

NOT AFRAID OF AUSSIE BOUNCERS, SAYS GILL SPORT

TATAS AMONG MULTIPLE BIDDERS FOR AIR INDIA BUSINESS

CENTRE RELEASES SEVENTH GST INSTALMENT BACK PAGE



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020

Amid protests in Pb & Hry, Tomar meets farmers' 'supporting' laws

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI/SONEPAT, DECEMBER 14 Even as the leaders of 32 farmers' organisations on Monday sat on a daylong fast at the Singhu border and farmers in Punjab and Haryana held dharnas outside the offices of deputy commissioners, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar met delegations from Telangana, Maharashtra, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Bihar. He later said the All-India Kisan Coordination Committee had expressed support for the recent farm laws.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Ministers Hardeep Puri and Som Parkash too held meetings on the issue. Citing BJP's recent wins, party spokesperson Sambit Patra said this would not have been possible without the "help of farmers and the poor".

At Singhu, the 32 farm leaders from Punjab and Haryana, under the banner of the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha, observed fast from 8 am to 5 pm. Addressing the media later, HS Lakhwani of the BKU (Lakhwani) said they would not step down till the "black laws" were repealed. The Haryana Police shut the



Women at a dharna in Bathinda on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: PAWAN SHARMA

Ambala-Patiala highway for a few hours after protesters gathered at the Shambhu border adjoining Punjab.

Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee president Sunil Jakhar participated in a protest near Shambhu. The Akali workers protest-

ed in Amritsar. In Jind, the protesters pushed at the barricades near the mini secretariat.

In Fatehabad, they took out a tractor procession. A group of lawyers sat on a 'dharna' in solidarity with the farmers in Faridabad.

BLANKETS, MUFFLERS FROM UTTAR PRADESH

Inder Singh, a mobile shop owner from Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh, distributed blankets, mufflers and hand towels among the protesters. He said they would continue to lend support to the farmers "braving the cold."

HRY FARMERS PITCH IN WITH VEGGIES, MILK

Haryana farmers have been providing milk, lassi, vegetables and fruit to the protesters. Nanha of Karsindh village in Uchana said they had been supplying 1,500 litres of milk, jaggery & fruit every alternate day.

PROTEST FINDS MENTION IN DELHI COURT HEARING

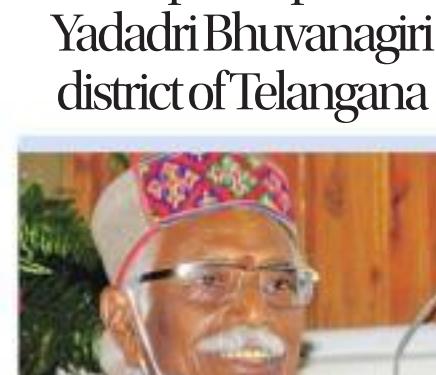
The demonstration during the farmers' protest to free several arrested activists, including JNU student Sharjeel Imam, came up for mention during the hearing of a bail application of an accused whose counsel argued that just because the farmers were carrying "free Sharjeel Imam" posters, it did not mean they too were part of the riots. PTI



Close shave for HP Guv, car hits tree

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 14 Himachal Governor Bandaru Dattatreya had a narrow escape when his official car veered off the road on the national highway near Choutappal town in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district of Telangana



BANDARU DATTAUREYA
in Nalgonda district. The Governor later proceeded towards his destination in

another vehicle.

According to the police, the driver lost control apparently after the steering suddenly turned left and the vehicle veered off the road and hit a tree before coming to a halt.

CM Jai Ram Thakur called him up to enquire about his well-being. Dattatreya hails from Telangana and was in active politics before being appointed Himachal Governor. He represented the Secunderabad constituency and was elected MP thrice.

Daily caseload declines below 30,000, third time this month

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 14 The daily Covid-19 cases fell below 30,000 today for the third time in a month with total cases touching 98,84,100 with 27,071 new infections. The toll rose to 1,43,355 with 336 deaths in 24 hours.

The recoveries stood at 93,88,159 while the recovery rate was 94.98 per cent as against the case fatality rate of 1.45 per cent. The active cases totalled 3,52,586 (3.57% of the total), the lowest in 149 days. The total active cases were 3,58,692 on July 18.

As against 27,071 new cases, there were 30,695 recoveries in 24 hours. Meanwhile, the operational guidelines on vaccines issued by the Centre say that the general population will be able to register

Won't take any retrograde step: Rajnath

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 14 Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, while advocating reforms in the agricultural sector, said the government was always open to discussion and dialogue with the protesting farmers.

Addressing the 93rd annual convention of FICCI, Rajnath said: "We are willing to listen to our farmer brothers and allay their fears."

He stressed that agricul-

LAWS IN FARMERS' BEST INTERESTS

"There is no question of taking retrograde steps for the farm sector. The recent reforms have been undertaken with the best interests of farmers in mind. Rajnath Singh, DEFENCE MINISTER



ture was the "mother sector" and it helped the country avoid the adverse effects of the pandemic.

"There is no question of taking retrograde steps in this area. The recent reforms have been undertaken with

the best interests of farmers in mind," he said.

The Defence Minister, meanwhile, blamed "unprovoked aggression" by China for the LAC standoff. "In these testing times, our forces have shown exemplary courage

and fought the PLA with utmost bravery and forced them to go back," he said.

On import of military equipment, he said, "It is not a very comforting fact that despite having one of the largest armed forces, we are dependent on imports in critical areas. While we have made some strides in defence production, a lot more can be done." Doors have been opened for the private sector for domestic production, he said.

Incurring loss, toll firm moves HC

CHANDIGARH: A concessionaire managing Ladowal toll plaza on the Panipat-Jalandhar highway on Monday approached the Punjab and Haryana High Court claiming revenue loss due to the farmers' agitation. Taking up the petition against the Punjab Government and other respondents filed by Panipat-Jalandhar NH-1 Tollway Pvt Ltd, the court asked the company to furnish information regarding position at other toll plazas run by it and fixed the case for further hearing on January 6. TNS

IN BRIEF



BKU leader JS Ugrahan (R) with a supporter in Tikri

"Maoists" in social media posts after hoardings supporting the jailed activists surfaced at a protest recently.

"It's not the first time we have raised voice for these jailed activists. Posters seeking their release were installed at toll plazas too over the past two months. All the 32 farmer unions are supporting this demand... Punjab has a rich tradition of speaking against injustice. We protested against the NRC as well," he maintains.

Busy charting future course with other leaders at the 'gaushala', three rooms

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

EDIT: STOP THE NAME-CALLING



Mourning kin

Night curfew extended in 4 Himachal dists

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 14

The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet today decided to continue night curfew in Shimla, Mandi, Kullu and Kangra districts and all other restrictions on social gatherings across the state till January 5 keeping in view the Covid-19 situation.

The Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, decided to continue with existing SOPs, including five-day week in government offices. The only relaxation given is in case of political functions, including inauguration and laying of foundation stones, with a limit of 50 persons and social distancing.

All other restrictions, including limit of 50 persons at social and religious gatherings, will continue. INSIDE

CCTV footage must, HC warns Hry cops

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab and Haryana High Court has made it clear that CCTV footage, whenever available, is required to be obtained during the probe. An FIR must be lodged against any officer knowingly disobeying the legal direction, it said. INSIDE

List steps taken by air quality control panel, SC tells Centre

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

TACKLING FARM FIRES

- Responding to PILs, SC asks Centre to give details of steps taken till now by Commission for Air Quality Management
- Petitioner highlights pollution caused by stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and western UP
- Next hearing on December 17

sive affidavit for filing. "You file your affidavit," the Bench said, adding it should have details of steps taken till now by the commission. It posted the matter for hearing on December 17.

During the hearing, senior counsel Vikas Singh alleged that the commission had not done anything. "The committee has 14 members but they have not done anything. They should file some affidavit," Singh submitted on behalf of petitioner Aditya Dubey, who highlighted the pollution caused by stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and western UP.

The Bench turned down Singh's plea for allowing mentioning of urgent matters via video-conferencing. "We don't have so many links (of video-conferencing)," the CJI told Singh.

According to an ordinance issued by the Centre, the commission supersedes all other authorities set up through judicial orders or otherwise on air quality management. It also replaces the Environment

Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) constituted by the Supreme Court more than two decades ago.

As PILs on air pollution were taken up for hearing, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the Centre, sought two days from a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India SA Bobde, saying the government was in the process of preparing a comprehen-

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Capt: AAP will pay for Kejriwal's cowardice

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 14

Alleging that the AAP leader was a coward, who had apologised when cornered over a defamation case by SAD's Bikram Majithia, CM Captain Amarinder Singh on Monday said Arvind Kejriwal's desperate attempts to hide his government's failure to protect the farmers' interests would not save him from their wrath, nor would they safeguard his party from being decimated in the next Punjab Assembly elections.

"Just as every Punjabi knows that I am not the one to be cowed down by any amount of false ED or other cases, they also know that you will sell your soul if it serves your purpose," the CM said, in response to Kejriwal's allegations against him.

Daring his Delhi counterpart to cite instances when he (Captain Amarinder) backed off under pressure of ED or any other agency, the Punjab CM said from Operation Bluestar to SYL and now to the farm laws issue, he had always done the right thing for his people, in sharp contrast to Kejriwal. —TNS

Stop maligning farmers' protest: Cong to Centre

Wants families of all deceased protesters to get adequate compensation

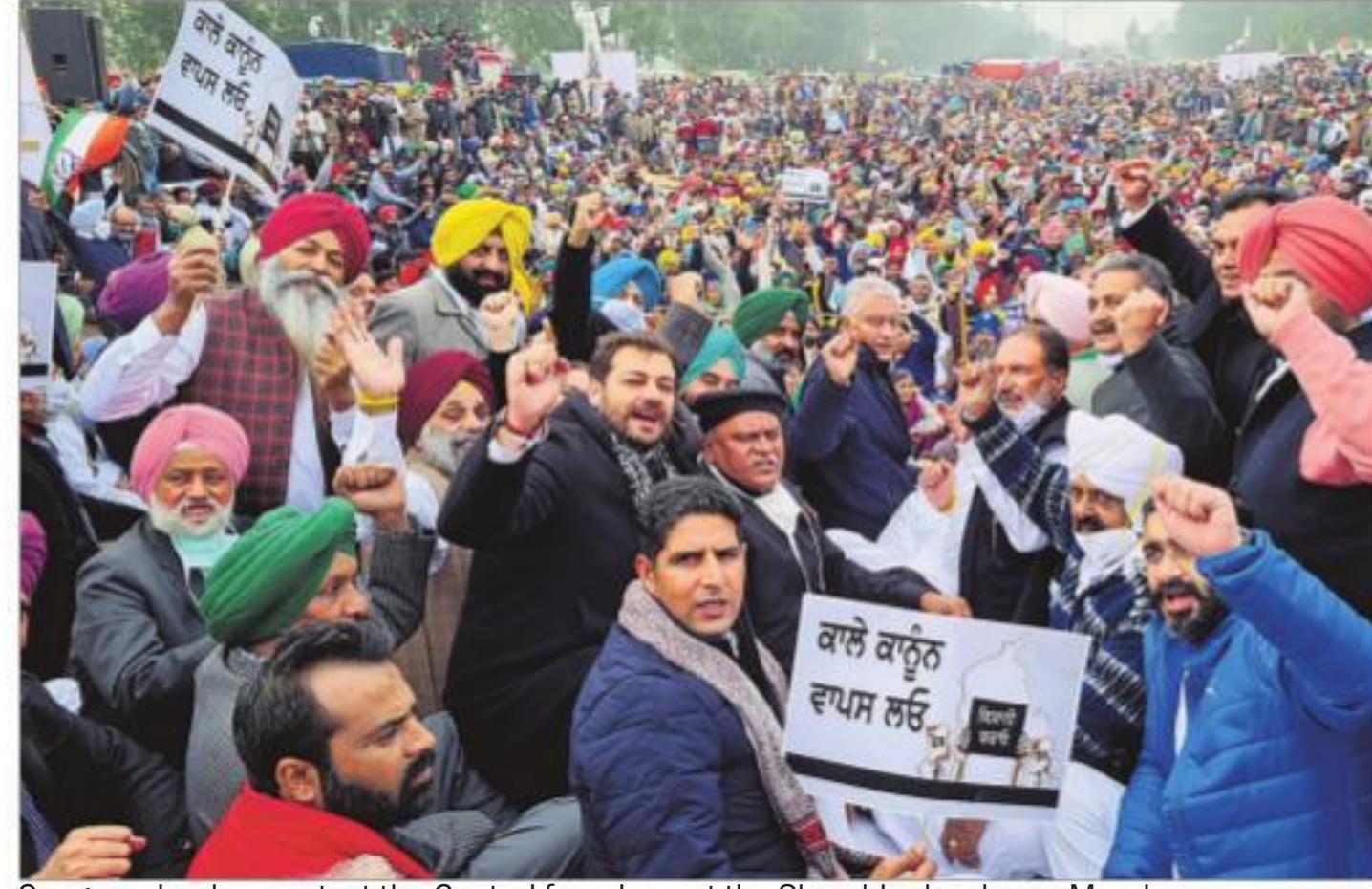
TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

RAJPUKA, DECEMBER 14

Punjab Congress leaders today held a protest rally at the Shambhu border of Punjab and Haryana and said the Modi government was out to malign the protesting farmers by calling them 'tukde tukde gang', Khalistanis, anti-nationals and Maoists.

Harish Rawat, in charge, Punjab affairs, said the Congress won't let the Modi government derail the farmers' protest by misleading propaganda. "Farmers are the ones who feed the nation, but the BJP sees 'tukde tukde gang' in them. It is calling farmers by different names, but we won't let that happen. We have always fought for farmers and will do it in future as well."

Sunil Jakhar, president of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee, said there was a sinister attempt by Union Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad



Congress leaders protest the Central farm laws at the Shambhu border on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

and Hardeep Puri to defame the protesting farmers. "They shouldn't forget that we come from the land of revolutions. It was disheartening to see Harddeep Puri saying that hooligan-

ism was happening in name of protest," he said.

Amrinder Raj Warring, Congress MLA from Gidderbaha, said the state government should make some amendments in the laws to provide a government job and financial assistance of at least Rs 10 lakh to the family members of farmers who died during the protest.

Shun ego, repeal farm laws: SAD

AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 14

The SAD urged the BJP-led Centre to "shun ego" and repeal the three laws on agriculture while showing solidarity with farmers.

Addressing people during a dharna at Golden Gate today, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal said: "The Centre has usurped the powers of states in an autocratic manner by instituting three farm laws, which is basically a state subject."

Sukhbir said the things had taken such a turn that if one was in agreement with the Centre, he was a "desh bhakt" but if one spoke out against it, he was a "desh drohi".

"When we oppose, we are branded as separatists. Is Harsimrat Kaur Badal who resigned from the Union Ministry in protest against the three agricultural laws a desh drohi? Can anyone term Parkash Singh Badal, who returned his Padma Vibhushan in solidarity with farmers, a desh drohi?" he asked.

SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia took a dig at BJP's leaders who were claiming China and Pakistan's hand in the farmer protest. "Ironically, when it comes to sacrifices and contributions for the country, we are deemed the best, but when we challenge their decision, they paint us anti-national, hooligan and even terrorists," he said. —TNS

BADALS TO BLAME FOR CRISIS: BRAHMPURA

■ Former MP and president of SAD (Taksali) Ranjit Singh Brahmpura has alleged Badals are responsible for the peasant agitation

■ "The then Cabinet Minister in the Modi government, Harsimrat Kaur Badal, was content with the black agriculture laws but later on, she resigned after gauging the mood of the Punjab farmers," he alleged

stand that these Acts are a threat to their survival," he said. Harsimrat said she had forewarned that no laws should be finalised without taking into account the concerns of farmers. "It was shocking that the suffering of farmers and their families in biting cold had not moved the heart of the Centre," she said.

SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia took a dig at BJP's leaders who were claiming China and Pakistan's hand in the farmer protest. "Ironically, when it comes to sacrifices and contributions for the country, we are deemed the best, but when we challenge their decision, they paint us anti-national, hooligan and even terrorists," he asked.

Referring to the ongoing "democratic movement" of farmers, Sukhbir said the SAD fully backed the farmers' demand for the repeal of the farm Acts. "The government must not stand on prestige and must under-



Farmers and locals protest the three farm laws outside the Deputy Commissioner's office in Kapurthala on Monday. MALKIAT SINGH

Dharnas held outside DC offices

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 14

Hundreds of farmers turned up outside the offices of deputy commissioners in all districts of Punjab to participate in dharnas in support of the farmers protesting at the borders of Delhi against the three farm laws.

The call to hold dharnas was given by the 32 farmer unions who are jointly spearheading the protest. The protesting farmers in all offices issued a warning to the Centre to withdraw the three contentious farm laws and the amendments to the Electricity Act, or more farm-



Farmers march against the farm laws in Bathinda on Monday.

ers from the state would join the "pucca morcha" at the borders of the national capital. At Fatehgarh Sahib, the

revenue patwaris and kanungos too joined the farmers in their protest. Jagmohan Singh Patiala, general secretary of BKU, Dakaunda, said students, traders, literate and government employees across the state had joined their protest.

"People raised their voice in unison, demanding that the government immediately repeal the three farm laws. The government offer for amendments is not acceptable to Punjabis," he said.

In Gurdaspur, thousands of farmers, including a sizeable number of women and children, staged protests at the offices of the Deputy

BJP to step up awareness drive

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, DECEMBER 14

Locked in a deadlock with farmers over the central laws, Punjab BJP will intensify its efforts to convince them.

During his first virtual meeting with 670 top leaders of Punjab on Monday, Punjab in charge Dushyant Gautam, who is a Rajya Sabha MP and national general secretary of the BJP, brainstormed the gathering to counter the "misinformation" being spread by political opponents.

Reacting sharply to the meeting, Punjab farmers said that the BJP was still blind to the plight of lakhs of farmers and their families who are sitting on New Delhi borders for the rollback of the "black" laws.

During the meeting, discussions also took place to prepare for the forthcoming municipal elections as many BJP leaders are apprehensive that their social boycott, being demanded by their political opponents, will create serious problems for them.

"Today, our Punjab in charge took the first virtual meeting. In the coming days, he will also meet everyone physically.

Apart from 15-20 top lead-



Protest at BJP leader Surjit Kumar Jyani's house in Fazila.

JYANI HAS FAILED FARMERS, MUST QUIT: CONG

Fazila: A large number of farmers and labourers led by former Fazila Congress MLA Dr Mohinder Kumar Rinwa gheraoed and staged protest outside the residence of senior BJP leader Surjit Kumar Jyani at his native Katehra village on Monday. Dr Rinwa said Jyani should quit the BJP and join the farmers' protest as he being a head of the BJP coordination committee, Punjab, has failed to get the issue resolved. oc

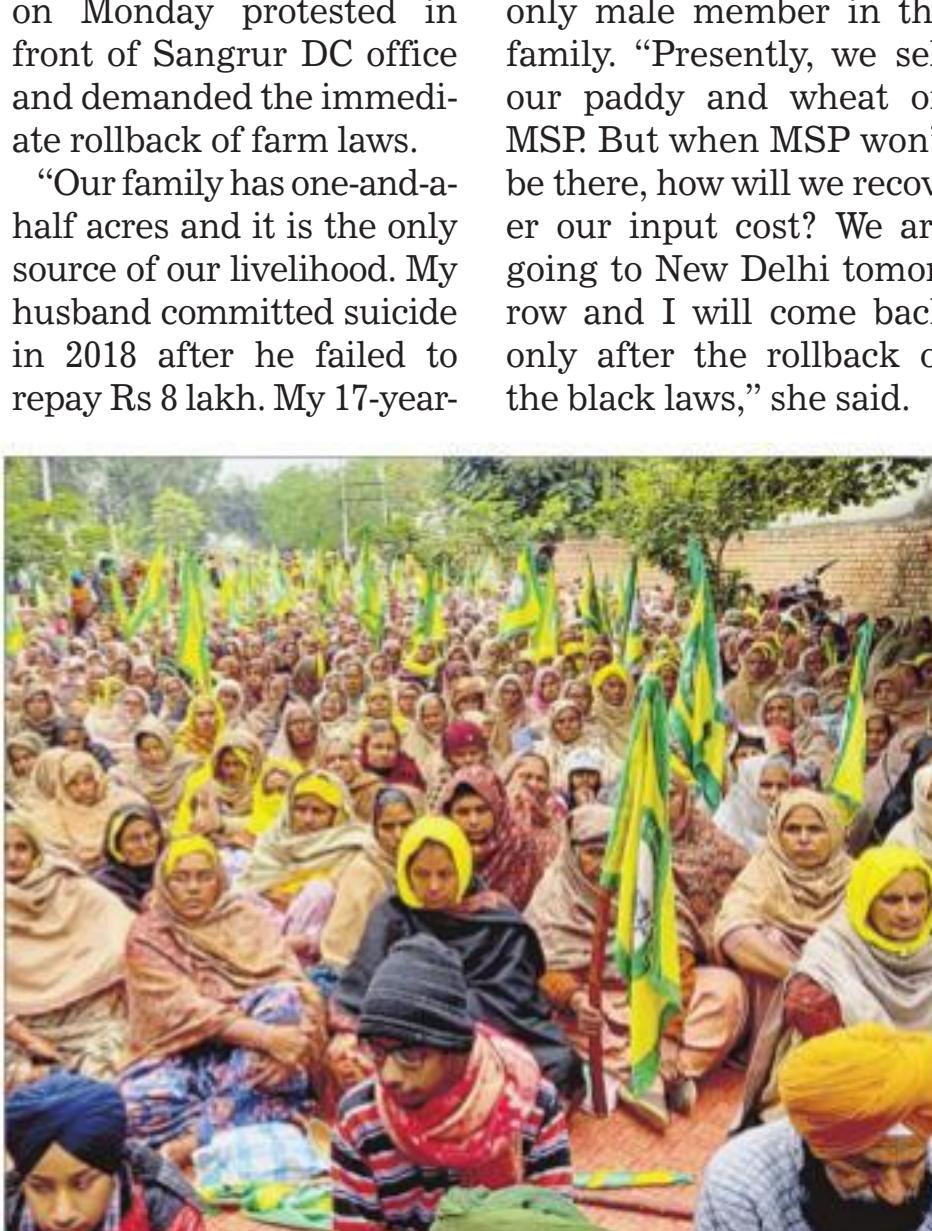
ers of the BJP from each district, state party president Ashwani Sharma; Dinesh Kumar, sangathan mantra, Punjab; and Subhash Sharma, general secretary of Punjab, also attended the virtual meeting. Sarjan Jindal, state executive member of the BJP, said that they would go house to house to clarify on the reality of the new laws.

Widows of debt-ridden peasants join protest

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

old son is the only earning hand. After the implementation of the black laws, we will not get MSP and it will multiply our problems," said Amit Kaur, a protester.

Another widow Jagir Kaur said that her family owns 4 acres, but after the suicide of her elder son and husband, her younger son is only male member in the family. "Presently, we sell our paddy and wheat on MSP. But when MSP won't be there, how will we recover our input cost? We are going to New Delhi tomorrow and I will come back only after the rollback of the black laws," she said.



Women protest in front of Sangrur Deputy Commissioner's office.

March against laws in Abohar

ABOHAL, DECEMBER 14

Scores of people today assembled at Nehru Park and carried out a protest march till Sadar Bazar to express solidarity with farmers' protest at the national capital.

Most of them carried placards and some even targeted a few TV channels for their alleged attempts to defame the stir. The Teachers' Union said the "black laws" would be detrimental not only to farmers but also to the traders and every section of society. —OC

Tributes to deceased

LUDHIANA, DECEMBER 14

Various groups of farmers and farm workers today held protests at the Mini Secretariat and the Punjabi Bhawan here. The protesting farmers and workers paid tributes to the farmers and labourers who had lost their lives during the struggle.

With senior leaders protesting in Delhi, local activists of BKU-Lakhowal, Kadian and Ekta Ugrahan and Kisan Sagarsh Committee held the fort at the district level. The protesting farmers

Farmers urge Centre to relent

asserted while the farmers would suffer severe economic loss, the consumers would end up paying more for the agricultural products once they were controlled by the corporates as per the new legislations. They made an earnest plea to the government to withdraw the laws in the larger interest of the farming community.

Union leader hurt in mishap

RAJMEET SINGH
TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUKTSAR, DECEMBER 14

Puran Singh Doda, president, Bharti Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan), Muktsar district, got injured in a road mishap at the Tikri border today. Lachman Singh Sewewala, a farm labourer leader, said, "A vehicle plying on the road at the Tikri border today morning hit Puran Singh. He has been admitted to the PGIMS, Rohtak."

Warmth & hospitality at 'Singh' border

RAJMEET SINGH
TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SINGH BORDER, DECEMBER 14

These days, Aslam, a rag picker, has no time to rest. Unmindful of the purpose and outcome of the farmers' agitation, he is busy collecting 35-40 kg of empty water bottles daily against 5 kg to 6 kg till recently at the Singhu border. His daily earnings have also more than doubled in the last fortnight. Picking up an empty bottle at one of the protest sites, he asks a protesting farmer: "Sardari aap kitne din rahoge".

With more and more farmers from Punjab joining the protest by the day, locals are calling Singhu border the 'Singh border'. The prolonged farmers' agitation is only strengthening the relation of dependency and trust between the guest (read farmers) and the locals.

A few kilometres away near TDI Mall, Sonepat, a gurdwara committee from Doaba has hired local women to cook chapattis. "We are paying each cook Rs 300 per day. As the number of farmers arriving daily swells, we might have to hire more cooks", says Shingara Singh, who is instrumen-



Protesting farmers take a much-needed break and foot massage at Singhu border on Monday. PTI

INITIALLY, LOCALS WERE WARY

Initially, locals were wary of us. Dark memories of the Jat Andolan fresh in their mind, shopkeepers downed their shutters. But now, the perception has changed. They are forthcoming and welcoming.

Harpal Singh Cheema, AAP LEADER

tal in organising ration for the community kitchen.

cially children, from nearby areas in large numbers. Sahib Singh of Baje Chak village in Gurdaspur says: "For the first few days, locals were wary of us. Dark memories of

Jatt Andolan fresh in their mind, shopkeepers downed their shutters. But soon, the perception changed."

Locals are now allowing the farmers to use their facilities. A cellphone shop owner here is offering WiFi facility for free as jammers installed by the Haryana Police prevent free access to mobile data. Amused by "dharna and celebrations" going together, locals are asking farmers "Sardari agle sal kab aayoge."

After ration, clothes, free turbans for protesters

AJAY JOSHI
TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE



A member of 'Turban Bank' ties a turban to a farmer at Singhu. 2,000 turbans. Tejinder Singh (36), founder of the bank said, "For Sikhs, turban is an identity, a symbol of spirituality, pride and honour. A Sikh can give up his life for his turban. It is a symbol of unity and integrity for the community."

Hence, we are receiving an overwhelming response." Harwinder Singh and Satwant Singh, Jalandhar-based turban bank members, are also in demand at the borders for their turban-tying skills. Harwinder said: "Besides easy methods, we teach how to tie Patiala Sahi, Amritsar Sahi, Morni and Parna turbans." Interestingly, farmers from Haryana, UP and Rajasthan at the protest sites are equally taking interest in proudly flaunting a turban around their head.

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I, Ravi Kant Kagra s/o Satpal Kagra r/o # 2053-E, Block-21, Sector-63, Chandigarh-160047 (UT) have changed my name to Ravi Kant. (CL20073637)

I, Mukesh Kumar s/o Rajender Singh r/o H.No. 1428/12, Dildar Nagar, Kurukshetra have changed my name as Raikender Singh Deswal. (CL20073649)

I, Balbadar Krishan Adhar No. 9755 4028 5263, Balbadar Sharma, (alias Balbadar Krishan Sharma) S/o Dina Nath, resident 235, Sector 25, Panchkula, (Haryana), have changed my name as Balbadar Krishan. In future know me as Balbadar Krishan. (CL20073606)

I, Navneet Kaur Bains d/o Balwinder Singh, holder of Indian Passport No. N8078584, issued at Chandigarh, on 05.04.2016, permanent resident of MIG-Super 2716-A, Sector 70, Mohali Punjab, India 160071, and presently residing at 442 Taraloke Way NE Calgary AB, Canada T3J 0J5, do hereby change my name from Navneet Kaur Bains to Navneet Kaur, with immediate effect. Subject to the approval of High Commission of India at Canada. (CL20073666)

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SAD turns 100, looks to regain ground in Assembly elections

GS PAUL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 14

Amid farm protests, the SAD leadership headed by Sukhbir Singh Badal commemorated the centenary of the party's foundation day by performing 'ardas' dedicated to 'sarbat da bhala' (welfare of all) and 'success of farmers' cause' at Gurdwara Gurbaik Singh at the Golden Temple complex today.

Giving a push for federal structure in the country, Sukhbir declared that the SAD intended to work in tandem with the like-minded regional parties in this direction.

Pointing out the alarming crisis following the 'anti-farm laws', he said the BJP-led Centre had not followed a federal approach through consultation and consensus and the agrarian crisis was the outcome of ill-advised and dictatorial tendencies.

"The genuine federal structure was an ultimate and durable quotient against the social, political and economic crisis and the SAD will coordinate with like-minded parties to ensure establishment of a welfare state, a vision



SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal addresses a gathering in Amritsar.

BADALS DAMAGED AKALI DAL: SAD (AMRITSAR)

Chandigarh: The SAD (Amritsar) on Monday extended support to the farmers' protest in Delhi and demanded an inquiry by a sitting judge into the missing 328 'saroops'. Party national general secretary Kushpal Singh Mann said the SAD, led by the Badal family, had no right to celebrate 100 years of the Akali Dal as it had caused much damage to the soul and spirit of the party. It also criticised the Badals for supporting the farm laws initially. TNS

handed down to us by our Gurus," he said.

Releasing the mission statement of the SAD, Sukhbir emphasised the commitment to Panthic ideals and values as the top priority.

In its centenary year, the

SAD finds itself in disarray, desperately trying to regain a foothold in its home turf of Punjab following a series of sacrilege, flip-flops over exonerating the Dera Sirsas chief and lately, misappropriation of 328 'saroops' from the possession of the SGPC.

The SAD was founded on December 14, 1920, by the Sikhs. The party was at the forefront of securing federal rights for the states and standing up for the minorities. Considering itself as the principal representative of Sikh Panth, the aim was to free gurdwaras from 'mahants' and establish supremacy of the SGPC. That goal was achieved which led to the constitution of the Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1925.

In 1966, the present Punjab was formed. The party came to power in the new Punjab in March 1967. It allied with the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, BJP's predecessor, for the first time during the Punjab Assembly elections in 1969. It formed a coalition with the BJP again in 1997 during the state elections. At the Centre, however, the SAD joined the BJP-led coalition in 1998.

With the BJP at the Centre, tension and pressure brewed up with SAD's stand on the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act, National Register of Citizens and National Population Register. Recently, the SAD walked out of the alliance over the three farm laws.

Will form national front of regional parties: Dhindsa

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 14

Claiming that its workers were supporting the farmers' protest on the ground, the Shiromani Akali Dal (Democratic) today said it would try to form a national front with like-minded regional parties.

The Shiromani Akali Dal led by the Badals has already held parleys with the several regional parties.

Opposing the Badals, the Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa led SAD (Democratic) said they were the real Akali Dal. The party leaders paid obeisance at Gurdwara Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib, Sector 15, on the occasion of 100th foundation day of the Shiromani Akali Dal.

Responding to questions from the media regarding an alliance with other parties for the 2022 Punjab elections, Dhindsa said the party would take a decision in this regard when the elections approach, but made it clear that his party would not ally with the BJP, Congress and the Badals under any circumstances.

"Alliances with political parties which are in line with the party's ideology will be considered," he added. —TNS

IN BRIEF

Youths open fire in Sangrur, two injured

Sangrur: Two persons suffered bullet injuries after a group of local youths opened fire at them near the Ranbir College. The police have registered a case against nine persons and started an investigation. TNS

11th BARSI REMEMBRANCE

In sweet and everlasting memory of our dearest Er. Brij Mohan Singh Walia, Former Municipal Engineer, S/o Late S. Teja Singh of Chamkaur Sahib who left us for his heavenly abode this day on 15th Dec. 2009.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Mrs. Manjot Kaur Walia (Wife)
Dr. Navdeep Walia - Dr. Veenu Walia (Son-in-Law-Daughter)
Er. Ravi Kiran- Ar. Jasmine Walia (Son-in-Law-Daughter)
Er. Gurpreet Singh Walia- Seerat (Son-Daughter-in-Law)
Inayat, Rehmat, Hinam, Pari, Jayveer, Yuvraj (Grandchildren)

All Walia Family and Friends
98554-41721, 99159-00007
15/16-E, NEW LAL BAGH, PATIALA.



D14568

IN LOVING MEMORY



Late Sh. SATISH GUPTA
(6/11/1958 - 15/12/2017)

Your positivity, laughter & willpower has made us what we are today.

We miss your guiding spirit, wisdom, boundless love and affection for each of us.

----- Keeping your memories alive -----

Pushpa Gupta (Wife)

Sham & Saroj Gupta (Brother & Sister-in-Law)

Jagdish & Usha Gupta (Brother & Sister-in-Law)

Dr. Tarsem & Kiran Gupta (Brother & Sister-in-Law)

Dipti Gupta (Daughter)

Manav & Kritika Gupta (Son & Daughter-in-Law)

Karam Satish Gupta (Grandson)

All Family & Children

Management & Staff of STYLM INDUSTRIES LIMITED CHANDIGARH

NANGAL, DECEMBER 14
Protesting against the disinvestment of state government for disinvestment was questionable as the state would get a mere Rs 42 crore from the deal even as the factory was set up on 88 acres and Rs 120 crore was spent on its modernisation recently. —TNS

In ever lasting memory of

Selfless soul, always loving & kind.
Such are the memories you left behind.



08.08.1969 - 11.12.2020

With profound grief & sorrow
We inform the sad demise of our beloved

Sh. Vinod Gupta

Managing Director, Swarna Group of Industries
on 11th December 2020

Rasam kriya

for peace of the departed soul will be held on
Tuesday, 15th December 2020, from 2pm-3pm at
Shri Sanatan Dharam Mandir, Sector-27 Chandigarh

Due to the Covid-19 precautions, you can pray for the departed soul from your place by joining Zoom meeting or on youtube live at 2pm

Meeting Id: 834 1958 8295 | Passcode:-322614
Scan QR Code



Zoom Meeting



Swarna Industries Ltd.
Sco-15 A, First floor, Sector-7C
Madhy Marg, Chandigarh
H. No. 3103, Sector 28 D, Chandigarh
0172-400400
9780557700

Grief Stickten

Babita Gupta (Wife)
Swarna & Satalp Gupta (Mother & Father)
Rakhi & Rajesh Gupta (Bhabhi & Brother)
Sejal & Anshul Singla (Daughter & Son in law)
Bharat Gupta (Son)
Aashna Gupta (Daughter)
Manan Gupta (Nephew)
Ruhil & Aditya Gupta (Niece & Son in law)
Gupta, Garg & Singla Family

YouTube Live

Scan QR Code

Leaders hold day-long fast at borders

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SONEPAT/JHAKJAR, DECEMBER 14 Day 18 of the farmers' protest saw leaders of 32 organisations sitting on a fast at the Singhu border (NH-44) against the Centre's new farm laws.

Harender Singh Lakhawal, state convener, BKU (Lakhawal), said farmers' single-point demand was the revocation of the "black laws". "We will not bow down till our demand is met."

Leaders who sat on fast included Gurnam Singh Charuni, Harinder Singh Lakhawal, Surjeet Singh Phool, Jangveer Singh, Harmeet Singh Kadian, Ruldoo Singh, Bhaog Singh and Manjeet Singh Rai.

At the Tikri border, meanwhile, 18 farmers — 12 from Punjab and six from Haryana — observed a fast on the call given by the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha.

"One representative from each of the 18 organisations took part in the hunger strike to show that all organisations are united. A message has been sent out to the Centre that its desperate attempts to cause a rift among us are not going to succeed," said Inderjit Singh, vice-president, All India Kisan Sabha.

Farmers and representatives of the Gulia khan protested at the Mini-sec-



Leaders observe fast at the Tikri border on Monday; and (below) farmers protest outside the Mini-Secretariat in Karnal. TRIBUNE PHOTO: SAYEED AHMED

3 MINORS JOIN DHARNA

Ambala: The protest at the new grain market here saw the participation of three children — Gurkirat Singh (10), Jasmeet (10) and Navneet (9). Jasmeet and Navneet, both sisters, who accompanied their father, recited a poem on the occasion. District BKU (Charuni) vice-president Gulab Singh said, "We have been receiving support from several organisations." TNS



retariat in Jhajjar. The district administration had placed barricades to prevent the protesters from entering the premises, but they breached the barri-

cades and entered the building.

Later, they submitted a memorandum, addressed to the President, to the district administration,

demanding cancellation of the three farm laws.

Karnal: On the call of given by the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha, scores of farmers staged dharna outside the

Mini-Secretariat in Karnal and Kaithal districts. Several political, social and employees' associations extended support to farmers.

Farmers appealed to other sections of society to support their movement for a complete rollback of the laws. They accused the Centre of dilly-dallying on their demand.

Sewa Singh Arya, national vice-president, Bharatiya Kisan Union, said: "All farmers are united. The Centre should revoke the 'black' laws for the larger interest of the farmers."

Ajay Rana, district president, BKU (Charuni), said the Centre was not taking their demand seriously and forcing them to continue protest at the Delhi borders. "The government should take the laws back," he added. A heavy posse of police was deployed to maintain law and order.

Rohitak: Representatives of several organisations under the aegis of the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha staged dharna outside the DC's residence here on Monday.

Congress MLA from Rohtak Bharat Bhushan Batra and former Meham MLA Anand Singh Dangi also joined the dharna and expressed their solidarity with the protesting farmers.



Young farmers donate blood at the Singhu border on Monday.

200 farmers donate blood at Singhu

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SONEPAT, DECEMBER 14 A total of 200 farmers protesting against the three farm laws donated blood here on Monday. The blood donation camp was organised by the United Sikhs India, a social organisation.

Pritam Singh, a member of the organisation, said they had been holding a medical camp at the Singhu border since November 28 and providing medicines to farmers. He said around 200 units of blood had been collected till 1 pm.

Kamaljeet of Moga, a blood donor, said he and other farmers of his village had reached the Singhu border on November 28.

Varyam Singh of Ludhiana said it was a matter of pride to be a part of the fight for rights and blood donation was the need of the hour.

Another social organisation, the Medical Service Centre, had been holding a medical camp here for the past 12 days.

Dr Anshuman Mitra, a member of the organisation, said they had been providing medical support to between 200 and 300 farmers every day.

A group from Batta village in Patiala district, led by Ranjeet Singh and Jaspreet Singh, brought items of daily use like toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps, paper soap, washing powder and biscuits for the protesting farmers.



Farmers irrigate plants at the Tikri border. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Protesters grow vegetables on Tikri highway

RAVINDER SAINI

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Centre that they are in for a long haul.

They have been camping in the open along the 10-km stretch starting from the Jakhoda bypass in Bahadurgarh to the Tikri border for the past 18 days.

Termendra Sandhu of Sangrur district said, "We were facing shortage of

coriander. As the soil on the divider is fertile, we informed our friends in the village to bring vegetable seeds."

He further said the Modi government was testing farmers' patience by not accepting their demand for rolling back farm laws. "By growing vegetables, we want

to give a message to the Centre that we are not returning anytime sooner. No doubt, people of Haryana have been generous and providing us with vegetables and other food items. But growing vegetable is a form of protest as well."

Karamjit Singh, another farmer, said they did not

demand any plant already grown on the divider. "We tied the already grown plants and made space to sow seeds. It's our kitchen garden. We irrigate it daily and protect it from stray animals. The vegetables will be ready to consume within 20 to 25 days," he added.

Software for ads, payment to media houses launched

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 14

The state launched enterprise resources planning (ERP) software on Monday for efficiency in releasing government advertisements and payment to media houses.

CM Manohar Lal Khattar said after the launch of the software, release orders and payment of advertisement bills would be done through the online mode within 30

days of the submission of bills. This system would be made operational from Tuesday.

Interacting with representatives of various media houses, Khattar requested them to send the list of pending bills to the department by March 31. With the launch of this software, any department or organisation will be able to make online request for advertisements. — TNS

Sanction No. 2
HIMACHAL PRADESH FOREST DEPARTMENT FOREST DIVISION CHAMBA NOTICE INVITING BIDS

On behalf of Governor of HP, the Chamba forest division invites bids on <https://hpntenders.gov.in/nicceg/app> for following works in two cover system from HPPWD/PH registered contractors.
Name of work - "Construction of Two Type-II Quarter (2Nos) in Forest Campus of Chamba Forest Division Chamba."

Estimated Tender Cost	Rs. 14,50,014/-
EMD Cost	50,000/-
Time Limit	2 Months
Document Download start date	15.12.2020 (1:00 p.m.)
Document download last date	29.12.2020 (1:00 p.m.)
Date and time of opening of tender	29.12.2020 (3:00 p.m.)
Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer Chamba Forest Division Chamba. Email: dfocha-hp@nic.in Contact No. 01899-222239	

DPR/HP/4973

PRESS NOTE

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Nohradhar invites following offline tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from eligible Contractors for the following work through off-line process:-

Sr. No.	Description	E/Cost	E/Money	Time
1	Stock Storage (SH:- C/o protection work for Sub-Divisional road at Chandol).	441653/-	8850	2 Months
2	C/O LIS Badol in GP Badol Tehsil Sangrahi Distt. Sirmour (HP) (SH:- Providing fixing of fencing panel around the pump house at both stages).	468934/-	9400	3 Months
3	Providing water supply scheme for PC habitation of various GP under IPH Sub-Division Chandol in Tehsil Raigarh Distr. Sirmour (H.P.) (SH:- C/O RCC intake chamber, storage tank 5000 litres capacity, laying & jointing of GMS pipe line in distribution system and providing FHTC to balance households of habitation Shaya, Sanora & Dhamla)	498353/-	10000	3 Months
Cost of From:- 250/- each				

The application for purchase of tender documents shall be entertained up to 4.00 p.m. dated 15.12.2020, non-refundable, in cash or by money order as per cost shown above. The tenders shall be received in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Nohradhar up to 2.00 p.m. dated 16.12.2020 and shall be opened on the same day at 3.00 p.m. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives if any.

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Nohradhar.
DPR/HP/4951

A solution to stubble burning: ICAR-PUSA Compost/Decomposer Technology

Stubble burning in the adjacent states of Punjab & Haryana has become one of the major contributory factors of the depleting air quality and increased pollution levels across some of the North Indian states including the landlocked national capital, especially in the months of September, October onwards every year. Stubble burning is a practice of burning the crop residue after harvesting summer paddy crop, followed by farmers in Punjab, Haryana and parts of Uttar Pradesh, mainly to get the land ready for the next crop, i.e. wheat. The narrow gap between the two crop seasons, non-availability of labour are important factors besides stubble burning being the cost most effective option.

Research institutions like the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), under the aegis of ICAR, have been working on a cost effective yet simple solution for managing crop residues and help reduce air pollution. Years of research have resulted in this technology called 'Pusa compost/Decomposer', a combination product of eight microbes, made available in 'capsule' form for decomposing the stubbles and help ready the land for the sowing of the next crop without the farmers burning the crop residue. According to the innovators of this technology, just 'Four capsules', which will cost a very minimal amount of money, can be used to make 25 liters of solution sufficient clearing stubbles on one hectare of land. The technology complements other available methods by hastening stubble decomposition.



The scientist also suggest that the use of Pusa Decomposer capsules will not only reduce the time taken for decomposing paddy straw, but also help enhance the soil fertility in the long run.

In order to make the Pusa Compost/Decomposer formulation widely made available to farmers from different districts across the country, ICAR has adopted a policy of granting commercial licenses to interested companies and/or individuals for mass production and sell to desired farmers. The commercial license is provided by Agrinovate India limited (Agin) (www.agrinovateindia.co.in) a company of ICAR on prefixed terms and conditions on payment of one-time license fee.

The Pusa compost/decomposer technology being patented is the proprietary of ICAR-IARI. However, any interested individual or company can apply for a license and obtain the complete details of producing the product. The company then acts as an 'authorized supplier' of this product on commercial sale basis. No company that has 'licensed the product from Agrinovate can claim it as their own technology. The technology belongs to ICAR-IARI.

The technology has till date been commercialized by Agrinovate India to 12 different public and private industries in the country on non-exclusive basis.

Sr. No.	Name of the client
1	Citrus Estate Hoshiarpur, Dept. of Horticulture, Punjab
2	Grassroots Energies Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore
3	Global Management and Engineer Consultant, Jaipur
4	Balaji Operations and Maintenance, New Delhi
5	Balram Biotech, New Delhi
6	Krishi Vikas Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Rajasthan
7	Vijay Sales Corporation, New Delhi
8	Agrella Crop Sciences Pvt. Ltd., Punjab
9	MD Biocoals Pvt. Ltd., Haryana
10	Microplex India, Maharashtra
11	Om Agro Organics, Maharashtra
12	IPL Biological Ltd., Haryana

Contact email: info@agrinovate.co.in

Website: www.agrinovateindia.co.in

HC: Book cops not securing CCTV footage in crime cases

SAURABH MALIK

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 14 In a significant judgment liable to change the way criminal cases are investigated, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has made it clear that CCTV footage, whenever available, is required to be obtained during probe.

The HC also made it clear that FIR for knowingly disobeying the direction of law was required to be registered under Section 166A of the IPC against the defaulting investigating officer in case of omission.

Directions were issued in the matter to the Haryana DGP. He was asked to issue appropriate instructions to Commissioners and Superintendents of Police to exercise effective supervision in this regard on officials posted in their districts.

Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi stated that it was required to be ensured that CCTV footage was obtained from the source, along with requisite certificate under Section 65B of the Evidence Act, in accordance with the law in every case wherever it was claimed to be available.

The directions by Justice Tyagi came during the hearing of a regular bail plea filed by Rahul through counsel Aditya Sanghi in a case where a person sustained grievous injury with a sharp-edged weapon.

Justice Tyagi observed that the investigating officer did not obtain CCTV footage of the occurrence captured on a camera installed in the vicinity, along with requisite certificate under Section 65B of the Evidence Act.

MAHARSHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY, ROHTAK
UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
(A State University established under Haryana Act No. 25 of 1975)
NAAC Accredited 'A+' Grade

ADMISSION NOTICE (2020-21) (Advt. PR No. 25 of 2020) for

B.Tech. 1st Semester and B.Tech. (LEET) 3rd Semester

Online applications along with requisite fee of Rs. 500/- are invited for the admission against leftover/vacant seats, up to 22.12.2020 for online counselling on 23.12.2020 and from 25.12.2020 to 29.12.2020 for Physical counselling on 30.12.2020. If seats still remain vacant and list of candidates who applied online for admission get exhausted, the spot counselling will be held on 31.12.2020. On that day, offline applications will also be accepted. For more information please visit the university website www.mdu.ac.in and www.uietmdu.com.

DIRECTOR (UIET)

Advt. No. CAP/December/2020/02
Invites Applications for a regular post of Asstt. Professor in Commerce against un-covered Post for DAV College Malout, Punjab within 21 days from the date of publication of this advertisement on the Prescribed Proforma, obtainable from its Office and the concerned College on payment of Rs.250/- in cash or by bank draft in favour of "Secretary, DAV College Managing Committee, New Delhi", or by post with a self addressed Rs.25/- stamped envelope. It can also be downloaded from the College Website www.davcollegemalout.com and be submitted alongwith a bank draft of Rs.250/- per form to Managing Committee Office.

Eligibility:- Candidates with the qualifications/conditions laid down by the UGC/State Govt./Panjab University, may send their application through Registered post/Speed- post or in person and a copy of the application be also sent to the Dean, College Development Council, Panjab University, Chandigarh.

Reservation for SC/ST Candidates and persons with disabilities will be followed as per the rules of Pb. Uni./Pb.Govt./Govt. of India, as the case may be. Candidate must have passed Punjabi upto Matric Level.

Submission of Application Forms:- Application attached with (i) copies of the testimonials/degrees (ii) "No Objection Certificate", from the present employer and API Score with all relevant documents, will alone be entertained on or before the due date. Vacancies may increase or decrease due to an unforeseen accident. The recommendation of the Selection Committee will not be confirmed an automatic right of the appointment. Ph.D Candidate will be preferred.

epunjabtuneindia.com

CHANDIGARH GUPTA ROAD, (PAHARGANJ) NEW DELHI-110055 Tel.: 011-23503500

Advt.

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Stop the name-calling

Tar of separatism will stick longer than desired

DON'T call our farmers names. So far, some news channel puppets were branding the agitating farmers, but now, unfortunately, Union ministers seem to be certain that the agitation has been hijacked by the 'tukde-tukde' gang, and separatist and anti-national forces. Undoubtedly, attempts are always made by our western neighbour and its spy agency to foment trouble through certain NRI elements stationed in the West, who are at times aided by opportunistic politicians blinkered by the diaspora vote bank. This time too, they might have tried their best, offering money and iPhones, unleashing a Twitter campaign or putting up some random posters. These are elements on the lookout for an opportunity to exploit disaffection among any stratum of our society and it is but natural for them to seek an opening. But they cannot and have not hijacked the farmers' agitation. The test of the true intent and character of the protesters lies in the solution. All the farmers will happily return home if they are offered an honourable exit.

Instead, if they are tarred with the brush of separatism, it will stick longer than is desired. It is a dangerous ploy to corner those who are not even political opponents of the Union government. Most of them would hail Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a saviour, if their apprehensions are allayed. Farmers know what is best for them more than any bureaucrat or entrepreneur. They are worried because the promised investment in the farm sector should have ideally happened in Bihar or Uttar Pradesh, where there are no legal hurdles nor adequate procurement. Or else, innovations in cold chain and price assurance could have been introduced to save vegetable farmers. Our horticulture, pisciculture and poultry segments are not world class yet. Still, corporates are setting up silos in Punjab and Haryana, focusing on the well-oiled foodgrain business.

Paternalistic condescension and dirty tricks can only radicalise harmless protesters who celebrate the agitation as an idealistic pilgrimage for a common cause or a *mela* that they ought not to miss. There is nothing sinister in this festival of democracy.

UN Convention on terror

India should go all out to drum up support for its proposal

INdia has borne the brunt of terrorism in recent decades, having witnessed the Parliament attack in 2001, followed by Mumbai (2008), Pathankot and Uri (both in 2016) and last year's Pulwama carnage. It was back in 1996 — three years after the Mumbai bomb blasts — that India had proposed a draft document on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) at the United Nations, but there has been no implementation so far as the member states are not on the same page over the definition of terrorism and its forms. Paying tributes to the martyrs of the Parliament attack on its 19th anniversary on Sunday, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu made a renewed pitch for the UN Convention. He stated that while many countries across the world endorsed India's stand, there were some which were being unsupportive out of 'narrow geopolitical considerations'. Though Naidu didn't name any errant country, the allusion was apparently to the likes of China, Pakistan and Turkey.

Naidu's statement coincided with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's remark that cross-border terrorism is a 'perennial problem' for India. The role of the Pakistani deep state in terror attacks on Indian soil has been repeatedly established. The prospect of being blacklisted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global terror financing watchdog, has forced Pakistan to crack down on 'global terrorists' like Hafiz Saeed. However, such desperate measures have failed to convince India and the international community of Pakistan's sincerity about stamping out terrorism emanating from its territory.

As India occupies its seat in the UN Security Council next month for a two-year term, drumming up support for the CCIT should be among its top priorities. In June this year, India had asserted that streamlining the sanctions against terrorists and terror entities would be one of its focus areas at the global high table. With extremist violence becoming a worldwide phenomenon, India should impress upon the UN the dire need to close ranks against countries that aid or abet terrorism.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Be as passionate about listening as you are about being heard. — Brene Brown

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1920

What is caste to-day?

MR. Gandhi gives, unconsciously, the same definition of caste as it is to-day, which others, including Swami Vivekananda, have given consciously before him. Inter-drinking, inter-dining and inter-marriage, he says, are not essential for the promotion of the spirit of democracy. Does not this mean, in other words, that these are what caste has been reduced to to-day? And this is literally true. Caste, as it exists to-day, consists only in the prohibition of inter-drinking, inter-dining and inter-marriage. So far, at any rate, as the higher castes are concerned, not only is there no rigid line of division as regards either work or intelligence and character, but even the sense of superiority, and inferiority has largely, if not solely, disappeared. No Kshatriya or Vaisya to-day regards a Brahmin by birth as his superior, nor does a Brahmin by birth regard either of these as his inferior. The question of superiority and inferiority arises only as regards the castes or sub-castes lower down. Similarly, as regards work, it seldom follows the lines of caste, and except in the case of members of castes engaged in some technical industry or of professional and priestly Brahmins, few educated Hindus ever think of their caste in determining their career or vocation. In what sense, then, is there anything in caste to-day corresponding to "the fundamental division" which Mr. Gandhi upholds in theory and which so many of us uphold in practice? And if as he himself says, "as time goes forward and new necessities and occasions arise, the custom regarding inter-drinking, inter-dining and inter-marriage will require cautious modifications or re-arrangement," let him ask himself whether in the process, caste itself will not be modified. Of course, "cautious modifications and re-arrangement" are not the same thing as total abolition of the existing prohibition, but Mr. Gandhi will not quarrel about words.

Anything but samvad

Democracy is not about oratorical skills, it requires mindful listening



AVIJIT PATHAK

SOCIOLOGIST

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi, as it is said, is an excellent orator. The other day, while laying the foundation stone of the new Parliament building, Mr Modi, with his characteristic style, invoked Guru Nanak, reminding us of the great saint's message: "Jab tak sansar rahi, tab tak samvad rahi", and stressed on the need for dialogue to preserve the 'soul of democracy'.

Mr Modi is right because democracy means a perpetual process of conversations and negotiations. And it would be great if Mr Modi seeks to create a situation that encourages the ruling regime to come out of the Kafkaesque castle, and with humility, listen to those who — for diverse reasons — are not happy with the government. Yet, given the prevalent socio-political landscape, it is difficult to escape a disturbing question: Does Mr Modi actually mean what he is saying? Or is it that words are empty, and what remains is merely an instrumental game of appropriation (and falsification) of noble concepts and symbols? He spoke of dialogue. Yet, without establishing a direct communion with the farmers, and responding to their angst, he can still repeat his monologue, and say (recall his latest speech at FICCI) that 'the new reformers will give them new markets, access to technology and help bring investments in agriculture.' This is like giving the impression that the farmers know nothing, and they are a bunch of fools.

Possibly, we cannot overlook the style of functioning of this government. And this is by no means dialogic. There are three reasons for this. First, the spirit of democracy as a col-



SOUL OF DEMOCRACY: Conversations should be a process in continuity. REUTERS

We are amid a political culture that confuses monologue with dialogue, power with truth, and narcissism with democracy.

lective project has been replaced by the culture of narcissism that projects the supreme leader as a messiah monopolising the grand truth. And this master narrative has been sanctified through the assertive discourse of hyper-nationalism, techno-economic development and 'Hindu glory'. The supreme leader, it is believed, cannot be wrong. And hence, those who critique the policies of the government, or express even the slightest ambiguity are necessarily the 'enemies' of the nation. Second, this leads to the circulation of conspiracy theory — a characteristic feature of any totalitarian regime. Hence, dissent has to be criminalised or ridiculed. This explains the politics of the prevalent vocabulary that characterises the dissenters: 'urban Naxals', 'Khalistanis', or for that matter, 'tukde-tukde gang'. These are all negative connotations disseminated through the troll army and politically engineered television news channels. See its implications. Farmers are struggling and agitating. But then, it is said that they have been misdirected by the Maoists and

other conspirators; or they are 'Khalistanis'. Likewise, the entire phenomenon called Shaheen Bagh was stigmatised; and they didn't even spare those determined 'daddies' who enchanted the protest site. When dissenters are seen to be criminals or fools or conspirators, it is naturally assumed that there is no reason to talk to them. And third, democracy has been reduced into the logic of electoral victory. This is like undermining or trivialising the Opposition. Hence, even when farmers are agitating and urging the government to repeal the farm laws, the spokespersons of the ruling regime do not hesitate to refer to the electoral victory in the panchayat elections in Rajasthan, and assert that it means people have voted for these laws. Cherish the mantra of 'success'; and assume that those who have not won the elections are necessarily wrong! In other words, we find ourselves amid a political culture that confuses monologue with dialogue, power with truth, and narcissism with democracy.

Possibly, Mr Modi ought to realise that democracy is not about beauti-

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Possibly, Mr Modi ought to realise that democracy is not about beauti-

When life gives you lemons

TRIP Kaur

LEMON, like mint, tends to smack you in the face and draw out whatever you were feeling before you tasted it. It is only recently that we realised that lemons are quietly sweet, as if they feign the sourness as a defence mechanism, and hum a lullaby if you care to listen further. We are a family of failed fruit tree-growers: our *jamuns* have been plucked unripe by passersby, our guava, mango and orange saplings were crushed when the wall behind them fell over after a nasty squall, and mulberry lost to a new grill to prevent strays from digging into the garden. So, we shifted to flowers — they could be carefully arranged in rows and pro-

tected within the gates without having to install one member of the family on a balcony to stare at people like a *nazarbattu*. Since then, we have been blessed with giant chrysanthemums in winter, *dhoop-khili* in summer, and roses all the year round.

Suddenly, this year, as a virus wreaked havoc on the world and took so many lives and livelihoods, our lemon tree began yielding fruit. Its seed came by itself, floating in some unknown breeze. It settled in the soil and shared the water sprayed over the flowers. For many years, it remained a mid-sized tree in a small garden, out of place, but easy to ignore. The attention-seeking flowers helped us forget it existed, but the squirrels, we noticed, indiscriminately weaved through its

branches like they ran over the huge *sat-patti* next door. However, this March, just as the lockdown was met with the banging of vessels, our tree began bearing buds. Today, it has bent under the weight of its bundles of lemon, and slipped into many kitchens as squash, lemonade and pickle.

We haven't caught Covid-19 yet, but our financial situation became difficult. It ate into our savings, and dismissed our dreams of replacing things that had rusted over time. The first month was marked by hopeful waiting, delusional in its optimism. The second revolved around the crisis of migrant labour: they walked, cycled thousands of kilometres without food or water to reach home, while

we were safely ensconced and waiting. The third month told us we needed to earn money soon, because our savings were dwindling faster than we had thought. The fourth made us apathetic towards people struggling for food and shelter, duped by hospitals for expensive treatment, because our own worries seemed bigger. Economists have talked of the Keynesian theory of 'animal spirits' picking up in times of uncertainty, stocks performing well and consumer goods sustaining growth. But our work has been slow in coming, the 'animal spirits' are more sloth than the antelope.

However, life gave us lemons in the midst of this crisis, and nothing has tasted sweeter in a long time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Govt's motive

The obdurate attitude of the Central Government towards the concerns of the farmers is a clear indication of some ulterior motive. Despite the provocations, the protesting farmers have been peaceful. The way they are managing the gathering is incredible with all activities of daily routine taken into consideration. In fact, it is proving to be a paradigm shift in public protest. Now, it is to be seen how the present dispensation responds to a mass movement that calls upon its conscience in a democratic and peaceful way to pay heed to their concerns.

DV SHARMA, MUKERIAN

SC stance on stirs

The Supreme Court website lists the plea seeking the removal of protesting farmers, for hearing on December 16. An earlier Supreme Court verdict, adjudicating in the matter of conflict of the rights of protesters and others in Shaheen Bagh, that had impacted lives and livelihoods by blocking rail tracks and roads, had something amiss as it lacked a mechanism on answerability for any non-compliance in letter and spirit. Let the SC verdict be tangible on the ground or heads must roll for public woes.

LALIT BHARADWAJ, PANCHKULA

Race for vaccine

This refers to the editorial 'Race to get vaccine first', reports that the elite section of the population is competing to get preferential treatment for inoculation against Covid is preposterous when the efficacy of the vaccine is yet to be proven. Any negative fallout shall derail the scheme of things. However, it is prudent that the VIPs be accorded top most priority as it shall embolden the common man to come forward as otherwise they are invariably rendered guinea pigs. Furthermore, vaccines shall not be a magic wand which shall make world disease-free.

DEEPAK SINGHAL, NOIDA

Autonomy for IIMs

The proposal by the Ministry of Education to empower itself to initiate an inquiry against the Board of Governors of any of the IIMs, if it is found to violate the IIM Act, is encroaching upon the autonomy guaranteed to these premium institutions by the very same Act. The recent standoff between the government and the IIMs involves its programme of one-year course. The IIMs call it an MBA degree, as is the global norm, but the UGC rulebook says only two-year programmes deserve that term. This shows the

kind of tussle over trivialities that a bureaucratic system expends energies on. This tug-of-war has played out before, in 2015 ministry under Smriti Irani when she was involved in a tussle with the PMO on the government's role. The PMO had pushed back against the ministry's plans underlining the need for autonomy on various fronts, and the PMO's views prevailed. The current move threatens to undo that detente and slide back into central micromanagement for goals that remain extremely unclear. Now also, the PMO must step in and convince the ministry of education to trust the IIMs and back off from a pointless wrangle.

EL SINGH, VIA MAIL

Digital push

The Government of India is strongly pushing for making the country completely digital. The Central Government has already made the Aadhaar and PAN card available to the people in digital medium and has also linked them together. There should then be no problem in making the voter ID card available digitally to the people of the country. The problem in the current process is that it takes a lot of time to prepare the voter card and reach the voter. The Election Commission

should take effective measures for its resolution and reform.

SHAKTI SINGH, KARNAL

Nadda incident

The incident involving BJP chief JP Nadda in West Bengal was an assault since it was carried out with weapons. The Home Ministry over-reacted by summoning the West Bengal officers to Delhi when the aggrieved BJP leaders ought to have sought legal recourse. The Home Minister is for the whole of India, and not just the BJP.

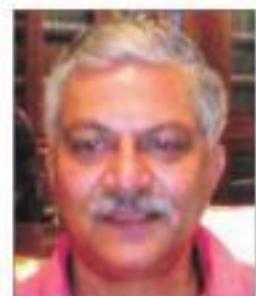
BRIG HARDIP GHUMAN (RETD), VIA MAIL

Facts about sugar

Refer to 'Bitter facts about sugar in packaged food', sugar has been aptly defined as a product which is superfluous in diet, a luxury when expensive and a menace when cheap, the bane of today's epidemic of obesity, diabetes, heart disease and a host of other health issues. With India emerging as the diabetes capital of the world, sugar should be taxed. Many epidemiologists are of the view that sugar is the new tobacco and needs to be similarly regulated. Our body does not require any carbohydrate from added sugar for energy. The bottom line is that sugar has no nutritional value beyond calories.

HN RAMAKRISHNA, BENGALURU

Insistence on repeal of farm laws is futile

RAKESH DWIVEDI
SENIOR ADVOCATE, SUPREME COURT

THE farm laws enacted by Parliament are intended to be a major reform measure aimed at bringing the corporates into the agrarian field in a far bigger way than at present.

The laws are meant to bring the farmers in direct touch with corporate entities and eliminate the middlemen, giving them a wider choice and also formalising the deal they make with corporates. Further, the reform introduces the service element as a benefit to farmers, particularly to small ones, which would help them grow surplus yield. It is known that an overwhelming number of farmers are small and grow self-sufficient yield only.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is an issue concerning big farmers who grow surplus yield. But that is important for the nation as the surplus feeds the nation. So, these farmers are out on the streets in protest. They fear that the deprivation of MSP would throw them at the mercy of the corporates and their returns would nosedive.

States also saw a reduction of revenue of market fee as farm laws disrupted the market yard system built by them at huge expenditure during the previous three decades. So, some states rushed to make their own laws to cover the whole market area and to pro-

vide for MSP with punitive sanctions.

But this did not clear the confusion over states' legislative competence. Avoiding the debate over the competence dispute, the farmers launched 'Delhi Chalo' and now are camping at Delhi borders. The main agitation is in Punjab, Haryana and west UP, though there is some support from other states too. Opposition parties too came out in support, sensing an opportunity to corner the BJP-led Central government.

There were many parleys between Central government representatives and farmers' leaders. Finally, the government relented and agreed to several demands, particularly to safeguard MSP and market fee. One would think the farmers had won the day and got what they wanted.

But the farmers are staying put. They say that they would accept nothing less than the repeal of farm laws.

This adamancy on the part of farmers' unions is difficult to understand. Why should they want to kill a valuable choice which the laws give to farmers? The agitators must know when and where to stop and compromise. Pushing a tactical struggle too far would bring negative returns. Repeal of laws is not in the interest of farmers and the government is not going to relent. Continuance of the agitation would lead to loss of sympathy which the agitation enjoys and the agitation may well peter out.

The government has been repeatedly asserting that MSP will continue. But perceptions are important. Though MSP was introduced through an administrative order, once farm laws came, fear gripped a large section of farmers because the law appeared to



override state laws and bring about a new regime. The laws were silent on MSP. The government did well to concede the farmers' demand. The concession should have allayed the farmers' fears and eliminated confusion. The call for repeal now makes no sense.

Some farm leaders think that the Centre has exceeded its legislative competence in making the three Acts. They rightly claim that agriculture, land and market are state subjects falling in List 2 of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution. But they are wrong in thinking that 'market' includes 'marketing'. Production, supply and distribution of foodstuff are subjects in the Concurrent field, covered by Entry 33 of List 3. Marketing is supply and distribution. So, Parliament is competent

in this regard. And the laws are valid.

Even otherwise, there is no fundamental right to an MSP under the Constitution. There are many commodities outside the fold of MSP, particularly vegetables. The issue is not of fundamental rights but of the policy delivering the proclaimed benefits to the farmers.

A new reform always engenders doubts and fears. But economic policies are always empirical and experimental, and they are not permanent. So, an agrarian reform measure must be allowed to roll out and its implementation alone would reveal if the farmers are benefiting.

There is also evidence that despite MSP, farmers often did not get it and were compelled to undersell, while at the same time, farmers have in many

cases got more. The market is unruly and not farmer-friendly. So, the battle is elsewhere.

The farmers have to be alert and build clout to ensure the implementation of the laws to their benefit and also strike good bargains. The corporates cannot be and ought not to be excluded from the sector. There are agro-industries which consume farm produce and make products for society. Whether big arthiyas buy the produce or corporates, for the farmers, it's the protection of their interests which should matter.

THORNY ISSUE: The concession by the Centre on MSP should have allayed the farmers' fears. PTI

sle for higher prices for cane supply. I battled in the Supreme Court to get the High Court order reversed to ensure states' competence to fix a price higher than the minimum fixed by the Centre for each state. But even now, farmers are struggling to get arrears for the cane supplied by them.

Farmers are already dealing with corporates and they need not fear them. Rather, they should combine in various ways to get a better bargain.

The movement of the farmers camping outside Delhi has been successful. Insisting on a repeal is futile and an incorrect strategy. It is counter-productive. To insist on continuing the movement, even after the Centre has conceded their core demands, is to turn victory into defeat.

Joint pushback of China's unfair policies needed

YOGESH GUPTA
FORMER AMBASSADOR

The Covid experience has proven the urgency of the US and its allies working together on shifting of supply chains for essential items away from China, creating a larger trans-Atlantic grouping for economic cooperation, increasing the technological and military capacities of states on China's periphery and expanding patrolling in South China, Pacific and Indian Ocean regions to deter China.

DEFINING the threat that Communist China poses to the free world, President Trump's Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in his Nixon House Library speech on July 20, 2020, said, "If the free world does not change, Communist China will surely change."

In the National Security Strategy released in December 2017, Trump announced a new era of 'great power competition' with China. His Vice-President Mike Pence, in a landmark address on October 4, 2018, castigated China for the first time for its colonisation of the South China Sea and use of unfair trade policies, such as denying market access, stealing technologies from foreign companies and others for deriving unfair gains.

Trump's former National Security Adviser Lt Gen HR McMaster (retd) recently said that China had increased its annual military spending by 800 per cent since the 1990s; it had embarked on the largest peacetime military build-up in history. Beijing wants to match the US military capabilities by 2035 and defeat her in an armed conflict by 2050.

Measures taken by the Trump administration to push back China's abusive behaviour included rescinding Hong Kong's special trade status after China imposed its security laws, reviewing China's investments in critical technologies in the US, closure of its Houston consulate over stealing of intellectual property, blacklisting Chinese 5G giant Huawei and 34 other companies from acquiring sensitive technologies and curtailing visas of



THREAT PERCEPTION: Trump's Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (left) has castigated China for its use of unfair trade policies. REUTERS

Chinese Communist Party (CCP) members from 10 years to one month.

The sanctions on Huawei will certainly hurt Beijing's ambitions to exploit the global 5G market; it will slow down China's efforts to acquire supremacy in the applications of artificial intelligence (AI) in military, defence and civilian industries as China will struggle to source microchips and semi-conductors from elsewhere.

China's colonisation of the South China Sea decelerated after the Trump administration ramped up freedom of navigation operations and called China's claims to sovereignty over most of the islands as 'unlawful'.

Similarly, the Trump administration unambiguously criticised China's aggression against India (in Ladakh) and Australia (economic), provided modern weaponry to India, Taiwan and other countries to deter

and push back China's hegemony and aggressive behaviour.

China has signalled that the winning power would decide the nature of the international order (IO). What kind of IO China will promulgate can be ascertained from the authoritarian policies of its leader Xi Jinping who has installed an average of two cameras to mount surveillance on one person in his country, has completely eliminated criticism by sending the dissenters to prison camps and eroded the freedoms enjoyed by the media, academic and business communities and minorities.

After unilaterally deciding that India was getting too close to the US for its comfort, Xi Jinping despatched his troops to deceptively occupy the Indian territories in Pangong Tso, Dapsang plains and other areas in east Ladakh in April 2020. China is now trying to put added pressure by using Tibet's waters

as a political weapon against India and providing arms, training and hideouts to terror groups operating against India in the North-East and supporting Pakistan in its cross-border terror operations on India's western borders.

China has escalated its interference in the domestic affairs of Asian countries by supporting regimes which toe its line, e.g., the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Recently, when Australia protested against Beijing's intervention in its internal affairs, China hiked tariffs and imposed non-tariff barriers against Australian exports of barley, cotton, coal, timber, wines and other items and is demanding that Australia must cease its public criticism of Beijing.

China is trying to break the political will of countries which it thinks are moving closer to the US. It is trying to divide the US from its allies and partners to break the transatlantic alliance, as China's only friends are a debilitated Pakistan and North Korea.

After the victory of Joe Biden, the NATO and EU countries are becoming more receptive about the China threat. A group of independent advisers commissioned by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg recently concluded in their report that the scale of Chinese power and global reach pose acute challenges to the democratic societies due to China's authoritarianism and increased territorial ambitions; it asks members to prepare for greater competition with China. The report seeks wider consultations and cooperation with Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand and a partnership with India.

The outlook of EU leaders towards Chi-

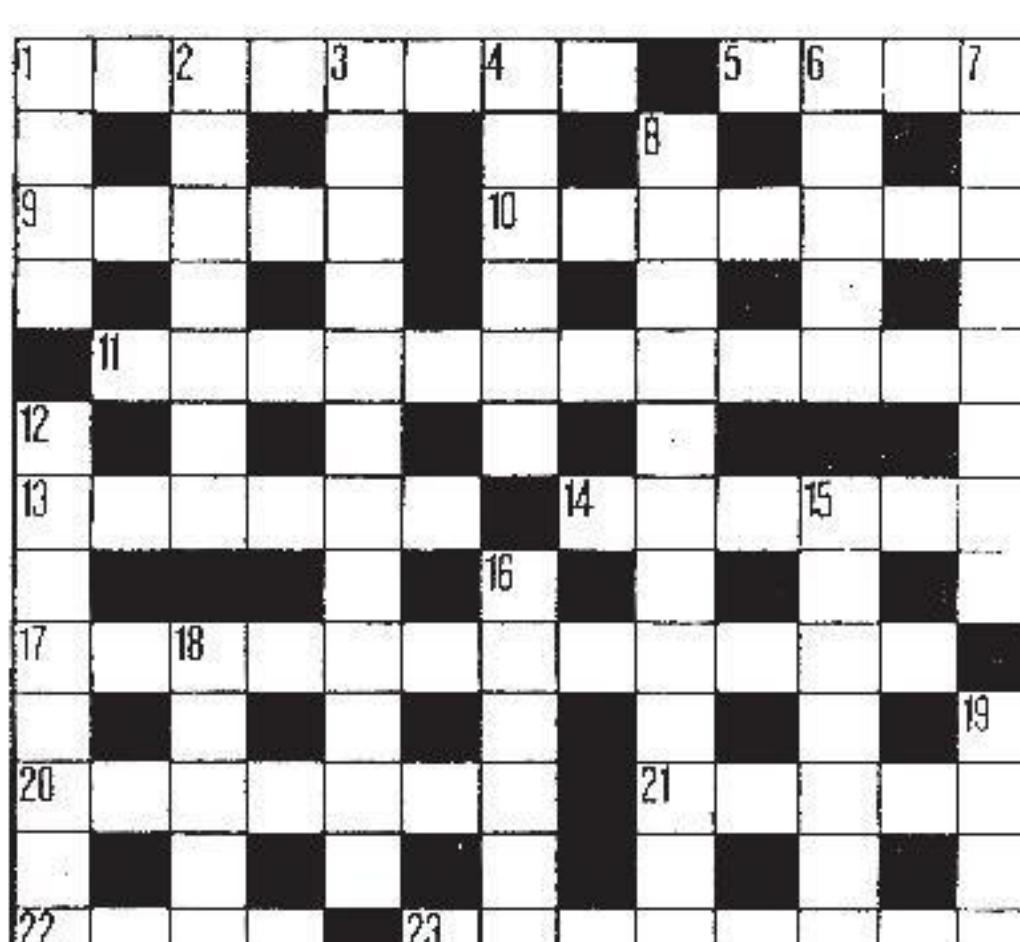
na is also hardening as it now sees China as a "systemic rival"; its interest in India as a like-minded partner has increased. EU's planned summit with Xi Jinping for next year has been deferred and it has confirmed a summit meeting with Indian PM Modi in May 2021. China is turning to Russia to counter the revitalisation of the trans-Atlantic partnership against her.

China's biggest strength is its manufacturing competitiveness which rests on the use of unfair policies such as denial of market access, low interest credit to its industries and acquisition of foreign technologies by unfair means. The US, Europe, Japan, South Korea and other countries have to join in the collective pushback of China's abusive behaviour, started by President Trump, India and Australia.

The Covid experience has proven the urgency of the US, its allies and partners working together on shifting of supply chains for essential items away from China, creating a large transatlantic grouping for economic cooperation, increasing the technological and military capacities of frontline states on China's periphery and expanding patrolling in the South China, Pacific and Indian Ocean regions to deter China.

President-Elect Biden has started on a positive note. In an interview after his election, he said, "America is going to reassert its role in the world and will be a coalition builder." As US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said earlier, the fight against China's hegemony is a collective struggle for the freedom, values and economies of free nations and they have to win it to protect their societies and cherished ideals.

QUICK CROSSWORD



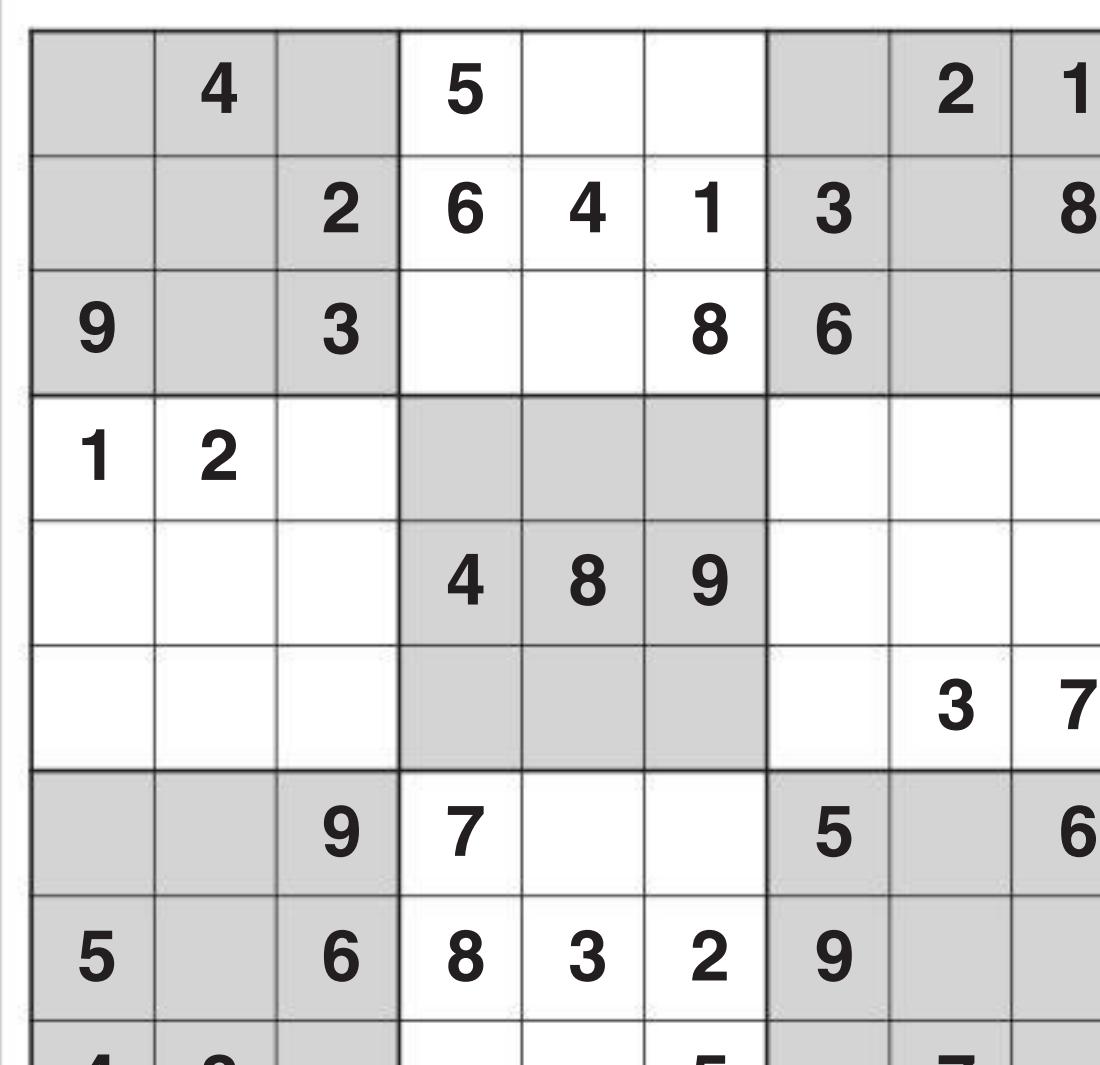
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Fluctuate, 8 Frame, 9 Politic, 10 Cognac, 11 Bernuse, 12 Restrain, 15 Coherent, 18 Anyway, 20 Mirage, 21 Founder, 22 Rider, 23 Destitute.

Down: 2 Loose, 3 Clique, 4 Universe, 5 Effort, 6 Gainsay, 7 Mercenary, 11 Benchmark,

13 Set about, 14 Charade, 16 Regard, 17 Cygnet, 19 Alert.

SU DO KU



V.EASY

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 15, 2020, TUESDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Marghshirsh Shaka	24
■ Posh Parvishtha	1
■ Hijri	1442
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 1, up to 7.07 pm	
■ Gand Yoga up to 9:31 pm	
■ Moola Nakshatra up to 9:31 pm	
■ Moon in Sagittarius sign	
■ Posh Sankranti	
■ Gandoml up to 9:31 pm	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: TUESDAY 17:23 HRS

SUNRISE: WEDNESDAY 07:13 HRS

CITY	MAX		MIN		
	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Rainy	Foggy
Chandigarh	21	08			
New Delhi	23	08			
Amritsar	19	05			
Bathinda	19	07			
Jalandhar	20	05			
Ludhiana	22	08			
Bhiwani	21	06			
Hisar	22	05			
Sirsia	20	07			
Dharamsala	13	03			
Manali	09	-01			
Shimla	15	03			
Srinagar	09	-02			
Jammu	20	09			
Kargil	-06	-14			
Leh	-09	-17			
Dehradun	22	09			
Mussorie	16	05			

TEMPERATURE IN °C

प्रबलिक नोटिस

नगर केंस्ल, नद्वा गाउँ वैल मिति 26.11.2020 अंते 26.11.2020 कुं इमिउरार दिंडा गिआ मी, जिस विच नगर केंस्ल वैल 03 स्टार अंड गारेज डरी मिटी घंसित करन संघयी इमिउरार दिंडा गिआ मी अंडे सुखावां अंडे इरगाजा दी भेंग लीजी गाई मी, पैंडु खिंच सम्म विच केंस्ल इरगाजा नां सुखावां पापत नीं रहिए। इस लीजी नां बैस्ल, नद्वा गाउँ 03 स्टार केंस्ल विती अपलाई करन अंडे गारेज डरी मिटी कैटरिंगी अपीन अपलाई करन दी इनाज्जत दिंडा गाई।
DPR/Pb/116401
सर्वी- कार्यालय अहमर, नगर केंस्ल, नद्वा गाउँ।

G. B. PANT NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT, HIMACHAL REGIONAL CENTRE, Mohal, Kullu-175 126, Himachal Pradesh, India

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited for purely project based temporary position of Junior Project Fellow (01) under ISRO-EO funded project of the Institute. Candidate having adequate qualifications and experience may apply in the prescribed format on or before 28th December, 2020 by e-mail at headrc@gmail.com and rksingh@gbpihed.nic.in. For details, please visit institute website: http://gbpihed.gov.in.

CENTRE HEAD**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DIV. NO.1, LUDHIANA**

Mini Secretariat Ludhiana

Phone No. 0161-2402751 Email: div1ldh@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB**Tender/RFP No. 5066 Date: 14.12.2020**

The Department of Water Supply & Sanitation Division No. 1, Ludhiana, Invites online bids for Providing & Installing New Tubewell, Pipe line for Pumping Main and New Machinery complete in all respects & other work contingent thereto:- W/S Scheme Burj Littan Block Pakhowali Distt. Ludhiana (Under head 4215-01-102-36-99-53 and 4215-01-189-13-99-53/JM) Bid for sale Available online: 15.12.2020 at 09:00 a.m.

Closing Date & Time: 28.12.2020 at 10:00 Hours and Technical Opening Date & Time 28.12.2020 at 12:00 Hours.

For Detail logon to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

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

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
W/S & Sanitation Div. No. 1,
Ludhiana.

DPR/Pb/117272

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Online bid on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dharampur Bharari on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh in electronic tendering system in two covers for the undermentioned works from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag/Central Govt. or State Govt. or Central/State Govt. undertaking.

Sr. No. 1. Name of Work:- FIS Hiun to Baral in GP Langehar in Tehsil Dharampur, District Mandi HP (SH:- C/o Rain water harvesting structure of 300000 litres capacity). Estimated Cost:- 8,29,892/-, Earnest Money:- 16600/-, Cost of Tender Form:- Rs. 250/-, Time limit:- Three Months.

Sr. No. 2. Name of Work:- Providing LIS to Village Pipli in GP Sajapiploo Tehsil Dharampur, District Mandi HP (SH:- C/o RCC Delivery tank and sump well 50000 litres capacity each) Estimated Cost:- 693846/-, Earnest Money:- 13880/-, Cost of Tender Form:- Rs. 250/-, Time limit:- Three Months.

1. KEY DATES:-
I. Date of online publication. 14.12.2020 at 5.00 p.m.
II. Downloading of e-tender documents. 14.12.2020 at 5.00 p.m.
III. Last date of submission of e-tender. 22.12.2020 up to 5.00 p.m.
IV. Last date for Physical submission of Earnest Money and cost of tender documents etc. 23.12.2020 up to 11:00 a.m.

V. Date of opening online bids 23.12.2020 at 11:30 a.m.
The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website www.hptenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Dharampur
Bharari.

HP FOREST DEPARTMENT TENDER NOTICE E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Tender Reference No. 3/2020-21

1. The Dy. Conservator of FOREST, NURPUR FOREST DIVISION, NURPUR, Distt. Kangra, HP on behalf of Governor of HP invites online bids on item rate, in e-tendering system, in 2 cover system for the undermentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms. Eligible bidders and contractors are registered with HPPWD/CPWD in appropriate class and discipline. The bidder shall have to fulfill the criteria as specified in Technical Qualification Criteria (TQC) in Form-8 available online in tender document.

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 <http://hptenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the website, which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder required to have digital signature certificate from one of the authorized certifying Authorities.

3. Key Dates:-
Sr. No. Activity Date and Time
1. Date of Online publication 14.12.2020, 11:00 A.M.
2. Document download start date 15.12.2020, 11:15 A.M.
3. Document download end date 26.12.2020, 10:15 A.M.
4. Bid submission start 15.12.2020, 11:30 A.M.
5. Bid submission end date 26.12.2020, 11:00 A.M.
6. Physical Submission of EMD and cost of tender document 26.12.2020, 11:15 A.M.
7. Date of Technical Bid Opening, Evaluation of Technical bid followed by opening of Financial Bid 26.12.2020, 4.00 P.M.

4. Tender Details
The Tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 covers:

i) **Cover 1:** shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility Information".
ii) **Cover 2:** shall contain "BoQ/Financial Bid", where Contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. Submission of original documents:
The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/EMD in the favour of DCF Nurpur and other technical documents in the O/o Dy. Conservator of Forest Officer, Nurpur Forest Division, Nurpur, Distt. Kangra as specified in key dates on or before 26.12.2020, 11.15 A.M. failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. Bid opening details: the bids shall be opened 26.12.2020 at 4.00 P.M. in the O/o Dy. Conservator of Forests, Nurpur Forest Division, Nurpur, Distt. Kangra by the authorized officer. In their own interest the tenderers are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening tenders.

7. If it happens to be holiday on the date of opening of bid as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue and no separate notice will be given in this regard.

8. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 30 days after the dead line date for bid submission.

9. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Office inviting tenders shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the least information related to the tender.

10. The competent authority on behalf of Governor of HP reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason.

11. Registration of HP Sales Tax/GST is essential. If the bidder has not registered and found to be the lowest bidder he is supposed to register him on award of work. He shall submit the tax papers to the employer, before any payment is made to him.

Dy. Conservator of Forests,
Nurpur Forest Division, Nurpur.

386 cases, 12 succumb to infection

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Night curfew extended in 4 dists

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 14

The Cabinet today decided to continue night curfew in four districts of Shimla, Mandi, Kullu and Kangra and all other restrictions on all social gatherings all over the state till January 5, 2021 keeping in view the coronavirus situation.

The Cabinet, which met here today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, decided to continue with the existing SOPs, including a five-day week in government offices till January 5 in view of the surge in Covid cases. The only relaxation given is in case of political functions, including inauguration and laying of foundation stones, with a limit of 50 persons with social distancing.

The Cabinet had imposed night curfew in the four districts of Shimla, Kullu, Kangra and Mandi till December 15 in view of the rising Covid cases. All other restrictions, including the limit of 50 persons on social, religious and cultural gatherings, will continue till January 5.



Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur presides over the state Cabinet meeting in Shimla on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

PANCHAYATI RAJ POLL ON SCHEDULE

- The Cabinet also decided to hold the panchayati raj elections as per the dates fixed by the election commission for the polls, which are scheduled to be held anytime now.
- Certain rural areas in Solan and Chamba districts where there were no disputes excluded from the purview of the Town and Country Planning Act.
- Nod to grant ex-post facto permission to operationalise makeshift hospitals at Shimla, Nalagarh, Tanda & Nerchowk
- Office of Deputy Inspector General (Intelligence and Security) to be shifted from Shimla to Dharamsala

The Cabinet also decided to hold the panchayati raj elections as per the dates fixed by the State Election

Commission for the polls, which are scheduled to be held anytime now. "We have conveyed to the com-

12 persons succumbed to the virus in the last 24 hours.

Three deaths each were reported in Shimla and Kangra and one each in Hamirpur, Bilaspur, Chamba, Una, Sirmaur and Kullu in the last 24 hours. The death toll stands at 813.

The Cabinet had imposed night curfew in the four districts of Shimla, Kullu, Kangra and Mandi till December 15 in view of the rising Covid cases. All other restrictions, including the limit of 50 persons on social, religious and cultural gatherings, will continue till January 5.



Tourists throng Manali to enjoy snow. PHOTO: JAI KUMAR

No respite from freezing cold wave

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 14

Biting cold wave conditions continued unabated in most parts of Himachal, as minimum temperatures dropped further today. Keylong in Lahaul-Spiti district, which experienced the coldest night yesterday with a low of -10.7°C, recorded a night temperature

of -11°C, a drop of 0.3°C.

Thick fog engulfed towns along the riverbanks in lower hills while thick ground frost occurred in mid and higher hills. Water froze in pipes that burst at many places in upper Shimla, even as the weather remained dry and icy winds swept the region. The local Met office has predicted dry weather for the next six days.

Delhi tourist dies at Jalori pass

MANDI, DECEMBER 14

A 21-year-old girl from Delhi, identified as Ayushi, died near the Jalori pass in Kullu district yesterday. She along with other tourists was trekking in the area to enjoy snow activity.

Akshay, one of Ayushi's companions, said due to

heavy snow, they stopped their vehicle at Shojha and started trekking towards the Jalori pass. All of a sudden, Ayushi slipped on the road and fell unconscious.

She was rushed to the Civil Hospital, Banjar, where the doctor on duty declared her brought dead. —TNS

CANTONMENT BOARD, JUTOGH

Tel. No. 0177-2837598, Fax No. 0177-2837598

Website Address: www.cbjutogh.org

No. CBJ/2020-21/802

Dated 14.12.2020

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT FOR ACCRUAL BASED ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

For and on behalf of Cantonment Board, Jutogh expression of interest are invited from expert/reputed Chartered Accountant for implementation of Accrual Based Accounting System (ABAS) and other accounts related work of office.

Sealed expression of interest along with the valid documents, experience certificates and financial bid must reach the undersigned by 04.01.2021 (12:00 hrs). For further details contact Cantonment Board, Jutogh or visit us at <http://www.cbjutogh.org>.

Sd/- CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, JUTOGH CANTT.
DI-16034

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG CORRIGENDUM

Online tender ID-2020_HIPHP_42968_1 for the work "Augmentation and Improvement of Water Supply Scheme for Group of Villages of GP Haripurkhol in Tehsil Paonta Sahib, District Sirmour (HP) (SH:- C/o storage 52000 Litre, Dewala, 46000 Litre & Kodewala 30000 Litre)" due to be opened on 11/12/2020 in the office of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Paonta Sahib, the date of opening of tender is hereby extended up to 18/12/2020 due to some technical reason with some amendments given as under:-

1) The content of BoQ in Item No. 2, the item description may be read as "Providing and laying cement concrete 1:4:8 (1cement:4sand:8grated stone agg.40mm nominal size) and curing complete excluding the cost of form work in foundation & plinth including all leads lifts and carriage of material and as per the directions of Engineer-in-charge".

instead of
"Laying and jointing of GMS Pipes in trenches of following dia i/c earth work and including all kind of GI fittings and all leads, lift and carriage of material in all respect as per directions of Engineer-in-Charge of following dia's".

2) The content of BoQ in item 2, 4.01, 4.02 & 5, the units may be read as "cum" instead of "Nos".

3) The content of BoQ in item 6, the units may be read as "kg" instead of "Nos".

Rest of the terms and conditions as well as contents of BoQ will remain unchanged.

SUCHANA AND JAN SAMPAK DPR/HP/4977

JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Nurpur invites tender on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors/firms for the following through offline process.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money
1.	Augmentation of LWSS Aund in Tehsil Nurpur, Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:- Providing and fixing of wire crate along the left bank of Chakk Khad to protect the percolation well from RD 0.00 to RD 35.00 Mtr).	475541	9520

2.	Aug.of LWSS Kopra Aund in Tehsil Nurpur, Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:- Providing and fixing of wire crate along the left bank of Chakk Khad to protect the percolation well from RD 35.00 to RD 45.00 Mtr).	203550	4080
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3.	Aug.of LWSS Kopra Aund in Tehsil Nurpur, Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:- Providing and fixing of wire crate along the left bank of Chakk Khad to protect the percolation well from RD 55.00 to RD 65.00 Mtr).	204056	4090
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4.	Aug. of LWSS Kopra Aund in Tehsil Nurpur, Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:- Providing and fixing of
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Can handle Aussie chin music: Gill

Shubman says Indian players prepared for short-ball tactics from Australia

SYDNEY, DECEMBER 14 Young Indian batsman Shubman Gill feels it can be "quite intimidating" to play cricket in Australia but asserted that his team will not back down when faced with either sledging or short-pitched deliveries during the four-Test series starting in Adelaide on December 17.

In contention for the opener's slot, Gill showed great technique and composure during his 43 and 65 in the two innings against Australia A in the pink-ball warm-up that concluded here on Sunday. The 21-year-old is eyeing a Test debut and said he is looking forward to the opportunity of playing against Australia at their home.

"It's quite intimidating to play Australia in Australia, but I am really looking forward to it. As a batsman, there is no bigger opportunity than to play against Australia at their home as your confidence gets a major boost if you manage to score runs here," Shubman Gill

"It's quite intimidating to play Australia in Australia, but I am really looking forward to it. As a batsman, there is no bigger opportunity than to play against Australia at their home as your confidence gets a major boost if you manage to score runs here," Shubman Gill

others, engaging in a verbal-battle eggs them on to do better. For me, I'm neither the kind to always keep quiet, nor the type to keep going at the opposition," he added.

Dealing with bouncers

Ahead of the much-anticipated series, many players, including India's Ravindra Jadeja, the Aussie duo of Will Pucovski and Cameron Green, have suffered concussions. In fact, Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood said that bouncers will be an integral part of the home team's strategy during the series. "...if the plan is to make us dance to their chin music, be rest assured we've got plenty of great moves in store," Gill said.

India have played just one pink-ball Test so far in which they beat Bangladesh by an innings and 46 runs in Kolkata last year. "We practised quite a bit with the pink ball in the lead-up to the Test match against Bangladesh at Eden Gardens last year (in November). But I haven't

played any competitive First-Class match under lights," Gill said. — PTI

always shared an intense rivalry on the field, filled with verbal volleys, banters and controversies over the years. The last time the two teams faced off in 2018-19, the Test series saw some heated exchanges between the two captains — Virat Kohli and Tim Paine.

Gill said his team wouldn't be intimidated by sledging. "There was a time when (Indian) players had a reputation of not being too aggressive, and people would take that for granted when sledging. Things have changed now," he said.

"Every character is different, some people like to keep quiet and not react while for



Shubman Gill made 43 and 65 in the two innings against Australia A in the pink-ball warm-up game. PHOTO: BCCI

BRIEFLY

BAMBOLIM (GOA)

ISL: Mumbai fail to beat 10-man Jamshedpur

A flurry of missed chances saw table-toppers Mumbai City FC settle for a 1-1 draw against Jamshedpur FC in the Indian Super League here today. Jamshedpur took the lead through Nerijus Valskis (9th minute) before Mumbai hit back through Bartholomew Ogbeche (15th).

NEW DELHI

Kirti Azad applies for Delhi selector's job

Kirti Azad, a member of the 1983 World Cup-winning squad, has applied for a selector's position in the senior Delhi team after a "request" from his mentor Bishan Singh Bedi. The BCCI recently put its upper age limit for national selectors at 60 but it needs to be seen if the Delhi & Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) has a different criteria. Azad confirmed that he has sent his application to the state's three-member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) headed by former India and Delhi player Atul Wassan.

KOLKATA

IFA Shield: Real Kashmir enter semifinals

Mohammed Sporting rode on a Tirthankar Sarkar penalty to beat nine-man Gokulam Kerala 1-0 and set up a semifinal clash with Real Kashmir FC in the 123rd IFA Shield. Real Kashmir FC defeated Southern Samity 1-0, with Danish Farooq scoring in the 22nd minute.

PARIS

Gerard Houllier, former Liverpool coach, dies at 73

Gerard Houllier, a Frenchman who won three titles in one season as coach of English club Liverpool, has died. He was 73. Liverpool announced the death on Twitter on Monday. French sports daily L'Equipe said Houllier died following heart surgery in France. Houllier had a mediocre stint as coach of France's national team in the early 1990s, his short-lived journey ending with an embarrassing failure to qualify for the 1994 World Cup. His tenure at Liverpool was far more successful, leading the Reds to the FA Cup, League Cup and UEFA Cup treble in 2001. He is one of only three managers — along with Alex Ferguson and Pep Guardiola — to have won three trophies with an English club in the same season. AGENCIES

Messi fires nervous Barca to victory



Barcelona's Lionel Messi fights for the ball against Levante's Sergio Postigo in Barcelona on Sunday. REUTERS

to eighth in the standings on 17 points after 11 games, closing the gap with leaders Real Sociedad and second-placed Atletico Madrid to nine points.

Winning was all that mattered: Koeman

Barcelona coach Ronald Koe-

defender Samuel Umtiti for striker Antoine Griezmann late on to help his side see out the game and was forced to defend what was interpreted as a defensive move unbefiting of a Barcelona coach.

"I didn't care how we won the game," Koeman told a news conference. "We knew we'd have to face corners and set-pieces and that we had to defend by whichever way possible."

The Dutch coach appeared frustrated with being questioned by his tactics by reporters, who he accused of seeking controversy. "That is the typical question people ask when they are looking to cause a stir," he fired back.

"Throughout my whole life I've always understood that when you're 1-0 up, even if you are in control, you have to be able to defend. If you can't understand that, you might as well give up." — Reuters

Koeman brought on

Neymar stretchered off injured as PSG lose to Lyon



Neymar being carried off on a stretcher. REUTERS

PARIS: Neymar was taken off on a stretcher deep into stoppage time as defending champions Paris Saint-Germain lost 1-0 at home to Lyon to drop to third place in the French league. Neymar hurt his left ankle in the seventh minute of injury time at Parc des Princes on Sunday following a heavy tackle from Thiago Mendes, who was then red carded. Lyon held on for 10 minutes of stoppage time to extend their unbeaten run to 11 games and throw the title race wide open. PSG's fourth defeat of the season kept Lyon at the top. Lyon are now second on goal difference, while PSG are one point behind in third spot. Meanwhile, the initial assessment of Neymar's left ankle injury is "reassuring", PSG said on Monday. AP

Leicester close in as Spurs, Liverpool held

LONDON: Joint-leaders Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool both dropped points on a busy day of Premier League action on Sunday as Leicester City and Southampton narrowed the gap in what is shaping up to be one of the most open title races for years. Arsenal look extremely unlikely to be part of it, however, as they lost 1-0 at home to Burnley — a fourth successive home league defeat for the first time since 1959 leaving the Gunners languishing down in 15th spot. After Tottenham's 1-1 draw with Crystal Palace, Liverpool were held 1-1 by Fulham. Leicester beat Brighton and Hove Albion 3-0, while Southampton eased to a 3-0 win over Sheffield United. Tottenham and Liverpool are both on 25 points from 12 games above Leicester on 24, Southampton on 23, Chelsea on 22. REUTERS

Federer still not 100% fit, a doubt for Australian Open



Roger Federer (right) has not played a competitive match since losing to Novak Djokovic in the Australian Open semifinals. REUTERS

let's see how tennis is doing."

The Australian Open is scheduled for January 18-31 but there have been reports it could be pushed back to a February 8-21 window due to Covid-19 protocols.

Even with a three-week delay it might not be enough for Federer, who has won the Australian Open six times.

"It's a race against time for the Australian Open. I'm curious to see whether it will start on February 8," Federer said. "Of course, it would help if I had a bit more time."

Federer was voted the best Swiss athlete since 1950 at Sunday's ceremony and said it was an "incredible" honour. "I hope there is still something to see from me next year," he added. "But if that was it, that would have been an incredible ending for me at these Sports Awards." — Reuters

LONDON, DECEMBER 14

Roger Federer said his recovery from two surgeries on his left knee earlier this year has taken longer than expected and he is unsure whether he will be ready for the Australian Open. Federer, who turns 40 in August next year, has not played a competitive match since losing to Novak Djokovic in this season's semifinals at Melbourne Park.

The winner of 20 Grand Slam singles titles, a record he shares with Rafa Nadal, said in October he was practising pain-free and expected to return to the circuit at the first Grand Slam of the year.

"I would have hoped that I would be 100% in October. But I am still not today. It will be tight for the Australian Open," local media quoted Federer as saying at an awards ceremony in Switzerland.

land. "The second knee operation was a huge damper, but in the last six months there has been steady progress. Let's see how the next two months will unfold. I've been doing a lot of physio and physical work lately, now

Barcelona to face PSG in Round of 16

NYON (SWITZERLAND), DEC 14

Barcelona will face Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League Round of 16 in a rematch of their classic encounter at the same stage four seasons ago. In 2017, PSG wasted a 4-0 first-leg lead by losing 6-1 at Camp Nou in the second leg when Barcelona scored three goals from the 88th minute on.

However, Neymar has since left Barca and switched to PSG, who also did not have Kylian Mbappe then. — AP

Champions League

Round of 16 draw

Barcelona vs Paris SG
Bayern Munich vs Lazio
Atalanta vs Real Madrid
Liverpool vs RB Leipzig
Juventus vs Porto
Monchengladbach vs Man City
Atletico Madrid vs Chelsea
Sevilla vs Dortmund

Got angry on being hit: Pant on his 73-ball 100

SYDNEY, DECEMBER 14

Wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, who had been facing criticism right since last year's World Cup for his 'irresponsible' shot selection, got a boost in the second practice match against Australia A with a 73-ball 103.

This innings, his first 100 in First-Class or higher form of cricket since his 159 not out in the Sydney Test in January 2019, is just the confidence-booster he needed, he says. The innings made him a favourite to get into the team ahead of Wriddhiman Saha for the Test series, which begins on December 17.

Pant had struggled with fitness and form in the IPL this year, with only one half-century in 14 innings, and he says he was determined to spend time in the middle in the practice match against Australia A. "In the first innings here I was unlucky as I felt the LBW decision was wrong from the umpire.

Pant reached his 100 in the last over of the second day by scoring 22 runs in it, off Jack Wildermuth. He said being struck on his stomach by the



"I needed 20-21 runs in the last over to reach 100. First ball, I was hit on my stomach, so I got a bit angry, and I said to myself — 'I have to try one-two (shots)'. So, in the flow, I continued to hit and got a good 100." — Rishabh Pant

◀ Rishabh Pant says being struck by the ball in the last over on Day 2 made him a 'little angry', and he went for his shots.

under my belt," Pant said.

Confidence-booster

"When I went out to bat a lot of overs were left, so (Hanuma) Vihari and I wanted to build a good partnership. We wanted to bat as much as possible. I was just trying to give myself as much time as possible and slowly I started to develop confidence," Pant told the BCCI website.

Pant reached his 100 in the last over of the second day by scoring 22 runs in it, off Jack Wildermuth. He said being struck on his stomach by the

first ball of the over made him a "little angry". "I needed 20-21 runs in the last over to reach 100," he said. "First ball, I was hit on my stomach, so I got a bit angry, and I said to myself — 'I have to try one-two (shots)'. So, in the flow, I continued to hit and got a good 100."

"This hundred has been a big confidence-booster for me. It's been a month I am in Australia, but I didn't get the chance to play in the first practice match because of a stiff neck," he added. — TNS, agencies

PRESS NOTE

In continuation of this Directorate requisitions dated 12.11.2020 regarding filling up the vacant posts of Staff Nurse on contract basis from amongst the Wards of Ex. Servicemen through batch-wise published in the leading newspaper. The revised break of post for filling up of 86 post of Staff Nurses on contract basis from amongst the wards of Ex. Servicemen is as under:

Category	UR	EWS	IRDP/BPL	WFF	Sports
General	33	07	0	02	06
OBC	10	0	03	00	00
SC	14	0	04	01	00
ST	04	0	02	00	00

Director Health Services
Himachal Pradesh.

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE

Sh. Atul Kumar S/o Sh. Nand Kishor, Designation Helper Khalasit, Northern Railway, Bathinda residence of #52, G-Block, Kutub Vihar, Phase-I, Goya Dairy, New Delhi-Pin code 110071 hereby informed again that the charges have been proved in case of unauthorized absent on duty from 09.11.2019 to till date against his SF-5 No:- 595-M/11/BTI/19/M-1 Dated 11.02.2020. In this reference the enquiry report was sent to his last known address through registered post but the reply is still awaited. Sh. Atul Kumar S/o Sh. Nand Kishor, Designation Helper Khalasit, through this publication is hereby informed to collect the enquiry report from this office i.e. Northern Railway, DRM Office, Mechanical Branch, Ambala Cantt for making representation as he may wish to make against the aforesaid enquiry report. The representation if any should be submitted to this office so as to reach within 15 days from the date of publication failing which ex parte order as deemed fit shall be passed. No:- 595-M/11/BTI/19/M-1 Dated: 14.12.2020.

2786/2020 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, U.T., CHANDIGARH PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the general public that the Income Certificates will be issued by the Tehsildar(s) of concerned Sub-Division in respect of the residents of Chandigarh under EWS (Economically Weaker Sections) quota for the purpose of admission in Educational Institutions situated in Chandigarh only. The applicants can download the application form from e-district portal i.e. (<http://chdservices.gov.in>) from 14.12.2020. These forms can also be obtained from any Sampark Center on any working day during office hours and they will submit their applications at any Sampark Center in Chandigarh along with all required documents (as per checklist attached with the application form) by 28th of February, 2021. On completion of all formalities and procedure, the applicants can collect their Income Certificate from any Sampark Center.

Sd/- Tehsildar (Revenue), U.T., Chandigarh.

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Baggi invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works(s) through offline process:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	E/Cost	Earnest Money	F/C Cost	Time Limit

</tbl

India discusses Chabahar Port's joint usage with Iran, Uzbekistan

Tribune News Service

FIRST TRILATERAL MEETING

■ Uzbekistan's interest in using Chabahar Port marks a flexing point in India's efforts to carve out a communication route to Afghanistan and Central India that outflanks Pakistan.

■ Iran, Uzbekistan hail Delhi's proposal to observe Chabahar Day

Iran and Uzbekistan welcomed India's proposal to hold "Chabahar Day" on the sidelines of the International Maritime Summit scheduled to be hosted by India next month, said an MEA statement.

In an effort to drain out any political meaning from use of Chabahar Port for trade and transit purposes and enhanced regional connectivity, the trilateral was co-chaired by secretary-level officers

from the respective transport or shipping ministries.

The Indian side was led by Shipping Secretary Sanjeev Ranjan while Uzbek Deputy Minister of Transport D Dehkanov and Iranian Deputy Transport Minister Shahram Adamnejad led their respective delegations.

In this respect, the trilateral noted the significant role played by Chabahar

port for the region to deliver humanitarian assistance during the Covid pandemic. This included 50,000 tonnes of foodgrain via the shortest route to western Pashtun, Hazara and Uzbek dominated areas of Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan is Central Asia's most populous nation and has ample reserves of uranium, gold, coal and oil. Some of them could be exported from Chabahar or value added at an adjacent upcoming special economic zone to ports along the Indian Ocean.

The subsequent rounds of trilaterals may see Tashkent considering greater involvement in a transportation link to the warm water port of Chabahar.

1975 Emergency unconstitutional? SC to examine plea

SATYA PRAKASH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 14

More than 45 years after thousands of people were jailed across India under an Emergency imposed by the Indira Gandhi government on the ground of "internal disturbance", the Supreme Court on Monday decided to examine if the June 26, 1975, proclamation can be declared unconstitutional.

It asked the petitioner to amend her petition and put all facts on record by December 18. The SC issued a notice to the Centre asking it to respond to a petition filed by Veena Sarin,

a 94-year-old woman who urged it to declare the Emergency unconstitutional and grant her a compensation of Rs 25 crores after senior advocate Harish Salve, representing the petitioner, said he felt very strongly about the issue.

open all those issues."

But the Bench said it was not disinclined to see if a simpler declaration — "Something which is feasible or desirable after a passage of time and issue, restricted to that aspect" — could be issued.

It asked the petitioner to amend her petition and put all facts on record by December 18. The SC issued a notice to the Centre asking it to respond to a petition filed by Veena Sarin, a 94-year-old woman who urged it to declare the Emergency unconstitutional and grant her a compensation of Rs 25 crores after senior advocate Harish Salve, representing the petitioner, said he felt very strongly about the issue.

Modi-Hasina summit on Dec 17

NEW DELHI: A virtual summit will be held between PM Narendra Modi and Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina on December 17. They would hold comprehensive discussions on ties, including strengthening cooperation in the post-Covid era, said a MEA release. TNS

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BRIEFLY Malnutrition in children rises in 5 years

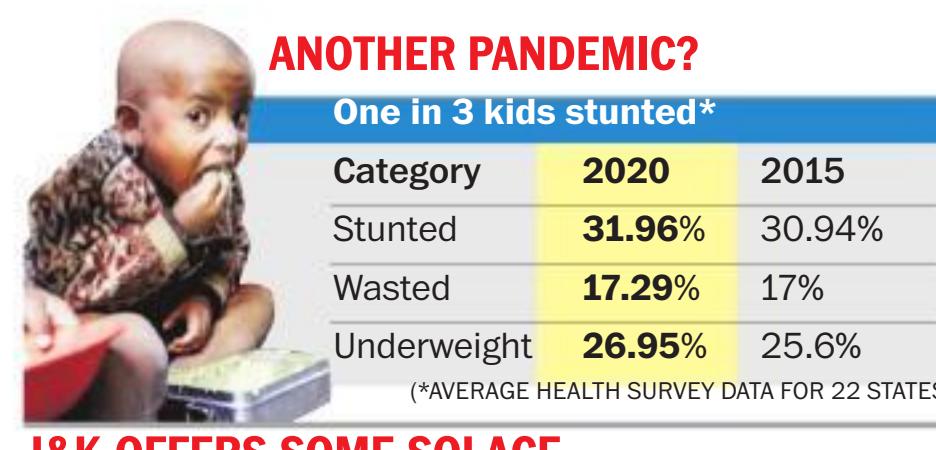
ADITI TANDON

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 14

The burden of child malnutrition has risen across a majority of the states covered in the first phase of National Family Health Survey-5, signalling losses for supplementary nutrition schemes of the Union and state governments.

The latest statistics show that with the exception of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Sikkim, which have managed marginal improvements in the nutrition status of under-5 kids compared to 2015, the remaining 19 states have posted a greater burden of either one or two or all of the three markers of malnutrition — stunting (low height for age), wasting (low weight for height) and under-



J&K OFFERS SOME SOLACE

Category	Himachal		Jammu & Kashmir		Ladakh	
	2020	2015	2020	2015	2020	2015
Stunted	30.8%	26.3%	26.9%	27.4%	-	-
Wasted	17.4%	13.7%	19%	12.2%	17.5%	9.3%
Underweight	25.5%	21.2%	21%	16.6%	20.4%	18.7%

weight (low weight for age).

On an average, one in every three under-5 children in the 22 states reviewed by the Centre has been found to be stunted (see box) as of 2020, one in six wasted and one in

four underweight. Eight states have reported a rise across all markers of child malnutrition compared to the 2015-16 data. These are HP, Kerala, Telangana, Bengal, Maharashtra, Mizoram, and Lakshadweep.

Nagaland and Tripura.

The highest percentage of stunted children in India is still in Bihar (42.9 pc), followed by Gujarat (39 pc) and Karnataka (35.4 pc). Some high-burden states like MP have not been covered in the NFHS phase-1 survey and will gradually be reviewed.

Bihar has, however, managed to reduce stunting rates by a meagre 5.4 pc (down from 48.3 pc to 42.9 pc in five years). Karnataka has reduced stunting proportions by a marginal 0.8 pc (36.2 pc to 35.4 pc). The other states among the 22 are AP, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, J&K, Ladakh and Lakshadweep.

An exhibition in the form of a video clip was also broadcast where the nuances of operations in plains and desert were highlighted by Maj Gen Prince Jit Singh Sandhu (retd) and Col NK Sharma (retd). — TNS

MILITARY LIT FEST

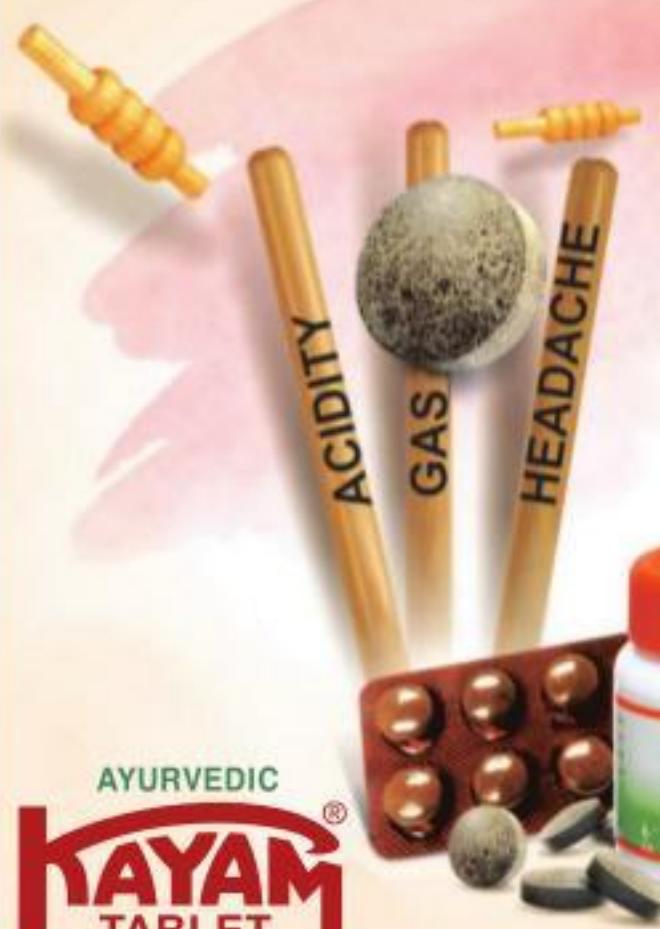
Kids given virtual tour of Air Force ops

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 14

As a prelude to the fourth edition of Military Literature Festival (MLF) that begins this week, a children's samvad on "A day in the life of a pilot of the Indian Air Force" was held online today. In the short video clip, Col Dimpy Waraich and Wg Cdr BD Singh discussed the role of a pilot, the requirements and training for becoming a flier and missions undertaken by them.

Bihar has, however, managed to reduce stunting rates by a meagre 5.4 pc (down from 48.3 pc to 42.9 pc in five years). Karnataka has reduced stunting proportions by a marginal 0.8 pc (36.2 pc to 35.4 pc). The other states among the 22 are AP, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, J&K, Ladakh and Lakshadweep.

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SC notice over plea against church confessions

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 14

The SC on Monday issued notices to the Centre, Kerala Government and 11 Malankara Syrian Church bodies on a petition challenging the practice of mandatory

confessions in the Church in the southern state.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India SA Bobde issued the notices after senior advocate Sanjay Parikh submitted that the top court had earlier restrained the Kerala High Court from passing

orders on issues related to this church.

Petitioner Mathew T Matgachan, Shaj PJ and Jose VJ, members of the church, alleged that the practice was leading to several problems including sexual exploitation of women and blackmailing.

Notice on PIL against mining

The SC on Monday issued a notice to the Centre and seven states, including Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh, on a PIL against allowing mining in dense forest and ecologically sensitive areas (No-Go zones) across India.

Centre releases 7th instalment of GST

Tribune News Service

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- Punjab gets ₹1,385 cr
- Haryana ₹1,988.26 cr
- Himachal ₹784.43 cr

to borrow another Rs 3,033 crore to meet Covid-related shortfall. The amount is equal to 0.5 per cent of its state gross domestic product.

The Centre has borrowed and passed on Rs 1,988.26 crore to Haryana, which has also borrowed Rs 4,293 from the market.

Himachal Pradesh has received Rs 784.43 crore of the Rs. 37,999 crore borrowed by the Centre and another Rs 877 crore from the market.

The amount borrowed in the seventh round has an interest rate of 5.1348 per cent though the average interest rate is 4.7712 per cent.

In addition to providing funds through the special borrowing window to meet the shortfall in revenue on account of GST implementation, the Centre has given additional borrowing permission equivalent to 0.50 per cent of Gross States Domestic Product (GSDP) to the states. States have so far raised Rs 1,06,830 crore equal to 0.50 per cent of their GSDP.

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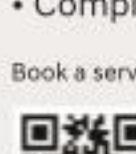
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