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ERDOGAN'S REMARKS ON J&K
UNACCEPTABLE: INDIA BACK PAGE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020



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Parliament adjourns sine die, session cut short by eight days

Labour Bills passed, layoff norms eased for firms with staff up to 300

Tribune News Service



Opposition MPs hold a march to protest farm and labour Bills in Parliament complex on Wednesday. PTI

DON'T SIGN FARM BILLS, OPPN URGES PRESIDENT

New Delhi: A broader Opposition at a meeting with President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday urged him to return the allegedly unconstitutional farm Bills. It requested him to reserve his assent on the legislations till the time these were reconsidered and taken up again through due process.

against the suspension of eight members of the House.

The Bills pertain to the three labour codes on industrial relations, social security and occupational safety.



Gulam Nabi Azad and other Oppn MPs after meeting the President.

25 LEGISLATIONS PASSED

• The 10-day session was productive as 25 Bills were passed and 6 introduced... The MPs must ensure such unseemly behaviour is not repeated

M Venkaiah Naidu, RS CHAIRMAN

Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar said: "The purpose of labour reforms is to provide a transparent system to suit the changed business environment." He told the House that 16 states had already increased the threshold for closure and layoffs in firms with up to 300 workers without government permission.

The Bills were passed unanimously with voice vote amid boycott by Opposition parties, including the Congress and Left, in protest

Give week's notice to Saini for arrest: HC

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

The Punjab and Haryana High Court today ordered the issuance of a week's advance notice if he was sought to be arrested "in any case pertaining to any incident during his entire service". The order would remain in force at least till October 8 when the case comes up for resumed hearing.

Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi made it clear that the only exception would be the Muttani case registered by the Punjab Police on May 6.

Saini had moved the court for extending the protection granted by the High Court vide order dated October 11, 2018, to "any incident pertaining to service career". —TNS



SUMEDH SINGH SAINI
RELIEF FOR SHOURIE, HC STAYS ARREST WARRANT

Jodhpur: The Rajasthan High Court on Wednesday stayed the arrest warrant against former Union Minister Arun Shourie in a case involving the sale of an Udaipur hotel at an alleged loss of Rs 244 crore to the exchequer. The court told Shourie to appear before it and furnish a personal bond and surety on October 15. PTI

BDC member shot dead by militants in J&K

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 23

A block development council member of Khag block was shot dead by militants at his ancestral village Dalwash in J&K's Budgam district on Wednesday evening.

The police said Singh, provided two PSOs, dropped the security personnel at the Khag police station and left for his house at Aloochibagh without informing the cops.

"Very sorry to hear about the assassination of the BDC councillor. Mainstream grassroot political workers are easy targets for militants," tweeted ex-CM Omar Abdullah. "Condemn the dastardly killing... Violence will get us nowhere," said Sajad Lone of the People's Conference. —TNS

Mittal dares Akalis to snap ties, says many ready to switch sides

JUPINDERJIT SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

Senior BJP leader and party's core panel member Madan Mohan Mittal today dared the Akalis to break the alliance with the BJP, saying the BJP was ready to contest all 117 Assembly seats in Punjab. He claimed that several Akali, AAP and Congress leaders wanted to switch over to the BJP.

Mittal said the Akalis could form the next government in Punjab in 2022 only if they kept the alliance and that the BJP would contest 59 of the total Assembly seats. So far the SAD has contested 94 seats and the BJP 23. "The SAD cannot get a majority if they contest 94 seats and, hence, the BJP will contest 59 seats," he argued.

Punjab BJP chief Ashwani Sharma, however, said there had been no discussion on breaking the alliance. Dr DS Cheema, SAD spokesman



WILL SEEK 59 SEATS

• The Akali Dal can form government in Punjab in 2022 only if they keep the alliance. The BJP will contest 59 seats this time.

Madan Mohan Mittal, EX-MINISTER

FARMER DIES IN MISHPAN

WAY HOME FROM PROTEST

PASS RESOLUTIONS AGAINST

BILLS: UNION TO PANCHAYATS

EYE ON POLL, CONGRESS LOOKS TO CASH IN ON STIR

REPORTS ON PAGE 2

FIR against Kashyap over rape allegation

MUMBAI: The police have registered an FIR against filmmaker Anurag Kashyap under Sections 376 (rape), 354 (outraging modesty), 341 (wrongful restraint) and 342 (wrongful confinement) after an actress accused him of raping her in 2013. Kashyap has dismissed the allegations as "baseless". —TNS



HRY bootleggers got ENA from Punjab: SIT

YAMUNANAGAR: Three persons arrested in Haryana for making country liquor illegally have reportedly told the police they were supplied ENA (extra neutral alcohol) by one Randhir Singh, who loaded it from a chemical factory in Banur, Punjab. INSIDE

[www.tribuneindia.com](#)

Dassault yet to transfer technology: CAG

AJAY BANERJEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), in a report tabled in Parliament on Wednesday, said Dassault Aviation — the maker of Rafale fighter aircraft — had so far not confirmed the transfer of high technology for jet engine.

In a statement, CAG said in the offset contract related to the 36 Rafale jets, Dassault

PART OF RAFALE DEAL

■ CAG said in the offset contract under Rafale deal, Dassault had proposed to discharge 30 per cent of their offset obligation by offering high technology to the DRDO.

■ But till date, the vendor has not confirmed the transfer of the technology, CAG said.

Aviation and European missile maker MBDA had initially proposed (in September 2015) to discharge 30 per cent of their offset obligation by offering high technology to the DRDO.

"The DRDO wanted technical assistance for the indigenous development of its engine (Kaveri) for the light combat aircraft. Till date, the vendor has not confirmed the transfer of this technology," CAG said. "Offset obligation"

is the stipulated share of work that the foreign manufacturer is obligated to get done in India.

The CAG report, Management of Defence Offsets, said it was found in many cases that foreign vendors made offset commitments to qualify for the main supply contract, but were later not earnest about fulfilling these commitments. The CAG statement cited the example of Rafale for this.

Micro-containment the way to go, Punjab, other high-load states told

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

PM Narendra Modi today said wearing masks was a tough routine but a must to prevent the chain of Covid transmission and asked chief ministers of seven states with a high number of cases to focus on micro-containment zones in 60 districts to curb the spread of infection.

In a virtual review meeting with CMs of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, UP, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Punjab, the PM laid stress on economic recovery alongside Covid management and

COVID-19 CASES INDIA



UNION MINISTER ANGADI DIES OF CORONAVIRUS

Minister of State for Railways Suresh Angadi (65) died of Covid on Wednesday. The first Union minister to succumb to the virus, he was admitted to AIIMS, New Delhi, two weeks ago.

Hry colleges to reopen, trial run from Sept 26

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

The Haryana Government has decided to reopen colleges and universities for providing guidance to students with a trial run from September 26.

On Mondays and Tuesdays, BA-I students can visit colleges from 9 am to 12 noon and BCom and BSc-I students between 12.30 pm and 3.30 pm.

On Wednesdays and Thursdays, BA-II students can visit between 9 am and 12 noon, and BCom and BSc 2nd year between 12.30 pm and 3.30 pm. On Fridays and Saturdays, BA-III students can take guidance from 9 am to 12 noon, and BCom and B Sc-III from 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm. —TNS

asked states to analyse whether local lockdowns were helping stop disease transmission or blocking economic activity.

These seven states account for 65.5 per cent of India's total

56,46,010 cases and 77 per cent

of 90,020 deaths as of today.

"I urge CMs to analyse whether local lockdowns are helping prevent disease. Hope these lockdowns are not interrupting economic activity. This issue requires a serious look," said the PM.

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Farmer returning from protest killed in road mishap, 17 injured

Demanding compensation, BKU members block traffic in Bathinda

TRENTUE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, SEPTEMBER 23

A farmer died while 17 members of the BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) were injured as a bus carrying farmers returning from a protest at Badal village met with an accident near Kotbhara village on the Mansa road late Tuesday night.

Farmers staged a protest at ITI Chowk on the Mansa road flyover today to demand Rs 10 lakh compensation to the deceased and free treatment to the injured. The deceased has been identified as Mukhtiar Singh (62) from Kishangarh village in Mansa district.

The bus was carrying members of the BKU (Ekta Ugrahan), who were staging a protest at Badal village for the past many days. The protest was lifted around 8 pm yesterday night. On the way back, their bus broke down and they took another bus to head to their homes, which rammed into a stationary tractor-trailer. The injured were taken to the Civil Hospital and Max Hospital, where Mukhtiar died during treatment.

BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) leader Jagseer Singh said they were protesting as no medical treatment was given to the injured on time.

Later, PPCC president Sunil Jakhar, along with



Congress leaders meet an injured farmer at the Civil Hospital in Bathinda on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

TAKE BACK FARM BILLS: MALUKA

Bathinda: Shiromani Akali Dal's Kisan Wing president and former minister Sikander Singh Maluka on Wednesday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take back the farm Bills as farmers were against them. Addressing mediapersons, he said, "We were not late, we were holding regular meetings with farm leaders and the Centre to resolve the issue. From Day 1, we were clear that we will stand with the farmers." TNS

Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal and Revenue Minister Gurpreet Singh Kangar, reached the Civil Hospital and met the injured farmers. They promised that the government would bear their medical expenses and provide compensation to the deceased.

Talking to mediapersons, Jakhar accused the SAD of "backstabbing" the farmers by speaking in favour of the farm Bills for four months.

Meanwhile, the Revenue Patwar Union, Punjab, has extended its support to the farmers for their September 25 agitation. The association of patwaris has also written a letter to the President of India, requesting him not to accord assent to the three farm Bills, saying these were against the interests of farmers.

31 unions join hands to make bandh a success

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

Farmer organisations in Punjab are getting widespread support across the social spectrum in their agitation against the farm Bills as they prepare for a complete 'Punjab bandh' on Friday.

Having already refused help from political parties, all 31 farmer organisations in Punjab have joined hands to ensure that their bandh call is a success. Even as representatives of the organisations met at Moga today to finalise their strategy post the September 25 bandh, they are busy mobilising their block-level workers and strategising the joint protest by workers of all 31 groups.

Jagmohan Singh Patiala, member of the All-India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee, which is leading the protests, said the angst among farmers against the government over the "kaale kanoon" (black laws) had never been so visible. Dr Darshan Pal of the Krantikari Kisan Union, said the trade organisations had assured them of a complete bandh of markets.

Dairy farm unions had promised that there would be no milk supply across the state on Friday. —TNS



ON WARPATH Congress MPs protest against the farm Bills in front of Parliament House on Wednesday. PTI

Unions reach out to panchayats against Bills

TRENTUE NEWS SERVICE

MOGA, SEPTEMBER 23

At least 31 farm and farm labour organisations affiliated with the All-India Farmers' Struggle Coordination Committee have appealed to panchayats of all villages in Punjab to pass resolutions against the Bills passed by the NDA government in Parliament.

Senior activists of 31 organisations met here today to chalk out the strategy for the 'Punjab bandh' on September 25. "Only ambulance services will be allowed on the bandh day," said Narbhai Singh Dhudike, state president of the Kirti Kisan Union.

While criticising the Centre and Punjab Government, they said the farm laws must not be



Navjot Singh Sidhu leads a protest in Amritsar. VISHAL KUMAR

ALL PUNJABIS SHOULD COME TOGETHER: SIDHU

Amritsar: Congress MLA and former minister Navjot Singh Sidhu on Wednesday took to the streets of Amritsar against the farm Bills. Sidhu's cavalcade conducted a 'ros march' from Bhandari Bridge to Hill Gate which connects the walled city to the Civil Lines area. Sidhu said, "I have stepped out for farmers and for the united cause of Punjab for which I will fight till my last breath. Rising above party lines, 90 per cent MLAs opposed the Bills. All Punjabis should unite against these."

enacted because they were not in the favour of farmers of Punjab as well as other states of the country.

The farm unions decided that all trains from Delhi to Punjab would be stopped on October 1. Dhudike said they would not allow BJP leaders to enter villages as the party leadership was responsible for passing the farm Bills in Parliament. "We will boycott the BJP at all platforms," he said.

The activists claimed they were united on the issue of farm Bills. "We will intensify the stir in the coming days," he said, adding that the bandh on September 25 would also be observed in other states, including Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

Ask other CMs to oppose Bills: LIP to Capt

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FATEHGHAR SAHIB, SEPTEMBER 23

Workers of the Lok Insaaf Party (LIP), led by Simarjeet Singh Bains, took out a motorcycle rally from Fatehgarh Sahib to Delhi today to protest the "black laws" passed by the NDA govern-

ment. The members urged Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh to lead the agitation against the laws in the capacity of a Chief Minister, not a Congress leader.

Bains said the Congress high command should direct the chief ministers

of Congress-ruled states to unite and launch an agitation against the farm Bills.

He said it was matter of concern that Capt Amarinder, who claimed to be the champion for the cause of farmers, was silent on the agitations. The party leaders said his

leadership was needed and urged him to come forward and lead the agitation against the Union Government. Meanwhile, the Revenue Patwar Union, Punjab, has extended its support to the agitating farmers for their September 25 protest.

SAD's parallel protest against Bills a farce: AAP

BATHINDA, SEPTEMBER 23 AAP leaders have dubbed SAD's call for a 'chakka jam' on September 25 an attempt to "overshadow" the farmers' call for a 'Punjab bandh'.

The AAP MLAs announced during a press conference here that they would not let SAD workers and leaders enter villages of the state.

Talwandi Sabo MLA Baljinder Kaur said: "If the party was for protecting interests of the farming community, they should have participated in the Punjab bandh call by farmers and other unions rather than holding a parallel 'chakka jam'. This is clearly an attempt to overshadow the protest of the farmers."

Meanwhile, SAD president Sukhbir Badal and former Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal would pay obeisance at Takht Damdama Sahib on Thursday. Both Congress and AAP have announced staging a protest by showing them black flags on their way to the gurdwara. —TNS

Declare state principal market yard: Sukhbir

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal today asked Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh to immediately declare the entire state a 'principal market yard' for agricultural produce so that provisions of the farm Bills do not apply to the state.

"This is the best, quickest and most-effective way for Punjab to pre-empt the implementation of the Centre's anti-farmer Bills in the state because the Bills cannot apply to principal market yards declared by any state," Badal said.

He said the state government had the power to notify the whole state as a special market yard which was free from the jurisdiction of the legislation. "As a result, private players who enter the market will have to compete under the same set of laws as applicable to state procurement," the SAD president said. Badal said in the event of failure of the state not taking

BEST SOLUTION

“This is the best, quickest and most-effective way for Punjab to pre-empt the implementation of the Centre's anti-farmer Bills in the state because the Bills cannot apply to principal market yards declared by any state.”

Sukhbir Singh Badal, SAD PRESIDENT

these measures, "the SAD will take them in the first Cabinet meeting when it forms a government in the state". Meanwhile, Congress MP Partap Singh Bajwa also urged the Chief Minister to expand the geographical boundary of "market yards" so as to cover the entire state as a trade area to ensure that provisions of the farm Bills could not be made applicable to the state. —TNS

Rlys cancels 14 trains ahead of tomorrow's stir

FEROZEPUR, SEPTEMBER 23 Ahead of the 'Punjab bandh' call given by various farm unions on September 25, the Firozpur Railway Division has cancelled 14 trains (up and down) from tomorrow onwards.

Rajesh Aggarwal, DRM, said the decision had been taken keeping in mind the security and safety of passengers.

He said the trains which had been cancelled included the Golden Temple Mail Covid-19 Special from Amritsar to Mumbai Central (02903 and 02904), Amritsar-Kolkata Superfast (02357 and 02358), Karambhukh Covid-19 Special from Amritsar to New Jalpaiguri (02407 and 02408), Paschim Deluxe Express from Amritsar to Mumbai (02925 and 02926), Sachkhand Covid-19 Special from Amritsar to Nanded (02715 and 02716), Jan Shatabadi Express from Amritsar to Haridwar (02053 and 02054), and Shaheed Express from Amritsar to Jaynagar (04673 and 04674). —OC

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प्रेस नोट

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- b) Candidate must ensure their eligibility as per Terms of Reference (TOR) before appearing in Walk-in-Interview, detailed advertisement can be viewed at website www.idsp.nic.in, and www.ncdc.gov.in.
- c) Candidates must bring all the original certificates including experience certificates for the verification, candidates without original documents will not be permitted to appear in the interview.

DIRECTOR

RAJMEET SINGH

TRENTUE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

The disquiet among farmers over the passage of farm Bills has set the narrative for political parties ahead of the 2022 Assembly elections.

While the SAD is trying hard to regain its lost political space post Harsimrat Kaur Badal's resignation from the Modi Cabinet over the issue, the state Congress is trying to cash in on the sentiment within the agrarian community against both SAD and BJP. "With the Congress-led government facing anti-incumbency, farmers' stir against the BJP-led government at the Centre may well work in favour of the Congress, pushing aside other key issues," says a senior Congress leader.

PARTY RALLY IN MOHALI TOMORROW

The Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee will hold a state-level rally at Chappar Chiri in Mohali on September 25. Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh will participate in the rally that will also be attended by ministers, MLAs and party leaders.

OTHER ISSUES MAY TAKE BACKSEAT

With the Congress-led government facing anti-incumbency, the farmers' stir against the Centre may well work in its favour, pushing aside other key issues. CONGRESS LEADER

Minister protesting denial of entry to their tractor rally, en route to Delhi, into the state yesterday.

Vowing to fight till his last breath to protect the interests of state farmers, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has already announced taking the BJP and its allies, including the Akalis, to court over the new "unconstitutional, undemocratic and anti-farmer" Bills of the Central Government. He has announced cancellation of FIRs against the farmers over the agitation.

Unmoved by the rhetoric, Sukhdev Singh Kokra Kalan, state general secretary of the BKU (Ekta Ugrahan), said the political parties had moved only after seeing the growing anger among the farmers.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Ashok Kumar s/o Lt. Sh Narayan Singh r/o E-78, Ground Floor, BPTP, Sector-85, Greater Faridabad, Haryana, that I declare that my son Mr Dinesh Kumar and his wife Mrs Neetu with her daughter Durvi are out of my control and ears to say that's why I evict them from all moveable and immovable properties from today. There will be no concern of them with me in future and if any person will make any transaction or behaviour with them that I will not be responsible for their act. (CL20042471)

I, Kamal Kaur W/o Late Balan Singh R/o 174, Village Jujhara Nagar, Gali No. 7, Distt. Mohali that my son Gurdeep Singh and his wife Manju are out of my control, I bar them from all my moveable/immovable property. Anybody dealing with them do so at his own risk. (CL20042521)

I, Amarjeet Kaur W/o Gurcharan Singh Sidhu, #22477-A, Street No. 12, Bhagti Road, Bathinda have changed my name to Amarjeet Kaur Sidhu. (CL20042514)

I, Jeevan Rishi s/o Rajinder Parsad r/o H. No. 581, Deshraj Gali, Kotwali Bazar, Dharmshala, Distt. Kangra (Himachal Pradesh) have changed my minor daughter's name Arya Mohindru to Arya Mohindru. All concerned please note. (CL20042531)

It is notified for the information that my original qualifying Examination Certificate of Main Senior Secondary Examination of the Year 2016 and Roll Number 2706937, issued by CBSE, has been actually lost. Name of the candidate Harshpreet Kaur name of Mother - Pawandeep Kaur, Father Sukhej Singh full address Village Salauli, Tehsil: Samrala, Distt. Ludhiana (Punjab). (CL20042539)

It is notified for the information that my original qualifying Examination Certificate of Main Secondary & Senior Secondary Examination of Years 2017 & 2019 and Roll Nos. 2292160 & 2773514 respectively issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Arshdeep Kaur Dhillon, 1045, 44B Chandigarh, Phone No. 90561-78907, 92175-10521. (CL20042221)

I, No. JC452563H Rajkaran Rank Nb. Sub. VPO-Sahoo, Tehsil Sadar, Distt. Bilaspur (HP) declare that my wife name wrongly entered in my Army record as Usha Chandel, correct the same in my Army record as Usha Kumari. Concern note. (CL20042630)

I, Sukhjot Kaur w/o Gurbachan Singh r/o Village Bhabiana, Tehsil Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala, have changed my minor daughter's name from Gautam Rai to Nirmat Kaur. (CL20042640)

I, Gurjot Kaur w/o Harvinder Singh Sagoo r/o Preet Hospital, Damkora Road, Tohana (Fatehabad) have changed my name as Gurjot Kaur. (CL20042658)

I, No. 13620889P Ex. Hav. Satish Kumar Sharma s/o Sh. Kishori Lal Sharma, VPO Raipur, Tehsil Bhayat, Distt. Chamba, HP, declare that my wife's name and birth date have wrongly entered in my Army service record as Meenakshi Sharma, 10.01.1980, whereas her correct name, birth date are Minakshi Kumar, 10.01.1977. Concerned note. (CL20042745)

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SD/- Ms. Shagun, PCS, Civil Judge, (Junior Division), Batala, CL20042573

SD/- Executive Engineer, Dharamshala Municipal Corporation.

Fee not paid, pvt schools deny online classes to 634 students

SANJEEV SINGH BARIANA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23
Private schools in Punjab have discontinued online classes for 634 students who have not paid fee since March. Official records show that 47 teachers have not been paid salary.

Onkar Singh of Nawan-shahr said, "My son's school has discontinued his online classes because we have not paid fee for two months due to the Covid crisis. There was a medical emergency at home and I had to shell out a lot of money. The school has declined my request for partial payments."

A school director in Bathinda district said, "We are not a

**47 SCHOOLTEACHERS WITHOUT SALARY**

- Official records show that 47 schoolteachers have not been paid salary
- The Education Department has already announced that schools should not strike off names of students over unpaid fee
- A school director in Bathinda district says they do not have a strong financial backup. They have to pay salaries to teachers and other staff

rich school and do not have a strong financial backup. We have to pay our teachers and the entire staff." The Education Department has

already announced that schools should not strike off the names of students "just because parents are not able to pay the fee".

A school representative said, "We have informed the department that we have asked parents to pay the fee in easy instalments, but we cannot waive off the entire amount. Why is the department not disbursing money to schools from its own resources?"

Krishan Kumar, Secretary (Schools), said, "We are providing free education to children in our schools. Anyone in need can join us. More than one lakh students have shifted from private schools to government institutes this year. At the same time, we are warning private schools against striking off the names of students just because they are unable to pay fee."

Colleges to charge fee from SC students

SAMEER SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, SEPTEMBER 23
Citing a delay of four years in the disbursal of funds under the post-matric scholarship scheme and Covid-induced losses, more than 1,600 unaided colleges and universities of the state have decided to charge fee from Scheduled Caste (SC) students from October.

In a letter issued to Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, the Joint Association of

Colleges, Punjab, has asked the state government to disburse Rs 309-crore scholarship funds released by the Centre in March. It claims scholarship funds to the tune of Rs 1,850 crore have not been paid for four years. The announcement was made during a press conference here on Wednesday.

Talking to *The Tribune*, Gurmeet Singh Dhaliwal, chairman of the association, said, "Ever since the Centre

introduced the post-matric scholarship scheme in 2010, all unaided colleges and universities had been providing education to SC students without fee. But in 2016, the government stopped releasing funds under the scheme."

He said, "Today, the situation is such that scholarship funds to the tune of Rs 1,850 crore are outstanding. It is forcing many academic institutions and colleges to close down."

Marathon runner Fauja Singh makes it to children's book

ANIL DATT

LUDHIANA, SEPTEMBER 23
Fauja Singh (109), the world's oldest marathon runner, has created history as this 'young athlete' has been featured as a superhero in a children's book. He has beaten a number of world records in multiple age brackets. However, none of his times have been ratified as records.

The book 'Fauja Singh Keeps Going', authored by New York-based professor Simran Jeet Singh, was released last month.

It narrates the story of the centenarian, a native of Beas village in Jalandhar district,



who completed a marathon at the age of 100 in 2011. It aims to tell the children the story of a Sikh man who began running at the age of 81, since he was born with weak legs, for which kids in the village teased him, calling him 'danda' or stick. Fauja Singh never learned to

read because he didn't go to school, and even now, at the age of 109, he still has not learned to read. The book, which includes illustrations by Baljinder Kaur, traces the journey of the young Fauja from Punjab to the UK. It describes how the young Fauja, whose name meant 'warrior lion', wanted to feel stronger but his parents worried that he might not even be able to walk.

In England, Fauja Singh eventually underwent professional training and emerged the world's oldest runner when he ran the Toronto Waterfront Marathon at the age of 100 in 2011. Fauja Singh has also written a foreword for the book.

With experts suggesting possible aggravation of Covid conditions due to stubble burning, the Chief Minister also reiterated his demand for fiscal aid by the Centre to farmers for defraining the cost on management of paddy straw.

CM seeks Central aid to tackle Covid

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

Amid apprehensions of shortage of various commodities with the rising Covid cases in the state, Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Wednesday urged the Prime Minister to take urgent steps to ensure adequate supplies to Punjab from other states.

He put forward the demand during a virtual meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which was also attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, besides chief ministers of six other states.

Capt Amarinder also sought expeditious release of Rs 200 crore that the state government had requested as the next tranche of Central aid for Covid management.

With experts suggesting possible aggravation of Covid conditions due to stubble burning, the Chief Minister also reiterated his demand for fiscal aid by the Centre to farmers for defraining the cost on management of paddy straw.

Jalandhar hospital asked to refund ₹3.28L to 106 patients

The Tribune IMPACTAPARNA BANERJI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, SEPTEMBER 23

Jalandhar-based Patel Hospital has been asked to refund Rs 3.28 lakh "overcharged" from 106 patients for the RT-PCR test.

Krishan Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Jalandhar, said, "We are providing free education to children in our schools. Anyone in need can join us. More than one lakh students have shifted from private schools to government institutes this year. At the same time, we are warning private schools against striking off the names of students just because they are unable to pay fee."

An inquiry ordered by the Deputy Commissioner on the issue concluded that the hospital had erroneously overcharged Rs 5,500 for the test on July 21 instead of Rs 2,400 fixed by the government. Following the order, Assistant Commissioner (Grievances) Ranveer Gill conducted a probe. *The Tribune* highlighted the issue.

Overcharged them for Covid test

vate hospital has been asked to return the amount overcharged for the RT-PCR test during the pandemic.

Deputy Commissioner Ghanshyam Thor had ordered a probe following a complaint by Rajiv Makol, a resident, that Patel Hospital had charged Rs 5,500 for the

excess amount of Rs 3.28 lakh to 106 patients. The hospital will also set aside an equal amount in a separate account for poor patients," said Thor. He said the management admitted it was not aware of the government notification that fixed the rate for the RT-PCR test at Rs 2,400.

The Patel Hospital management stated, "The charges included RT-PCR test using Cepheid GeneXpert machine, for which PPE kits. There was ambiguity in the July 8 orders issued by the state government. We discontinued the OPD-based RT-PCR Covid-19 test using the Cepheid GeneXpert machine on July 21 as it is not possible to do it without PPE kits."

BRIEFLY**Man kills uncle over dispute**

Fazilka: Gurbachan Singh (58) was allegedly killed by his nephew over a family dispute at Tahlialwa Bodla village in Fazilka. Gurbachan's son Amandeep said his father had gone to the his nephew Amrik Singh's house to settle a family dispute. Amrik hit Gurbachan on the head. He has been booked. OC

1 held for illegal sand mining

Fazilka: One person was arrested and another booked for illegal sand mining in Fazilka district on Wednesday. The police intercepted a sand-laden tractor-trailer near Hasta Kalan village. Tractor driver Sunil Kumar was arrested. Another tractor-trailer was confiscated near Kirianwali village while its driver managed to flee. OC

Fire at gurdwara

Abhara: A holy 'saroop' of Guru Granth Sahib was damaged in a fire that broke out at a gurdwara in Sri Ganganagar's border segment of Anoopgarh. OC

Virus claims 64 more lives; 2,127 new cases

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

The state recorded 2,127 new Covid-19 cases and 64 deaths over the past 24 hours.

For the first time, the number of patients who have recovered from Covid-19 is almost equal to the number of new cases. As many as 2,117 patients were discharged following treatment.

He put forward the demand during a virtual meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which was also attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, besides chief ministers of six other states.

Capt Amarinder also sought expeditious release of Rs 200 crore that the state government had requested as the next tranche of Central aid for Covid management.

The applications alongwith the complete bio-data including the information as mentioned at (a) & (b) above, should reach the office of Secretary Personnel, Government of Punjab (PP-3 Branch), Room No. 14, 6th floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Sector 1, Chandigarh by 5.00 PM on 14.10.2020.

Sd/- Secretary, Department of Personnel
M/s Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bathinda Divisional Office, Bathinda

I, service No. 13768664Y Rank Hav. Kanj Raj S/o Sh. Som Dutt R/o Nangal, Teh. & Distt. Samba do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that in my service records name of my son has been wrongly written as Aniket Rajulia whereas his correct name is Aniket Rajulia. I have applied for correction of his name. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authorities within 7 days from publication.

DI-10293-3

I, Sakndha Devi (existing name of spouse as per change of next of kin record/service document) spouse of Mohan Singh (name of husband) resident of Village Rajpura, Tehsil Akhnoor (now Pargava), District Jammu (JK) U/No. 81207, have changed my name from Sakndha Devi to Sakndha Devi as per change of next of kin record

₹169 cr claims under Ayushman Bharat

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23
The state has provided a claim amount of Rs 169.06 crore under the Ayushman Bharat scheme launched two years ago.

Ashok Kumar Meena, Chief Executive Officer, Ayushman Bharat-Haryana Health Protection Authority, told this to the media here on Wednesday.

"The applications for claims are processed fast. The state has only 0.77 per cent claim overdue with hospitals. About 7.7 lakh families in the state have Ayushman Bharat cards," he said.

The Ayushman Bharat is a flagship scheme of the Centre designed to change the approach of the health service delivery from segmented to a comprehensive need-based approach.

Ayushman Bharat Haryana has verified 22.46 lakh beneficiaries in two years, besides empaneling 545 hospitals.

On the irregularities, the official said, 90,000 cards were blocked after anomalies came to the fore. "Three FIRs were registered in 2019. One hospital was dis-empanelled."

Dr Ravi Vimal, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Ayushman Bharat Haryana, said: "Of the 163 hospitals with the Quality Council of India (QCI) accreditation in the country, 75 are in Haryana." — TNS



The police use water cannon to disperse Haryana Youth Congress activists in Samalkha on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

1,986 new Covid cases, 27 deaths

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Gurugram	18,814	167
Faridabad	18,467	209
Sonepat	7,477	44
Ambala	7,397	79
Karnal	6,865	97
Panipat	6,926	67
Panchkula	5,328	72
Rohtak	5,370	55
Rewari	5,132	26
Hisar	5,325	47
Kurukshetra	4,861	82
Yamunanagar	3,662	58
Sirsia	3,258	52
Mahendragarh	3,082	7
Bhiwani	2,522	29
Palwal	2,397	14
Jhajjar	2,276	21
Kaithal	2,243	34
Fatehabad	2,081	29
Jind	1,874	22
Nuh	1,058	21
Charkhi Dadri	541	1
Total	11,856	1,233

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANIPAT, SEPTEMBER 23
Haryana Youth Congress (HYC) activists today held a tractor rally against the three agriculture Bills passed by Parliament.

On their way to Delhi, they were stopped on flyover at the NH-44 in Samalkha of Panipat district with water cannons and scores of activists along with their prominent leaders were detained.

Hundreds of protesters, including farmers, arthiyas and labourers, gathered in the Panipat grain market on the call of the HYC. Though the administration urged them not to move on the NH-44, they refused to listen and moved towards Delhi.

The activists were led by state HYC president Sachin Kundu, national Youth Congress president Srinivas BV, Youth Congress incharge Krishna Allavaru, Samalkha MLA Dharam Singh Chhokkar, Israna MLA Balbir Singh Balmiki and NSUI president Divyanshu Budhiraja.

The police had made arrangements to stop them on the Samalkha flyover near the grain market by barricading the Panipat-Delhi lane.

The situation became tense after some protesters tried to jump the barricades and the police had to use water cannons to disperse them.

Terming the three agriculture Bills anti-farmer, national president Srinivas BV said all farmers across the country were on the road and the

WILL STEP UP STIR
“Farmers across the country are on the road. The Youth Congress is supporting them. The movement will be intensified in the coming days.”

Srinivas BV, YOUTH CONGRESS CHIEF

PREVENTIVE MEASURE
“Water cannons were used to disperse protesting Congress activists. Some were detained to prevent any untoward situation. They were released later.”

Satish Kumar Vats, DSP, HEADQUARTERS

Those from Pb stalled at border

AMBALA, SEPTEMBER 23
The police used water cannons and mild force to stop Punjab farmers from entering Haryana after sealing the inter-state border on the NH-44 here today.

Led by Bains brothers — Simarjeet Singh and Balwinder Singh Bains, MLAs from the Lok Insaaf Party from Ludhiana — the farmers, protesting against the controversial farm Bills cleared by Parliament recently, were riding motorcycles and were on their way to Delhi when they were stopped from entering Haryana at the Shambhu border.

Following the protest, the highway remained blocked for traffic for a couple of hours and long queues of vehicles could be seen stranded on the highway, which connects major parts of Punjab with Haryana and Delhi. — TNS

ENA from Pb used for making illegal desi liquor in Ambala

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

YAMUNANAGAR, SEPTEMBER 23

Illegal country liquor seized by the Radaur police was made in a godown in Shahpur Machhonda village of Ambala district. It was supplied to several areas, mainly Kurukshetra, as per the SIT findings. As many as 689 boxes of country liquor were found in a Canterbury near Radaur on September 11.

Subsequently, Pradeep Kumar of Mathana village in Kurukshetra was arrested. His partner Bittu Singh of Elahawas village of Bijnor district (Uttar Pradesh) was nabbed on September 14.

The latter told the police that he, Pradeep and one Rohit Sharma started the illegal trade together and that Rohit owned a godown at Shahpur Machhonda. Pradeep confessed that they would buy extra neutral alcohol (ENA) from Randhir Singh of Bahadurgarh who loaded the ENA from a chemical factory in Banur and supplied the same to distilleries in Karnal and Samalkha.

"We bought 200 litres of ENA for Rs 15,000," Pradeep told the police. The three would buy empty liquor bottles from a Dera Bassi factory through a Chandigarh resident.



BOOZE SCAM

Defiant farmers, arthiyas stopped at Panipat barrier

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

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Hundreds of protesters, including farmers, arthiyas and labourers, gathered in the Panipat grain market on the call of the HYC. Though the administration urged them not to move on the NH-44, they refused to listen and moved towards Delhi.

The activists were led by state HYC president Sachin Kundu, national Youth Congress president Srinivas BV, Youth Congress incharge Krishna Allavaru, Samalkha MLA Dharam Singh Chhokkar, Israna MLA Balbir Singh Balmiki and NSUI president Divyanshu Budhiraja.

Youth Congress was supporting them. "The movement will be intensified in the coming days," he warned.

Kundu said the Modi-led BJP government had passed the three agricultural Bills in an anti-democratic way, which pushed farmers and youth into depression. "The agricultural Bills are a direct attack on the mandi system," he added.

Satish Kumar Vats, DSP, Headquarters, said water cannons were used to disperse the activists. "Some activists were detained to prevent any untoward situation. They were released later," he added.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB O/o Joint Development Commissioner

Sector 62, Vikas Bhawan, S.A.S. Nagar, (0172-2231056)

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for appointing 3-posts of Ombudsmen and 2-posts of Three Member Appellate Authority for redressal of grievances under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guaranteed Act. The candidates may submit their complete Biodata in the prescribed proforma along with the copies of experience and necessary qualification in the O/o Joint Development Commissioner, 3rd Floor, Vikas Bhawan, Sector 62, S.A.S. Nagar or can be emailed on jdcrdp@yahoo.in up to 30th October, 2020 by 5 p.m. Application form and other details may be downloaded from the website www.pbrdp.gov.in from 30th September, 2020.

DPR/Pb/80847 Sd/- Commissioner M.G.-NREGA, Punjab.

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, FISHERIES & DAIRY DEVELOPMENT

Applications are invited for appointment to the post of Director, Animal Husbandry, Punjab on deputation basis. The post is in the 10000 Grade Pay of Pay Band 5 (37400-67000). The candidate should hold a Bachelor's Degree in Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry from a recognised University or Institution. A candidate possessing Ph.D or M.V.Sc: degree in any of the branches of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science shall be preferred. The candidate should possess at least 28 years of experience as Veterinary Officer or higher post or posts in the central government or a state government or a recognised University or a Research Institute of the central government or a state government of which at least three years should be at the level of Joint Director or equivalent in the Grade Pay of 8700 in the Pay Band 5 (37400-67000) or above. The initial period of deputation shall be three years which shall be extendable as per government policy at the option of the government. The applications with curriculum vitae and copies of academic and experience certificates alongwith NOC/recommendation from the employer may be submitted by email, at secy.ah@punjab.gov.in latest by 23rd October 2020, 3 pm.

DPR/Pb/80995

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

गुड गवर्नेंस का नया नाम ई-परिवहन व्यवस्था

हिमाचल में आनलाइन सेवाएं शुरू होने के भीतर 71,955 लोगों ने घर बैठे बिना परिवहन संबंधी दफतरों के चक्रकर लगाए इस सुविधा का लाभ लिया है। इससे न केवल इनके समय की बचत हुई, बल्कि खर्च भी कम हुआ। आइए गुड गवर्नेंस की इस कोशिश को सहयोग दें और ई-परिवहन व्यवस्था को अपनाएं।

श्री बिक्रम सिंह ठाकुर

माननीय परिवहन मंत्री हिमाचल सरकार

54205
द्राइविंग लाइसेंस आवेदन

25753
लर्निंग लाइसेंस मंजूरी

15144
अन्य सेवाओं में मंजूरी

5233
पंजीकरण संबंधी आवेदन

3294
आवेदन मंजूरी

10763
डीलर पॉइंट रजिस्ट्रेशन

ऑनलाइन सेवाओं वाले दो जिलों की परफॉर्मेंस

जिला कांगड़ा

1. स्टेज कैरिज
स्पेशल परमिट 25
परमिट इन्यूवूल 23
परमिट ट्रांसफर 03
हीकल रिलेसमेंट परमिशन 03

2. कॉन्ड्रैक्ट कैरिज
कुल आवेदन 73
आवेदन मंजूरी 61

1. स्टेज कैरिज
परमिट डिपार्जिट 06
परमिट इन्यूवूल 05
परमिट ट्रांसफर 02

जिला शिमला

2. कॉन्ड्रैक्ट कैरिज
कुल आवेदन 15
मंजूरी आवेदन 07

3. हीकल गॉडल अप्रूवल
कुल आवेदन 28
मंजूरी 21

यदि गुगतान संबंधी वेरिफिकेशन
में समय लग रहा है तो एलाइसेंस नंबर और डेट आप बर्थ के साथ कॉल सेंटर पर काल कर मदद लें।

अलर्ट रहें और दलालों से बचें

• परिवहन सेवाओं के लिए किसी भी तरह के माध्यम द्वारा दलाल की जरूरत नहीं है। न ही किसी व्यक्ति को विभाग ने इसके लिए अधिकृत किया है। ऐसे लोग आपको ठगी का शिकायत बना सकते हैं।

• ई-परिवहन व्यवस्था में आप घर बैठे सभी सेवाएं ले सकते हैं, यदि आपके पास इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी है। किसी भी तरह की जानकारी या मादद के लिए विभाग के हेल्पलाइन नंबर पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

• सभी लोकमित्र केंद्रों, सुगंग केंद्रों से भी ये सेवाएं ली जा सकती हैं। इसके लिए एट तथा किये गए हैं। हर आवेदन के लिए 30 रुपये और हर पेट्र के प्रिंट के लिए 10 रुपये से ज्यादा नहीं वसूले जाएंगे।

ऑनलाइन सेवाओं को लेकर लोगों के अनुभव

गैरिला, कांगड़ा
गैरिला, जाली

गैरिला, जाली
गैरिला, जाली

हेल्पलाइन नंबर

0177-2654185

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

De-escalation or deception

India should remain wary of unreliable China not just in Ladakh

LESS than a fortnight after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi came up with a five-point roadmap to resolve the Ladakh standoff, the corps commander-level talks between the two countries seem to have made some headway. In a joint statement, Indian and Chinese armies have agreed to stop sending more troops to the frontline, desist from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground and avoid actions that may complicate matters. All that sounds good, but it's the implementation that will count. China's blatant disregard for previous agreements has led to renewed hostilities of late.

Disengagement of troops from the friction points on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is a prerequisite for de-escalation of tensions. Over the past four months or so, eastern Ladakh has seen it all — bloody skirmishes, firing of shots, incursions by Chinese troops and pre-emptive action by Indian soldiers. Several rounds of talks at the military level didn't bear fruit as the Chinese army persisted with its brazen misadventures. On the diplomatic front, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently conveyed India's firm stand to his Chinese counterpart in Moscow, followed by the Jaishankar-Yi talks.

Adopting an unusually conciliatory tone, Chinese President Xi Jinping said in his pre-recorded address to the UN General Assembly that his country would 'continue to narrow differences and resolve disputes with others through dialogue and negotiation.' This should be music to India's ears, but past experience has shown that China can be taken at face value only at one's peril. India can't afford to let its guard down along the entire 3,488-km-long LAC. With the Ladakh region bracing itself for a typically harsh winter beginning next month, the Indian troops would have to step up vigil to ensure that the Chinese army doesn't try to capitalise on the bad weather to make mischief. India shouldn't expect a quick end to the border standoff, which has remained under the glare of the international community. With the US and its allies calling China's military actions unprovoked and provocative, India needs to cash in on this support to make the neighbour mend its ways.

Hope for hoteliers

Tourists in Kasauli good sign for hospitality industry

FOR the beleaguered hospitality industry, the brisk business reported by hotels at the tourist hotspot of Kasauli will come as a relief. Indeed, Himachal Pradesh was among the states that had imposed a complete ban on the entry of outsiders after the outbreak of Covid-19, even as an exodus of the workforce — mostly on foot — took place from its industrial hubs like Baddi amid the shutdown. For a state where tourism is the mainstay of the economy, the influx of visitors will mean a fresh lease of life. With travel restrictions being eased, tourist arrival is expected to increase as educational institutes are yet to reopen fully and the weather remains conducive for a visit to the hills.

The lockdown meant hardships for the hospitality industry. At many places, hotels offered to turn themselves into quarantine centres, faced with the prospect of maintaining the property, paying salaries and repaying loans. In Uttar Pradesh, which saw the return of migrant workers in large numbers, tourist places like the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort have now been opened to tourists, with restrictions in place. Besides the economy, the other aspect has been about people getting confined to their homes amid the lockdown for a long period of six months, with restrictions on social gatherings and movement only complicating the situation, depriving them of opportunities for human interface. The opening up of the tourism sector may well offer an opportunity to break out of this confinement.

But there is still some way to go before the situation gets reversed. Transport services are yet to reach their optimum, though the Kalka-Shimla toy train made a special run for the NDA exam candidates. Tourist arrivals have mostly been from neighbouring states, unlike in the past when international travellers would also arrive in large numbers. The industry has to put in place technology to fight the virus without charging excessive tariff and highways and cities will have to contend with traffic jams and pollution. The climb back to normalcy remains an uphill task.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Prosperous farmers make for a prosperous nation, and when farmers are in trouble, the nation is in trouble. — Harry S Truman

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1920

THE SUBJECTS COMMITTEE.

IT is becoming usual for the President of the Congress to complain of the publicity given to the proceedings of the Subjects Committee. Last year, when a part of the proceedings of the Committee obtained widespread publicity through an Associated Press telegram, the President not only condemned the publication for a breach of confidence, but actually declared that if the offence was repeated, it would be his painful duty to exclude the Press from the Congress. To this last remark, we felt it our duty to take exception, as we stated at the time, that not only had the President no right, except for a well-defined and strictly limited purpose, to exclude the Press as a whole from the Congress on account, it might be, of the faults of one single individual, but that to exclude the Press from the Congress would be to exclude the country and to make the Congress a despotic and irresponsible body. The first remark, however, stood on a very different footing and in spite of the sense of uneasiness caused by the President's condemnation of a practice which had for some years come distinctly into vogue, it was generally felt that the President was perfectly right in his interpretation of the unwritten law of the Congress and perfectly within his rights in seeking to enforce it. The President of the special session has now had to repeat the same complaint. "It is unfortunate," he says in a letter published in these columns yesterday, "that so many persons should be violating the unwritten law of the Congress in this matter and giving out information of what had happened in the Subjects Committee by bits." This is undoubtedly unfortunate so long as the unwritten law remains what it is, and those of us who have once again been guilty of this "violation of the unwritten law" must once again express our regret for having done so.

It's not just about the farmer

For Punjab and Haryana, it is also about the fiscal relationship with the Centre



ABHIJIT SEN

FORMER CHAIRMAN, COMMISSION FOR AGRICULTURAL COSTS AND PRICES



UNCERTAINTY LOOMS: Farmers are concerned about what might happen to the system which they know so well, and which has paid them quite handsomely.

Ramrodding important matters deserving of concern does not do justice to the sense of good federalism.

This attitude is in itself a major change in the way the Centre is now dealing with the states, because agricultural marketing, like agriculture on the whole, is a State subject. The recourse that the Centre has taken in the matter of agricultural marketing is to the provision in the Constitution that the Centre can intervene in matters of inter-state trade. This has been known for some time, but the way in which this is being imposed is the true matter for debate.

These issues are not new, and nor are the debates. Since about 2000, the Centre has been trying to put in place reforms which would do whatever is necessary to have more orderly agricultural markets, and this is a process which has continued irrespective of the parties in power. While clubbing the teeth of the Essential Commodities Act, reforming APMCs and encouraging contract farming have been the objectives, with the Central governments bringing out model enactments at various points and holding discussions with the states, there has been very limited progress on the ground.

The present hurried enactment of the ordinances reflects a belief that somehow a process which had not yielded full fruit for 20 years could be done through a rushed enactment.

to grow and thrive by attracting new players into the market, such as large retailers and food processors.

It was recognised that for certain other crops, mainly rice and wheat, the market was very strongly affected by what decisions were taken by the Centre on MSP and PDS purchases, and hence it was not possible to assume that markets would function freely. The present Acts seem to have dropped these distinctions, although the Centre has been quick to say that the MSP will continue to function. The Opposition, on the other hand, suspects that the MSP system may be under threat. States such as Punjab and Haryana, which were at the forefront of the Green Revolution, and till very recently, the main suppliers to the PDS, are understandably among the most concerned. The issue is not only that most farmers grow rice and wheat and sell it at MSP, but also that the functioning of many markets in these states depends upon MSP operations.

For example, Punjab receives by way of mandi charges a very substantial fraction of the cost borne by the Centre in the purchase of rice

and wheat at MSP. Any winding up of MSP, or even if MSP operations are taken out of the APMCs, could have a large impact on the total flow of funds from the Centre to the state. This is a danger, which although not expressed clearly so far, exists because one of the things enabled by the new Act is that the FCI, for example, could function outside an APMC, and as a direct purchaser for distribution to other states, it need not pay any market charges at all in Punjab. In other words, for states like Punjab and Haryana, the matter is beyond simply what concerns farmers, but also the fiscal relationship between the Centre and the state. The matter should have been discussed before the ordinances were issued, or at least before the enactment was put to Parliament.

Punjab and Haryana farmers are clearly very concerned about what might happen to the system which they know so well, and which has paid them quite handsomely. The protests are related to this concern, and to the fact that in Punjab, for example, both the ruling and the Opposition party are united against the Central action. Nonetheless, from the point of view of economics, it must be remembered that one of the major issues that has been discussed over the years is that Punjab, especially, is paying a very large cost in terms of falling water table and other environmental problems that arise from too great a dependence on the rice-wheat cycle. Propponents of the Act would point to the fact that by liberalising trade in all other commodities, Punjab and Haryana farmers would be able to grow rice and wheat, if they wanted, but they might have better choices as a result of investment by the private sector, in view of larger and stable demand for high-value crops. These are precisely the issues which have been debated over the last 20 years and ramrodding important matters deserving of concern does not do justice to the sense of good federalism.

Chief's helicopter did it!

MAJ GEN PARTAP NARWAL (RETD)

THE coming week was to be the busiest for us. As I went to bed, only my body lay down and rested; my mind remained occupied — thinking, imagining, planning. Suddenly I got up — how can the helicopter land there!

In 2012, I commanded the Horse Breeding Farm, Babugarh, a 200-year-old sole Army unit next to Hapur. The acres of land and the number of horses are in thousands here; and the sycs from generations work in hundreds. The farm boasts of a pristine ambience, for which the Commandant and his team has no eyes, as their sight was fixed on getting more and more fodder for mares and foals for the Army — the latter being harder.

The mares in wild are prolific breeders, but in husbandry surroundings, they find the process burdensome. The Commandant faces umpteen challenges daily. The problems begin with the breeding season in February, as mares don't show their amatory overtures. After days of efforts, when they are roped in for encounter with the stallion, the process is often repeated the following month. Still, after holding the pregnancy, they may lose it anytime. The losses are attributed to even frivolous reasons which may sound convincing only when read in textbooks. Considering such uncertainties, the Army Headquarters (AHQ) has set a target of getting 60 per cent mares gravid yearly by autumn. The past record of 15 years then showed the highest figure attained at

the farm was 65 per cent.

Earlier that day, I had received a message from the AHQ that the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) would visit us next week. He was to reach from Delhi by helicopter. I had thought of an open ground for landing, but lying in bed, I realised that the ground was close to mares' paddocks and my memory flashed a textbook line: low flying aircraft can cause abortion in mares. How many pregnant mares out of hundreds may stick to this prophecy!

There was no other suitable landing site as the landscape was covered with trees, crops and electricity poles. The next morning, when I conveyed my apprehension, the AHQ also found it convincing. I suggested changing the mode of journey to the land route. But by evening, it was reported that the

mode remained unchanged. When we contacted the flying staff, they reluctantly agreed to consider a crop-field for the landing site. Our search narrowed to an oat-field in the farthest corner, which was harvested for fodder. Ridges and furrows were levelled. The flying staff approved the site.

The dust storm from landing sent us scurrying behind staff cars. The visit went off as per the plan. Though the helicopter noise from that distance could not have threatened the mares, the thought of likely losses haunted us. When an AHQ-deputed team began checking each mare for pregnancy in November, we anxiously awaited the result. The team declared above 72 per cent mares in foal. The sycs chorched, 'We never heard of such results here... not even from our ancestors!'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Farm cooperatives

Reference to 'Hopes and fears arising out of agriculture Bills' (Sept 23), farmers should follow the path shown by the milkman of India, Dr Verghese Kurien. They should start a cooperative movement to sell farm products like vegetables on the pattern of Amul products. Milk is more perishable than vegetables. While directly selling the farm products to the consumer, both the seller and purchaser would be benefited and this would open the export market to them. Amul products are being exported to 60 countries.

NARESH MOHAN JOHAR, AMRITSAR

Salve to patients

Apropos of 'Visiting hours opened'; it augurs well that the Rajasthan health department has permitted family members of the corona patients to visit hospitals by using masks, PPE kits and hand gloves. This will soothe the prolonged painful experience of the patients. Other states can also follow suit. It will create a positive feeling and help in the recovery of the patients.

KK MITTAL, BATHINDA

Woman pilot & Rafale
The recent news that Rafale would soon get its first woman pilot has captured the imagination of the nation. A start has been made by women to free

themselves from the shackles created by our male-dominated society. A woman is no longer a second-rate being, a weaker sex, to be relegated to the background. Parents need not shudder at the thought of a girl child being born. Women are proving their mettle in every field. They should continue to march ahead for only then will freedom embrace them.

RIYA MALHOTRA, FAZILKA

Essentials of secularism

Reference to the article 'New meaning of secularism' published in these columns. The word secularism does not find any mention in the body of the Constitution. It is incorporated in the Preamble that India is a secular state and it shall continue to remain as such. Articles 25-28 guarantee full freedom to every citizen to choose and follow his/her faith. These basic elements will remain intact, and therefore, searching for any new meaning is futile, with no practical implication. The framers of the Constitution did not close their eyes to the fact that no social order has ever been built by obliterating religion. The writer has invoked the Mahatma, who wanted to build a composite society. He also proposed that both the Quran and the Gita should be recited alongside. But the Muslim clergy rejected it. Our Constitution contains all the essen-

tials of secularism and these can neither be modified nor diluted.

HS SINHA, KURUKSHETRA

Chinese aggression

China's regular indulgence in aggressive activities on the LAC is indicative of its ulterior motives. It is appreciable that the Indian Army, despite grave provocation, has exercised restraint to avoid further acceleration of tension. China cannot be trusted. It may repeat a Galwan-like attack. We must remain extremely vigilant.

SANTOKH SINGH, JALANDHAR

A teacher to remember

Apropos of 'A principled principal', DAV College, Lahore, was shifted to Ambala city in 1948. I was one of the first science students in the college (1948). I was fortunate to know Prof Trilok Nath, who taught Arts. He was a man of stellar qualities, few words and simple living. He raised a small Sabha of students from the rural area of Pahari Ellaqa. Monthly meetings of students were held. In one such meeting, he asked the students to sing patriotic and other songs. When my turn came, I sang a popular film song by Nur Jahan. Some started dancing while he burst into laughter and patted me on the shoulder. He will be remembered for long.

MOHAL LAL GUPTA, RAMPUR

Let's choose 'rahbars'

They are 'rahzans' — Tu idhar udhar ki na baat kar/ ye bata ki qafila kyun luta/mujhe rahzanon se gila nahin/teri rahbari ka sawal hai. In Haryana, 42 lawmakers; in Himachal, 49; and in Punjab, 35 MPs and MLAs, and in total over 4,000 criminal cases are pending against our lawmakers in various courts of the country. What an achievement! For this downfall, I blame gullible voters like me. We are responsible for this mess. Lawmakers play with innocent lives of the people and loot public money. It is we who can change the destiny of the country by electing honest and selfless people and throwing these criminals out of the system. Let us choose 'rahbars' and not 'rahzans'.

NARESH RAJ, PATIALA

From within syllabus

The physics paper and also questions of other subjects in the NEET were of the class XII level, which every student, who has studied sincerely, can attempt to solve. There is no need for bearing the extra financial load of coaching centres. Many students yield under this pressure. The NTA should ask the examiners to set questions based only on class XII syllabus, testing the basic knowledge of students.

SC BHATIA, PANIPAT

Address disregard for quality control in OFB



LT GEN DS HOODA (RETD)

FORMER NORTHERN ARMY COMMANDER

ON May 16, the Finance Minister announced certain structural reforms in the defence sector. Among these was a decision for the corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) to improve efficiency and enable financial independence. The idea of corporatisation of the OFB has been around for many years, having been first mooted by the Nair Committee in 2000. However, it has faced difficulties in implementation due to resistance by the OFB workers' unions.

In August last year, an indefinite strike by the workers forced the government to give an assurance that it had not taken any decision towards corporatising the OFB. The Finance Minister's recent announcement has been followed by a call for an indefinite strike by OFB employees from October 12.

The OFB contests the Army's claims and points towards storage and handling issues that are the responsibility of the Army. However, this finger-pointing does not obscure the fact that between 2014 and 2019, almost Rs 1,000 crore worth of faulty ammunition and mines have been destroyed.

Defective ammunition not only causes accidents involving casualties but also erodes confidence among the soldiers. I recall that troops engaged in counterterrorism operations in Kashmir were very frustrated when grenades would not go off after being thrown at the terrorists.

The problem is not just restricted to specialised items like ammunition, but also

Rs 12,000 crore, the OFB is essential in supporting the military's routine but essential acquisitions.

Precisely because the OFB has such a vital role, it must be ensured that it is run efficiently. Unfortunately, the OFB's record has been less than satisfactory. CAG reports of the last five years have pointed out that the gap between production targets and achievements has always been above 50 per cent, and in 2015-16, it was as high as 67 per cent. An audit of the OFB reveals that the average machine-hour utilisation has been around 75 per cent, while the average man-hour utilisation is about 127 per cent, resulting in a 27 per cent additional salary bill.

Some of these issues could be overlooked if the OFB was supplying high-quality items. This is one area that the Army, as the biggest customer, has serious complaints about. In May 2019, it was reported in this newspaper that the "Army has sought immediate intervention of the Defence Ministry to check rising cases of accidents involving battle tanks, artillery and air defence guns due to 'poor quality' of ammunition being supplied by the OFB."

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OPPOSITION: The announcement on corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board has been followed by a call for an indefinite strike by its employees from October 12.

to basic products like uniform and boots.

In 2015, it was pointed out to me by a corps commander that most of the infantry soldiers were buying their own boots as the ones supplied by the OFB were unfit for use during long patrols. Poor quality of the uniform led to the Ministry of Defence approving a clothing allowance in 2018 that permitted soldiers to purchase their own dresses.

Another major problem relates to overpricing, and just one example will suffice. An Ashok Leyland Stallion vehicle that costs Rs 17 lakh if procured ex trade is priced at Rs 28 lakh by the OFB. It would be assumed that with a captive market and high overheads, the OFB would be able to turn

in some profits, but that is not the case. Each year, the government is forced to allocate money in the defence budget to keep the OFB running.

It was in the light of these serious shortfalls that the government decided on corporatisation of the OFB. The employees are resisting this move, and to arrive at a solution, we must also study their demands. There are concerns about wage cuts, health benefits, pensions, and layoffs if the OFB is converted into a public sector entity.

These are genuine concerns, and the government appears sensitive towards these. It was recently announced in the Rajya Sabha that an Empowered Group of Ministers had been constituted to guide the entire

process of corporatisation, including "transition support and redeployment plan of employees while safeguarding their wages and retirement benefits."

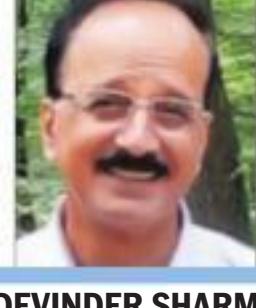
The other issue raised by the workers' unions is related to "leaving the factories to the vicissitudes of the profit-driven market." The problems facing the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are frequently quoted. The comparison of the OFB with BSNL is misleading. The BSNL operates in a highly competitive environment while the OFB has a dedicated customer base and specialised expertise in niche areas. Bringing in greater efficiency will only strengthen its market share, not reduce it.

A word of caution needs to be inject-

ed here. Any future corporatisation must look at bringing in professional management and adopting the best market practices. The board must not become a lucrative parking slot, where one set of bureaucrats replaces another set. This practice has been the bane of many public sector undertakings.

The OFB has expertise and capacities in areas that are indispensable for the military. The problem is not that we do not need the OFB, but the slipshod attitude and practices that have crept in, and a lack of concern for quality control and user satisfaction. In times of stressed budgets and hostile neighbours, any restructuring that addresses these aspects should be welcomed.

Ensure no trading takes place below MSP



DEVINDER SHARMA

FOOD & AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST

With APMC markets heading towards a collapse, the new set of reforms is aimed at encouraging corporatisation, with big business moving into agriculture, storage and marketing. As the experience of US/Europe shows, when unregulated markets become dominant, small farmers are the first to be pushed out of agriculture.



ALARMING: Despite over 90 per cent of the farmers being dependent on markets all these years, Indian agriculture is still in the throes of a terrible agrarian distress.

REITERATING what former US Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz (during Ronald Reagan's rule) had declared: "Get big or get out," Sonny Perdue, US President Donald Trump's Agriculture Secretary recently said: "In America, the big get bigger and the small go out. I don't think in America, (as) for any small business, we have a guaranteed income or guaranteed profitability."

Wherever agriculture is being opened to markets, the big capital has successfully managed to push out the majority farming population and concentrated its control over food. That's how the markets behave, with its own set of logic and ethics. As the big get bigger, the small farms struggle to survive. In America, after decades of market reforms in agriculture, only 1.5 per cent of its population has somehow managed to survive on the farm. Despite providing for \$867 billion support under the Farm Bill 2018 over the next 10 years for agriculture, nutrition and conservation programmes, rising suicide rate, worrying trends of depression in rural areas, declining milk and farm commodity prices, and the mounting bankruptcy in farming — estimated at \$425 billion — will make it tough for the family farms to survive the transition.

With the suicide rate being 45 per cent higher in rural areas as compared to urban America, low prices and mounting debt has pushed much of the rural population in the grip of stress and depression. What happened in America is no exception.

It has in fact become an international agricultural design, with agribusiness gaining strongholds over the food value chains across the globe, in reality their competitive strength depending on the huge subsidies received. In Europe, farming too is in a severe crisis despite an annual subsidy support of \$100 billion, of which nearly half goes as direct income support. Low prices and mounting debt has gradually pushed small farmers out of business. In the UK, 3,000 dairy farms have closed down in the past four years. In France, a study had shown that nearly 500 farmers commit suicide on an average in a year.

In India, 3.64 lakh farmers have officially committed suicide in the past 25

years as per the National Crime Records Bureau statistics. Despite 94 per cent farmers being dependent on markets all these years (as per the Shanta Kumar committee report), Indian agriculture is still in the throes of a terrible agrarian distress. Interestingly, an NSSO report in 2014-15 had shown that nearly 54 to 84 per cent farmers (depending on crops) in the kharif marketing season had sold their produce outside the mandis to private traders. In other words, farmers had the freedom to sell anywhere. They were not in the clutches of the mandis. The question therefore that needs to be asked is if markets were so efficient, why should farmers be increasingly abandoning agriculture

and migrating to the cities. If markets were so benevolent, there is no reason why agriculture shouldn't have been the engine of economic growth.

But this is how markets operate, pushing people away from agriculture primarily to provide cheap workforce for the industry. The big get bigger in the process and the small go out. For India, the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has a similar proposition — 'move up or move out'. For several decades, mainstream economists in India had been arguing on similar lines. Numerous committees and reports had pointed to the need to move towards market-friendly agriculture. Minimum Support Price (MSP) was named the culprit, coming in the way of real price discovery. In one form or the other, the emphasis had been on dismantling the vast network of Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC)-regulated mandis in Punjab and Haryana.

To strengthen the argument, even the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) had come out with a table ranking states in terms of market-friendliness. Bihar topped the chart, and Punjab was at the bottom.

Punjab brings up the rear because 87 per cent of wheat and rice (as per CACP) is procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) or by public sector agencies on its behalf at a guaranteed MSP. In Bihar, less than 1 per cent of the wheat harvest is procured. If this is market-friendliness, economists need

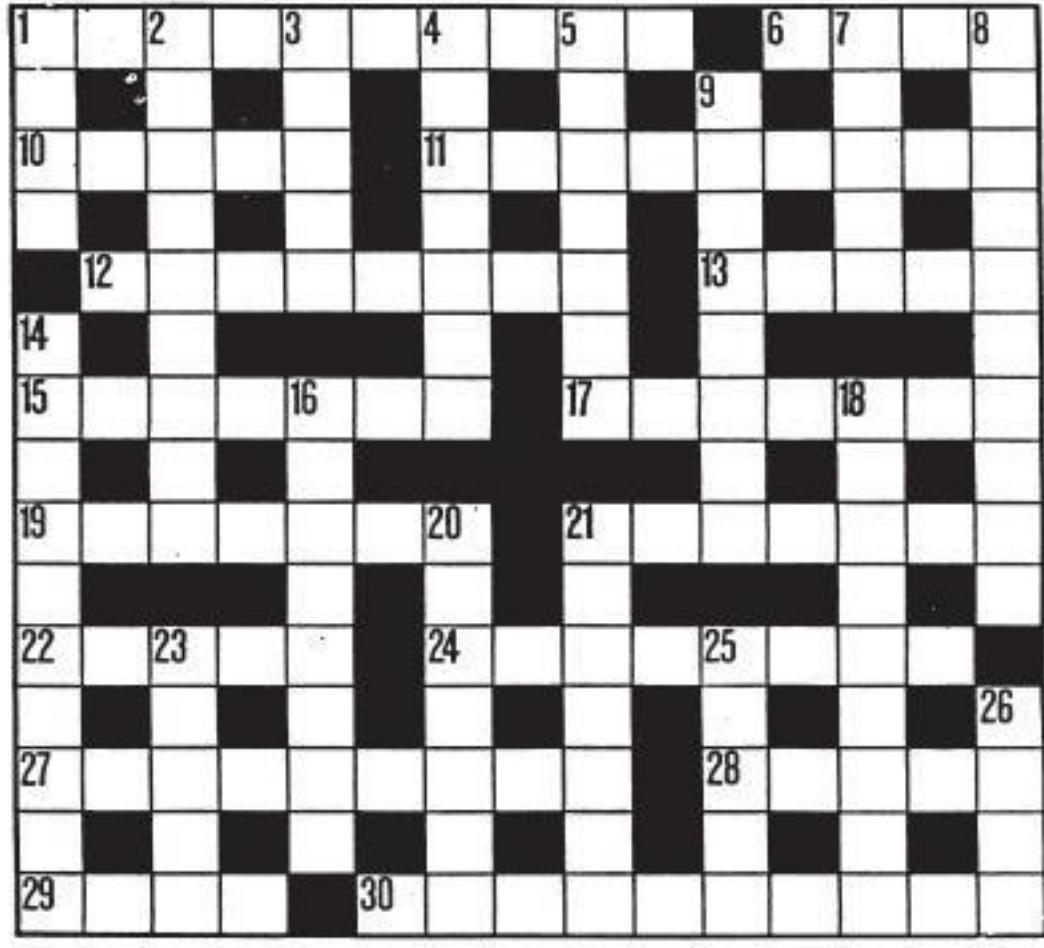
to explain what is so good about it. In Punjab and Haryana, comprising the food bowl, farmers receive Rs 80,000 crore a year by way of price support. As far as I can remember, barring a few instances, farmers have not received a price higher than the MSP in open markets. Market prices have always remained lower than the MSP announced for wheat and paddy, the two crops that are being procured. Similarly, for the 23 crops for which MSP is announced every year, open market prices have generally been lower.

The real price discovery for farmers is by MSP only. The need therefore is to make MSP a legal right for farmers and ensure that no trading takes place below the MSP, not only for wheat and paddy but for all the 23 crops for which MSP is announced.

Although the government says MSP and APMC markets will remain intact under the new marketing reforms being ushered in, farmers fear that APMC mandis will gradually become redundant. With APMC markets heading towards a collapse, the new set of reforms is aimed at encouraging corporatisation of agriculture, with big business moving into agriculture, storage and marketing.

As the experience of US/Europe shows, when unregulated markets become dominant, small farmers are the first to be pushed out of agriculture. Given that 86 per cent farmers have less than five acres of land holdings, the message is clear: get big or get out.

QUICK CROSSWORD

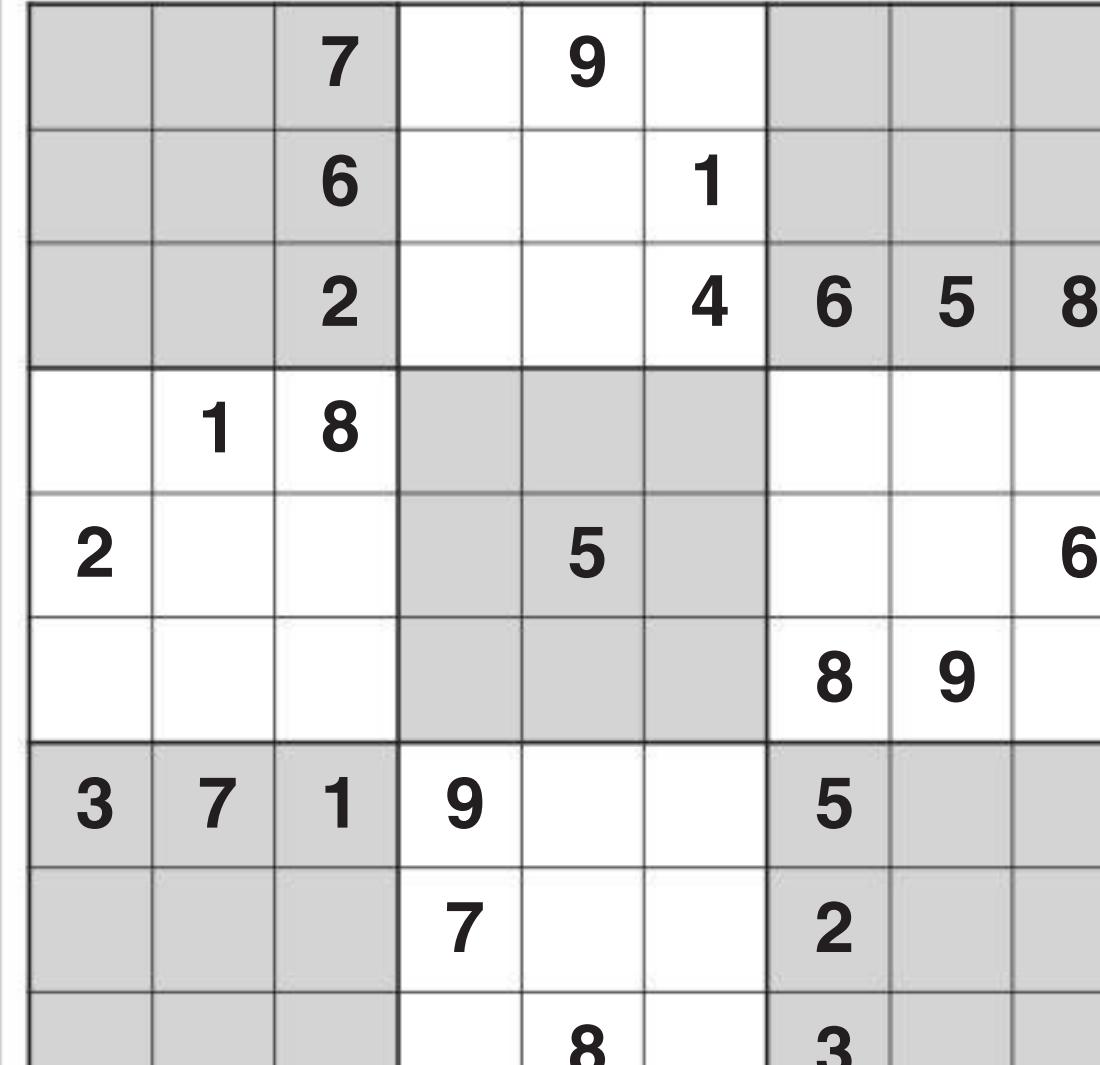


YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Bucolic, 5 Still, 8 By-product, 9 Mar, 10 Leap, 12 Alliance, 14 Prayer, 15 Chancy, 17 Coleslaw, 18 Pert, 21 Fan, 22 Real McCoy, 24 Creed, 25 Suggest.

Down: 1 Abel, 2 Cap, 3 Loom, 4 Couple, 5 Sit tight, 6 Imminence, 7 Larceny, 11 At a glance, 13 Measured, 14 Pacific, 16 Harass, 19 Tryst, 20 Smug, 23 Cue.

SU DO KU



V. HARD

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 24, 2020, THURSDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat 2077

■ Shaka Samvat 1942

■ Ashwin Shaka 2

■ Ashwin Parvishtha 9

■ Hijari 1442

■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 8, up to 7.02 pm

■ Saubhagya Yoga up to 9.54 pm

■ Moola Nakshatra up to 6.10 pm

■ Moon in Sagittarius sign

■ Gandmool up to 6.10 pm

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

5 8 4 6 1 3 9 2 7

6 2 7 5 8 9 4 1 3

1 3 9 7 2 4 8 6 5

8 1 3 2 6 7 5 4 9

4 9 6 1 3 5 2 7 8

2 7 5 9 4 8 1 3 6

9 4 8 3 7 1 6 5 2

7 6 1 8 5 2 3 9 4

3 5 2 4 9 6 7 8 1

FORECAST

SUNSET: THURSDAY 18:17 HRS

SUNRISE: FRIDAY 06:13 HRS

Sunny Partly Cloudy Cloudy Rainy Foggy

CITY MAX MIN

Chandigarh 34 25

New Delhi 37 27

Amritsar 35 24

Bathinda 36 26

Jalandhar 35 24

Ludhiana 35 25

Bhiwani 36 26

Hisar 36 25

Sirsia 35 26

Dharamsala 28 18

Manali 26 11

Shimla 23 17

Srinagar 30 10

Jammu 37 24

Kargil 21 10

Leh 27 08

Dehradun 31 22

Mussourie 22 14

TEMPERATURE IN °C

Delhi man held with fake MMU degree

BHANU P LOHUMI

Tribune News Service
SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 23
The CID Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Manav Bharti University (MMU) fake degree scam today arrested Kewal Sharma from Delhi for possessing a fictitious degree.



FIGURES AMONG 103 FAKE DEGREES

Kewal Sharma claimed to have obtained a B.Com degree from the MMU during 2010-13, but during investigation, his degree was found to be fake. His degree figures among the 103 fake degrees on the basis of which an FIR was registered. **99**

Bimal Gupta, DIG, CID

he had not studied after Class X.

Director General of Police Sanjay Kundu handed over the case to the CID last week.

An SIT comprising members of the CID, Enforcement Directorate, Income Tax Department and the Special Investigation Team probing the case was constituted.

The University Grant Commission (UGC) letter dated August 30, 2019, had pointed out that Manav Bharti University, Solan, had allegedly sold about five lakh degrees. It had directed the authorities

concerned to conduct a thorough inquiry into the allegations of the sale of fake degrees, following which three cases were registered at Dharmpur police station in Solan district.

Earlier, the investigating agencies had found that the university had issued a large number of fake degrees in exchange for money.

They had also recovered blank copies, answer-sheets, and certificates of courses not offered by the university and arrested a Registrar and the Chairman of the university.

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 23

A 54-year-old woman from Chopal allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself in the gallery outside the Covid ward at Deen Dayal Upadhyay (Ripon) Hospital here around 12.05 am today.

The woman had tested positive for coronavirus on September 18 and was admitted to DDU Hospital. The incident has raised questions on the functioning of the hospital that how a patient in a ward where 20 to 25 other patients are also present could commit suicide in the presence of the hospital staff.

The son of the deceased said that his mother had been taking treatment for hypertension and frequent headaches at the IGMC for the past four years. He added that the DDU Hospital staff did not attend to her; she was not given medicines on time and was in mental tension.

HC Chief Justice urged to take notice

Social activist Ravi Kumar Dalit wrote a letter to the Chief Justice of the HP High Court, requesting him to take notice of the incident

Deputy Commissioner Amit Kashyap said that a magisterial inquiry had been ordered into the incident to ascertain the reason why the woman took the extreme step and whether there was negligence on the part of the hospital staff.

Patients, who were cured of Covid at the hospital, would also be interviewed to know the conditions prevailing in the ward so that remedial steps could be taken to avoid such a mishap in future, he added.

An inquest has been instituted under Section 174 of the CrPC into the suicide case. The body had been sent for the postmortem, said Shimla SP Mohit Chawla.

A few days ago, a patient, who had tested negative for

Covid, was sent to quarantine at Mashobra and kept with coronavirus patients due to alleged negligence on the part of the IGMC staff. The confusion occurred as there were two persons with the same names and while the person with the negative report was sent to quarantine, the Covid patient was left out. Though the names of both patients in the age group of 25-26 years were same, their Specimen Referral Form (SRF) ID numbers were different, which the officials did not notice.

CPM calls for all-party meet

The CPM has expressed concern over the suicide by a woman Covid patient in the DDU Hospital today. It has called for an all-party meeting to reframe a strategy to tackle the pandemic.

CPM state secretariat member Dr Kuldip Singh Tanwar said the party had been urging the government to ramp up facilities as the pandemic was rapidly becoming severe, but it had been negligent in its approach.

3 succumb to virus; 318 new cases in state

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 23

As many as 318 Covid-19 cases were reported in the state today, taking the tally to 12,899. Besides, three persons died of the virus, taking the total number of fatalities to 132.

Entire Kotkhai Nagar Panchayat was declared a containment zone for four days after four persons tested Covid positive. Since one of the infected persons runs a car parking and a newspaper agency, it was decided to declare the panchayat as a containment zone where only essential services would be allowed.

In the last 24 hours, one death each was reported in Shimla, Solan and Hamirpur. The highest number of 53 cases each were reported in both Shimla and Sirmour, followed by 36 each in Solan and Kangra, 34 in Kullu, 30 in Chamba, 23 in Mandi, 18 in Hamirpur, nine in Una, seven in Bilaspur, six in Lahaul and Spiti and three in Kinnaur.

Two patients die in Mandi

Two deaths were reported in Mandi district due to Covid-

STATE TRACKER

Samples tested	2,73,329
Recovered	8,715
Active cases	4,028
Positive cases	12,899
Deaths	132

DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Una	1,143	10
Solan	2,698	23
Kangra	1,921	29
Chamba	757	7
Hamirpur	839	6
Sirmour	1,629	9
Mandi	1,435	18
Bilaspur	674	1
Shimla	982	24
Kullu	527	4
Kinnaur	166	1
Lahaul & Spiti	128	-
Total	12,899	132

19. Gian Chand, a resident of Hawani Ropri village in Sarkaghat, and Sukh Ram (64), a resident of Ladhwan village in Jodhainernagar, died at Mandi medical college, said Dr Jeevanand Chauhan, Senior Medical Superintendent.—TNS

An opportunity to give medical service to India's lifeline

Selection of Nurses & Level I categories of Supporting staff, Multipurpose Hospital Assistants, House Keeping Assistants & HAs will be held through GeM



Northern Railway conducts a Walk-in-interview for engagement of CMPs for COVID Isolation wards of Northern Railway Central Hospital on contract basis

Ref:- This office notification of Even No. dated 19.06.2020, 02.07.2020, & 08.07.2020

In reference to the above subject & in continuation to the notifications referred above, it has been decided to proceed further with the recruitment with the revised modalities as under:

- (i) The interviews for the post of CMPs shall be conducted on 29.09.2020. All the candidates who have applied for the posts of CMPs (Specialist) & CMPs(GDMOs) are directed to report to this Hospital on 29.09.2020 at 09:30 AM with all their original papers. List of candidates is annexed herewith indicating the time slots for their interview. They are advised to report only as per the time advised.
- (ii) Regarding the category of Nurses & Level I categories of Supporting staff of Multipurpose Hospital Assistants, House Keeping Assistants & HAs (Dead body handlers) it is has been decided to cancel the recruitments to these categories through the process of Walk in interviews for engagement on contract basis and, in compliance of the Railway Board's policy directives issued under their letter No. 2019/RS(M)/GeM dated 22.07.2020 and 2020/RS(G)/779/3 dated 17.06.2020, to proceed for procuring these services through Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
- (iii) All these revisions have been directed with a view to maintain the social distancing norms & to give effect to Railway Board policies on the subject.
- (iv) All concerned candidates are advised to note these instructions carefully and comply accordingly.
- (v) These instructions are issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

No. 752 E/Contract/COVID/NRCH/2020

Date: 21.09.2020

(Seema V Verma) Senior Personnel Officer

For Chief Medical Director

INTERVIEW TIME TABLE-Contract Medical Practitioner -COVID WARD-NRCH

CATEGORY NO.	CATEGORY	NUMBER OF CANDIDATES	DATES OF INTERVIEW	TIME SLOTS & NO. OF INTERVIEWS
01	CMP(SPECIALISTS)	06		10 HRS TO 13 HRS=S.No. 1 to 14
02	CMP(GDMO)	22	29.09.2020	BREAK 13 HRS-14 HRS 14 HRS TO 17 HRS = S.No. 15 to 28

S. No.	Name of doctor	F/H name	APPLIED FOR	Time Slots for interview
1.	Dr. Vishal Gupta	Sh. Shrinivas Gupta	CMP/Specialist MD Pediatrics	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
2.	Dr. Vikram Vinayek	Mr. Manjeet K. Vinayek	CMP/Specialist DTCD (Applied for GDMO also)	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
3.	Dr. Atul Kumar	Mr. Surendra Kumar Yadav	CMP/Specialist DNB ORTH	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
4.	Dr. Munmun Kumar	Mr. Ram Kumar Bhadeshwar	CMP/Specialist	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
5.	Dr. Charu	Mr. S.C. Khurana/Rajesh Kumar	GDMO/Specialist DGO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
6.	Dr. Harshil Vohra	Mr. Mangatram Vohra	CMP/Specialist/DTCD	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
7.	Dr. Priyanka K. Sharma	Sh. Amanpriya Khanna	GDMO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
8.	Dr. Rishabh Bhardwaj	Sh. Surendra Pathak	GDMO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
9.	Dr. Nirav J. Barasiya	Sh. Jasmatbhai N. Barasiya	GDMO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
10.	Dr. Somveer Singh Chaudhary	Sh. Mahender Singh	GDMO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
11.	Dr. Mahesh Manikrao Dahiphale	Sh. Manik	GDMO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
12.	Dr. Shubham Gupta	Sh. Ashok Kumar Gupta	GDMO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
13.	Dr. Chandan Kumar Mishra	Sh. Pramod Kumar Mishra	GDMO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
14.	Dr. Mozahir Anwar	Md. Monawwar Hassan	GDMO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
BREAK 13:00 HRS TO 14:00 HRS				
15.	Dr. Prag Kalra	Late Sh. Ashok K. Kalra	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
16.	Dr. Gaurav Sharma	Mr. Upendra Kumar Sharma	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
17.	Dr. Nola Ram Legha	Mr. Gangu Ram	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
18.	Dr. Shankar Prasad Singh	Mr. Arjun Prasad	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
19.	Dr. Aas Mohamad	Mr. Rahim Khan	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
20.	Dr. Javed Khan	Mr. Navranga Khan	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
21.	Dr. Sahil Tariq	Mr. Tariq Badar	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
22.	Dr. Komal Saini	Mr. Sanjay Saini	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
23.	Dr. Asif Ansari	Mr. Abdul Waheed Ansari	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
24.	Dr. Anuj Dixit	Mr. Arun Kumar Dixit	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
25.	Dr. Reena Gupta	Mr. Punnet Gupta	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
26.	Dr. Devika Khatri	Mr. R.K. Khatri	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
27.	Dr. Kajal Dande	Dr. H.K. Dande	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
28.	Dr. Mohit Kumar Gera	Mr. Rajesh Gera	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS



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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Irregularities in Una coop society

Probe reveals secy sanctioned ₹90 lakh loans to kin | Governing body dissolved

RAJESH SHARMA

UNA, SEPTEMBER 23

Irregularities to the tune of about Rs 81 lakh have surfaced in the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society, Ispur village, in Haroli. The matter is being investigated by the office of the Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Una.

Ispur resident Suraj Pathak, a retired principal of a government college, said

his fixed deposits in the society had matured but the amount was not released by the secretary of the society Shyam Kumar. Another resident Narinder Pathak said it had been going on for the last two years and their complaints to the department had not been addressed.

Pathak said Shyam Kumar's answer to all depositors is that the society had extended loans and the fixed deposit amounts could be

Smashing Samson

Batsman earns praise after 32-ball 74, but he must not let it affect his focus



Sanju Samson scored at a strike rate of over 230.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Samson vs CSK bowlers

BOWLER	BALLS	RUNS	6	4
Chahar	4	9	1	-
Ngidi	5	3	-	-
Curran	5	13	1	1
Jadeja	11	22	3	-
Chawla	7	27	4	-

got 22 off 11 balls off Ravinder Jadeja, an effective spinner on helpful tracks — curiously, Jadeja was attempting flighted deliveries instead of his trademark quick balls he darts in. He scored 13 off five balls from Sam Curran, England's emerging allrounder. Curran was a good challenge for Samson, who capitalised on a short ball from him that he hit for a six.

The bowler who got Samson out was probably the best in CSK's XI — Lungi Ngidi. Ngidi had a nightmare final over, in which he bowled two no balls and one wide and got slogged for 30 runs by Jofra Archer. But the 6ft 4in Ngidi had kept Samson quiet, conceding only three runs off the five balls he bowled to him. He deceived Samson with a slower ball outside off; Samson fell for it and sent the ball high for a catch at deep cover.

Samson's ability

Samson has the talent. The Indian selectors tried to give him international exposure in what seems to be his strongest suit, T20 cricket. He played one T20I in 2015 and three in January this year. With scores of 19, 6, 8 and 2, he did not set the field afire.

Samson is a clean striker of the ball and times his strokes very well. He may yet make his mark in international cricket — for that to happen, he must not let IPL success and hyperbole affect his ambition and focus.

BRIEFLY
PARIS
Prajnesh crashes out of French Open qualifiers
India's Prajnesh Gunneswaran crashed out in the second round of the men's singles qualifiers of the French Open after losing 4-6 6-7(4) to Australia's Aleksandar Vukic.

NEW DELHI

Women's FIFA U-17 World Cup likely to be postponed again

The women's FIFA Under-17 World Cup is likely to be postponed again. Originally scheduled to be held in November in India, the event was pushed to February-March next year. With the Covid-19 crisis still showing no signs of abating and with the qualifying tournaments yet to be held in Africa and North and South Americas, there is a possibility of the tournament getting postponed again.

DUSSELDORF

Belgium victorious on FIH Pro League return

FIH Pro League

made a return after six months.

While the German women beat Belgium 2-0, reigning world champions Belgium beat the German men's team 6-1.

TODAY ON TV

IPL
PUNJAB VS BANGALORE
STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

TENNIS
HAMBURG OPEN
SONY SIX 4PM

UEFA SUPER CUP
BAYERN VS SEVILLA
SONY TEN 00:30AM (FRIDAY)

Mumbai beat KKR by 49 runs

ABU DHABI: Mumbai Indians defeated Kolkata Knight Riders by 49 runs in the Indian Premier League here today. Invited to bat, Mumbai Indians scored 195/5. In reply, KKR were stopped at 146/9. Mumbai skipper Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav set up the win with a 90-run stand.

Brief scores: MI 195/5 (Rohit 80, Yadav 47; Mavi 2/32); KKR 146/9 (Cummins 33; Patterson 2/25, Chahar 2/26). PTI



Rohit Sharma hit 6 sixes and 3 fours in his 54-ball 80. PTI

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23 Rajasthan Royals batsman Sanju Samson smashed nine sixers and one four in racking up 74 off 32 balls against Chennai Super Kings in Sharjah on Tuesday night, taking his team to 216 — usually an unbeatable total in T20 cricket, and so it proved this time too.

Samson first made people sit up and take notice back in 2013 as a teenager, when he debuted in the IPL, after coming through the ranks in domestic circuit. Since then he's been impressive in the IPL, though he himself wouldn't be very satisfied with his First-Class record — an average of 37.64 is not impressive for a team's leading batsman.

A bit of hyperbole

The IPL is here, and it's the season of hyperbole. Samson's knock of 74 against CSK sent the experts into paroxysms of delight — Gautam Gambhir called him the "most talented young batsman in India", while Sachin Tendulkar praised him thus: "Clean striking... They were all proper cricketing shots and not slogs." Sunil Gavaskar said: "Unbelievable! He Sanju Samson has always had the talent... the last few months he has worked very hard."

Samson's talent is unquestionable but the experts, especially Gambhir, seem to have gone a bit overboard. They forgot to account for the quality of bowling that Samson lashed for most of his runs — he scored 36 off 11 balls by two modest domestic level bowlers, Deepak Chahar and Piyush Chawla. He

a tied-36th finish in the season-opening Safeway Open, Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri will look to continue his momentum when he makes his debut at the Corales Punatacana Resort & Club Championship starting here tomorrow. The 33-year-old will tee up alongside compatriot Arjun Atwal in the opening two rounds.

BALLYMENA (IRELAND)

Bhullar back in action, joins Shubhankar

Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar is set to return to action after more than six months as he tees up at the Irish Open starting tomorrow. Also in the field is Shubhankar Sharma.

PARIS

NBA: Nuggets get first win, trail 1-2 against Lakers

Denver Nuggets played their way back into the Western Conference finals with a 114-106 victory over top seeds Los Angeles Lakers in Game 3. AGENCE

- Details of acquired unit and terms & conditions of the sale are available at website of www.punfincorp.in, www.pbindustries.gov.in and <https://puda-auction.in/>
- Bidders are required to enrol at <https://puda-e-auction.in/> by clicking the link "Sign Up" from 10.00 a.m. on 12.10.2020 to 16.10.2020 at 3.00 p.m. However, the auction will be held from 10.00 a.m. on 19.10.2020 to 3.00 p.m. on 22.10.2020. The bidders will be required to choose a unique username and assign a password for their accounts.
- The bidders are advised to use a proper high data Network Connection, PFC will not be responsible for any network failure or lapse on their part.
- Any compendum pertaining to the aforesaid property or any intimation regarding extension of e-auction shall be announced on www.pbindustries.gov.in and <https://puda-e-auction.in/>
- For technical assistance: Contact Authorized Officer at Mobile No. 9501515600
- E-mail: support.punjab@nextenders.com | helpdesk@puda.gov.in

MANAGING DIRECTOR,
PUNJAB FINANCIAL CORPORATION,
SECTOR 17-B, CHANDIGARH.
M.NO. 8559053536, 9501515600

DPR/Pb/80850



RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION, AMBALA CANTT

Tender Notice No.RE/UMB/S&T/Tele/Gr. 220/NOLI-Tapi/Indoor/T-88 OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE Dated: 16.09.2020

Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, Ambala Cantt. for & on behalf of the President of India invites OPEN E-TENDER on website www.reps.gov.in for the following works. Tenderer may upload their offer up to prescribed closing time & date. No tender will be accepted manually.

Tender No. & Tender Title	Approx. Cost (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Cost of Tender Document (₹)	Completion Period	Date & Time of Closing
Tender No. RE-UMB-SNT-Tei-Gr. 220-ID: Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of primary drop/insert MUX's, and associated works in New Delhi-Noli-Shamli-Tapi Jn section under Delhi division of Northern Railway.	₹ 49.92 Lacs	₹ 99,900/-	3,000/-	Six months	20.10.2020 at 11.00 hrs.

Tender documents are available on Railway website i.e. www.reps.gov.in and the same can be downloaded from there. This facility is available free of cost. Payment of Earnest deposit money (EMD) & Tender Document cost (TDC) in respect of e-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. Note: All other terms & conditions may be seen and downloaded from Railway website i.e. www.reps.gov.in.

No. PR/524/2020 R.D. Adv. Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer, Railway Electrification, Ambala Cantt. (For & on behalf of the President of India)

"Serving Customers with a Smile"

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDERING

OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. NIT-17/UMB-2020-21 DATED 23.09.2020

Open tenders through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Engineer/Coordination, Northern Railway, Ambala from the willing contractors for following work upto 15.00 hrs. on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter.

S. No.	Name of work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Date of closing & opening
1	TBTR 230 Nos. & TBTFTR 1805 Nos. on various bridges on UMB-RPJ & MRND - DLPC section in the section of ADEN/RPJ & SIR under SR. DEN-IV/UMB.	1,52,92,486	2,26,500	06 Months	21.10.2020
2	Crossing of 1 x 1700 mm dia & 1 x 1500 mm dia M S Casing pipe for 1200 mm dia Carrier pipe passing under Rly Track/land through RCC box culvert (2.744m x 2.475m) at km 281/15-17 on UMB-LDH section (Deposit Work) in the section of SSE/W/RPJ under ADEN/RPJ. (In existing Rly. boundary/except DFCCIL portion)	2,19,70,270	2,59,900	06 Months	21.10.2020
3	Replacement of existing worn out OH tank No. 3 with new RCC Tank of 50000 gallon capacity in railway colony at Bathinda in the section of SSE/W/E/Bathinda.	35,54,152	71,100	06 Months	21.10.2020
4	Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of existing GPS tracker GT 300 For two years in Ambala Division in the section of SSE/TP/UMB under DEN/Track/UMB.	20,74,862	41,500	24 Months	21.10.2020
5	Annual repairs, white washing and Painting to staff Qrs. and Service Building From Solan (excluding) to Shimla under ZONE-C (Approachable & Non Approachable locations) & ZONE D (Shimla) on KLK-SML section for the Period Ending 30.06.2021 in the section of SSE/W/Shimla Under ADEN/Shimla.	93,86,668	1,87,700	12 Months	21.10.2020

NOTE:
1. Tenderers are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN/TIN/GST as per conditions. The required Earnest Money & Tender document cost will be acceptable On-line payment through Net Banking/ Or Payment Gateway only well before & upto 15.00 hrs. of closing date & time of tender.
2. Tenderers should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of works tenders.
3. For detail, please log on to IREPS website www.reps.gov.in.
4. GST will be levied as per GST Act, 2017.

2020/2020

"Serving Customers with a Smile"

CANCELLATION / SHORT TERMINATION / SHORT ORIGINATION / DIVERSION / RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS DUE TO CALL OF 'PUNJAB BAND'

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to Cancel / Divert / Short Terminate / Short Originate / Reschedule following Passengers Special and Parcel Express Trains in view of the call of 'Punjab Band' from 24.09.2020 to 26.09.2020. During this period the traffic handling plan will be as under:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02053 Haridwar - Amritsar Jan Shatabdi Express	25.09.2020 & 26.09.2020
02425/2426 New Delhi-Jammu Tawi-New Delhi Rajdhani Special	24.09.2020 to 26.09.2020
02054 Amritsar - Haridwar Jan Shatabdi Express	25.09.2020 & 26.09.2020

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at/ Short originate from	Partially Cancelled between Station	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02903 Mumbai Central-Amritsar Golden Temple Mail	at Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Cantt.-Amritsar	Upto 24.09.2020
02904 Amritsar-Mumbai Central Golden Temple Mail	From Ambala Cantt.		



Deepika Padukone, Shraddha Kapoor, Sara Ali Khan & Rakul Preet Singh

NCB summons Deepika, Shraddha, Sara Ali Khan

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), which is probing an alleged Bollywood-drugs nexus, has summoned actors Deepika Padukone, Shraddha Kapoor, Sara Ali Khan and Rakul Preet for questioning.

The NCB, which began the probe after a drugs angle came to light in connection with Sushant Singh Rajput's death, has now widened its probe and asked these "A-list" celebrities to "join the probe," an official said. Their names came up during the interrogation of some persons, who were questioned earlier in the case, he said.

Deepika has been called to

record her statement on September 25, he said. Jaya Saha, talent manager who was questioned in the case, gave some important information, the NCB official said.

Earlier, Padukone's manager Karishma Prakash was summoned to join the probe, but she sought time due to ill health, he said, adding she was exempted from appearance till Friday. Prakash's WhatsApp chats included conversations about drugs with one "D", NCB sources said, adding that the agency wanted to find out who this person was. Film producer Madhu Mantena recorded his statement today. — PTI

Show-cause notice to Sudarshan TV: Govt

NEW DELHI: The SC on Wednesday deferred hearing on a plea seeking ban on Sudarshan News' programme "UPSC Jihad" after the Centre said it has issued a show-cause notice to the channel. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a Bench that in exercise of power conferred upon it under the Cable TV Network (Regulation) Act, 1995, the Centre issued a show-cause notice to the channel. —TNS

BSF officer booked for cattle smuggling

NEW DELHI: The CBI on Wednesday registered an FIR against former BSF Commandant Satish Kumar, the then Commandant of the 36 BSF Battalion, and three others in connection with a cattle smuggling case on the India-Bangladesh border. Agency officials said CBI personnel carried out searches at 13 locations in West Bengal, UP, Punjab and Chhattisgarh. —TNS

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*Editor for purpose of PRB Act, 1867

Turkish Prez remarks on J&K at UNGA unacceptable: India

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

India and Turkey clashed for the second year running at the UN General Assembly's high-level session after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan described Kashmir as a "burning issue".

Speaking at the high-level segment of the UNGA, Erdogan did not name India, but criticised the situation in Kashmir after the August 5, 2019, change in status.

India's Permanent Representative in the UN TS Tirumurti hit back by describing

'SHOULD RESPECT SOVEREIGNTY OF OTHERS'



The Turkish President's remarks on J&K constitute gross interference in India's internal affairs. Turkey should learn to respect the sovereignty of other nations and reflect on its own policies more deeply

TS Tirumurti, INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN

his remarks as "gross interference in India's internal affairs" and said they were "completely unacceptable".

Turkey, he said, should learn to respect the sovereignty of other nations and reflect on its own policies more deeply. Turkey under Erdogan has

been engaged in a brutal crackdown on the minority Kurds, denies the Armenian genocide and recently converted a museum into a mosque, drawing approbation from around the world.

Erdogan had even hinted at a plebiscite which is a

red rag to India by observing that "we are in favour of solving this issue through dialogue within the framework of UN resolutions, especially in line with the expectations of the people of Kashmir".

However, the relevant UNSC resolution asks Pakistan to first remove its troops and personnel from the region. Erdogan rubbed a few more countries the wrong way in his speech and in case of Armenia and Azerbaijan, even named them. Last year at the same event, Pakistan and Malaysian PMs, besides Erdogan, had touched the Kashmir issue.

Focus on indigenisation, tech dominance: OFB

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

Even as the government sets about to corporatise the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), the factories under the OFB have been producing modern weapons and equipment and modernising themselves.

Set up in 1775 by the British as the Board of Ordnance in Fort William, Kolkata, the OFB, among several other things, makes military trucks, artillery guns, specialised infantry combat vehicles, called the BMP, and also mine protected vehicles.

It is on the verge of starting production of the AK-203, an automatic rifle. The OFB also produces ammunition for almost all weapons of the Army.

There are 41 ordnance factories across the country under the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Some 23 of these have been set up after 1947.

Gagan Chaturvedi,

There are 41 ordnance factories across the country

Deputy Director General, Corporate Communications, OFB, says, "The ordnance factories today are vibrant and technologically dominant with the largest range of military products."

The current level of indigenisation is over 90 per cent while in ammunition and related items it is 97 per cent. The indigenous products developed through R&D account for 25 per cent of total revenues of the ordnance factories, Chaturvedi added.

There have been export orders for ammunition and explosives. Successful indigenisation has also led to significant cost reduction. The indigenous T-90 engine is 30 per cent cheaper than the imported one.

Delhi riot conspirators employed 'guerilla tactics'

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23 The February Delhi riots was result of a well planned conspiracy in which WhatsApp was used to execute "guerilla tactics" to incite communal violence and shift the blame on law enforcement agencies, the Delhi police are learnt to have alleged in their chargesheet.

As many as 53 people had died and over 250 were injured in the riots that broke out in the northeast Delhi.

"Disenchanted and disconcerted" with the magnitude of the violence unleashed by the "key conspirators", a few members of the Delhi Protest Support Group (DPSG), WhatsApp group, threatened to expose each and every culprit responsible for these riots, police sources said.

"Panicked by these whistle blowing posts, the last of which

Chargesheet says their aim was to blame forces for violence

was posted on February 24 at 4.19 pm, a chain reaction followed and the cumulative effect of the conversations (between members of DPSG) was that the conspirators, panicked by the behaviour of few of their group members, decided to deploy the ultimate guerrilla strategy of blaming the law-enforcement agency for the carnage that had resulted in the pursuance of their conspiracy," sources said quoting the allegations in the chargesheet.

It said the members were directed to delete incriminating chats and migrate to Signal App to disappear evidence, the police claimed. —TNS

Parl okays Bill on foreign funding

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

With the Rajya Sabha giving its nod, Parliament today passed a Bill to amend the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) to make furnishing of Aadhaar numbers by office-bearers of NGOs mandatory for registration besides other provisions.

The government claimed that the changes in the law were aimed only to bring transparency in the functioning of organisations receiving foreign funds as donation for specific purposes," he added.

The Bill was passed unanimously with a voice vote amid Opposition boycott of proceedings over suspension of eight RS members. It was passed in the Lok Sabha on Monday and will now be sent to the President for his assent.

Replying to a debate on the

Makes Aadhaar card mandatory for NGOs to ensure transparency

Bill, Minister of State (MoS), Home, Nitin Gadkari said the legislation was not against any NGO. "It is an effort to bring in transparency in the functioning of organisations receiving foreign funds as donation for specific purposes," he added.

He said the Bill provides for reduction in administrative expenses of any NGO receiving foreign funding from 50 per cent to 20 per cent of annual funds to ensure spending on their main objectives.

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