liable transferable within APSs. Please apply on format given on school's website (www.apsjalandhar.com) alongwith attested copies of certificates and processing fee of Rs 100/- to the Principal, Army Public School, Jalandhar by 26 Dec 2020. Bank draft should be in favour of Principal, APS Jalandhar payable at Jalandhar. Incomplete applications and not as per format, will not be considered. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview telephonically, followed by Email, intimating the date/time of interview. No TA/DA will be admissible.

Sd/-Principal

Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Nauni (Solan) - 173230

Office of the Registrar, Recruitment Section

01792-252444, Fax: 01792-252603 (Fax),
e-mail: registrar@yspuniversity.ac.in

No. U.H.F. Regr. Rect. 2-04/2020-35336 Dated: 11.12.2020

"ADVERTISEMENT NO. 02/2020"

Applications are invited for filling up of 30 posts of Assistant Professor/equivalent in different disciplines, purely on contract basis, in this university. Desirous candidates can view the detailed advertisement on the University website <http://www.yspuniversity.ac.in>, and after ensuring their eligibility, they may send their application on the prescribed form which can also be downloaded from the above mentioned website, along with requisite fee as supported documents/certificates, on or before 12.01.2021. The candidates applying from tribal areas can send their application form on or before 27.01.2021.

Registrar

DPR/HP/50

पंजाब मेंटी

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

No winter session

Failure to convene sitting of Parliament diminishes democracy

CITINGA surge in Covid-19 cases, the Union government has decided not to hold the Winter Session of Parliament. A session, even a curtailed one, would have provided the lawmakers a much-needed platform to discuss pressing issues: the contentious farm laws and the prolonged agitation by the farmers who are demanding their repeal; the seven-month-old border standoff with China that is nowhere near resolution; and the action plan for the rollout of the Covid vaccine. The argument for doing away with the session does not hold water as the daily coronavirus caseload of the country in general and Delhi in particular has come down significantly. It's not that the government has no experience of conducting parliamentary proceedings during a raging pandemic. The Monsoon Session was held in September, a devastating month which alone witnessed over 26 lakh infections nationwide, accounting for one-fourth of the total cases so far, and more than 33,000 deaths. Amid the challenging conditions, Covid protocols had been strictly enforced and the session was hailed as one of the most productive ever. The government needs to explain why similar measures can't be implemented in December, when the overall situation is far better.

The irony is not lost on anyone: during the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the new Parliament building last week, PM Narendra Modi had underlined the importance of dialogue and hailed Indian democracy for its vibrancy. Holding the House sitting at this time would have affirmed the government's intent to encourage deliberations on thorny matters and look for solutions through consensus. However, it now seems that the ruling party is shying away from a debate with the Opposition. Such evasiveness does not augur well for a democratic set-up.

The grim portents were visible during the Monsoon Session, when the government had rammed legislations through both Houses amid walkouts and boycotts by Opposition parties. The reluctance to take everybody on board is again evident now. And it doesn't really matter whether Parliament operates from an old building or a new one, or whether it is circular or triangular in shape. What matters is to create space for a healthy dialogue in the 'temple of democracy'.

Malnutrition in kids

Need to reverse this alarming trend

PHASE one of the National Family Health Survey-5, covering nearly 50 per cent of the population, has thrown up a shocking challenge: tackling the increase in the number of children suffering from malnutrition in most states. This negative trend is alarming and spells a worrisome rise in the burden of a young population prone to disease and early death. It signals huge loopholes in the government's policies targeting malnutrition such as the Integrated Child Development Scheme, the National Nutrition Policy, the Mid-Day Meal Scheme for schoolchildren, and the National Food Security Act 2013. The government needs to investigate why despite better monitoring following scams that riddled these well-intentioned schemes, there is a rise in the number of stunted, wasted and underweight kids. Though the Covid-19 pandemic, which affected the vulnerable groups as the food supply chain was disrupted, has contributed to this setback, it is not the only cause.

That our children should be going hungry despite the granaries overflowing with foodgrains smacks of a criminal lack of synergy between various agencies and sectors connecting food with fork. The shameful cases of grains rotting in godowns should not go unnoticed any longer. Agricultural practices concentrating on wheat and rice have impacted the consumption of traditional millets, fruits and vegetables, leading to malnutrition. Diversification of food production is the key to a better tomorrow. Not only will it put a more nutritious variety on the table, but also help prevent soil degradation and water depletion.

The lacunae in policies designed to provide wholesome meals to children must be addressed in right earnest. With the UN's goal of achieving zero hunger by 2030 just a decade away, India, faring poorly on the hunger index — 102nd out of 112 countries — cannot afford to be lax. Even nearer is the ambitious aim of the Modi government's Poshan Abhiyan, launched two years ago, that seeks to ensure a malnutrition-free India by 2022.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The right to be respected is won by respecting others.

— Vasyl Sukhomlynsky

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

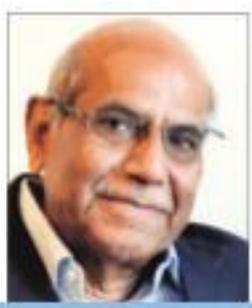
LAHORE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1920

The Governor's Responsibilities.

IN a recent issue, we had something to say about the responsibilities of the Governor under the Government of India Act. Those responsibilities are so great that it may be said that the success or failure of the scheme of reforms in a province will depend more upon the attitude and policy of this one official than upon many of the other factors combined. In the choice of his Executive Councillors, he is bound to have the supreme voice. The appointment and dismissal of ministers shall be his prerogative. For the first four years, he shall appoint the President of the Legislative Council, and he shall also appoint Council Secretaries. And since these are the various officers, apart from the Governor himself, who have to work the Reforms, it is not difficult to see how much it will rest with the Governor to make or mar their future. Happily in the exercise of these grave responsibilities, the Governor is not left without guidance. Some higher authority, be it Parliament or the Joint Committee, has in most cases either laid down the actual lines he should follow or thrown out useful hints which no wise Governor will fail to profit by. Take the case of the appointment of ministers. While the Act provides that the Governor may, by notification, appoint ministers, not being members of his Executive Council or other officials, provided that no minister shall hold office for a longer period than six months, unless he is or becomes an elected member of the Legislative Council, and provided also that the salary of the minister, which shall be the same as that paid to a member of the Executive Council, may be reduced by a vote of the Legislative Council, the Joint Committee lays down that "the Ministers, selected by the Governor, shall be elected members of the Legislative Council, enjoying its confidence and capable of leading it."

Labels undermine diversity

India is too diverse to allow a monochromatic frame to be imposed upon it



SHYAM SARAN

FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY AND SENIOR FELLOW, CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

AT the foundation stone-laying ceremony for the country's new Parliament building, PM Narendra Modi declared that in a vibrant democracy like India, there was room for differences, but not disconnect. This is a welcome acknowledgement of the Argumentative Indian who loves debate, who is curious about the world around him and is open to ideas, no matter where they may come from. This is because India is a truly crossroads culture, its present determined by a long history of engagement with other races and cultures. This engagement may well have taken place through invasions, migrations, trade or evangelical missions but these have led to a remarkably diverse and plural society blessed with an innate cosmopolitanism. There is no homogeneity among its people, neither of race nor religion, neither of language nor traditions. It is the shared historical experience, a mutual enrichment of cultures and an affinity born out of a deep attachment to the idea of India which underlie its nationalism. In its most positive and dynamic articulations, this nationalism has been accommodative, not exclusionary. It is infused with a sense of common humanity. This is the connect that hopefully the PM was referring to because without this awareness of common humanity, how is a connect possible when we disagree with each other, as we must sometimes? Those who seek identity through exclusion narrow their own space; those who seek uniformity end up in a barren



AT THE CROSSROADS: Engaging is as important as the need for debate & dissent. PTI

aridity that dries up precisely what is sought to be preserved. For history shows that cultures flourish through mutual enrichment, ideas advance through debate, and what is more dangerous is not 'questions to which there are no answers, but answers which may not be questioned'.

Political democracy has taken root in the Indian soil because the values it seeks to nurture are aligned with India's own striving as an independent nation, a nation that has found its voice after centuries of whispered yearnings. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the genius of the Indian Constitution. It recognised that unity in a diverse country like India cannot be achieved through suppression of its myriad identities, but in these being transcended and celebrated in a shared sense of common citizenship. It is only when that citizenship deviates from its basis in individual and inalienable rights that the assertions of narrower caste or community-based identities begin to be seen as the only way to prevent injustice and discrimination. Once this is acquiesced to in

one case, how do you legitimise it in another? If one particular caste or community insists on a veto over whatever offends its sensitivities as a group, how do you deny this to another group? And there are so many different groups in India. Is this not a recipe for a million mutinies?

There is an expectation that a broader Hindu unity can be built on a Hindu-Muslim binary. But that ignores the fact that a Hindu is also deeply attached to his other identities, for example, as part of a language group, a membership of a caste group, a particular religious sect of the Hindu faith, perhaps a more modern professional group and perhaps as part of a vested economic or business group — the list is endless. There is little likelihood of one-nation one-language being achieved in India. Even a hint that this might be the intent of a government in power triggers dangerous political reactions. To justify the grand Ram temple in Ayodhya, some of its champions argue that if the Christians can have their Vatican, the Muslims their Mecca, why

should the Hindus not have their Ayodhya? Is that not limiting the very notion of Hinduism as a faith with no boundaries?

The PM spoke of the Indian tradition of speaking and hearing each other as part of our ability to connect to each other as Indians. But this assumes a willingness to appreciate what the other is saying, otherwise this would be a dialogue of the deaf. We hear but we do not listen. And as soon as we begin to attach labels to our interlocutors, we are absolved of the need to listen to what they may be saying. If the protesting farmers are infiltrated by 'Khalistanis', Maoists and left-wing provocateurs, does the government need to listen? If some elements among our Muslim community are suspected of harbouring pro-Pakistan sympathies, should they be allowed to speak? If some writers and social activists are 'urban Naxals', should they not be prevented from speaking; better still, should they not be incarcerated?

There are any number of labels to choose from to prevent the speaking and the listening. Labels preclude connecting. If the PM really wishes to celebrate India as a democracy, then he should stop this labelling exercise forthwith. The Minister of Commerce should not see hidden leftist hands behind the farmers' agitation and thus belittle it. This disconnects rather than opens the way for understanding what is driving their protests, braving the cold weather and police action.

India is too diverse a country to allow a monochromatic frame to be imposed on it. It is a landscape with multiple colours and shades in between. The way forward is to allow this profusion of colours to become even more varied, and more vibrant. Every label used to exclude this or that colour diminishes the whole. Labels prevent sharing and celebrating our diversity. They do not allow us to connect with each other. Let us forswear a 'government by label'.

Tracing ties across the Burma bridge

NJ RAVICHANDER

THE migration story of my maternal great-grandparents from Burma (Myanmar) to India post World War I is fascinating. A few years after WW-I, anti-India sentiments reached a new low in the former British India province. Ethnic Indians, who formed the backbone of the British administration, were multiplying, and this made them the targets of Burmese nationalists. As riots broke out, many ethnic Indians fled Burma overland into Assam, mainly on foot. Most Indians hailed from Madras and Bengal presidency, and thousands died in the clashes.

My maternal great-grandparents, and their kin, reached Madras (Chennai) from Rangoon following

a long trek and voyage on a fishing craft. The long journey took a toll on the seafarers and left them seasick. The rough seas tossed the boats around, making many throw up and seek medical attention after reaching the shore.

A few of great-grandmother's cousins, who also arrived on the fishing craft, unfortunately got separated and went missing at Madras, while some others made their way to Secunderabad. My great-grandparents and a few others settled down in Shoolay, which was then a tiny hamlet bordering the Bengaluru cantonment. While the great-grandparents could connect to relatives in Secunderabad soon, the cousins in Madras proved elusive. Reuniting with them after decades is akin to the 1973 Hind

di film, *Yaadon ki Baaraat*.

It was at a family wedding in Chennai that my great-grandmother finally bumped into her long-lost cousins, purely by chance. The gift announcements made over the mike — a wedding ritual those days — mentioned a familiar name that had Burma prefixed to it. The name rang a bell and great-grandma jumped out of her chair to flush out the missing cousin.

My great-grandfather, considered literate by the authorities, performed the role of *nattanmai* (sarpanch) of Shoolay village. His job was to settle disputes and coordinate with government functionaries. He also went the extra mile and established a few temples and even ran a cycle shop to supplement the family's income.

He had a passion for wood carvings

and paintings and spent long hours indulging in his favourite pastime. One of his sons later picked up the craft and excelled. Though holding the position of the village sarpanch, great-grandpa did not crave for wealth, and his honesty, integrity and hard work won him a loyal following.

Great-grandpa passed away in 1936, and his significant other got the curtain call 44 years later. Their mortal remains rest in the Hosur Road Hindu cemetery on the edge of the Bengaluru cantonment, and the kin return to it year after year to pay their veneration. The once sleepy Shoolay village of yore has today transformed into a bustling town and makes up the heart of the Central Business District. But few know about its history or the *nattanmai* who governed it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time to end the stir

Refer to 'Stop the name-calling'; to brand the agitating farmers is highly objectionable, more so by persons holding responsible positions in the ruling dispensation. It is clear that the agitation has assumed the shape of a mass movement and there seems no end to it, at least in the near future. Both sides are sticking to their guns. In a democratic set-up, the public is supreme and cannot be taken for granted. This must be borne in mind by those at the helm of affairs. Continuation of agitation is not in the interests of the country and if remedial measures are not taken, it shall have far-reaching consequences for national security and the sagging economy.

SANTOSH JAMWAL, HAMIRPUR

Amend, don't repeal

Apropos of 'Insistence on repeal of farm laws is futile', the reason for the stand-off is that while farmers' earnings, in absolute terms, have risen for some crops, the increase in input and labour costs has meant lower returns, and profitability has shrunk. Reforms do deliver growth and opportunities, as done in 1991. The government should set MSP, as without that market prices can crash. In recent years, paddy, groundnut, sunflower seed, rapeseed and mustard have sold below

victims of calamities? First, we saw the misuse of BPL scheme, then PM Kisan scheme, and now, the CM Relief Fund by the ineligible in Himachal Pradesh. It's unfortunate that those who needed money from the fund weren't able to get it. Why does the government never speak on these matters? Why were rules not followed during the disbursement of money? The state must hand over the matter to an independent investigation agency.

RITISH PANDIT, DEHRA GOPIPUR

Expose 'anti-nationals'

Apropos of the statement by Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad that stern action will be taken against the 'tukde-tukde gang' trying to take advantage of the farmers' agitation, the farmers are protesting against the three farm laws on their own. They will not withdraw their movement unless these laws are withdrawn. The police have filed a charge-sheet against thousands of farmers and they are unable to get bail from the court. This is nothing but new tactics to divert attention as the government has failed to end the farmers' agitation. It is time the minister's statement is converted into action, as the people of India have a right to know the details of those taking 'advantage' of the stir.

BHAGWAN THADANI, MUMBAI

Relief fund misuse

Apropos of 'Misuse of CM relief fund in Sulahia comes to light', how did undeserving persons manage to get money meant for the poor, and

universities and institutions have contributed significantly and farmers have applied research results on the ground, which helped in the Green Revolution. In spite of all this, the economic status of the farming community has not changed. Government agencies must come to the rescue of small farmers and educate them about the latest research and its applications, depending upon individual needs. Farmers should diversify, as it will reduce water consumption. They are not adopting diversification in the absence of assured marketing. In spite of the MSP for maize, there is hardly any buyer. Research and the latest technology will only be useful with an assured MSP for all items and foolproof procurement system.

DARSHAN SINGH BHATHAL, NANGAL

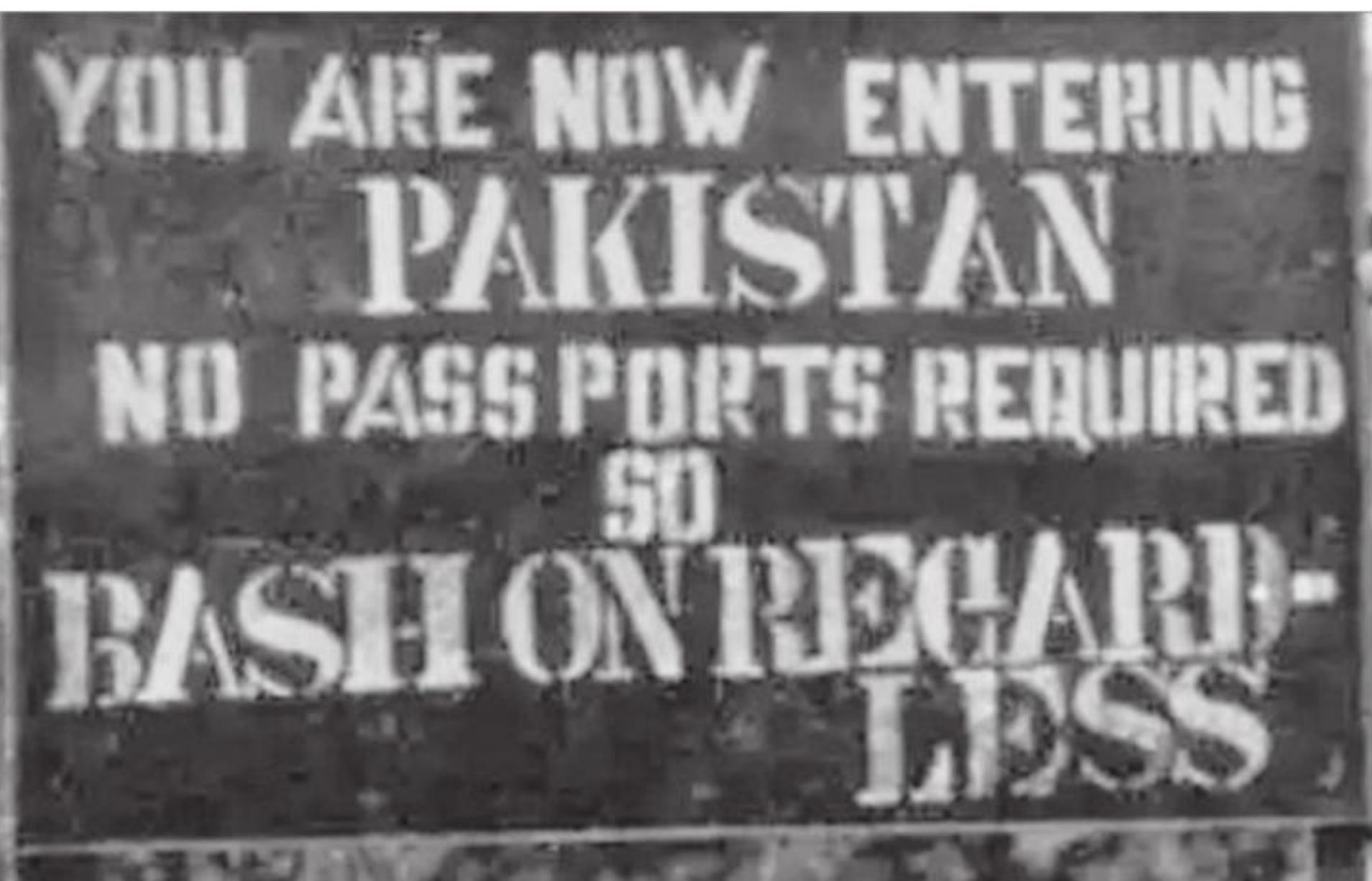
Fate of GMSH-16

Reference to the news that UT may give Government Multi-Specialty Hospital (GMSH) to a private player for a medical college, there was first a row over Panjab University. Now, the UT Administration is offering GMSH, located in Sector 16, Chandigarh, on a platter to the Centre. Where will the masses go? Government hospitals are already out of reach of the ordinary people. OPINDER KAUR SEKHON, CHANDIGARH

Farm research

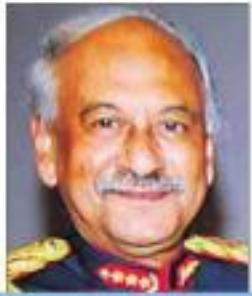
Scientists of various agricultural

VIJAY DIWAS: THE 1971 WAR



ICONIC: The sign on the Indo-Pak border for Indian soldiers spearheading the offensive into the Shakargarh Bulge in December 1971.

A victory to remember



LT GEN SR GHOSH (RETD)

FORMER GOC-IN-C, WESTERN COMMAND

We, as a nation, should forever remember with great pride and gratitude the ultimate sacrifice made by 4,000 soldiers who laid down their lives on the battlefield and 10,000 more who went home wounded or disabled. Let us also never forget our 54 officers and men taken prisoners of war, who are dead or dying in Pakistani prisons. It would be a fitting tribute to all of them if 2021, the golden jubilee year of the war, is declared as the Year of the Soldier.

innocent and hapless people.

In a memorable conclusion to the war, young Major Ashok Tara, VrC, in a brilliant operation, rescued the entire family of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, held prisoner by the Pakistani Army, including his wife Begum Fazilatunnesa and daughter Sheikh Hasina, the current Prime Minister of Bangladesh and a great friend of India.

The war produced heroes like our young Param Vir Chakra (PVC) recipients 2/Lt Arun Khetrapal, Flying Officer Nirmaljit Sekhon and Lance Naik Albert Ekka, who along with several thousands of unrecognised, gallant soldiers laid down their lives with the words 'Naam, Namak, Izzat' on their dying breaths. We had inspiring officers like Major Hoshiyar Singh, awarded the PVC for his extraordinary bravery at Shakargarh,

December 16 is a day of rejoicing because on this day we, along with the Mukti Bahini, liberated and created a free new nation, Bangladesh, and ended a barbaric pogrom by the Pakistani Army of mass killing and rape of its

Major Ian Cardozo, who, given up for dead due to gangrene, chopped off his leg with his khukri and went on to become a Major General, or Maj KS Chandpuri, MVC, who with his small force, gallantly defended the post of Longewala against the greatly superior Pakistani forces, thus enabling the IAF to decimate the attacking enemy tank regiments.

A special place of honour should be reserved for the silent service, the Indian Navy. In a daring operation, its missile boats attacked the Karachi port, sinking and damaging several Pakistan ships and destroying critical logistics facilities. The Navy dominated both the western and eastern seaboards, thus greatly restricting freedom of action of the Pakistani Navy.

The new generations also need to learn about and honour extraordinary commanders like Capt MN Mulla, MVC, who, in the highest traditions of the Navy, chose to go down with his ship INS Khukri, along with near 200 officers and sailors.

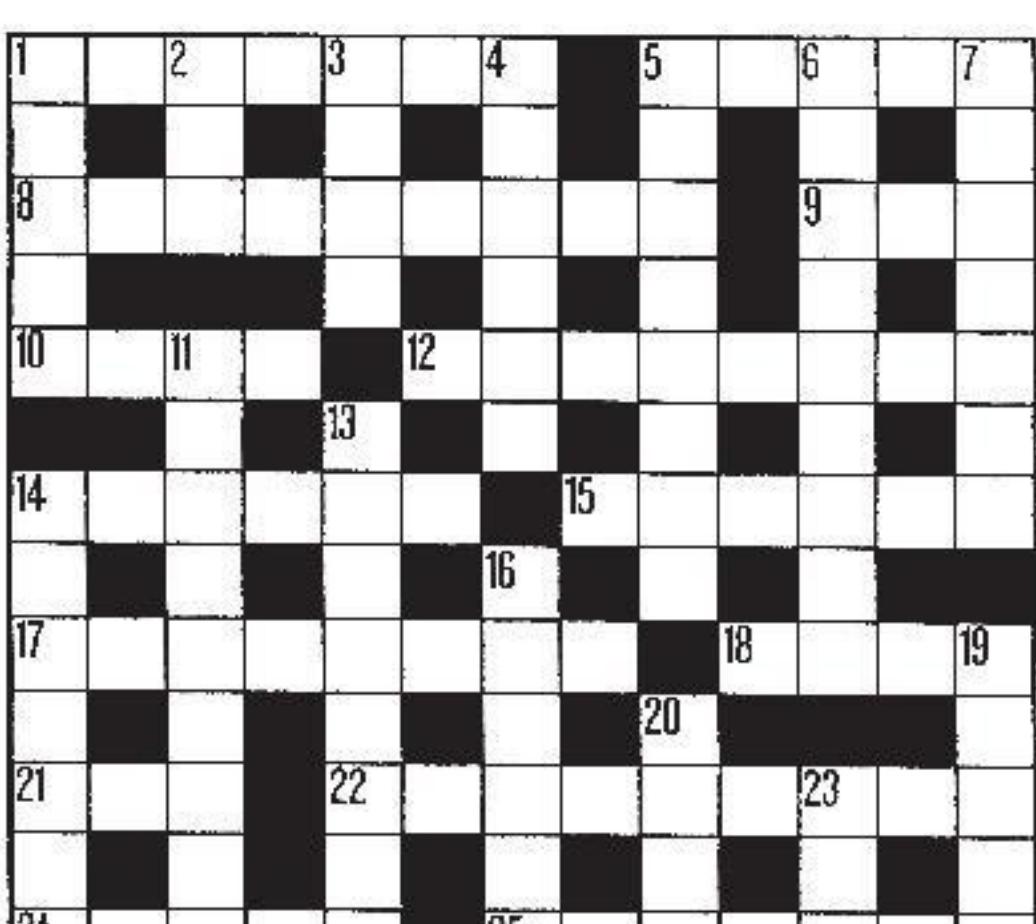
On this occasion, we, as a nation, should forever remember with great pride and gratitude the ultimate sacrifice made by 4,000 Indian soldiers who laid down their lives on the battlefield and 10,000 more who went home wounded or disabled.

Let us also never forget our 54 officers and men taken prisoners of war, who are dead or dying in Pakistani prisons. How unfortunate and tragic that we as victors, allowed 93,000 Pakistani prisoners to return home to their families but could not bring back our own soldiers, while also returning 13,000 square km of captured territory won with the blood, toil and sweat of our men.

Next year is the golden jubilee year of the war. On this landmark occasion, not just the Indian military, but India as a nation also needs to celebrate Vijay Diwas 1971 and remind the world of this great victory of the 'righteous over evil'. Apart from declaring 2021 as the Year of the Soldier, December 16 should henceforth be celebrated as the Armed Forces Day and do away with the irrelevant and antiquated Armed Forces Flag Day on December 7.

Let a chapter be added to our history books so that future generations read about this momentous victory and continue to remember and honour the sacrifices made by the gallant soldiers of India.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Appetite, 5 Acid, 9 Slack, 10 Meeting, 11 Out of the blue, 13 Oyster, 14 At home, 17 Pull to pieces, 20 Stammer, 21 Eyrie, 22 Rate, 23 Personal.
Down: 1 Also, 2 Peanuts, 3 Take one's time, 4 Tomato, 6 Chill, 7 Doggerel, 8 Nevertheless, 12 Composer, 15 Overrun, 16 Sparse, 18 Leapt, 19 Peel.

ACROSS

- 1 Rebuke (7)
- 5 Spell of self-indulgence (5)
- 8 Informed and alert (2,3,4)
- 9 Breach of moral law (3)
- 10 Hindu system of philosophy (4)
- 12 Inconstant (8)
- 14 Spider's trap (6)
- 15 Categorically (6)
- 17 Clumsy (8)
- 18 Ancient stringed instrument (4)
- 21 Runner used on snow (3)
- 22 Obliquely (2,2,5)
- 24 Easy to lift (5)
- 25 Having died out (7)

DOWN

- 1 Spacious (5)
- 2 Large deep hole (3)
- 3 Carry out an order (4)
- 4 Display ostentatiously (6)
- 5 At maximum speed (4,4)
- 6 Tiny (4-5)
- 7 Use of artillery (7)
- 11 Find no accepter (2,7)
- 13 Irresolute (8)
- 14 Advise (7)
- 16 To split (6)
- 19 Put up (5)
- 20 Poverty (4)
- 23 Snare (3)

SU DO KU



V. HARD

How Pakistan lost the plot



ABHIJIT BHATTACHARYYA

COMMENTATOR AND AUTHOR

When the former chief of Pakistan's Eastern Command, Lt Gen AAK Niazi, wrote in his 1998 book that "Bengalis had little chance of standing against my well-disciplined and experienced troops", it showed the undiminished and ingrained arrogance and ignorance of the vanquished General. A military junta's lack of knowledge led to an unprecedented disaster.

working, while those of Karnasuvanna (central Bengal) were gentle, of fine character, and gave much support to scholarship."

On the linguistic front, however things didn't appear optimistic. Bodhayana Dharmasutra didn't have good things to suggest on Bengali. "On return from Vanga (Bengal) to central lands, or Aryavarta, it was necessary to perform expiation" owing to 'Vanga being barbarian territory and their people of low origin' (does it have an uncanny similarity with the views of the army of undivided Pakistan?) The contrary view, too, speaks for itself. The in-built contradiction and confrontation between Bengal and Aryavarta: "Aryan language and culture had neither understanding of, nor respect for, the language, customs and culture of non-Aryan or pre-Aryan people of Gauda (Central Bengal), Pundravardhana and Vanga."

The uniqueness of Bengal's geography, therefore, constitutes an oft-forgotten reality. That a country's political boundaries and natural geographical boundaries may not always be the same even if there exists a common linguistic or

homogenous ethnic group. Hence, the fertile land of Bengal invariably attracted those who hailed from a comparatively barren and less fertile land — for a better livelihood.

Another important scenario of the east pertained to language, literature and learning, traditionally the strongest features of the demography of Bengal. Its true that ancient India's learning is well known to have begun with Vedas, Brahmanas and Upanishads. "However, the learning and scholarship embodied in Vedas, Brahmanas and Upanishads, even in the Dharmashastras and Dharmashtras, had no effect on Bengal for quite a long time," according to Dr Nihar Ranjan Ray.

That said, there also existed a notable characteristic of the Bengali language: the flexibility to take/accept words, and usage, from the likes of Mon-Khmer and the Kola-Munda group of languages. The latter brought about by a stream of the Dravidian family of languages. Further came the language of the Tibetan-Burmese people. This introduction, acceptance and induction of diverse languages in Bengal, which began centuries before the birth of Christ, ultimately led to what one sees today as the rich and easy-to-learn and understand lingua franca of 32 crore people of the world. Thus, those known as Bengali today are not all from one, but diverse ethnic groups, their commonality and strongest bond being the Bengali language.

Regrettably, however, the historical challenge of geography, coupled with the depth of sensitivity and conviction of Bengali-speaking people, conspicuously remained incomprehensible to the gun-toting army rulers of Pakistan. Thus, when the former chief of Pakistan's Eastern Command, Lt Gen AAK Niazi, wrote in his book, *The betrayal of East Pakistan* (1998) that "Bengalis had little chance of standing against my well-disciplined and experienced troops", it showed the undiminished and ingrained arrogance and ignorance of the vanquished General. Essentially, a military junta's lack of knowledge led to an unprecedented battlefield disaster. Little wonder the history of the Bengali-speaking demography stands tall, dwarfing the army of Pakistan before its former eastern wing. Sovereign Bangladesh has truly added a rich chapter to the history of South Asia. The change from the Karachi-Dhaka axis in the 1950s to the Delhi-Dhaka friendship in the 2020s appears impressive. At least for now.



HISTORIC: Lt Gen AAK Niazi signs the Instrument of Surrender in the presence of Lt Gen JS Aurora on December 16, 1971. PHOTO COURTESY: MOD

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 16, 2020, WEDNESDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Margshirsh Shaka	25
■ Posh Parvishtha	2
■ Hijri	1442
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 2, up to 4.55 pm	
■ Vridhhi Yoga up to 6.33 pm	
■ Purvashadha Nakshatra up to 8.04 pm	
■ Moon enters Capricorn sign 1:48 am	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: WEDNESDAY 17:23 HRS

SUNRISE: THURSDAY 07:14 HRS

Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Rainy	Foggy
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CITY	MAX	MIN
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Chandigarh	18	08
New Delhi	19	05
Amritsar	16	07
Bathinda	17	07
Jalandhar	18	07
Ludhiana	18	08
Bhiwani	22	06
Hisar	20	04
Sirsra	20	08
Dharamsala	13	03
Manali	12	01
Shimla	14	03
Srinagar	11	-04
Jammu	18	09
Kargil	-07	-17
Leh	-11	-21
Dehradun	20	07
Mussoorie	15	05

TEMPERATURE IN °C

योगस्थः कृत्वा कर्माणि संगं त्यक्त्वा धनंजय।
सिद्ध्य-सिद्ध्योः समो भूत्वा समत्वं योग उच्यते ॥



INTERNATIONAL GITA MAHOTSAV

17-25 December, 2020
(Margashirsha Shukla Paksha)
Kurukshetra, Haryana



Special Attractions

- 48 Kos Cultural Tour of Kurukshetra
- Legends of Ancient Kurukshetra
- What Gita has for Me
- Gita - A Philosophy of Life

Programme

Gita Maha Aarti
17-25 December, 5:30 PM
Aarti Sthal, Purushottampura Bagh,
Brahma Sarovar

Gita Recital, Gita Quiz, Acting-Dance, Seminar,
Declamations & other educational programme
17-25 December
Maharishi Valmiki Sanskrit University, Kaithal

Complete Gita Yajna
21 December, 10:30 AM
Purushottampura Bagh, Brahma Sarovar

Inauguration of International Gita
Webinar
21 December, 11:00 AM
Srimad Bhagavadgita Sadan
Kurukshetra University

International Gita Webinar
22-23 December, 10:00 AM

Complete Bhagavadgita Paath
21-25 December, 10:30 AM
Jyotisar and Sannihit Sarovar

Sant Sammelan
24 December, 02:00 PM
Srimad Bhagavadgita Sadan,
Kurukshetra University

Global Gita Chanting (Online)
25 December, 12:00 Noon
Purushottampura Bagh, Brahma Sarovar

Closing Ceremony - Deepotsav and
Maha Aarti
25 December, 06:00 PM
Brahma Sarovar & 48 Kos Pilgrimages of
Kurukshetra

Competitions based on Gita and Mahabharata for students (Online)
11-19 December, 2020 (District Level)

20-21 December, 2020 (State Level)

Quiz competition based on Gita and Mahabharata for students and general public (Online)
4-21 December, 2020

Keep yourself safe from Novel Coronavirus and Enjoy the Festival at Home

www.internationalgitamahotsav.in
www.kurukshetra.gov.in
www.48koskurukshetra.com



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[p /internationalgitamahotsav](https://www.youtube.com/internationalgitamahotsav)
[t /igmkkr2020](https://twitter.com/igmkkr2020)

Phase 7: Over 6L voters to seal fate of 298 candidates today



JAMMU, DECEMBER 15

More than six lakh voters will decide the fate of 298 candidates, including 72 women, contesting in the seventh phase of the District Development Council (DDC) elections in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

A total of 31 DDC constituencies will go to polls, including 13 in the Kashmir division and 18 in the Jammu division, State Election Commissioner (SEC) KK Sharma told the media here.

Besides the DDC elections, polling will be held for panchayat bypolls in 69 vacant sarpanch seats and 438 vacant panch seats, the SEC said.

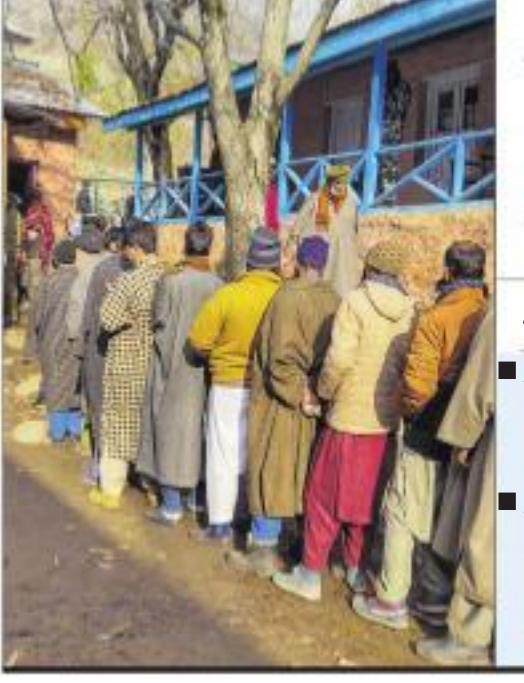
"As many as 31 constituencies are set to go for polling in the seventh phase of the ongoing DDC poll and 438 panch and 69 sarpanch seats will also witness voting on Wednesday across Jammu and Kashmir," Sharma said.

In the 13 constituencies of the Kashmir division, there are 148 candidates in fray, including 34 women while in Jammu, 150 candidates, including 38 women are contesting in the 18 constituencies, he said.

As many as 6,87,115 electors (3,59,187 male and 3,27,928 women voters) are going to elect their representatives in the 31 constituencies, he said, adding that a total of 1,852 polling stations have been designated — PTI



J&K Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari with party leaders at the first party convention in Srinagar on Tuesday. PTI



VOTING FOR 438 PANCHES, 69 SARPANCHES TOO

CONSTITUENCIES	KASHMIR DIVISION	JAMMU DIVISION
31	13	18
1,852 POLLING STATIONS	1,068	784

ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE

- State Election Commissioner KK Sharma said requisite arrangements were in place, including manpower, election materials and security arrangements in all the poll-bound areas.
- Sanitisers, thermal scanners and face masks have been arranged at the polling stations to ensure that the SOPs issued by the authorities concerned are strictly followed at the polling stations, he added.

1,068 in the Kashmir division and 784 in the Jammu division.

The SEC further informed that of the 117 sarpanch vacancies notified in the seventh phase, 30 have been elected unopposed. There will be a contest in 69 constituencies and 231 candidates, including 79 women are in fray, he added.

The SEC said all requisite arrangements, including security and election material were in place. Referring to the measures adopted due to

total 1,270 panch vacancies notified in this phase, 416 were elected unopposed while 438 constituencies would go for elections with 1,000 candidates contesting the elections, including 287 women candidates.

The SEC said all requisite arrangements, including security and election material were in place. Referring to the measures adopted due to

'Muslims safer in India than in Pak'

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 15

Muslims in India are safer than in Pakistan and people of Kashmir should not fall for false claims and traps, senior BJP leaders said today addressing party workers regarding the DDC poll in Khrew in Aawantipora and BK Pora in Budgam.

They also urged people to beware of those who said Indian Muslims were treated as second-class citizens, according to a press statement issued by the party's Kashmir media cell. Senior leader Syed Shahnaaz Hussain said Muslims were safer living in India than Pakistan. "They are equality among citizens and no difference between any religion," he said. — TNS

Modi's schemes have given new hope: Chugh

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 15

BJP general secretary Tarun Chugh said the party was committed to taking the people in J&K out of the shadow of guns to a new era of development and progress. Addressing an election rally, Chugh today said, "Cross-border links of the Abdullah and Mufti families did not let the J&K people develop the way others did in the rest of the country in the past 70 years. People were deliberately kept deprived of basic amenities like schools and hospitals, nor were adequate employment opportunities generated for the youth".

Ali, known for directing movies such as "Jab We Met", "Rockstar" and "Love Aaj Kal", said the aim was to provide a platform to the youth. "We are preparing creative plans and the purpose is to provide a platform to the local

Drass freezes at -18.6°C as cold tightens grip on J&K, Ladakh

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 15

The mercury's free fall continued across Jammu and Ladakh on Tuesday as Drass town recorded minus 18.6 degrees Celsius amid an ongoing cold wave in the two union territories.

The weather office has forecast further dip in night temperatures in the next five to six days till the weekend as the weather is going to remain dry and the night sky clear during this period in both UTs.

The minimum temperatures dropped below the freezing point in the Valley and Ladakh, while night temperatures also came down in the Jammu division. Srinagar recorded minus 3.2 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam minus 5.3 degrees Celsius and Gulmarg minus 10.2 degrees Cel-



sius. Leh in Ladakh recorded minus 10.7 degrees Celsius, Kargil minus 13.8 degrees Celsius. Jammu recorded 3.1 degrees Celsius, Katra 6.5 degrees Celsius, Batote 0.1 degrees Celsius, Bannihal minus 2.2 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah minus 1.8 degrees Celsius as the night's lowest temperatures.

The 40-day long period of

10 more deaths; 346 new cases

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 15

Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday recorded 346 fresh Covid cases, while 10 more deaths were reported in the past 24 hour.

The union territory's Covid tally has reached 1,16,600 and the death toll mounted to 1,812, officials said. Of the fresh cases, 243 were reported from Kashmir and 217 from Jammu division. The officials said Jammu recorded the highest of 117 cases, followed by 75 in Srinagar district. The number of active cases has dropped to 4,434 as 460 more patients recovered from the infection. — PTI

Govtropes in filmmaker Imtiaz Ali to promote art

JAMMU, DECEMBER 15

Asserting that Jammu and

Kashmir is the powerhouse of

positivity and has unmatched

artistic prowess, filmmaker

Imtiaz

Ali

on

Tuesday

announced that he would be

organising

workshops

for

locals

in the union territory to

showcase

their talents.

Ali,

known for

directing

movies

such as

"Jab We Met",

"Rockstar"

and

"Love Aaj

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No Ishant, no worry: Rahane

ADELAIDE, DECEMBER 15

India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane has conceded that pacer Ishant Sharma's absence will be felt but added that the bowling attack would be strong even without him in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, starting here on Thursday.

Rahane, who is expected to lead in the last three Tests after regular skipper Virat Kohli goes on paternity leave, also spoke about how batting in the "twilight" session of the Day/Night Test would be the biggest challenge for batsmen. "I think we do really have a strong attack, but yes we will definitely miss Ishant, being the senior fast bowler," Rahane said. Sharma is recovering from a rib injury suffered the IPL.

Rahane, however, is confident that despite Sharma's absence, the pace attack will rise to the occasion.

"The guys who are here... Umesh (Yadav), (Navdeep) Saini, (Mohammed) Siraj with Jasprit (Bumrah) and (Mohammed) Shami, they are all really good and experienced and they know how to bowl in these conditions," he said. "This is a new series starting with the pink ball, so it is all about getting that momentum, but I do believe that we have the attack to get 20 wickets."

Opening options

On the possible opening combination among the four available options (Mayank Agarwal, Prithvi Shaw, Shubman Gill and KL Rahul),

Faster pitch in twilight zone

The "twilight" period in a Day/Night Test — when the sunlight is fading and the floodlights taking over — is very important, as has been well documented. What Ajinkya Rahane added to the theory was to say that there is an increase in ball-speed off the pitch for 40-50 minutes. "I feel in the day, the new pink ball slightly moves, but then after that it becomes easy to bat... When the twilight period comes, for 40-50 minutes, that becomes a bit challenging for the batsmen to focus," he said. "The ball's pace increases, initially there is normal pace, but when lights are on and the twilight period starts, the pace increases off the wicket. In case of red ball, the pace does not change suddenly, but with the pink ball, within 40-50 minutes, pace changes completely."

Rahane said a decision will be taken on the eve of the match. "See, we have still not decided what's our combination going to be. There is another day to go, one more practice session to go, we will sit tomorrow and discuss what's our combination," the Mumbai batsman said.

That was his answer also about the two wicketkeeping options, Wriddhiman Saha and Rishabh Pant. "...but see, whoever plays, it is going to be like, everyone is equally there, everyone is equally talented, whoever plays, they can win the match for us, so it is all about trusting our players," Rahane said. — PTI

Will miss him, but can take 20 wickets without him, says vice-captain



Vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane is expected to lead India in the last three Tests after skipper Virat Kohli goes on paternity leave. FILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
Tender Notice	
For & on behalf of the President of India, Chief Workshop Manager, N.Rly. C&W workshop, Jagadhri Workshop/Yamuna Nagar invites open e-tender for the following work:	
Name of Work	Repair/Replacement work of underframe items for BCN, BCNA, BOXN & BOXNR wagons in WR shop at N Railway, Jagadhri Workshop
Location	Northern Railway, Carriage & Wagon Repair Shop, Jagadhri Workshop, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana-135002
Cost of Work/Tender Value	Rs. 93,80,042/-
Quantity	As per Schedule of rates
Cost of Tender form	NIL
Earnest Money amount	Rs.1,87,600/-
Completion period of the work	12 months from the date of issuance of Letter of Acceptance
Date & Time for submission of tender form	15.01.2021 till 15.30 hrs.
Opening of tender	15.01.2021 till 15.35 hrs. Tender opening will be done any time after the tender closing time. The tenderers are not required to be present during the opening. Railway reserves the right to open the tender any time after closing of tender.
Website particulars	www.ireps.gov.in
Tender No.: 6-S-J06/Tender/2020-21/PLI DL: 14.12.2020	2796/2020
Serving Customers With A Smile	

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION PUNJAB RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION PROJECT INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

Executive Engineer, DWSS Division, Abohar invite online bids for the following work:

Pack -age No.	Name of Work	Approx. Value of the Work	Bid Security	Bid Processing Fee (in Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme for Village Killianwali, Block Khuan Sarwar, District - Fazilka (Under PRWSSP Sub Component IA (i)/JMM)	Rs. 34759459/-	Rs. 695189/-	AS PER WEBSITE	12 MONTHS & 3 MONTHS O&M
2	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme for Village Sappanwali, Block Khuan Sarwar, District - Fazilka (Under PRWSSP Sub Component IA (i)/JMM)	Rs. 31093712/-	Rs. 621874/-	AS PER WEBSITE	12 MONTHS & 3 MONTHS O&M

Availability of bidding document on website: From 16.12.2020 to 14.01.2021

The deadline for submission of bids online is: 14.01.2021 at 17.00 hours

Time and date of opening of Technical bids online: Water Supply Scheme for Village Killian Wali at 15.01.2021 at 12.00 Water Supply Scheme for Village Sappanwali at 15.01.2021 at 01.00

Note: 1) Other details regarding Schedule of bidding process including eligibility criteria of bidders can be seen in the bidding documents on website: <http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in>. For any clarification regarding e-tendering process, please contact this office e-tendering helpline of 0172-2970263, 0172-2970284, 01634-220175. Rectification/extension of time, corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website & will not be advertised in Newspapers.

Sd/- (Rajnish Kumar), Executive Engineer, W/S & Sanitation Division, Abohar.

On the behalf of Chairman GPWSC, Kilian Wali, Sappan Wali, Distt. Fazilka.

सार्वजनिक सूचना (नियम-6)

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि हरियाणा सरकार के पश्चिमांक SUDA/SUVS-Scheme/2020/2109 दिनांक 15.06.2020 द्वारा पथ विक्रेता (जीविका संरक्षण तथा पथ विक्रय विनियम 2014, हरियाणा पथ विक्रेता (जीविका संरक्षण तथा पथ विक्रय विनियम) संरोचित असुरक्षित सूचना दिनांक 27.05.2020 के अंतर्गत इन्हीं शहर के 222 पंजीकृत पथ विक्रेताओं में से कुलकर के मध्यम से 8 सदर्यों का चयन किया जायेगा। 222 पंजीकृत पथ विक्रेता की सूची ही इस चुनाव में मतदाता सूची है। जो निम्न प्रकार से होती है :

क्र. सं.	श्रेणी	पद संख्या
1.	महिला व पुरुष (सामाज्य वर्ग)	1
2.	महिला व पुरुष (अनुसूचित जाति)	1
3.	महिला व पुरुष (सामाज्य वर्ग)	1
4.	महिला व पुरुष (अनुसूचित जाति)	1
5.	महिला (अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग)	1
6.	महिला (अनुसूचित जाति)	1
7.	अल्पसंख्यक	1
8.	अशक्तवार्ग	1
	कुल	8

यह कोई पंजीकृत पथ विक्रेता सूची/मतदाता सूची को संशोधित करने के लिए दावा या आपत्ति देना चाहता है तो वह अपना दावा/आपत्ति लिखित में दिनांक 21.12.2020 को प्राप्त-10.00 बजे से साथ 5.00 बजे तक नगर कार्यालयोंका कार्यालय, इन्हीं में प्रधिकृत कर्मचारियों को प्रत्यक्ष सकता है। निर्धारित अवधि के पश्चात दावा/आपत्ति पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। इन्हीं शहर की 222 पंजीकृत पथ विक्रेताओं की सूची अवलोकन के हेतु नगरपालिका कार्यालय में उपलब्ध रहेंगे और सूची को पचास रुपये का भुगतान करके प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

हरियाणा पथ विक्रेता (जीविका संरक्षण तथा पथ विक्रय विनियम) अधिनियम 2017 का चुनाव निम्न कार्यक्रम अनुसार रिटर्निंग अधिकारी हरियाणा पथ विक्रेता (जीविका संरक्षण तथा पथ विक्रय विनियम) उपमंडल अधिकारी (ना.) इन्हीं द्वारा करवाया जाना है।

क्र. सं.	विवरण	दिनांक व समय	स्थान
01	रिटर्निंग अधिकारी द्वारा नियम 6(4) के अधीन नामांकन पत्रों की प्राप्ति होने तक विक्रेता की विधियां	22.12.2020 मंगलवार	कार्यालय नगरपालिका, इन्हीं
02	नियम 6(4)(आ)(ख) के अधीन नामांकन पत्र प्रस्तुत किये जाने की विधियां	30.12.2020 बुधवार 11.00 बजे से अप. 3.00 बजे तक	कार्यालय नगरपालिका, इन्हीं

03	नियम के अधीन उम्मीदवार वापस लेने की विधि	31.12.2020 वीरवार 11.00 से अप. 3.00 बजे तक	कार्यालय नगरपालिका, इन्हीं
04	नियम 6(10)(क) के अधीन नामांकन पत्रों की संमीक्षा किये जाने की विधि	04.01.2021 सोमवार 11.00 से साथ 3.00 बजे तक	कार्यालय नगरपालिका, इन्हीं

05	चुनाव लड़ने वाले उम्मीदवारों को दुरुपयोग करने के लिए विक्रेता को आवेदन करने के साथ जमा करवाया जाएगा।	05.01.2021 मंगलवार 11.00 से साथ 3.00 बजे तक	कार्यालय नगरपालिका, इन्हीं
06	मतदान के स्थान, तिथि	06.01.2021 बुधवार प्रातः 7.00 से साथ 5.00 बजे तक	b.d.o. office कार्यालय, इन्हीं

07	मतदान बंद होने के तुरंत बाद	b.d.o. office कार्यालय, इन्हीं
08	मतदान परिणाम घोषित किये जाने की विधि	b.d.o. office कार्यालय, इन्हीं

नोट: नामांकन

For Covid, ayush doctors can prescribe add-on drugs: SC

TRENDING NEWS SERVICE

**'CAN'T ADVERTISE MEDICINES AS CURE'**

- A Bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said qualified ayush and homoeopathic practitioners can't advertise anything as a cure for Covid-19.
- The verdict came on an appeal against an order passed by the Kerala HC on Aug 21 that prohibited ayush docs from advertising or prescribing medicines as Covid cure

19, except for the purpose of boosting immunity, as permitted under the Centre's March 6, 2020, advisory.

Noting that homoeopathy, ayurveda, siddha, unani

and naturopathy can be used for enhancing immunity to reduce the risk of Covid-19 infection, the High Court had given liberty to the state authorities to

take appropriate action under the Disaster Management Act against those violating the advisory.

The Centre had submitted that homoeopath practitioners can prescribe treatment to Covid-19 patients as a preventive measure and not as a cure.

The Ministry of Ayush had said all these medicines were to be administered as a preventive measure or as add-on to the conventional treatment and should not be prescribed as a cure.

The drugs prescribed by homoeopathic medical practitioners were for preventive and prophylactic use, for symptom management of Covid-like illnesses and add-on interventions to conventional care, it had clarified.



Health workers collect swab samples for Covid testing at a camp in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

BRIEFLY**AAP to contest UP Assembly elections, says Kejriwal**

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will contest the Uttar Pradesh Assembly poll in 2022, its national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Tuesday as he accused political parties in the state of doing nothing but stabbing people in the back. In a virtual press briefing, Kejriwal said development and progress in UP had been held back by its "dirty politics" and "corrupt leaders". People in the state want an honest government which only AAP can provide, he added. PTI

Aerospace scientist Narasimha passes away

New Delhi: Eminent aerospace scientist Roddam Narasimha (87) died in Bengaluru on Monday. President Ram Nath Kovind said Narasimha's demise is a huge loss to the world of science and technology. An authority in fluid dynamics, he was honoured with Padma Vibhushan and many other awards. My condolences to his family," Kovind tweeted. PTI

Case filed over Saif's Sita abduction comment

Jaunpur (UP): A case has been filed against actor Saif Ali Khan here for his recent "justification of Sita's abduction by Ravan" whose sister Surpanaka's nose was chopped off by Lord Ram's brother Lakshman. The Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jaunpur, has fixed December 23 as the next date of hearing. IANS

Husband arrested for Tamil actor's suicide

Chennai: Tamil actress VJ Chitra's husband Hemnath has been reportedly arrested for abetment to suicide almost a week after her death. Chitra was found dead in a hotel room on December 9. Hemnath had expressed anger over a few scenes of Chitra in her show. He had pushed her, said ACP Sudarshan. IANS

Johnson to be chief guest at Republic Day celebrations

UK Foreign Secy, Modi to discuss roadmap for ties

TRENDING NEWS SERVICE



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab at a press conference in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

'INDIA AN INDISPENSABLE PARTNER'

India is a key player in the Indo-Pacific region and an increasingly indispensable partner for the UK in economy, security and climate change.

Boris Johnson, UK PRIME MINISTER

US court dismisses lawsuit against PM Modi, Shah

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 15

The banned "Sikhs For Justice" suffered a setback after a US court dismissed a \$100-million lawsuit filed against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Earlier this week, a big question mark was put on the support it enjoys after no one turned up in response to its call to gherao the Indian High Commission in London last Friday.

The lawsuit was filed before the "Howdy Modi" rally in the US in September last year and was intended to act as an irritant during PM Modi's week-long visit to Houston and Washington.

It had challenged the abolition of Article 370 and reorganisation of J&K into two Union Territories.

Sources here said the brain behind the lawsuit was SFJ's Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, who is facing a chargesheet in India along with several other separatists living abroad.

The case was dismissed as the litigant, the Kashmir Khalistan Referendum Front, and two other complainants identified as "TFK" and "SMS" did not attend two consecutive hearings. Pannun also reportedly did not turn up. The Kashmir Khalistan Referendum Front had served the summons to PM Modi, Shah and a local Indian Army commander at that time at the Indian Consulate in Houston. — TNS

TRENDING NEWS SERVICE

'AFFECTING HEALTH'

For the past seven months, doctors are working continuously. It must be very painful and may be affecting their mental health

Supreme Court Bench

Mehta said the government would certainly consider the court's suggestion to grant some break to health workers engaged in Covid-19 duty.

During the hearing, the Bench was shocked to know that Gujarat collected Rs 80-90 crore fine from those violating Covid-19 safety norms.

It also asked them to ensure that the required number of teachers was made available to teach children in CCIs.

The court, which had earlier taken suo motu cognisance of fire tragedies in Covid-19 hospitals, including those in Rajkot and Ahmedabad, directed all states to file affidavits giving details of fire safety audits of Covid-19 hospitals.

Give ₹2K per month to CCI kids now with kin, states told

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed state governments to provide Rs 2,000 a month for the education of each child lodged in a child care institution (CCI) who has been restored to his/her family during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The top court asked state governments to provide books and stationery and other necessary infrastructure to CCIs for the online classes for children on recommendations from district child protection units within 30 days.

It also asked them to ensure that the required number of teachers was made available to teach children in CCIs.

The court was informed that 1,45,788 out of the total 2,27,518 children lodged in CCIs when the pandemic started had been restored to their families. IANS

Vice Admiral dies of Covid

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 15

Vice Admiral Srikant died on Tuesday morning at the base hospital here due to Covid-19-related complications, officials said. The Vice Admiral was due to retire on December 31.

Expressing condolences, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted, "Deeply pained at the untimely and sudden demise of Director General Seabird, Vice Admiral Srikant." The Ministry of Defence and the Indian Navy will always remember his stellar contributions and remarkable service to the nation, Singh said. — PTI

भारत का राजपत्र

The Gazette of India

REGD. No. D. L-33004/99

S.O. 4338(E).—In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH-NE5 (Delhi-Ludhiana Amritsar Katra Expressway) in the stretch of land from Km 175.9 to Km 177.8 (Sunam Tehsil) in the district of SANGRUR in the state of PUNJAB, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Sunam in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final. The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling on NH-NE5 (Delhi-Ludhiana Amritsar-Katra Expressway) in the stretch of land from Km 175.9 to Km 177.8 (Sunam Tehsil) in the district of SANGRUR in the state of PUNJAB

State: PUNJAB District: SANGRUR

S. No.	Survey/Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
1	16// 10	Private	Agriculture	0.0101000	0.0101000
2	18// 19/2/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0303000	0.0303000
3	18// 23/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0152000	0.0152000
4	18// 23/2	Private	Agriculture	0.1391000	0.1391000
5	18// 24/2	Private	Agriculture	0.1391000	0.1391000
6	34// 11/1/2	Private	Agriculture	0.2099000	0.2099000
7	34// 11/2/3	Private	Agriculture	0.0051000	0.0051000
8	34// 20/1/1	Private	Agriculture	0.1012000	0.1012000
9	34// 20/1/2	Private	Agriculture	0.1012000	0.1012000
10	35// 15/2	Private	Agriculture	0.3541000	0.3541000
11	35// 16/3	Private	Agriculture	0.2023000	0.2023000
12	46// 13/1	Private	Agriculture	0.1644000	0.1644000
13	46// 9	Private	Agriculture	0.4046000	0.4046000
14	5// 24	Private	Agriculture	0.1770000	0.1770000
15	5// 25	Private	Agriculture	0.1138000	0.1138000
16	51// 13/2	Private	Agriculture	0.1138000	0.1138000
17	51// 13/3	Private	Agriculture	0.1770000	0.1770000
18	51// 8/1/2/2	Private	Agriculture	0.1239000	0.1239000
19	59// 7/3	Private	Agriculture	0.0051000	0.0051000
20	60// 10/2	Private	Agriculture	0.2276000	0.2276000
			Total	2.8148	2.8148

[F. No. NHAI/PIU/LDH(Expyw)/701/LA/2020/DAKE-1] RAJESH GUPTA, Dy. Secy.

FROM PAGE 1

Unions frown upon religious symbolism

Meanwhile hardening their stance, farm leaders said they "will make the government repeal these laws". They asserted that their fight had reached a stage where they were "determined to win it". They accused the government of trying to divide them using issues like SYL and called Agriculture Minister's meetings with "select unions a divisive tactic".

Union leaders said on one hand, the PM was giving assurance to the farmers and on the other he was asking corporates to invest in agriculture sector. "How else will you interpret his speech at FICCI two days back?" questioned BKU leader Yudhvir Singh.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Tuesday met members of the BKU (Kisan) from UP who "welcomed" the Acts. Tomar told them that the government was willing to continue dialogue with genuine farm unions to find a solution with an open mind.

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*Editor for purpose of PR Act, 1952

Last journey

People gather to bid adieu to CRPF Deputy Commandant Vikas Kumar in Muzaffarnagar on Tuesday. Kumar succumbed to injuries sustained in an IED explosion in Sukma on Sunday. PTI

Pranab's family...

FROM PAGE 1

which Mukherjee blames Sonia and Manmohan Singh for the party's dismal 2014 showing.

The late President writes, "Some members of the Congress have theorized that, had I become the PM in 2004, the party might have averted the 2014 Lok Sabha drubbing. Though I don't subscribe to this view, I do believe that the party leadership lost political focus after my elevation as President."

Tank man's life discussed

TRENDING NEWS SERVICE

Operations in the mountains and the life of a tank man were discussed during a virtual exhibition and children's samavat that were held virtually today as a prelude to the fourth edition of the Military Literature Festival (MLF).

Presented through video, the exhibition hosted by Lt Gen JS Cheema (retd) and Col NK Singh (retd) showcased various dimensions of

training operations and mobility in mountains and high altitude. It also covered aspects such as medical evacuation, inclement weather, logistics, troop shelters as well as the employment of unmanned aerial vehicles and counter-terrorist operations in Kashmir.

Due to Covid restrictions, the MLF will be held virtually from December 18 to 20 this year.