

The Sunday Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | VOL. 141 NO. 37 | 16 PAGES | ₹6.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2021-2023 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

AHEAD OF MC POLL, CM WOOS
THE ELDERLY, NGOs HIMACHAL

RESOLUTE FACE OF
LUDHIANA INC SPECTRUM

NO POLICE NOD, NADDA FLAGS
OFF RALLY IN WB BACK PAGE

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2021

'Chakka jam' affects Pb, Hry, R'sthan

Protests in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maha too | Emergency services unimpeded

NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH, FEB 6

Amid stepped up security, protesters on Saturday blocked key roads in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan while scattered demonstrations were held in several other states during the three-hour 'chakka jam' called by farm unions agitating against the Centre's new farm laws.

Punjab observed a near-total bandh with traffic blocked at 350 places. In Haryana, toll plazas emerged as key protest sites. In Rajasthan, farmers at Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Dholpur and Jhalawar stalled traffic on highways.

In Ghaziabad, farmers' leader Rakesh Tikait declared the protest on Delhi's outskirts would continue till October 2 and efforts made to "connect every village" with the agitation. Farmers in Punjab and Haryana parked their tractor-trailers or squatted on roads. Some perched atop tractors hoisted the Tricolour at the KMP Expressway. Commuters were politely requested to turn back.

In Punjab, ambulances and other emergency services were unimpeded. Protesters at roundabouts, including Chandigarh, carried placards, posters and flags of



Farmers block the Shambhu highway during their 'chakka jam' protest against the three farm laws in Patiala on Saturday. PTI

WILL STAY PUT TILL OCT 2: TIKAIT

Our protest on Delhi's outskirts will continue till October 2. Farmers will return only after the govt repeals the laws and makes a law to ensure guarantee for MSP.



R-DAY ROUTE: TWO LEADERS SUSPENDED

Panipat: Two leaders have been suspended for straying from the route for the R-Day tractor march. Sources said the joint forum of 32 Punjab farm unions had suspended Surjeet Singh Phool, president, Bharatiya Kisan Union-Krantikari, and Harpal Singh Sangha, Azad Kisan Committee, Doaba. INSIDE

kisan unions as well as the national flag.

Farm unions along with Khet Mazdoor Union members blocked the Sirsa-Barwala highway in Mansa. The

Mansa-Patiala highway near Bhikhi and the Mansa-Ratia highway at Budhlada too were blocked. The protesters raised slogans, demanding that Internet services and

basic amenities at the protest sites on Delhi borders be restored, police cases against farmers cancelled and youths arrested post Red Fort incident be

released. In Amritsar, the "chakka jam" call received a huge response with students and shopkeepers in large numbers expressing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Apni Party wins two of three DDC chief posts

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 6

The Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP), led by former Finance Minister Altaf Bukhari, has won the elections to the post of chairperson of two of the three District Development Councils (DDCs), sources said.

The elections to the posts of chairperson and vice-chairperson were held in three districts of the Valley — Srinagar, Shopian and Kulgam — in the first phase on Saturday. The JKAP would be heading the DDCs in Srinagar and Shopian, while the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) — the amalgam of six mainstream political parties — would head the DDC in Kulgam. INSIDE



1 FOR GUPKAR ALLIANCE

■ The Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party will head the DDCs in Srinagar and Shopian

■ The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration will head Kulgam development council

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today indicated the Centre would further probe the case registered against unknown persons for uploading on social media a "toolkit" on how to support farmers' protests.

"It (probe) has revealed a lot... will have to wait and see what else comes out," Jaishankar said in Vijayawada on the sidelines of a BJP meet.

"There was a reason why the Foreign Ministry reacted to statements by some celebrities on matters they did not know much about," he said.

LARGE DEPLOYMENT TO MEET CHINA CHALLENGE

India has deployed troops in large numbers to meet the challenge posed by China amassing troops on the border.

S Jaishankar, EAM

Climate activist Greta Thunberg was among Twitter users who shared the toolkit, but deleted the tweet later. —TNS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Greta 'toolkit' probe revealed a lot: EAM

ROOTED IN HISTORY

■ 30-year-old England skipper Joe Root on Saturday became the first batsman to smash a double hundred in his 100th Test

■ 2nd captain after Australia's Sir Don Bradman to score over 150 runs in three Tests in a row

■ Achieved the feat in 1st Test against India in Chennai.

BACK PAGE

DEEKAMAL KAUR

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, FEBRUARY 6

The most sought-after symbol in the upcoming civic body elections in Punjab is "a farmer riding a tractor".

Given the huge support the farmers' protest against the three farm laws is getting from the state, a large number of independent candidates have opted for "farmer on tractor" as their poll symbol.

They are of the view that see-

Farmer on tractor' most desired symbol

Bid to cash in on farmers' stir by Punjab civic poll candidates

ing a symbol where a farmer is riding a tractor, many undecided voters are likely to press that button to express their solidarity with the farmers.

In Mohali, the entire group of 28 candidates backed by former Mayor Kulwant Singh has chosen the "farmer on

tractor" as its symbol, said Surinder Singh Roda, a candidate from Ward No. 3.

In Adampur, 12 candidates have opted for it. A group of Congress-backed candidates, including rebel Akali brothers Darshan Singh Karwal and Harjinder Singh Karwal, too, have taken this symbol.

Darshan Karwal said: "At least two wards in Adampur have a very high number of voters from the farming community."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Tourists flock to snow-clad Shimla hills, hoteliers rejoice



BITING COLD

PLACE	MINIMUM TEMP
KEYLONG	-13.7°C
KALPA	-6°C
MANALI	-2.4°C
KUFRI	-0.7°C
SHIMLA	1°C
DALHOUSIE	1.1°C

People walk on a snow-covered street in Shimla on Saturday. PTI

also visited Kufri, which saw a sunny day today. Meanwhile, normally returned to

the popular hill station after it witnessed a heavy snowfall on Thursday. Traffic was

resumed on all main roads in Shimla and its upper areas, Theog, Rampur and Kumar-

Resumption of traffic on all main roads in Shimla and its upper areas, Theog, Rampur and Kumar-

Foreign investors feel secure owing to our courts, says PM

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday praised the judiciary for using information technology, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic, for enhancing "ease of justice" for common litigants.

"It is a matter of great pride that our Supreme Court has heard the highest number of cases via video-conferencing among all the SCs of the world," the PM said while virtually addressing the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Gujarat High Court.

Praising the dedication of the judiciary during the pandemic, the PM said, "This ease of justice is enhancing not only the ease of living, but also the ease of doing business. Foreign investors are feeling more confident about the safety of their judicial rights."



JUDICIAL RIGHTS

Due to the ease of justice, foreign investors are feeling confident about the safety of their judicial rights.

Narendra Modi, PRIME MINISTER

cial rights. The World Bank has also praised the National Judicial Data Grid."

He said ease of justice got a new dimension by e-filing of

cases, Unique Identification Code and QR code for cases, which led to the setting up of the National Judicial Data Grid. —TNS

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Farmers block the Dharseri Jattan toll plaza during the 'chakka jam' on the Chandigarh highway in Patiala; and members of various farmer unions along with residents protest on the Amritsar-Delhi national highway in Jalandhar on Saturday. RAJESH SACHAR & MALKAT SINGH

Farm unions choke highways across state

'Chakka jam' draws huge response | Leaders seek cancellation of FIRs, release of Delhi protesters

Tribune Reporters

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 6

On a nationwide call given by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha for 'chakka jam', various farmer unions along with farm labourer organisations on Saturday protested across the state, demanding the repeal of the three farm laws and a new law guaranteeing the minimum support price (MSP). While the normal traffic remained suspended on several roads and highways from 12 noon to 3 pm, no untoward incident was reported from anywhere.

In Bathinda, farmers protested at eight places and blocked the Bathinda-Amritsar National Highway at Kanhiya Chowk and Bathinda-Chandigarh National Highway at Lehra Bega toll plaza. Besides, protests were held on the Bathinda-Batal road near Ghudda village, and Maur road at Rampura Phul.

A large number of people from non-farming community, including sanitation workers, also participated in the protest. Condemning the FIRs against protesters in Delhi, Bhartiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) general secretary Harjinder Singh Baggi



Women in large numbers take part in the 'chakka jam' at Maur in Bathinda. TRIBUNE PHOTO

demanded the release of 'innocent' farmers at the earliest. The farmers in large numbers were seen carrying the Tricolour along with kisan union flags. Commuters plying on the roads had a tough time as they had to take link roads through villages in the region.

In Mansa district, protesters blocked the Sirsa-Barnala highway and resorted to

sloganeering against the central government, demanding the restoration of Internet services and basic amenities at the protest sites on Delhi borders. They also demanded cancellation of cases registered against farmers after Republic Day violence and their release.

Union leaders unanimously decided to boycott BJP candidates in the upcoming

municipal council elections. Farmers of the Punjab Kisan Union, various factions of the BKU and the Krantikari Kisan Union participated in the 'chakka jam'. They blocked the Mansa-Patiala highway near Bikhni and Mansa-Ratia highway at Budhladha.

In Amritsar, farmer unions received a huge response from public as roads were

WOMEN TAKE LEAD

■ In Bathinda, a large number of people from the non-farming community participated in the protest. Women outnumbered their male counterparts at many places

■ Students under the banner of Students For Society staged a protest outside Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, seeking repeal of the three controversial farm laws

WE ARE NOT TERRORISTS

■ Even though we have been protesting peacefully since November 26, we are being repeatedly called terrorists, Naxals and whatnot. We all are farmers. Harjinder Singh Baggi, BKU (EKTA UGRAHAN)

was blocked at Khamano. Farmer leaders said a family member from each home in every village would go to Delhi borders.

In Moga district, highways were blocked at 17 places. Protesting farmers demanded the implementation of Swaminathan report, guarantee on MSP and the rollback of the three controversial farm laws.

The Ludhiana-Ferozepur road was blocked by the BKU (Ekta) near a corporate giant's silo at Dagru village, while the BKU (Dakunda) blocked the Moga-Barnala road at Bilaspur village. Protests were also held on the Moga-Ferozepur road, Moga-Barnala road (Badhni Kalan village), Kotkapura-Moga road (Baghpurana) and the Moga-Ludhiana road at Ajitwal. Local villagers on the Moga-Ludhiana road protested in front of the Moga Deputy Commissioner's residence.

Similar protests were organised in several towns of Sangrur and Barnala districts. In Abohar, the BKU (Lakhawal) and (Qadiani), and Kisan Ekta Manch blocked the Abohar-Dabwali-Delhi highway.

(With inputs from Bathinda, Mansa, Amritsar, Moga, Sangrur, Fatehgarh Sahib & Abohar)

Due to protest, thousands of commuters had to suffer. However, the emergency



Bus passengers wait for the protest to end in Patiala. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Commuters stranded

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FEROZEPUR, FEBRUARY 6

Members of various farm unions blocked the national highway and other roads as part of the 'chakka jam' against Union Government's three agricultural laws today.

The farmers blocked traffic on the Amritsar-Bathinda National Highway (Near Bangali Bridge), Ferozepur-Fazilka National Highway besides protesting at the Mallanwala-Ferozepur road, Khai Pheme Ke in Mamdot block, Octoroi Number 7 in the Ferozepur Cantonment area, Golu ka Mour village in Guruharsahai and at Mudki in Ghall Khurd block.

service vehicles were allowed to move. A heavy police force was deployed to prevent any untoward incident. SSP Bhagirath Singh Meena said the protest by the farmers remained peaceful.

TRAFFIC DISRUPTED NEAR ABOHAR

Abohar: Farmers blocked highways at about 50 places in Sriganganagar near Abohar, disrupting the interstate movement of vehicles for three hours. Businessmen and labourers by large supported the 'chakka jam'. State-owned and private buses couldn't ply during the 'chakka jam'. Military vehicles, ambulances and school vans, however, were not stopped. oc

service vehicles were allowed to move. A heavy police force was deployed to prevent any untoward incident. SSP Bhagirath Singh Meena said the protest by the farmers remained peaceful.

State govt not helping jailed youth: SAD

AMRITSAR, FEBRUARY 6

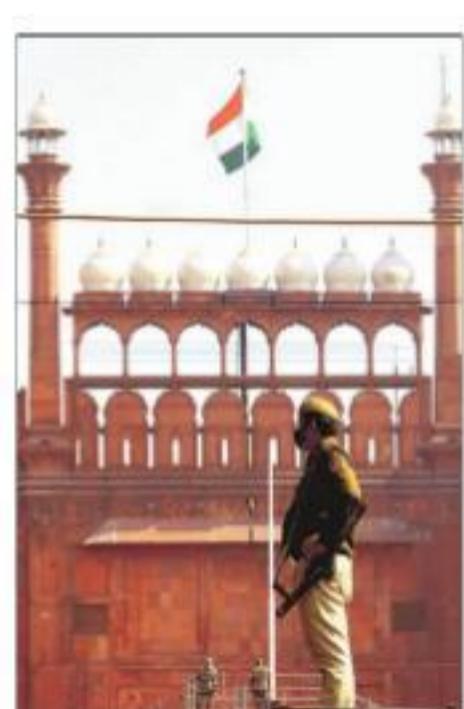
Former Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has criticised the state government for not taking up with the central government the issue of Punjabi youth being allegedly locked up in Delhi jails without filing of FIRs.

He and SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal were at the Golden Temple to attend a religious ceremony today. Taking a jibe at the CM, he said he must camp at the national capital with his ministers instead of sitting at his farmhouse.

Sukhbir claimed the SAD and Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee were jointly tracking those protesters from Punjab who had gone missing in Delhi. In this regard, they were also holding discussions with the Delhi Police. He accused the state government for using state machinery to intimidate the MC poll candidates of Opposition parties. —TNS

Critics of Red Fort plotters get threats

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



SUSPECT FOREIGN ROLE

■ The threat calls are reportedly being received from foreign or 'private' numbers. Those who mainly came under attack were BKU (Rajewal)'s Balbir Singh Rajewal and Kirti Kisan Union's Rajinder Singh Deep Singh Wala.

■ Wala said he had consistently been receiving abusive calls warning of physical harm for the past 10 days. He said he was being targeted for exposing the people behind the 'sabotage' attempt.

The threats are mainly coming from foreign or 'private' numbers. Rajinder Singh Deep Singh Wala said 10 days had passed but he was consistently getting calls hurling abuses to threats of physical harm. He said he was being targeted for exposing the people behind the 'sabotage' attempt.

"Over the years, I have become habitual of all these tricks, so I avoid engaging with them. But this time, even my wife who is also part of this agitation is being threatened over phone and Facebook messages," he said.

Stars, doctors join protesters

PATIALA, FEBRUARY 6

On the call given by farmers' unions for a nationwide three-hour "chakka jam" today, Punjabi actors, singers, doctors, and teachers came out in large numbers and participated in the roadblocks at various places in the district.

Farmers held protests at 24 places, including the Shamshera barrier, in the district. The transgender community also participated in the protest.

Actor Dev Kharoud, Binnu Dhillon and singer Pammi Bai protested near Urban Estate on the Patiala-Chandigarh Highway, while teachers and doctors blocked the road near Passiana village.

Kharoud said: "I am an actor, but my entire family is into farming. The youth should not fall prey to the divisive tactics. Don't get distracted from our ultimate aim — repeal of farm laws."

Attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Pammi Bai said: "The PM is still silent on 175 farmers who lost their



Actor Binnu Dhillon (blue turban) with protesters on the Raipur road in Patiala on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

lives during the agitation. This insensitivity of the PM is shameful for the country."

Appealing to the youth, he said: "Farmers' agitation is peaceful. So, you shouldn't indulge in any violence at all." Reacting to the tweets by the Bollywood in response to pop star Rihanna's post, Binnu Dhillon said: "They should have some con-

science. It appears that Bollywood stars were pressurised by someone to tweet."

Meanwhile, government doctors under the "Doctors for Farmers" banner also participated in the protest. Dr Diwan Bhullar at Passiana said: "Government schoolteachers under the 'Democratic Teachers Front' also took part in the protests." —TNS

YouTube pulls down songs on farm protest

BATHINDA, FEBRUARY 6

Singer Kanwar Grewal's 'Ailaan', a song critical of the farm laws, has been pulled down by YouTube. Himmat Sandhu's 'Asi vaddange' has also been removed from the popular video-sharing platform. The central government has filed legal complaints against the songs.

Since September 25 last year, several Punjabi celebrities have come out in support of the agitation, and have released songs to that effect. Songs like 'Kisan anthem', 'Punjabi' by Sidhu Moosewala, 'Zaalam sarkaran' by Gippy Grewal have helped keep the spirits high.

Another such hit is 'Asi vaddange' by lyricist and singer Himmat Sandhu. The song was released four months ago in support of the farmers' protest. The song talks about the government's insensitivity

Kanwar Grewal's 'Ailaan', Himmat Sandhu's 'Asi vaddange' removed



towards farmers and warns it not to enter the fields, or it would be butchered.

The song had over 13 million views since its release and had become an anthem for the protest, and is often played by the youth on tractors marching towards the capital city. Another number which has been deleted is 'Ailaan'. Kanwar Grewal has been actively participating in the stir and has emerged as a leader. His song has over one crore views. —TNS

Muktsar lad comes out with emotive short film on struggle

AAKANKSHA N BHARDWAJ

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

the Singh border.

This is the starting scene of short movie 'Jang Jittange Zarur', written and directed by Kudrat Bajaj, a Muktsar-based filmmaker, who wanted to contribute to the farmers' movement. The movie is getting widely appreciated.

The nine-minute movie is full of emotions. It shows while the son is fighting for his country at the border, his father fights against the



A poster of nine-minute film 'Jang Jittange Zarur'.

three farm laws at the border while his mother looks after the fields back home. It covers every aspect of the movement — the protesters being called Khalistanis and terrorists, the farmers' sentiments, the unity of religions and the role of women in the movement.

The film is produced by R.Rupali Gupta and Deepak Gupta under their production house Friday

Russ Motion Pictures. A passout from Panjab University, Chandigarh, Bajaj (32) has done Masters in Theatre. He said he had been directing short films but this film and the topic were close to his heart. "I have stayed with farmers at the Singh border for five days. I have seen their pain. I am supporting the movement since the beginning," the director said.

Contractor shoots 2 kids, self; injures wife

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE



Karan Kataria with his wife and daughter. FILE PHOTO

FARIDKOT, FEBRUARY 6 A 35-year-old private contractor with the PSPCL allegedly killed his two children and injured his wife before turning the gun on himself at Narain Nagar here today. The contractor was apparently under financial distress.

Preliminary investigation by the police suggested Karan Kataria opened fire at his two children — a seven-

year-old daughter and a three-year-old son — and his

wife from his licensed revolver around 5 am while the victims were asleep.

Karan then turned the gun on himself. While the children died on the spot, his seriously injured wife was admitted to the local Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and Hospital, from where she was later shifted to a private hospital in Ludhiana. Karan, too, died on the way to the hospital in Ludhiana.

A suicide note, purportedly written by Karan, was recov-

ered by the police.

Faridkot SSP Swardeep Singh said the police were verifying the facts and were in the process of registering an FIR.

Sources close to the family said the contractor had attached copies of transaction details of his bank accounts with the suicide note. The name of a Congress leader also allegedly figured in the suicide note. "We are verifying the contents of the suicide note," the SSP said.

SAD to boycott Gidderbaha poll

GIDDERBAHA, FEBRUARY 6

A day after Gidderbaha Congress MLA Amrinder Singh Raja Warring publicly dared the Akalis, the latter today decided to boycott the municipal council elections in the town, saying they did not want to indulge in violence and disturb peace.

Hardeep Singh Dimpy Dhillon, SAD's Gidderbaha constituency in charge, alleged: "Civil and police officers are acting at the behest of the Congress.

WANT PEACE IN TOWN

"We don't want to disturb the atmosphere of the town and have thus decided to boycott the municipal election.

Hardeep Singh Dimpy Dhillon, SAD LEADER

They first rejected the nominations of two of our candidates without a valid reason. Last evening, the nominations of three of our candi-

dates were withdrawn when no one had even visited the SDM office for the purpose."

SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal had yesterday visited Gidderbaha and addressed party workers during a protest outside the SDM office. He asked Warring to mend ways. Later, Warring and Congress workers assembled at the venue, and dared Akalis on a number of points. SDM Om Parkash could not be contacted for a comment. —TNS

Former minister passes away

ROPAR, FEBRUARY 6

Senior SAD leader and five-time MLA from Chamkaur Sahib Bibi Satwant Kaur Sandhu passed away at a Mohali hospital yesterday. A two-time minister, she would have turned 81 on February 22. CM Capt Amarinder Singh and ex-CM Parkash Singh Badal mourned Satwant Kaur's demise. —TNS



Web portal for transfer pleas open till Feb 13

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 6 School Education Minister Vijay Inder Singla on Saturday said the Education Department had opened the online portal to receive transfer applications of teachers, computer teachers, education providers and volunteers under the notified Teacher Transfer Policy-2019.

The Cabinet Minister said the online portal would remain open till February 13 for the transfers which would be applicable from April 10, 2021, or starting of the next academic session. He said to date, as many as 7,300 teachers had already received the benefits of the online transfer policy.

Singla said during session 2020-21, the transfers of the teachers did not take place due to closure of schools in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. He said the teachers who had already applied in session 2020-21 need not to apply again but if they wanted to rectify any data, they would be allowed to do so.

ANOTHER CHANCE FOR CLASS XI STUDENTS

School Education Minister Vijay Inder Singla said due to Covid, the entrance test for admission to meritorious schools for students seeking admission in Class XI could not be conducted last year. "The government has decided to provide an opportunity to Class XI students, who enrolled for the entrance test for admission to meritorious schools, to take the examination this year. They will be admitted to Class XII," he said.

He said for the session 2021-22, apart from regular teachers, computer teachers, education providers, EGS volunteers, STRs and AITs had also been made eligible to apply online for the transfers.

Singla said this year, teachers working in the border areas would also be getting benefits of transfers as fresh recruitments had been done by the government, especially in border areas.

Sabse Pehle Life Insurance

KUCH CHEEZEIN SAATH KARNE SE AUR BHI BEHTAR HO JAATI HAI.

ISILIYE APNE KAL KI TAYYARI BHI MILKAR KEEJIYE.

INTRODUCING

LIC'S AADHAAR STAMBH SPECIALLY FOR MEN

LIC'S AADHAAR SHILA SPECIALLY FOR WOMEN

Plan No. 9431 UIN-512N119V02 Plan No. 944 UIN-512N369V02

Age Eligibility: 8 years to 55 years • Policy Term: 10 to 20 years

Sum Assured: ₹ 75,000 to ₹ 3,00,000 • Risk Cover

Loan Facility available • Accident Benefit Rider available

Maturity Benefit with Loyalty Additions, if any

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AVAILABLE ONLY UNDER NON-MEDICAL SCHEME

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JALANDHAR

BATHINDA

NABHA

KAPURTHALA

MUKERIAN

MANSA

ABOHAR

MALOUT

215

COMMERCIAL SITES
(SHOPS - 103, SCO - 96, BOOTHS - 15 & SCS - 1)
STARTING FROM
₹ 8.90 Lac

196

RESIDENTIAL SITES
STARTING FROM
₹ 13.41 Lac

AUCTION BEGAN

05.02.2021
at 9 A.M.

AUCTION CONCLUDES

15.02.2021
at 1 P.M.

Possession on
25%
payment

Balance payment
in easy installments
at interest rate
9.5% P.A.



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PUNJAB URBAN PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PUDA Bhawan, Sector - 62, SAS NAGAR

ਮਿਤੀ: 05.02.2021
ਨਗਰ ਨਿਗਮ, ਫ਼ਾਗਵਾੜਾ ਵੱਲ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਦੇ ਕੰਮ ਲਈ ਅਤੇ ਮੀਨੀਨੀਅਰ ਕਿਰਾਏ 'ਤੇ ਸੈਣ ਲਈ ਲੱਕ੍ਖ 123.04 ਲੱਖ ਰੁਪਏ ਦੇ ਕੰਮ ਲਈ ਮਿਤੀ 18.02.2021 ਤੋਂ ਮਨੁਗਸੂਨ ਲੋਕ ਕ੍ਰਾਪੂਰਵ ਸੂਚਿਟਿਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਕੌਂਦਰਾਂ ਵੱਲ ਸੂਚੀਬੰਧ ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ। ਵੱਕਰੇ ਮਾਲਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਪੱਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ www.eproc.punjab.gov.in 'ਤੇ ਦੇਖਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।
DPR/Pb/1337
ਸਰੀਰੀ - ਨਿਗਰਨ ਇੰਸ਼ੀਨੀਅਰ, ਨਗਰ ਨਿਗਮ, ਫ਼ਾਗਵਾੜਾ

ਪਬਲਿਕ ਨੋਟਸ

ਨਿਕੁਤੀਆਂ ਪੱਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ
ਚੰਗੀ ਵਿਡਿਓ

"ਦੀ ਪੱਜਾਬ ਸਟੇਟ ਵਿਜੀਲੇਸ਼ਨ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਐਕਟ, 2020" ਦੀ ਪਾਗ-3 ਤਹਿਤ ਰਾਜ ਮੁੱਖ ਵਿਜੀਲੇਸ਼ਨ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਦੀ ਅਸਾਂ ਦੀ ਨਿਕੁਤੀ ਲਈ ਲੋਗ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰਾਂ ਵੱਲ ਪੜ੍ਹਿਅਤਾਂ ਨਿਧਾਰਤ ਪੇਂਡਾਰਮੇ ਵਿਚ ਮੌਜੂਦਾ ਸਾਂਦੋਆਂ ਹਨ।

ਇਸ ਅਸਾਂ ਲਈ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਵਾਦ-ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦਾਤਿ ਸਥਿਰੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲਈ ਦੀ ਪੱਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਵਿਜੀਲੇਸ਼ਨ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਐਕਟ" ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੀ website: www.punjab.gov.in 'ਤੇ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

ਵਿਡਿਵਰ ਅਤੇ ਯੋਗ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰ ਉਤੇ ਅਸਾਂ ਲਈ ਆਪਣੀ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਵਿਨਾਮੀ ਨਿਧਾਰਤ ਪੇਂਡਾਰਮੇ ਵਿਚ ਮਿਤੀ 15.03.2021 ਨੂੰ ਸਮਾਂ 4.00 ਵਜੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ, ਚੰਗੀ ਵਿਡਿਓ ਅਤੇ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ www.sarbatkaran.com, ਸੰਵਾਦ-ਸਰਕਾਰ, ਚੰਗੀ ਵਿਡਿਓ ਭੇਜ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ।

ਸਰੀਰੀ - ਅਧੀਨ ਸਕੱਤਰ ਚੰਗੀ

DPR/Pb/1341

HIMACHAL PRADESH POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(A State Government Undertaking)
SR. MANAGER (BARRAGE/HM)
SAINJ HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT (100 MW)
HPPCL SAMBALA - 175134 Distt. KULLU (HP)
CIN : U40101HP2006SGC030591

CORRIGENDUM-III

The tender submission and opening date of E-Tender floated vide this office letter No. HPPCL/SHEP/SM (B/HM) /NIT/NIC/2019-20- 569 dated 28.11.2020 & further extended vide office letters no. HPPCL/SHEP/SM (B/HM) /NIT/NIC/2019-20-585-88 dated 09.12.2020 & No. HPPCL/SHEP/SM (B/HM)/NIT/NIC/2019-20-629-32 dated 23.12.2020 for the work "Providing and Fixing of aquatic debris control Barrier/Log boom for Sainj HEP-100MW" is hereby EXTENDED as per detail given below:-

Name of work	Tender submission date and time	Tender opening date and time
"Providing and Fixing of aquatic debris control Barrier/Log boom for Sainj HEP-100MW".	19.02.2021 up to 11:00 AM	19.02.2021 at 11:30 AM

Other terms and conditions shall remain same.
This bears the approval of competent authority.
Sr. Manager (Barrage/HM),
Sainj Hydro Electric Project, HPPCL, Sambala.

Save Energy for the benefit of self and nation
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD.
(A State Government Undertaking)

DETAILED TENDER NOTICE (E-TENDERING MODE ONLY)

Online tenders (having two part bids) are invited for the supply of following items, on the prescribed form (Tender Documents). The dates of Sale/ Receipt and opening of tenders is as per details given below. The detailed tender notice can also be downloaded from website <http://hp.tender.gov.in/>.

Tender No.	CEOCM/M/NT/08/2020-21
Description	Repair/ Renovation/ Modernization of 33 KV VCB Panels at Existing 33/11 KV 2X7.5 MVA Substation in SLBS Medical College & Hospital, Nerkowch under Electrical Division, HPSEBL Sundernagar in Operation Circle Bilaspur.
App. Qty.	1 Job
Estimated amount in Lacs	₹ 29,06,353/-
Earnest Money	₹ 72,659/-
Price of tender document +GST 18% (non-refundable)	₹ 5,900/-
Sale of Tender document Start	08.02.2021 (12.30 PM)
Last date of sale of tender	02.03.2021 (04.00 PM)
Last date of receipt of tender	02.03.2021 (05.00 PM)
Due date of opening of Techno-commercial bid	03.03.2021 (11.30 AM)

The detailed tender notification can be viewed/ downloaded from the website <https://hp.tender.gov.in/>. Any clarification/ amendment shall be uploaded on the above website for further details on e-tendering contact on these phone Nos. 7018050158, 01905-223016.

Chief Engineer (Operation)
Central Zone HPSEBL, Mandi

ਡਾਕ ਇੰਡੋਰੈਕਟਰ
ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਨਿਆਂ, ਅਧਿਕਾਰਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਘੱਟ-ਗਿਣਠੀ ਵਿਡਿਗਾ, ਸੋਸੀਸੀ.ਏ. 7, ਫੇਜ਼ 1, ਐਸੇ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ

ਸੋਸੀਅਲ ਸਾਊਂਡਿਟ

ਡਾਕ ਅਧਿਕਾਰਤ ਸਰਕਾਰਿਅਪ ਪੋਰਟ, ਜੋ ਮਿਤੀ 25.11.2020 ਤੋਂ ਦਾ ਲੀਡ ਤਿਆਰ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਅਪਲਾਈ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸੱਚੀ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਅਨਾਲਾਈਨ ਅਪਲਾਈ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸੱਚੀ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਅਨਾਲਾਈਨ ਅਪਲਾਈ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ www.schoolsworks.punjab.gov.in 'ਤੇ ਡਾਕ ਅਧਿਕਾਰਤ ਸਰਕਾਰਿਅਪ ਪੋਰਟ ਦੇ ਸੋਸੀਅਲ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ 'ਤੇ ਅਪਲਾਈ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE 2020-21

1	The last date for submission of online applications by the students (Fresh & Renewal) to the Institutes.	15 February 2021
2	The last date for Institutes to forward complete cases after corrections to the approving authority/ sanctioning authorities.	18 February 2021
3	The last date for the approving authority to send online proposals to the departments/sanctioning departments for scholarship	20 February 2021
4	The last date for the departments/sanctioning departments to send online proposals to Welfare Department for Scholarship	22 February 2021
5	PORTAL WILL BE CLOSED ON 22 February 2021 AT 10.00 P.M.	

ਨੋਟ: 1) ਸੋਸੀਅਲ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਨੈਟਵਰਕ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਜਾਣੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਵਿਡਿਗਾ ਲੀਡ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਸੋਸੀਅਲ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਸੋਸੀਅਲ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵੱਲ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ 'ਤੇ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। 2) ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਅਪਲਾਈ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਸੋਸੀਅਲ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵੱਲ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ 'ਤੇ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। 3) ਸੋਸੀਅਲ ਨੈਟਵਰਕ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ 'ਤੇ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਨਿਆਂ, ਅਧਿਕਾਰਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਘੱਟ-ਗਿਣਠੀ ਵਿਡਿਗਾ, ਸੋਸੀਸੀ.ਏ. 7, ਫੇਜ਼ 1, ਐਸੇ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ

ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਐਸੇ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ। ਫੋਨ: 0172-2273272

DPR/Pb/1342

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER-CUM- CHAIRMAN INTERNATIONAL SHIVRATRI FAIR COMMITTEE MANDI

DISTRICT MANDI, HIMACHAL PRADESH

Phone No. 01905 225201, 225205 e-mail: dc-man-hp@nic.in

TENDER NOTICE-CUM-OPEN AUCTION

Office of the Deputy Commissioner-Cum-Chairman International Shivratri Fair Committee, Mandi, District Mandi (H.P.) on cash payment of Rs. 1,00/- (Rs. One Thousand only) on any working day. The Tender documents duly filled in all respect must reach in the office of ADM, Mandi (Room No. 212) latest by 19th February, 2021 by 1:30 A.M. Any tender, which is received after due date and time shall not be considered. The financial bid must be submitted with the tender document only on the prescribed format and envelope attached with the tender document. The tender shall be opened at 12:15 p.m. on same day before appropriate committee.

The tender will furnish the financial bids only in the prescribed format and same in prescribed envelope.

Open auction will be carried out for Block No. I and thereafter the sealed cover for this block will be opened and the rates quoted in open auction or in the financial bid, whichever is higher will be considered. The same process will be followed for remaining five blocks. Thereafter, auction for all 6 blocks as a whole will be opened after the auction is over. Only those tenders can participate in open auction for a particular block of all blocks as a whole, who have submitted their bids for the same, as the case may be. If someone deliberately participated in the open auction without furnishing rates in sealed cover, his earnest money deposit (EMU) will be forfeited.

The tender/contract to the successful bidder/bidders may be awarded Block-wise or for the six numbers of blocks collectively, whichever will be viable, keeping in view the rates arrived at by way of highest bid/auction.

The detailed terms and conditions of the tender are available on the official website of D.C. Mandi (www.hpmandi.nic.in)

Deputy Commissioner-cum-Chairman International Shivratri Fair Committee, Mandi reserved the right to cancel the tender at any time without assigning any reason for the same.

Secretary (A.C.),
International Shivratri Fair Committee,
Mandi, District Mandi (H.P.)

Farmers protest in Ambala, K'shetra

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

UNITED THEY STAND

AMBALA, FEBRUARY 6
On the call of a nationwide chakka jam given by farmer unions, farmers today blocked national and state highways for three hours at seven locations each in Ambala and Kurukshetra.

Farmers from Haryana and Punjab held a joint protest near the Shambhu toll plaza, but a few farmers from Punjab suggested that we should hold a joint protest as it is an area on the border of Haryana and Punjab. It is also an attempt to give a clear message to the government that it should stop making attempts to disturb harmony and not accepting farmers' demands.

The farmers also blocked the highways near Devi Nagar, Saini Majra near Karasan and Hema Majra in Ambala, Ratangarh near Pipli, Teokar, Ladwa road and Karah Sahib in Kurukshetra.

Gulab Singh, FARMER LEADER

site to express solidarity with the farmers' agitation. However, they were not allowed to address the farmers.

Bhartiya Kisan Union (Charun) Ambala district vice-president Gulab Singh said, "Earlier, we had planned to hold our protest at the toll plaza but around three days ago, a few farmers from Punjab suggested that we should hold a joint protest as it is a bordering area of Haryana and Punjab. Following their suggestion, we held a joint protest. Due to these blockades, the local police diverted traffic towards alternative routes. However, a large number of vehicles and roadways buses of Punjab preferred to wait till the blockades were lifted. Some people were also seen travelling on foot.

Harmit Singh, who was waiting near the Shambhu toll plaza, said, "I drive a commercial vehicle and after offloading some stock, I was on my way back to Punjab. I extend my full support to the farmers and I will keep waiting here till the blockade is lifted."

Several local leaders from the Congress, Indian National Lok Dal and the Haryana Democratic Front reached the dharna



Farmers stage a dharna near the Shambhu toll plaza on the Haryana-Punjab border on Saturday. PHOTO: PRADEEP MAINI

'Chakka jam' ends peacefully

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANIPAT/SONEPAT, FEBRUARY 6
Farmers observed 'chakka jam' at five points in Panipat including Panipat-Hardwar highway; Panipat-Rohat-Rewari national highway, Panipat-Jind highway, NH-44 and Assandh road for three hours.

As per the schedule programme, scores of farmers, members of the Congress, CPI, CPM and other social organisations gathered at toll plaza near Dahan on Panipat-Rohat highway, Panipat-Jind highway, NH-71A and Panipat toll plaza on NH-44 and Assandh road for three hours.

As per the schedule programme, scores of farmers, members of the Congress, CPI, CPM and other social organisations gathered at toll plaza near Dahan on Panipat-Rohat highway, Panipat-Jind highway, NH-71A and Panipat toll plaza on NH-44 and Assandh road for three hours.

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Apni Party wins 2 DDC chief's posts, PAGD 1

JKAP will head councils in Srinagar, Shopian; Gupkar alliance in Kulgam

Srinagar, February 6

The Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP), led by former Finance Minister Altaf Bukhari, has won the elections to the post of chairperson of two of the three District Development Councils (DDCs) in polls held on Saturday, officials said.

The elections to the posts of chairperson and vice-chairperson were held in three districts of the Valley — Srinagar, Shopian and Kulgam — in the first phase on Saturday.

The JKAP would be heading the DDCs in Srinagar and Shopian, while the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) — the amalgam of six mainstream political parties — would head the DDC in Kulgam.

In Srinagar, JKAP candidate Aftab Malih bagged 10 votes, while his rival bagged only three votes,



BJP leaders Bharat Bhushan and Suraj Singh Bhau celebrate on being elected as DDC chairperson and vice-chairperson, respectively, in Jammu on Saturday. PTI

the officials said.

They said the JKAP's Bilal Ahmad managed to win the vice-chairperson's post by securing nine votes, while his PDP rival Manzoor Ahmad Bhat bagged only four.

The BJP's lone DDC member from Srinagar, Ajaz Hussain, also supported JKAP candidates for both the posts, they said.

In Shopian district of south Kashmir, the Apni Party won

OUR POLITICS BASED ON HONESTY

“We are a new party and our politics is based on honesty. I thank the people for showing faith in us.”

Altaf Bukhari,
JKAP CHIEF

both the posts of chairperson and vice-chairperson.

The officials said JKAP candidate Bileeqs Akhtar polled eight votes, while her rival candidate from the PAGD secured six.

They said the vice-chairman post was decided through a draw of lots as there was a tie and it was also won by the JKAP.

Bukhari congratulated the winning candidates and exuded confidence that they would work for the people.

While the PAGD did not win in the two districts, it had a reason to cheer in Kulgam, also in south Kashmir, where the CPM candidate M Afzal was elected the chairperson and National Conference's Shazia Jan as vice-chairperson.

“Congratulations to Comrade M Afzal of our party CPM for being elected as DDC chairperson of Kulgam district and Shazia Jan of the NC as vice-chairperson. We thank and appreciate the cooperation of all the elected DDC members of Kulgam for consensus and unanimity,” CPM leader MY Tarigami said. —PTI

Allow peaceful protests...

when the farmers were camping on the outskirts of Delhi, he had said the “farmers’ yearning to be heard is another powerful example of how peaceful protest is one of the cherished democratic traditions binding the two countries together”.

Once tipped to be the US Ambassador to India, Sherman has supported amendments to the US Arms Export Control Act to put India on par with key NATO allies and has

opposed third party mediation in Kashmir, suggested by then US President Donald Trump.

During his 2019 US visit, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had avoided meeting Pramila Jayapal but had met other Congressmen, including Sherman and Ami Bera. On December 3 last year, Sherman had done another favour by excluding India while co-introducing a resolution to “End enforced disappearances in Asia and globally”.

'Farmer on tractor'...

We expect more support using this symbol in our campaign.”

In Hoshiarpur, 25 candidates from 50 wards have taken this symbol. Adding up candidates from Mukerian, Tialwara, Tanda, Garhdiwala, Hariana, Sham Churasi, Dasuya and Garhshankar, there 53 candidates who have opted for this symbol. In Kapurthala, four candidates have taken the symbol. Independent candidates from Ward Nos. 34, 36, 37 and 39 have gone for it. In Phillaur, two communists-backed candidates and three others have taken the symbol.

CALENDAR

February 7th, 2021, Sunday

- Vikram Samvat 2077
- Shaka Samvat 1942
- Magh Shastra 18
- Magh Parivash 25
- Hijri 1442
- Krishna Paksha Tithi 11, up to 4:48 am
- Vaghatala Yoga up to 2 pm
- Jyeshtha Nakshatra up to 4:15 pm
- Moon enters Sagittarius sign 4:15 pm

Wanted militant held

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 6

A most-wanted terrorist and self-styled commander of the Lashkar-e-Mustafa, a frontal organisation of the Jaish-e-Mohammad, was arrested today after the police intercepted a car on the outskirts of Jammu city, officials said.

A pistol and a grenade was seized from the possession of Hidayatullah Malik, an 'A' category terrorist

from Shopian district, officials said, adding that he was being interrogated.

Shridhar Patil, SSP, Jammu, said a private vehicle was intercepted by the police at the Kunjwani bypass on a tip-off leading to the arrest.

He said the terrorist attacked the police officer leading the party in an attempt to escape but was overpowered. —PTI

After respite, mercury dips again in Valley

Srinagar, February 6

The minimum temperature dipped again across Kashmir on Saturday after a few days of respite from the intense cold wave conditions even as the mercury settled above freezing point in Srinagar, the Met office said.

According to the Meteorological Department's forecast, mainly dry weather

would prevail in the Valley over the next week.

The night temperature fell at all weather stations

in the Valley on Friday, officials said.

However, the minimum temperature stayed above freezing point in Srinagar, which recorded a low of 0.6°C last night — slightly down from the previous night's 1°C, they said.

The minimum temperature at Gulmarg settled at -10.4°C last night — a degree down from the previous night. —PTI

Qazigund recorded minimum temperature of -3.2°C — down from the previous night's -0.8°C, the officials said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of -6.3°C — down from -3.6°C the previous night.

The minimum temperature at Gulmarg settled at -10.4°C last night — a degree down from the previous night. —PTI

DHARAMSHALA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION "NOTICE INVITING E-BIDS"

Online bids on item rate basis are hereby invited on behalf of Commissioner, Dharamshala Municipal Corporation (HP) in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned works from the registered contractors/firms/supplier.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Time Limit	Cost of Tender (Rs.)
1.	C/o Smart Street from Karmu mod to Heeru village in Ward No. 3, Dharamshala Municipal Corporation.	14,16,795/-	28,500/-	Three Months	500/-
2.	C/o Community Bhawan Indru Nag in village Khanriya Khas Ward No. 15.	9,19,080/-	19,000/-	Three Months	350/-

Key Dates:-

I Date of Online Publication	08.02.2021 at 11:00 a.m.
II Downloading of e-Tender Documents	From 08.02.2021 at 11:00 a.m. to 21.02.2021 at 05:00 p.m.
III Date of Submission of e-Tender	From 08.02.2021 at 11:00 a.m. to 22.02.2021 at 11:00 a.m.
IV Date of Opening of Bid	22.02.2021 at 11:30 a.m.
V Date of Opening of Financial Bid	After approval of Technical Bid

Tender document and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <https://htptenders.gov.in> by the firms/individual registered on the website, which is free of cost.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Dharamshala Municipal Corporation, DI-19942

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH e-TENDER NOTICE: PGIM/Engg./Elect./2021/134

The Hospital Engineer (Electrical), PGIMER Chandigarh invites on behalf of the Director of PGIMER Chandigarh Online Percentage rate bids from the enlisted contractors of appropriate class in CPWD/Department of Posts/BSNL/Railways/M.E.S./Chandigarh Administration/CHB/CMC Chandigarh/State PWD/S/UDA/UDA/State Electricity Boards & Corporations dealing in Civil works in two bid system (Eligibility Bid & Financial Bid) for the following work:

Name of Work: Augmentation and Up-gradation of temporary shed and creation of foundation, trenches etc. at APC substation, PGIMER Chandigarh. Estimated Cost: Rs. 32.89 Lakh. Earnest Money: Rs. 65,780/- Period of Completion: 3 Months. The last date & time of submission of bid is 15.02.2021 up to 03:00 p.m. The last date and time of submission of Original EMD in physical form is 16.02.2021 up to 03:15 p.m. The date and time of opening of Eligibility Bid is 16.02.2021 at 03:30 p.m. The date and time for opening of Financial Bid is to be Declared later.

The original EMD as scanned & uploaded shall be deposited physically by all the intending bidder in the office of H.E. (Electrical) as per above schedule failing which the bid shall be treated as invalid. The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website: <http://e-procure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and official website of the PGIMER www.pgimer.edu.in. Contractors are requested to get their firm registered on the website <http://e-procure.gov.in/eprocure/app> for participating in e-tendering process (Help desk No. for registering-9988447883).

For any technical information contact (01722755866, 7087009343). HOSPITAL ENGINEER (ELECT.) DI-19891

RFP No: UD-H(F) ARHC(MoA)-2020 Date: 06.02.2021

Notice Inviting e-Tender

The Directorate of Urban Development invites technical and financial proposals from eligible applicants for empanelment of agency for Selection of Concessionaire for Repair/Retrofit, Develop, Operate Transfer (RDOT) by converting existing Government funded vacant houses into Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) Scheme.

Interested Agencies may download the complete Request for Proposal (RFP) document from the website <http://www.ud.hp.gov.in> from 6th February, 2021 onwards and submit proposals as per RFP. The eligible bidders may submit their bids online at e-tendering portal i.e. <http://www.htptenders.gov.in>

The bidders are required to upload & submit their e-tender for the above works online only. The bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vendors or any authorized agency.

All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded on the website only and will not be published in newspapers. The bidders should regularly visit the website to keep themselves updated.

Sd/- Director, Urban Development, Palika Bhawan, Talla, Shimla-02, Himachal Pradesh. Ph: 0177-2627130, 2626518 Email: ud-hp@nic.in

DPR/HP/717

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT, HIMACHAL PRADESH

Block No.6, SDA Commercial Complex, Kasumoti, Shimla-171009, India

Phone: 0177-2621466, 2621476 Fax: 0177-2622307

Website: www.hphewt.nic.in Email: ddhspsc@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

E-Tenders are invited from the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or Authorized Distributors or Manufacturers in case of indigenous X-Ray Machine 300mA, 500mA & Mammography Machine or Principal National Distributors or their Authorized Distributors in case of imported medical device(s) and equipment(s) for rate contract for supply and installation of X-Ray Machine 300mA, 500mA & Mammography Machine in H.P. Government Health institutions. The detailed tender document can be viewed and downloaded from website: <https://www.hptenders.gov.in>, from 05.02.2021 to 25.02.2021 up to 01:00 PM. The Last date and time for submission & uploading of filled in tender documents is 25.02.2021 up to 01:00 PM. The Tender will be opened on 25.02.2021 at 2:30 PM. All subsequent corrigendum, modifications and clarifications in respect of this tender will be published only on aforesaid website. The bidders are advised to visit the aforesaid website regularly. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tender offers without assigning any reason.

Sd/- Director Health Services, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171009

DPR/HP/5606

Himachal Pradesh JSV DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Vibhag, Division No. 1 Kullu, (HP) invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works through Online Process:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work.	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time of completion
1	AIR AND M/O Sewerage Scheme Kullu Town (SH:- Operation, running, repair and Maintenance of main trunk/distribution network 23.10 km of sewerage scheme Kullu town for a period of one year (Zone I Bhotmath).	27,73,380/-	49,100/-	12 Months
2	Annual Repair and Maintenance Sewerage Scheme Kullu Town (SH:- Operation running repair and Maintenance of main trunk distribution network 35.50 km of sewerage scheme Kullu Town for a period of one year (Zone II Lankabekar)	47,11,720/-	78,180/-	12 Months

Last date of submission of tender:- 09.02.2021 up to 5.00 p.m.

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website <https://htptenders.gov.in> or from office of IPH Division No. 1, Kullu up to date specified above.

Executive Engineer, JSV Division No. 1 Kullu.

DPR/HP/5611 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

WESTERN RAILWAY

No.: SII/Auction Programme-1/March-2021 Dated : 05.02.2021

e-AUCTION SALE DURING MARCH, 2021 FOR P - WAY & OTHER VARIOUS SCRAP

SPECIAL ATTENTION

MATRIMONIALS

BRIDEROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN

IAS/ IPS/ IRS match for convent educated beautiful Brahmin girl 27.10.93 born, height 5'-2", doing M.D Gynaecology from GMC. Father retd. Sr. Class-I Officer. Mother Science teacher. Contact: 94108-38285 also WhatsApp. Mail Id: asanjiv1@rediffmail.com (CL20092943)

Suitable match for beautiful Brahmin girl, 5'-0", 31.12.1990, Chandigarh, M.Com, B.Ed. Working Mohali Company. Tricity preferred. Contact: 99888-48001. (CL20093996)

Judicial officer/Doctor match for beautiful Brahmin girl, 38 yrs, 5'-5", (divorcee). Additional District and Sessions Judge, income 18 lacs P.A. Contact: Mob: 9814066363. (CL2008579)

Match for Manglik Sarswat Punjabi Brahmin girl, 26.4.1992, Ludhiana, BA LLB, LLM, working as Assistant Professor. 89689-02501. (CL20094136)

Teeotaller match for Saraswat Punjabi Brahmin girl, 18.05.1992, Chandigarh, M.Com, B.Ed. Working Mohali Company. Tricity preferred. Contact: 98888-48001. (CL20093996)

Suitable match for divorcee Brahmin girl, issuance, 33, 5'-1", B.Ed., MBA, working, educated and well settled boy preferred. Upper caste no bar. Contact: 98729-77044. (CL20093114)

Suitable match for Brahmin beautiful girl MBA, 5'-3", 21.06.1993, looking for business man, high status family. Preferably Chandigarh, Mohali, Panchkula (Brahmin, Khatri). Contact: 98888-62025. (CL20093151)

Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin girl 28.11.1993, Bhagta Bhai, Bathinda, 5'-7", fair, MBBS, working as fmo in Govt. job. 98155-22224. (CL20091774)

Suitable match for Brahmin fair girl, 12-Nov-1992, 12:12 pm, 5'-4", BA, B.Ed. Contact: 9888772908. (CL20091781)

Saraswat Brahmin girl, 5'-4", 21.10.1994, 4:40 p.m., Ludhiana, MBA (HR) 98159-73734. (CL20092957)

Canadian PR girl, Saraswat Brahmin, 27/5', working Senior FSR CIBC Bank City Edmonton.

Preferably vegetarian, non-drinker Canadian/ Indian boy. 964056002, 623968685. (CL20091835)

Teeotaller match for manglik Brahmin girl, 22.05.1986, 5'-5", simple and early marriage. Contact: 62399-43845. (CL20091858)

Suitable match for Sf 5 in February 1989 born, beautiful Saraswat Brahmin girl, BAMS working as Medical Officer in reputed private Hospital. Reputed family. WhatsApp: 98551-56085. (CL20091901)

Match for Himachali girl, 5'-1", 18.10.1990, 3:05 am, Panchkula, B.Sc. Home Science, B.Ed., Post Graduate diploma in Child guidance & family counselling. 94174-12304. (CL20091942)

Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin girl, 13.09.1989, 5'-2", 05:55 am, Chandigarh, ETT, M.Ed., working in Private Hospital Mohali. Contact: 98154-90047, +91 99157-75293. (CL20093395)

Suitable match for fair complexion girl 13.09.1989, 5'-2", 05:55 am, Chandigarh, ETT, M.Ed., working in Private Hospital Mohali. Contact: 98154-90047, +91 99157-75293. (CL20093395)

Suitable match for Vashishtha Brahmin girl, 18.11.1991 born. Mukerian, 02:10 pm, Contact: 9417848114. (CL20093251)

Match for very beautiful slim Brahmin MBA girl, 5'-5", 20 Dec. 1982. Preferred Chandigarh. 98961-89620. (CL20092132)

Suitable match for Brahmin girl, 27/5'-2", B.Sc Nursing, working in Private Hospital Mohali. Contact: 98154-90047, +91 99157-75293. (CL20093395)

Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin girl, 13.09.1989, 5'-2", BE/MBA, B.Sc. Home Science, B.Ed., Post Graduate diploma in Child guidance & family counselling. 94174-12304. (CL20091942)

Suitable match for MBA fair complexion smart Brahmin girl, employed at Gurugram, good package, Dob 16.09.1991, Gurdaspur, 1.20 p.m., 5'-1", upper caste no bar. 99149-17605. (CL20092015)

SM4 Saraswat Brahmin 32, 5', beautiful, fair complexion, private job B.Com., MBA girl well established businessman or NRI preferred. Send biodata and photo: 62804-30302. (CL20092038)

SM4 Saraswat Brahmin fair girl, 03.06.1995, 04:45 p.m. (Mandi Gobindgarh), B.Com., PGDCA, preference to businessman, professional well settled handsome boy. 98760-59639. (CL20092119)

Suitable match for Vegetarian Gaur Brahmin joint family girl, Dec. 83, 5'-3", MA, M.Phil. Hindi, preference Gaur Brahmin from Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab. Marriage bureau excuse. 904175-49013, 82648-94759. (CL20092179)

SM4 Bhardwaj Brahmin non-Manglik girl 30/ 5'-3", Central Govt. job, Kapurthala. Preferred Govt. job. 98759-14691. (CL20092253)

Vegetarian non-manglik unmarried match for Saraswat Brahmin girl 1975 (Looks younger) 5'-2", MA, B.Ed., PGDCA, CTET qualified. Teacher reported school, bureau excuse whats app 98854-59759. (CL20092358)

Educated match for Manglik Brahmin girl, 18.99, 5'-6". B.Sc. Nursing, 62398-56452. (CL20092354)

Mated for Manglik/ Anshik Manglik Chandigarh based Punjabi S.Brahmin girl, 1995 born, height 5'-1/2", working at Gurugram in top most reputed IT Company with 11 plus package. Contact: 98722-63455. (CL20092433)

Saraswat Brahmin manglik girl, 25.1.85, 10:33 p.m., Patiala, MCA/M.Sc. permanent Govt. job Delhi. 98962-32596. (CL20092456)

Brahmin Manglik girl 24.07.1983, 10:40 p.m., Bilaspur (HP) 5', MA (Pol. Science), Resi, Ludhiana. 99882-72309. (CL20092498)

Brahmin girl, 16.2.87, 3.25 pm, Kangra, 5'-3", B.Tech IT, MNC Gurgaon. 97793-66795. (CL20092520)

Aanshik Manglik Saraswat Brahmin girl, 16.03.94, 3:30 pm, Feropur, 5'-2", employed in Axis Bank.

Banking, financial sector employee in Punjab/ Chandigarh preferred. 62801-62800. (CL20092538)

Match for Brahmin girl Ph.D. & PDF Environment Engineering 02.09.1981, 5'-3", working as Scientist Japan, PR holder of Japan. Upper caste no bar. Preferably Ph.D. Science stream BBMS, MD, B.Tech, MBA, M.Tech. MBS, 98898-16695. (CL20092630)

Match for beautiful Brahmin girl, 07.10.1992, 3:15 am, Mohali, M.A., B.Ed, doing job in private School Devigarh, Patiala. Required pure vegetarian boy, working or own business. 78883-41792. (CL20094071)

Beautiful girl Dec. 1986, MCA, 5'-5", working IT Company, Mohali Web Designer. 78140-99585. (CL20094089)

Suitable teetotaller veg. match for B.Com., MCA (Distance) non working Punjabi Brahmin 90 born, 5'-7/2" girl. Father PSU CL-1 (Retd.). Preferred NCR. 98100-52623, glsgharma82@gmail.com (CL20094098)

Saraswat Brahmin extremely beautiful cultured background convent educated girl 23.09.1993, 5'-5", M.Sc (Chemistry), B.Ed, seeks high status businessman or high ranked government officer residing in Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Jalandhar. 98148-51009. (CL20094271)

Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin 8.8.1981, 8:30 pm, 5'-5", Chandigarh, Post Graduate working girl. Contact: 98154-86416. (CL20092841)

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

Advertisement:

Classified: 0172-2670257, 2670338, 2670258

E-mail at: classified@tribunemail.com

Display: 0172-2670256, 2670342

E-mail at: advt@tribunemail.com

Circulation: 0172-2670319, 2670250, 2670442

E-mail at: circulation@tribunemail.com

epaper@tribuneindia.com

Match for Canada PR Brahmin girl 29, 5'-1", BDS from India working in Canada as Assistant Dentist. Preferred Canada PR Brahmin boy. 94647-81946. (CL20094119)

Saraswat Brahmin girl (Manglik) 16 Feb. 1990, 5'-3", 12:03 pm (Phagwara) working as Software developer in Chandigarh. Spouse preference. Working as IT professional in India or USA. 98723-85002. (CL20094124)

Match for beautiful Brahmin girl, Manglik, 05.05.1991, 11:58 am, 5'-4", Ludhiana, BA LLB, working as Assistant Professor. 89689-02501. (CL20094136)

Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin girl Aug. 87, 5'-2", working in MNC Bangalore. Kathris also welcome. 98781-47536. (CL20094158)

Looking for tall, handsome healthy upper status boy for extremely beautiful, highly qualified & high cultured background girl. 09 September 1988, time 3:50 pm. PoB- Ambala. 98160-62159. (CL20094214)

Required NRI handsome groom for 90 born, height 5'-7/2", Software Engineer, working MNC pls contact: 62839-83645. (CL20094232)

Dhian Nirankar Saraswat Brahmin beautiful girl 30.1.93, 5'-2", 8.45 pm, Assistant Professor employee preferred around Ambala. 94161-92877, 70156-75176. (CL20094290)

Match for Saraswat Brahmin girl 2.10.84, 8.55 pm, Hisar, 5'-7", B.Tech., MBA. Girl has certain medical issues. Well-settled family of Doctors in India/ abroad. 70820-34512. (CL20094312)

Suitable match for 92 born girl doing Ph.D, 5'-5", Class-I Officer, businessman preferred, private service class excused. Contact: 99153-82778. (CL20094329)

Saraswat Brahmin girl 03.06.1989, 11:47 pm Khanna, 5'-5", B.A, M.A. Parents in Chandigarh. Preferred. 98151-21779. (CL20094363)

Saraswat Brahmin Canada PR girl 1991 born, 5'-4", BDS from India. Girl presently in India for 15 days. Boy must be vegetarian. 94176-26425, 94171-52530. (CL20094365)

Match for Brahmin girl 28.01.92, 10:38 am, BCA, working preferred Chandigarh. 76269-52502. (CL20094375)

Brahmin girl 2.9.1986, 4.40 p.m., 05.10.1984, 5:24 pm, working as S/W Engineer in Chd. 81464-46051. (CL20094318)

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Match for Brahmin girl 28.01.92, 10:38 am, BCA, working preferred Chandigarh. 76269-52502. (CL20094375)

Brahmin girl 2.9.1986, 4.40 p.m., 05.10.1984, 5:24 pm, working as S/W Engineer in Chd. 81464-460

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

Jat Sikh Brar beautiful girl from Reputed family. May 1992, 5'2", IFS. (Indian Foreign Service). Preference to Equal Qualification/MNC boy educated from Reputed Institution from Jat Sikh family with Rural/ Urban property. Parents retired Lecturers having Rural/ Urban property. Whatsapp 94179-40931. (CL20093468)

Suitable match for IRS 1990 born, 5'-4", beautiful slim Jat Sikh girl highly reputed family, serving in Pb. Govt. 96461-10004, 98725-04277. (CL20094128)

MAHAJAN

Govt. employee/ well settled businessman match for Mahajan Manglik girl, 6.8.91, 8.25 pm, Ludhiana, 5'-5", MA (Sociology). Parents Govt. employee. 90233-36480, 99886-72622. (CL20086294)

Hindu Radhaosami smart lady 47, 5'-2", IELTS Trained preferred Amritsari Govt. retired/ Australian PR man. 62390-54547. (CL20094085)

Suitable match for beautiful fair, BDS- MDS. Gupta girl, 19.09.1988, 8.10 pm, Shimla, 5'-7", working in a Dental Clinic at Mohali (Punjab) & have also worked in (Dental College & Hospital) in Himachal Pradesh. Preferably Doctor/ Engineer/ CA/ Administrative services. Upper caste no bar. Contact No. 098160-16994/ 85807-04765. (CL20094463)

AGGARWAL

Very beautiful, fair, vegetarian, CA, Aggarwal, 5'-4", 15.03.1990. High status educated industrial family of Panchkula. Upper caste welcome. Chandigarh/ Panchkula. Mohali family only. 98143-34856. (CL20092495)

Suitable employed match preferably at Tricity for Kansal slim girl, 20.01.1993, 11.15 am, Chandigarh, 5'-0", B.Tech from PEC serving IT Mohali, 10.20 lakhs. 97791-58496. (CL20094114)

Medico match for Goyal girl MBBS, 1994, 5'-2", Distt. Sangrur, doing service in Mohanlal Hospital, Ludhiana. 98151-57525. (CL20093513)

Nabha girl ICWA Inter. M.Com, Jindal 23.01.1995, 10.50 am, 5'-2", Longwala. WhatsApp: 83603-50534. (CL20091707)

PQM for Mittal girl 13.01.93, 15.05 hrs. (Bathinda), 5'-3", non-Manglik, B.Tech., MBA MDI Gurgaon, working in Noida, 21.0 LPA, well-settled family from NCR. 81300-90518. (CL20091772)

MDS Doctor, 1991 born (Anshik Manglik), height 5'-5", complexion fair, preferably looking for Doctor, officer or suitable match. 83606-67809, 98551-96983. (CL20092058)

Match for Garg girl, 03.03.84, 5 am, Patiala, 5'-5", M.A. B.Ed. 98152-47571, saroigarg@gmail.com. (CL20092136)

Garg Anshik Manglik girl from Ludhiana Master in Fashion Marketing and Diploma in Fashion Design in NIFT Delhi, height 5 feet 3 inches birth 13.11.1990, time 6 pm Ludhiana fair attractive and religious brother Canada citizen, father Gazette Officer retired now in business interested can send bio-data and photo WhatsApp No. 94179-23777 contact only status family's in Ludhiana required vegetarian non smoker teetotaller boy and well settled in job/ business. (CL20092277)

Suitable match for Manglik girl 35, 5'-4", legally divorcee, having one son. 96463-89327. (CL20092352)

Professional/ qualified teetotaller Govt. officer match for fair, slim Aggarwal Garg girl born 11 Jan. 1992, 3:55 am, Ahmednagar, B.Com, CA, working as Govt. employee in LIC, Govt. employee Gazetteed Officer preferred. WhatsApp: 94647-06769, 78889-13298. (CL20094518)

Tricity Bank Officer, IT for Gupta girl, Nationalised Bank Chandigarh 27/ 5'-3", lost parents, convert educated. B.Com., LL.B. Gupta 92164-00445. (CL20094539)

KHATRI

Taneja Khatri girl, 5', 01-01-86, 8.20 a.m. Rajaipur, B.A., B.Ed., PGDCA, Private job Mohali, residence Chandigarh. Tricity preferred. 98726-43427. (CL20093444)

Khatri beautifully healthy girl 1994/5'-4", M.Com. Finance India required Canada, Australia, America PR boy. 98762-62450. (CL20092322)

Professionally qualified teetotaller Govt. officer match for fair, slim Aggarwal Garg girl born 11 Jan. 1992, 3:55 am, Ahmednagar, B.Com, CA, working as Govt. employee in LIC, Govt. employee Gazetteed Officer preferred. WhatsApp: 94647-06769, 78889-13298. (CL20094518)

Match for qualified Garg convert educated 5'-6", 21.05.1994, 3:35 am, Chandigarh, MBA girl Assistant in business. Boy with good income. PB/ HR/ CHD based status family preferred. Contact 98880-66704. (CL20092400)

Manglik/ Non-Manglik qualified match for beautiful Bansal girl 06.11.1990, 06.50 pm, Ludhiana, 5'-5", BDS. PGDHA. 62397-76174. (CL20092529)

Suitable match for beautiful girl 26, 5'-4", B.Tech., M.Tech., (Canada PR), caste no bar. 98262-35586, 83491-02485. (CL20092541)

Suitable match for beautiful, Mittal girl, 26, 5', MDS, seeking qualified, well settled. Contact 97813-50727, 98159-50027. (CL20092611)

Handsome, convert/ well educated Doctor, CA, business/ serviceman, only Tricity match for Manglik Garg, 5'-6", 03.04.1992, Panchkula, B.Tech., MBA girl from respectable Panchkula based business family. Decent marriage. Contact: 98153-60106. (CL20092633)

PQM for Mittal, convert educated, MA Economics LLB, Delhi University Campus, Corporate job, 5'-3", slim, very fair & beautiful girl, 20.9.1992, 8.30 p.m., Punjab. Seeks well settled match (business/ service) from respectable status family. vijaymittal2019@gmail.com 98714-50545. (CL20092715)

Required suitable match for pursuing CA Final Aggarwal girl, 10.09.88, 12.25 am Jalandhar, 5'-7", Contact: 98885-01307. (CL20092762)

PQM for beautiful girl 34/ 5'-2/4" Doctor girl (MDS), Working as Associate Professor in University and Consultant Endodontist in Clinics. Contact 62835-04639. (CL20092920)

Handsome educated business/ professional qualified match for very beautiful, educated March 95 born, 5'-4", Chandigarh, Decent marriage. 90341-12255. (CL20093163)

Qualified match working in Bangalore only for Manglik Goel girl 1990, 5'-2", BA, LLB Hons from Jindal Global Law School. Working MNC. Father business man brother and Bhabhi Doctors. Well settled boy Engineered with MBA qualifications from reputed institutions, working NCR/ Metropolitan City having family in Tricity preferred. WhatsApp: 94633-79816. (CL20093373)

Beautiful fair Garg girl 5'-1", 04.30 am, Barnala Punjab, 5.8.88, MA English, MBA. Permanent job High Court Chandigarh, residence Panchkula. Send biodata, photo. Tricity only. WhatsApp 88470-38340. (CL20093711)

Suitable match for Hindu girl 31/ 5'-2", slim sporty fair complexion Canada based PR Chartered Accountant issueless divorcee, caste no bar, don't believe kundli milan. WhatsApp 091-99418-04310, email: singla311@gmail.com preferably professionally qualified boy ready to settle to Canada. (CL20093805)

Suitable match for slim, MA, M.Ed., Bansal girl, 17.10.93 (12.55 a.m.), Barnala, 5'-3", kundli must, well settled business man preferred. 94172-6548. (CL20093447)

Businessman Singla family girl, 02.06.1993, 8.25 a.m., Kurukshetra, M.Sc Mathematics, 5'-1", 90684-89807-70197. (CL20094052)

Professional/ well settled businessman match for Sood fair beautiful girl 9.11.96, 5.15 p.m. Ambala, 5'-4", MBA, working MNC, 6 LPA. Well settled educated family. Father wholesaler business, around Ambala/Tricity preferred. Upper caste no bar. WhatsApp: 94163-67166. (CL20094304)

Beautiful Khatri Himachali girl, 33 yrs, 5'-1", working in University at Baddi (Ph.D Physics) seeks suitable match. Himachali preferred except SC. Contact: 94598-55143. (CL20094308)

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Beautiful Khatri Himachali girl, 33 yrs, 5'-1", working in University at Baddi (Ph.D Physics) seeks suitable match. Himachali preferred except SC. Contact: 94598-55143. (CL20094308)

Professional/ well settled businessman match for Sood fair beautiful girl 9.11.96, 5.15 p.m. Ambala, 5'-4", MBA, working MNC, 6 LPA. Well settled educated family. Father wholesaler business, around Ambala/Tricity preferred. Upper caste no bar. WhatsApp: 94163-67166. (CL20094304)

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Professional

MUSLIM

Suitable match for Sunni Muslim
BAMS Doctor girl, 5', 1985 employed
(Medical Officer) with Patanjali.
98552-73778. (CL20092674)

YADAV

Yadav girl 5.1.1992, 12:45 pm,
5', MA, B.Ed. Required qualified,
well-settled boy, Amritsar. 97807-
00180. (CL20094448)

NRI

EQM preferably US settled for a pretty
1983, 5'2" Super Specialist Associate
Professor of Medicine Jai Sikh Doctor
girl. Never married. No bars. Family of
US professionals. Bio-data/ recent
photos at: eyedoc113@yahoo.com
(CL20086228)

Professionally suitable India/Canada
match for Canadian PR permanent
Govt. job, beautiful, convent educated
girl (Sikh) Master (Canada), 89
born, 5'-3", Jalandhar based Sikhs
Ramdasia Doctors/Engineers family.
Father rtd. SMO and ruining his own
hospital. Girl is in India for three
weeks. Contact/whatsapp 9814139097,
7099533959. (CL20091897)

Well settled parent USA citizen seeking
match for Jai Sikh beautiful slim girl 22,
5'2", pursuing Nursing. Only Medical/
Veterinarian may apply WhatsApp: 209-
601-1725. (CL20092246)

PQMI preferable from California
working for Kumhar Sikh beautiful
girl, Oct. 84.5'7". Sr. Software
Engineer MNC Los Angeles. Never
married. 98034-00219. (CL20092454)

Ravidasia/ Ad-dharmi Canadian
parent's looking suitable match for their
daughter (PR) Canadian resident highly
professional educated, B.Com., MBA
Finance, PGDCA, born Jan. 1989.
Good job, good family background,
contact Ph. # 64777-14186 send
biodata & latest photo. (CL20092514)

SM4 non-muslim Hindu Arora
Canadian PR girl 16.05.95, 13.55,
Dhuri, 5'-5", doing CPA. Contact:
99962-99483. (CL20092831)

Canada PR MBA Mazhabi Sikh girl 38,
5'-5", caste no bar, Canadian preferred.
90562-43243. (CL20092921)

Seeking NRI match for divorcee
Sikh Khatri girl Govt. Teacher. 82
born, 5', caste no bar. 94171-51905.
(CL20093080)

Jat Sikh widow 49/ 5'-7"; issueless good
looking required suitable match NRI
preferred. 85588-27599. (CL20093089)

PQM for beautiful girl 26/5'-4",
working in Australia, seeks suitable
match. 86025-07879. (CL20093448)

SM4 beautiful girl, 1981/ 5'-3", Post
Graduate in Nursing, pursuing Ph.D.
Brief marriage annulled issues less.
Preferred NRI. Caste no bar. 88720-
78849. (CL20093822)

Ramdasia Sikh parents seeking a
suitable match for their Canadian citizens
daughter 28 years, 5'-5", Naturopathic
Doctor Canada. Professionally self
employed, fair, beautiful and family
oriented. Boy should be professionally
qualified, employed and should be
from Canada/America. Only preference is that
boy should be Jehovah witness. Please
send your biodata and recent pictures to:
matrimony033@gmail.com or Call
647-212-3031. (CL20093927)

Professionally qualified well-settled
in Canada with supportive family for
Sikh Tonk Kshatriya LL.M., 5'-4",
April 92, smart, confident girl from
very well-settled and highly educated
family. Planning to pursue Law in
Canada. I.T.A received documents
submitted for PR. Contact with full
details. 95929-91501. (CL20093960)

Brahmin never married girl 85 born,
5'-2", Canadian Citizen Software
Professional looking for vegetarian
professionals employed in Canada/USA
only. Contact WA 4163031555.
(CL20091833)

Suitable match for MBA fair
colour Khatri girl, 90 born,
5'-7", prefer. Australia PR boy,
caste no bar. WhatsApp: 81304-
70176. (CL20094059)

Beautiful Tonkshatriya registered
Nurse in Australia applied for PR, 32,
5'-4", seeking well settled Australian.
Send pic, bio-data. 75080-80480.
(CL20094078)

Seeking Canada/ USA citizen
vegetarian match for Brithm 27, 5'-
7", fair BA girl. Contact: 79865-
65546. (CL20094099)

Match for Sikh Khatri girl, slim,
beautiful, American citizen, 1987, 5'-
2", B.Com. Ind. Cosmetology. 98887-
87143. (CL20094103)

Match for Hindu Arora girl
23.12.1992 born, 5'-3". Tech from
India Project management and Supply
Chain Management from Canada.
Now on work permit. WhatsApp:
82849-22466. (CL20094263)

Looking for suitable match (NRI
only) for beautiful, slim, Hindu
Ravidasia girl from Punjab living with
parents. 36 yrs old, 5'-2", BA Honours,
qualified beautician. Visited UK twice
on WHM visa. I sister & 2 brothers well
settled in UK, USA & Canada. Contact:
80549-27000. (CL20094277)

Match for beautiful girl Doctor MD
Medicine Assistant Prof in USA, 5'-4",
Hindi Punjabi Khatri, born Oct. 1989.
Required Doctor boy in USA. Contact:
88470-39474. (CL20094310)

Seeking professionally qualified,
vegetarian match (never married or
divorced with no children) for Sikh
Rangariah 42 years old girl, Australian
citizen never married. Looks young,
5'-3", Bachelor & Diploma of Nursing
from Australia. Employed as
Registered Nurse in Australia. Own
house. Please send biodata & recent
pictures at: ranjan78960@yahoo.com

Sikh Seeking well settled, tall and
educated NRI boy for 5'-6", 1994,
licensed Paralegal in Canada. Contact:
92170-10021. (CL20094403)

Looking match for vegetarian Hindu
Verma girl, MBBS, 29 years, 5'-5",
USA citizen, issuesless divorce after
2 months, prefer boy with Masters
Degree/Engineer/Doctor. Upper caste
no bar. Prefer boy in USA. WhatsApp:
+81714-902-5292. (CL20094428)

Canadian PR professionally
qualified Hindi Khatri girl, 36,
5'-4", seeking unmarried professional
boy preferably Canada/America. 672-
514-0021 newbles21@gmail.com.
(CL20094475)

Canadian PR professionally
qualified Hindi Khatri girl, 36,
5'-4", seeking unmarried professional
boy preferably Canada/America. 672-
514-0021 newbles21@gmail.com.
(CL20094475)

Wanted handsome educated
match for beautiful Ramdasia girl
30, 5'-3", BDS, now India, required
well educated, reputed family Indian or
Canadian boy, early marriage. 98770-
4132. (CL20094482)

Match from Medical Graduates
for US born Sikh girl 28, 5'-4",
working Attorney in NY, NJ,
kkasur@yahoo.com (CL20094546)

Wanted handsome educated
match for beautiful Ramdasia girl
30, 5'-3", BDS, now India, required
well educated, reputed family Indian or
Canadian boy, early marriage. 98770-
4132. (CL20094482)

SCHEDULED CASTES

Ravidasia Sikh girl, Feb. 1985,
double M.A., E.T.T. B.Ed. TET pass,
doing job in Govt. primary school.
94633-15022. (CL20091568)

Required early 30's boy preferred
Medical Govt. job Canada PR for
working Ravidasia Sikh girl, 31, 5'-2",
M.Sc Food Technology. 99886-13221.
(CL20091711)

SM4 Ravidasia ad-dharmi girl 33 yrs,
5'-4", MCA (IT). NRI preferred.
Educated family. Bureau excuse.
Contact/ whatsapp: 09815307437.
(CL20091752)

Officer clean shaven match for
Ramdasia Sikh girl, fair colour, born
Aug. 1988, 5'-3" CA, MBA (Finance),
Manager in PNB. Father rtd. Bank
Manager, brother bank officer. Own
house at Chandigarh. Caste no bar.
81464-09948. (CL20091841)

Match for Solan based Himachali
Manglik SC Koli girl, 5'-2", 7.11.85,
MBA. 98054-20180. (CL20092188)

Match for Ad-Dharmi girl, 1993,
5'-2", working MNC. Father Punjab
Government Officer. Brother abroad.
Contact: 98788-20719. (CL20091957)

Match for Ravidasia girl, 16.07.1989,
5'-5", on work permit Canada Toronto.
Caste no bar. 62394-4982. 94783-
12864 (WhatsApp). (CL20091998)

Well qualified match sought for
Himachali Sood girl 5'-4", 17.05.1990.
Working as Sr. Audiologist in
Gurgaon. Himachali boy working in
Delhi preferred. Contact: 88948-
12348. (CL20094291)

Suitable match for Ravidasia girl,
5'-2", August 1989, working with a
MNC in Gurgaon. Father retired
IRS Officer. Contact: 79861-81054.
(CL20094299)

Suitable teetotaller Govt. employee
match for Ravidasia Sikh Govt.
service girl, 1990/5'-4", urban contact:
7346-76081. (CL20094300)

Ravidasia girl, 5'-4", 1992, M.Sc.
B.Ed. Teacher in Army School. Father
retd. Chief Manager, mother Govt.
Teacher, Jalandhar. 9417630588,
7717396829. (CL20094317)

Balmiki girl, 1988/ 5'-2", Post
Graduate, working on Contract,
Looking for Government job boy or
businessmen. 76580-15269. Caste no
bar. (CL20094328)

Ramdasia Sikh girl 1993/ 5'-3",
M.Pharmacy, 7 band, looking for
Amritdhari, vegetarian graduate boy
willing to settle Canada. (Brother
Canada). 94633-28004. (CL20094361)

Match for Valmiki girl 1986/ 5'-7",
slim, Dance teacher at Chandigarh.
Status family. Caste no bar. Mob.
94176-95581. (CL20092332)

Match for Ramdasia, vegetarian
girl, June 1978/5'-7", qualification
BDS, MSC Clinical Research. Job
Multinational Company. Preferred
Chandigarh, Mohali, Panchkula.
Mobile: 82838-19020, 82838-19021.
(CL20094380)

SM4 Punjabi Ravidasia girl,
19.2.1990, 5'-4", M.Com, working
Punjab Govt. Bank as Assistant
Manager. Preferred. Tricity. 90416-
63328. (CL20094478)

Required equal job cleanshaven
match for Ravidasia Ludhiana based
slim girl Nov. 1988, 5'-5", Sr.
Manager in Nationalized Bank. Father
highly educated. Mohali based small
family share details. WhatsApp: 75003-
54532. No calling pl. (CL20092647)

Wanted Himachali, Government
employed boy. Girl works in RBI,
Mumbai, 5'-2", 4.11.1991. Ravidasia,
78763-09294. (CL20094521)

Govt. employee match or NRI
match for Ramdasia Sikh girl Sept.
1990/ 5'-4", BCA, MCA, B.Ed.,
running Coaching Centre. Father
Class-I Officer retd. 97819-43639.
(CL20094531)

Suitable match addharmi girl 1991,
5'-1", B.Tech (CSE) Doaba preferred.
94636-75587. (CL20094167)

SM for Julaha girl June 1990/ 5'-4",
MBA, working in College, well-
educated family. Preferred Govt.
Officer rank Patiala, Mohali,
Fatehgarh Sahib Distt. only. 90237-
2741414. (CL20094150)

KENNEL

Excellent Tibetan Mastiff
Gaddi Bakarwal, Loyal ferocious,
watch dog, pups. 213/ 9-C,
Chandigarh. 94652-17336, 0172-
2741414. (CL20094150)

FINANCIAL

Bad Bank for NPA? Right time for
OTs is now. A stick in time saves nine.
Postponement of the problem
aggregates the problem. We arrange
Capital/Funds for OTs/working
capital subject to viability and future
prospects. Arora Banking Consultants.
99882-50234. (CL20094164)

BUSINESS

Vashish Chemicals, Floor cleaner,
tile cleaner, liquid dish wash
for utensils. Call: 98725-25231
(CL20091672)

Youngster, beginner, planning
a startup? We offer complete
consultancy from generating,
Developing business ideas to
rolling out business plans. KV's
Chanakyaashaala, Panchkula. 98878-
64374. (CL20091870)

Pharma GMP certified unit Baddi
& big size huge capacity for JV Loan
Bank partnership. 92170-20540.
(CL20092239)

Well established Nursing Home in
good running condition, built-up in
443 square yards at Patiala. Handsome
income, excellent opportunity, prime
location, ample parking. Contact:
98760-59789. (CL20092276)

If you have a serious profitable
home based business proposal, we
own massive/ extra ordinary
residential infrastructure (Panchkula)
for joint Venture. 98140-13579.
(CL20094153)

Balmiki girl, 1988/ 5'-2", Post
Graduate, working on Contract,
Looking for Government job boy or
businessmen. 76580-15269. Caste no
bar. (CL20094328)

Ramdasia girl 1993/ 5'-3",
M.Pharmacy, 7 band, looking for
Amritdhari, vegetarian graduate boy
willing to settle Canada. (Brother
Canada). 94633-28004. (CL20094361)

Match for Valmiki girl 1986/ 5'-7",
slim, Dance teacher at Chandigarh.
Status family. Caste no bar. Mob.
94176-95581. (CL20092332)

Match for Ravidasia girl,
5'-2", August 1989, working with a
MNC in Gurgaon. Father retired
IRS Officer. Contact: 79861-81054.
(CL20094299)

Suitable match for Ravidasia girl,
5'-2", August 1989, working with a
MNC in Gurgaon. Father retired
IRS Officer. Contact: 79861-81054.
(CL20094299)

Match for Solan based Himachali
Manglik SC Koli girl, 5'-2", 7.11.85,
MBA. 98054-20180. (CL20092188)

Match for Ad-dharmi girl, 1993,
5'-2", working MNC. Father Punjab
Government Officer. Brother abroad.
Contact: 98788-20719. (CL20091957)

Match for Ravidasia girl, 16.07.1989,
5'-5", on work permit Canada Toronto.
Caste no bar. 62394-4982. 94783-
1286

14 acre land 2.5 acre front, two motors, Main GT Road Jagraon to Moga side. Rate 40 lakh per acre. Contact: 70093-21645. (CL20094353)

8 marla house full or floor wise ready to move, Sector 38, Chandigarh excellent location back park, Italian flooring, modular kitchen, Kajaria, Jaquar fittings. D.P. Builders 94170-03396, 99888-85553. (CL20094360)

Immediately for sale SCF urban Estate, Ludhiana, residential plot 5 biswa, Doraha. 97804-96890. (CL20094369)

1 kanal beautiful marbled duplex See-18, Chandigarh. Contact K.D. Sharma Real Estates: 98142-10139. (CL20094382)

Zirakpur to Banur road approximate 11 kms from Airport approves MC 8 acre land 1 acre main front suitable for commercial purpose decision on the spot. Only genuine buyer contact Hello Hi Bhateria 94170-09175. (CL20094393)

New upcoming 100, 125, 150 sq. yds. plots in Sector 92, Mohali & 12x30 shops available on Airport Road, Mohali against return per for details. 62833-66143. (CL20094407)

FOR SALE

BOOTH 10 Gaj, I.T. CITY.

SCO 121 Gaj, Sector - 90.

SHOWROOM SITE (20X80)

Corner, A road Janta Land

Sector - 82 (Extension) 66A.

SHOWROOM BUILT UP, Main

Market, Janta Land, Sec - 82.

COMMERCIAL SHOPS (10x30)

Ground with Basement, Front

Airport Road, JPL, Sec - 66A.

EMPIRE ESTATES

98150 83500

CL20094549

New upcoming 100, 125, 150 sq. yds.

plots in Sector 92, Mohali & 12x30 shops available on Airport Road, Mohali against return per for details. 70093-34242. (CL20094409)

5 marla 125 sq yds # 2231 Aerocity

C-Block triple storey. Baljeet Singh

81968-97771. (CL20094412)

New upcoming 100, 125, 150 sq. yds. plots in Sector 92, Mohali & 12x30 shops available on Airport Road, Mohali against return per for details. 81968-93777. (CL20094415)

New upcoming 100, 125, 150 sq. yds. plots in Sector 92, Mohali & 12x30 shops available on Airport Road, Mohali against return per for details. 62833-66140. (CL20094417)

New upcoming 100, 125, 150 sq. yds. plots in Sector 92, Mohali & 12x30 shops available on Airport Road, Mohali against return per for details. 81968-91777. (CL20094418)

10 marla ready to move ground floor available in Sector 15, Chandigarh, new construction, branded fittings, ample parking space. D.P. Builders 94170-03396, 99888-85553. (CL20094424)

Available five marla double storey house in Preet Colony, Zirakpur, near Royal Estate, price negotiable, contact: 98768-32537. (CL20094435)

4800 gaj prime location Derabassi, on Delhi Highway before Haldianwara M.C. Limit, Village Devnagar, 94170-03135. (CL20094449)

Excellent location double storey 157 sq. yd. house No. 45, Modern Complex, Preet Colony, Zirakpur, 89687-72008. (CL20094450)

Agriculture land, commercial land sale Ludhiana 6, 8, 11, 65 acre. Chahal Properties, Ahmedgarh, 89684-63299. (CL20094503)

529 sq. yards, corner side huge park, newly constructed, first floor & top floor, Sector 36, Chandigarh for sale. 97017-00001. (CL20094459)

2 kanal East facing Sec- 8, Chandigarh confirmation with K.D. Sharma Real Estates: 98142-10139. (CL20094471)

Pre booking 8 marla facing park 3 BHK floors for sale, Sector 20, Chandigarh. 97017-00001. (CL20094473)

Reasonable price plot/ kothi, Sunny Enclave, Kharar, Zirakpur, 4 marla to one kanal, corner, facing park, B-road. Gemini Realtors: 99158-12346, 90565-65858. (CL20094500)

We deals in all Sushma Projects Valencia, Grande, Joynest, Capital, Prestine, Belleza, Crescent, Balaji Homes 98783-92666. (CL20094509)

One kanal triple storey Sec. 40, 14 marla single storey Sec. 35, Chandigarh. 98782-31283. (CL20094536)

CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh 2 kanal house, Sector 16-A. Sale by open court auction 15/02/2021 details Contact: 98144-34568. (CL20092078)

Chandigarh: 2 kanal 1100 sq. yds single storey old house prime location prime Sector, Contact Paramjeet Singh: 98786-99306. (CL20092259)

7% marla triple storey house, Sector 38-C, Chandigarh. 98724-01166, 98728-95951. (CL20094183)

Plot (90'x50'), (residential/commercial), Village Daria (opposite Chandigarh Railway Station). Immediate sale. 99156-40934. (CL20094218)

Prime location newly built 10 marla B/Road top floor Sec. 40. A. Vishwas Builder: 98777-05650. (CL20094284)

8 marla (old triple house) Sector 38-C, Chandigarh. 98724-01166, 98728-95951. (CL20094183)

Plot (90'x50'), (residential/commercial), Village Daria (opposite Chandigarh Railway Station). Immediate sale. 99156-40934. (CL20094218)

Park facing 14 marla ground, basement available 4 MDC, 1 kanal park facing old house available in Sector 8, Panchkula. Kitty Estates 99883-61191. (CL20094426)

Panchkula: Top floor of 451p Sector 12 with roof rights of newly constructed corner B/Road 12 marla house. Stilt parking and lift available. Rare location. 98886-16111. (CL20094526)

8/5 marla, triple house, Sector 23, floors also available. Adhik Properties SCO 25/23-C, Chandigarh. 98812-19161. (CL20094524)

epepaper191616L009091461a.com

One kanal, second floor facing park, Sector 19, Chd. Reasonable price. # 95922-58181. (CL20094400)

Brand new triplex available in Sector 18, Chandigarh. Kitty Estates 99883-61191. (CL20094431)

PANCHKULA

Panchkula 7 marla Sector-21, triple, facing park, beautifully built, East facing. 89688-16304 (Pratham Singla). (CL20091969)

Panchkula 1 kanal Sector-21, A-road, plot, facing stadium, 25% builtup, prime location. 98155-15434 (Pkl. Property). (CL20091970)

10 marla new builder floors with stilt parking, lift ready to move/ Advance booking at discount, Sector 7, 8, 4, Gulati Estates 88006-66233. (CL20092673)

1 kanal & 14 marla luxurious builder floors at a preferential location, fully furnished with servant quarter. Gulati Estates: 88006-66233. (CL20092723)

1 kanal duplex Sector/ 4/ duplex Sector 9/ single storey Sector 8/ duplex Sector 2, Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20093411)

14 marla duplex well maintained Sector 16/ duplex Sector 2, duplex Sector 12, Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20093415)

10 marla brand new ultra modern houses Sector 7, 16, 12A, 21, 25, 26, Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20093416)

10 marla single maintained house Sector 12A and single storey North East facing Sector 4. Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20093420)

10 marla fully marbled excellent duplex Sector 8 and single storey maintained house Sector 15. Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20093421)

Beautiful 10 marla North East facing duplex house for sale Sector 4, Panchkula. Contact: 98555-15555, 93161-0208. (CL20092281)

10 marla fully marbled duplex North facing park sector another single old Sector - 15, 16. Contact 98786-39941. (CL20092294)

10 marla house B/Rod three storey suitable for Doctors facing East Sector 21, Panchkula. 98150-96430. (CL20092308)

1 kanal single/ duplex Sector 2-4, fully marbled duplex, prime location in Sector 7-8. Contact: 98786-39991. (CL20092314)

14 marla duplex/double Sector-2, newly builtup prime location Sector 7, B-road Sector 21. Contact: 98786-39991. (CL20092318)

14 marla duplex, Sector 7/ single storey Sector 8/ single storey Sector 10. Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20093407)

Ready to move 14 marla corner floors available Sector 6 MDC Panchkula. Kitty Estates 99883-61191. (CL20092386)

10 marla duplex, Sector 7/ single storey Sector 8/ single storey Sector 10. Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20093458)

10 marla 100 marla North East facing duplex house for sale Sector 4, Panchkula. Contact: 98555-15555, 93161-0208. (CL20092281)

10 marla fully marbled duplex North facing park sector another single old Sector - 15, 16. Contact 98786-39941. (CL20092294)

10 marla house B/Rod three storey suitable for Doctors facing East Sector 21, Panchkula. 98150-96430. (CL20092308)

1 kanal single/ duplex Sector 2-4, fully marbled duplex, prime location in Sector 7-8. Contact: 98786-39991. (CL20092314)

14 marla duplex/double Sector-2, newly builtup prime location Sector 7, B-road Sector 21. Contact: 98786-39991. (CL20092318)

14 marla duplex, Sector 7/ single storey Sector 8/ single storey Sector 10. Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20093407)

Ready to move 14 marla corner floors available Sector 6 MDC Panchkula. Kitty Estates 99883-61191. (CL20092386)

10 marla duplex, Sector 7/ single storey Sector 8/ single storey Sector 10. Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20093458)

10 marla 100 marla North East facing duplex house for sale Sector 4, Panchkula. Contact: 98555-15555, 93161-0208. (CL20092281)

10 marla fully marbled duplex North facing park sector another single old Sector - 15, 16. Contact 98786-39941. (CL20092294)

10 marla house B/Rod three storey suitable for Doctors facing East Sector 21, Panchkula. 98150-96430. (CL20092308)

1 kanal single/ duplex Sector 2-4, fully marbled duplex, prime location in Sector 7-8. Contact: 98786-39991. (CL20092314)

14 marla duplex/double Sector-2, newly builtup prime location Sector 7, B-road Sector 21. Contact: 98786-39991. (CL20092318)

14 marla duplex, Sector 7/ single storey Sector 8/ single storey Sector 10. Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20093407)

Ready to move 14 marla corner floors available Sector 6 MDC Panchkula. Kitty Estates 99883-61191. (CL20092386)

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10 marla fully marbled



An American professor remembers a patwari from Kangra whose profound understanding of the local irrigation systems laid the foundation of his research on kuhls

SOCIETY page 12



The Tribune begins a series honouring the gallantry award winners of the 1971 war. Part I recalls the valour of Major Hoshiar Singh, Param Vir Chakra

TRIBUTE page 13



A storm-rider with a penchant for taking on the establishment, Aniruddha Bahal's memoir highlights the unpredictability characterising the life of a journalist

BOOKS page 14

Resolute face of Ludhiana Inc



From left: Sandeep (Minnie) Riat, Mridula Jain, Rajni Bector, Meenakshi Jasuja and Ruby Marjara.

Padma Shri for Mrs Bector is not just recognition for an individual, but a tribute to the many women who followed in her footsteps

RENU SUD SINHA

RAJNI BECTOR was a BA second-year student at Miranda House in New Delhi when she got married in 1957 into a prominent Ludhiana business family. She was yet to turn 18. Born in Karachi in a family of bureaucrats, her role in her new family was well defined — she had no role. Like her mother-in-law, what she was expected to do was to join the ranks of a well-rounded support system. To keep herself busy, she started taking cookery classes, an activity she excelled in and enjoyed. Her mother-in-law could not wrap her head around why a 'rich Ludhiana wife' would want to work, so the young daughter-in-law did not touch a rupee of what she earned; all went to charity. Appreciation of her culinary and management skills inspired confidence, and her husband in particular saw business potential in her 'part-time indulgence'. She had found her role. Today, she is a role model.

Founder and chairman of Mrs Bector's Food Specialities Limited, the Padma Shri bestowed on her this year for contribution to trade and industry comes on the heels of a bumper IPO showing — oversubscribed 198 times; a nearly ₹800-crore empire that started as a backyard business.

Mridula Jain, Sandeep (Minnie) Riat, Meenakshi Jasuja, Ruby Marjara and scores of other women entrepreneurs in the city may draw inspiration from the matriarch of Ludhiana Inc, but their stories are no less inspiring, no less revealing of the fact that inheritance or family name counts only if you succeed. And each success story has its own failures and setbacks. For a woman, the odds simply multiply, but through it all, a common thread is the unstinted support of the immediate family — the husbands, the sons and daughters, the siblings, the parents.

Rajni Bector can't thank her husband enough for his unflinching belief in her abilities. Mridula Jain of Shingora Tex-

ness, but Shingora shawls is her baby alone. Meenakshi Jasuja was a housewife who didn't want to be known as just 'Mrs Jasuja'. She wanted an identity of her own — and one she could be proud of. With initial help from her husband, she started her own label of T-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. nearly a decade ago and now supplies to major chains.

Audacity of hope

For these three ladies, starting their own business was a matter of choice. However, there are those who were compelled by circumstances to take the deep dive. Sandeep (Minnie) Riat's has been one such gritty story. "I was born with a silver spoon, came on road, but got the silver spoon back by my sheer determination," says the managing director of Akal Springs, manufacturer of automotive components.

A graduate in business management, Minnie was all of 21 when her father died in 2004, leaving her a debt-ridden company, nearly 50 court cases, an army of creditors to wade through and a family to look after. But he also left her a legacy of steely determination and a never-say-die spirit. It took her four years to clear the financial mess through sheer willpower and perhaps a foolhardy courage, as there was no help from any quarter. Her relatives wouldn't touch her with a bargepole; seven banks had shown her the door; with two of them telling her plainly that they could not risk a loan to a woman.

Besides her three siblings, only her father's old workers stood by her, working with almost no wages initially. Minnie sold off a part of her property to settle her debt, shifted her plant and was finally able to convince one bank for a loan. Today, Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra are among her clients and she exports to almost all major countries, including the US, Canada, Japan, Russia and Australia.

From a pariah to an award-winning entrepreneur, her survival-to-success story is being taught as a case study in two business schools. Anyone listening in Bollywood?

Ruby Marjara, who has her own

knitwear label for women called Waves, is another such destiny's not-so-favourite child. Daughter of a business family and married into another, for Ruby, a post-graduate in textile design, being financially independent was the core of her being. Work wasn't just worship, it was passion. Steeped in Ludhiana's conservative milieu, her new family could not comprehend this fierce necessity to work. However, her resilience and husband's tacit support saw her through the resistance.

Minnie Riat, a hardy, self-made entrepreneur, feels Ludhiana has never been a hindrance to anyone who wants to grow wings. Men or women, it offers a level-playing field. If you are willing to work hard, stretch your limits and scale up, then up is the only way to go.'

In 2000, when the family business hit a rough patch, it was Ruby and her various activities that kept the family afloat. With survival at stake, Ruby took on all sorts of work — from holding lifestyle exhibitions to selling life insurance, no job was too menial for her. In 2004, she launched Waves. In 2010, she started the Yellow Tree, a premium fashion and lifestyle biennial event, something the socialites of the city look forward to. The passionate workaholic acquired Kilot's franchise in 2018. "From being made to feel guilty for working to being called the pride of the family, perceptions and expectations have surely changed drastically," says Ruby.

What the city offers

But where does the confidence come from? Does Ludhiana have this inbuilt ecosystem of business sustainability, a positive energy that keeps one going? Industrialist SC Ralhan, former president of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, agrees. "The city offers great opportunities." But does it offer similar chances to women entrepreneurs too? The veteran businessman's response is pragmatic: "It is surely easier for women from business families than those from non-business background."

Minnie offers a different perspective. According to this hardy, self-made entrepreneur, "The city had never been a hindrance to anyone who wanted to grow wings. Men or women, it offers a level-playing field. If you are willing to work hard, stretch your limits and scale up, then up is the only way to go."

Her super senior in the business world, Mridula Jain concurs. Married at 21, Mridula, a science graduate, had to opt for BEd at her mother's insistence. Two kids in quick succession limited her options to home coaching for 10 years. But as this daughter and daughter-in-law of a business family says, "Entrepreneurship is part of our culture." With kids grown up, Mridula wanted to step out of home. A chance remark by her nephew gave her an idea and Shingora shawls was born. From a utility item, Shingora (derived from Hindi word *shringar* meaning ornament) made shawls a fashion statement. Starting with eight handloomers and eight weavers, the business now employs nearly 1,000 workers. With Shingora growing at a mercurial speed, her husband and sons have joined her.

Shawls is not the only thing that Mridula has restructured. She has given shape to the shawl industry in the North. She formed the shawl manufacturers' association, tied up with Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council for export of shawls. And when exports grew, necessitating more production, she crusaded for an amendment in law that allowed for import and use of power looms in India. She admits with justified pride, "Much of

the amendment had been worded by me."

However, not everything has been hunky dory in the male-dominated business scene of the city. Many women entrepreneurs have faced numerous challenges — condescending behaviour by contemporaries, lack of credibility about deliverance, a sullen, unresponsive male workforce, delayed payments, cheating agents.

When Meenakshi started work in 2009, for the initial two years the workers in the workshop made her life miserable — not taking her orders seriously, shoddy workmanship, under-deliverance. Exasperated, she fired the whole lot and started afresh. While things have been better since inside the workshop, unprofessional behaviour, bordering on chauvinism, by field agents in northern states of UP, Haryana, Punjab, even the North-East, has made her resolve to only work with brand stores in the South.

This patriarchal mindset may have been a reason why the number of women entrepreneurs has remained minuscule, feels SS Bhogal, a veteran industrialist. There are other factors too. In a city dominated by small and medium enterprises, a lack of technical education and, of course, conservative mentality that women should not be on the forefront may be responsible for these small numbers.

Vinod Thapar, chairman of the Ludhiana Knitwear Club, agrees. "There was no appreciation or acceptance of women in the city's business scenario. But things are changing slowly now."

He is not off the mark. The winds of change can be felt. While this lot of women entrepreneurs may have faced a tough trek, they are making sure their daughters and daughters-in-law, as well as other women, are not left behind. Mrs Bector's daughters-in-law and granddaughters-in-law are active stakeholders in her business. Both of Mridula's daughters-in-law are working with her, as is Ruby's daughter-in-law. Thapar's own daughter, Sharadha, married into a business family, has turned around a sick cycle unit into a profitable one.

Ludhiana Inc has a distinct women link, and they mean business.



"It is easier for women from business families to start their own venture than those from a non-business background."

SC RALHAN, FORMER PRESIDENT,
THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN EXPORT ORGANISATIONS

"There was no appreciation or acceptance of women in the city's business scenario. But things are changing slowly now."

VINOD THAPAR, CHAIRMAN,
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"A patriarchal mindset may have been a reason why the number of women entrepreneurs has remained minuscule."

SS BHOGAL, FORMER VICE-CHAIRMAN (NORTHERN REGION),
ENGINEERING EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL OF INDIA

Kangra patwaris defining role in a scholarly work on *kuhls*

Krishan Kumar Sharma had profound knowledge, understanding of local irrigation system

J MARK BAKER

On January 16, I received the sad news that Krishan Kumar Sharma, retired patwari, residing in Chimbal Har near Palampur, had passed away. He was 88 years old, a dear friend and mentor.

We first met in the autumn of 1990, when I was beginning field research on the *kuhl* irrigation systems of Kangra valley for my PhD degree. The gravity flow, community-based irrigation system of Kangra valley in Himachal comprises one of the largest locally managed irrigation networks in the world. Known as *kuhls*, they have endured for centuries despite recurring floods, droughts and earthquakes. Though rapid socio-economic changes challenge their ability to persist today, most *kuhl* irrigation systems here continue to brim with water during the hot, dry pre-monsoon season, when dependence on *kuhl* water for irrigation peaks.

I had heard about an extraordinary archival record that describes many details of these irrigation systems — the *Riuwaj-i-Abpashi* — that was first prepared during the 1874 settlement of Kangra district. In the hope of seeing

this important historical document, I presented myself to the Palampur tehsildar. My request was generously approved. The tehsildar deputed Sharma, who was posted in the tehsil office, to provide assistance with translating it from Urdu into Hindi and English.

This chance meeting grew into a friendship and a joining of two families on opposite sides of the globe, which continues to this day. In the first few days of our work together at the tehsil office, Sharma carefully read aloud in Urdu and translated, while I wrote in my notebook. The unique combination of his scholarly Urdu, along with his detailed knowledge of local agricultural practices and Kangri language, enabled him to accurately translate and explain each sentence. After a few days of



(From left) Patwari Krishan Kumar Sharma and the writer (second) with their family members in Palampur in the 1990s.

working together, Sharma requested and received permission to take the volume to his home in the nearby village of Bindraban.

Continuing our work at his ancestral house represents some of my earliest and fondest memories together. Absorbed in the *Riuwaj-i-Abpashi*, we would sit side by side on a charpoy in the shade of a towering mango tree, next to a small cowshed and the woodpile. It was during these days that I first met and got to know his family — his wife, his mother, his sons Vijay, Uday and Sanjeev, and daughter Meena.

Our friendship quickly deepened. Sharing the evening meal, often staying the night, getting to learn from Shyam Lal Sharma, his father (*Pitaji*) — these were all memorable elements of that time. In fact, two of the many stories *Pitaji* recounted during our evening conversations — including one about the dire consequences of challenging the authority of a *kohli* (*kuhl* watermaster) — were included in my book about the *kuhl* irrigation systems of Kangra. *Pitaji* was steeped in the oral history of Kangra and, despite his increasing blindness, he retained a razor sharp memory of the region, including changes in agricultural prac-

tices, political authority, etc. It was through extensive conversations with him that I first realised how *kuhls* are embedded within the culture and identity in Kangra.

Sharma also gave me permission to cultivate one of his family's small terraced paddy fields. This "participant observation" enabled me to experientially familiarise myself with local agricultural and water management practices. Ploughing with a pair of bullocks and planting, cultivating and harvesting paddy on this plot of land, in addition to participating in the annual *kuhl* irrigation system maintenance and repair activities, provided me with a nuanced understanding of these irrigation systems. Without Sharma's support, this embodied understanding would have been hard, if not impossible, to obtain. He provided a solid foundation from which to launch the more than two years of extensive fieldwork and archival research on which 'The Kuhls of Kangra' is based.

My return to the United States in 1993 marked the end of long-duration stays with the Sharma family in Kangra. However, our friendship remained strong, nourished by return visits to Kangra every two-three years with my

spouse, and later, our children.

Sharma was an extraordinary person. He embodied and reflected the historical periods he lived through. His impressive command of multiple languages reflected his education in the mission school in Palampur before 1947. He would often reference poems and stories from the canon of British literature, recite verses of beautiful Urdu poetry, and recount stories from Hindu texts. In his later years, sitting cross-legged and bolt upright on a cot on the verandah of the roadside home he built in Chimbal Har, he would elaborate at length on poetry, stories, history and philosophy.

Sharma's passing is certainly most acutely felt by his close family, but for me, it represents an immeasurable loss of a dear friend, an elder and a teacher. His loss also represents a fraying of the threads that connect the past to the present. It is now through our shared memories of Sharma, and ongoing relations with his family, that these threads of continuity and connection may be sustained.

— The writer is Professor at Humboldt State University, California, USA, and author of 'The Kuhls of Kangra'



CONSUMERS BEWARE!

PUSHPA GIRIMAJI

No denying interest promised on FDs

On maturity of fixed deposits, banks often pay less than the agreed rate citing either policy change or human error. Consumer forums call this unfair trade practice

■ In your last column, you said that the banks cannot charge more than the rate of interest specified in a loan agreement. What about fixed deposits? Can banks pay less than the promised rate of interest? Five years ago, I had deposited the proceeds from the sale of my land for a fixed period of five years in a bank. The choice of the bank was made on the basis of the interest rate and, of course, the safety of the deposit. However, now, after the maturity period, the bank is offering a reduced rate of interest on the ground that they had inadvertently mentioned the wrong rate of interest. How valid is that argument?

The bank might have made a mistake or the officials might have offered a higher rate of interest just to garner your deposit, without intending to give you that rate. If it was a mistake, it is sheer negligence. If it was a deliberate ploy, then it is an unfair trade practice. Either way, the bank has to take responsibility for its action and pay you the promised rate of interest. Besides, having committed to a certain rate of interest, the bank has a contractual obligation to pay that rate and not deviate from it. So, demand that the bank pay what is due to you.

■ Can you quote a recent decision of the consumer court on this issue?

In Union Bank of India Vs Usha Arora and Another (RP No 1995 of 2019, decided on June 29, 2020), the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission looked at a similar issue. The complaint pertained to two fixed deposits — one worth ₹1 crore and the other ₹50 lakh — with a promised interest rate of 10.9 per cent.

However, when the FDs matured, the bank said the customer was only entitled to 10.5 per cent on one deposit and 10.25 on the other; 10.9

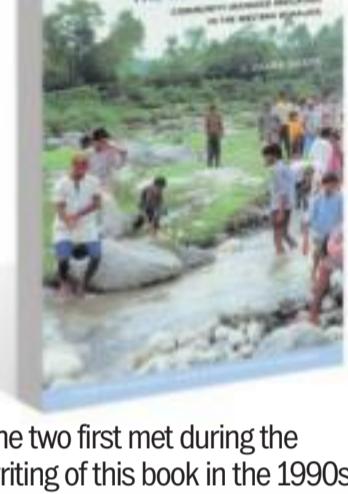
per cent, it said, was an error! The bank argued that it should not be penalised for a bona fide mistake.

While dismissing the bank's contention and upholding the lower consumer court's direction to the bank to pay the promised rate of interest, the National Commission observed that the bank had not only mentioned 10.9 per cent as the rate of interest on the fixed deposit receipts, but had even calculated and recorded the maturity amount. And then, as per its own admission, it realised that it had made a mistake soon after issuing the FD receipt. However, it did not inform the depositors about it.



The Commission pointed out that if the bank had informed the depositors about it even at that stage, they may have exercised the option of choosing some other bank offering a higher interest rate. So, in all fairness, the bank must pay the promised rate of interest, the Commission said.

Do exercise your right to redress either through the Ombudsman or the consumer court. I must mention that the Ombudsman too has, in a number of cases, held that banks have to pay the promised rate of interest. In one case, the bank reduced the rate of interest from 11 to 10 per cent on a 10-year-old deposit on the ground that the day it issued the FD receipt, the head office had revised the rate of interest, but the communication had not reached the branch office. The Ombudsman directed the bank to honour its commitment made in the FD receipt.



The two first met during the writing of this book in the 1990s.

CAPTION CONTEST 1291



REUTERS

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

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

Selected entries for Caption Contest 1290

January 31 issue (see photo)

- Jumping majority — Jaskaran Preet Kaur, Chandigarh
- Leg pooling — Jaswinder Singh, Chandigarh
- Feat within our feet — Neeraj Kumar Gupta, Chandigarh
- Fast and curious — Harveen Singh Brar, Chandigarh
- Jump-start — Alisha Chandra, Chandigarh



Chinese fare that is Indian at heart



FOOD TALK

PUSHPESH PANT

EVER since India and China have engaged in a clash on the icy heights of the cold desert in Ladakh, the rising tide of patriotism has decreed that all things Chinese should be boycotted. Surely though, this ban doesn't apply to delicacies that are Chinese only in name.

To be honest, most of what we relish in this land under the garb of Chinese is, in reality, Indian interpretation of a cuisine that is non-existent in China — be it *gobhi manchurian* or *chilli paneer*. There are different regional variations also — Gujju, Punju and Madrasi. The Bengalis claim that Kolkata China Town has more 'authentic' fare. However, we think that while this might have been true once upon a time, it can't be true today. The Chinese can't stay without their pork, beef and other exotic meats, but most Indians eschew these.

Also, the favourite cooking medium of those who dwell behind the Great Wall is lard and no vegetarian preparation could be called *shakaahari*? Why then, you might ask, are we drooling over this vegetarian recipe from Schezwan?

For one, it is a spicy Indian mixed vegetable and we cook it, not with Chinese vegetables and spices, but with what our palate is used to. The only connection it has with East Asia is the soya and chilli sauces. Interestingly, in most renderings, it is tomato sauce and vinegar that overpower the soya sauce or divert us from its absence. Another alluring feature is that this recipe helps us brilliantly utilise whatever is left over in the fridge or on the kitchen shelves. That odd carrot, the lone tomato, half a head of cabbage, a bit of cauliflower/broccoli, quarter of sweet bell pepper or capsicum. Lastly, it offers wonderful scope for improvisation. You can enrich it with beans, sweet baby corn or even a bit of *paneer*. It can be served as a dry stir fry or converted into a dish with gravy to be enjoyed with steamed rice. So, why wait? Bid goodbye to winter with this 'some like it hot' preparation, that's more Indian than Chinese.



'INDIAN' VEG SCHEZWAN

INGREDIENTS

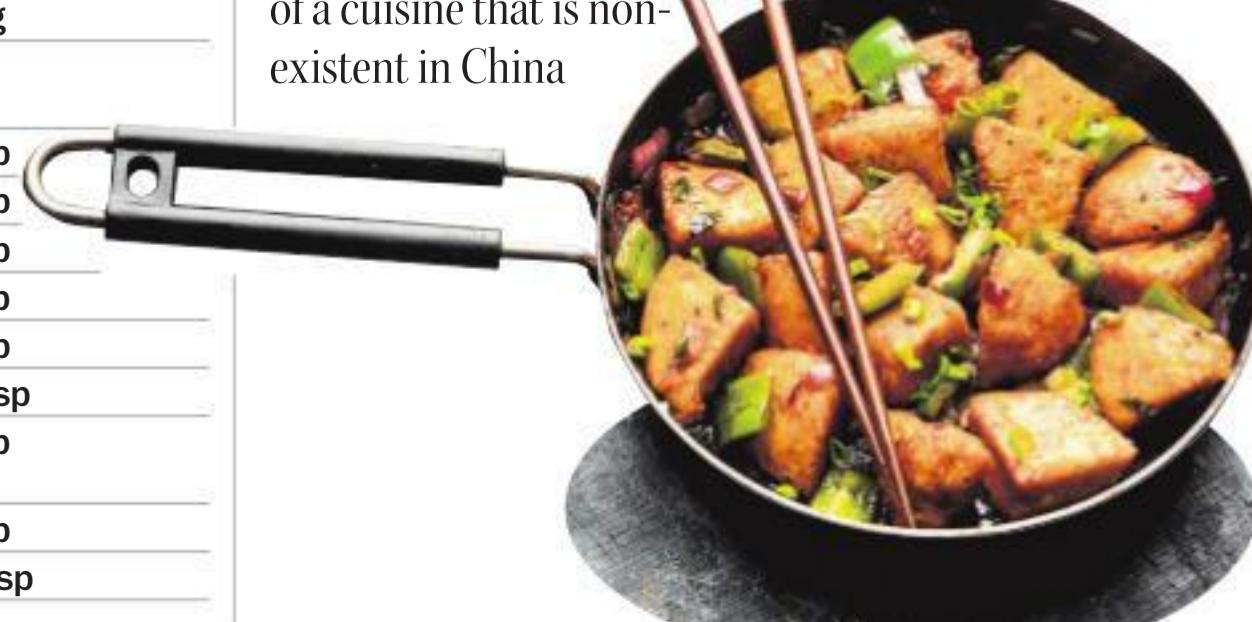
Cauliflower/broccoli (BROKEN INTO SMALL FLORETS, BLANCHED IN BOILING WATER FOR A MINUTE)	1/2 small head
French beans (STRINGED AND CUT INTO 2-3 INCH PIECES)	6-8
Peas (SHelled)	1/4 CUP
Carrots (MEDIUM-SIZED, SCRAPPED, WASHED AND CUT INTO THIN DISCS)	1
Mushrooms (WIPE CLEAN AND SLICED FINE)	1/4 cup
Tomato (MEDIUM-SIZED, CHOPPED AND PUREED)	1
Corn kernels	1/4 cup
Paneer (CUT INTO CUBES)	50 g
Onion (MEDIUM-SIZED, PEELED AND SLICED)	1
Ginger-garlic paste	1 tsp
Soya sauce	1 tsp
Vinegar	1 tsp
Chilli sauce	1 tsp
Tomato sauce	1 tsp
Corn flour (OPTIONAL)	1 tbsp
Black peppercorns (COARSELY AND FRESHLY GROUND)	1 tsp
Sugar (OPTIONAL)	1 tsp
Sesame oil	2 tbsp
Salt to taste	



METHOD

Heat oil in a shallow, broad pan and add the onions. When these turn translucent, add ginger-garlic paste and stir fry briskly for a minute. Then put in all the vegetables and stir fry on high for 45 seconds. Reduce the flame to medium and add tomato puree and all the sauces along with the vinegar. If using corn flour, mix it with 1/4 cup of water and stir into the vegetables cooking in the pan. Stir well and reduce the heat to low. Add salt and sugar and cook covered for 3-4 minutes. Uncover, sprinkle powdered black peppercorns and enjoy!

From *gobhi manchurian* to *chilli paneer*, most of what we relish under the garb of Chinese is, in reality, Indian interpretation of a cuisine that is non-existent in China



THE TRIBUNE BEGINS A SERIES HONOURING THE GALLANTRY AWARD WINNERS OF THE INDIA-PAK WAR

Maj Hoshiar, Param Vir from 3 Grenadiers

LT COL DILBAG SINGH DABAS (RETD)

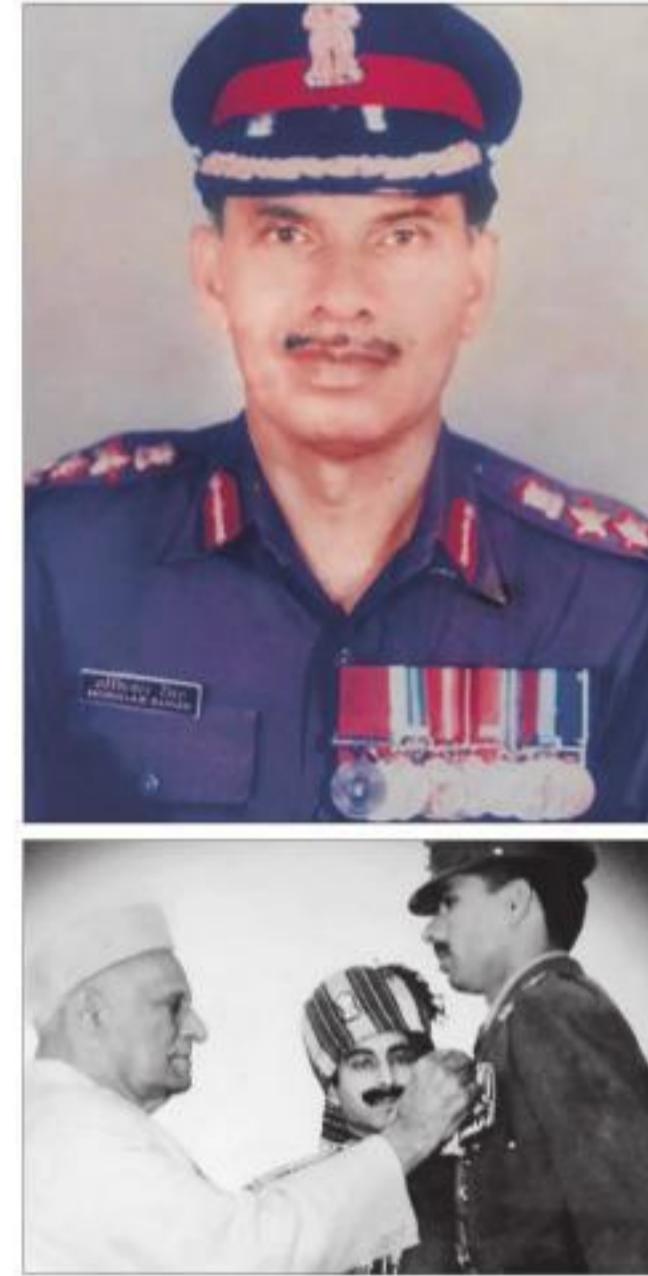
COL HOSHIAR SINGH, PVC, undoubtedly, is a shining jewel in 3rd Grenadiers' crown but old-timers from 2nd Jat Battalion too claim him as theirs, and rightly so; they fondly refer to him as "Mhara Hoshiare".

Son of Ch Hira Singh Dahiya, Hoshiar Singh was born on May 5, 1936, at Sisana village in Rohtak district of undivided Punjab. Sisana is now in Sonepat. After matriculation from Jat Heroes Memorial High School, Rohtak, and first year at Jat College, also in Rohtak, he was enrolled as a Sepoy in 2nd Jat Battalion (Mooltan). An outstanding volleyball player, Hoshiar Singh was referred to as *Hoshiare* by his teammates. For possessing leadership and officer-like attributes, *Hoshiare* was selected for the Army Cadet College and commissioned into 3rd Battalion of the Grenadiers in June 1963.

3 Grenadiers, one of the oldest infantry battalions, was raised on August 4, 1768, at Bombay as 1st Sepoy Battalion. Since then, it has fought gloriously in all the wars, inland and overseas. The impressive tally of the gallantry awards won by its tall and sturdy Grinders (Grenadiers are commonly referred to as Grinders) is testimony to the stuff they are made of. Hoshiar Singh carried forward the rich legacy and took it to the highest level by earning the Param Vir Chakra during the Battle of Basantar (Jarpal) in the 1971 third round with Pakistan in the western theatre.

The Battle of Basantar encompasses the entire gamut of battles and skirmishes that took place in the Shakargarh sector, that includes 'Jarpal Complex' and the surrounding areas. It was an area of strategic importance. If the enemy continued to hold Jarpal and the area around, it would threaten the Pathankot-Jammu road, the lifeline of Jammu and Kashmir. 3 Grenadiers was tasked with capturing Jarpal across Basantar nullah before the enemy reinforced the defences around it.

It was for his exploits during this iconic battle to capture and hold Jarpal that Hoshiar Singh, now a Major command-



ing Charlie company of 3 Grenadiers, was awarded the PVC, the highest gallantry decoration in the face of the enemy.

The battle account reads:

"On December 15, 1971, 3 Grenadiers Battalion was given the task of establishing a bridgehead across Basantar river in Shakargarh sector. For accomplishment of the mission, the enemy locality named Jarpal had to be captured first. Major Hoshiar Singh, who was commanding the left forward company, was ordered to attack and capture Jarpal, which was well fortified and held in strength by the enemy. During the assault, his company came under intense artillery shelling and effective crossfire from the enemy medium machine guns. Undeterred, Major Hoshiar Singh led the charge and captured the objective after a fierce hand-to-hand fight.

The enemy reacted sharply and put in three successive counter-attacks supported by armour on December 16. Major Hoshiar



It was for his exploits during the Battle of Basantar to capture and hold Jarpal in the western sector that Hoshiar Singh, a Major commanding Charlie company of 3 Grenadiers, was awarded the highest gallantry decoration in the face of enemy

A photograph of Maj Hoshiar Singh, who retired as Col, and (below) being awarded the Param Vir Chakra by President VV Giri.

Singh, unmindful of heavy shelling and tank fire, went from trench to trench motivating his men and encouraging them to remain steadfast and fight. Inspired by his dauntless leadership, his company repulsed all counter-attacks, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Again, on December 17, the enemy launched another massive counter-attack with a battalion supported by medium artillery fire. Though seriously wounded, Major Hoshiar Singh, with total disregard to personal safety, continued to inspire his men by going from platoon to platoon even under intense artillery shelling.

When an enemy artillery shell landed near the machine gun post seriously injuring the crew and rendering the machine gun inoperative, Major Hoshiar Singh, realising the importance of machine gun fire, immediately rushed to the machine gun pit and though seriously wounded, manned the gun inflicting heavy casual-

ties onto the enemy. The counter-attack was repulsed yet again and the enemy retreated, leaving behind 85 dead, including Lieutenant Colonel Akram Raja, their commanding officer, and three other officers. Major Hoshiar Singh, though seriously wounded, remained with his Charlie company and refused to be evacuated till the ceasefire.

Throughout the operation, Major Hoshiar Singh displayed most conspicuous gallantry, indomitable fighting spirit and unparalleled leadership."

From the Battle of Basantar emerged not just one but two Param Virs; on one flank of Jarpal, while Major Hoshiar Singh was beating back infantry counter-attacks one after another, on the other, a young subaltern, Second Lieutenant Arun Khetrapal of Pooma Horse, took on the enemy armour within 200 yards and knocked down the enemy tanks one after another till his own tank was hit and the fearless boy from Pooma Horse went down with his tank named 'Famagusta', posthumously earning the topmost honour for his regiment.

After the war, the Indian Army did well to post Major Hoshiar Singh, PVC, to the Indian Military Academy as company commander, Sinhgad Company, where he proved to be a tremendous inspiration for the cadets and turned the company into the champion company for much of his tenure there. Later, as Colonel, he commanded 3 Grenadiers, his own battalion, with distinction.

After 35 glorious years in olive greens, the Param Vir from 3 Grenadiers retired in 1988. He made Jaipur his second home but frequently spent time in his village Sisana and motivated the young generation to continue to follow the good old Haryanvi tradition of being part of the defence services.

After a brief illness, Col Hoshiar Singh, PVC, breathed his last on December 6, 1998. The ace volleyballer *Hoshiare* of 2nd Jat and the fearless Hoshiar Singh of 3rd Grenadiers had been an epitome of regimental spirit. All his three sons consciously attempted to follow in his footsteps. Two made the grade and were commissioned into Grenadiers. One even availed the parental claim and served in 3 Grenadiers, his father's battalion, the PVC Battalion.

PARAM VIR CHAKRA



ESTABLISHED: A draft royal warrant was prepared in October 1948 for the institution of Param Vir Chakra in the name of the British sovereign as, during the dominion period, such a step would have been necessary to give the award status within the Commonwealth. On further consideration, this course was abandoned and the medal was created and was instituted by the President of India on January 26, 1950, with the award effective from August 15, 1947.

ELIGIBILITY: Officers, men and women of all ranks of the Indian military, paramilitary and members of the nursing services of the Armed Forces.

AWARDED FOR: The most conspicuous act of bravery, or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice in the face of the enemy on land, at sea or in the air. The decoration may also be awarded posthumously.

The award of the decoration carries with it the right to use PVC as a post-nominal abbreviation. Provision has also been made for the award of a Bar for second (or subsequent) award of the PVC.

FIRST RECIPIENT: Major Som Nath Sharma of 4th Battalion of the Kumaon Infantry Regiment.

YOUNGEST AWARDEE: Grenadier (now Honorary Lieutenant) Yogender Singh Yadav, the living legend. He was just 19 years and two months old when he displayed the stuff he was made of during the Kargil war in 1999.

21 RECIPIENTS: 20 from the Army and one from the Air Force. However, no PVC awardee has so far won the award the second time.

Remembering Jagjit Singh, the music legend

'The king of ghazals', whose 80th birth anniversary falls tomorrow, lives on in the hearts of millions of fans across the globe

SD SHARMA

THE intuitive seers of music opine that Hindustani classical and light classical music, in the truest sense, is the serene, sacred and sweet language of the immortal soul and, as such, any musical performance should invariably be in tune with celestial peace and tranquility. Very few performers are gifted and blessed to induce a scintillating reverie among their audiences. The maverick maestro Jagjit Singh merits this distinction.

Coming from a modest Dhiman family of Sriganganagar in Rajasthan, Jagjit trained in classical vocal music for 12 years under Ustad Jamal Khan Saheb of Senia Gharana there, and later by Guru Sohan Singhji of Agra Gharana at Jalandhar during his college days. The celebrated *ustads*

“Volumes can be written about his music, and again it will not be enough.”

PANDIT SHIV KUMAR SHARMA, SANTOOR MAESTRO

put him through rigorous and strenuous *riyaaq* of classical ragas and compositions.

As a prodigious youngster, he performed with his elder brother Jaswant Singh at a largely attended religious function in Sriganganagar and won prize money. At the age of 15, Jagjit shared the stage with Surinder Kaur and Asa Singh Mastana in his hometown where he presented a self-composed song, “Ki Tera Aitbaar”. He won the applause and admiration of all present there.

Jagjit also brought laurels to DAV College, Jalandhar, winning medals in youth festival competitions in all formats: classical, *sugam sangeet* and Punjabi folk. He also composed and performed a welcome song for Dr Rajendra Prasad when the then President of India visited his college.

When the college principal, Suraj Bhan, joined as Vice Chancellor of Kurukshetra University, he took along Jagjit Singh with him, who took admission in MA (History). There, too, he excelled in music competitions.

It was during his college days that he attained the grading of AIR, Jalandhar. He frequently composed and sang for radio broadcasts. His prized composition of Sudershan Fakir's song, “Hum Sab Bhartiya



The musical virtuosity of the maestro can be measured by the spectrum of his work. While connoisseurs of Hindustani classical music cherish his compositions of Mirza Ghalib definitive lovers of ghazals consider his interpretation of Mirza Ghalib definitive

“Hai”, remains the official song of the National Cadet Corps.

Jagjit Singh was a better composer than classical singer, though he opted to sing *ghazals* later. He used to sing classical and light music for AIR, Jalandhar, as a graded artist,” says his senior at Agra Gharana, Pandit Yashpaul. The many songs he composed and performed at college became popular not only with his college mates, but also music lovers around the world. One such composition, “Dhuan Utha Tha Deewane Ke Jalte Ghar Se Saari Raat”, endeared Chitra Singh to his music, and eventually to the musician himself.

It was in 1961 that Jagjit Singh, who had gone for a performance at Ooty, caught the attention of actor Om Prakash, who was shooting for a film. Mesmerised, he invited Jagjit to Bombay. The actor introduced him to certain music directors. However, nothing eventful emerged. He simply watched and observed the singers there.

In his second attempt in Bombay in 1965, he was able to not only establish his supremacy as a composer and singer, but also as a music director of feature films and TV serials in Punjabi as well as other regional films. The rest, as they say, is history.

The musical virtuosity of the legend can

be measured by the spectrum of his work and his contribution to music. If connoisseurs of Hindustani classical music cherish his compositions in Raag Darbari, Lalit, Bihag, Bhairavi and more on the one hand, the lovers of *ghazal* consider his interpretation of Mirza Ghalib as definitive.

Those who are immersed in devotion rely on his recital of the Gayatri Mantra, Gurus' *bani* and *shabads* to find inner peace. Similarly, his compositions of Shiv Kumar Batalvi carry the iconic Punjabi poet's pain to millions of poetry lovers around the world. When Dr Manmohan Singh, the then Prime Minister, launched a set of postal stamps to commemorate Jagjit Singh's 73rd birth anniversary on February 8, 2014, he pointed out that the understanding and depth of his musical knowledge was unparalleled.

During his career spanning five decades, Jagjit amassed a massive fan following, including maestros Pandit Ravi Shankar, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Ustad Zakir Hussain, Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Ustad Ghulam Ali Khan and Anup Jalota. It is a commonly held view that the scale and significance of his contribution to Indian music and culture merits the Bharat Ratna.

‘I initially didn’t like his voice’

“Bicchhra Kuchh Iss Tarah Se Ke Rut Hi Badal Gayi
Ikk Shaks Saare Shehar Ko Veeran Kar Gaya.”

The Urdu couplet by poet Khalid Rashid sums up the emotions of countless Jagjit Singh fans the world over, even as it brings forth the emptiness that his life and music partner Chitra Singh feels since his death in 2011. The music partnership between Jagjit Singh and Chitra Singh epitomised the elegance, erudition and esteem of all genres of music, particularly the modern *ghazal*. Unlike the earlier “mehboob se guftu” trend, their style of *ghazal* singing dealt with the whole spectrum of human emotions.

Belonging to a musical family of Calcutta, Chitra had grown up listening to the drone of tanpura and soulful musical strains emanating from the melodious voice of her mother, who was a classical vocalist. Chitra imbibed the basics of music before she got married to her first husband Debo Parsad Dutta, also a music enthusiast. Though Dutta worked in an advertising agency, he had established a music studio in his house, which was frequently visited by composers and singers for recording. It is here that she first met Jagjit Singh. In an interview, Chitra Singh, now 75, shares some memories of life with and after the demise of her mentor, guru and loving partner. Excerpts:

Is it said you outrightly rejected Jagjit Singh’s voice when you first heard him?

My Gujarati neighbour had invited me to a concert at her house where a young boy from Punjab was to sing for us. The place was over-crowded so I couldn’t attend it. The next day she brought the recording for me. When I heard it, I said while *sur* and *taal* were good, the voice was too heavy — ‘*kharab lagta hai*’. I then heard Jagjit singing when he visited my house for a recording, directed by music director Mohinderjit Singh. When I opened the door for him, I observed that he was virtually sleeping along the wall. As soon as he entered our home studio, he crashed out in a corner. After other singers had recorded, Jagjit took over the harmonium. He displayed amazing control over the instrument and *gayaki*, but again I



didn’t much like his heavy bass voice. I even refused to record the planned duet with him. My husband Debo Dutta, however, liked his voice.

What changed your opinion?

Once on our way back after recording a jingle in another studio, I invited him over for a cup of tea. While I was preparing tea in the kitchen, he pulled out my harmonium and started singing a *ghazal*: “Dhuan Utha Deewane Ke Jalte Ghar Se Saari Raat”. What melodious composition, weaving the lyrical intent to perfection. It was mesmerising. I was surprised to know that he had composed this complex composition during his college days. His music composing skills were a revelation to me. Thereafter we met frequently for music practice. After the divorce, I was living separately with my daughter Monika. My association with Jagjit developed into close friendship. We established ourselves as duet *ghazal* singers of merit when a concert tour took us to Africa. The tour established us as international performers. Jagjit was very supportive as far as music and my life were concerned. He was fond of Monika. Upon our return, we decided to get married. Jagjit even sought my ex-husband’s consent for this. A simple marriage ceremony was held at a gurdwara in Colaba. Both of us worked hard to sustain ourselves. We recorded and performed tirelessly. He groomed me into a versatile singer. It was his love which kept me going even when we lost our son Vivek in 1990 and daughter in 2009. Though he’s no more, his memory lives on.

“It was his love which kept me going even when we lost our son Vivek in 1990 and daughter in 2009.”

CHITRA SINGH

From the diary of an intrepid journalist

Sandeep Sinha

LIFE for a journalist can be exciting for those who take the plunge. A storm-rider with his penchant for the unconventional and taking on the establishment, Aniruddha Bahal never found himself to be short on this count.

His is a long odyssey, full of twists and turns, that also highlights the unpredictability which can characterise the life of a journalist.

The book, penned during the confinement of the lockdown, shows the thoughts wandering, travelling back to roots, amid the uncertainties of the time. The childhood and the familial ties, which go a long way in shaping the worldview, are all recounted. Bahal left home in Allahabad for Bombay when still young without informing his family and it was an Iranian student who counselled him to go back, booking a phone call for him to speak to his mother.

There is the bonhomie among the Allahabadi, whom you run into at as diverse a place as Oslo and on board to Tokyo. The accent is just unmistakable.

He describes his meeting with Tarun Tejpal, how he had actually gone to Delhi on a business trip, but realised he needed a job. It was his persistence that



The author had his moment of glory when he got to the bottom of match-fixing in cricket, creating a storm in 1997. Bookie Sanjeev Chawla (in mask), the prime accused, was extradited to India last year from the UK. FILE PHOTO

landed him the job and with a man who became his mentor till they parted ways. Tejpal finds praise as an editor but there are doubts over his professional ethics.

Bahal had his moment of glory when he got to the bottom of the match-fixing scandal in cricket that created a storm in 1997 during the India-South Africa Test

as a profile or a feature. Working at a magazine helped as it did not have the pressure of the daily deadlines of a newspaper. About Justice YV Chandrachud, who conducted an inquiry into the scandal, he says he just exonerated everyone.

With Tejpal, he founded an online investigative portal, Tehelka, the first serious news platform set up by established journalists. There, Operation West End was undertaken to investigate the soft underbelly of defence procurement. Bangaru Laxman caught on camera taking cash, the conviction of Jaya Jaitley, Laxman's arrest and the constitution of the Justice Venkataswami Commission of Inquiry have all been narrated in the book.

The writer is of the view that journalism will always be there, but India is hardly now a place where you can be confident of judicial protection after doing a story that exposes corruption, political parties and leaders. Courts aren't as fastidious in protecting journalists, RTI practitioners and whistleblowers from the prosecution of a state that has become unhinged, he says.

The tale hints at his entrepreneurial acumen with a flair for risk-taking, a bit of indulgence from his seniors, the ordeals at the hands of the government, as also the ephemeral nature of the profession of which he professes to be a proud practitioner.

India's tennis journey since 1885

Gaurav Kanthwal

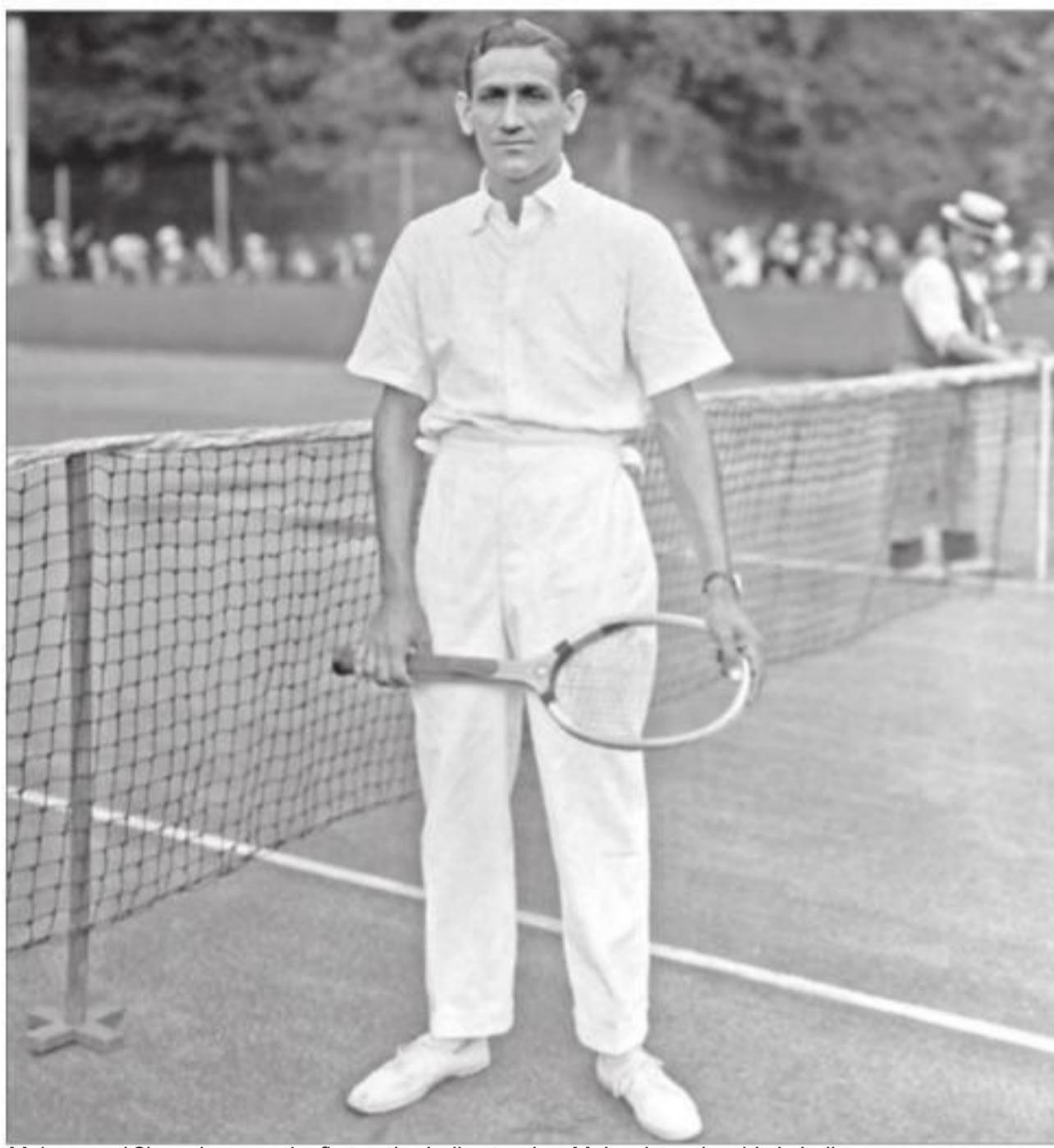
WHOMO is the greatest tennis player India has ever produced? Leander Paes, right? Wrong. Ramanathan Krishnan, says Paes. "...getting to two Wimbledon semifinals (1960, 1961) and World No. 3, how can you possibly beat that?" he asks.

Paes, winner of 18 Major titles and India's only Olympic medal winner in tennis, has been canonised as the nation's greatest-ever doubles player. However, both him and author Anindya Dutta feel no Indian has even remotely touched the heights scaled by Krishnan, the undisputed 'king of Indian tennis'.

'Advantage India' by Dutta introduces readers to former greats of the game, the journeymen and the millennials of Indian tennis. It covers all the major players, their achievements and their place in the pantheon of the sport in the country. The book is a tribute to all the Indian lawn tennis players since 1885, when India hosted her first-ever tournament, the inaugural Punjab Lawn Tennis Championships at the Gymkhana Club in Lahore. A sizeable portion of the book goes towards highlighting the men who played the sport in India before 1950, of which there is little recorded history.

Divided into five sections, the beginning of the sport in the country, Indian tennis' coming of age, Indians and their success in the doubles format, rise of women's tennis and the future of sport in the country, the book outlines the part each player played in taking the sport to where it is today. Given the Indian players' success in the doubles format over the years, the eight-page analysis about 'What is it about Indians and Doubles' is a short but engrossing read.

The book also brings into focus the many firsts in Indian tennis. B Nehru, who entered the Wimbledon Championships in 1905 as a British player, qualified as the first Indian origin player at a Major championship. Dr Ali Azhar Hasanally Fyze (Hassan-Ali), with his 65.7 per cent (223-116) win record in tourna-



Mohammed Sleem became the first native Indian to win a Major championship in India. COURTESY: WESTLAND

ment singles, stands out more than 100 years later too.

Mohammed Sleem, who beat Lewis Deanne 6-3 6-2 6-3 in the final of the Punjab Championships at Lahore on February 13, 1915, became the first native Indian to win a major championship in India. Suman Misra, one of India's post-Independence greats, is widely referred to as the 'grandfather of Indian tennis'. Our watershed moment, however, came in 1949 when India hosted the first official international tennis tournament, the Asian Championships, at South Club in Calcutta.

The book reiterates that individual brilliance apart, Indian tennis draws a lot from its Davis Cup history — reaching the final in 1966, 1974 and 1987. The game's golden age began in the 1960s when Ramanathan Krishnan, Premjit Lall and Jaidip Mukerjea (The Three Musketeers), later joined by

Vijay Amritraj, went on to make the most formidable Davis Cup side in the history of Indian tennis. The amateur players of yore faced the same challenges — financial constraints, players' rift, internal politics, preferential treatment of the top-10 versus the rest — as the professional players face on the tour today.

The greatest success of Dutta, a seasoned author and columnist, lies in getting the players to talk about their peers. What puts one off, however, is how he repeatedly sidesteps the controversies with phrases such as 'be that as it may'. The individual achievements of Leander Paes, Sania Mirza, Mahesh Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna as also the present crop have all been well-documented; it is their ego clashes and the association's failure to promote the sport which the reader would be keener to know about.

A parched landscape, a tragedy unfolds

STORIES about the drought in Marathwada have been appearing in the media off and on. Kavitha Iyer's 'Landscapes of Loss: The Story of an Indian Drought', however, is the first in-depth reportage on the calamity that has been threatening lives and livelihoods in the region. Unprecedented depletion in groundwater levels, coupled with long dry spells, unabated drawing of water from reservoirs... while all this has been going wrong, commercial greed has increased the problem manifold.

A parallel "thirst economy", as agricultural expert P Sainath calls it in the preface, has sprung up. While farming is not possible without water tankers needed to keep the fruit trees blooming in the scorching summer, with public taps going dry, common people are forced to buy water too. These rates are way higher than what the alcohol industry in the region pays. Iyer highlights how the Marathwada drought is deeply connected with inequality. She points out how water-intensive industries such as beer and paper manufacturing fall in special economic zones while thousands migrate to cities to escape water scarcity every year.

Tragedy unfolds in chapter after chapter. Iyer points at government failure, the groundwater and irrigation infrastructure backlog in Marathwada, the vicious cycle of loss and desperate measures that lead to hundreds of farmer suicides each year, the women and children left behind, the drought mitigation works and their assessment. Iyer says her broken Marathi has had locals opening their hearts to her and 20 years of reporting from rural Maharashtra have helped her understand why everybody loves a good drought. — TNS

cleared by the British authorities. The imagined Ghalib of Raza Mir, in this novel set in eight days of May 1857, is an eager plotter as the conspiracy to rebel against the British develops. He is sucked into the narrative following the murder of a much-despised poet, Sukhan Khairabadi, at a *mushaira*. Before being killed, Khairabadi, spying for the British, had warned them by sending an ivory letter opener — "a signal of the gravest danger, the matter of utmost urgency".

British officers were already nervous because there had been anger among Indian troops over rumours that the new cartridges for their Enfield rifles, issued three months previously, were greased with pork or beef fat. Mangal Pandey had been killed, other troops had been punished. The British realised that the murder was much bigger than a dispute over verses or a woman.

Ghalib is roped into the inquiry by the young Indian officer entrusted with the investigation. The Poet Laureate of the Mughals had acquired a minor reputation of a clever investigator, as he modestly narrates:

"When I was in Lucknow almost thirty years ago, I solved a crime that made me a bit famous. But that subsided. I only got started in Delhi when a series of burglaries were reported three years ago at Ballimaran. Pieced the clues together, and realised the robber had to be a blacksmith..."

Ghalib had the wits and a way with people to extract information, but in this case he needed great forensic knowledge, which he lacked. Ghalib, thus, enlisted the help of his friend, Master Ramchandra, Professor at Delhi College — a character based on the real-life Ramchandra, a mathematician and educator of that time.

With forensic methods that bring to

Poetry and murder... Detective Ghalib solves the case

Rohit Mahajan

MIRZA GHALIB makes a startling appearance as the lead investigator in a murder case in this historical novel, set in the backdrop of the conspiracy leading to the 1857's First War of Independence — mutiny for the British.

The real Ghalib was careful not to offend the British for, as he wrote, he was "eater of the salt of the British government". The horrible aftermath of 1857 pained him, but the instinct for self-preservation made him temper his verse, an understandable self-censorship, for Ghalib was not martyr material. He wrote an ode to Queen Victoria, requesting for restoration of his pension, and his *Dastamboo* — his diary of those traumatic times — was published after being

mind Sherlock Holmes — the fictional London investigator who first appeared in print in 1887 — Master Ramchandra examines the clues, right down to the Afghan provenance of the poison given to Khairabadi before he was stabbed. Using the clues, and his clever, snoopy methods, Ghalib solves the crime, and also manages to hoodwink the British.

Mir, it's clear, has done great research on the era, and has lovingly delineated his characters, bestowing individuality and conceit on each of them — though this effort makes the narrative more digressive and longer than an ideal whodunit.

In fiction, Ghalib's self-censorship disappears and he speaks in the voice of an Indian nationalist, but he doesn't sound much like a man of letters — the greatest of the Urdu poets! A sample: "It is sufficient to say that timing is of the essence." More Holmes than Ghalib, it would appear.

BACKFLAP

CITIZENSHIP has been the matter of fierce debate in India recently, with the government in power taking some controversial decisions. This book delves into the key aspects of what Indian citizenship means and the threats to it. In the lead essay, historian Romila Thapar explores how citizenship evolved in India and how it was strengthened in modern times. Editor and political commentator N Ram provides a political history of citizenship in India. While legal scholar Gautam Bhatia explores constitutional provisions relating to citizenship, jurist Gautam Patel looks at the organisation of key provisions of the Constitution, and how they relate to citizenship. Taken together, the essays provide the reader with clear, informed, compelling insights into the vexed issue.

ON CITIZENSHIP
by Romila Thapar, N Ram, Gautam Bhatia and Gautam Patel.
Aleph.
Pages 172. ₹499

MAHE AND MANO: CHALLENGES, RESILIENCE, AND TRIUMPHS
by Manohar Devadoss.
Aleph.

Pages 270. ₹699

THE GOPI DIARIES: FINDING LOVE
by Sudha Murty.
HarperCollins.
Pages 138. ₹299

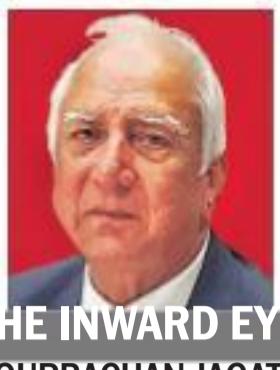
COMBATING EVER-LASTING TRAGEDY: UNITED NATIONS OF INDIAN SUBCONTINENT
by Sudhan Chandra, Himadrita Chandra.
Gyan Books.
Pages 232. ₹990

ARZU
by Riva Razdan.
Hachette.
Pages 296. ₹399

MURDER AT THE MUSHAIRA
by Raza Mir.
Aleph.
Pages 344.
₹799

A TASTE FOR TROUBLE: MEMORIES FROM ANOTHER TIME
by Aniruddha Bahal.
Westland.
Pages 266.
₹599

True to their oath, conscience



THE INWARD EYE

GURBACHAN JAGAT

In the face of a dictatorial President and his rogue followers, in the face of threats and inducements, the American electoral system functioned as per the Constitution. Not one individual at any level bowed down to Donald Trump's unlawful demands, not one wavered while performing his or her duty. It's a huge lesson for the pillars of democracy in our country

I WENT to college in the late 1950s and early '60s. Those were the days of the hammer and sickle and Marxism, socialism and revolution were discussed over endless cups of coffee. There seemed nothing wrong with the Left and nothing right with capitalism. The US was a no-no subject and it was blasphemous to even mention it. However, one grew up, got a job, raised a family and in the midst of a changing world, the rose-tinted glasses came off. But a light pink came to the surface once in a while. Nehru and his utopia soon disappeared to be replaced by pragmatism, politics and unscrupulous politicians. The gradual erosion of institutions started and the integrity of the executive, legislature and judiciary began to crumble slowly till it snowballed from the late '80s to the present moment.

Being a part of the system, both as an active participant and hapless observer, one began to look at other countries — especially the democracies of USA, UK and Europe. All was not bad in their system, especially the institutions of everyday governance. You could disagree with the economics, but there was something to admire in the governance.

During his entire four years as the US President, Donald Trump rejected almost all administrative and legislative norms, despised traditions and abused the powers of office. In short, he did whatever he could to break the system and set up a fully personal imperial presidency. He gave members of his family important positions. He hired and fired seniormost officials on personal whims. He was wrecking institutions and using the Senate to further his goals. There was a method in this madness and he was putting his personal stamp on all instruments of governance and setting the template for his next term and a possible dynastic succession in the person of his daughter Ivanka.

The recent presidential campaign was an ugly one and Trump strode

across the American stage like an evil colossus who was certain about his victory. He ignored the pandemic and the advice of scientists. As he began to see the signs of a possible defeat, he raised the bogey of a rigged election and launched a systematic tirade against the electoral process, especially postal ballots. He began to cast aspersions on the Governors and officials who oversee the process and certify the results. He added more vitriol and abuse in his remarks about the print and visual media. His captive and diehard supporters came to believe this narrative and the pressure began to mount on the electoral machine.

However, the staff stuck to their duties and there was no evidence of electoral fraud in the country. Many of the Governors and senior officers in the swing states were Republicans. It is a tribute to them that not one of them overturned the results. Having not succeeded here, Trump started asking for recounts, which were done but the results remained unchanged.

He now went to the judiciary and complained against officers for committing fraud. The first recourse was federal judges, all of whom, about 60 in all, threw out his petitions for lack of evidence. Some had been appointed by him, but no favours were granted by them. He finally went to the Supreme Court, where he had nominated three judges and three had also been nominated by Republican Presidents. The Supreme Court held true and also threw out his petition.

In the meantime, rumours circulated about the army and for the first time in American history, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff issued a message to all ranks of the armed forces that they had always been apolitical and would remain so. You can imagine the disruption one man could cause in the entire system. Trump then played his final card, which even his worst rivals and best friends never imagined. He gave a call to the 'faithful' to come to Washington on January 6 in large numbers so that they

could browbeat Vice President Pence into submitting to his will. They collected outside Capitol Hill, where there were scant security arrangements. Before the Vice President could announce the result, the mob incited by Trump stormed the Capitol and created mayhem.

The arrival of the National Guard brought the situation under control and the Vice President made the announcement that Joseph Biden Jr had been elected President. Vice President Pence had stood up in the face of immense pressure and done his constitutional duty. The new President and Vice President have been sworn in, work has resumed and systems are being restored. The pandemic is being taken seriously and efforts to heal a divided country have begun. But, it is going to be a long haul. Trump has been impeached for inciting insurrection, whether the Senate will convict him remains to be seen.

Here is the crux: in the face of a dictatorial President and his rogue followers, in the face of threats and inducements, the American electoral system functioned as per the Constitution. The counting agents, the senior officers, Governors, the judiciary, the armed forces and the Vice President refused to compromise on their oath to the Constitution and listened to their conscience. Not one individual at any level bowed down to unlawful demands, not one wavered while performing his/her duty. I salute them and the system which nurtured them and I further salute their media.

Throughout the years of the Trump presidency, the media faced a barrage of abuse and insult with dignity and professionalism. They continued to present the facts and their comments. Let us conclude by having a brief look at our government, our institutions, our judiciary, our media — in the words of Bob Dylan, *'How many times can a man turn his head / And pretend that he just doesn't see? // The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind.'* The ruling party has its own agenda,

declared decades ago. They are a democratically elected party and can bring about changes. However, if the changes are to be so sweeping, there should be proper discussions in Parliament and parliamentary procedures should be honoured. In the case of a major change, the people should be taken into confidence and ordinances and laws should not be promulgated unilaterally. In the absence of a counter-narrative by the Opposition, the brute majority of the government is forcing its way through.

Open dialogue is the fundamental basis of democracy and it is in this that the government and the media are sorely lacking. The judiciary and the executive — the two pillars which ensure justice, fairness and continuity — need a deep introspection of their recent performance, or the lack of it. An independent media, judiciary and bureaucracy are the watchdogs of democracy and they should not be domesticated into abject submission.

However, all is not lost and the people are the final arbiters of their fate, as the farmers have shown through their peaceful agitation. They have expressed their dissent and the government should in its wisdom find a way out. It should be remembered that the farmer has no religion, caste or creed. It is mother earth and nature which have nurtured him and he in turn nurtures all humanity. He tills his land and serves his country, he does not easily complain or boast. Driven to the wall, he does not stand injustice. The 'annadata' is the child of nature and intuitively works under its guidance. Nature has taught him patience, how to face the elements, and that is why there's hope. The farmer is holding a mirror to the country and asking it to reflect. It is fitting that the Punjabi farmer has shown the way and brothers across the land have taken over the torch. Talk to him with love and respect — constructing Maginot lines is not the answer.

The writer is ex-chairman of UPSC, former Manipur Governor and served as J&K DGP

A prayer for all



TOUCHSTONES

IRA PANDE

hear the 'azaan,' were my mother's instructions. In between, these two markers of our daily life were the Christian prayers we recited in school, the 'Our Father' and 'Hail Mary', or the beautiful prayer of St Francis of Assisi that began, 'Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace, where there is hatred, let me sow love, where there is injury, pardon...'

We grew amid the sounds of these familiar prayers, as well as the conch shells and tinkling bells at our own home as my mother bathed her gods, and the thrilling shlokas we learnt simply by hearing them day after day. I do believe that none of us who grew up in those times needed to be reminded that we were a secular country where all religions were respected and honoured. We were secular in ways that many may find it difficult to believe and I daresay that religious differences became more marked when the state declared that all religions were equal. Simply laying down a law does not mean that it is acceptable and this is as true of religious belief as it is of the farm laws.

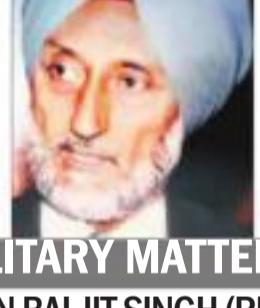
I am also reminded of the month of Magh spent in Allahabad, where thousands of pilgrims congregate each year to take a dip in the freezing waters of the Ganga to wash away their sins. They are mostly simple peasants, accustomed to hardship and the cruelty of the weather cycles: cold winters and burning hot summers. Yet, so great is their faith that they come and stay for weeks, singing songs and being cheated by the *pandas*, who divest them of their hard-earned money by promising them absolution. This ritual goes back millennia and has even been recorded by the great Chinese traveller Hieun-Tsang when he came here around the sixth century and observed the great king Harsha at the Kumbh, held every 12 years, give away all his wealth. There is something remarkable about the continuity of this great land and its rituals that have sustained communities and faiths through the centuries, despite the countless invasions and colonisers who have tried their best to convert them into another way of believing.

Even if I do not always follow the language, it is the serenity of the Gurbani that moves me. Sanskrit is understood by just a few, yet how can one not be moved by the great hymns composed by Adi Shankaracharya, or the metaphysical verses of our Bhakti poets?

Sadly, we have abandoned pride in our cultural traditions and opted to follow the simple monotheistic traditions of religions that can neither match nor outdo the richness of polytheism. The Greeks went into decline after their multiple gods were supplanted by the Christian conquerors and the Holy Roman Empire replaced the pantheism of the Mediterranean civilisations. In our own land, Hinduism pushed the tribal and native beliefs of forest-dwellers and declared them savage. I think the nobility of the tribal communities still lingers in simple lifestyles and community living.

How ironic that every religion believes that it is the custodian of Truth when the truth is that they are all flawed in one way or another. The same is true of modes of government and political ideologies, is it not?

With whom the buck stopped

MILITARY MATTERS
LT GEN BALJIT SINGH (RETD)

Point Calamere is among the smallest wildlife sanctuaries. In 1980s, population of blackbuck saw a sharp fall. It remained a mystery till it was learnt that LTTE cadres had set up a training facility inside

NE mid-morning in the 1980s, a caller on telephone confronted me in earnest haste, 'Am I speaking to the Additional Director General, Military Operations?' Noticing my reticence, he continued, 'A common friend has advised me that you are best placed to help with the crisis I am faced with... please join me for lunch at the India International Centre.' Rather than be seen lunching in uniform with a person I had never met before, I settled for a meeting at our home.

That was the start of our lifelong friendship with Dalip Mathai, who headed the recently constituted Wastelands Development Authority, an initiative of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. However, the purpose of his visit was related to his being the founder trustee of WWF-India and his concern of the moment was that the last surviving population of about 300 blackbucks upon an isolated patch of scrub-land on India's east coast was on the verge of being exterminated altogether!

The mystery deepened but remained unravelled till one among Dalip's wide circle of conservation enthusiasts learnt that the LTTE cadres had set up a guerrilla training facility inside the Point Calamere sanctuary. And that probably at the

point of the gun, they had neutralised the watch-and-ward staff and were now wantonly shooting all animals, especially the blackbuck. Could I help prevent the massacre? As luck would have it, I was to take a brief to the Chief that very afternoon and knowing his indulgent nature, I was hopeful that he would react to the crisis positively.

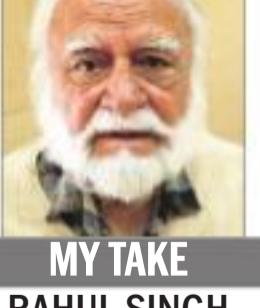
I shared the grim news from Point Calamere with Gen Sundarji with special emphasis that India has been the one and only home of blackbuck on planet earth! Without a moment's hesitation, he told me to accompany him to a meeting to the PMO Secretariat late that evening. Once there, he led me to a gentleman and said, 'He is your man.' The meeting got delayed and the Chief turning to me said, 'Baljit, if you have conveyed your concerns, you may hand the brief to me and go home.'

Four days later, 'my man' gave me the news that the LTTE cadres were indeed shooting blackbuck but not for venison; rather, the blackbuck

running at full stretch over the pale sandy sea shore presented the perfect, regulation bull's-eye target for honing the skills of their sharpshooters! My heart sank at this. In the next breath, he told me that he had got a firm assurance from the LTTE that henceforth they would neither target the blackbuck, nor other wildlife species in the sanctuary. Indeed, they kept their word. And the blackbuck numbers gradually began rising once again.

A couple of months later, Dalip dropped by and in a very apologetic asked for a 'personal favour'. He loved passenger pigeons and maintained a coop of over 500 in his backyard. One of the young officers, a pigeon fancier, had brought a few dozen birds from Bangladesh as war booty! Dalip had known of this flock and wanted me to trace the whereabouts of the officer so that he could go and purchase a few. When I managed to contact him, he laughed: 'Sir, please tell your friend that he can pick up four pairs as a gift.'

Why states' views on high taxation of alcohol make no sense



MY TAKE

RAHUL SINGH

Like in the rest of the world, Indians, too, should be weaned away from spirits, towards wine and beer, which have low alcohol content. For that, prices need to be rationalised

STRONG puritanical streak runs through middle class India. In that respect, we are like the US. The British also had it during the Victorian era, yet managed to rid themselves of it. Their Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, exemplifies the change. He is hugely popular despite his flamboyant, no-holds-barred lifestyle. Puritanism and hypocrisy often go together. Mahatma Gandhi was a puritan, but he was not a hypocrite. He had antiquated notions of sex and alcohol. Yet, he stood by them with unflinching honesty. The American government imposed prohibition in the early part of the last century. It was an unmitigated disaster, leading to massive corruption and increased crime. Only the likes of Al Capone, corrupt officials and the mafia benefited. The realisation dawned that as far as alcohol is concerned, outright bans don't work; only a policy stressing moderation does.

As everybody knows, in the "dry" states of Gujarat and Bihar, it is easy to buy alcohol. The trouble is that by doing so, you are breaking the law. Hence, it only encourages disrespect for the law. If you can easily break a stupid law, then you feel you can break any law, however well-meaning and beneficial it may be for society. The dividing line between a bad and



Wine is so heavily taxed that it eventually sells for several times the production cost. iStock

good law gets blurred. To me, that is the most pernicious aspect of prohibition. However, the main thrust of this column is elsewhere, namely the short-sighted and foolish view of the authorities on the taxation of alcohol. It is widely accepted that excess drinking of spirits like whisky, rum and vodka is more harmful to health than wine or beer, for the simple reason that the alcohol content of spirits is much higher

than that of wine or beer. In fact, doctors say that a glass of red wine is good for you. In most countries, wine and beer are sold in provision stores, whereas the outlets for spirits are restricted. Not in India, however. Wine and beer are equated with spirits, and can only be sold at licensed liquor shops. In Maharashtra, you even need a liquor permit for such purchases. Worse, wine is taxed so heavily in India that the cost of a bottle of any decent Indian-made wine is close to double that of a bottle of Indian whisky or rum. To me, again, that's stupid. Tourists worldwide now tend to drink wine and beer, rather than spirits, when they travel. Hence, such low-alcohol content beverages should be easily available at a reasonable price.

China does exactly that, and gets five times as many foreign tourists as we do. Indians, too, should be weaned away from spirits, towards wine and beer. Most wine is made from grapes and their cultivation brings income to farmers. There are several areas in India where the climate and soil are ideal for wine-grape vineyards. I can think of three offhand: near Nasik, Pune and Bengaluru. This is where Indian companies make decent, even exportable, red, white and sparkling (akin to champagne) wine.

Recently, I spent a weekend at a friend's

farmhouse about 20 km from Nasik. There are 12 similar farmhouses in the same complex. Each covers 1 acre, half of which comprises a vineyard. In other words, a total of 6 acres of vineyards in the complex. A nearby fresh-water lake supplies the necessary water. An Indian wine-maker in the area buys the grapes, which are only harvested after a consultant has checked that they are at the correct sugar level. The 6 acres produce an average of 18 to 24 tonnes of grapes. There are plenty of other farms in the neighbourhood, big and small, which grow both table and wine grapes, providing farmers and labourers good livelihoods. A rough calculation shows that the production cost of a bottle of wine is around ₹150. For heaven's sake, or more for farmers' sake, since they are in the news, why should this wine be so heavily taxed that it eventually sells for several times as much? That's patently ridiculous.

Himachal Pradesh is probably the only state that has had a sensible policy on alcohol for years. It allows wine made from fruit grown in the state to be sold in ordinary shops. It may be news to some that wine can also be made from apples, plums, peaches and cherries, all of which grow in abundance in Himachal (sadly, grapes don't). The farmers, the retail outlets, and the gov-

ernment benefits — and the consumer gets a drink with low-level alcohol. I should add that the Himachal fruit wines are really not up to international standards, as are some Indian wines. But then, wine-making takes time and entails a long process of trial and error before it becomes more acceptable.

Goa, apart from its famous feni, now makes some excellent gin, along with a variety of other spirits, entirely from Indian ingredients. One entrepreneur, Desmond Nazareth, makes tequila from the same cactus-like plant, agave, used by the Mexicans to produce their world famous alcohol. He found that agave grows wild in many parts of India, so he set up a plantation in Andhra. The juicy flowers of the Mahua tree, which grows all over central India, have been used for centuries by tribals to make a potent brew. That caught Desmond's attention and he refined the juice of the flowers by triple distillation to make a first-rate liqueur. Unfortunately, most of these concoctions mainly sell only in Goa, where the taxes are low. Once taken out of Goa, heavy taxes in other states kick in, making them far too expensive. "Make in India" should not be a slogan just for manufactured goods, but should benefit our farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs as well.

The writer is a veteran journalist

Nadda flags off 'Parivartan Yatra' sans police nod, slams Mamata

TRENTON NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6
The BJP today attacked West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, saying her "Maa Maati Manush" slogan had been reduced to "dictatorship, extortion and appeasement" and she had delayed the release of direct Central benefits to state's farmers to satisfy her ego.

Launching the BJP's "Parivartan Yatra" from Nabadwip, the birthplace of the 15th century saint Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, party president JP Nadda said the people of Bengal had decided to send off the TMC, which had "politicised the state administration, criminalised the police and institutionalised corruption."

Nadda launched the yatra without police permission. The Nadia police said permission was granted only for rally and not the rath yatra as a PIL was pending with the Calcutta High Court against it.

Earlier in Malda, where he had meals with farmers, Nadda questioned Mamata for delaying the implementation of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, saying, "The CM did so to satisfy her ego



BJP chief JP Nadda addresses a rally in Malda on Saturday. PTI

and later started the scheme only after she realised she was losing political capital."

The yatra which Nadda launched comes on the eve of PM Narendra Modi's second visit to Bengal in 15 days.

The PM was in Bengal on January 23 to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

"TMC's Maa, Maati,

Maanush vow has been reduced to dictatorship, tolabaazi (extortion) and appeasement of the minorities. The people have lost faith in the state government because only TMC leaders have benefitted in the Mamata regime. They even misappropriated the relief funds meant for the victims of Amphan cyclone," Nadda alleged, asking why "Jai Shri Ram" slogans repulsed the CM.

"Why does she hate Jai Shri Ram so much? Is it wrong to be in touch with one's culture? The TMC wants to forsake Indian culture for vote banks," Nadda said rejecting Mamata's charge that the BJP was an outsider to Bengal.

PM TO LAUNCH PROJECTS IN WEST BENGAL TODAY

- LPG import terminal built by BPCL: Will meet growing requirement of LPG in Bengal, other eastern and NE states
- 348-km Dobhi-Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline section under Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project
- Foundation stone of the 2nd Catalytic-Isodewaxing unit of Haldia Refinery of Indian Oil Corporation. Once commissioned, it will save USD 185 million in foreign exchange
- 4-lane ROB-cum-flyover at Ranichak, Haldia on NH 41. The flyover will result in uninterrupted movement of traffic from Kolaghat to Haldia Dock Complex and other surrounding areas

He said India was far from attaining herd immunity. Asked to explain the dramatic drop in active Covid infections and daily deaths since the peak in September 2020, Panda said an early and stringent lockdown helped India stammer infections that peaked in September and

Covid resurgence can't be ruled out: ICMR scientist

ADITI TANDON
TRENTON NEWS SERVICE**NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6**

With plummeting Covid-19 infections starting to trigger complacency among people, the chief of epidemiology at the ICMR has warned against prevention-fatigue saying a resurgence of the disease cannot be ruled out.

"We cannot rule out the resurgence of Covid-19 as long as there is a susceptible population. The national sero-survey conducted in December-January to determine the prevalence of Covid antibodies found 21.4 per cent people had been exposed to the virus, while 79 per cent remained vulnerable. Brazil saw Covid resurgence at sero-prevalence of 75 per cent. India's sero-prevalence is 21 per cent. It will be disastrous to lower our guard," said Samiran Panda, Head, Division of Epidemiology, Communicable Diseases at ICMR.

He said India was far from attaining herd immunity.

Asked to explain the dramatic drop in active Covid infections and daily deaths since the peak in September 2020, Panda said an early and stringent lockdown helped India stammer infections that peaked in September and



Telangana DGP M Mahender Reddy gets a shot in Hyderabad. PTI

'FAR FROM HERD IMMUNITY'

■ Nearly 70-80 per cent people need to have been infected for the population to reach herd immunity. That has not happened in India. Samiran Panda, ICMR SCIENTIST

COVID-19 VACCINATION

INDIA	
TOTAL	56,36,868
DAY'S COUNT	2,20,019
ADVERSE EVENTS	0

have since been receding.

"Reduction in cases has been possible because multi-

DIRECTIVE TO STATES

- The Centre has asked states to ensure that all health workers get the first dose of Covid vaccine by Feb 20 and all frontline workers by March 6
- The Covid-19 inoculation process for people aged above 50 will start in March, said Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Saturday

ple layers of barriers to the virus are active in the population," he said.

Nepal to get 5L doses of vaccine from China

KATHMANDU, FEBRUARY 6
China will provide 5,00,000 doses of Covid vaccines to Nepal on a grant basis, officials here said on Saturday, supplying the first batch of vaccine aid to the Himalayan nation.

During a telephonic conversation with his Nepali counterpart Pradeep Gyawali on Friday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi assured that China would accord priority to Nepal in vaccine cooperation, according to a press statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here.

According to a report by Chinese news agency Xinhua, during the phone conversation with Gyawali, Wang said China attached great importance to Nepal's urgent need of Covid vaccines.

However, the Chinese company producing the vaccine is yet to submit all necessary documents to the Nepal Government. Without the green signal from the government, the BIBP-CoV vaccine, developed by Sinopharm, cannot be brought to Nepal, the report said. China's move to supply the vaccine to Nepal is seen as Beijing's efforts to step-up its vaccine diplomacy amid projections from experts that India could become a key player in distributing the jabs to the world. — PTI

Root 'Stokes' England fire

CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 6

England captain Joe Root tormented India with a commanding 218 as the visitors piled up 292 runs on Day 2 of the first Test to reach 555/8 at stumps, making the most of winning the toss yesterday. The massive score has practically dashed the home team's hopes of winning the match, which would have given them a head start in the race to reach the World Test Championship final.

Root's 218 was the result of a 377-ball, near nine-hour effort in energy-sapping conditions. He became the first cricketer to score a double hundred in his 100th Test.

Root's innings was a lesson on how to play spin bowling on Indian pitches. The pace of his innings today was a bit slower than yesterday as Ben Stokes took over the role of the enforcer. Stokes smashed 82 off 118 balls with 10 fours and three sixes, allowing Root to play the second fiddle in their 124-run stand.

Stokes demoralised the home team with his trademark powerful strokes. He started by coming down and lofting Ravichandran Ashwin over long for a six and then used his giant stride to slog-sweep the off-spinner for a boundary. Although Root hit Ashwin for two sixes —



England players Ben Stokes and Joe Root during the second day of the first Test match between India and England in Chennai on Saturday. PTI

SCOREBOARD

England 1st Inn (Overnight 263/3)

	O	M	R	W
R Burns c Pant b Ashwin	33			
D Sibley lbw b Bumrah	87			
D Lawrence lbw b Bumrah	0			
J Root lbw b Nadeem	218			
B Stokes c Pujara b Nadeem	82			
O Pope lbw b Ashwin	34			
J Buttler b I Sharma	30			
D Bess not out	28			
J Archer b I Sharma	0			
J Leach not out	6			
Extras: (B, 2 LB, 16, NB 19)	37			
Total: (8 wickets, 180 overs)	555			
FOW: 1-63, 2-63, 3-263, 4-387, 5-473, 6-477, 7-525, 8-525				
Bowling				
Ishant Sharma	27	7	52	2
Jasprit Bumrah	31	4	81	2
Ravichandran Ashwin	50	5	132	2
Shahbaz Nadeem	44	4	167	2
Washington Sundar	26	2	98	0
Rohit Sharma	2	0	7	0

the second one bringing up his fifth 200 in Tests — it was Stokes who really went after

Maiden women team inducted into CoBRA commando unit

GURGAON, FEBRUARY 6

A maiden contingent of 34 CRPF women personnel was on Saturday inducted into its specialised jungle warfare commando force CoBRA, which will soon be deployed in the anti-Naxal operations grid of the country.

The Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) was raised under the CRPF in

2009 for undertaking intelligence-based jungle warfare operations. It has been an all-male affair for this unit till now.

The majority of CoBRA teams, whose commands are expected to have tough mental and physical attributes, are deployed in various Maoist violence-affected states, while a few are based in the northeast states for undertaking

CoBRA was raised under CRPF in 2009 for jungle warfare ops

counter-insurgency operations.

A ceremonial event was held at the forces' camp in Kadarpur village here with CRPF Director General AP Maheshwari witnessing com-

bat drills performed by the chosen women as he underlined that it was important to defeat gender-based beliefs and stereotypes.

The personnel, earmarked for CoBRA, have been chosen from the existing six all-women battalions of the force, a CRPF spokesperson said.

"These women will undergo a pre-induction training

for three months and subsequently will be embedded with CoBRA units deployed in Naxal violence affected districts of Chhattisgarh like Sukma, Dantewada and Bijapur," the spokesperson said.

An all-women brass band of the country's largest paramilitary was also commissioned during the ceremony. — PTI

PUNJAB STATE INSTITUTE OF SPORTS

Selection schedule of PIS residential scheme 2021-22

Sr. No.	Place	Discipline	Venue	Age Group Categories	Date
1. Mohali	Athletics Combined Event	Sports Complex, Sector-78, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali)	U-12 to U-18 (Boys & Girls)	26 February 2021	
2. Mohali	Basketball	Sports Complex, Sector-78, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali)	U-10, U-17, U-19 (Boys & Girls)	26, 27 & 28 February 2021	
3. Mohali	Boxing	Sports Complex, Sector-63, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali)	U-12 to U-18 (Boys & Girls)	25 & 26 February 2021	
4. Mohali	Artistic Gymnastic	Sports Complex, Sector-78, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali)	U-10 & U-12 (Boys & Girls)	27 & 28 February 2021	
5. Mohali	Judo	Sports Complex, Sector-78, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali)	U-12 & U-17 (Boys & Girls)	27 & 28 February 2021	
6. Mohali	Swimming	Sports Complex, Sector-78, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali)	U-12 to U-17 (Boys & Girls)	3 & 4 April 2021	
7. Mohali	Table Tennis	Sports Complex, Sector-78, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali)	U-10 to U-17 (Boys & Girls)	27 & 28 February 2021	
8. Mohali	Volleyball	Sports Complex, Sector-63, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali)	U-14 to U-19 (Boys)	27 & 28 February 2021	
9. Mohali	Weightlifting	Sports Complex, Sector-63, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali)	U-14 to U-20 (Boys & Girls)	27 & 28 February 2021	
10. Mohali	Wrestling	Sports Complex, Sector-78, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali)	U-14 to U-17 (Boys)	25 & 26 February 2021	
11. Jalandhar	Athletics (All throws events)	D.A.V. College, Jalandhar	U-12 to U-20 (Boys & Girls)	27 & 28 February 2021	
12. Jalandhar	Hockey	Surjit Hockey Stadium, Jalandhar	U-14, U-17 & U-19 (Boys & Girls)	25, 26, 27, 28 February & 1 March 2021	
13. Ludhiana	Athletics (Jumps, Sprints, Hurdles)	Guru Nanak Stadium, Ludhiana	U-12 to U-20 (Boys & Girls)	26, 27 & 28 February 2021	
14. Ludhiana	Basketball	Guru Nanak Stadium, Ludhiana	U-12 to U-19 (Boys & Girls)	For Boys 26, 27 February 2021 For Girls 28 February & 1 March 2021	
15. Sri Muktsar Sahib	Shooting	Shooting Academy, Badal	U-12 to U-17 (Girls)	27 & 28 February 2021	
16. Patiala	Archery	Punjabi University, Patiala	U-12 to U-20 (Boys & Girls)	3 & 4 April 2021	
17. Patiala	Athletics (Middle & Long Distance & Walking & Sprints, hurdles)	Punjabi University, Patiala	U-12 to U-20 (Boys & Girls)	26, 27 & 28 February 2021	
18. Patiala	Rowing	Punjabi University, Patiala	U-12 to U-20 (Boys & Girls)	26 February 2021	
19. Patiala	Cycling	Punjabi University, Patiala	U-12 to U-19 (Boys & Girls)	26, 27 & 28 February 2021	