

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | JAMMU | SRINAGAR | VOL. 140 NO. 229 | 14 PAGES | ₹5.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2018-2020 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020

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CORRIGENDUM

क्रमांक : पीआरके/2020/3548 दिनांक 17.08.2020
उपरोक्त विधय के अंतर्गत इस कार्यालय के पत्र क्रमांक : पीआरके/2020/3455
दिनांक 10.08.2020 द्वारा क्रम संख्या 2 पर आमंत्रित टैटर गांव गढ़ी लांगरी, खण्ड पिहोरा के टैटर प्रारम्भिक कारों की बहास से रद्द किया जाता है और टैटर नेटिस के क्रम संख्या 7 पर दराएँ गए गांव अजरार, खण्ड इस्माइलाबाद की जगह गांव थड़ौली, खण्ड इस्माइलाबाद में विलेज नॉलेज सैटर बनाया जाएगा।
कार्यालयी अधिकारी, पंचायती राज, कुरुक्षेत्र।
PRDH-82313

OFFICE OF HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PUNJAB

Water Works Complex, Phase-2, S.A.S. Nagar
Phone No.: 0172-2270101, 4330343
Email: csdodwss15@gmail.com

Recruitment Notice Reference No. Admin/DWSS/2020/04

Walk-in Interview

Sr. No.	Name of Post	Number of Vacancies	Monthly consolidated Remuneration (in Rs.)
1	IEC Consultant-ICT & Digital Media	01	Rs. 7500/- per month (Lump sum)

Date and Venue: 24.08.2020 O/o Head, DWSS, Punjab Water Works Complex, Phase-2, S.A.S. Nagar.

Time for registration: 09:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

For further details regarding qualification, experience and job description, visit recruitment section of www.pbdwss.gov.in

Note: Any corrigendum(s) to this recruitment notice shall be published on above website.

DPR/Pb/64932

Head DWSS

Municipal Council, Malerkotla Sangrur-148023
Phone No. 01675-253043
E-mail: eomcmkl@yahoo.in,
www.mcmalerkotla.org

टैटर नेटिस (14 दिन)
eproc.punjab.gov.in

E-tender - LGM COUNCIL/2020-21/2/ILT/RETENDER
तगड़ बैमल, मलेरकटला वैल टैटर नियमित रात्रि PUEIP Phase-2, गरट अपने 813.39 रुपये से 20 (चाँदी के 1-20) वर्ष-दर्शक विकास दे रहे हैं तो गरन लली गर्निटर बैमल टैटर नेटिस ते पृष्ठीने वर मेरे जाए गए। टैटर ग्रतीर करन अंते खुलन दा मॉडिल रोप लिये अनुराग है।

Sr. No.	Online Sale Start Date Of Bidding Documents	Last date Of Online Submission Of Bidding Documents	Opening Of Technical Bids
1	17.08.2020 05.00 PM	02.09.2020 05.00 PM	03.09.2020 09.00 AM

बैमल दी टैटर अंते टैटर नीरों सर्तर्न eproc.punjab.gov.in वैमल नियमित रात्रि पुरप दे रहे हैं तो गरन लली गर्निटर बैमल टैटर नेटिस ते पृष्ठीने वर मेरे जाए गए। टैटर ग्रतीर करन अंते खुलन दा मॉडिल रोप लिये अनुराग है।

टैटर नेटिस दा मॉडिल रोप

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VINESH, 4 OTHERS NOMINATED FOR KHEL RATNA SPORT

WHEELS SET IN MOTION FOR PRIVATISATION OF 4 PSBs BUSINESS

CONGRESS ASKS ZUCKERBERG TO PROBE 'BJP BIAS' BACK PAGE



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Ashok Lavasa

Lavasa quits EC to join as ADB VP

NEW DELHI: Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa, next in line to succeed as the CEC, resigned on Tuesday to join Asian Development Bank as vice-president. During the 2019 LS polls, Lavasa gave a dissenting note over EC's clean chit to PM Modi and BJP ex-chief Amit Shah on poll code violation charge. —TNS



Sumedh Singh Saini

Jolt for Saini, former cops turn approvers

MOHALI: In a setback to Punjab former DGP Sumedh Singh Saini, a local court approved the application of two UT former cops and co-accused to become approvers in the Balwant Singh Multani disappearance case on Tuesday. The CJM's court accepted the plea of Inspector Jagir Singh and ASI Kuldeep Singh to become approvers. INSIDE

China threat, new LAC route to Depsang

India revives caravan track to reach sensitive Ladakh areas | Alternative to key DSDBO road

AJAY BANERJEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 18 An ancient caravan trade route between Ladakh and Kashgar (now in Xinjiang, China) has been revived by India as an alternative route to access the vital Sub-Sector North (SSN) in Ladakh. The Karakoram pass, Depsang plains and the airfield at Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) are part of the SSN.

At present, these sensitive places can be accessed through the 255-km-long Darbuk-Shyok-DBO (DSDBO) road, which at several points is close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and thus exposed to military risk. From Ladakh's Shyok village to



Mурго (in Depsang), covering 127 km, the DSDBO road runs close to the LAC. The Galwan valley is on the same stretch. A 23-km tract of the

DSDBO road from Darbuk to Shyok and 105-km stretch from Mурго to the DBO is relatively away from the LAC. The new road alignment

starts from Sasoma, near the base of Siachen Glacier, and goes eastwards across the 17,800-foot-high Saser La and then descends at Gapsam

near Mурго in Depsang plains. Here, the road will join the existing DSDBO road. As of now a jeepable

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MAP NOT TO SCALE

Setup tribunal to assess water availability: Capt

Says no scientific assessment of river waters till now

Tribune News Service

DEMANDS SHARE IN YAMUNA WATER

◆ Punjab has a right to Yamuna water, in which it did not get a share at the time of 60:40 division of assets with Haryana in 1966
Capt Amarinder Singh, CM

He also suggested that Rajasthan should be involved in the discussions on the water issue as it was also a stakeholder. He described the meeting as "positive and cordial" and said the Union Minister seemed to understand Punjab's viewpoint.

Punjab remains at risk from all sides, said Capt Amarinder, pointing to Pakistan's continued attempts to foment trouble and to try and revive the separatist movement through the banned Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) organisation. The water issue could further destabilise the state, he warned.

It was decided during the meeting that the Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana would meet in Chandigarh on a date to be

fixed later for further talks on the issue and would then go to the Union Minister again. Putting forth Punjab's stand, Captain Amarinder said it was necessary to set up a tribunal for fair adjudication of the water availability.

Noting that there had, in fact, been no adjudication or scientific assessment of available Punjab river waters till date, the Chief Minister said the BBMB had reported that the availability of the Ravi-Beas water had come down from the estimated 17.17 million acre feet (MAF) in 1981 to 13.38 MAF in 2013.

Despite being a non-basin state and having a smaller population as well as lesser cultivated land area, Haryana's total availability of river water stood at 12.48 MAF as against Punjab's 12.42 MAF, he noted.

"As of today, Punjab is a deficit state and could not be asked to transfer water to Haryana," he said.

The Chief Minister recalled that he had suggested the construction of water storage dams in Himachal Pradesh for collecting water so that the flow of water into Pakistan could be checked. He urged the Union Minister to consider the suggestion.

In a video-conference with Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Capt Amarinder Singh said: "You have to look at the issue from the national security perspective. If you decide to go ahead with the SYL canal, Punjab will burn and it will become a national problem, with Haryana and Rajasthan also suffering the impact."

He said Punjab had a right to Yamuna water, in which it did not get a share at the time of 60:40 division of assets with Haryana in 1966, even as he expressed his willingness to sit across the table with his Haryana counterpart to discuss the "emotive" issue.

Security of witness against Tytler reinstated

ADITI TANIDON

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 18

In a relief for prime witness Abhishek Verma in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots case against former Congress MP Jagdish Tytler, a Delhi court today ordered security cover for the witness for a month starting today.

The court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate HS Bhalla also allowed the witness through his counsel HS Phoolka to move the Delhi High Court for full relief in the matter. Passing the

Court says cops ignored death threat to him

order, the court said the cops had not considered a letter the court had received in late 2019 issuing death threats to the witness and his counsel.

The magistrate said he had received the letter and forwarded it to Delhi High Court, which later marked it to Delhi Police Commissioner for appropriate action.

Observing that he hoped the Delhi police would take cognisance of the death threat to Verma and review the

threat perception to him, the magistrate directed the cops to provide the witness with security for four weeks during which he had been allowed to petition the HC, which ordered protection for him in the first place in 2017 and also petition the witness protection committee.

The Delhi police, while withdrawing the security, had said that the HC had directed security to Verma until his lie detector test was concluded and that

the same had been done. Tytler is the second top Congress leader suspected for his role in 1984 riots after Sajjan Kumar, who stands convicted for life and is serving jail time for his involvement in the riots.

In the Tytler case, the CBI had filed three closure reports in 2007, 2009 and 2014. But Delhi's Karkardooma courts rejected the CBI closure report on December 4, 2015, on the protest petition by Lakhwinder Kaur, who lost her husband in the Gurudwara Puli Bangash attack. The court asked the CBI to continue its probe.

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In lieu of such investments/ engagement offered by the Individuals/ Customers/ Agencies/ Companies and other entities, in areas of parcel transportation, mutually agreeable incentives/ based on certain terms and conditions subject to existing rules and regulations may be delivered upon by the Railways depending upon traffic handled/offered by Individuals/ Customers/ Agencies/ Companies and other entities.

All existing and new, interested Individuals/Customers/ Agencies/ Companies and other entities, may kindly send their EOI/ suggestions alongwith complete details of the proposal up to 15:00 hrs. on 07.09.2020 to the office of: Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/ Freight, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055; also through e-mail ID: freightcelldelhi@gmail.com or may send the proposal on WhatsApp number at 9717633073. After receiving the proposals, a meeting may be called with the interested parties for further deliberations.



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2 more MLAs test +ve as cases soar

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 18

Akali MLA from Muktsar Kanwarjit Singh Rozy Barkandi was tested positive for Covid-19 on Wednesday. Barkandi said he was having mild symptoms, thus got himself tested and found positive. "I have isolated myself at my Chandigarh residence. Other members in my family have tested negative," he said.

Barkandi had been regularly holding meetings and lodging protests for the past few weeks.

In another development, five persons, including AAP rebel MLA Nazar Singh Manshahia, SP (H) Satnam Singh and a journalist, tested positive in Mansa today.

In a single day highest-ever spike, the state today reported 1,704 Covid cases and 35 deaths.

Ludhiana topped the chart with 483 cases, followed by Patiala (338), Jalandhar (132), SAS Nagar (103), Bathinda (94), Sangrur and



Health officials collect the swab sample of a cop in Nawanshahr.

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS	DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Ludhiana	7,577	264	Moga	878	10
Jalandhar	4,388	106	Fatehgarh Sahib	703	14
Amritsar	2,869	115	Tarn Taran	578	27
Patiala	4,135	87	Kapurthala	649	24
Sangrur	1,597	60	Fazilka	523	5
SAS Nagar	1,990	38	SBS Nagar	489	12
Gurdaspur	1,215	30	Faridkot	646	4
Bathinda	1,380	16	Barnala	718	13
Hoshiarpur	894	25	Ropar	537	9
Ferozepur	1,092	17	Muktsar	460	4
Pathankot	786	17	Mansa	296	1
Total positive	34,400		Deaths	898	

Fatehgarh Sahib (52 each).

In Ludhiana those who tested positive today include AIG, Crime, Ludhiana range, and nine other policemen, 88 were reported from flu corner, 70 were contacts of positive persons, 37 from OPD, eight healthcare workers, two pre-operative and tracing of 40 is still under progress.

At present 336 patients are on oxygen support and 37 are critical and are on ventilator support.

In terms of deaths, Ludhiana topped the chart with eight deaths, followed by Amritsar, Patiala and Sangrur (4 each), SAS Nagar and SBS Nagar (3 each), Ropar and Tarn Taran (2 each), Faridkot, Fatehgarh Sahib, Jalandhar, Muktsar and Kapurthala (1 each).

A 27-year-old man from Thareke village lost his life, while a 45-year-old woman Kot Mangal Singh also succumbed to the virus. Others who lost their lives to the virus were in the age group of 50-60 years.

Covid positive undertrial flees isolation centre

BATHINDA, AUGUST 18

An undertrial, Rajvir Singh of Giddarbaha, who was tested Covid-positive and was lodged at the isolation centre at Red Cross building, near the Civil Hospital here, today fled after breaking the window of a toilet. The police have registered a case against the accused.

DSP Gurjot Singh Romana said the accused had been arrested by the GRP in a theft case. "Special teams are conducting raids at his possible hideouts to nab him," he said.

Earlier on August 10, eight patients had run away from an isolation centre here. The police have failed to trace them till date. They instead claim that those persons were no longer infected as their second tests were taken on August 11 and their reports had turned negative.

"We are trying to locate them for violating the Disaster Management Act and stepping out of the isolation ward without authorisation," said a police official. — TNS

Panic as oxygen supply snapped at Covid ward

Tribune News Service

PATIALA, AUGUST 18

The oxygen supply at the Covid ward of Government Rajindra Hospital was reportedly interrupted on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday. The matter came to the fore when the patients complained of breathlessness.

Fault repaired after patients complain of breathlessness

The hospital authorities denied any interruption in the oxygen supply. However, they admitted that there was an issue with the oxygen regulator, which was

fixed in the morning.

Surbhi Malik, special incharge, Covid ward, said there was some issue with the regulator, which was resolved timely. "I am informed there

was an issue with the regulator of oxygen, but it was resolved by experts timely. There was no interruption in the oxygen supply."

It has been learnt that a doctor on duty in the Covid ward had raised an alarm around 2 am, stating that patients were complaining of breathlessness due to

ALL SET FOR PARKASH UTSAV

- On the eve of Parkash Utsav of Guru Granth Sahib, the Golden Temple has been decked up with flowers
- Around 25-30 quintals of flowers have been used to adorn the walls of the Sanctum Sanctorum, Darshani Deori, Akal Takht and the entire circumference of the shrine
- Around 80 artisans from Kolkata have been engaged to decorate the shrine
- SGPC president Gobind Singh Longowal says due to the Covid-19 threat, there will be symbolic 'nagar kirtan' from Gurudwara Ramsar Sahib to the Golden Temple



Devotees pay obeisance on the eve of the 416th anniversary of the installation of Guru Granth Sahib at the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Tuesday. PHOTO: VISHAL KUMAR

Farm bodies to intensify protest against ordinances

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 18

Farmers in Punjab are planning to intensify their agitation across the state, beginning with rallies on September 15.

A decision to this effect was taken in a joint meeting of various farmer organisations held here today. The meeting was chaired by state president of the All-India Kisan Sangharsh Committee

Harjinder Singh Tanda.

All 10 farmer organisations affiliated to the committee as well as three other organisations have decided to hold rallies against three farm ordinances announced by the Centre, the "anti-farmer" recommendations of Montek Singh Ahluwalia report on reviving Punjab's economy and the Electricity Amendment Bill, 2020. — TNS

'Govt has lost mandate, one-day session a joke'

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 18

Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Badal on Tuesday described the Punjab Government's decision to confine the forthcoming Vidhan Sabha session to just a single day as "a clear evidence of its acknowledgement that it has lost the mandate to govern".

He said the decision to reduce the session to just one day was the outcome of the

democratic pressure exerted by the SAD on people's issues.

In a statement here, SAD legislative party leader Sharanjit Singh Dhillon said the decision to hold a one-day session, a first in the history of the state, was a cruel joke on the people who wanted the government to give answers over the loss of more than 130 lives in the recent spurious liquor tragedy and other important issues. — TNS

Rickety infra ails Sangrur health centre

Despite Covid outbreak, no emergency services at PHC

PARVESH SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, AUGUST 18

Built to provide health services to 85 villages, the Primary Health Centre (PHC), Kauhrian, has been devoid of basic amenities for a long time. The emergency services are also closed. The outbreak of Covid-19 has failed to bring any improvement at the centre.

Presently, it functions from 8 am to 4 pm, but the dilapidated buildings of the hospital and residential quarters pose a danger to the lives of employees and patients. "Before elections, the leaders had promised to reconstruct the building and post adequate number of employees here. However, nothing has been done yet. Residents are blaming us

for the unfulfilled promises," said Gurpreet Singh, Kauhrian sarpanch and a Congress leader. Gurmeet Singh, another resident, alleged the PHC failed to provide medical aid even to locals with minor health problems.

"There is no proper repair or cleaning. Snakes have also been spotted here, but despite complaints, there has been no action," said an employee. As per information, of the six posts of medical officer, only one has been filled.

"I had raised the issue in the Assembly and the government had assured us of posting more doctors at the PHC. We will launch a protest soon," said AAP MLA and Leader of Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema. Senior

Trouble for ex-DGP Saini as 2 former cops turn approvers

SANJAY BUMBROO

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MOHALI, AUGUST 18

In a major setback to former Director General of Police (DGP) Sumedh Singh Saini, a local court today approved the application of two former Chandigarh police officials and co-accused to become approvers in the disappearance case of Balwant Singh Multani.

Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Deepika Singh accepted the application of former Inspector Jagir Singh and Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Kuldeep Singh to become approvers.

The two cops, in their statement to the court, claimed to have been eyewitnesses to the torture meted out to Multani under the custody of the former DGP and his shifting in a vehicle in an unconscious state. They also alleged that later, they were told that Multani

MULTANI ABDUCTION CASE



The two cops, in their statement to the court, claimed that they had witnessed Balwant Singh Multani being tortured under the custody of the then DGP Sumedh Singh Saini (in pic) and his shifting in a vehicle in an unconscious state. They also claimed that later, they were told that Multani had gone missing. The cops were also allegedly asked to declare Multani as missing and absconding, following the orders of Saini, which they did.

went missing. The two cops were also allegedly asked to declare Multani as missing and absconding, following the orders of Saini, which they did.

Now, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) is all set to add Section 302 of the IPC to the FIR registered against the former DGP at Mataur police station in the alleged disappearance of Multani, a former CITCO employee. According to the court orders, the SIT will have

to give three-day prior notice to Saini after adding Section 302 to the FIR. The former DGP is out on bail in the case.

The three co-accused former UT cops, then Inspector Jagir Singh, Sub-Inspector Harsahai Sharma and ASI Kuldeep Singh, had filed an application in the court seeking permission to turn approvers and be pardoned. However, the court of the CJM, on August 7, turned down their plea for

want of approach from the proper channel, i.e. the SIT, which could make a request to the court for pardon to the accused.

The SIT, with the support of special public prosecutor Sartej Singh Narula and district attorney Sanjiv Batra, had moved an application on behalf of the three accused on August 14, after which the court declared two out of the three as approvers.

Narula said the application was filed to assert that it was necessary to unearth the crime that took place within the four walls of a police station.

He said the approvers were co-accused who had been declared witnesses and were granted pardon under Section 306 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Now, the proceedings to grant them pardon will be heard on August 22.

HC stares at crisis, only one of 5 names cleared for elevation

SAURABH MALIK

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 18

The Punjab and Haryana High Court is staring at a crisis. Of the five names that reached the Supreme Court collegium, only one has been cleared for elevation as a Judge of the High Court. The fate of the other advocates recommended for elevation is not yet known.

Available information suggests the Supreme Court collegium has "approved" the proposal for the elevation of Rajesh Kumar Bhardwaj,



Rajesh Bhardwaj's name has been cleared by the SC collegium.

many more next year.

Besides, the High Court is expected to witness an unmanageable flood of litigations once it reopens for normal operations. Functioning in restricted mode since March-end following the Covid-19 outbreak, the High Court has been hearing a limited number of cases through video-conferencing.

The cases being taken up are primarily the ones involving an element of public interest or urgency.

The High Court collegium has reportedly recommended the names of five more

advocates — Jasjit Singh Bedi, Pankaj Jain, Vikas Suri, Sandeep Moudgil and Vinod Bhardwaj — for elevation.

This is in addition to the previous list of five. However, the process may take some time because of the lengthy procedure. It can take several months, if not taken up on a priority basis. Bhardwaj's name was among the five sent sometime in August last year, when the High Court was facing pendency of more than 4.7 lakh cases with a shortage of 37 Judges. The list had hit the headlines after an old video clip went viral. It purportedly showed one of the candidates (not Bhardwaj) swinging to the tune of 1980s Bollywood number 'I am a disco dancer'.

Meanwhile, the collegium also recommended the names of six advocates — Jasmeet Singh, Amit Bansal, Tara Vitasta Ganju, Anish Dayal, Amit Sharma and Mini Pushkarna — for appointment as Judges of the Delhi High Court.

MOGA, AUGUST 18

A Sub-Inspector and an Assistant Sub-Inspector of the Punjab Police were placed under suspension for drinking alcohol inside the police post falling under Dharamkot subdivision today.

Sub-Inspectors Gurdeep Singh and ASI Darshan Singh, both posted at the Balkhandi police post, were found drinking liquor. Gurdeep Singh was the incharge of the police post.

Last night, DSP Subeg Singh checked the police post and found both police personnel drinking on duty. On seeing the DSP, both policemen locked themselves in a room, but the DSP found them in a drunken state. After getting their medical examination done, the DSP suspended them from the service and sent a detailed report to SSP Harmannbir Singh Gill for further action. The SSP has marked a departmental inquiry against them.

Ministerial staff firm on demands, stir continues

BATHINDA, AUGUST 18

State ministerial staff members' pen-down strike today entered the 12th day. The employees staged a protest against the state government outside the Deputy Commissioner's office in Bathinda.

Kewal Bansal, president, Punjab State Ministerial Service Union, Bathinda, said the employees would go on mass casual leave.

The demands of the protesters include immediate transfer of arrears of various allowances into their

accounts, extension of full pension benefits to staff members who were recruited after 2004, and complete implementation of the rules and proposals of the 6th Pay Commission. Besides, they have sought revival of allowances to the ministerial staff, release of instalments of dearness allowance and rollback of the state government's decision pertaining to giving only basic pay and no allowance to fresh recruits for the first two years of their service. — TNS

Breeder crushes dog under car, Maneka livid

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, AUGUST 18

An ASI allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself at his residence in Kotli Ablu village here today.

Identified as Swaran Singh, he was posted at the district police lines. It has been alleged that he was under depression.

His family has not lodged a complaint against anyone. The police have started inquest proceedings under Section 174 of the CrPC.

MP POSTS VIDEO ON TWITTER



He (accused) is a breeder and seller of dogs for dog fights. This is what he does to them when they are no longer useful. The dog died after 30 minutes of being in excruciating pain. Maneka Gandhi, MP



against the accused, who is still at large.

Posting the video, Gandhi wrote, "This is Gurinder Singh, S/O Harbans Singh, Dandupur village, Kapurthala, Punjab. He is a breeder and seller

of dogs for dog fights. This is what he does to dogs when they are no longer useful. The dog died after 30 minutes of being in excruciating pain."

A few hours later, she posted another video of

dogs kept in cages by the man and tweeted, "Here's a video of this man's dogs, which he had been using for dog fights. At night, he took all these dogs and threw them in the lake behind his house. One dog drowned but the others have been rescued by the People for Animals (PFA). This man should go to jail."

At this, the Punjab Police replied to the ex-minister, saying, "Madam, the issue has been taken up and referred to the Kapurthala police for immediate and necessary action."



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Govt scraps intermediate semester exams

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 18

TECH COURSES: GRADING FOR THEORY EXAMS

- As per the UGC recommendations, the grading for the theory exams will comprise of 50 per cent marks on the pattern of internal evaluation
- Remaining 50 per cent marks can be awarded on the basis of performance in previous semester, if available
- For students interested in taking exams, a special exam might be conducted at a time deemed conducive

jab State Board of Technical Education and Industrial Training, the committee has decided that as recommended by the UGC, the grading for the theory exams would

comprise of 50 per cent marks of the pattern of internal evaluation adopted by the universities and the remaining 50 per cent marks can be awarded on the basis

of performance in previous semester, if available. The universities have been asked to work out the modalities of awarding the marks.

The committee has further said the students should also be given the option to take exams to improve their marks. For such students, a special exam should be conducted at a time deemed conducive. The marks obtained by students in this examination should be treated as final.

Fake stamp paper 'scam' comes to fore in Moga dist

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MOGA, AUGUST 18

Fraud of ₹10 lakh

The accused had allegedly sold fake stamp papers of ₹10 lakh between 2014 and 2017 at Dharamkot subdivision in Moga

Preliminary reports suggest that the fake stamp papers were sold in Moga, Ferozepur, Faridkot and nearby districts during the previous SAD-BJP government

could not produce it for verification. He even admitted that the stamp papers were counterfeit, and therefore, he had no record with him.

It has been alleged that Kumar had sold fake stamp papers worth Rs 10 lakh between 2014 and 2017 at Dharamkot subdivision in Moga district.

Preliminary reports suggest that the counterfeit stamp papers were also sold in Moga, Ferozepur, Faridkot and nearby districts during the previous SAD-BJP government. To verify the same, probes will be conducted by the local police.



Students of Baba Farid College block the Bathinda-Muktsar road on Tuesday. PHOTO: PAWAN SHARMA

Bathinda college students hold protest, seek fee waiver

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, AUGUST 18

Triggered by the inconclusive talks with the management of Baba Farid Group of Institutes, students today blocked the Muktsar-Bathinda road outside the main gate of Baba Farid College.

Some members of the Naujawani Bharat Sabha and the Punjab Student Union said the management of college did not agree to charge the tuition fee only. They said their protest would continue till their

demands were not met with.

Rajinder Singh Dhanoa, deputy director, academics, said: "Talks were held today with the students in the presence of naib tehsildar. We submitted him the guidelines of the university, and he further told the students that there is no decision on fee waiver either from the state government or from the court."

He said: "We told the students that any of them who is from a poor background, and if his or her family income has been affected due to the Covid-

19 pandemic, then he can submit an application to us, along with proof. We will waive some part of the fee. However, the students are adamant that fee should be waived for all students, and only tuition fee should be charged. Being an unaided college, we can't waive fee for all students."

Dhanoa said a court order restrained anyone to stage protest within 100 mt radius of the college, and the students were told about it during the meeting. Despite this, the protest was held.

the plant would not be allowed to shut down at any cost. However, the Finance Minister was now in a hurry to demolish the thermal plant and sell it out to land mafia, shelving the useful proposal to run the thermal plant on straw.

MLA Rupinder Kaur Ruby said the party was not opposed to industrial development in the state, but it was stoutly against the demolition of thermal plant. — TNS

Won't allow thermal plant demolition: AAP

BATHINDA, AUGUST 18

AAP MLAs Budhram, Prof Baljinder Kaur and Rupinder Kaur Ruby have accused Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal of misleading people over the Bathinda thermal plant land, which is dedicated to Guru Nanak Dev.

In a joint statement, the AAP MLAs informed that Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal had promised before the 2017 elections that

the plant would not be allowed to shut down at any cost. However, the Finance Minister was now in a hurry to demolish the thermal plant and sell it out to land mafia, shelving the useful proposal to run the thermal plant on straw.

MLA Rupinder Kaur Ruby said the party was not opposed to industrial development in the state, but it was stoutly against the demolition of thermal plant. — TNS

Non-teaching staff taking classes, allege varsity profs

Faculty member files writ petition in High Court

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHORT OF STAFF

We have to run the departments and there is shortage of teachers. So, we don't mind the workload being distributed. Faculty head

cal employees."

Through the writ petition, she has demanded that the university should not be permitted to violate the UGC regulations, 2010, by allowing ineligible persons to perform the duties of teaching staff."

Indira Bali, Head, Department of Dance, said she was not in a position to comment on the matter as it was sub-judge.

Meanwhile, officials of other departments alleged that they were facing a similar situation. Another associate professor said: "A one-year PG diploma course with 50 students is being run by one of the departments with the help of non-teaching officials in evening hours. The department does not have teachers."

Simmi, an Associate Professor at the Department of Dance, in her writ petition, stated that her classes of PG Diploma in folk dances of Punjab were handed over to two technical assistants, who are ineligible for the work, without informing her. This had been done to make

her ineligible for promotion as a professor, she claimed. The case, filed against university Vice-Chancellor, Dean (Academics), head of the Department of Dance and two technical assistants of the department, was taken for hearing on July 27. Its next hearing is scheduled for September 16.

Simmi said: "The exam papers of the subjects that I teach were also given to the non-teaching technicians

and they were not given to the eligible persons. This is a violation of the rules."

He is survived by his wife, mother and three daughters. The youngest daughter is just 13 days old.

Investigating officer SI Puran Singh said the reason behind Dilbagh's death would be clear after autopsy, though the family members claimed that he had consumed liquor yesterday.

As many as 11 persons from Pandori Golan village had lost their lives after consuming spurious liquor in the recent tragedy. The police had also nabbed four persons of a family for their alleged involvement in bootlegging here. — OC

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (J&K) Office of the Secretary Panchayat Maidanpora B (Block Wavoor)

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Punjab should honour SC verdict on SYL, says Khattar

Says construction of canal, availability of water not related

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 18

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday strongly advocated that the Supreme Court verdict on the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal should be implemented and that construction of the canal should be completed soon. He made these comments during a meeting with his Punjab counterpart Capt Amarinder Singh and Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

On the Punjab's claim about the less availability of water, Khattar said the construction of the SYL canal and the water availability were unconnected. "Water shall be allocated on the pro-rata basis depending on the availability of water as provided in the 1981 agreement. In fact, in its judgment of January 15, 2002, the Supreme Court had clearly mentioned that the decision of the apex court is to complete the construction of the



Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar and Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in Delhi on Tuesday.

canal," Khattar said.

He also argued there was clear evidence that surplus, unchannelised waters of the Ravi, Sutlej and Beas rivers had been flowing to Pakistan for the past 10 years, resulting in a waste of the national resource. "The Central Water Commission (CWC) has quantified this flow from the Ravi at 0.58 MAF (million acre feet), advocating the construction of a second Ravi-Beas link at Dharamkot. Surplus water can be harnessed for starved

areas of south Haryana and for recharge groundwater."

Khattar further said Haryana was open to dialogue on the matter, but with a clear condition that the construction of the SYL canal must be completed as per the SC verdict. Not doing so, he said, would be a gross injustice to the people of water-deprived areas of Haryana.

Union Jal Shakti Minister Shekhawat said infrastructure and carrier capacity in the shape of the SYL canal

had to be created to harness allocated share of Haryana as per the availability of water and harness water flowing to Pakistan, especially during the monsoon. On the demand for the Yamuna waters made by the Punjab CM, Shekhawat said that matter was not relevant, as an agreement on the sharing of Yamuna waters had already been finalised in the 1994 agreement signed among Haryana, Himachal, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi. —TNS

Selja: CM must strongly advocate state's rights

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 18

Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee president Kumari Selja has expressed hope that Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar would strongly advocate the state's rights when it comes to getting its share of riverwaters.

"The SYL canal case has been pending in the Supreme Court for years. According to the SC order, the Chief Ministers of both states have to sit down and resolve the matter. The Congress expect from the Chief Ministers to find a solution that will benefit both states," Selja said.

"Punjab should consider Haryana as its younger brother and share its riverwaters.

The Congress hopes that long wait of Haryana will soon end." —Kumari Selja, HPCC CHIEF

7 die of virus

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 18

Seven Covid deaths were reported today. An employee in the CM Office and six employees at police headquarters in Panchkula were among 896 fresh cases, highest ever in 24 hours. —TNS

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Faridabad	11,236	155
Gurugram	10,472	130
Sonepat	3,532	40
Ambala	2,703	22
Rewari	2,640	14
Panipat	2,305	34
Rohtak	2,244	26
Karnal	1,737	18
Hisar	1,369	11
Palwal	1,316	10
Panchkula	1,267	8
Mahendragarh	1,216	1
Kurukshetra	1,011	17
Jhajjar	1,011	14
Bhiwani	967	8
Sirsia	787	8
Yamunanagar	742	14
Nuh	644	13
Fatehabad	564	4
Kaithal	531	3
Jind	393	6
Charkhi Dadri	249	1
Total	48,936	557



Two shot in Panipat

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANIPAT, AUGUST 18

Two youths were shot dead at Bandh village of the Israna area in the district on Monday night. Three others escaped from the spot after villagers opened fire.

The youths reportedly went to the village to threaten Dharampal, a dhaba owner, and members of his family after the registration of a criminal case against them.

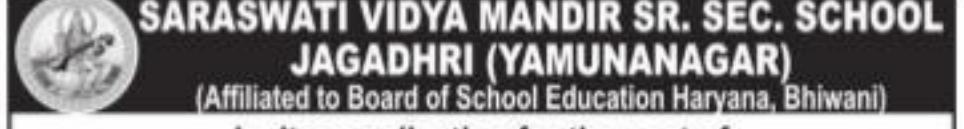
Dharmpal runs a dhaba near Kohand village of Gharaunda in Karnal. He had lodged a complaint of armed

loot of Rs 60,000 and two gold chains on August 14.

The Gharaunda police had registered a case against Satish of Israna village, Vikas of Bandh village and their accomplices.

Vikas and four others went to Dharmpal's house on Monday night and allegedly opened fire. Residents gathered on the spot and opened fire.

Two youths were killed on the spot while Vikas and two of his accomplices fled. The deceased were identified as Satish and Manish of Israna village.



(Affiliated to Board of School Education Haryana, Bhiwani)

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Candidate will submit resume having latest passport size photograph along with a handwritten page on his social activities / achievements during studies and teaching within 15 days of this advertisement to The Manager, Saraswati Vidya Mandir Sr. Sec. School, Near Buria Chowk, Jagadhri-135603. District Yamuna Nagar (Haryana)

Email - svm19103@gmail.com, Phone 01732-297242

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HOSHIARPUR-146105 Ph: 01884-245236, 246235

Website: sggscm.org

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Dr. Jaspal Singh
S. Surinder Singh, Bhulewal Rathan
Principal
President

DAKSHIN HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM E-auction Notice

E-auction of scrap/unserviceable material lying in various Stores/TRWs under DHBNV is scheduled for 27.08.2020 through M/s MSTC Ltd. New Delhi. For detailed information, all prospective bidders/buyers may please refer the websites i.e. www.mstcecommerce.com and www.dhbnv.org.in

Sd/- Controller of Stores,
DHBNV, Hisar.

BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES SADIQ ROAD, FARIDKOT (PUNJAB) - 151203 SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited by Baba Farid University of Health Sciences on behalf of Dept. of Medical Education & Research, Govt. of Punjab for Supply and installation of Real Time PCR machines (nine units) for COVID-19 testing labs (COVID-LAB) at various Institutes/ places situated in Punjab upto 26.08.2020. Other terms & conditions can be downloaded from http://eproc.punjab.gov.in. The tenders will be accepted in e-tender mode only. Bidder can also download tender notification and document from university website:- www.bfuhs.ac.in

REGISTRAR

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Subject: Tender No. OP2/17/2020-21 -Appointment of Consultant as Project Development and Management Agency (PDMA) for Smart Grid Project for whole city Chandigarh.

The subject cited tender due to be opened on dated i.e. 18.08.2020 at 16.00 Hrs. is hereby extended up to 19.08.2020 at 14.00 Hrs. for uploading and opening date i.e. 19.08.2020 at 16.00 Hrs. due to some administrative reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Electricity (OP) Division No. 2,
Chandigarh, U.T.

MAHARSHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY, ROHTAK

(A State University established under Haryana Act No. XXV of 1975)
'A' Grade University Accredited by NAAC

NOTICE OF SHIFTING OF STUDYING IN ITS COLLEGE BHIWANI

(Advt. PR No. 5 of 2020)

The Vice-Chancellor had constituted a committee for shifting of students of ITS College Bhiwani (in response of DGHE letter no. 18/24-2019 CII (3) dated 24.12.2019) to S.J.K. College Kalanaur and Pt. N.R.S. Govt. College Rohtak. A list of students who have been shifted to these said colleges is available on University website i.e. www.mdu.ac.in in news/update section & also available in ITS College Bhiwani.

All these students of ITS College Bhiwani are requested to take admission in newly allotted colleges in 3rd & 5th semester respectively from this session i.e. 2020-21 before the last date of admissions.

REGISTRAR

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online bids on item rates basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Fatehpur on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Jal Shakti Vibhag through e-tendering process:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time	Cost of form (in Rs.)
1	Imp. and ext. of various LWSS in Fatehpur area in Tehsil Fatehpur (C/o LWSS Brdarwala Kothi & Pipli Pura) :- Construction of N-2, N-3 & N-4 construction of boundary wall around the pump houses; construction of coll. Tank 70 KI capacity with 1 mtr. staging height at N-28, 3 main storage tank 150 KI capacity with 15 mtr. staging height at N-4, main storage tank 115 KI capacity with 15 mtr. staging height at N-5, Sector storage tank 75 KI capacity with 5 mtr. staging height at N-6).	83,60,567/-	1,16,110/-	Six Months	800/-
2	Improvement and extension of various LWSS in Fatehpur area in Tehsil Fatehpur (C/o LWSS Guber, Moukhari, Hosanwara & Kothi Kothi at Tehsil) (HP Phase-I) (G.H. Supply & Execution of Submersible/Centrifugal Pumping machinery with its allied accessories; Laying, Jointing, Testing of rising main 100 mm dia & 80 mm dia GI pipe (Medium Class)).	34,02,730/-	58,550/-	Months	400/-

Last date of filing/uploading the tender through e-tendering is 22.08.2020 up to 11.00 a.m. The tender forms and other detailed terms and conditions can be obtained from the website www.hipiph.org

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Fatehpur,
District Kangra, HP - 176053.

"Him Suchna Avam Jan Sampark"

DPR/HP/2301

INDIAN RAILWAYS DIESEL LOCO MODERNISATION WORKS PATTIALA - 147003 Tel.: 2396000, 2396001, Fax No. 91-0175-2306413

Notice inviting Electronic Tenders

On behalf of President of India Principal Chief Materials Manager/DMW/Pattiala invites tenders in electronic form for following items:

e-Tender Notice No. 12 ET/2020-21

SN Tender No. Description Qty. Tender closing date

1 20207752 Set of Pipe Saddle 35 Sets 07.09.2020

2 01201874 Body Shell Assembly Complete 68 Sets 02.09.2020

3 02204285A Tracting Engine and Electrics for DETC 90 sets 08.09.2020

Tender closing Time 15:00 Hrs.

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

Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. 09 ET/2020-21

1) Tender No.2209161 has been cancelled.

2) Tender No.2209418 has been cancelled.

3

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Facebook faces heat

Social media platforms cannot escape scrutiny

FACEBOOK has had its fair share of critics who have repeatedly called out the social network for failing to adequately police hateful and misleading content. The global giant has come under intense scrutiny in India after a *Wall Street Journal* report indicated that it had gone easy on hate speech by a BJP lawmaker to protect the company's business prospects in its biggest market. Facebook has over 340 million users and its WhatsApp chat service has 400 million users in India. If that is not foothold enough, in April, Facebook announced it was investing \$5.7 billion in Reliance Jio. The insinuation of a 'broader pattern of favouritism' towards the BJP has been denied by Facebook, but it has plenty to explain than a casual acknowledgment that 'while we know there is more to do, we're making progress on enforcement'.

The Opposition's demand for an investigation into Facebook's conduct in India is only going to get shriller, notwithstanding the BJP vociferously taking on the Congress over charges of spreading fake news and influencing the electorate. The Parliamentary Committee on Information Technology may be split over summoning Facebook executives to explain the alleged bias towards the ruling party, but the issue does require fact-checking and transparency. A free run is against national interest and democratic values.

The issue of biased content moderation applies to all social media platforms, not just Facebook. The impact of hateful, inciteful, inaccurate content flowing without check has been devastating in India. As Facebook finds itself embroiled in the political discourse, be it in India or the US where the upcoming presidential election is set to test the efficacy of its self-regulation, the message for amending processes cannot be clearer. For a hugely successful company, profit cannot be the sole driving force. Striving towards being more responsible is a mark of character. That, in the long run, is priceless.

Life has to go on

SC order on JEE, NEET welcome, but safeguards needed

INa decision that will bring relief to students, the Supreme Court has dismissed a plea to postpone the JEE (Main) and NEET-Undergraduate examinations in September due to Covid-19. In its order, the apex court said that the 'career of students can't be put under jeopardy for long.' The ruling paves the way for conducting these examinations which were originally to be held in April and May. Ironically, the plea for rescheduling the exams was moved by a group of students from different states. Along with other sectors, education has been among the most affected by the pandemic. College and university examinations had to be put on hold and the CBSE was unable to complete its annual board exams, delaying the results and disrupting the academic calendar. There have been protests over the payment of fees and many institutes found it difficult to retain staff as the lockdown affected their viability.

Schools and colleges prepared to meet the new eventuality by switching to online teaching — engineering and management institutes being no exception — to prevent a total learning gap. But the limits of it were pointed out by the Bench that asked why the case should be taken up at a time when pleas were being made to resume physical hearings in the top court: 'You are demanding opening of physical courts, but you want exams to be postponed. Why can't exams be held with precautions?' US President Donald Trump had earlier told the American universities that if the online method of teaching persisted, foreign students would be asked to go home. The UGC has also told the Supreme Court that it is the sole authority when it comes to conducting examinations, for it confers the degrees on students and that the states have no authority in the matter.

With the new education policy proposing a merger of the UGC, AICTE and the NAAC into a single body for higher education, campuses could well see some changes in the days ahead. But six months into the pandemic, efforts to restore normalcy will be welcome, albeit with safety measures in place.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1920

The Question of Feasibility.

THE one question which Mr. Gandhi ought to have specially dealt with, but which, as far as we have been able to see, he did not deal with is the question of the feasibility of the movement. He takes the three crucial instances of the boycott of Councils, the boycott of courts by lawyers, and the boycott of Government schools and colleges by the parents of boys, and in each case tries to show that it is a duty, and that it would, if successful, mean a very great deal. But is there any chance of any of the three being resorted to on a large scale? As regards the boycott of Councils, it is a matter of common knowledge that in most provinces not a single would-be candidate has so far withdrawn his candidature, and it is perfectly obvious that unless we select a small and limited number of constituencies, specially intelligent, specially public spirited and specially patriotic, there is not the ghost of a chance of even a partial boycott of the Councils. As regards lawyers, Mr. Gandhi must know as well as we do, because persons who hold him in the highest respect and reverence have plainly told him, that the thing cannot be even an appreciable success. As regards schools, the position is even worse, because while in the other two cases we have to deal with thousands, here we have to deal with millions. One remark made by Mr. Gandhi in this connection is particularly interesting. "We must be specially unfit for non-co-operation", he says, "if we are so helpless as to be unable to manage our own education in total independence of the Government". Here at last is a decisive test which we would gladly accept. Let Mr. Gandhi address himself to this one aspect of the question, instead of taking up several aspects at the same time.

UAE has a change of heart

As it softens towards Israel, Arabs have no alternative but to accept the inevitable



VIVEK KATJU

EX-SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

THE UAE-Israel deal, brokered by the US, is historic. It will make the UAE the third Arab country to establish full diplomatic ties with Israel. The first was Egypt in 1979, followed by Jordan in 1994.

As I read about this development, four memories were revived: an autumn day in Cairo in 1977, the visit of the then External Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Abu Dhabi in 1979, seeing Yasser Arafat speak at a gathering that same summer in the same city, and the visit of IK Gujral to Abu Dhabi in 1997.

Six years after its ignominious defeat by Israel in 1967, Egypt had recovered some pride through the Yom Kippur war of 1973 but little else. Its economy was in a shambles and there was no prospect that the Soviet Union connection would enable it to recover either lands lost or improve economic conditions. At that stage, Egypt decided to open up with the US.

In 1977, Jimmy Carter became the US President with the ambition to be the peace-maker between Israel and the Arabs. Egypt was central to this process. The US undertook a quiet diplomatic effort to mediate between Israel and Egypt. On the surface, Egypt continued its usual propaganda against Israel; that it was a Western outpost which would be extinguished as the Crusades had been. That was the sentiment of the Arab street.

In this background, Sadat declared in November 1977 that he was willing to go to the end of the world to spare injury or death to even one Egyptian. 'I am even willing to go to the Knesset and discuss



HISTORIC: The US has brokered the deal between the UAE and Israel.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed has decided to put it out in the open that Israel is not a threat. Some more Sunni Arab states may go that way.

with them.' The first reaction in the Cairo diplomatic corps was to dismiss this as just rhetorical flourish but a senior Egyptian political figure told the Indian ambassador, in confidence, not to dismiss it. Soon enough, it became clear that Sadat was serious and a visit was in the works. He was condemned by some in Egypt and in the Arab world as a traitor to the Palestinian cause. But ten days later, he was in Jerusalem addressing the Knesset.

The visit paved the way for the 1979 Israel-Egypt Camp David Accords. Two years earlier, when the Janata government took office, there was speculation if India would soften towards Israel because of the Jan Sangh's positive approach towards it. Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan also made a secret visit to India and met PM Morarji Desai. Despite all this, the Janata government continued with India's traditional support for the Palestinians and maintained strong links with Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO). In some years, two prominent Muslim states also—Turkey and Iran—

recognised Israel. Thus, below the surface of Arab and Muslim hostility, there was a complex web of ties between Israel and the Islamic world. The non-aligned countries, including India, stood in solidarity with the Arabs on the Palestinian issue and were disappointed with Egypt, which under Nasser was one of its leading founder-members. In 1979, Iran overthrew the Shah and turned its back on Israel.

It was in these circumstances that Vajpayee visited Abu Dhabi in 1979. Two years earlier, when the Janata government took office, there was speculation if India would soften towards Israel because of the Jan Sangh's positive approach towards it. Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan also made a secret visit to India and met PM Morarji Desai. Despite all this, the Janata government continued with India's traditional support for the Palestinians and maintained strong links with Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO). In some years, two prominent Muslim states also—Turkey and Iran—

Since Israel's establishment, some prominent Arab countries had maintained clandestine relations with it. These included Jordan and Morocco. In some years, two prominent Muslim states also—Turkey and Iran—

clear; both privately and publicly, in Abu Dhabi. Indeed, he accused Israel of expansionism.

With Khomeini's 1979 Islamic revolution, Iran began to spout venom against the US and Israel. Alarmed, the Gulf Arab states sharpened their anti-Israeli rhetoric and increased their support for the PLO. Arafat kept touring Arab countries to remind them of their obligations and he came to Abu Dhabi, too. Dressed characteristically with the chequered kaffiyeh as his headgear, and a holstered pistol around his waist, he spoke of the need for Arab solidarity to drive Israel into the sea. I saw him at such a meeting and he was a striking figure.

The anxieties of the Gulf states, including the UAE, with revolutionary Iran increased through the 1980s that witnessed the eight-year Iraq-Iran war. They increased further in the 1990s, and this became evident when Gujral met his UAE counterpart during a visit to Abu Dhabi in 1997. He arrived there from Tehran, where he had met the Iranian leadership. I was part of his delegation. As the talks were concluding, the UAE minister asked to meet him alone. Gujral looked troubled when he came out of the meeting. He revealed to some of his delegation members that the UAE minister had warned him against Iran. He had gone to the extent of saying that his country could imagine itself being in the same trenches with Israel against Iran!

Clearly, by that time for the UAE, despite the lip service being paid to the Palestinian cause, the principal enemy had become Iran. Israel was not a threat to it in any case. Twenty-three years later in a transformed world, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed decided that it was time to put it out in the open, and with that, it is likely that some more Sunni Arab states will go that way.

Israeli patience backed by its power is prevailing, and the Arabs have no alternative but to accept the inevitable. The Palestinians will continue to suffer and a low-level conflict will continue as the wheels of history turn.

Time when all was eco-friendly

RAJIV SHARMA

WHILE travelling by train, we used to carry drinking water in a *surahi* before our maternal uncle gifted us an insulated flask that could maintain the temperature of freshwater for two-three hours. Bottled water was not in vogue in those days. Soft drinks were available for the few who could afford them, but those too came in reusable glass bottles. Hawkers used to serve *chana-puri* in paper plates and *dona* (bowl made from leaves). Thermocol and plastic glasses were yet to invade the tracks of the Railways. Tea vendors used to run alongside the moving train to retrieve empty glasses and hand over the balance to passengers.

My mother would often send me to a *halwai* to fetch curd in a bowl or a *gadhwari*. We also had a *dolu* to bring milk from the nearby dairy, whose owner milked his cows in front of customers. So much so, carrying empty glass bottles to the family doctor for a refill of cough syrup was a fairly common practice.

Now, when I see dairy products and edible items in plastic pouches, I shudder to think about the adverse effects of the toxic compounds. We used to carry a cloth bag to buy vegetables and groceries, unlike today when polythene rules the roost. Even farmers have started bringing their produce to the markets, suffocated in big plastic bags, instead of jute bags that helped fruits and vegeta-

bles breathe and stay fresh.

Refrigerators were available, but only a few could afford them. People mainly relied on natural ways to prevent cooked food and raw vegetables from turning sour and stale. *Doli* or *jaali* (a wooden cupboard with wire mesh) enhanced the shelf life of home-cooked food.

There was a *chikoo* (a basket made from bamboo reed) hanging in the verandah to enhance the shelf life of onion, garlic and potatoes. We had a *bhadoli* made of straw mixed with clay to prevent milk from turning sour. My grandma lit it up with cow dung cakes early in the morning, and the milk kept in an earthen vessel simmered over mild heat all through the day. By evening, the colour of the

milk turned golden yellow. Tea prepared with the milk had a distinct creamy taste, unlike today when it is hard to find pure milk.

Come to think of it, from the most eco-friendly society, slowly and steadily, we have slipped into the league of most polluted countries. Cycles have been replaced by bikes and cars, *thaila* has made way for the non-biodegradable polythene, organic manure has been replaced by toxic fertilisers and pesticides.

We are ourselves responsible for the situation we are in, and the onus of getting out of the black hole also lies on us. Mehmet Murat, a Turkish writer, has rightly said: 'There is only one way to keep ourselves alive and that is to keep the earth alive!'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No let-up in crime

The rape of a 17-year-old girl in Gorakhpur and a six-year-old girl in Hapur, the Sudiksha death case, and the murders of Sanjeet Yadav and journalist Vikram Joshi are only some cases that have come to the limelight. It speaks volumes about our law and order system that is like a sewerage system choked by criminals. The BJP and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath claimed that his government works on zero-tolerance policy against crime and criminals. In reality, the outcome is zero. Instead of focusing on compensation and suspension, our system needs to be more alert and active.

GAURAV KUMAR, BY MAIL

Exemplary punishment

Refer to the editorial 'Brutal rapes rattle UP' (Aug 18); the heinous crime of rape has been increasing in India, and especially in states with low literacy rate. The low conviction rate and harassment of victims at all levels of justice has worsened matters. The involvement of politicians and their near and dear ones has compounded the situation. Society has failed to bring up boys with ethical and moral values. Rapes will continue until instant and exemplary punishment is given to the criminals.

WGD JRASBIR S MINHAS (RETD), MOHALI

Rising rape cases

Refer to the rape cases in Uttar Pradesh last weekend; such cases are increasing day by day whereas the conviction rate is decreasing. Why? The Yogi Adityanath government came to power on the promise that it will end the jungle raj in the state. But the facts and results are before us. Criminals are not getting punishment, and hence, there is no fear of law. Implementation of anti-rape laws is vital.

GARIMA, PANCHKUL

Master of the game

Refer to the editorial 'Dhoni calls it a day' (Aug 18); Dhoni's adieu to international cricketing arena is the end of yet another golden chapter. No other cricketer can boast of world-class wins in both the shorter and longer version of the game in such a short span of time. As captain, three ICC titles and many more triumphs added to the aura of invincibility around him. It was his remarkable ability to turn things around that stole the hearts of fans. Even his risks looked like planned strategies and altered the course of the game, leading to surprise victories. His phenomenal rise from a ticket collector to the pinnacle of glory can be attributed to his exemplary hard work and extraordinary resilience. His uncanny knack in making improbable tar-

gets look achievable, match-turning ability and cool-mindedness in tense situations will continue to inspire youngsters.

VIJAY SINGH ADHIKARI, NAINITAL

Led from front

Dhoni has said goodbye to all official formats of international cricket at the right time. Leading from the front, he has shown the way to remain cool in tense situations and win the game. He is getting respect from all quarters. Though we will miss Dhoni in ICC cricket tournaments, we will look forward to his 'helicopter shot' in the IPL.

DIVENDER GUPTA, SOLAN

Not immune to criticism

Apropos of the editorial 'Contempt of court' (Aug 17), no doubt the majesty of the law has to be maintained and the judicial system must have an aura of sanctity around it. Therefore, any act to scandalise it, should entail the exercise of power of contempt by the court. But the aspect of the jurisdiction that stifles constructive criticism requires correction. As Churchill observed, 'Criticism may not be agreeable but it is necessary. It fulfils the same function as pain in the human body. It calls attention to an unhealthy state of things.' Criminal contempt of

court has, for long, invited varied views and debates. In the landmark case of S Mulgaokar, Justice VR Krishna Iyer laid down certain guidelines to courts in the exercise of contempt jurisdiction. The public interest in curbing cases of corruption, nepotism and questioned integrity etc, would outweigh the desirability that judicial acts or judges manning the system of administration of justice are immune from criticism.

PIYUSH KANT JAIN, BY MAIL

Gandhian secularism

Refer to 'Reimagining secularism' (*Nous Indica*, Aug 15); Gandhi triggered a mass campaign of non-compliance against the British to alter the political climate. Gandhian secularism struck a decisive blow to British imperialism that thrived on dividing Indians on religious and communal lines, and ultimately led to our Independence. We are a multicultural population with regional, religious and economic differences. At a time when Gandhi's legacy is becoming apparent in civil society and politicians across the spectrum fight to be its guardians, it is unfortunate to frequently violate society's widely held values for narrow political interests.

DS KANG, HOSHIARPUR

Letters to the Editor, typed in double space, should not exceed the 200-word limit. These should be cogently written and can be sent by e-mail to: Letters@tribunemail.com

The new normal in defence management



AMIT COWSHISH

EX-FINANCIAL ADVISER,
ACQUISITION, MoD

RAHUL BEDI

SENIOR
JOURNALIST

LIKE in social, economic, diplomatic and political fields, a 'new normal' has emerged in India's complex arena of defence management, materiel acquisitions and military capability building.

In the absence of a dedicated national security policy and organisational structure for composite defence planning, the realisation that the imminent launch of complex procurement procedures is unlikely to reduce delays in procurement, and above all, imperviousness to the ever-growing paucity of funds, this 'new normal' is rife with nebulous and regurgitated pronouncements.

This inexorable development makes it all the more calamitous following the enduring military challenge to India posed by China in eastern Ladakh, along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Decades of a disjointed and disorderly approach to long-term defence planning, in turn, have rendered India incapable of adequately deterring, leave alone thwarting, this looming threat.

But the proliferating financial resource crunch is without doubt, the gravest obstacle responsible for shaping this new normal. Ironically, it is also one that few in the military, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) or in the wider security establishment, either acknowledge or discuss or, in

many instances, both.

Consequently, many blinkered former officials, soldiers and political leaders wax lyrical on television about the hugely expensive materiel procurements and grandiose defence programmes, assuming irrationally that funds for these will somehow magically materialise when required. Simply put, they will not.

Innumerable seminars earlier, webinars presently, and ongoing discussions among the defence strategists rarely ever debate specific measures on defining joint military capability, financing its development or most pertinently, from where the requisite funding is to be sourced.

Unfortunately, most such officials and managers fail to realise — or do, but refuse to concede they do — that money and financial resources remain finite entities, that need careful advance planning for gainful employment to secure the proverbial bang for the buck.

Financial profligacy over decades and concomitant disregard for fiscal realism have steadily burgeoned and are now proving incredibly expensive to keep abreast of the constantly shifting crossbars of the revolution in military affairs. Instead, this situation has spawned questionable military capability, largely in single-service silos, against an enemy like China that, over the decades has quietly pursued an integrated, comprehensive and top-down approach to achieve 'informationalised' warfare capability under hi-tech conditions.

And though panicky and expensive materiel imports to deal with the PLA invasion in Ladakh are being hastily cleared, these necessitate institutional endorsement as these procurements are being executed at



REALITY CHECK: Even before this devastating economic downturn, financial support for India's military was parlous.

The services are emerging as an 'integrated' instrument of political power projection with mounting disdain for an objective discourse on security matters. Even military insiders concede that this is anathema to professionalism, as is the ongoing frantic race among service personnel to seek financial parity and status equivalence with their civilian counterparts.

the cost of other, equally critical sectors like possibly health, education or infrastructure development. After all, it's no great secret that the national kitty's solvency is dire, as India faces its worst-ever economic meltdown due to the unrelenting coronavirus pandemic.

Even before this devastating economic downturn, financial support for India's military was parlous. In anticipation of the annual federal budget in February, all three services and the associated Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) had demanded Rs 4.09 trillion from the MoD for fiscal year 2020-21 as their revenue and capital expenditure for salaries and operating costs and to modernise.

They received Rs 3.05 trillion, or Rs 1.03 trillion less, up from just Rs 230 million a decade earlier. This mounting deficit, likely to get worse in the coming years, too is accountable for

moulding the 'new normal'. Alongside are unrealistic ambitions over the impending magnitude of India's defence market and its \$25 billion export potential by 2025 and routine assertions that additional funds will be made available, if required. Once again, no one knows from where this wellspring of money will materialise.

The other facet whittling the 'new normal' in military matters is the imminent Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)-2020 or DAP-2020, which in all its seven previous editions, since 2002 was known as the Defence Procurement Procedure or DPP.

The change in the nomenclature, it appears, is the MoD's panacea to successive problematic DPP versions which were dense, difficult to comprehend and their directions not easy to implement. The replacement over 700-page DAP, due for release around end-August, is even more convoluted

and one which an MoD official said was repetitive and confusing. Its numerous long passages, with many paragraphs running perplexingly into over 400 words or more, merely add to its overall opacity.

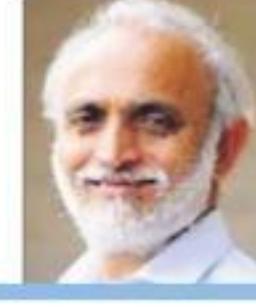
The MoD official likened this nomenclatural change from DPP to DAP to the renaming of controversial Hindi film *Padmavati* to *Padmavat* in 2018. Following threats of violence by a sanctimonious group of film buffs, who objected to romantic scenes between Deepika Padukone, who plays the role of Hindu *rani* Padmavati and Ranveer Singh, cast as Alaudin Khilji, the ruthless 14th century Delhi sultan, the producer shortened the original title to *Padmavat*. It worked and the film was released without event. The MoD, it seems is similarly influenced with regard to DAP-2020.

Meanwhile, in this new normal setting, the services are emerging as an 'integrated' instrument of political power projection with mounting disdain for an objective discourse on security matters. Even military insiders concede that this is anathema to professionalism, as is the ongoing frantic race among service personnel to seek financial parity and status equivalence with their civilian counterparts, further muddling wobbly civil-military relations.

If there is one thing that sums up the new normal, it is the lack of clarity about the direction in which the defence establishment is headed, unable to chart a palpably new course any time soon, caught as it is in a cleft stick of military imperatives and financial constraints.

To paraphrase the enigmatic Chinese philosopher and writer Lao Tzu: If we do not change direction (from the new normal), we will definitely end up where we are heading.

Entrepreneurs, investors must shed fear of failure



PARSA VENKATESHWAR RAO JR

SENIOR JOURNALIST

What we need is the 'big idea' breakthrough that will propel the economy. When Amazon, Google, Facebook and Twitter began, they were small ideas and no one could have predicted their phenomenal expansion.

But they were utterly unconventional. Investors in India should provide space for unconventional ventures and mark out risk funds. Even if one out of a thousand ideas succeeds, it would make the whole economy hum through its application.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi, in his address to the India-US Business Council's India Ideas Summit on July 22, said that during April-July 2020, foreign direct investment (FDI) was \$20 billion, which is quite impressive given that there has been a stalling of economic activity due to the Covid-19-induced nationwide lockdown and things have not come back to the pre-lockdown levels. Modi was making the point how India remains an attractive investment destination.

The political subplot of the economic argument is quite clear. The aim is to take advantage of the hostility of Western countries led by the United States towards China in the wake of Covid-19 which originated in China and the Chinese belligerence in the South China Sea.

The FDI inflows ever since Modi and the BJP came to power in 2014 have been good as well, growing from \$190 billion to \$284 billion between 2014 and 2019. Though the levels of FDI prove to be an image-booster for the country, it remains puzzling as to why these funds have not shown any remarkable effect on the growth story of the economy which has remained middling at around seven per cent growth rate during these years.

Economic experts are expectedly divided on the role of FDI as a growth driver. It is reckoned that FDI accounts for seven to eight per cent of investment and that it is not a major factor in driving growth. But it is recognised all round that FDI is neces-



CHASE BIG IDEA: Much can be done in agriculture, manufacturing and services sectors.

sary and that the higher the FDI, the better it is for the country.

The missing link seems to be domestic investment through savings. The savings and investment figures remain interesting. While the savings rate ranged between 31.6 per cent in 2014-15 and 30.1 per cent in 2017-18 (RBI Annual Report, 2019), the investment rate was around 30 per cent in this period. These might be good indicators in themselves, but they are not too reassuring if we remember that for a higher growth trajectory, the savings need to be around 40 per cent.

These challenges are not necessarily the failure of the Modi government of the last six years. These are inherent challenges of the economy. They were there before Modi's prime ministerial term and they will outlast his term as well. The Indian economy cannot be

improved by governmental initiatives and interventions alone. The people must do it themselves.

What makes things embarrassing for Modi and his cabinet colleagues is not the economic reality itself, but their attempts to paint it bright. The platitude about the Indian economy is that it has huge potential. And, its moderate growth rate is not commensurate with its growth potential. The government, private sector players and independent economic analysts must ask the hard question as to what is holding back the Indian economy. It is a fact that something is holding it back.

Part of the problem seems to lie in the fact that entrepreneurs in India are not imaginative and bold enough. They are not taking risks with big ideas. Many of them are looking for local issues and solutions. Most Indians

start-ups show promise on the local front — providing delivery systems more than anything else. The entrepreneurs are trying to identify the unmet demands of a community and trying to meet them halfway through.

Many venture capitalists and angel investors are backing these innovative responses. But none of them have the prospect of growing big, or even of creating a demand where it did not exist before. It might appear that the exception is the entertainment front. The truth is slightly different. Here too, they have only identified the existence of a demand and they are trying to meet that demand through the many Internet platforms. Internet users in India are mostly consumers of entertainment and services.

The government has been trying to boost economic activity through the creation of basic infrastructure like housing and roadways. But the government is not creating schools, hospitals, stadia and libraries, which it should.

The private sector should take up the challenge of taking the next step of boosting cultural activities in villages and towns by creating chains for performance of plays, musical concerts, art and book exhibitions, tapping local talent and showcasing talent discovered in different parts of the country.

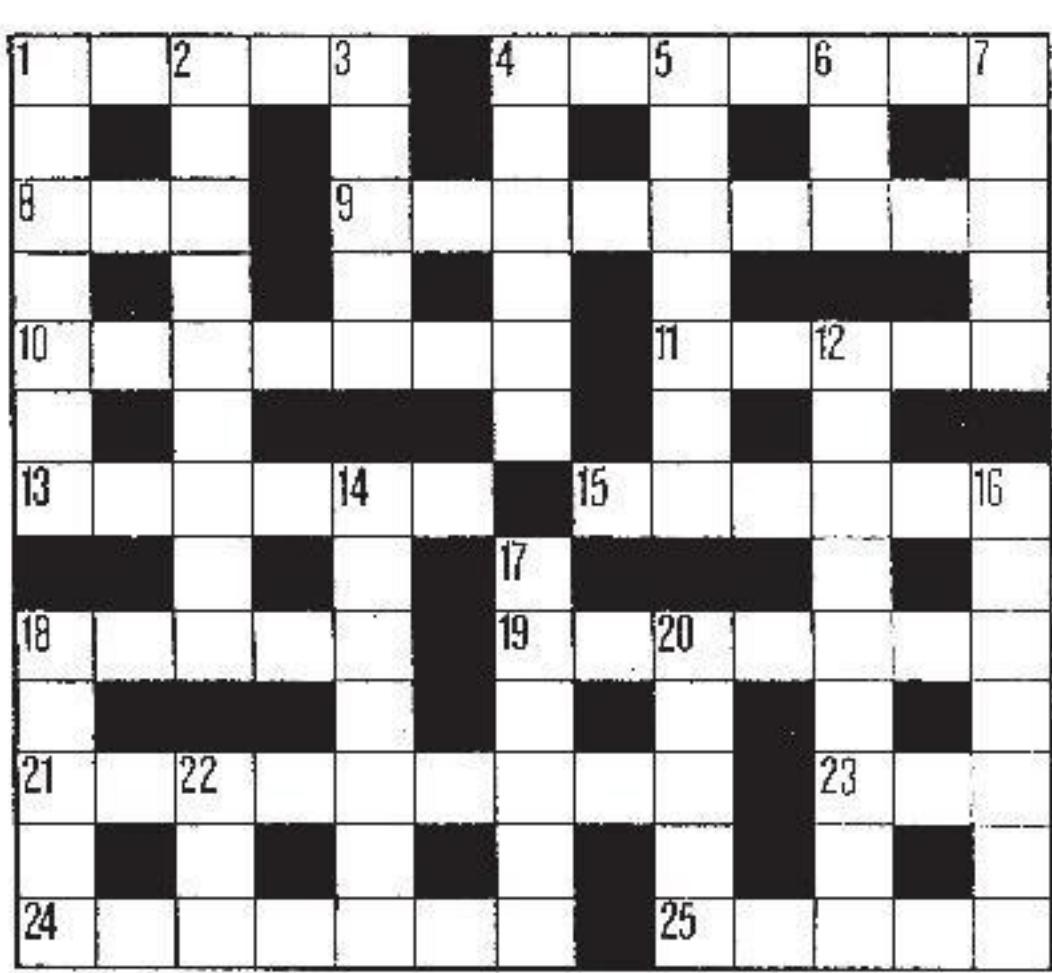
There is a whole culture industry — this word may be anathema to true culture lovers — which is waiting to be tapped. There is a need to create consumption patterns along with that of buying the latest mobile phones, cars, houses, household accessories.

These are important in themselves. But it is the next level of the consumption of culture that will expand minds, and open up avenues of activity for people across the country, and which will create a huge chain of entertainment and education that will enrich lives as well as create job opportunities, expand the mind as well as the scope of what constitutes economic activity.

What we need is the 'big idea' breakthrough that will propel the economy. When Amazon, Google, Facebook, Twitter began, they were small ideas and no one could have predicted their phenomenal expansion. But they were utterly unconventional. The investors in India should provide space for unconventional ventures and mark out risk funds. Even if one out of a thousand ideas succeeds, it would make the whole economy hum through its sheer application.

Both the entrepreneurs and investors in India must shed diffidence and step out to go the untrodden way. And both of them must give up the fear of failure. There would be many failures, but it will lead to a big success story or two. The government cannot do much to help in the matter because bureaucratic modules of innovative India are not exciting. The big break must come from individual imagination and the willingness of investors to support the unconventional venture. There is much that can be done in the traditional sectors of agriculture, manufacturing and services. But the real challenge lies in the undiscovered frontier.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Peccadillo, 8 Plaid, 9 Voucher, 10 Witness, 11 Dregs, 12 Recite, 14 Prison, 17 Occur, 19 Command, 21 Seaside, 22 Ruddy, 23 Fight shy.

Down: 2 Elastic, 3 Cadre, 4 Devise, 5 Launder, 6 Ochre, 7 Present-day, 8 Powerhouse, 13 Turning, 15 So-and-so, 16 Accent, 18 Chaff, 20 March.

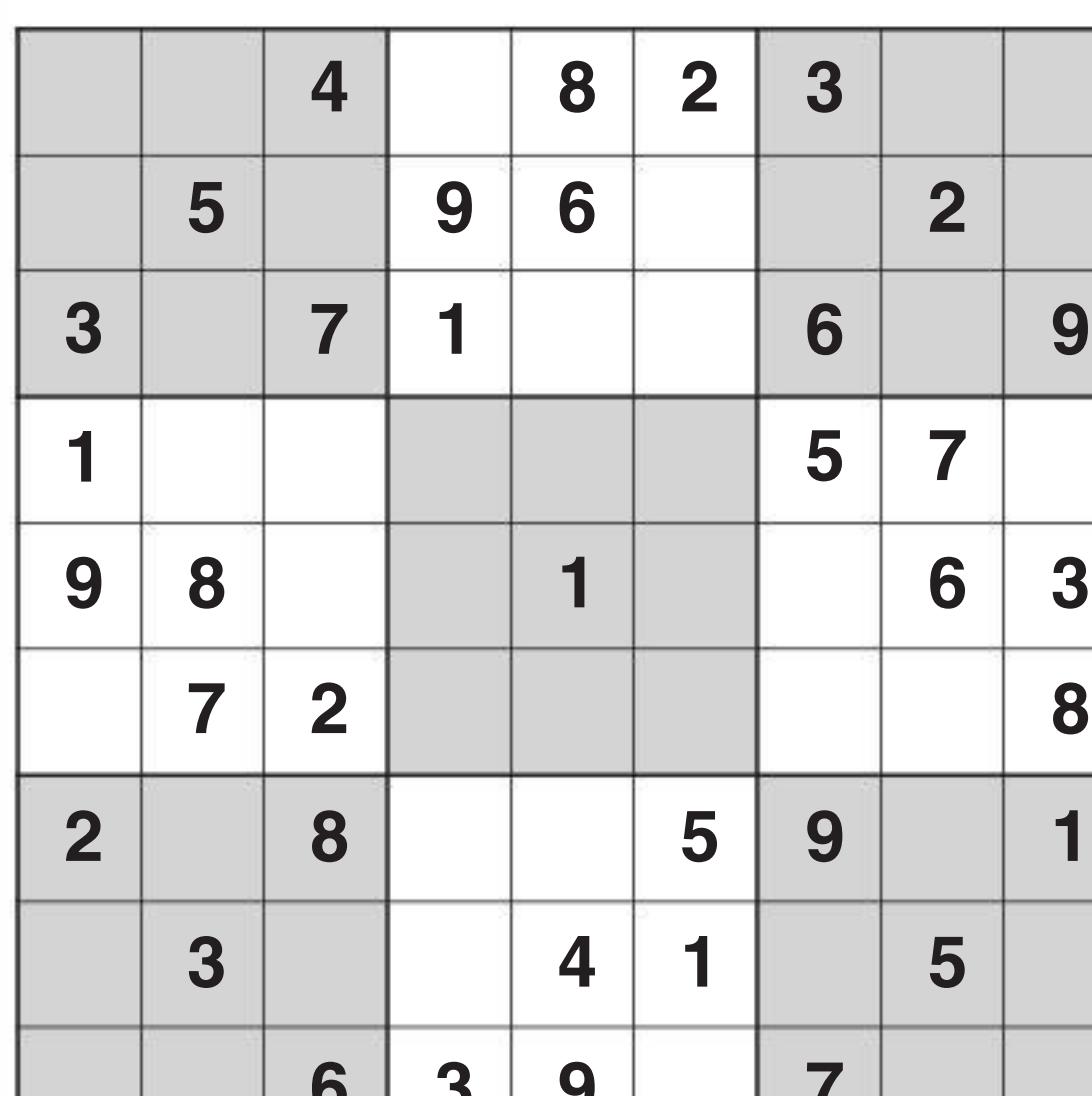
ACROSS

- 1 Long tedious task (5)
- 4 Prepare in advance (7)
- 8 Purpose (3)
- 9 To the extent that (7,2)
- 10 Provide capital for (7)
- 11 A hard dark wood (5)
- 13 Diminish (6)
- 15 Of a particular racial group (6)
- 18 A talent (5)
- 19 Violent alteration (7)
- 21 Embarrassed (3,2,4)
- 23 Overact (3)
- 24 Characteristic (7)
- 25 Slightly intoxicated (5)

DOWN

- 1 Exultantly pleased (7)
- 2 Southeast Asian country (9)
- 3 Condescend (5)
- 4 Encourage (6)
- 5 Consider (7)
- 6 Express publicly (3)
- 7 Smelling stale (5)
- 12 Possession (9)
- 14 Unpredictable (7)
- 16 Slander (7)
- 17 Sudden storm of wind (6)
- 18 Weak and dizzy (5)
- 20 Watchful (5)
- 22 Impudence (3)

SU DO KU



V. EASY

CALENDAR

AUGUST 19, 2020, WEDNESDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Shravan Shaka	28
■ Bhadrabuparivisht	4
■ Hijri	1441
■ Krishna Paksha Tithi 15, up to 8:12 am	
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 1, up to 5:20 am	
■ Parigha Yoga up to 9:15 pm	
■ Magha Nakshatra up to 2.07 am	
■ Moon in Leo sign	
■ Amavas	
■ Gandmool up to 2.07 am	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: WEDNESDAY 19:01 HRS
SUNRISE: THURSDAY 05:52 HRS

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	32	27
New Delhi	33	26
Amritsar	34	27
Bathinda	36	28
Jalandhar	33	27
Ludhiana	32	27
Bhiwani	36	28
Hisar	36	27
Sirsia	3	

HPU review plea accepted, exams on schedule

Next date for the postponed exam to be announced soon

BHANU P LOHUMI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, AUGUST 18

While the late-night decision of Himachal Pradesh University (HPU) to postpone the final semester undergraduate (UG) examinations slated for today caused inconvenience to students, who reached examination centres, the High Court accepted the review petition of the university paving the way for continuation of the examinations on schedule.

Consequently, all examinations will be held as per schedule from tomorrow (August 19) while the next

date for the postponed examination will be announced soon, said Vice-Chancellor of the HPU Prof Sikander Kumar.

The HPU had filed a review petition. After hearing both sides, the court dismissed the petition filed by Yaseen Mohd, contending therein that the Central Government had not allowed the opening of schools and colleges but the HPU had issued a schedule for the final examinations of UG classes and permitted the HPU to go ahead with the examinations.

The confusion was created

as Education Minister Govind Thakur emphatically said the examinations would continue but the government realised that it could amount to contempt of court and asked the university to file the review petition and postpone the examinations slated for today.

Uncertainty prevailed as the students were not aware that the examinations would be held. Frantic efforts were made to inform the students about postponement of the examinations. The colleges posted the decision on their Facebook page and college sites and used other means to

inform the students.

However, still a section of students reached the examination centres and faced inconvenience.

The Education Minister also said the review petition of the university against orders of August 14, asking the university "not to proceed with examination schedule", had been accepted by the high court and there is no stay from the apex court. As such the examinations would be conducted as scheduled from tomorrow and all precautions like social distancing, sanitization and wearing of masks would be taken.

IN THE DOCK FOR COMMUNICATION GAP

■ The HPU decided to postpone the exam to be held on Tuesday at 10 pm last night. The

laid-back approach of the university authorities as well as the government has not gone down well with the students and their wards who questioned the lack of coordination and demanded that accountability should be fixed and action be taken against person responsible for the communication gap.

■ The office-bearers of the HGCTA maintained that they had urged the university authorities to go ahead with exams after August 28 once there is clarity but their suggestion was not accepted.

■ However, the mystery why the HC order passed on August 14 was not conveyed to the HPU and the government immediately as it concerned the future of thousands of students and the government came to know about it on Monday morning when the examinations had already commenced is yet to be unearthed.



Monsoon session from September 7

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, AUGUST 18

Amidst persistent demands by the Opposition, the government has decided to hold a 10-day monsoon session of the Vidhan Sabha from September 7 to 18.

Governor Bandaru Dattatreya today notified the session. Speaker Vipin Parmar disclosed that there would be 10 sittings in all, while September 10 had been reserved as private member day.

The Opposition, led by CLP Mukesh Agnihotri, had been demanding the monsoon session, which is nor-

mally held in August. However due to the Covid pandemic, the session got delayed but now a relatively longer session will be held.

The session is likely to be a stormy affair with the Congress accusing the BJP government of failing to tackle the pandemic. "It is mandatory to convene the session and mandatory to hold a minimum of 35 sittings. We had made a request to convene the session," said Agnihotri.

He said issues like failure of the government in tackling the Covid outbreak and alleged corruption would be raised.

Pall of gloom in Renukaji village

SOLAN, AUGUST 18

Army jawan Prashant Thakur (24), a native of Thakur Gwana village in Renukaji in Sirmour district, was martyred in a terrorist attack in the Kreeri Baramulla area of Jammu and Kashmir last night. A pall of gloom descended on the village as soon as the news of Prashant's martyrdom was received.

Prashant had joined the Army in September 2014 at the age of 18 and was

Prashant Thakur (24), a native of Thakur Gwana village in Renukaji in Sirmour, was martyred in a terror attack in J&K

deployed with 29 RR. He is survived by his father Surjan Singh, mother Rekha and brother Vishal.

Sirmour Deputy Commissioner RK Pruthi said that as

per the information received from defence officials, the martyr's body was expected to reach his native village by tomorrow evening.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur expressed grief over the martyrdom of the 24-year-old jawan. He said that Prashant demonstrated unparalleled courage and devotion towards his duty. He was a true hero who left an exemplary legacy of valour and supreme sacrifice. — TNS

Medical officers, professors in BPL list

SUBHASH RAJTA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, AUGUST 18

The Food and Civil Supplies Department has found over 100 taxpayers having below poverty line (BPL) cards. According to sources, there are people like medical officers, assistant professors and lecturers availing of undue benefits, thus revealing rampant irregularities in the selection of

BLATANT VIOLATION OF RULES

- To apply for the inclusion of his/her name in the BPL category, an applicant has to give an affidavit that he/she doesn't pay income tax and his/her income from salary, pension, labour or business isn't more than ₹2,500 per month
- The applicant must not possess more than two hectares
- He/she should not have a pucca house or a four-wheeler

individuals for benefits under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Following the recent Cabinet decision to bar

taxpayers from availing of the benefits under the PDS, the department had sought a list of income tax payers and it was while

working to block these cards that it stumbled upon this information. This number could rise significantly, as only a portion of the exhaustive list has been checked so far.

Surprised by what it found, the department has written to the Department of Rural Development to check how so many ineligible people managed to get hold of BPL cards.

Interestingly, while applying for inclusion of the name in the BPL category, an applicant has to give an affidavit that he/she doesn't pay income tax and his/her income from salary, pension, labour or business isn't more than Rs 2,500 per month.

The other conditions are that the applicant must not possess land more than two hectares and should not have a pucca house or a four-wheeler.

13 police personnel in CM's security test +ve

Tribune Reporters

SHIMLA, AUGUST 18

After a minister and several BJP leaders testing positive, 13 police personnel deployed in Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur's security tested positive today.

All 13 are primary contacts of the two cops, also in the CM security, who had tested positive last week and were in institutional quarantine. The 13 policemen had been placed in institutional quarantine as a precautionary measure.

Health officials revealed that while three of them were symptomatic, other 10 had no symptoms. Their samples were taken and tested today. Till now, a total of 15 persons in the CM security have tested positive.

However, there is no fear of the CM, his personal staff or personal security officials having contracted the infection as all 13 were in the outer ring of the security. They had travelled from Kangra to Una as the CM was scheduled to travel to the district which later got cancelled.

Doon MLA catches virus

Paramjeet Singh, MLA Doon, tested positive in

tion at home.

Earlier Sukhram Chaudhary, Power Minister and Paonta Sahib MLA, Baldev Tomar, vice-chairman, HP Food and Civil Supplies Corporation, and Vijay Agnihotri, former MLA Nadaun, were among other BJP politicians to have tested positive.

61 cases in state

The state witnessed 61 cases today, taking the tally to 4,235, including 17 deaths.

The maximum 15 cases were reported in Shimla, including 13 police personnel deployed in the CM's security. With this, the total number of positive cases in Shimla district has risen to 248. Mandi reported 14 cases, while 11 cases each were detected in Una and Kullu, two each in Chamba and Hamirpur and one each in Solan and Sirmour.

I-Day parade instructor +ve

A sub-inspector who was the instructor of the Independence Day parade rehearsals, has tested positive for Covid. Kullu SP Gaurav Singh said the rehearsals were carried out by following all guidelines and adhering to social distancing norm.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Board/ Corp./ Auth.	Name of Work/Notice/Tender	Opening Date	Closing Date	Amount/EMD (Approx.) in Rupees	Website of the Board/ Corp./Auth.	Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email
1	UHBVN	Shifting of boundary wall at 33 KV S/Stn. Kachhwa (Karnal)	Closing 24.08.2020	6.49 Lacs	www.uhbvn.org.in	xenciviluhbvnpanchku@gmail.com	
2	UHBVN	Construction of 7 ft Height B/Wall in place of existing U-Fencing at 33KV S/Stn. Rohad	Closing 24.08.2020	12.75 lacs	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xenciviluhbvnrohak@gmail.com	
3	UHBVN	Renovation of visitor's room and laying of floor tiles in the drawing branch at OP Circle office UHBVN Panipat	Closing 25.08.2020	1.31 lacs	www.uhbvn.org.in	xenciviluhbvnrohak@gmail.com	
4	UHBVN	A/Mtc of NRB at 132KM S/Stn. HVPNL Gohana Road Panipat Occupied by OP S/Divn. Sanoli Road Panipat	Closing 25.08.2020	1.69 lacs	www.uhbvn.org.in	xenciviluhbvnrohak@gmail.com	
5	UHBVN	A/Mtc of NRB at 33KV S/Stn. Indira Colony Sonipat	Closing 25.08.2020	1.61 Lacs	www.uhbvn.org.in	xenciviluhbvnrohak@gmail.com	
6	UHBVN	A/Mtc of NRB at OP Divn. Samalkha (Panipat)	Closing 25.08.2020	1.30 Lacs	www.uhbvn.org.in	xenciviluhbvnrohak@gmail.com	
7	UHBVN	Dismantling of roof (Iron Sheets etc) and Laying of RCC Slab on the same Building in the Office of SDO OP City S/Divn. at Killa (Panipat).	Closing 24.08.2020	12.13 Lacs	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xenciviluhbvnrohak@gmail.com	
8	UHBVN	A/Mtc of NRB at 33KV S/Stn. Bhataon	Opening 25.08.2020	1.75 Lacs	www.uhbvn.org.in	xenciviluhbvnrohak@gmail.com	
9	HSAMB KAITHAL	Const. of By Pass From House of Sh. Jaipal Singh S/o Sh. Ranjeet Singh To Chhot Road in Vill. Diwal. (M.C. Kaithal) ID-9806 Hon'ble C.M. Announcement 24808 Dt. 13.02.2019 + 1 OTHER WORK	Closing 09.09.2020	85.03 lacs	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01746-222374 xenkaital.1.hsamb@gmail.com	
10	HSAMB FARIDABAD	Special repair of work plan 2020-21 Phase - I, Group-I Constituency - Pawa, Distt.-Palwal (Road ID H-733, 780, 759). + 6 OTHER WORKS	Closing 03.09.2020	9.27 Crore	http:// etenders.hry.nic.in	9971730975/ xenfaridabad.hsamb2019@gmail.com	
11	HSAMB FARIDABAD	Repair of defective works for laying storm water system (Sewerage system) in NGM/ NVM at Dabua Mandi, Faridabad.	Closing 24.08.2020	4.05 Lacs	http:// etenders.hry.nic.in	9971730975/ xenfaridabad.hsamb2019@gmail.com	
12	HSAMB ROHTAK	2 No. works i.e. Construction of village Nigana Phirni which connects the Four other villages namely Gudhan, Katersa, Sangahera & Pilana and Providing PIP Blocks on Katcha Portion in between Roads & Platforms in NGM/NVM at Kalanaur, District, Rohtak + 1 OTHER WORK	Closing 08.09.2020	As per approved DNIT	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01262-270274 xenroh.hsamb@gmail.com	
13	HSAMB SIRSA	Special repair of various link roads of Dabwali & Rania Constituency in Sirsa Division Group-1 (ID 2147, 4841, 5044, 2333) (Under Work Plan 2020-21) + 5 Other Works	17.08.2020 07.09.2020	8.47 Crore	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-240743 xenhansb.sirsia19@gmail.com	
14	Faridabad Smart City Limited	TRANSPLANTATION OF TREES IN THE ALIGNMENT OF ROADS PROJECTS OF FARIDABAD SMART CITY AREA UNDER SMART CITY MISSION (SCM)	14.08.2020 25.08.2020	44000	www.smartcityfaridabad.co.in or https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8510005801 faridabadsmartcitylimited@gmail.com	

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



GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Board/ Corp./ Auth.	Name of Work/Notice/Tender	Opening Date	Closing Date	Amount/EMD (Approx.) in Rupees	Website of the Board/ Corp./Auth.	Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email
1	Public Health Engg. Division, Fatehabad	Construction of Storm Water Disposal Works and Laying of 500 mm O/d HDPE Pipe Rising Main for Disposal of Storm Water from Chilly Nala at Ratia road Tehsil & District Fatehabad. "Providing, Laying, Cutting, Jointing, & Testing of 500/d HDPE P4 Rising Main from Proposed Storm Water Disposal to Rangoi Kharif Channel Near Ratia Road and all other works contingent thereto	18.08.2020 09.09.2020	708.37 Lacs	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	eefatehabad@phedharyana.gov.in (O) 01667-220224	
2	Public Health Engg. Division, Bhiwani	A/Mtc. Sewerage Scheme Bhiwani Town, "Operation and Maintenance of Super Suckers (Suction cum jetting Unit) and suction dump tanks (2 Nos.) etc. Bhiwani Town and all other works contingent thereto	17.08.2020 04.09.2020	13300	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering Division	
3	Public Health Engg. Division, Bhiwani	A/Mtc. Sewerage scheme Bhiw					

PRESS NOTE FOR TENDERING

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Shahpur invites following offline tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.)	Cost of tender form
1	A/R & M/O of LWSS-Daulatpur-Jalari in Tehsil and Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:- Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of Raw Water polder pump set).	438750/-	8775/- 250/-

Time Limit:- One Month

Last date of offline tenders 21.08.2020 up to 4.00 p.m. and tender opened on 22.08.2020 at 11.30 a.m.

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Shahpur.

DPR-HP-2285

Annexure-A**PRESS NOTICE FOR E-TENDERING**

The Executive Engineer JSV Division Thural Invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible Contractors for the following work(s) through e-tendering process:-

Work No. 1:- Har Ghar Nal for Providing LWSS to PC habitation Bhadgwar, Sihol, Bhawarna Khas, Arth Chanjehar under (JJM) in Tehsil Palampur, Distt. Kangra HP (SH:- L/J & Testing of GI pipe at village Bhadgwar from node 10-248, 248-276, 276-277, 277-278, 278-279, 279-280, 280-281, 281-282, 282-283, 283-284, 284-285, 285-286, 284-287, 283-288, 282-289, 279-290 & 276-291). Estimated Cost: Rs. 1257667/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 25153/- Time limits: 06 Months, Cost of tender form: Rs. 400/-.

Work No. 2:- Providing LWSS to GP Roura in Tehsil Palampur, Distt. Kangra HP under JJM (SH:- C/O of infiltration Gallery), Estimated Cost: Rs. 1047923/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 21000/- Time limits: 12 Months, Cost of tender form: Rs. 400/-.

1. Last date of filling/uploading the tender through e-tendering:- **26.08.2020 up to 5.00 P.M.** The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website. www.hphip.org.

Executive Engineer,
JSV Division,
Thural.

DPR/HP/2300

**NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE**

The Dy. Chief Engineer/C, Northern Railway, Ambala Cantt, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work :-

1. Name of works and location	Design, drawing and soil investigation of ROB in lieu of LC no. 90-A, 98-B, 106-C, 118-C, 122-C & 127-C on SRE-JMB section. ROB in lieu of LC no. 139 in Narwana yard and ROB at Bathinda.
2. Completion period of the works	04 (Four) Months
3. Approx. Cost of works	Rs. 211.00 lacs
4. Earnest money to be deposited	Rs. 2,55,500/-

5. Date & Time for submission of e-tender and opening of tenders	Tender may be uploaded upto 11:30 hrs on 21.09.2020 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11:30 hrs on 21.09.2020.
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6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in . Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 22.08.2020 to 21.09.2020. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tender are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice can also be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.
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Tender Notice No.: 74-W/Dy. CE/C/UMB/2020-21, Dated:- 13.08.2020 1795/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**HIMACHAL PRADESH NURSERIES MANAGEMENT SOCIETY, Directorate of Horticulture, H.P., Shimla - 2 E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

Online bids are invited for Construction of Office-cum-residential accommodation at PCDO'S as per World Bank procurement procedure by The General Manager, H.P. Nurseries Management Society on behalf of Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, through e-tendering system in two cover for the undermentioned work from experienced contractor/suppliers/firms.

Construction of Office-cum-residential accommodation at PCDO'S						
Packages	Distt.	PCDOs	Estimated Cost	Cost of Bid (INR)	Earnest Money (INR)	Period of Completion
Package I	Mandi	Nalhas	36,00,000	72,000	Within 12 Months	
Package II	Shimla	Saranah	42,00,000	84,000		
Package II	Khadrara	34,00,000	68,000			
Package IV	Sirmaur	Jubbal Chandesh	42,00,000	84,000		
Total			1,54,00,000	3,08,000		

- Availability of Bid documents and Mode of submission:- The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <https://htenders.gov.in>
- Date of online publication: 17th Aug, 2020.
- Document Download Start and End Date: 17th Aug., 2020 to 19th Sep., 2020 till 1:00 p.m.
- Pre bid meeting: 25th Aug., 2020 at 11:00 a.m.
- Bid Submission Start and End Date: 27th Aug., 2020 to 19th Sep., 2020 till 1:00 p.m.
- Physical submission of EMD and Cost of tender document: up to 19th Sep., 2020 till 1:00 p.m.
- Date of Technical Bid opening will be 19th Sep., 2020 at 2:00 p.m., Evaluation of Technical bid opening and Financial bid opening will follow on accordingly.
- The bidder may also contact the office for any clarification personally, telephonically or via email. The contact details are as below:

Contact Information:

Landline No: 0177-2841339
Email ID: hdp-mdnms-hp@gov.in hdp-podoh-hp@nic.in

DPR/HP/324

HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION

Bays No. 67-70, Sec.-2, Panchkula - 134151

(Website: www.hssc.gov.in)

NOTICE TO THE CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF PTI, AGAINST ADVT. NO. 06/2006, CAT. NO. 23.

It is for the information of concerned candidates who have submitted representation in Commission for considering their application for the post of PTI on the basis of old Challan or old Roll no or any other proof.

The following candidates are thus required to report in Commission's office (Exam Branch) on 19.08.2020 at 09:00 a.m. so that their representations can be considered subject to verification of their claim at later stage. Candidates shall come along with all original documents and 2 passport size photographs.

Sr. No.	Name	Mobile No.	Address
1.	Satinder S/o Sant Ram	98129-43306	Rohtak
2.	Ram Singh S/o Harpal Singh	99714-52670	Faridabad
3.	Rajesh Kumar S/o Ram Singh	98107-13868	Faridabad
4.	Sandeep Kumar S/o Kali Ram	99911-62682	Jind
5.	Zile Singh S/o Maha Singh	98137-06725	Bhiwani
6.	Krishan Kumar S/o Ramesh Chander	99921-03496	Rohtak
7.	Virender Singh Balwan Singh	94672-31172	Sonipat
8.	Prem Pal S/o Charan Singh	85720-02491	Kurukshetra
9.	Uday Singh S/o Atma Ram	-	Karnal
10.	Seenii D/o Mewa Singh	94660-32009	Kurukshetra
11.	Kavita D/o Ram Chandgi	70159-56057	Sirsia
12.	Manjot Singh S/o Preet Singh	90507-73434	Sonipat
13.	Kartar Singh S/o Dhan Singh	70561-61675	Palwal
14.	Virender Kumar S/o Randhir Singh	98123-52629	Jhajjar

In addition, if any candidate is having proof of old challan, application form, admit card etc. or Hon'ble Court orders, he is also advised to report in Commission Office on above date and time.

Sd/- Under Secretary, Examination for Secretary, Haryana Staff Selection Commission, Panchkula.

Dated, Panchkula

epaper@htmedia.com PRDH/82331

US varsities scramble to deal with outbreak

Clusters erupt in dorms | Weekend dos super spreaders



A woman at Harvard University in Cambridge. REUTERS FILE

Trump wrong Prez for our country, says Michelle Obama

'CHANGE OF GUARD CAN END CHAOS'

"If you think things cannot possibly get worse, trust me, they can; and they will if we don't make a change in this election. If we have any hope of ending this chaos, we have got to vote for Joe Biden like our lives depend on it."

Michelle Obama

'TRUMP A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY'

"President Trump poses a threat to democracy and his disregard for science has jeopardised the economy and lives of Americans. The future of our planet is at stake. We must elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris."

Bernie Sanders, DEMOCRATIC SENATOR

NOW, PENCE TO WOO INDIAN-AMERICAN VOTERS

New Delhi: After the Democrats made the pitch for Indian-American votes on Independence Day through an hour-long discussion that featured Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, US Vice-President Mike Pence will address the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum later this month along with Indian Cabinet ministers S Jaishankar and Piyush Goel. TNS

BUSINESS

USD \$	Euro €	Pound £	JPY ¥	Yuan ₠	CAD \$	AUD \$	SGD \$	HKD \$	BSE ₹	NSE ₹	GOLD ₹	SILVER ₹
₹74.76	₹88.96	₹98.40	₹0.70	₹10.79	₹56.67	₹54.04	₹54.78	₹9.63	477.54 38,528.32	138.25 11,385.35	₹53,988 (MCX Mumbai)	₹71,120 (MCX Mumbai)

Wheels set in motion for privatisation of four PSBs

**LENDERS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

- The four lenders are Punjab & Sind Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, UCO Bank and IDBI Bank, in which the government owns majority stakes through direct and indirect holdings
- Currently, there are a dozen public sector banks in addition to IDBI, in which the government owns 47.11% while the state-owned insurance behemoth LIC owns 51% stake

The PMO wrote a letter to the Finance Ministry earlier this month asking it to expedite the process of privatising these lenders in the current financial year, said one govt

overnment source with direct knowledge of the matter

—

“The

Doctor held for IS links in Bengaluru

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 18
The National Investigation Agency has arrested Abdur Rahman (28), an ophthalmologist at MS Ramaiah Medical College, Bengaluru, in connection with the Islamic State Khorasan Province case.

"During interrogation, Rahman confessed to have conspired with Syria-based IS operatives to further their activities. He was in the process of developing a medical application for helping injured IS cadres in conflict-zones," a senior NIA official said. — TNS

Foreign Secy in Dhaka to reset ties

Visit comes in wake of reports of \$1-bn loan from China for Teesta project

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 18

**FIRST OVERSEAS VISIT POST LOCKDOWN**

This is Foreign Secretary Harsh V Shringla's first overseas visit after the lockdown. Shringla will be Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's first overseas visitor as well.

on PM Sheikh Hasina.

The significance of the visit can be gauged from the fact that this is Shringla's first overseas visit after the lockdown and he will be Hasina's first overseas visitor as well. The Foreign Sec-

retary is likely to meet Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and his counterpart Masud Bin Momen.

The Ministry of External Affairs, however, without giving details, said the visit was

meant to "discuss and take forward cooperation on matters of mutual interest."

Bangladesh media claims the trip follows Bangladesh's announcement that it will soon get a \$1 billion loan from China for the Teesta river project. PM Narendra Modi had promised a deal on Teesta waters during his Dhaka visit five years back but was unable to deliver on it. The UPA, too, had almost finalised the Teesta deal but

it was then torpedoed by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

India has named Vikram Doraiswami to succeed Riva Ganguly Das as the India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh who will take over at the Ministry of External Affairs as Secretary (East). Shringla is also expected to discuss programmes chalked out to celebrate 50 years of Liberation struggle this year.

PU 2nd, HAU 3rd in Atal edu rankings

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

IIT-MADRAS BEST

■ IIT-Madras leads the rankings in the top 10 list of institutes of national importance, followed by IIT-Bombay and IIT-Delhi

■ The institutes were ranked on budget, infrastructure, idea generation, entrepreneurship, commercialisation, learning methods and governance

ings in the top 10 list of institutes of national importance, followed by IIT-Bombay; IIT-Delhi; Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru; IIT-Kharagpur; IIT-Kanpur; and IIT-Mandi.

The institutes were ranked on budget, infrastructure, idea generation, entrepreneurship, commercialisation, learning methods and governance.

While PU and the agricultural varsity are placed second and third among government-aided universities, the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Maharashtra, tops this category.

IIT-Madras leads the rank-

FROM PAGE 1

New route to Depsang

mud track has been created from Sasoma to Saser La. Eastwards from Saser La to Saser Brangsa (an ancient camping site with no population), the 27-km track allows just walking. Beyond that till Mуро, a jeepable track is being laid out. The entire alignment, so far, is useable only during summer months, sources told The Tribune. New Delhi is taking a call on black-topping the entire stretch.

An all-weather road exists between Leh and Sasoma. The route eastwards of Sasoma will allow an alternative axis to the SSN in case the DSDBO road is targeted.

The route is not new, it has been a mule track for cen-

turies. Janet Rizvi in her book "Trans Himalayan Caravans-Merchant Princes and Peasant Traders in Ladakh", published in 1999, says trade caravans were a regular between Ladakh and Kashgar till 1937. She describes the use of the route across Saser La.

The BRO, a unit under the Ministry of Defence, has carved out the new track under trying circumstances as this is one of rugged parts of the treeless Karakoram mountains. Temperature dips to -50°C during winter and hovers around 12°C in peak summer. The Central Road Research Institute was involved in the study on making the road across Saser La or a tunnel under it.

More airports to be privatised, says Puri**AIR BUBBLES WITH 13 MORE NATIONS SOON**

Civil Aviation Minister HS Puri on Tuesday said India has been in talks with 13 countries, including Australia, Japan and Singapore, to establish bilateral air bubble arrangements.

and Trichy. Puri said, "We are going to the Cabinet tomorrow for further airport privatisation. We have got many more airports lined up, dozens of them, and the 100 new airports we will build till 2030." — TNS

SC reserves order on UGC circular

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 18

The Supreme Court has reserved its verdict on petitions challenging the UGC circular mandating university examinations for final-year students by September 30.

After the conclusion of arguments by the counsels representing the petitioners and the UGC, a Bench asked the parties to file their written notes within three days. The top court — which had earlier refused to stay the UGC circular — will decide whether there should be a final examination for degree students across the country or not. — TNS

Verdict on Rhea's case transfer petition today

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 18

The Supreme Court on Wednesday will give verdict on Rhea Chakraborty's plea for transfer of an FIR against her in connection with Sushant Singh Rajput's death from Patna to Mumbai.

Meanwhile, senior advocate Vikas Singh, representing the deceased actor's father in the Supreme Court, said Rhea couldn't give a certificate to herself with regard to alleged transfer of money from Sushant's account. He was responding to a query on a

41 lakh youth lost jobs in India due to Covid: ILO

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 18

As many as 41 lakh youth in the country lost jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic while construction and farm sector workers account for the majority of job losses, according to a joint report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Youth (15-24 years) will be hit harder than adults (25 and older) in the immediate crisis and risk bearing higher longer-term economic and social costs, said the report. — PTI

Cong asks Zuckerberg to probe 'BJP bias'**CAN'T ALLOW MANIPULATION, SAYS RAHUL**

■ We cannot allow any manipulation of our hard-earned democracy through fake news and hate speech... FB's involvement needs to be questioned. Rahul Gandhi, CONGRESS

and demanded that the FB should set up a time-bound investigation into the same and make their report public in a month or two.

"Also publish all instances of

hate speech posts since 2014 that were allowed on the platform," he demanded.

Venugopal referred to the WSJ article "about Facebook India's blatant biases and

dubious practices in content regulation" and demanded FB should replace the India leadership. "Specifically, the article states 'Ms Das (of Facebook India) has provided the BJP with favorable treatment on election-related issues. This is a damning and serious allegation of Facebook India's interference in India's electoral democracy," he said. — TNS

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 18

Minister for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri today said his ministry was all set to take up a proposal for further privatisation of airports before the Cabinet on Wednesday.

In the first round of such a move, the government had allowed privatisation of the airports in Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati. The proposal was cleared for operation, management and development through PPP model in February 2019.

Subsequently, the Airports Authority of India in September 2019 recommended to the Aviation Ministry to privatisate airports in Amritsar, Varanasi, Bhubaneswar, Indore, Raipur,

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