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OLI FORMS PANEL WORLD

INDUSTRY ASSNS TO PRESS FOR HOLDING  
BACK NEW WAGE DEFINITION BUSINESS

INDIA, JAPAN REVIEW SECURITY  
SITUATION BACK PAGE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020

## Gupkar alliance set to wrest 13 of 20 district councils in J&K

With 3 seats, BJP makes inroads into Valley | Detained PDP leader wins

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22  
The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), led by former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) leader Farooq Abdullah, is heading for a big victory in the first local elections after the erstwhile state lost its special status last year.

According to the latest trends, the alliance, a Kashmir-based amalgam of mainstream parties, including the NC and the PDP, is leading on 113 seats, followed by the BJP (69) and the Congress (23). The BJP has, however, been able to make inroads into the Valley by winning three seats.

In Jammu division, the BJP is ahead on 66 seats, while the Gupkar alliance is winning 37. In Kashmir, the alliance is leading on 75 seats, while the BJP is ahead on three.

Voting was held for 280 seats, 14 each in all 20 districts of the UT, in eight phases over 25 days.

As per the latest trends, the Gupkar alliance and the Congress together are likely to win 13 district councils, while the BJP and its allies are set to win six. Among promi-



Independent candidate Bilal Ahmad celebrates after gaining lead in the DDC poll in Srinagar on Tuesday. PTI

### REVERSE DECISION ON STATUS: OMAR

Now, if the BJP and its proxy political party believe in democracy... they should immediately reverse the decision (of abrogating special status of J&K).

Omar Abdullah, NC LEADER

### JKPCC CHIEF'S SON LOSES TO INDEPENDENT

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Ghulam Ahmad Mir's son Naseer Ahmad Mir lost to Independent candidate Peer Shahbaz Ahmad in Anantnag district.

nent winners is PDP youth wing president Waheed Para, who was arrested by the National Investigation

Agency (NIA) for his alleged links with militants. The PAGD was formed in protest against the Centre's deci-

### 370 MOVE REJECTED: MUFTI

Results have made it clear that people of J&K voted en masse for @JKPAGD, rejecting the unconstitutional decision to abrogate Art 370.

Mehbooba Mufti, PDP

## Cops file challan against Saini

CHANDIGARH: The police on Tuesday filed a more than 500-page challan in a Mohali court against former Punjab DGP Sumedh Singh Saini in the Balwant Singh Multani case. The court issued a notice to Saini, asking him to appear before it on January 22.

Multani, a junior engineer with Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Corporation, was allegedly picked up by the police in December 1991 after a terror attack on Saini that left three policemen killed. Saini was injured in the attack. — TNS

## US Senate clears Bill backing Tibet



### BARS CHINESE INTERFERENCE

- It recognises Dalai Lama's authority over religious matters
- Makes Chinese interference punishable with sanctions

reincarnation of the Dalai Lama are exclusively within the authority of the Dalai Lama, Tibetan Buddhist leaders and the Tibetan people.

The Bill commends the Dalai Lama for his decision to implement democratic governance. It acknowledges the CTA as the legitimate institution reflecting the aspirations of Tibetans. The TPSA also introduces provisions to protect the environment and water resources on the Tibetan plateau. — TNS

This is the first time in over five decades that a Prime Minister participated in an AMU event after Lal Bahadur Shastri in 1964.

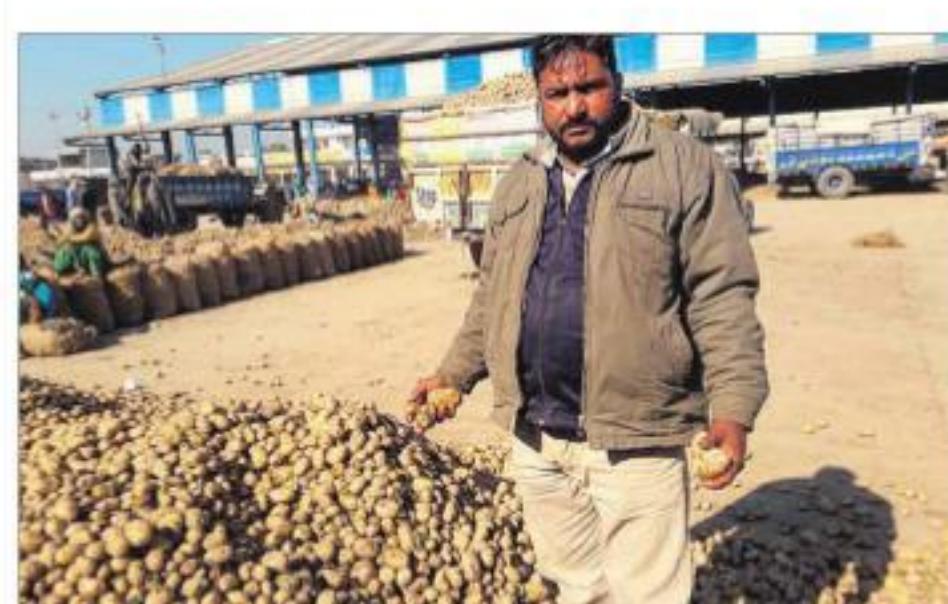
Addressing the AMU alumni, teachers and staff on its centennial celebrations, the PM lauded the university for its role in crafting and polishing millions of lives, giving them modern and scientific thinking and inspiring them to work for the society and the country.

"The AMU has changed many lives," he said, referring to its exemplary role in India's Independence struggle, nation building and the

ongoing Covid-19 crisis. At the same time, he advocated "vigilance against misleading propaganda" and keeping "interest of the nation supreme". "Ideological and political differences should be set aside for the sake of development. Politics can

wait, society can wait, but the country's development cannot wait," he added.

Though he did not refer to the farmers' stir, analysts read hints towards it in his observations as the AMU students have extended support to the farmers. — TNS



## Potato rates crash in Hry, new agri laws of no help

GEETANJALI GAYATRI  
TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The lack of storage facilities, processing units and market intelligence to grow the in-demand crops and the absence of MSP weigh the farmer down. However, Dalal maintains that the three agri laws will benefit such farmers "indirectly" in the long run.

"The laws do away with the bar on stocking commodities, allowing the farmer to hold on to the produce till he gets a remunerative price. Besides, the law on contract farming allows the end-user to purchase the crop," Dalal said, adding improved storage and processing units will address the problem partially and this is not possible without private players.

## Cases below 20K after 6 months

13 UK passengers test +ve, past 4-week fliers to be tracked

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22  
India today reported 19,556 new infections in 24 hours, the daily cases dropping below 20,000 after a gap of 173 days. The active cases (2,92,518) have also fallen below 3 lakh after 163 days and now make up less than 3 per cent of all cases.

The government, meanwhile, said the highly transmissible mutant strain reported by the UK had not been seen in India so far. It said all passengers who arrived from the UK or transited through it over the last four weeks starting November 25 would be put under surveillance and tracked. Advising vigilance

but ruling out panic, NITI Aayog Member, Health, VK Paul said the new strain increased the transmissibility of Covid, but did not increase the propensity for death, hos-

### BIDEN GETS JAB



President-elect Joe Biden receives first dose of the Covid vaccine. AP/PTI

### COVID-19 CASES INDIA

COUNT	1,00,75,116
RECOVERED	96,36,487
FRESH FATALITIES	301
TOTAL DEATHS	1,46,111

### WORLD

TOTAL	7,78,67,910
RECOVERED	5,47,58,958
DEATHS	17,12,172

### OXFORD VAX MAY GET APPROVAL NEXT WEEK

pitalisation or severity of disease nor did it negatively impact the potential of vaccines being developed in India or available elsewhere.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Twenty eight years after the mysterious death of Sister Abhaya, an inmate of St Pius convent at Kottayam in Kerala, a CBI special court here on Tuesday held it was a case of murder and found a priest and nun guilty of killing her.

## Priest, nun found guilty in sister Abhaya murder case

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEC 22

Abhaya's body was found in the well of St Pius convent at Kottayam on March 27, 1992

Priests Kottoor and Poothrikkayil allegedly had illicit ties with Sephy, also an inmate of the convent

The trio hacked Abhaya to death after she saw Kottoor and Sephy in a compromising position

### HACKED 28 YRS AGO

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Priests Kottoor and Poothrikkayil allegedly had illicit ties with Sephy, also an inmate of the convent

The trio hacked Abhaya to death after she saw Kottoor and Sephy in a compromising position

convent, 22-year-old Abhaya's body was found in the well of St Pius convent. Another accused in the case, Fr Jose

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Kangra farmers fume as govt demands back welfare fund

LALIT MOHAN  
TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, DECEMBER 22

The government decision to recover money paid to beneficiaries under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana over the past two years has farmers fuming. Initially, the authorities persuaded them to apply under the scheme and now they were being harassed in the name of recovery, they allege.

Recoveries are being made

from 2,772 farmers in Kangra district, including 2,409 income tax payees and 363 others.

### WHY THE RECOVERY

Initially, money was given to all applicants under the scheme as the Centre had not laid down criteria for deciding beneficiaries

Now, many categories of people have been excluded from the list of beneficiaries and told to return the money already credited to their accounts

to deposit some documents at the local patwar circle. Since I am posted away from my native place, it's no less than a harassment for me," he said.

Senior Congress leader GS Bali alleged the government had duped people in the name of the scheme. It paid money to them before the parliamentary poll and now they were being harassed to return it. The Opposition Congress might move the court on the issue, he said.

### No board exams till Feb: Pokhriyal

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22  
Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhrayal today ruled out conducting board examinations for Classes X and XII till February in view of the Covid-19 situation.

He said the decision on conducting the exams would be taken later after due consultations and assessment of the situation. The CBSE had earlier this month announced that written exams would be held next year. — PTI

### 16 KAPURTHALA VILLAGES TO GET METAL BRIDGE TODAY

■ Relief for 6,000 residents of 16 Mand villages, separated from the Sultanpur Lodhi mainland, with pontoon bridge replacing a metal bridge for easy access

■ MLA to inaugurate bridge, built at ₹15 cr cost, on Wednesday

■ Owing to poor connectivity, the area has remained backward so far. The elderly and ailing were the worst sufferers. PAGE 4

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paper.tribuneindia.com

# Arthiyas go on 4-day strike over I-T raids

Say Centre's pressure tactics can't discourage them from supporting protest against farm laws

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, DECEMBER 22

Alleging that they were being targeted for supporting the farmers' agitation, arthiyas across Punjab went on a four-day strike from Tuesday in protest against the recent income tax raids.

Arthiya Association Bathinda president Satis Kumar Babbu said: "Arthiyas across the state are supporting farmers in their agitation against the farm laws. We are sending 50 persons every day to protest on a rotational basis."

"To discourage us from lending support to the farmers' agitation, the Union Government is conducting I-T raids on us. We have gone on a four-day strike across the state from today to protest such repressive actions," said Babbu, adding "we will keep our shops closed and there will be no purchase".

Punjab Arthiyas Associa-



Arthiyas burn an effigy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their strike against I-T raids, in Mansa on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

tion president Vijay Kalra, whose premises were also raided by I-T sleuths, said: "Our working system has been totally transparent since 2013. We have been pay-

ing farmers through cheques and now the online payments have also started."

Condemning the I-T raids on arthiyas, Sham Lal Dalwa, president of the

Arthiyas' Association, Budhlada, claimed the new farm laws would not only 'destroy the farming community', but also impact those connected with agri-

culture directly or indirectly. On December 19, raids were conducted by Income Tax Department officials on the premises of Kalra, Samana Mandi unit chief Pawan

## NO PURCHASE, NO SALE

The crop was neither sold nor purchased at any grain market in the state. All arthiyas have gone on a four-day strike. They kept their shops shut.

Vijay Kalra, HEAD, ARTHIYAS ASSOCIATION

Kumar Goyal, Patiala unit chief Jaswinder Singh Rana, Nawanshahr unit head Manjinder Singh Walia, Rajpura unit chief Hardeep Singh Ladda, and Rajpura arthiyas Kartar Singh and Amrik Singh. Fourteen arthiyas have received I-T notices across the state so far.

Arthiyas had also closed mandis for three days from December 7 to December 9 to

participate in the protest at Delhi. In September, the arthiyas in Mansa had announced the boycott of BJP leaders to protest the farm laws.

# Protesting farmer is BJP poster boy

SANJEEV SINGH BARIANA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 22

Harpreet Singh, a farmer whose photograph has been used by the Punjab BJP to drum up support in favour of farm laws, is actually sitting among the protesting farmers on the Singhu border since the first week of December. The photo was used on the party's Facebook page.

Harpreet Singh said, "I was first amused but then angry. How can they be so insensitive?" He is engaged in media projects displaying the angst of the farmers, their inconvenience and their struggle. Photographs clicked by Harpreet that highlighted the protest have gone viral.

"I will like to ask the government that if farmers where happy why would they be camping on the Delhi borders? Why will the old, including women, bear the cold of the shivering December? Why cannot government just withdraw the farm laws and rethink? Ego problem nothing else," he said.

"If the government does not repeal the laws, we will not go back home" he said firmly.

"The BJP is trying make the farmer agitation look like a fight just for MSP. This is not true. There are issues like uncertain future of the farmers in our country with entry of the corporate on their farmlands. I can say that that despite tall claims, Narendra Modi is not with the farmers," Harpreet said.

The poster that was used was removed after uproar. President of the Punjab unit of the BJP Ashwani Sharma said "I am not aware about any such post, so, will not be able to comment".



A march being held in remembrance of the farmers who died in Delhi protest, in Bathinda. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## Give relief to 'martyred' farmers: AAP

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 22

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab on Tuesday urged CM Capt Amarinder Singh to immediately formulate and implement a policy regarding financial assistance, employment and debt waiver for the 'martyrs' of the ongoing

farmers' movement.

AAP leader and Sunam MLA Aman Arora said the state government could change laws to give jobs to farmers' loved ones, but it was not formulating a policy for the 'martyrs' of the movement, fighting to save the Punjab farmers and agriculture.

Arora said a large number of farmers were getting sick and dying because of the cold at Delhi borders. Many have died in road accidents while commuting to and fro from Punjab. "It is the duty of the government to help the families of the such farmers," he added. — TNS

## To protest raids, Singla on fast today

PATIALA, DECEMBER 22

To highlight the issues and "arm-twisting" faced by arthiyas of Punjab, School Education and Public Works Minister Vijay Inder Singla has decided to hold a one-day dharna and fast against the Central Government's "misuse" of the Income Tax

Department. Arthiyas across the state are expected to participate in the dharna, backed by the Congress. Singla said he had been

meeting arthiyas of Patiala, Samana, Rajpura, Mansa and other parts of the state to express solidarity with them against the raids. "The Union

Government is using these ploys to divide communities. The acts of intimidation against arthiyas will not succeed," he said. — TNS

## Patiala villagers up ante against corporate houses

Snap power supply to mobile tower | Pass resolution to boycott biz groups' products

KARAM PRAKASH  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, DECEMBER 22

To show their resentment against corporate houses, residents of Tohra village in Patiala snapped the power supply to a mobile tower allegedly owned by a business house here on Tuesday.

The villagers also passed a resolution to, henceforth, boycott all the products of the said corporate house. The villagers held a protest rally and raised slogans against corporate houses.

Satwinder Singh Tohra, a villager, said the corporate houses were the ones who would be benefited the most by the three farm laws. "We have upped the ante

against the corporate houses. We will continue our fight until the three farm laws are repealed."

He said the Modi government on purpose, by enacting the laws, had paved the

way for the corporate houses to get into the agriculture sector, but they won't let them to do their business in Punjab.

Meanwhile, Baljinder Singh, sarpanch, said they had passed a resolution to

## IN MUKTSAR, TOWER PREMISES LOCKED

Muktsar: Farmers on Tuesday snapped the power supply to a cell phone tower of a private company in Raniwala village here. They also locked the entrance of the tower premises. Protesters said they wouldn't allow the tower to become functional until the farm laws were repealed. Meanwhile, a retail store temporarily closed in view of the protest.

rate houses in the villages."

The village also passed a resolution that one member from each family would attend the protest at the Delhi borders to support the farmers.

## More join stir on highway along Abohar

ABOHL SRIGANGANAGAR, DEC 22

The farmers' dharna near Shahjahanpur on the Jaipur-New Delhi highway along Abohar continued with an increased participation of farmers from Sriganganagar and Hanumangarh district for the ninth day today.

Meanwhile, on the second day of the relay fast, 18 women activists of the Janwadi Mahila Samiti started a 24-hour fast on Tuesday. Dehati Kisan Mazdoor Samiti, Sriganganagar convenor Ranjit Singh Raju said the strategy to increase participation was

## Man runs 323 km to reach Delhi

PARVESH SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, DECEMBER 22

Having no money or land, Jagdeep Singh (30) from Shergarh Cheema village has expressed solidarity with the protesting farmers by running 323 km on foot till the Delhi border last week. He completed the one-side journey in 46 hours and returned on Monday.

On Tuesday, he announced to run till Delhi again from Thursday to prove that "Udta Punjab" is a baseless allegation.

I wanted to stay put till the stir ended, but had to return due to some family problem. Now, I will again run to the

Takht after the rollback of the Central farm laws.

He has become an inspiration for youth. "Neither have I participated in any competition nor do I take any healthy diet. I am running to inspire youngsters against drugs."

Takht after the rollback of the Central farm laws.

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Central

# Amid new strain worry, 8 from UK test +ve at Amritsar airport

Fliers protest 'delay' in testing | Soni refutes claim, hails health staff

CHARANJIT SINGH TEJA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 22

Eight passengers, who arrived from London (UK), tested positive for Covid at Sri Guru Ram Das Jee International Airport here on Tuesday.

The Health Department teams conducted the RT-PCR tests of all 264 passengers who arrived on a flight from London to Amritsar that landed here at 12.30 am.

Of the eight passengers who tested positive, six are male and two female. They have been sent for the institutional quarantine as per the government instructions.

On Monday, the government had decided to suspend all inbound flights from the UK following the emergence of new virus strain but

## CITIZENS' SAFETY TOP PRIORITY

There was no negligence on our part. As flyers were in a hurry to reach their destinations, they were upset with the testing at the airport. There was no intention to harass anyone but to protect the citizens from the new Covid strain. — OP Soni, MINISTER FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

## 18 MORE COVID DEATHS IN 24 HOURS

- The state reported 289 cases in the past 24 hours, taking the Covid tally to 1,63,665 on Tuesday
- It also witnessed 18 deaths in the past 24 hours, taking the toll to 5,230, revealed a government bulletin
- At present, 133 patients are on oxygen support and eight are on ventilator

the aircraft had already taken off from London by the time of announcement.

In view of the Centre's instructions, the district administration made the required arrangements at the airport to conduct the

RT-PCR tests. Four teams of the Health Department led by Ajnala SDM Deepak Bhatia were deployed at the airport, which carried out continuous testing all night. The process of testing was completed in 12-13 hours. .

Meanwhile, passengers staged a protest against the authorities for the alleged delay in conducting the tests and not allowing them to go out of the airport premises. Family members, who were waiting for the passengers outside the airport, also protested in the morning as the authorities were reportedly not informing them about the ongoing Covid tests.

OP Soni, Minister for Medical Education and Research, appreciated the tireless service of doctors and other staff. "The intention of the district administration was not to harass anyone but to protect its citizens from the new Covid strain. The passengers could not be allowed to leave the airport without the RT-PCR test report," he said.

# AK-47, 30 cartridges seized in Gurdaspur

RAVI DHALIWAL

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DORANGLA (GURDASPUR), DEC 22

An AK-47 rifle and 30 live rounds were recovered by the Gurdaspur police during a combing operation near Dorangla village on Sunday. The rifle and rounds were said to have been dropped by a Pakistani drone in the wee hours on Sunday.

SSP Rajinder Singh Sohal said 70 percent of the total district police force was put on duty in Dorangla from where 11 grenades were also recovered on Monday evening. The grenades were dropped by the same drone, said officers. The machine was shot at by men of the 58th Battalion of the BSF and Punjab cops in a joint operation before it flew back to Pakistani territory.

The cops said they were still ascertaining for whom the consignment and the grenades were actually meant. "We have questioned the land owners of the fields from where the ammunition has been recovered. My officers have found some clues but it is too early to give details," the SSP said.

A senior officer claimed that terror groups and the ISI had procured upgraded versions of drones which could carry larger quantities of firearms as compared to the drones that were being used earlier.

## CM: Met Shah to discuss internal security issues

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 22

Urging the AAP to refrain from indulging in mudslinging, CM Capt Amarinder Singh today made it clear that his meeting with Home Minister (HIM) Amit Shah was only to discuss issues related to national security.

He said being the Home Minister of the border state, it was his foremost responsibility to apprise the Centre of developments in Punjab.

The CM said he won't hesitate to meet the PM and the HM whenever issues of internal security were fanned by neighbouring hostile nations.

He ridiculed the AAP's allegations that he met Shah with regard to the ED cases as absolutely baseless, politically motivated and erroneous.

He clarified that no case had been filed by the ED against him. There was, however, a case filed by the ED against his son, Raninder Singh, which has been going on for more than a decade that too under FEMA, which at most was a civil fiscal matter. The HC has also stayed all earlier incorrect income tax assessment orders served on his son.

He dared Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal to come clean on his dubious stand on the new farm laws, which were earlier notified by his government. "Now he is shedding crocodile tears over this sensitive issue by showing fake sympathy with the farmers, which is nothing but sheer theatrics on Kejriwal's part," the CM said. — TNS

## Asks AAP to refrain from indulging in mudslinging

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Candidates are required to visit the website <https://ubsadmissions.puchd.ac.in> for detailed instructions. The said website would remain open for online registration through online payment/ generating Bank Challan from 18.12.2020 to 01.02.2021. Hard copy of the application form along with necessary documents should reach the undersigned latest by **04:00 P.M. on 16.02.2021**. Applications received after due date shall not be entertained.

**Note:** Our Institute uses CAT scores for short-listing/ selecting the candidates for our Post-graduate Programme(s) in Management/ MBA, IIMs have no role either in the selection process or in the conduct of the programme.

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Required Ladies Medical Officer (MBBS/BAMS) and Accountant for hospital Amritsar. Contact: 84377-94603, 81499-93464. (CL20076233)

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**Mother Teacher School (CBSE Affiliated)** urgently requires PGT (Physics) & Heads of Pre-Primary, Primary & Senior Secondary School, Min 5 years of experience in the same position, TET pass & good communication skills will be preferred. Interested candidates may send their resumes within 7 days at: mtsschoolamritsar@gmail.com or contact Principal: 98525-11135. (CL20076293)

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**Contact 98583-94000, 95000****CL20076264**

Guru Amardass Adarsh Institute, Goindwal Sahib (Affiliated to CBSE). Requires PGT English, Physical Education, TGT Science, Social Studies and Primary Teachers for all subjects.

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**SGL Charitable Hospital Jalandhar** requires one Psychiatrist, One Dietician, One Deputy Medical Superintendent and One Anaesthetist, resumes may be sent at Email: sglosp@gmail.com or may come personally. (CL20076073)

**Shiva International School,****Ghumarwin, District Bilaspur****(Himachal Pradesh) (Affiliated to CBSE).**

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**ADMISSION NOTICE**

Sandhu Institute of Nursing Mahalan Nawanshahr walk in counselling for admission in B.Sc and post basic Nursing vacant seats on 29th December, 2020 in Principal office at 09:30 a.m. Telephone: 98140-10221. (CL20076236)

**COUNSELLING**

Sanjeevani College of Nursing Sandupur (Khanna) Applications are invited for the course of Post basic B.Sc (N) for session 2020-21. Last date of submission of applications is 28th Dec, 2020 till 3:00 pm. Counseling shall be held on 29th Dec, 2020 at 10.00 am sharp in College Campus by B.F.U.H.S.- Faridkot. 7658-216-161-0762231

**PROPERTY FOR SALE**

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

I, Lachmi Devi w/o Tota Singh r/o Vill. Wan, P.O. Sayian Wala, Distt. Ferozepur, have changed my name to Lachu Kaur. (CL20076098)

I, Army No. 10199085N Rank Hav. name Rajesh Kumar s/o Sh. Ranji Singh presently resident at Village Raily, PO Dagan, Teh. Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur, State Punjab of 112 Inf. Br. (TA) Dogra, C/o 56 APO has changed my son name from Rithak Dadwal Rithik Dadwal vide affidavit dated 09.12.2020 before Mukerian. (CL20076136)

I, Ashwani Gautam S/o Ved Parkash Gautham R/o Flat No. 614, Tower No. 6, ATS Golf Meadows Prelude, Dera Bassi, SAS Nagar, Punjab-140507 have changed my minor daughter's name from Niharka to Niharika Gautam. (CL20076142)

I, Guru Baksh Singh, s/o Gurmkukh Singh, r/o No. 1274, Sector 21-B, Chandigarh, declares here that I have change my name from Guru Baksh Singh to Gurkukh Singh Dang. All concerned may note. (CL20076171)

I, Ashok Kumar S/o Ganga Ram, Village Bagrian, P.O. Bholath, Tehsil Bholath, Distt. Kapurthala, have changed my minor daughter's name from Neha to Neha Neha. Please concerned note. (CL20076245)

I Ashok Kumar Singal S/o Ved Parkash Singh R/o 113, Housing board colony Ambala Cantt have changed my name to Ashok Kumar Singla. Concerned note. (CL20076262)

I, Nitu Kumar D/o Om Parkash, VPO Takana, Teh. Amb, Distt. Una HP after marriage have changed my name to Anita Sharma. (CL20076268)

I, Nidhi W/o Rajnish Walia R/o Gurukari, Tehsil & Distt. Kangra (HP). Declare that I have changed my minor son's name from Arav Rajneesh Walia to Arav Walia. Concerned note please. (CL20076276)

I, Hilo Devi D/o Prem Lal R/o Village Dhei, PO Jhulara, Tehsil & Distt. Chamba, HP. Declare that I have changed my name to Himanshi Vide Affidavit No. 16A 619254, dated 21.12.2020 Sub Division Chamba. (CL20076277)

I, Dharminder s/o Late Shri Om Parkash Sharma r/o # 325, Phase-I, BDC, Sec. 26, Chandigarh have changed my name to Dharmender Sharma. (CL20076278)

I, No. 606189 Ex Air Force Sergeant Swami Singh Katoh r/o VPO Maranda, Tehsil Palampur, Distt. Kangra states that name of my son Jimmy Katoh has wrongly appeared in my service record. His correct name is Harish Chand Katoh. (CL20076292)

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

**Circulation:** 0172-2670319, 2670250, 2670442  
**E-mail at:** circulation@tribunemail.com

**Advertisement:** Classified: 0172-2670257, 2670338  
**E-mail at:** classified@tribunemail.com  
**Display:** 0172-2670256, 2670342  
**E-mail at advt@tribunemail.com**

I, Vanshika D/o Surender resident House No. 454/ 35, Janta Colony, Rohtak, have changed my name from Vanshika to Vanshika Verma. (CL20076303)

I, Mona Aggarwal d/o Sh. Vinod Gupta r/o flat No. 205, Chinnar A2, Omaxe Parkwood Colony Chakka Road Baddi, Himachal Pradesh, Changed my name to Mona Gupta. (CL20076305)

I, Manju Rani w/o Mukesh Bansal R/o # 771, Sector-7, Panchnula (Haryana, have changed my name from Manju Rani to Manju Bansal. (CL20076308)

I, Hitherto known as Saroj Rani d/o Chann Singh w/o Sukhchain Singh, residing at Sunder Nagar, Ferozepur Road, Distt. Faridkot, Punjab-151203, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Simarjeet Kaur. (CL20076311)

I, Kundan Lal S/o Duli Chand #5892, mochi name Ambala Cantt. Disown my son Deshraj alias Sonu, his wife Anju, their daughters from moveable immovable properties. As they are out of our control. Any deal they at own risk. If anybody deal with them will do so at own risk. I shall not be responsible for their any deeds. (CL20076315)

I, Raj Kumar S/o Banwari Lal R/o # 2670, Sector 25, Chandigarh hereby disown my son Rahul and his wife Pooja from my all moveable/immovable properties. They are out of my control. If anybody deal with them will do so at own risk. I shall not be responsible for their any deeds. (CL20076294)

**COURT NOTICE**

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)  
In the Court of  
Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma,  
Additional District Judge,  
Junior Division-6,  
Ferozepur.  
State Bank of India  
Versus

Ranjit Singh  
Suit for decree of Recovery of Rs. 416130 i.e. Rs. 182499 in the account of Agricultural Cash Credit Limit KCC inclusive of principal amount and interest as calculated upto 30.6.2018 alongwith pendente lite and future at the rate of 7 percent per annum.

CNR No.: PBFZ02-001243-2018  
Next Date: 11.01.2021

Publication issued to:

Baljit Singh Father: Bakshish Singh, Mallanwala Khas, Tehsil Zira, Distt. Ferozepur.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 11.01.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to  
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district\_notice&district=firozepur

Dated, this day of 24.11.2020.

Sd/- Civil Judge, Junior Division-6, Ferozepur.

Civil Judge, Junior Division-6, Ferozep

# In Ambala, Khattar releases manifesto, promises IMT again



Tribune News Service

AMBALA, DECEMBER 22

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday released BJP's manifesto titled "Sankalp Patra" for the Ambala Municipal Corporation elections during a rally, and repeated his promise of constructing an Industrial Model Township (IMT) here.

The MC will go to polls on December 27

"The BJP is in power at the Centre, while the BJP-JJP government rules in the state. So, voters should elect BJP-JJP candidates and ensure smooth functioning of the civic body," he said while addressing a gathering in Dholkot.

He listed out a few achievements of his government. "The Centre, the state and the MC have spent about Rs 1,000 crore on the city's development. More money will be released for Ambala and jobs will be generated."

Manohar Lal Khattar, CHIEF MINISTER

He accused the previous Congress government of "selling" jobs. "The BJP used technology to end corrupt practices," Khattar claimed.

He further said, "I talked to lawyers, chartered accountants, businessmen and doctors of the city on Tuesday. They gave their suggestions on how to further develop Ambala."



Farmers stop the convoy of CM Manohar Lal Khattar in Ambala on Tuesday. PHOTO: PRADEEP MAINI

## WILL GENERATE JOBS

“The Centre, the state and the MC have spent about ₹1,000 crore on the city’s development. More money will be released for Ambala and jobs will be generated.”

Manohar Lal Khattar, CHIEF MINISTER

## Black flags shown to CM

AMBALA, DECEMBER 22

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday faced opposition from farmers during his visit to Ambala in support of BJP-JJP candidates in the municipal corporation elections.

The farmers, belonging to various groups, showed black flags to Khattar. The farmers raised anti-government slogans and surrounded the convoy.

The farmers attempted to block Khattar's convoy, but police personnel pushed away the farmers, some of whom were wielding sticks, and provided safe passage to the convoy.

Farmer leader Harkesh

Mohri claimed that they had planned to show black flags and raise slogans, but some anti-social elements joined the protest and started blocking the convoy.

“Some anti-social elements hijacked the peaceful protest. When they saw the convoy, they started blocking the convoy. We are ashamed as our event failed,” said Gulab Singh, district BKU (Charuni) vice-president.

Khattar said efforts were being made to crush democracy. He said they had the Lok Sabha, Assembly and media for debates. He said opposition parties were involved in this act. — TNS



Residents of Karnal's Jaisinghpur village protest on Tuesday.

## 'Boycott BJP-JJP leaders' hoardings in Assandh

Tribune News Service

## NO RIGHT TO BE IN POWER: SELJA

**Ambala:** State Congress president Kumari Selja on Tuesday said people had the right to speak in a democracy, but were forced to come out on the streets when their voices were suppressed. If the government did not listen to people, it had no right to remain in power, she added. Selja was addressing a public meeting in support of Congress mayoral candidate Meena Aggarwal. TNS

ings will be installed in more villages. For that, the order has been placed.”

On Saturday, farmers had shown black flags to Karnal MP Sanjay Bhatia's son Chand Bhatia in Assandh and gheraoed his vehicle.

Farmers also announced to install such hoardings in villages of other sub-divisions.

Chhatarpal, block vice-president, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), said: “We

have erected hoardings in six villages, including Jaisinghpura, Dera Gama and Khizrabad. Similar hoard-

## Block Pb borders over SYL, Abhay dares govt

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 22

Senior INLD leader Abhay Chautala on Tuesday dared the state government to block its borders with Punjab and stop the movement of people and goods till the neighbouring state released Haryana's share of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) water.

Addressing a press confer-

ence, he said the INLD would support the government if it decided to force Punjab over the demand for SYL water.

“Let the government take the decision. We will support it till the time we do not get our share of water. We will not allow anyone to enter through Haryana's borders with Punjab,” he said. — TNS

## THE TRIBUNE TRUST CHANDIGARH

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Mr Onkar Nath,  
Financial Advisor & Controller of Accounts,  
The Tribune Trust, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.  
Sd/- Financial Advisor & Controller of Accounts

## Illegality of marriage no bar for protection to couple: HC

### CAN'T BE DEPRIVED OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

Merely because the petitioners have got married against the wishes of their family members, they cannot possibly be deprived of the fundamental rights as envisaged in the Constitution. Alka Sarin, PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT

as envisaged under Article 21 of the Constitution.

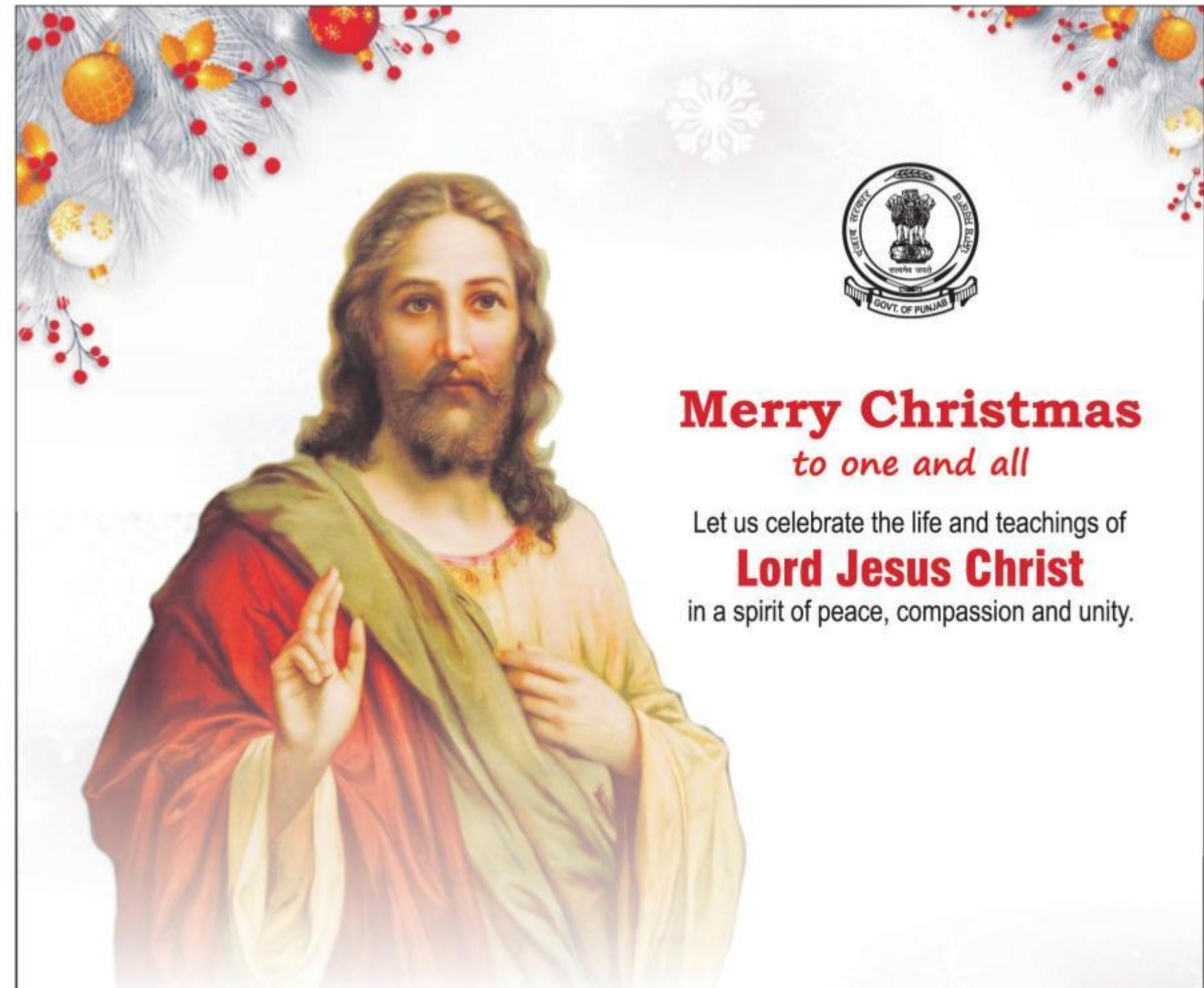
Justice Sarin elaborated that Article 21 provided for protection of life and personal liberty and further laid down that no person would be deprived of life and personal liberty except as per the procedure established by the law.

Justice Sarin pointed out that the court could not shut its eyes to the fact that the apprehensions of the petitioners were required to be addressed. “Merely because the petitioners have got married against the wishes of their family members, they cannot possibly be deprived of the fundamental rights as envisaged in the Constitution,” Justice Sarin observed.

Justice Sarin recorded the contentions of the advocate who argued on behalf of the first wife that the consent of the first wife

was necessary for performing second marriage as per the Muslim law. Before parting with the case, Justice Sarin directed the Nuh Superintendent of Police to decide the couple's representation before taking necessary action as per the law. The direction came as Justice Sarin disposed of the petition without expressing opinion on the veracity of contents of the petition and submissions by the petitioners' counsel.

“It is made clear that this order shall not, in any manner, be construed as an expression of opinion on the veracity of the statement made by the petitioners or the validity of the marriage and shall have no effect on any other civil or criminal proceedings, if any, instituted or pending against them,” Justice Sarin concluded.



## Merry Christmas to one and all

Let us celebrate the life and teachings of  
**Lord Jesus Christ**  
in a spirit of peace, compassion and unity.



The auspicious occasion will be marked by

### PUNJAB GOVERNMENT

led by

Chief Minister

### CAPT. AMARINDER SINGH

with a state level function

### PROGRAMME

Date: December 23, 2020 (Wednesday)

Time: 11:00 AM

Venue: White Resort, Pandori Road,  
Gurdaspur

### Sh. Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa,

Minister of Rural Development & Panchayats,  
Animal Husbandry, Fisheries & Dairy Development  
and Higher Education will join the people in the  
Birth Anniversary Celebrations of  
Lord Jesus Christ.

Department of Information & Public Relations, Punjab



Migratory birds in Kakrana village of Rohtak. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## Rare winged visitors sighted in Rohtak

SUNIT DHAWAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, DECEMBER 22

Much to the delight of bird-watchers, certain rare species of migratory birds have been sighted at wetlands in and around Rohtak district.

Fewer winged visitors have arrived at the wetlands in conventional pockets like Dighal and nearby villages due to deficient rain after July.

“There was hardly any rain after July. Comparatively less migratory birds have

arrived owing to scarcity of marshy patches in certain pockets,” said SS Rawat, District Wildlife Officer, Rohtak.

Rawat pointed out that more than 2,000 migratory birds had been spotted at the Bhindawas sanctuary, nearly 450 in Mandothi village and around 250 near Sampla so far.

“Certain rare species like greater white-fronted geese and cape penduline tit have been sighted this year,” said HS Tada, a birdwatcher.



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Tribune News Service

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have erected hoardings in six villages, including Jaisinghpura, Dera Gama and Khizrabad. Similar hoard-

# The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

## Drone infiltration

Measuring up to new challenge along Pak border

THE seizure of a box with hand grenades in Gurdaspur, dropped by a drone launched from across the border, is a stark reminder of the newest logistical and technological challenge posed by Pakistan's narco-terror enterprise. From trafficking drugs and small arms using flying objects, it is now relying on upgraded versions that can ferry larger and heavier payloads. There have been a number of instances of security forces capturing arms and ammunition making their way in through drone infiltration, and the winter months with fog could see more such activity in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Five days prior to the latest midnight drop — which was detected by alert security personnel and did not go unchallenged — a drone module with international linkages was busted in Amritsar. As they try to unravel the nexus of the accused, arrested following multiple raids, with Pakistan-based smugglers and terrorist outfits, the investigating agencies have their hands full. The task has been made more difficult following revelations that drones were being procured, assembled, sold and repaired right in the middle of the national capital without any government authorisation. Purchased drones are meant to be registered and a Unique Identification Number is to be applied for. Since this was not done, the drones could not be monitored.

As efforts are on to deploy improved anti-drone systems and find better technical solutions, there is also a demand to install low-level radars along the border to destroy the quadcopters. The threat posed by Chinese armed drones being exported to Pakistan, too, is not lost on the security establishment. The urgency required to deal with the crisis at hand cannot be stressed enough. Another aspect that needs attention is the glaring gaps in drone management and regulation in the country. Data estimation of rogue or unregulated drones has already been conducted. In the works is training of even police personnel in drone detection, tracking and identification. It's bound to be a protracted battle.

## A check on pvt hospitals

Care needed in enforcing proposed public health Act

THE onslaught of the coronavirus pandemic has laid bare some glaring ailments afflicting our health system. Remedial measures are needed so that we are better equipped to deal with the struggles that ordinary people had to bear as they were expected to deal with a stringent lockdown — not experienced by anyone in living memory — imposed to keep Covid-19 at bay. Ill-informed and panicky, the people were left to their own devices as businesses, transport services, hospitals (except Covid and emergency services) came to a halt. The situation, with little controls in place, was ripe for the unscrupulous to make a killing. The resultant loss of work and wages, overpriced and substandard drugs, including sanitizers and masks, and hoarding of essential goods broke many a back, poignantly marked by the long marches of migrant labourers. With the number of Covid cases spiralling and hospital beds falling short, the ugly face of the private health sector was exposed as they resorted to fleecing the needy. Gaps in health insurance exacerbated the disease-struck.

While these ills have been prevalent in our society, the scale and intensity of their occurrence have brought into focus the urgent need to update the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. Taking note of the sordid affairs, the parliamentary standing committee on home affairs has rightly suggested a comprehensive public health law to keep tabs on private hospitals, especially those that get land on subsidised rates, and black marketing of medicines. A relook into the steep cost of medical education that keeps the ordinary but deserving candidates out of the reckoning and leads to unprincipled practices is also called for. However, utmost care needs to be ensured that the checks do not end in the corruption-riddled inspector raj.

Luckily, not all is dark. The public sector hospitals kept the flag of the noble profession high, with doctors and paramedics bravely attending to Covid patients and the dead. It makes a case to highlight the oft-felt need of raising the budget for healthcare. The virus should goad the authorities to enhance the funds at once. The 1.15 per cent of the GDP in 2017 cannot meet the needs of 1.3 billion people.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

We are not formidable enough to survive without tactics, rules & strategies that allow people to work together. — Peter Guber

### ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

# The Tribune.

LAHORE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1920

### The Nagpur Congress.

WE are sincerely pleased to learn from a Nagpur telegram that leading moderates of the Central Provinces, including Sir G. Chitnavis, Sir B.K. Bose and Mr. Dravid of the Servants of India Society, have not only joined the Nagpur Congress themselves but have also issued a manifesto appealing to their brother moderates in other Provinces to join the Congress in large numbers. As we have said in our leading article, we do not expect this appeal to be largely responded to, the more so because of the very late hour when it has been issued. But all the same, we do regard it as a step in the right direction on which the Nagpur moderates are to be warmly congratulated. The ground on which the appeal is based is that very important questions are likely to come up before the ensuing session, the divisions as to which are bound to have far-reaching effects. This is a general as well as a special ground, general, because there is scarcely ever a session of the Congress at which "very important" questions do not come up for consideration, and special, because scarcely ever in the history of the Congress has that body had to consider more important questions than what it has to consider at the forthcoming session. And this means in plain English that while moderates should, as a rule, join every session of the Congress, it has seldom been and can seldom be either more necessary or more desirable for them to join it than in the present case. That is a view in which we entirely agree. Our only fear is that the presence of moderates in large numbers may lead some among the nationalists who would otherwise have divided against Mr. Gandhi to go over to his side. We do hope this fear would be falsified even if, contrary to expectations, the moderates did join the Congress in large numbers.

# Back to identity issues in UP

A coalition of neglected backward castes and Dalits new element in poll prelude



RADHIKA RAMASESHAN

SENIOR JOURNALIST



FRESH EQUATIONS: The Yogi govt's stand on minorities has helped UP's third front. PTI

The BJP, SP and BSP that took caste allegiances for granted, may have to revisit their algorithms before 2022.

UTTAR Pradesh is in a political churn a little over a year before it votes. The social hierarchy that evolved in the post-Mandal, post-Ayodhya phases has become shaky. While the order that was built and re-built since the '90s by the principal political players — the BJP, the SP and the BSP — is still not seriously challenged, the early tremors leading to a long-term transmutation are palpable. The BJP, SP and BSP, that took caste allegiances for granted and crafted their strategies to get the electoral math correct, may have to revisit their algorithms before 2022. For long, it was a given that the Yadavs, the biggest beneficiary of the empowerment agendas set out for the OBCS, went to the SP as their natural habitat; the Dalits and especially the better off Jatavs, rooted for the BSP. The BJP's social engineering tactics, honed to near-perfection by KN Govindacharya, a former general secretary, eventually led to the regrouping of the non-Yadav, non-Jatav OBC and Dalit sub-castes in its favour. However, the notion of the OBCs and Dalits being homogeneous blocks is a myth. These groupings are riddled with historical, fictional and real contradictions that worked against their broader unity.

The creation of a large coalition of the neglected, excluded and undocumented backward castes and Dalits is the new element in the prelude to the UP elections. Christened the 'Bhagidaari Sankalp Morcha', the name embodies the spirit and intent of the alliance of eight parties in which Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) is the newest entrant. *Bhagidaari* and *hissedar* are the words that encapsulate the venture regarded as UP's first developed 'third front' cemented by a

resolve to get for the castes they represent their share of power in politics, administration, education and the police, provided they hang together as the BJP, SP and BSP are likely to poach on their social bases. "Jiski jitni sankhya bhaari, uski utni bhagyadari" is the coalition's dominant slogan, borrowed from the BSP when it came into being. The BSP that began as a party of the subaltern, has since morphed into an abode of the better-off Dalits and reduced its founder Kanshi Ram's rallying cry to a travesty.

The journey of the architect of the new morcha embodies the political trajectory of the deprived OBCs. Om Prakash Rajbhar, who is from the Rajbhar caste, started his politics in the BSP. Apparently fed up with Mayawati's alleged propensity to favour the moneyed with tickets and posts, he floated his own party, the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP), before the 2017 UP polls. Rajbhar named it after Suheldev, an eleventh century ruler of Shrawasti, near the present-day Bahraich, who purportedly vanquished an invader, Ghazi Saifiyad Salar Masud. To Rajbhar, Suheldev was a valorous warlord, an inspiration for the community. To the BJP, that extolled him in a booklet brought out before the UP elections, he

was the Raja who defeated a Badshah, and hence the epitome of 'Hindu nationalism'. When he was the BJP president, Amit Shah, quickly figured out the symbolic value of Suheldev, both to the backward castes as well as Hindus in general and adopted him as an icon. Suheldev's co-option was a signal to Rajbhar to have an alliance. Rajbhar agreed and the partnership enabled the BJP to enlarge the circumference of its influence in eastern UP beyond Varanasi and Gorakhpur.

The friendship was short-lived. Rajbhar, who was a minister in the Yogi cabinet, resigned before the last Lok Sabha polls, citing the government's unwillingness to carry out the proposals of the 'Implementation of OBC Social Justice Committee'. The panel, set up in 2018 by Akhilesh Yadav, reviewed the classification of the backward castes under the chairmanship of a former judge, Raghavendra Kumar.

The report is a hot potato. Any government would have its task cut out if the recommendations were to be fulfilled. It categorised the backward castes into three groups: Other Backward Classes (OBCs), More Backward Classes (MBCs) and Most Backward Classes, and suggested that the 27 per cent reservation quo-

## Santa with the gift of the jab

### RAJAN KAPOOR

THE other day, my daughter put me a very simple question. It was about Santa Claus. Since Christmas is round the corner, asking a question about Santa was but natural. Santa Claus is a darling of kids who adore him as he brings gifts for them. Kids eagerly wait for the man with the white beard, wearing a red coat and carrying a big bag of gifts. Santa is adored in every nook and cranny of the world, he cuts across all barriers. Such is his personality. My daughter, who like other children, is a fan, wanted to know why Santa had not yet paid a visit to our home.

Unable to give a satisfactory reply, I parried her query. But when she pestered me, I gave a convoluted explanation. Frustrated and confused, she dialled her granny to know the answer. Santa visits those who think of the welfare of others, granny told the child. The explanation was well received by my daughter.

The next day, she showed me a hand-made sketch of Santa. It was a different sketch with Santa holding an injection in his hand and a queue of doctors, policemen and sanitation workers awaiting their turn to get inoculated. 'Santa with a corona jab gift' was the title boldly written on top of the portrait. I kept gazing, frozen.

I hugged my daughter and thanked her profusely for making me know as to where Santa would visit this Christmas. He would be visiting the frontline warriors who led the fight to fend off the virus. When the whole country was in a state of lockdown, they were stepping out of their cosy zones to save the lives of their fellow citizens. They put their lives and those of their kin in danger and took the challenge head-on. Had they not confronted the virus, it would have led to chaos. So, Santa is going to visit them with the gift of a vaccine jab.

This Christmas, we should also salute the army of Santas who played the Good Samaritan to

those rendered homeless and penniless due to the lockdown or loss of jobs. Santas actually live around us. These unsung heroes walk and move around us. Selfless service is their sole motto. They work without any reward or recognition. Such great souls often go unnoticed. The pandemic or any other calamity fails to break the spirit of such men as they overcome the unpleasant events with their virtuous deeds.

Let us be Santa to those who are in trouble. Our little act of extending a helping hand to the needy can tumble out the much-needed gifts from our magical bag for such unfortunate lot and bring a smile on their faces.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Raids on arthiyas

Reference to the editorial 'Pressure tactics'; intentions may be noble, but the timing of raids on arthiyas was wrong. In the midst of the farmers' agitation, conducting IT raids on the participants of agitation has been done to coerce them to back off. The government must not use institutions like the ED and the CBI for politically-driven agenda. It may lose its inherent value and standing. IT raids must not be conducted as the first thing to nab the defaulters, but should be a follow-up action if the respondents do not submit the required information. By conducting such extempore raids, the government has sent wrong signals to the agitators and it may not bode well for the outcome of the talks. It's a bad policy to slap with one hand and extend the other for friendship.

ASHOK GOSWAMI, NEW YORK

#### Misuse of govt machinery

There has been a tendency to use the CBI, ED and the IT department against political opponents. In Himachal Pradesh, a CBI raid took place when the marriage of Virbhadra Singh's daughter was being solemnised. These are unethical practices. The income tax raids on arthiyas have taken place when the agitation against the farm laws is

happening. If the new legislations come into force, the arthiyas would be eclipsed by big business houses.

BIN SINGH, AMRITSAR

#### UK flights

The temporary suspension of all flights connecting the UK and our country in the wake of a rapidly spreading new strain of Covid-19 in Britain, is timely. It will go a long way in checking the entry of the mutated virus into our country. The new variant, which has been named by the UK scientists as VUI-202012/01, may contribute to increased transmission. Covid-19 has already wreaked havoc in India. Therefore, not only the government has to remain alert, we also should be taking all necessary precautions. Complacency can prove costly.

SUNIL CHOPRA, LUDHIANA

#### Decongestion plan

The 8-km ring road project in Zirakpur is back on track. The 200-foot-wide, six-lane road will decongest Zirakpur by providing an alternative route to the Shimla-bound traffic from Ambala. The NHAI is likely to start the work in a month on 100 acres of land acquired and completed soon. Chandigarh International Airport, Ambala and the Delhi-bound traffic from Shimla

can avoid Zirakpur. The project will also help prevent around 1.5 lakh vehicles from Punjab and Haryana from entering Chandigarh daily, something that has also been proposed in the city's master plan for better traffic management. This will greatly reduce traffic pressure at Tribune Chowk. With these developments, the need to have a flyover there should be assessed. Also, instead of normal traffic lights, smart lights that sense traffic on the higher side and allow vehicles to move for a certain period, then switch to the next side, should be provided at the roundabout.

SATEESH DADWAL, CHANDIGARH

#### Role of Opposition

It is being alleged that the Opposition parties are misleading the farmers. I am at a loss to understand why can't the Opposition articulate views on a particular policy matter of the government and espouse the cause of those who feel wronged by the laws passed. If the government had been favourably disposed to their interests, the need for protest would not have arisen.

EL SINGH, NEW YORK

Those who are protesting should welcome the support of everyone, including that of political representatives, who keep a check on the

government. The charge is untenable and off the mark.

ROSHAN LAL GOEL, LADWA

#### Chinese misdemeanour

Reference to the news report about Chinese espionage network in Afghanistan working to destabilise the present government, one may wonder what kind of trick the permanent member of the UNSC is up to. The Dragon has violated every international law, obstructed a number of legitimate motions relating to India and still sits proudly in the permanent seat of the UN Security Council. The United Nations must look for amendment in its Constitution and find a way out for vacating the seat owing to the diplomatic misdemeanours of Beijing.

RAKESH SUDAN, VIA EMAIL

#### Hathras case probe

The CBI chargesheet in the Hathras case is a stinging indictment of the UP government's handling of the case which has responded by claiming that it had ordered the CBI probe in the first place. Insulating the investigation and prosecution from any political influence is the only way to ensure justice for the young Dalit woman.

EL SINGH, VIA EMAIL

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

## NEPAL'S PARLIAMENTARY CRISIS



DESPERATION: Earlier this year, PM Oli raised an ultra-nationalist bogey by laying claim to Indian territory via cartographic adventurism. REUTERS

## Power feud fuels unrest



MANJEET SINGH PURI

FORMER AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO NEPAL

Nepal has struggled long for the establishment of democracy and its people have developed a strong sense of political empowerment. Snuffing it out may, therefore, not be possible, but stifling it for a while is not inconceivable.

It is important that the country's political leadership remains firm and upholds the torch of democracy.

Dahal (better known as Prachanda), and the formation of the NCP.

Obviously, there was a power-sharing deal between the two, but Oli has reneged on ceding either the prime ministership or the chairmanship of the NCP. The result has been a vigorous contestation within the party for the past year, with Oli on one side and now almost all other big NCP leaders, including former PMs Dahal, Madhav Kumar Nepal and Jhalanath Khanal, against him. Oli has also not ingratiated himself with the public through good governance, including during the trying times of the pandemic.

Politicians in Nepal have little hesitation in resorting to political brinkmanship. Opportunism makes them willing to strike deals with even the most strident of opponents. Moreover, splitting parties with factionalism is a commonplace occurrence.

Earlier this year, seeing his support sharply dwindle within his own party, Oli was more than willing to split his party and sought to bring in an ordinance that allowed the splitting of parties based on 40 per cent breakaway in either the parliamentary party or the central committee and not both as the Constitution demands. This was withdrawn only after much political give-

and-take amid reports of external pressures (read China) to keep the party unified. Such 'political' efforts are continuing in the current situation too and while a compromise within the NCP appears difficult, one shouldn't underestimate the guile of the Nepali politician in his/her self-interest.

An early dissolution of Parliament should appear to be a godsend for the opposition Nepali Congress, giving it an opportunity for a shot at the government a few years ahead of schedule. It would also help quell leadership challenges within the party for former PM Sher Bahadur Deuba. However, there are believers of the view that he has, in fact, been squared up by the Prime Minister, evidenced by recent appointments of his protégés on key government posts.

And, even though in the past decade or so, since the abolition of monarchy, the former King has laid low, in recent weeks, there have been pro-monarchy public demonstrations across Nepal and some 'deal' with him or his supporters shouldn't be put beyond the realm of possibility, no matter how remote. Indeed, in the past, PM Oli has spoken of his being open to a 'cultural' monarchy.

India is the favourite whipping boy of Nepali politicians. The raising of anti-India sentiment is the usual way for ensuring that political leaders in Nepal retain their perches even if it means crossing the reddest of red lines in inter-state ties.

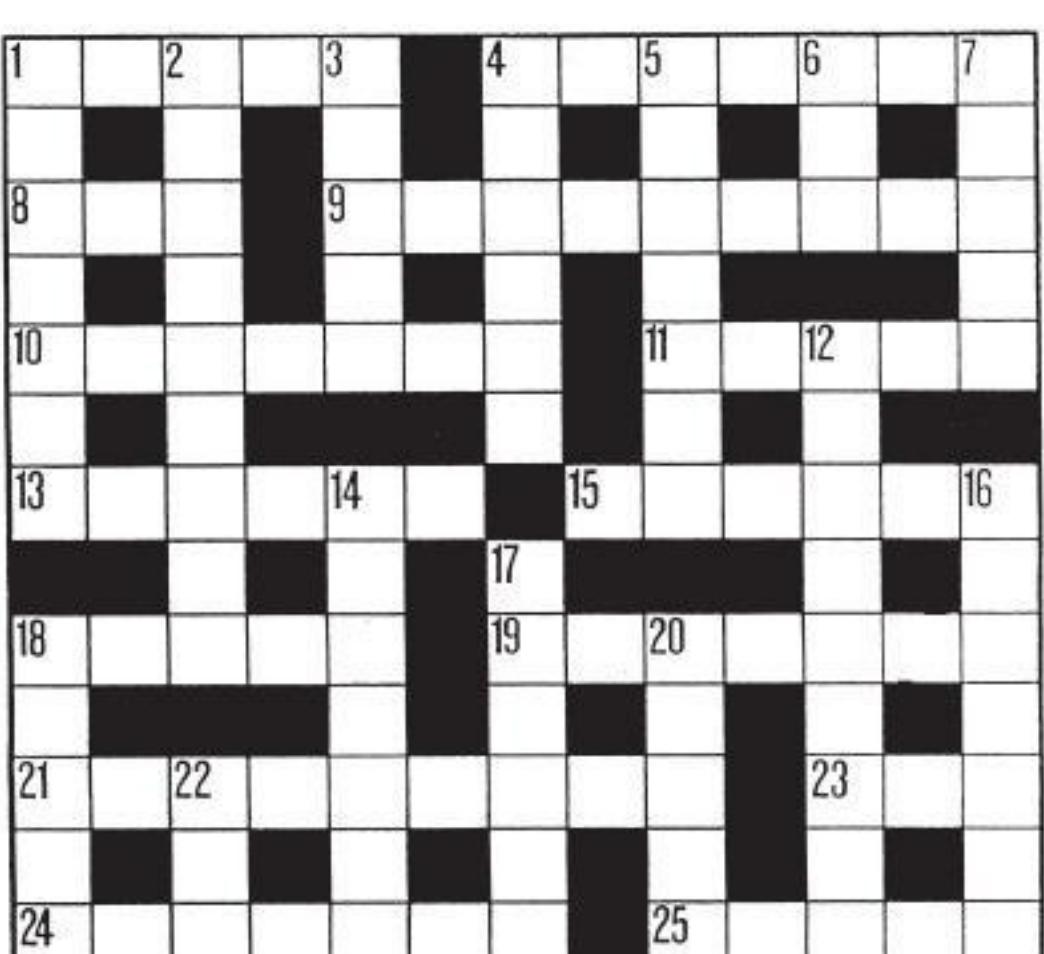
This was evidenced some months back when Oli, also then under tremendous pressure to cede power, raised an ultra-nationalist bogey by laying claim to Indian territory through cartographic adventurism, that was then enshrined in the Constitution.

This led to a long period of understandably strained ties that have only recently shown signs of thawing with senior-level visits from India to Nepal taking place. The dissolution of Parliament clearly underscores the nature of the motivation in Nepali politics. For good reason, India is out of the discussions this time.

Nepal has struggled long for the establishment of democracy and its people have developed a strong sense of political empowerment. Snuffing it out may, therefore, not be possible, but stifling it for some time is not inconceivable. And, even though the world is preoccupied with Covid-19, some across the globe will note the happenings in Nepal. It is important that the country's political leadership, no matter the different hues that it represents, remains firm and upholds the torch of democracy.

REUTERS

## QUICK CROSSWORD



## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

**Across:** 1 White House, 8 Balsa, 9 Council, 10 Umbrage, 11 Lilac, 12 Detect, 14 Bypass, 17 Nylon, 19 Carnage, 21 Bugbear, 22 Fed up, 23 Red herring.  
**Down:** 2 Halibut, 3 Tiara, 4 Hockey, 5 Usually, 6 Excel, 7 Black sheep, 8 Blue Danube, 13 Contend, 15 Abandon, 16 Scarce, 18 Lager, 20 Refer.

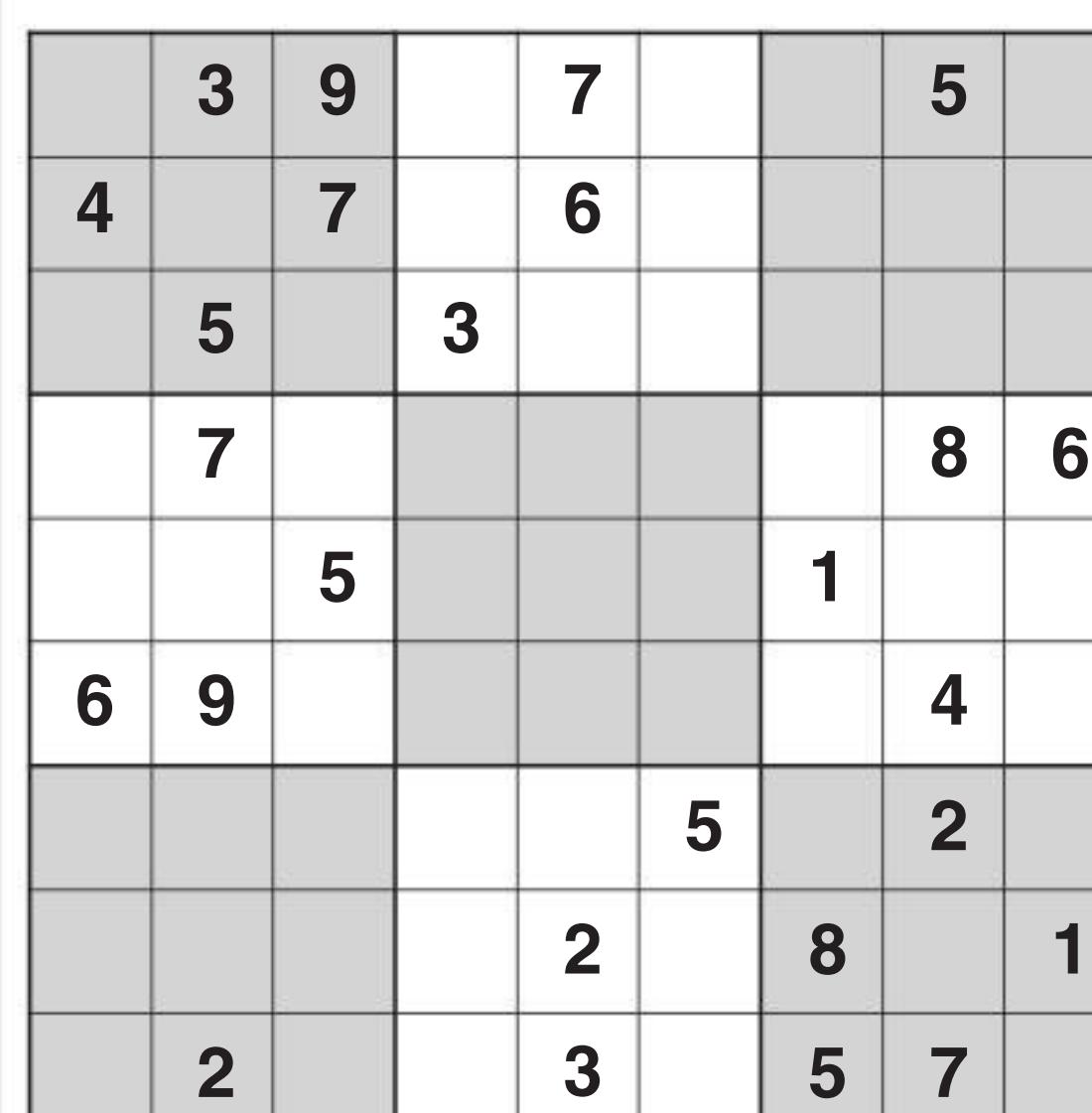
## ACROSS

- 1 With regard to (2,3)
- 4 Neatly packed together (7)
- 8 At the price of (3)
- 9 Offer without being asked (9)
- 10 Illegal act (7)
- 11 Intense pain (5)
- 13 Long narrow ditch (6)
- 15 Comment (6)
- 18 Broaden (5)
- 19 Wraith (7)
- 21 The existing condition (6,3)
- 23 Acknowledgment of debt (3)
- 24 Outermost (7)
- 25 Boxing match (5)

## DOWN

- 1 Insult openly (7)
- 2 A long way from home (3,6)
- 3 Split (5)
- 4 Visitor (6)
- 5 Commonplace (7)
- 6 Generation (3)
- 7 Slow to act (5)
- 12 Under one's control (2,1,6)
- 14 Embarrass (7)
- 16 A citrus fruit (7)
- 17 Impenetrable to sight (6)
- 18 Use to no purpose (5)
- 20 Reserved and haughty (5)
- 22 Social insect (3)

## SU DO KU



MEDIUM

## Threat to Chinese game plan



MAJ GEN ASHOK K MEHTA (RETD)

MILITARY COMMENTATOR

China has made deep inroads in Nepal, broadening relations with political parties, government institutions, security forces and civil society. The ongoing political turbulence could undermine Chinese moves. Whatever the outcome of the parliamentary and intra-party crises, it is advantage India. A change of guard will deal a new hand to India.

held in April/May during a pandemic that is nowhere under control, for which his government is to blame. While seven Cabinet ministers from the Dahal faction have resigned from the government, two ministers have not. Plenty of factional crossover has taken place within the party and more will follow, depending on the court verdict. If the court rejects Oli's plea and restores Parliament, he will have no legs to stand on and will be compelled to resign. On the other hand, if Oli's decision is upheld, Nepal will undertake a dangerous election. Either way, the stability of the government and the party will be the casualties.

The origin of the Oli-Dahal power struggle goes back to early 2018 when Dahal, as NCP president, considered friendlier to India than Oli, was invited first on an official visit and spoke at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi. In response to a question on power-sharing by me, he said: 'yes, there is an agreement between Oli ji and me that we will be prime ministers for two-and-a-half years each.' The uneasy lull over this agreement continued till March 2019,

when Oli refused to endorse Dahal's nomination of communist stalwart and former Deputy PM BD Gautam to the Upper House. This was days before Oli was hospitalised for his second kidney transplant. I was in Kathmandu at the time and the grapevine had indicated that Madhav Nepal would become the next PM; Dahal, the permanent party chairman; and JN Khanal, the President-in-waiting. The Dahal group had written off Oli but in deference to his health, another ceasefire was declared. Then in November 2019, President Bhandari brokered the famous Oli-Dahal agreement which buried the power-sharing agreement and clarified their roles as Prime Minister and Executive Chairman with finality. But Oli refused to give up his party co-chair, encroaching on Dahal's turf. In September 2020, a six-member NCP Task Force defined further the mandate of the two warring leaders.

But the two main crises were in April/May and July. The first was over the implementation of the agreement on one-man-one-post. The second was in July when the Dahal faction demanded Oli's resignation over his allegation that India was trying to unseat his government. In both these crises, Yanqi, Bhandari and Gautam turned the elusive Pimprenel, played a crucial role in saving Oli and his government as well as preventing the break-up of the NCP — till Sunday's blow-up.

China has made deep inroads in Nepal, broadening relations with all political parties, government institutions, security forces and civil society. The CCP and NCP have institutionalised their ties. Political and military delegations are expanding exchange programmes. Last year, Chinese tourists coming by air outnumbered the Indian ones. President Xi Jinping recently spoke to his counterpart Bhandari and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has held two virtual meetings with Pakistan, Nepal and Afghanistan on the pandemic. Chinese aid and investment now exceed India's, but connectivity projects are yet to take off. Beijing has shed all inhibitions on interference in internal affairs as it attempts to improve its political and strategic profile in Nepal. The ongoing political turbulence could end up from being a serious jolt to undermining the Chinese game plan.

Whatever the outcome of the parliamentary and intra-party crises, it is advantage India. A change of guard will deal a new hand to India as Nepal sadly transits to a new mess.



PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED: PM Oli justified his drastic action after political and public anger swept the streets. REUTERS

## CALENDAR

DECEMBER 23, 2020, WEDNESDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Posh Shaka	2
■ Posh Parvishtha	9
■ Hijri	1442
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 9, up to 8.40 pm	
■ Varivana Yoga up to 12.49 pm	
■ Revti Nakshatra up to 4.33 am	
■ Moon enters Aries sign 4:33 am	
■ Panchak ended 4.33 am	

## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

## FORECAST

SUNSET: WEDNESDAY 17:27 HRS  
SUNRISE: THURSDAY 07:18 HRS

Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Rainy	Foggy
CITY	MAX	MIN		
Chandigarh	21	06		
New Delhi	24	04		
Amritsar	20	04		
Bathinda	22	05		
Jalandhar	20	04		
Ludhiana	21	04		
Bhiwani	22	05		
Hisar	22	04		
Sirsa	23	05		
Dharamsala	15	03		
Manali	13	0		
Shimla	16	06		
Srinagar	09	-06		
Jammu	21	06		
Kargil	-07	-14		
Leh	-08	-17		
Dehradun	21	06		
Mussoorie	17	07		

TEMPERATURE IN °C

## Homestay gutted in Kullu village

KULLU, DECEMBER 22 A three-storey wooden building was gutted in Kalga village in the Manikaran valley today. The cause of the fire was reportedly a short circuit. The loss has been estimated at Rs 50 lakh. — OC

## 9 PUNJAB AT NEW AMRITSAR MILITARY STATION

### QUOTATIONS INVITED

For construction of 01x waiting shed (28 feet x 35 feet) at dograi canteen stores department at New Amritsar Military Station, Request for Proposal (RFP) is available at 9 PUNJAB (NAMS). Sealed quotations be dropped in quotation box at RPT Gate of 9 PUNJAB by 11AM on 05 Jan 2021.

**Dealing Officer**  
9 PUNJAB PIN-911909 c/o 56 APO Phone No: 7733923777

## NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM E-TENDER

Notice No. E-Tender/Water Supply & Sanitation Division No. 1, Hoshiarpur/EE/2020-21

Short Term Tenders through e-tendering process are invited on behalf of Governor of Punjab by Executive Engineer W/S & Sanitation Division No. 1, Hoshiarpur.

**Sr. No.** **Name of Work** **Estimated Cost (in Rs.)** **Last Date/ Time of Submission** **Date of Opening of Bid**

1 For revision of Fire Fighting System at District Administration Complex (DAC), Hoshiarpur Rs. 9,65,000/- up to 28.12.2020 at 17:00 Hrs. 29.12.2020 at 11:00 Hrs.

• Bidders are advised to note minimum qualification criteria & instructions in bidding document.

• Visit <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> for detail & downloading bidding documents. Correspondence and will be issued on website only.

Note:- This office has the right to cancel/re-invite the tenders for any administrative reasons in the future.

Sd/- Er. Ashwani Kumar, Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation Division No. 1, Hoshiarpur.

Phone No. 01882-240484, Email: [ewss.div1@hoshiarpurpb@yahoo.com](mailto:ewss.div1@hoshiarpurpb@yahoo.com)

DPR/Pb/33

## सार्वजनिक नीलामी सूचना

सर्वांगधारणा को सुचित किया जाता है कि निर्देशालय सूचना एवं जन संपर्क विभाग के कार्डमेनेजर बोर्ड द्वारा निर्देशालय के अनुपयोगी/कंडम घोषित किए गए नियन्त्रित वाहनों को दिनांक 05.01.2021 को सुबह 11.30 बजे नीलाम किया जाएगा।

क्र. संख्या	वाहन संख्या	मोडल	वाहन द्वारा दिया दूरी	धरोहर राशि
1.	एच.पी.07.2077 (Tata Truck)	1989	206804	50,000/- रुपये
2.	एच.पी.24-0257 (Eicher Bus)	1993	255183	40,000/- रुपये
3.	एच.पी.52-0037 (Esteem Car)	2004	324355	10,000/- रुपये

अतः सभी इच्छुक व्यक्तियों को नीलामी में भाग लेने के लिए आमंत्रित किया जाता है।

इच्छुक व्यक्ति फिरी भी कार्यदिवस में सुबह 10.00 बजे से साथ 05.00 बजे तक निर्देशालय परिसर की पार्किंग में खड़े अनुपयोगी/कंडम घोषित वाहनों को देख सकते हैं।

नीलामी हेतु बोली की शर्त निम्न प्रकार से होगी:-

1. बोली देने वाले सभी बोलीदाताओं को बोली से पूर्व उपरोक्त वाहन के संदर्भ में दर्शाई धरोहर राशि के तौर पर अधोस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में नगद जमा करवानी होगी अन्यथा बोली में भाग नहीं ले सकेंगे।

2. सफल बोलीदात द्वारा जमा की गई धरोहर राशि के अतिरिक्त अन्य समस्त बोलीदातों द्वारा जमा करवाई गई धरोहर राशि बोली के तुरन्त बाद वापस लौटा दी जाएगी। सफल बोलीदात द्वारा जमा की गई धरोहर राशि को उसके द्वारा अदा की जान वाली कुल राशि में समावेशी कर दिया जाएगा।

3. बोली समाप्त होने पर उच्चतम बोलीदात को पूरी राशि जमा करवानी होगी।

4. नीलामी उपरान्त 10 दिनों की अवधि में सफल बोलीदात को निर्देशालय के पार्किंग परिसर से बाहर ले जाने होंगे अन्यथा अगले पांच दिन तक 500/- रुपये के हिसाब से जुर्माना वसूला जाएगा। नीलामी के 15 दिन बाद तक वाहन न ले जाने की स्थिति में नीलामी को रद्द कर दिया जाएगा एवं सफल बोलीदात द्वारा जमा राशि जब कर ली जाएगी।

5. अधोस्ताक्षरी को बिना कारण बताए धरोहर बोली को स्वीकार अथवा अस्वीकार करने वाली को रद्द करने का पूर्ण अधिकार होगा।

निरेशक,  
सूचना एवं जन संपर्क  
हिमाचल प्रदेश, शिमला।

DPR/HP/5223

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE			
SER. NO.	NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE / CLOSING DATE (APPROX.) IN RUPeES
1	PANCHAYATI RAJ AMBALA	SELECTION OF CONSULTANCY FIRM FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FOR REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING CONVENTIONAL LAMPS WITH LED LAMPS OR INSTALLATION OF NEW LED LAMPS IN THE STATE OF HARYANA. THE STATE OF HARYANA MAY BE ALONG WITH CENTRALIZED CONTROL AND MONITORING SYSTEM (CCMS) WITH SEVEN YEARS OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE IN THE STATE OF HARYANA FOR SELECTED VILLAGES IN THE STATE OF HARYANA.	17.12.2020 11.01.2021 nil https://etenders.hry.nic.in prexeengt.amb@hry.nic.in
2	PANCHAYATI RAJ, KAITHAL	LAYING OF DRY/STONE PITCHING OF KOTKUT TIRTH AT VILLAGE KERAK BLOCK KAITHAL	18.12.2020 04.01.2020 129.06 lacs https://etenders.hry.nic.in Prexeeng.kt@hry.nic.in

PRDH/11/2021/401062/I/31/4 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaepprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaepprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

OFFICE OF Principal Chief Materials Manager

Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001

Mail ID : [salenr365@gmail.com](mailto:salenr365@gmail.com)

No: 117/S/Auction Programme/Sale/2020-21

## Corrigendum in Auction Program of Northern Railway

Following extra/amended dates of the auction program for the month of December 2020 will be as under:

SNo.	Depots	Existing	Extra/amended date for e-auction
1.	DY.CMM/JUDW 01732-252388	28.12.2020	30.12.2020

All other auction dates advised earlier will remain same. For further details regarding e-auction please visit Railway website '[www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)'.

2846/2020

For Principal Chief Materials Manager

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUNJAB AGRO INDUSTRIES CORPORATION	
Plot No. 2A, Sector-28A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh 160002	Phone: 0172 2651561, 2657472 CIN: U51219CH1966SGC002630 <a href="http://www.punjabagro.gov.in">www.punjabagro.gov.in</a>

## NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Bid Number-1

Tender bids are invited from eligible bidders for the project/works detailed in the following table:

Item No	Name of Equipments	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Approx. rate (in Rs.)
1	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of complete Food Testing Laboratory Infrastructure, instruments, chemicals, consumables, stationery etc. at Mega Food Park.	Rs.1,00,000/-	45 days	To be furnished by the bidder

Last date for submission of online bid is 12.01.2021. Technical bids will be opened on the same day at 4.30 PM. Date for opening of financial bids will be intimated after evaluation of technical bids. Querries shall be taken up in pre-bid meeting to be held through video conferencing (VC) on 04.01.2021 at 11.30 AM. Details of the tender can be downloaded from <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. For any clarification, please send an email at [testinglab.mfp.paic@punjab.gov.in](mailto:testinglab.mfp.paic@punjab.gov.in), [bhupinder.singh28@punjab.gov.in](mailto:bhupinder.singh28@punjab.gov.in) or contact us at: General Manager, Mega Food Park

9914500655, 9779264221

[General Manager, Mega Food Park](mailto:General Manager, Mega Food Park)

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[General Manager, Mega Food Park](mailto:General Manager, Mega Food Park)



Counting of votes under way at a centre for the recently concluded DDC poll in Jammu on Tuesday. PTI

## Poll results eye-opener for BJP& proxies: Omar

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

"The election results are an eye-opener for the BJP and its proxies. The people have rejected the Centre's move to abrogate special status," NC vice-chief Omar Abdullah said on the win of the seven party amalgam formed recently to seek restoration of Article 370 and full statehood to JK.

The DDC polls although hyper local were being seen in political circles as a decision on the Centre's August 5, 2019 moves to abrogate Article 370 and bifurcate the state into two UTs through bills in Parliament. The PAGD consists of mainstream JK parties including the PDP, CPM, ANC, JK People's Movement with the Congress tacitly backing the alliance. The Congress was a distant third with the son of JK unit president Ghulam Ahmed Mir losing from Anantnag district. A major statement for the Gupkar alliance was the victory of PDP's Waheed Para arrested by the NIA for links with ter-



FACED OBSTACLES	GOOD SIGN
The JKPGD is an alliance that emerged out of the betrayal of the people of J&K on August 5, 2019. We have faced every obstacle — illegal detentions, agency threats & pressures, our candidates were locked up to stop them campaigning & from all this we are emerging victorious. <b>Omar Abdullah, NC</b>	Even in the Jammu region, a significant number of voters have rejected the divisive and polarising politics of the BJP. Both the Congress and the Gupkar Alliance have stood up to the BJP and may win as many seats as the BJP. That is a good sign. <b>P Chidambaram, CONG</b>

rorists the moment he filed nomination from Pulwama. Also Gupkar alliance win comes in the backdrop of ED probe against Faroog Abdullah in the JK Cricket Association scam in which the ED

last week attached NC chief's properties worth nearly 12 crore, including residences in Jammu and Kashmir. A united Gupkar alliance together managed to keep the BJP at bay.

## BJP registers three maiden wins in Valley



TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

The BJP today registered three maiden wins in the Valley in the District Development Council (DDC) elections.

While the Jammu results were "expected", it is these three seats that have given the BJP a reason to celebrate. Party's Kashmir in-charge for the DDC elections Shah-nawaz Hussain calls the three seats people's blessings and a "sharp reply to those who said people have lost faith in democracy".

"I want to thank the people of J&K for reposing faith in the democratic system and giving a befitting reply to those who said that people have lost faith in it after the abrogation of Article 370," he said, after Ajiaz Hussain gave the BJP its first victory from the Khonmoh-II seat in the Valley.

Party's J&K spokesperson Abhijeet Jastrotia called the results a "strong reply to



BJP candidate Ajiaz Hussain in Srinagar on Tuesday. PTI

### WE ALONE CAN SHOW THE WAY

Despite negative propaganda by our rivals, people reposed faith in PM Narendra Modi and his governance. The results show that people of J&K have accepted that the BJP alone can show the way and save them from the clutches of dynastic politics.

Abhijeet Jastrotia, J&amp;K BJP SPOKESMAN

those all who flocked together not for development but ulterior motives".

"The BJP won three seats and a good vote share in the entire Kashmir province. It is an indication that people of the Valley stand for democracy. In Jammu, some local parties were battling for the Gupkar gang, but positive campaign of our star

campaigners led to satisfactory results. Despite negative propaganda by our rivals, people reposed faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his governance. The results show that people of J&K have accepted that the BJP alone can show the way and save them from the clutches of dynastic politics," Jastrotia said.

## 2 LeT Ultras surrenders

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

Officials in the security establishment said two local Lashkar-e-Taiba militants surrendered before them in Kulgam district during a cordon and search operation.

The officials said the security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Tandoona village of Kulgam district today. The surrendered militants were identified as Yawar Wasey and Aamir Mir. The officials said both of them were allegedly involved in the killing of the security guard of PDP leader Haji Parvez Ahmad on December 14. — TNS

## Truce breach in Poonch dist

JAMMU, DECEMBER 22

Pakistani troops opened fire and shelled mortars at forward posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district on Tuesday, a defence spokesperson said. There was no report of any damage on the Indian side, he said.

"The Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation in Mankote sectors in Poonch," he said. — PTI

FROM PAGE 1

## Cases below 20K...

### ABOUT NEW STRAIN

The variant is defined by 17 changes. One of the most significant changes is in the spike protein the virus uses to bind to the human cells, increasing its ability to transmit more easily among people.

however did not rule out the possibility of the mutant strain circulating in other countries. "I suspect as more countries look at their data they might find that this variant or a related variant may already be there," Swaminathan said.

### Priest, nun...

Poorthrikayil, was discharged

due to lack of evidence. The CBI, which took over probe on March 29, 1993, filed three closure reports, saying though it was a case of murder, the culprits could not be found. On September 4, 2008, the Kerala High Court came down heavily on the CBI, saying the agency was "still a prisoner of those who wielded political and bureaucratic power". It directed the Delhi CBI unit hand over the probe to its Kochi counterpart. Following this, the CBI arrested the two priests and the nun in 2008. — PTI

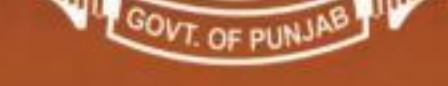
## Man held for running online child sexual abuse racket

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

The CBI has arrested a resident of J&K after registering a case under various sections of the Information & Technology Act and POCSO Act, 2012, for allegedly running online child sexual abuse racket from India and targeting minors living in the USA.

The arrest was made as part of an ongoing probe in the case. The agency in its FIR has further alleged that the accused uploaded the pornographic

videos and images over the dark web for financial gains and was also involved in direct communication with many minors in the USA. "His wife is living in Washington. The accused was allegedly operating through his wife, who had agreed to be involved in master-slave relationship with the accused and on his direction she allegedly exploited minors, recorded these abuses and electronically sent the same to him," a CBI official said. — PTI

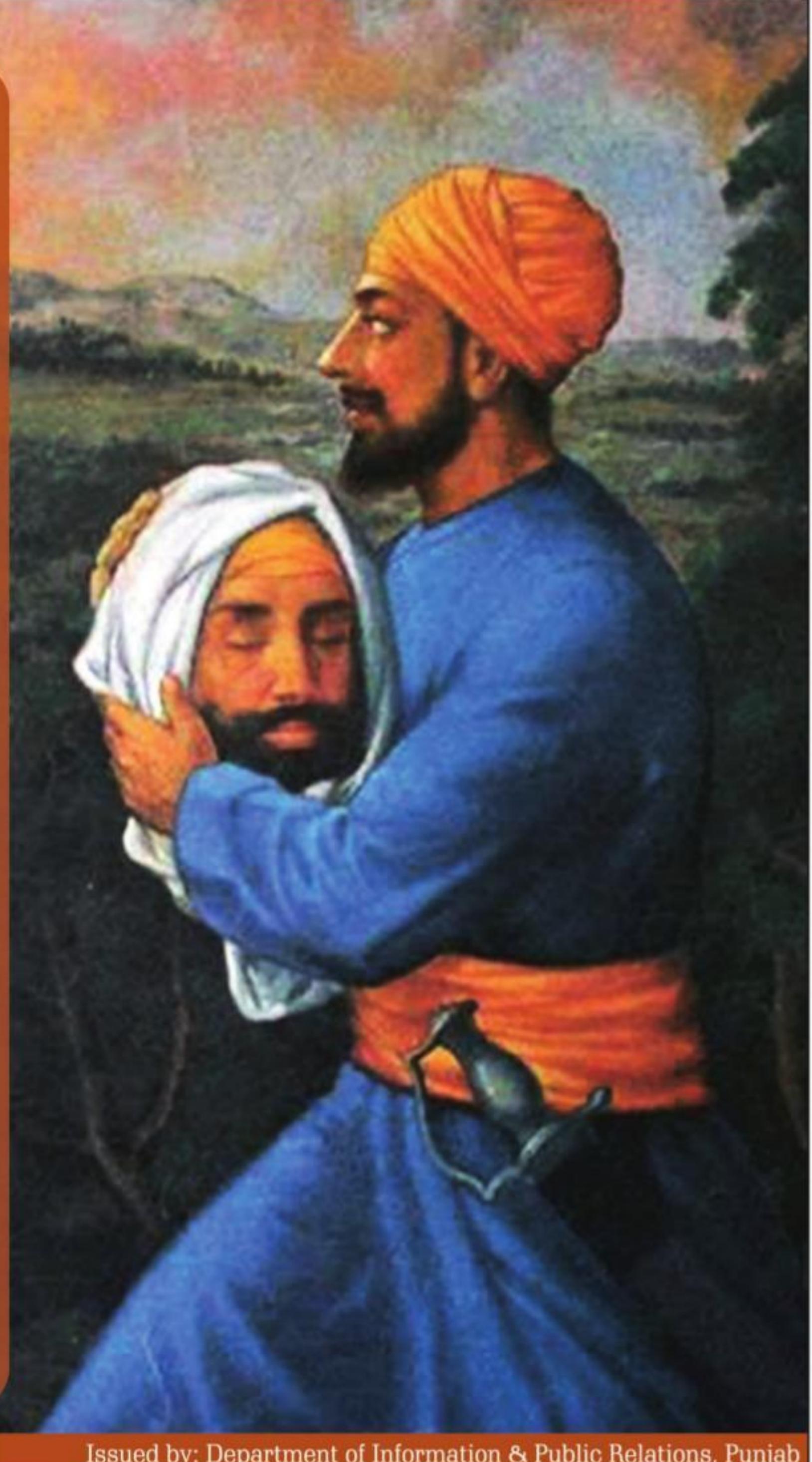


*Remembering  
the great poet warrior*

**Baba Jiwan Singh Ji**  
(Bhai Jaita Ji)  
on his  
**Martyrdom Day**

Punjab Government  
led by  
Chief Minister

**CAPT. AMARINDER SINGH**  
pays glowing tributes to the valiant Sikh  
General credited with bringing the  
severed head (sheesh) of Ninth Sikh Guru,  
Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji from Chandni  
Chowk (Delhi) to Sri Anandpur Sahib.



### Government of Punjab

Tender/RFP Reference No. 7006 Dt. 18.12.2020

The Department of Water Supply & Sanitation Division Khanna Providing and installing of 100nm Id straight tube well up to 150 mtr depth, Pump Chamber, Pumping Machinery, Disinfection Unit and Distribution System and O&M for 3 months complete in all respect at water supply scheme Village Kot Sekhon Basti, Block Khanna, Distt. Ludhiana under PRWSSP. (Under Sub Component 1(ii)(J)) Availability of Tender online for bidding: 22.12.2020 at 10.00 hrs. to 04.01.2021 up to 15.00 hours

Last date &amp; Time for submission of Bid: 04.01.2021 at 15.00 hours

For details log onto: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the above website only. For further assistance regarding e-tendering please contact: 0172-2970263, 0172-2970284.

Sd/- Chairman GPWSC,  
Village Kot Sekhon Basti Block Khanna  
Distt. Ludhiana

DPR/Pb/121118

E-mail: [comeraikot@gmail.com](mailto:comeraikot@gmail.com)

Phone &amp; Fax: 01624-264227

### MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, RAIKOT (LUDHIANA)

Clean City  
Green CITY

नगर कैम्ल, राएंकेट (लुधियाणा)

निवासी: 596

ट्रैकिंग नंबर: 21.12.2020

ट्रैकिंग नंबर: 21.12.2020

नगर कैम्ल, राएंकेट वॉले 153.91 लैंड पर दिक्षिण से राएंकेट दी मंडो गंड लिपि सामाजिक अप्पर बोर्डी भवीती भवीती है।

(A) Date and time Schedule:

Sr. No.	Last Date for Online sale of Bidding Document	Last date of Online submission of Bidding Document	Opening of technical bid document
1.	04.01.2021 11.00 AM	04.01.2021 11.30 AM	04.01.2021 03.00 PM

सारी/- प्रभाग, नगर कैम्ल, रुचला डा। DPR/Pb/121309

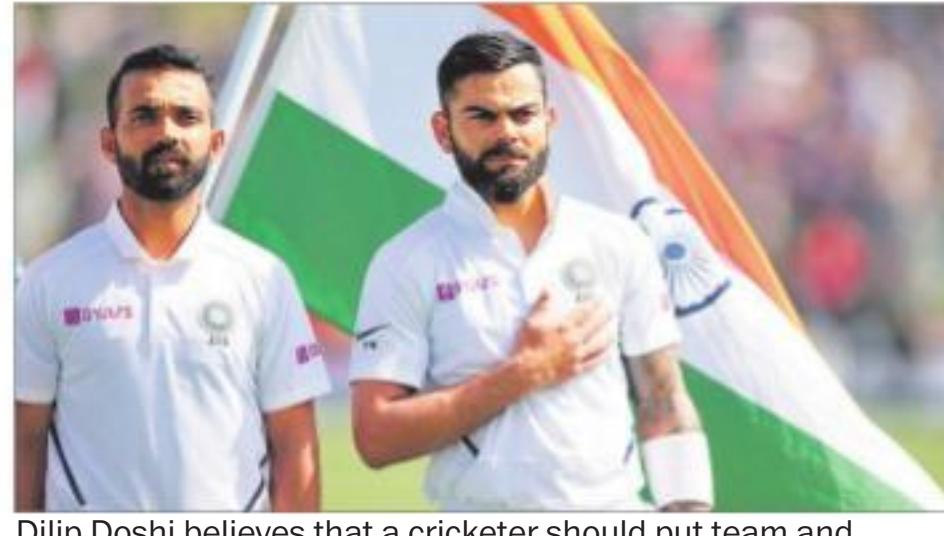
नगर कैम्ल, रुचला डा।

निवासी: 596



# With final pep talk, Kohli on way back

Should have stayed with team, says former spinner Doshi



Dilip Doshi believes that a cricketer should put team and country above family. FILE

In online discussions and letters to editors, some fans have suggested that Kohli, inspirational leader and premier batsman, should have remained with the team in Australia till the end of the series; some have suggested that he could have returned

to India after the second Test, which ends on December 30, or after the third Test, which ends on January 11.

The overwhelming view, though, is that Kohli is doing the right thing by returning to India to be by the side of his wife when they become

parents for the first time.  
“I’m sure there would have been a lot of pressure for him to stay but to stand up and want to go home for the birth of his first child, it’s a credit for him. It’s a milestone that he certainly wouldn’t want to miss,” Steve Smith, AUSTRALIAN BATSMAN

when they deliver a child. I understand all that,” Doshi said in an interview with sports website Sportskeeda. “But when you are on a national duty... If I put myself in his shoes, I wouldn’t have gone. For me, national duty comes before everything else.”

Doshi’s opinion is likely to be unpopular because, as he said, times are very different since he last played for India, in 1983.

Doshi did raise interesting questions—with the team in dire straits, in desperate need of him, is not the captain’s place with his team rather than his family? Should not a cricketer put his team and country before family? This is what Sunil Gavaskar did when, leaving for a long tour of New Zealand and

West Indies in early 1976, he knew that his child would arrive in his absence.

Doshi justified his opinion that Kohli should have stayed in Australia, saying: “It’s a sinking ship. This is the time when they need their captain the most. If you leave at this time, you are leaving the side to your deputy with a lot of questions unanswered. I only hope and pray that the team shows enough character to come out of this.”

Interesting views—though it’s possible that if Doshi were a player of the current times, his mindset would have been very different. Then again, just six years ago, MS Dhoni preferred to be in Australia for the World Cup, instead of being in India for the birth of his child.

## Captain's final words

ADELAIDE: Indian captain Virat Kohli had a final pep talk with his beleaguered teammates today before leaving for India, handing over the mantle of leading the side to Ajinkya Rahane in the remaining three Tests. Before boarding his flight back home, Kohli met his teammates and encouraged them to give their all in the remainder of the series, which the visitors trail 0-1. The idea behind organising the pep talk was to boost the confidence of the players and keep them in a positive frame of mind heading into the crucial Boxing Day Test in Melbourne. Kohli was India's best batsman in the first Test, top-scoring with 74 in the first innings before being run out after a misunderstanding with Rahane.

## Batsmen need to move their feet: Gaekwad

NEW DELHI: Lack of foot movement is the malaise plaguing Indian batsmen at the moment, said Anshuman Gaekwad, the former Indian batsman and coach. The Indian batting's recent collapses, in Adelaide and earlier in the year in New Zealand, after some below-par batting performances in England in 2018, have set the tongues wagging. The batsmen's inability to play the moving ball has been exposed time and again, with the latest being the debacle in Adelaide when they were shot out for 36 in the second innings, their lowest total in Test history. Earlier this year, India lost Test matches in Wellington and Christchurch within three days after being bowled out for 165, 191, 242 and 124 in the four innings. Talking about the batting problems of the Indians, Gaekwad said: “What I can understand, and I have gone through all this, is that you need to use your feet, you cannot stand and deliver. You have to move your feet, front or back, get closer to the ball. In all these countries where the bounce is more, the pace is more, you need to have your technique sorted.” AGENCIES

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22  
Indian captain Virat Kohli left the Australian shores today, giving a final pep talk to his team, but leaving a gaping hole in the Indian batting order.

The absence of Kohli, returning to India for the birth of his first child, due in January, wrenches the heart out of the Indian team, which is down in the dumps after losing the first Test well within three days. Their being bowled out for 36 in the second innings showcased two things — Australia's top-class pace attack and the deficiencies of the Indian batting line-up. The absence of Kohli from the three remaining Tests presents the prospect of a 4-0 whitewash by Australia.

## BRIEFLY

**SYDNEY**  
Bradman's Test cap sells for \$340,000

An Australian businessman has purchased Donald Bradman's first Test cap for 450,000 Australian dollars (\$340,000) at auction, the second-highest price paid for a piece of cricket memorabilia. The price for Bradman's 1928 Australia cap sits behind the \$760,000 paid at auction for Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne's Test cap earlier this year.

**LONDON**  
Chelsea close in on top four with 3-0 win over West Ham  
Chelsea registered a 3-0 home win over West Ham United in the Premier League as they closed in on the top four by bouncing back from two straight defeats. AGENCIES

**TODAY ON TV**  
ISL  
JAMSHEDPUR VS GOA  
STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

## Two Indian boxers still in quarantine in Germany

VINAYAK PADMADEO  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

tion are there in case the trio needs any assistance.

Kashyap is set to be tested again on December 24. “They are all healthy and if Rohit’s report returns negative, the three will return by December 26,” BFI executive director RK Sacheti told The Tribune.

**Camp from Dec 26?**  
Sacheti said that they have sent a proposal to start the boxing camp at three different places as they look to build on the two-month long training and competition stint abroad. “We are waiting for the approval. The team that travelled for the foreign trip will only assemble from January 5, while all others should start training from December 26,” Sacheti said.

Team's physiotherapist Rohit Kashyap had tested positive for Covid-19 before the start of the tournament. Along with Kashyap, boxers Shiva Thapa and Sanjeet were also put in quarantine, as they were Kashyap's primary contacts. Both boxers had to withdraw from the tournament.

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) is in touch with the trio. Even the officials of the German boxing federations

## PROUD PET OWNERS BEWARE!

Do you own a pet (exotic species)?

If found in the appendix I, II & III of CITES, get it registered with Forest Department at parivesh.nic.in latest by 15 March 2021.

Check the Link to know how to register?

[http://environmentclearance.nic.in/writereaddata/EXOTIC\\_LIVE\\_ANIMALS\\_SOP\\_amended\\_1stJune2020.pdf](http://environmentclearance.nic.in/writereaddata/EXOTIC_LIVE_ANIMALS_SOP_amended_1stJune2020.pdf)

Failing to fulfil will attract legal action against the miscreant.

Scan the QR code to check the list of species covered in CITES:



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CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION  
Parivarjan Bhawan, Sector 19-B, Madhya Marg  
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E-mail: forestchandigarh@gmail.com | Ph.: 0172-2700284



## Department of Technical Education

Bays No. 7-12, Sector 4, Panchkula, Haryana



राजकीय बहुतकनीकी संस्थान, राजपुर,  
साढ़ोरा में डिप्लोमा इंजीनियरिंग  
पाठ्यक्रम में दाखिले का सुनहरा अवसर  
**सत्र 2020-2021**

**योग्यता : 10वीं/एस.एस.सी. परीक्षा 35 प्रतिशत अंकों के साथ**

**Invitation of Application**

**23 December, 2020**

**Last Date for Admission**

**31 December, 2020**

**Institute will be open on 25.12.2020 to 27.12.2020 for Admission Process**

**Procedure**

Scan the QR code or type the link [www.hstes.org.in](http://www.hstes.org.in) to be directed to the website for more information and latest updates.



**HelpDesk**



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Brochure Available at: [www.hstes.org.in](http://www.hstes.org.in)

सभी इच्छुक आवेदकों को सूचित किया जाता है कि राजकीय बहुतकनीकी संस्थान, राजपुर, साढ़ोरा में सत्र 2020-21 के लिए डिप्लोमा पाठ्यक्रम में कंप्यूटर इंजीनियरिंग एवं इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियरिंग में प्रवेश हेतु संस्थान-वार ओपन ऑनलाइन व ऑफलाइन काउंसलिंग कार्यक्रम आयोजित किये जायेंगे।

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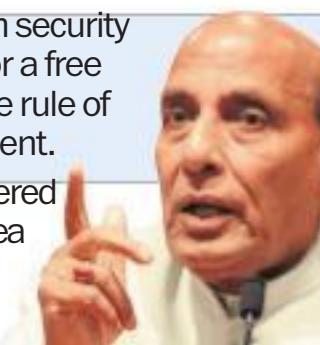
DENSE FOG IN THE MORNING HOURS IN ISOLATED POCKETS

## India, Japan agree on increased engagement of armed forces

Tribune News Service

### DISCUSS SECURITY COOPERATION

- Rajnath Singh congratulated Kishi Nobuo on his appointment as the Minister of Defence.
- The two ministers exchanged views on security situation in the region and the need for a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law, said a Ministry of Defence statement.
- The discussion on maritime order centered around the contentious South China Sea and East China Sea. China is in dispute with other countries at both locations.



**NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday had a telephonic conversation with his Japanese counterpart Kishi Nobuo and both committed to further elevating engagements between the armed forces.

The two countries have a special strategic and global partnership, which will cover this increased engagement.

The two ministers exchanged views on security situation in the region and the need for a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law, said a statement of the Ministry of Defence.

The discussion on maritime order centered around the contentious South China Sea and the East China Sea. China is in dispute with other countries in both locations.

Rajnath congratulated Kishi on his appointment as the Minister of Defence and expressed satisfaction at the ongoing defence cooperation between the two countries in spite of the limitations imposed by Covid-19.

Both Ministers welcomed the successful conduct of JIMEX 2020, Malabar 2020

and also the recent successful visit of the Chief of Staff to India.

Earlier this year, India and Japan had signed an agreement on Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services in further promoting defence ties between the two countries. During the telephonic conversation, the ministers reviewed the progress on various bilateral defence cooperation initiatives and agreed that in the recent past both countries have made notable strides in the defence industry and technology cooperation and look forward to even greater cooperation in this field.

## Notice to Centre on mining along LoC

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 22

S Muralidhar and Justice Avneesh Jhingan also fixed January 15 as the next date of hearing in the matter.

The petitioner added that the operations were endangering the country's safety at the international border. The operation was being carried out in the riverbed of Ravi (approximately in 3.5 km area). It was added that the unauthorised, illegal and indiscreet mining was also resulting in grave environmental damage. —TNS



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## Baloch activist Karima found dead in Toronto

NEW DELHI/TORONTO, DEC 22

A prominent Baloch activist, Karima Baloch, who took on the Pakistan army over human rights abuses in Balochistan, was found dead in mysterious circumstances in Canada.

Karima was a refugee in Canada, after having escaped the persecution by the Pakistani army in Balochistan.

Named as one of the world's 100 most inspirational and influential women in 2016 by the BBC, Karima was known as one of the strongest voices of Baloch people

### Took on Pak army over human rights abuse

- Karima took on the Pak army over human rights abuses in Balochistan
- Named as one of the world's 100 most inspirational and influential women in 2016 by the BBC, Karima was known as one of the strongest voices of Baloch people

pattern, another Pakistani dissident, Baloch journalist Sajid Hussain, was found dead in Sweden. Balochistan is a conflict-torn province of Pakistan where the Pakistan army is accused of committing grave and wide spread human rights violations. —IANS

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## Judiciary has put human rights, social justice on back burner: Former judge

SATYA PRAKASH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

The Supreme Court's handling of cases relating to personal freedom came in for severe criticism on Tuesday from former Supreme Court Judge Madan B Lokur, former Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi, former Law Minister Kapil Sibal and activist Medha Patkar, who questioned the court's priorities in handling of issues of human rights and personal liberty.

"Unfortunately, in the last two years or so I think the idea of social justice has really gone on the back burner. This year, because of the pandemic, certain situations had arisen where I think the Supreme Court should have



### BOOK BY LATE JUSTICE SACHAR LAUNCHED

A panel discussion was organised at the launch of 'In pursuit of Justice: An Autobiography' by late Justice Rajindar Sachar, a former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.

been far more active than it ever was to look after the interest of people... for example migrants and persons who were thrown out of jobs.

"I think the Supreme Court could have definitely done much better than it did this year. Over the last couple of years, the idea of social justice has gone on the back burner. It's unfortunate. I suppose we have to live with it," Justice Lokur, who used to head

the social justice bench, said during a panel discussion on 'Personal Freedom and Judiciary' moderated by TV journalist Rajdeep Sardesai.

The panel discussion was organised at the launch of "In pursuit of Justice: An Autobiography" by late Justice Rajindar Sachar, a former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.

Sibal was scathing in his criticism of the top court for its handling of issues of detentions in Kashmir, petitions against the CAA and handling of the migrant crisis.

"The fact of the matter is that the Supreme Court has lost its way. Not just two years ago but several years ago. What's happening in the Supreme Court today is that issues that are highly political are taken up. Issues that deal with liberty are brushed under the carpet. There were people in Kashmir who were detained for over a year... the Supreme Court took no notice of it," Sibal said.

Agreeing with Justice Lokur, Rohatagi said, "The prime place which was given in the Constitution to cases of infraction of liberty and the like have been pushed back."

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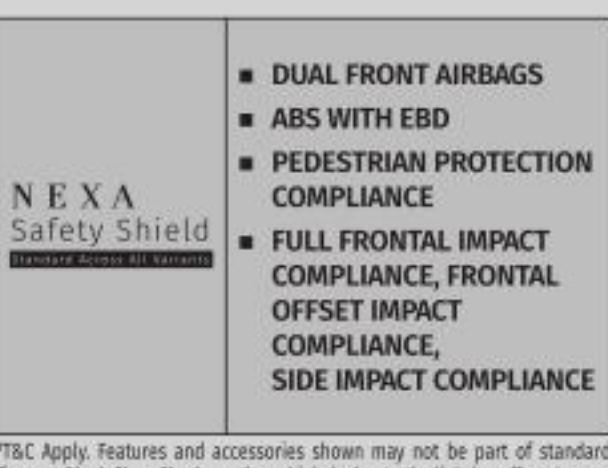
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