

# The Sunday Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | JAMMU | SRINAGAR | VOL 140 NO. 254 | 16 PAGES | ₹5.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2018-2020 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

US-MALDIVES DEFENCE DEAL  
AMID CHINA TENSIONS WORLD

AWADH ARCHIVES  
IN AYODHYA SPECTRUM

CONTEMPT: BHUSHAN MOVES SC  
ON RIGHT TO APPEAL BACK PAGE



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

## PLA releases 5 Arunachal youths

KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 12  
The five Arunachal youths, whose "disappearance" had triggered a diplomatic row between India and China, were today handed over to the Indian Army by the Chinese PLA at Kibit. "Absolutely glad to know that five of our Arunachali youths have been safely handed over to Indian Army. I am wholeheartedly thankful to the Govt of India and the Indian Army for their persistent effort in securing their return (sic)," Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu tweeted.

While the local media had reported that the youths were "abducted" by the PLA, the Army today said they had



The youths were handed over to the Army at Kibit on Saturday.

"inadvertently strayed to the other side of the LAC". Lt Col Harsh Wardhan Pande, spokesperson for the Tezpur-headquartered 4 Corps, said instances of Indian nationals unknowingly trespassing into the Chinese side and landing in the custody of the PLA were not uncommon. —TNS

### AMID STANDOFF, IAF SEEKS LAND IN U'KHAND

Dehradun: Amid the ongoing standoff with China along the LAC, Central Air Command chief Air Marshal Rajesh Kumar met Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat to seek land for setting up facilities that would help the IAF carry out its activities in border areas. Uttarakhand shares its borders with China and Nepal. PTI



The arms confiscated by the BSF along the border in the Abohar sector.

## Weapons seized near Pak border in Abohar sector

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FAZILKA/ABOHAR, SEPTEMBER 12  
Days after two suspected Pakistani drug smugglers were shot along the border, the BSF today seized a huge cache of arms and ammunition near the border in the Abohar sector.

124 Battalion of the BSF seized three AK-47 rifles with six magazines and 91 rounds, two M-16 rifles with four magazines and 57 rounds and two

pistols with four magazines and 20 rounds. Sources said a BSF patrol party observed a yellow plastic sack adjacent to the Zero Line track near the Gazniwala outpost. Another bag was found 2 metres away. Both contained arms.

The BSF called it yet another attempt by anti-national elements to push illegal consignments across the border. A search operation was in progress, it added.

Refers to India's over 400 projects in Afghanistan



tions are now in Qatar for US-brokered negotiations on a political settlement to the war. A senior official of a delegation led by MEA's Pakistan-Afghanistan India desk chief JP Singh participated in the ceremony at Doha. However, a report by the International Crisis Group anticipates that the

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### Delhi riots: Yechury, Yadav 'co-plotters'

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12  
The Delhi Police have named CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury, Swaraj Abхи leader Yogendra Yadav, economist Jayati Ghosh, Delhi University professor Apoorvanand and documentary filmmaker Rahul Roy as co-conspirators in the February Delhi riots. BACK PAGE

### Arrest warrant against Saini

CHANDIGARH: A Mohali court on Saturday issued an arrest warrant against former Punjab DGP Sumedh Singh Saini in connection with the 1991 Balwant Singh Multani disappearance case. INSIDE



FUEL  
CHEAPER

PETROL 13 PAISE

DIESEL 12 PAISE

## Liquor with fake labels seized in Ambala

AMBALA, SEPTEMBER 12  
The police have seized illicit liquor in bottles with labels of popular IMFL brands — McDowell's No 1, Old Monk, Imperial Blue and Royal Challenge — from two godowns at Mandour village here.

Sources said the liquor was allegedly smuggled to Gujarat and Rajasthan in boxes of aloe vera juice. The police identified the key suspect as Nikhil Patel from Gujarat. The lid was blown off the scam after a transporter, whom Patel allegedly

### BOOZE SCAM

#### TARGETING BRANDS

- Bottles found with labels of popular brands McDowell's No 1, Old Monk & Royal Challenge
- Allegedly smuggled in aloe vera juice boxes to Gujarat as well as Rajasthan
- Transporter hired to ferry the boxes exposed the scam

approached to ferry 150 boxes in a Canter to Gujarat, got suspicious and hastened to inform the police.

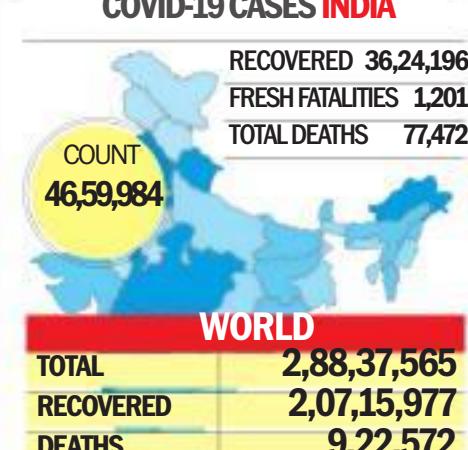
The police impounded the Canter and further investigation led them to the two godowns in Ambala. The owners of the godowns said they had rented out the properties and had 'no idea' about the liquor stock.

Rajesh Kalia, SP, said, "Excise officials have been called to check the stock and labelling. One of the godowns belongs to a retired policeman." —TNS

### 97,570 FRESH CASES IN INDIA; OXFORD RESUMES TRIALS

REPORT ON BACK PAGE

#### COVID-19 CASES INDIA



## SAD U-turn on ordinances

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 12  
Amid protests by farmers, the SAD today urged the Centre not to enact laws incorporating the provisions of the three farm ordinances during the monsoon session.

The SAD core committee said the Centre must legislate only after apprehensions of the farmers were addressed. The Akalis had earlier backed

## Peace process should protect minorities: EAM

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday hoped that the Afghan peace process, which began today, would preserve the interests of minorities, women and vulnerable sections. "The issue of violence across the country and its neighbourhood has to be effectively addressed," Jaishankar said while participating in the inaugural session of the intra-Afghan negotiations via a video link.

He also referred to India's role as a development partner with over 400 projects completed in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Giving a gist of his address in a series of tweets, Jaishankar reaffirmed India's long-held position that the peace process should be "Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled". The representatives of Afghanistan's two warring fac-

es are now in Qatar for US-brokered negotiations on a political settlement to the war. A senior official of a delegation led by MEA's Pakistan-Afghanistan India desk chief JP Singh participated in the ceremony at Doha. However, a report by the International Crisis Group anticipates that the

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# Post protests, SAD makes U-turn on ordinances

Address farmers' apprehensions on MSP system first, Akalis urge Union Government

Tribune News Service

**CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 12** Amid widespread protests by farm organisations, BJP ally Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) today urged the Centre not to enact laws incorporating the provisions of the three farm ordinances during the monsoon session of Parliament that begins on September 14.

The SAD core committee said the Centre must legislate only after apprehensions of the farmers were duly addressed.

Sources said there was opposition within the SAD on the support given to the ordinances by the leadership. The SAD core committee took the decision today in what is being seen as a climbdown by the party on the issue. Besides farm organisations, the Congress and AAP were also against the ordinances. The Akalis were under pressure to take a stand in favour of farmers on the issue.

Notably, the Akalis had



CPM activists protest against the agricultural ordinances in Amritsar. FILE PHOTO

earlier given statements in favour of the ordinances and even said it was beneficial to farmers.

The Congress government had passed a resolution in the Vidhan Sabha against the ordinances, putting the SAD on the back foot. Sources said a section of leaders within the SAD

were against the ordinances from the beginning.

A press release said the SAD core committee felt that it was its responsibility to get the reservations of farmers on the MSP system addressed and asserted that it was committed to take up all issues raised by them with the Union Govern-

ment. The committee noted that the SAD leadership had met farm organisations, farmer representatives and representatives of the 'khet mazdoor' unions during the past few days. "It also held discussions with farm experts to take their views besides taking the view of grass-roots level party work-

## SUKHBIR TO LEAD DELEGATION

The SAD core committee said it was appropriate that the SAD president led a delegation to the Central government to discuss the concerns of farmers. The delegation would hold meetings with the Union Government as well as other parties to address the apprehensions of farmers in the coming days. The core committee also passed a resolution that it would never compromise with the interests of farmers.

committee that he had also been approached by farmers from adjoining states and all of them had expressed apprehensions about the ordinances. "Taking this into account, the SAD is also of the view that the concerns should be taken up for consideration by the Centre," he said.

Meanwhile, the core committee felt it was appropriate that the SAD president led a delegation to the Central government to discuss the concerns of farmers. The delegation will hold meetings with the Union Government as well as other parties to address the apprehensions of farmers in the coming days.

The core committee also passed a resolution that it would never compromise on the interests of farmers. "Farmers are the life and blood of our party. No sacrifice is too big to ensure the future of our farmers is safeguarded," the SAD president told members of the core committee.

# Arrest warrant against Saini in Multani case

Tribune News Service

**MOHALI, SEPTEMBER 12** A local court issued an arrest warrant against former DGP Sumedh Singh Saini in the alleged kidnapping and murder case of Balwant Singh Multani here today.

Special public prosecutor Sartaj Singh Narula said in the absence of the arrest warrant, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) was facing hurdles in getting assistance from the police of other states in the search and arrest of the accused.

The SIT moved an application before Duty Magistrate Ravtesh Inderjit Singh for issuance of the arrest warrant against the former DGP who is evading arrest in the case.

In the application, the SIT submitted that there was no stay regarding the arrest of the accused in the case and

anticipatory bail application moved by the accused before the High Court had already been dismissed.

The SIT stated that daily diary reports (DDR) had been registered at police station, Hauz Khas, South Delhi; police station, Sadar, Shimla; police chowki, Pangana in Mandi; police station, North, Chandigarh; police station, Sector 19, Chandigarh; and police station, Tanda, near Hoshiarpur.

"Perusal of the DDAs specifically reveals that due to lack of an arrest warrant, there is an obstacle in getting assistance from the police at various police stations by the raiding police party from Mohali. Therefore, the application is allowed for facilitating arrest of the accused," observed the court in its order and directed the SIT to arrest the accused and produced him before the court on September 25.

# Bathinda police file case over dispute in US, get HC notice

SAURABH MALIK  
Tribune News Service



## DIVORCE CASE

The counsel for the petitioners submitted the marriage took place in 2017 and immediately, the couple shifted to the US. Parents of the husband were living in Canada. However, the complainant's behaviour was "not good" towards her husband, following which he filed a petition for divorce in the US.

his parents sent a detailed reply to the Bathinda police clarifying their stand, the cops hurriedly registered an FIR against them.

Bajaj contended the Bathinda police had no jurisdiction to register the FIR since the alleged incident of harassment had taken place in the US. As such, the FIR could not have been registered in Bathinda, especially when the complainant was residing in the US even to date.

Bajaj further contended the complainant herself had agreed for divorce and had arrived at a settlement regarding the maintenance and had even received the amount from him. As such, she could not be now allowed to turn around and get the present FIR registered as it was a gross abuse of the process of law.

## Wasu appointed NIA's special public prosecutor

**CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 12** Punjab and Haryana High Court advocate Gagandeep Singh Wasu has been appointed as a special public prosecutor for the National Investigation Agency (NIA) by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs' Counter Terrorism and Counter Radicialism Division.

Wasu will represent the NIA before the High Court. Wasu has served the state of Haryana as its deputy advocate-general from August 2008 to December 2011. He was then promoted as an Additional Advocate-General — a position he held till November 2019. Wasu has been serving as an additional public prosecutor for Chandigarh since 2013. —TNS

With this, the total number of beneficiaries in the state would go up to 1.50 crore, the Chief Minister announced, while rolling out the smart card scheme under which 37.5 lakh cards would be distributed to the eligible beneficiaries this month.

**ABO哈尔, SEPTEMBER 12** Liquor baron Shiv Lal Doda, who was booked in July for allegedly cheating the wife of Satpal Thatai, a former Intelligence Bureau officer who had died of blood cancer a few months ago, today surrendered before the court of Lakhbir Singh, Civil Judge, Junior Division-cum-Judicial Magistrate (First Class). The court allowed his police custody till September 14.

Doda had been sentenced to life imprisonment in the Bhim Tank murder case but was on the parole following relaxations due to Covid. The persons who were named in the case registered on July 9 include Suresh

## WAS ON PAROLE

The court allowed Shiv Lal Doda's police custody till September 14. Doda had been sentenced to life imprisonment in the Bhim Tank murder case but was on a parole following relaxations due to Covid.

Sharma, Manoj Kumar Goyal, Rakesh Kumar, Shiv Lal Doda, his wife Sunita, daughter-in-law Suhani, property agents Rajiv Chugh, Surinder Kumar Tidda, Billa Kukkar

# Govt rolls out Smart Ration Card Scheme

Entitled quota of foodgrain from any depot across state, announces Capt

Tribune News Service

**CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 12** Even as he launched the Smart Ration Card Scheme to cover 1.41 crore beneficiaries across the state, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh today announced a separate state-funded scheme to provide subsidised ration to nine lakh beneficiaries not covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

With this, the total number of beneficiaries in the state would go up to 1.50 crore, the Chief Minister announced, while rolling out the smart card scheme under which 37.5 lakh cards would be distributed to the eligible beneficiaries this month.

Capt Amarinder said the Centre had capped the maximum number of beneficiaries to 1.41 crore

and, despite repeated requests, had not agreed to provide subsidised ration to the deserving

nine lakh people not covered under the NFSA. His government had, therefore, decided to cover all

such left out eligible persons under a state-funded scheme, the details of which would be announced shortly, he said.

Launching the Smart Ration Card Scheme virtually, with connection to 100 places across the state, the Chief Minister said the scheme would help curb corruption and give freedom to the beneficiaries to buy from any depot. Describing it as a major step towards empowering the beneficiary, he said it would end the exploitation of beneficiaries by unscrupulous ration depot holders. The smart ration card empowers the beneficiary to get his entitled quota of foodgrain from any ration depot across the state.

**BJP, Cong spar over shifting of ₹9 crore projects in Sangrur**

Tribune News Service

## CHARGES FALSE: BDO

Baljit Kumar, SDO, Improvement Trust, denied the allegations levelled by the BJP and said the process was completed as per norms on September 10.

Naresh Gaba, chairman, Improvement Trust, said, "Our opponents are making baseless allegations."

the works were shifted to the Improvement Trust as its chairman is from the Congress.

Randeep Singh Deol, chief of BJP's Sangrur unit, said, "All estimates related to development works were prepared by the Nagar Council. Later, the joint tender will result in poor quality work."

AAP leader Avtar Eralwal said, "Why are officials posted in the Nagar Council if the government does not want to get any work done from them? The government should close this office permanently. There is no logic behind shifting development works to the Improvement Trust."

Baljit Kumar, SDO, Improvement Trust, denied the allegations and said the process was completed as per norms on September 10. Naresh Gaba, chairman, Improvement Trust, said, "Our opponents are making baseless allegations."

and Bharatgarh and Anandpur Sahib, near Ropar, which consumers in the area around Chandigarh were able to afford as the carriage cost was low. These sites are no more supplying the material. The crusher owners have held back the stock and jacked up the prices," said Jaggi, a supplier in Sector 88, Mohali. Builders and those constructing individual houses have been hit hard. Ranjit Raina, building a house in Sector 115, said when he started the work in February, the price of sand was around Rs 20 per cubic

foot. "Now, when I need it

it is available at Rs 32 per cubic foot," he said.

A large number of owners and builders have slowed down the pace of construction work as they are waiting for the prices to reduce. Baljinder Singh, owner of BS Construction Company, said they were left with no option but to slow down the pace of work. "Otherwise, it will increase the cost of construction," he said. Experts said if the current scenario continued, it may hit the skilled and unskilled labourers hard.

# Won't allow protest on missing 'saroops' at Diwan Hall: Longowal

AMRITSAR, SEPTEMBER 12

## DHINDSA: SGPC FAILED TO PUNISH GUILTY

**Sangrur:** SAD (Democratic) president Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa on Saturday alleged the SGPC chief had not been fulfilling his responsibility to punish the persons behind the disappearance of Guru Granth Sahib 'saroops'. TNS

dignity of the Guru Granth Sahib during its publication. They held it responsible

# Sand, gravel prices go up 50% in a month

Crusher owners accused of hoarding material on pretext of mining ban

Tribune News Service

## STEPP RISE

| Material | Aug | Sept |
</
| --- | --- | --- |

# 76 more succumb to virus

19,384 active cases | 55,385 patients recover

TRENTUE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 12  
There seems to be no stopping the Covid spread in the state as on Saturday 2,441 cases, including 76 deaths, were reported in the past 24 hours.

With these, the total number of cases has reached 77,057 and with fresh casualties, the number of deaths has reached 2,288.

Besides, 55,385 patients have recovered from the deadly virus and at present 19,384 cases are active in the state. Apart from that, 521 patients are on oxygen and 82 are on ventilator.

SAS Nagar topped the chart with 331 cases, followed by Jalandhar with 313 cases, Patiala 268, Ludhiana 267, Amritsar 257, Bathinda 137, Gurdaspur 118, Hoshiarpur 110 and Pathankot 100.

As far as deaths are concerned, Ludhiana was the worst-hit with 14 deaths, followed by Amritsar 11, Jalandhar with 10

## COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS	DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Ludhiana	13,262	572	Moga	1,822	48
Jalandhar	9,427	248	Fatehgarh Sahib	1,363	53
Amritsar	6,283	242	Tarn Taran	1,157	44
Patiala	8,314	233	Kapurthala	1,985	90
Sangrur	2,688	111	Fazilka	1,391	20
SAS Nagar	6,142	134	SBS Nagar	958	28
Gurdaspur	3,907	85	Faridkot	1,890	30
Bathinda	3,882	67	Barnala	1,436	30
Hoshiarpur	2,794	82	Ropar	1,256	41
Ferozepur	2,353	60	Muktsar	1,617	21
Pathankot	2,126	34	Mansa	1,004	15
<b>Total positive</b>	<b>77,057</b>		<b>Deaths</b>	<b>2,288</b>	

## NO TRANSFERS TILL MARCH 31

- The personnel department has issued the order that no transfer could be done without the CM's approval till March 2021.
- "Keeping in mind the Covid situation, a complete ban is being imposed on the transfers till March 31, 2021," the order said

deaths, Gurdaspur seven, Hoshiarpur and Ropar five, Barnala, Kapurthala and Patiala four each, Fatehgarh Sahib three, Bathinda and Sangrur two each, SAS Nagar, Muktsar, Moga, Pathankot and Tarn Taran one each.

**Singla warns rumour-mongers**  
Punjab Education Minister Vijay Inder Singla today warned rumour-mongers of registration of more FIRs and requested all residents to avoid sharing unverified information on social media.

# Toll on rise, Bathinda admin found wanting

BATHINDA, SEPTEMBER 12  
A sudden spike in Covid-19 cases and deaths has put the district administration in Bathinda on tenterhooks. As per the health department, 34 deaths have been reported in past 12 days and more than 3,000 fresh Covid cases have surfaced in past one month, and as per officials, there is a possibility that cases might further increase in the third week of September.

As many as 36 patients succumbed to the virus till August 31 but after that there has been a sudden spurt in deaths; in the past 10 days (till September 10) alone, 34 more patients have died in the district.

Similarly, there were 949 Covid cases in the district until second week of August, but after that there has been a sudden spike, taking the case load to 4,000 in just one month.

However, the positive development is the recovery rate has improved significantly. Of

## 34 lose lives in just 12 days in district

the total cases, 2,384 patients have recovered completely.

A senior health official, requesting anonymity, said despite senior officials meeting regularly to make plans to contain the virus spread, there has been no let up in cases. Despite putting in place all required measures, the health department is struggling to contain the Covid.

Dr Amrik Singh Sandhu, Civil Surgeon, Bathinda, said: "As per the department's projections, the spike in Covid cases is on the expected lines. We had anticipated it and all arrangements were made in advance to meet the increased load. There is a possibility that cases might further increase in the third week of September." — TNS

## Agitation on despite curbs

BATHINDA, SEPTEMBER 12  
Despite the pandemic and the fact that Section 144 has been imposed in the district, farmer unions and other organisations have been continuously staging protests outside the District Administrative Complex (DAC) in Bathinda on almost a daily basis.

Irrked over non-fulfillment of demands, BKU Sidhupur activists have been staging an indefinite protest against the state government for the last 10 days outside the DAC. The activists on Friday intensified their protest and gheraoed the complex.

BKU Sidhupur leader Kaka Singh Kotra said, "We are protesting against the decision of making Mandikalan nagar panchayat to gram panchayat and demanding cancelling of cases registered against farmers for stubble burning and removal of red entry in revenue for those who burnt stubble". — TNS

# No social distancing at public meetings

TRENTUE NEWS SERVICE

MUKTSAR, SEPTEMBER 12

The Covid cases and deaths have more than doubled in the past fortnight in Muktsar district, but some politicians are still giving two hoots to the Covid safety norms and regularly holding gatherings.

Furthermore, most people attending such events are seen neither wearing the face masks nor maintaining the social distancing.

On August 30, the district had 281 active cases and nine deaths. However, now, the number of total active cases has reached 600 and total deaths reported are 21.

In such a situation, when everyone needs to follow the Covid safety norms religiously,

politicians like AAP's Muktsar constituency incharge Jagdeep Singh Kaka Brar are regularly holding meetings with party workers and that too by defying the norms. He recently visited

Thandewala and Khapianwali villages and addressed gatherings. Besides, he held a meeting with AAP workers regarding the party's campaign to distribute oximeters.

Similarly, on September 7, SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal visited some waterlogging-affected villages in the district where a large number of farmers gathered. Just after two days, PPCC chief Sunil Jakhar along with Cabinet Minister Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria too visited some villages and met farmers who allegedly did not follow social distancing norms.

A number of politicians, including Deputy Speaker cum-MLA Malout Ajaib Singh Bhatti, SAD's Muktsar MLA Kanwarjeet Singh Rozy Barkandi, SAD's ex-MLA Malout Harpreet Singh and a number of police personnel were found positive for Covid in the past.

# SAD MLA, 35 others booked for protesting

TRENTUE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, SEPTEMBER 12

SAD MLA Pawan Tinu has been booked along with 35 others for holding a protest against Cabinet Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot for the post-matric scholarship scam.

On Thursday, SAD leaders also burnt an effigy of the minister. On Friday, an FIR was lodged against Tinu along with eight of his supporters by name and 27 other unidentified people. The FIR has been lodged under Section 188 of the IPC and section 51 of the Disaster Management Act.

DSP Adampur Harinder Singh said, "The MLA clearly violated the section 144 by organising a gathering of more than five persons. At Adampur we have already booked over 50 people earlier for

# CM ridicules AAP's Covid scam charge

TRENTUE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 12

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Saturday ridiculed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for seeing a scam in the procurement of Covid Care Kits even before the kits were procured by the state government.

In their desperation to attack the government in Punjab they seem to have lost all sense of proportion, said the Chief Minister, reacting to AAP MLA Aman Arora's allegation of a scam in the kit procurement.

Their allegation on a rate list (which he had also sent to the Health Department) that actually listed only 13 items as against the 16 being procured for the government kit.

The Chief Minister said the allegation exposed the party's strategy of unleashing baseless negative propaganda against his government.

## Can't hide your failures, says LoP Cheema

AAP senior leader and Leader of Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema said the CM couldn't cover up his failures simply by attributing the growing outbreak of Covid to "public negligence".

He said the number of tests, beds and special corona care and special hospitals in Punjab should also be higher. Cheema demanded that the government provide door-to-door oximeters at its own expenses.

## BRIEFLY

### Brothers commit suicide

Amritsar: In a shocking incident, two brothers committed suicide by consuming poison on Saturday. According to police, the duo was drug addict. The deceased have been identified as Sanjiv Kumar and Makhan, both residents of Mohkumpura area. TNS

### Fazlka woman electrocuted

Fazlka: A 26-year-old woman has allegedly been electrocuted by her husband in border village Mahatma Nagar of Fazlka district. One Gurjant Singh has been booked under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code on complaint of the brother of the deceased. oc

### DSP dies of brain hemorrhage

Ferozepur: Ferozepur DSP (City) Kesar Singh passed away due to a brain hemorrhage on Friday night. Sources said the DSP was unwell following which he was admitted to Ly Hospital in Mohali where he breathed his last. Presently, Kesar was staying at his residence in Kharar. Following his death, his body was taken to his residence in Kharar. oc



Addicts at a de-addiction centre in Jalandhar. TRIBUNE PHOTO

# Rehab centre now Covid care facility, addicts at receiving end

AParna Banerji

TRENTUE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, SEPTEMBER 12  
In order to tackle the pandemic, the authorities have converted a de-addiction centre to a Covid care centre in Jalandhar. As a result, rehabilitation of drug addicts has taken a back seat.

The de-addiction centre (25 rooms) had witnessed 603 indoor admissions between March and August in 2019, however, 164 patients have been admitted this year. In March 1,027 addicts visited the OPD, but the number reduced to 400 in August.

Despite representations from the de-addiction centre to Director Health Services, Mental Health Cell in-charge, Head of Department Psychiatry (Medical College, Amritsar), Civil Surgeon and

the OPD of the de-addiction centre, respectively. In April, 365 cases were reported, 421 in May, 476 in June, 422 in July and 400 in August. The staff has now started to send the patients to the OOT clinics.

Jalandhar has the busiest de-addiction services in the state (7,734 OPD, IPD and rehab registrations at the de-addiction centre and 12,649 registrations at psychiatry OPD in 2019).

Dr Aman Sood, In-charge, Jalandhar De-addiction Centre, said, "The present facilities are compromised. Higher authorities have been briefed."

Jalandhar Civil Surgeon Dr Gurinder Kaur Chawla said, "I haven't received any information, but if there are any problems, we will definitely look into them."

In February 1,163 and March 1,027 cases were reported at

# HC asks live-in couple to pay ₹50,000 to Covid relief fund

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 12

A live-in couple, who moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court seeking protection after levelling uncorroborated allegations against their spouses, will end up contributing to the Covid relief fund.

Admonishing the couple for suppressing material facts, Justice Manoj Bajaj directed them to deposit Rs 50,000 in the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana Covid relief fund. This is the second protection matter in which the Bench imposed costs on a couple, indicating a tough stand towards the petitions filed on frivolous grounds.

Justice Bajaj asserted the petition contained bald allegation of cruelty, without supportive material. During the course of hearing, it was not disputed by the counsel that petitioner-woman left her husband's company in 2016 and the complaints were filed by her two years later.

The counsel further conceded that both the petitioners had not obtained divorce from their spouses and petition for divorce was pending. It was their case that they were previously known to each other, being resident of the same place. As such, they fell in love and decided to live together and it might have resulted in strained relationships between the legally wedded partners.

Justice Bajaj added averments regarding an alleged incident of beating in the petition and the representation in the matter did not reveal material particulars, such as the date, time, place of the occurrence and did not, as such, inspire confidence. — TNS

had not obtained divorce from their spouses and petition for divorce was pending. It was their case that they were previously known to each other, being resident of the same place. As such, they fell in love and decided to live together and it might have resulted in strained relationships between the legally wedded partners.

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A farmer in his moong field in Hisar's Sundawas village.

## After cotton, moong under whitefly attack

Tribune News Service

### WORRYING SIGNS

**◆ Cotton and moong have been attacked by whitefly. The moong plants have started becoming yellow and the yield is likely to decrease. We will submit a report to the state about the condition of kharif crops.◆**

Balwant Saharan  
Deputy Director Agriculture

HISAR, SEPTEMBER 12 After the cotton crop, moong-growers are facing similar conditions as almost the entire moong crop is suspected to have perished due to whitefly attack in Hisar and adjoining areas. Moong is cultivated on 22,000 hectares in Hisar.

The farmers complained that it would be difficult for them to repay the seasonal loan taken under the Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) this season as the losses have accumulated and they have no other source of income.

Farmer Charan Singh of Bandaheri who sowed moong on 20 acres has lost the entire crop and incurred a loss of around Rs 2 lakh. He is set to overturn his entire moong crop which has been damaged due to whitefly attack.

Agriculture officials said the moong crop was also under whitefly attack.

"Like with the cotton crop, farmers are unlikely to get a profitable yield from the 'moong' crop. The yield of 'moong' is likely to go down by around 70 per cent," said an official.

Farmers Naresh Kumar of Gorchi village, Dilip Singh of Dobhi village, Ramniwas of Kharia village and others said that despite the spray of pesticides, they were unable to save the crop from getting damaged due to whitefly.

The accused have been

Committee to send state's compiled report to party high command

Tribune News Service

ROHTAK, SEPTEMBER 12

A three-member committee of BJP MPs comprising Dharambir Singh, Brijendra Singh and Nayab Singh Saini reached Rohtak on Saturday to take suggestions from farmers, arthiyas and traders' organisations about the three new ordinances pertaining to agriculture ordinances.

Over 25 organisations called on the committee in the Circuit House here and lodged their complaints and presented suggestions regarding the ordinances. The committee listened to the organisations and assured them of apprising the party high command of their suggestions.

A five-member delegation of the Akhil Bhartiya Kisan Sabha (ABKS) led by its vice-president Inderjit Singh submitted a memorandum over the ordinances to the committee.

"We explained our objections before the committee regarding long-term ruinous effects of the patently anti-agriculture and anti-farmer ordinances. Even the three MPs have been urged to



### MISCONCEPTIONS LED TO CONTROVERSY

**◆ There are some misconceptions among farmers, arthiyas and traders about the ordinances, which need to be addressed. The ordinances not only aim at doubling the farmers' income but bringing structural reforms in the agricultural sector too.◆** Dharambir Singh, BJP MP

oppose the ordinances in the Lok Sabha, commencing from September 14 for the sake of farmers," Inderjit said.

Sumit Singh, ABKS state secretary, said the delegation also cited the example of Punjab, where the Assembly had passed a formal resolution demanding the withdrawal of the move, describing it a serious threat to livelihood and food security.

"Besides, we also demand-

ed a judicial probe into the police lathicharge at Pipri, special girdwari of damaged cotton, release of long awaited tubewell connections and lifting of various specious conditions on the purchase of crop produce," said Preet Singh, district president, ABKS.

Talking to the media, Dharambir said: "We received 30 suggestions from different outfits. They also informed us

about some problems being faced by the farmers. The committee will take the suggestions from across the state and send a compiled report to the party high command."

### In Karnal, farmers turn up in small numbers

Karnal: The BJP panel also visited Karnal on Saturday to take farmers' suggestions on the ordinances. However, a few farmers turned up and raised their issues at the PWD Rest House here.

Those present demanded to continue the arthiya system. "We want our payment through arthiyas and this system should be continued," said a farmer. Another farmer Surinder Singh demanded a special court for farmers on the pattern of consumer court.

However, several farmers' outfits skipped the meeting. "This isn't the way to take suggestions from farmers. It is just eyewash by the BJP.

Agriculture experts along with the representatives of farmers' bodies and political parties must be present. All proceedings must be held before the media," said Rattan Mann, BKU state chief.

## 3 women found dead in 3 days in Panipat

Tribune News Service

PANIPAT, SEPTEMBER 12

The Superintendent of Police (SP) constituted a special investigation team (SIT) led by the DSP (Crime) to probe the blind murders of two unknown women, whose bodies were found in the Samalkha area last week. One more body was found the GRP.

On Monday, a partially naked body of a woman was found near drain number 6 here. The Samalkha police initiated an inquest proceeding under Section 174 of the CrPC and began a probe into the matter.

On Tuesday, another woman's burnt body was found near Chulkana railway crossing after which the GRP registered a case and began an investigation into the matter.

The women were raped before murder or not would be clear after the reports of the swab samples, which had been sent for examination to the FSL in Madhuban, he added.

SP Manisha Chaudhary said a SIT under the supervision of DSP (Crime) Rajesh Phogat had been constituted to probe the two cases registered in the Samalkha police station. We have visited the crime spots and discussed the future course of action in both the cases, she added.

SIT to investigate two cases, GRP to probe third

with DSP (Crime) Rajesh Phogat, Samalkha DSP Pradeep Kumar, CIA-I incharge Inspector Rajpal Singh, Samalkha SHO Inspector Harwinder Singh and GRP SHO Rajkumar and the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team on Friday visited the crime spots to collect evidence.

The post-mortem report of the first victim reveals she was assaulted and murdered, while the woman found dead in the canal was strangled to death, said Inspector Harwinder Singh.

The women were raped before murder or not would be clear after the reports of the swab samples, which had been sent for examination to the FSL in Madhuban, he added.

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## Medical Supdt in dock over safai sewak dressing wound

Told to reply to Jhajjar Civil Surgeon within a week

### The Tribune IMPACT

RAVINDER SAINI

Tribune News Service

JHAJJAR, SEPTEMBER 12

Taking cognisance of a news report published in *The Tribune* on September 9, Civil Surgeon Dr Sanjay Dahiya has sought a reply from Medical Superintendent of Jhajjar Civil Hospital over a safai karamchari dressing and stitching the wound of a patient.

A safai karamchari in khaki uniform along with the help of another Class IV employee was caught on camera dressing and stitching the wound of an old man in the casualty ward of the hospital. The man was allegedly kidnapped by unidentified persons from Dhaurhera (Rewari) and was later dumped near Dubaldhan village here on Sunday. The police took him to the hospital for treatment.

Later, the safai karamchari disclosed that the doctor on duty used to call him for help if there was rush of patients in the casualty ward. His work



A safai karamchari and another Class IV employee dress the wound of a patient at the Civil Hospital in Jhajjar. FILE PHOTO

### SERIOUS MATTER

**◆ It's a serious matter if a Class IV employee is dressing the wounds of patients in the Civil Hospital. I have sought a reply from the Medical Superintendent on the issue within a week. Appropriate action will be taken on the report.◆** Dr Sanjay Dahiya, CIVIL SURGEON, JHAJJAR

side, he added.

Sources said only one doctor remains available at the casualty ward in the hospital to treat the patients.

## 689 boxes of liquor seized in Y'nagar

Tribune News Service

YAMUNANAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12 The police have seized 689 boxes of country liquor from a truck parked near Radaur town.

The bottles of liquor bear the brand label "Masti Malta", a product of Piccadilly Agro Industries (distillery) at Bhadosa village of Karnal district.

Deep Chand, SHO, Radaur police station, said Yudhvir, executive officer of the distillery, told the police that the said consignment didn't belong to them, as it was not produced in their distillery.

The police had got a tip-off on Friday that a canter (truck) loaded with illegal liquor bot-

tles was parked on the Bubka road near Radaur. Subsequently, the police in the presence of Ram Prakash, Inspector of the Excise Department, seized 689 boxes of country liquor from it.

A man, identified as Pradeep of Mathana village in Kurukshetra, was arrested after he failed to produce the permit (bill) of the consignment. He also revealed that Raju, a resident of his village, Vikas of Panipat and some other persons were involved in the illegal trade. A case has been registered under the Excise Act and the IPC.

Niraj Sehgal, group secretary of Piccadilly Agro Industries, refused to comment.

was to keep the ward clean but many times, he also helped the attendants to bring their patients to the casualty ward from out-

side, he added.

Sources said only one doctor remains available at the casualty ward in the hospital to treat the patients.

On the arrival of the students in the school as well as in the classrooms, an SOP was followed comprising maintaining social distancing and getting their shoes disinfected.

Their temperature was also checked before the entry into the classroom, said Dharampal, Principal, adding that there were proper arrangements for washing hands as well as sanitisation.

The Principal maintained that all the 45 teachers attended the school. On being asked whether it was too early to start classes, he said that when the markets, gyms, sports complexes, trains and buses have started operations, then schools must also be opened for studies.

He said that the school was opened for three hours on Saturday and it would also be opened on Sunday for the same duration.

## Karnal govt school opens on trial basis

PARVEEN ARORA

Tribune News Service

KARNAL, SEPTEMBER 12

Students of Class XII of Government Senior Secondary School, Nigdhu village in the district, on Saturday attended their classes after a gap of six months amid the Covid pandemic. Around 60 per cent students came to the school.

The school was scheduled to open for two days on trial basis as well as for shooting a video for adopting all standard operating procedures (SOPs).

As per the authorities, the video will be shown to other schools to follow SOPs at the entry of students in the school as well as while holding classes and assembly.

There are 120 students in Class XII of the school, but 70 students came for this trial.

These students were divided into five sections having separate colours like red, yellow, blue, green and

pink. They will not interact with one another.

The students were also excited at the opening of their school after a long gap. They opined that direct classes are better than online classes.

"We are happy that our school has been shortlisted for the trial. We pray all the schools will be opened at the earliest. The study in the classroom is much better than online study," said students Sonam and Nisha.



Government Senior Secondary School in Karnal's Nigdhu village opened after a gap of six months on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## 24 die; 2,783 cases

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 12

With 2,783 new cases of Covid reported today, the state's tally reached 91,115. Besides, 24 persons succumbed, taking the toll to 956.

In all, 322 patients are critical. Of them, 280 are on oxygen support and 42 on ventilator.

A maximum of 326 cases were reported from Gurgaon, while Faridabad reported 278 cases on Saturday. Karnal reported 272 cases and Hisar 213. The others districts reported less than 200 cases each.

Meanwhile, five deaths were reported from Karnal, and three each were reported from Faridabad and Ambala.

In all, 2,188 patients were discharged today, taking the tally to 70,713 with a recovery rate of 77.61 per cent. — TNS

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Faridabad	15,562	188
Gurgaon	14,924	145
Sonepat	5,830	41
Ambala	5,641	57
Panipat	5,586	59
Karnal	5,165	65
Rewari	4,429	26
Rohtak	3,978	44
Panchkula	3,990	41
Hisar	3,610	30
Kurukshetra	3,470	61
Yamunanagar	2,741	40
Mahendragarh	2,451	3
Sirsia	2,308	33
Bhiwani	1,972	19
Palwal	1,903	14
Jhajjar	1,845	19
Kaithal	1,722	21
Fatehabad	1,475	21
Jind	1,253	12
Nuh	954	16
Charkhi Dadri	351	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,115</b>	<b>956</b>

DI-9510

DIPK-5529

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (in Rupees)	Earnest Money (in Rupees)	Time of Completion in Days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Cont- ractor	Major Head of Account
1	Supply of Fire wood Bagati/Willow duly chopped (Bukhari Size) to Divisional Store Kupwara for the Year 2020-21	6.50	300/-	13000/-	15 days	22.09.2020	"DEE"</	

# CM's promise on Nurpur hospital unfulfilled

RAJIV MAHAJAN

**NURPUR, SEPTEMBER 12**  
The Nurpur Civil Hospital—which caters to thousands of people in Nurpur, Indora, Jawali, Fatehpur and Bhatiyat at subdivisions—is crying for immediate attention of the state government.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, during his maiden visit to Nurpur on March 3, 2018, had publicly announced to upgrade the hospital from 100 to 200 beds. Besides, he had promised a blood bank to ensure improved medical services in the region.

The government notified the upgrade of the hospital but even after two years, the construction of an additional block of indoor ward to accommodate the sanctioned 100 beds has not been started. This has caused a lot of resentment among residents of the lower Kangra area. Residents



have urged the Chief Minister to fulfil his public announcement.

Earlier, too, the Virbhadra Singh government had announced and notified to upgrade this hospital to 135 beds in February 2016 but that notification, too, remained on government record.

Inquiries reveal this hospital

has recorded the second highest 2.97 lakh footfall in Out Patient Department (OPD) in Kangra district last year (2019-20) but due to lack of specialty medical services, this hospital has become a referral hospital.

Besides, the hospital has topped in conducting the maximum 100 deliveries on

average in a month in the district. At present, posts of gynaecologist, radiologist and ophthalmologist are lying vacant, crippling the specialty medical services in the hospital. The lone physician has also applied for his voluntary retirement on health grounds. The routine checkup of expectant mothers has been badly

## Virbhadra govt had also promised its upgrade

- The Chief Minister on March 3, 2018, had promised a blood bank to ensure improved medical services
- The Virbhadra government in February 2016 had also notified to upgrade the hospital to 135 beds
- The ultrasound machine is also not in use for the past over one year

The Nurpur Civil Hospital cries for the attention of the government. TRIBUNE PHOTO

specialty medical services but has no provision to render services of specialists during emergency.

The health department has posted three anesthetists in the hospital but failed to post immediately required pediatrician, physician, radiologist, ophthalmologist and gynecologist.

Hospital in-charge Dr Dilwar Singh said a proposal of identified land (in the hospital complex) for the construction of the additional block had been submitted to the Health Department.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Kangra, Gurdarshan Gupta said the Public Works Department was asked to prepare a drawing and estimate for the hospital block for additional indoor wards.

Gupta said a separate proposal for setting up a blood bank had been submitted to the Director, Health Department, for his nod.



Vanshita Thakur

Gets 99.83 percentile; says she studied for 8-10 hours everyday

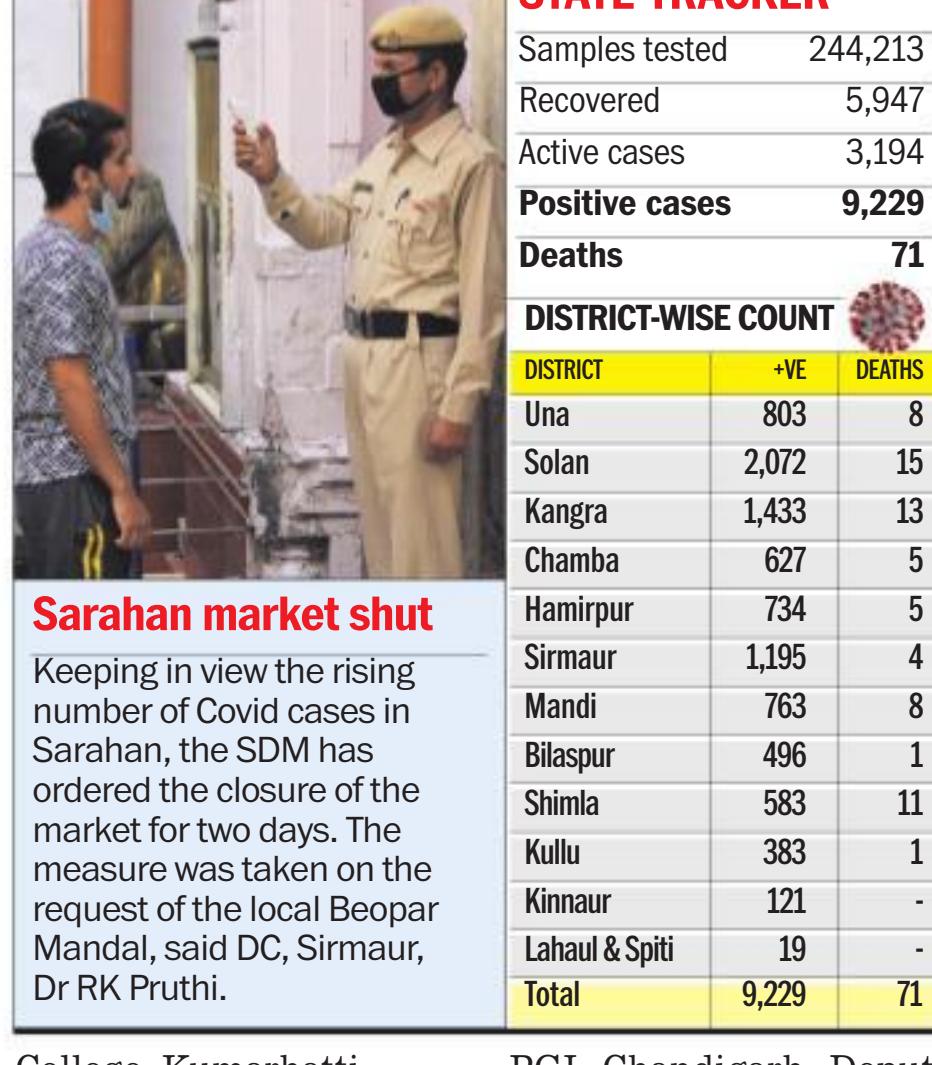
of the three siblings and her success will inspire them.

Vanshita says that she drew inspiration from her father Rakesh Thakur, who is posted as superintending engineer, HP State Electricity Board Limited, at Solan. Her mother Arti Thakur is a teacher. She had secured 95.4 per cent marks in the Class XII exams declared recently.

While pursuing engineering is her main focus, she also takes keen interest in music and dance. She is the eldest

# Highest one-day spike of 445 cases

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



### Sarahan market shut

Keeping in view the rising number of Covid cases in Sarahan, the SDM has ordered the closure of the market for two days. The measure was taken on the request of the local Beopar Mandal, said DC, Sirmaur, Dr RK Pruthi.

College, Kumarhatti.

### Paonta man dies

Forty-eight persons, including a policeman, tested positive for Covid-19 in Sirmaur district on Saturday.

A 35-year-old resident of Paonta Sahib died of coronavirus on Friday night while being shifted to the

PGI, Chandigarh. Deputy Commissioner RK Pruthi said that the patient had influenza-like symptoms and was admitted to the medical college at Nahan in a critical condition on Friday.

### 87 test +ve in Kangra

As many as 87 cases were reported in Kangra district.

## Idols stolen from temple

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 12

A day after religious places were opened after 170 days, ashthadhatu (made of eight metals) idols of gods and goddesses were stolen from the ancient temple of Mundaghat near Junga, 25 km from here on Friday.

The value of the idols is said to be Rs 4.5 lakh but villagers said they were ancient and invaluable. — TNS

## KHALSA COLLEGE AMRITSAR

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DR. MEHAL SINGH, PRINCIPAL

## कार्यालय जिला खाद्य नागरिक आपूर्ति एवं उपभोक्ता मामले नियन्त्रक, करगाल

### जिलामी सूचना

जन साधारण को सुनिचित किया जाता है कि केस मैसेंजर राइस एण्ड जनरल मिल्स, कालाघाट, तहसील व जिला कनाल से मुँ 3,92,00,000/- रूपये की राशि बम्पू बट्टी और राजस्व की जारी है।

उक्त राशि को बम्पू सूची के लिये बाकीदार को सम्पत्ति खेत्र नं. 289 सालाम रकबा 1499-14 का 99/9998 का भाग बकरार 14 कनाल 7 मरले पर पाठन रख राजी है।

उक्त राशि को बम्पू सूची नं. 289 सालाम रकबा 1499, 14 मरले का 463/1499 भाग बकरार 46 कनाल 6 मरले व सुरेन्द्र पुर सम्मानका की भूमि खेत्र नं.

289 व सालाम रकबा 1499 का 14 मरले का 923/23994 भाग बकरार 46 कनाल 3 मरले का कुल रकबा 107 कनाल 6 मरले में से 14 कनाल 7 मरले छोड़कर बम्पू का 2 कनाल 09 मरले की खुली बोली द्वारा दिनांक 22.09.2020 को प्राप्त: 11:00 बजे स्थान कालाघाट पर निलामी द्वारा जारी गया।

इच्छुक व्यक्ति इस मकान / सम्पत्ति का याद निरीक्षण कराना चाहे तो तहसीलदार / उप तहसीलदार कनाल से सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं।

जिस व्यक्ति की बोली सबसे अधिक होती है उस बोली की 25 प्रतिशत राशि

मीकर पर नाद या बैंक ड्राफ्ट द्वारा करवानी होती है। बोली की स्वीकृति करने वाले अधिकारी को अधिकार होता है कि वह बिना कोई कारण बताये बोली की कार्यवाही को स्वीकृत / अस्वीकृत कर सकता है। यदि विस्तीर्ण विविध व सम्पर्क पर बोली की कार्यवाही नहीं होती तो इसके लिये कार्यालय उत्तराधीन नहीं होता। बोली की शेर शर्त मीकर पर नाद या बैंक ड्राफ्ट द्वारा सुनाई जायेगी। जिन्हे इस केस में निलामी करने के लिये अधिकृत किया गया है।

जिला खाद्य नागरिक आपूर्ति एवं उपभोक्ता मामले नियन्त्रक, करगाल।

# Baddi girl is state topper in JEE main

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



Vanshita Thakur

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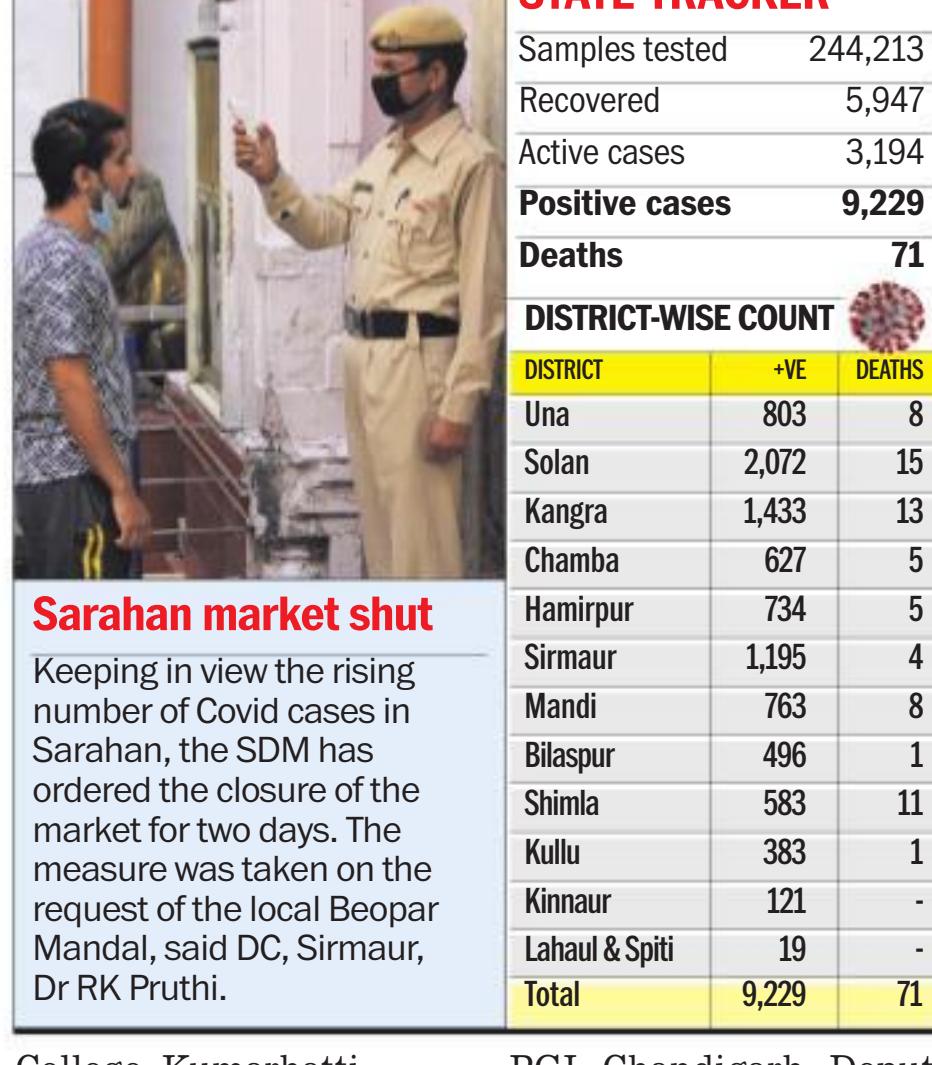
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### 87 test +ve in Kangra

As many as 87 cases were reported in Kangra district.

## CM presides over passing-out parade of DSP probationers at Daroh in Kangra

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Himachal Pradesh Police Training College, Daroh, in Kangra today.

ASP Office at Nurpur.

Thakur also inaugurated a residential building for the trainees and announced Rs 1.37 crore from the Disaster Management Fund to the police force for undertaking activities.

He also announced that the road leading to the in-house helipad would be expedited.

He announced Rs 10 crore to the college for strengthening the infrastructure. He also announced the opening of

ers and Navneet Saini, Sub-Inspector, was the best in his category.

The CM hoisted the Police Flag and took salute from the impressive march past by contingents of the Himachal Police. Pranav Chauhan commanded the parade.

The CM said this was a proud moment for the parents and family members of the officers.

Sanjay Kundu, DGP, said the police had played a

commendable role in effectively fighting the pandemic as frontline warriors. He thanked the Chief Minister for providing liberal funds for strengthening infrastructure in the college.

Principal, Police Training College, Atul Fulzala administered oath to the probationers. He said three DSPs and 15 probationer SIs had passed out from the college. A colourful cultural programme was also organised.</p





Palestinians stage a protest against Bahrain's move to normalise relations with Israel, in the Gaza Strip on Saturday. REUTERS

## Trump brokers peace deal between Israel & Bahrain

**WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 12**  
US President Donald Trump on Friday brokered another peace deal in the Middle East with Bahrain announcing that it would normalise diplomatic ties with Israel.

The announcement by Trump after he hosted a historic call between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel and King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain came a month after he had mediated between the United Arab Emirates and Israel to do the same.

Leaders of the UAE and Israel are scheduled to sign an agreement in this regard at the White House next week. In the spirit of peace and cooperation, Netanyahu and Al Khalifa agreed that Bahrain will fully normalise its diplomatic relations with Israel, Trump told reporters in the Oval Office of the White House.

"They will exchange embassies and ambassadors, begin direct flights between their countries and launch cooperation initiatives across a broad range of sectors. This is a truly historic day," Donald Trump, US President

### 'HISTORIC DAY'

"They will exchange embassies and ambassadors, begin direct flights between their countries and launch cooperation initiatives across a broad range of sectors. This is a truly historic day," Donald Trump, US President

been two peace agreements with Israel in the last 72 years, Trump said this was now the second peace agreement that he had announced in the last month. "And I am hopeful that there will be more to follow," he said, adding that there's tremendous enthusiasm on behalf of other countries to join.

"And we think, ultimately, you'll have most countries join, and you're going to have the Palestinians in a very good position. They want to come in -- they're going to want to come in because all of their friends are in. But we have tremendous enthusiasm for coming into the region."

The framework for defence and security relationship was

## Dining out increases Covid risk: Study

**WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 12**  
Close contact with Covid-19 patients, and dining at restaurants and pubs, are associated with testing positive for the novel Covid-19 infection, according to a study of outpatients from 11 US healthcare facilities.

According to the research, published in the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report journal, adults who tested positive for the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 were nearly twice as likely to have reported dining at a restaurant than those with negative test results.

To assess community and close contact exposures asso-

### TRACKING COVID NATIONS DEATHS

US	1,97,675
BRAZIL	1,30,870
RUSSIA	18,484
UK	41,623
SPAIN	29,747

WORLDOMETER TILL SEPT 12, 10 PM

ciated with Covid-19, the scientists, including those from the US National Institutes of Health, assessed the exposures reported by 154 adult case-patients, who were diag-

# Hailing WHO, India backs UN's Covid-19 resolution

US, Israel vote against it, accuse health body of delaying response

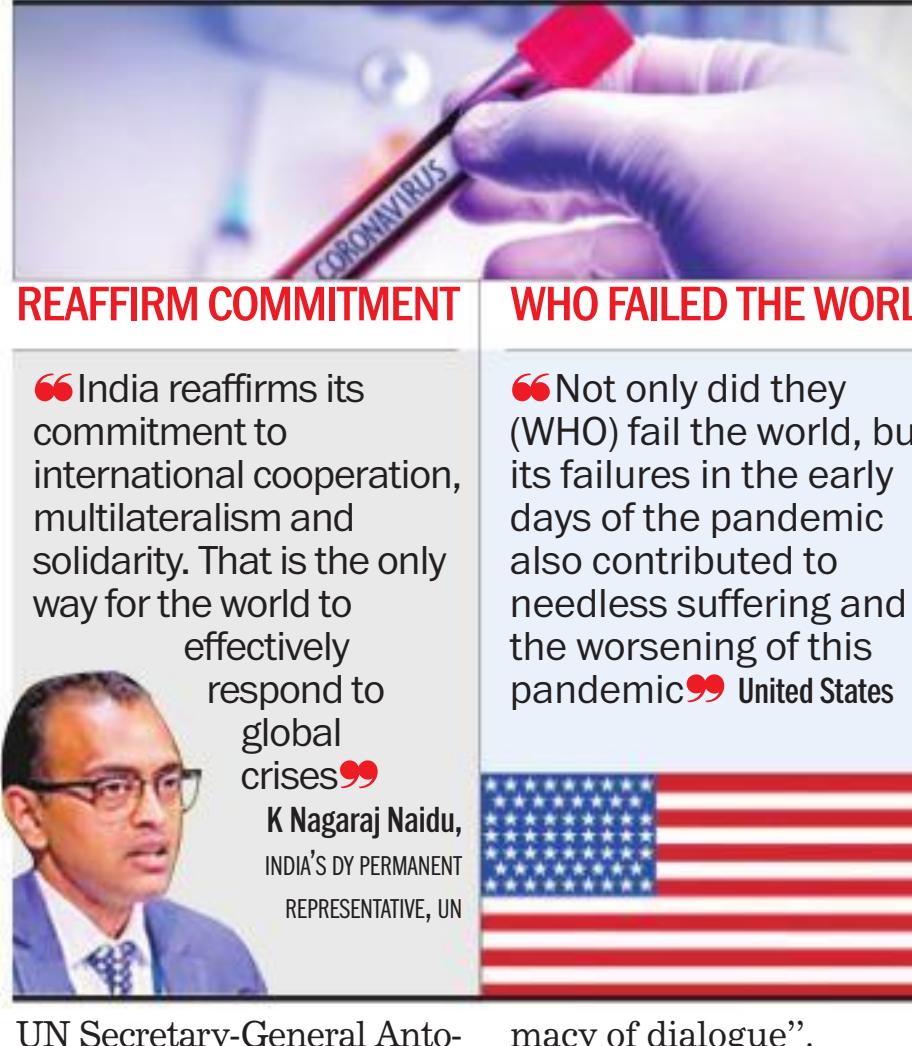
Tribune News Service

**NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12**  
India voted with 168 nations in favour of a multifaceted Covid resolution in the UN General Assembly that was opposed by the US and Israel.

The resolution, coordinated by Afghanistan and Croatia, was the third on the pandemic adopted by the UNGA and the most omnibus since it encompassed many aspects, including reaffirming international cooperation to respond to one of the greatest global challenges.

It also acknowledged the World Health Organisation's (WHO) key leadership role in responding to the outbreak. This was vehemently opposed by the US in its explanation of vote which said the WHO had delayed its response leading to the world-wide spread of the pandemic.

The resolution supported

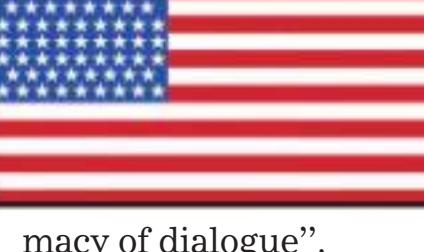


### REAFFIRM COMMITMENT

"India reaffirms its commitment to international cooperation, multilateralism and solidarity. That is the only way for the world to effectively respond to global crises," K Nagaraj Naidu, India's UN Permanent Representative, UN

### WHO FAILED THE WORLD

"Not only did they (WHO) fail the world, but its failures in the early days of the pandemic also contributed to needless suffering and the worsening of this pandemic," United States



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' appeal for an immediate global ceasefire that would also help "create corridors for life-saving aid, open windows for the diplo-

macy of dialogue".

"The Omnibus Resolution on Comprehensive and Coordinated Response to the Covid Pandemic" asked all countries to have unin-

dered timely access to essential health technologies and recognised the role of extensive immunisation against Covid as a global public good.

Backing the resolution, India noted that it reaffirmed its commitment to international cooperation, multilateralism and solidarity at all levels. "That is the only way for the world to effectively respond to global crises," said K Nagaraj Naidu, India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN.

He noted the resolution acknowledges the WHO's leadership role and the UN's fundamental role in catalysing and coordinating the comprehensive global response to the pandemic.

In a stinging critique of the WHO, the US said, "Not only did they fail the world, but its failures in the early days of the pandemic also contributed to needless suffering and the worsening of this pandemic."

# Oil tanker authorities ignored fire warnings, Lankan court told

COLOMBO, SEPTEMBER 12

The authorities of the oil tanker that went up in flames off Sri Lanka's eastern waters seemed to have neglected warnings from the crew on possible fire on board, a Sri Lankan court has heard.

The Panama registered MT New Diamond, a Greek-owned vessel and under charter by the Indian Oil Corporation, was carrying nearly two million barrels of crude oil from Mina Al Ahmadi port in Kuwait to the Indian port of Paradip when it caught fire off the coast of Sangamankanda in Ampara district on Thursday last

### THE INCIDENT

■ The Panama registered MT New Diamond, a Greek-owned vessel and under charter by the Indian Oil Corporation, was carrying nearly two million barrels of crude oil

■ It was coming from Mina Al Ahmadi port in Kuwait to the Indian port of Paradip when it caught fire off the coast of Sangamankanda in Ampara district on Thursday last

towed away from the site.

According to the Lankan Navy, a narrow diesel patch, one km from the ship, was noticed on Monday evening and an Indian Coast Guard aircraft sprayed dispersants to minimise potential damage to the marine environment.

The state authorities sought court's permission to obtain oil samples on board the vessel to carry out tests to verify that the oil leaks visible in the surrounding sea area were those from the tanker. — PTI

## With eye on China, US signs defence deal with Maldives

**WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 12**

The US has signed a framework for defence cooperation with the Maldives to deepen engagement in support of maintaining peace and security in the strategic Indian Ocean, the Pentagon has announced, as the Trump administration looks for strengthening alliances in the Indo-Pacific to counter China's growing presence in the region.

"The framework sets forth both countries' intent to deepen engagement and cooperation in support of maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean, and marks an important step forward in the defence partnership," the Pentagon said.

### IMPORTANT MILESTONE



"The Maldivian government sees the framework as an important milestone in defence and security cooperation between the Maldives and the US,"

— Mariya Didi, DEFENCE MINISTER, MALDIVES

The Indo-Pacific is a biogeographic region of Earth's seas, comprising the tropical waters of the Indian Ocean, the western and central Pacific Ocean.

During discussions after

signing the agreement, Mariya said the framework would strengthen defence and security cooperation between the two countries, Maldivian portal Sun Online reported.

Mariya said peace and security in the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean region was tied to the best interests of both countries. She stressed the importance of bilateral dialogue and engagement, against a backdrop of growing transnational threats such as piracy, violent extremism, terrorism, and illicit trade, which she said remained relevant, even amidst the Covid-19.

According to a statement released by the Defence Ministry, the framework outlines a number of bilateral activities, including senior-level dialogues, discussions, engagements, and opportunities in areas such as maritime domain awareness, natural disasters, and humanitarian relief operations, the report said.

Werner and Didi discussed US support for the island nation in its response to Covid and areas for future cooperation, and agreed to work toward scheduling the first defence and security dialogue, the Pentagon said. — PTI



### Municipal Corporation

Near Fountain Chowk, Railway Road  
YamunaNagar (Haryana) - 135001

91-1732-260227, 237841

### सूचना मुद्रादी

सभी आम व व्यास को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम यमुननगर-जामोरी क्षेत्र में स्थित नगर निगम की खाली भूमि को 01 साल के लिए तथा तालाबों को 05 साल के लिए देंगे पर दिये जाने हेतु खुली बोली का आवाजन निम्न विवरण अनुसार किया जाना है :-

क्रम सं.	गांव का नाम	भूमि का आकार/तालाब एकड़-क्षेत्र-मरले	रिजर्व प्राइस	धरोहर राशि	दिनांक व समय	स्थान
1.	ओरंगाबाद	01-03-12	₹. 50,270/- ₹. 25,000/-	₹. 10,000/- ₹. 10,000/-	15.09.2020	सरकारी स्कूल
2.	इंशपुर	तालाब	₹. 15,000/-	₹. 5,000/-	सुबह 11.00 बजे	ओरंगाबाद
3.	पतांगाड	तालाब	₹. 15,000/-	₹. 5,000/-		
4.	जामपुर	तालाब	₹. 15,000/-	₹. 5,000/-		
5.	मण्डवी	तालाब	₹. 15,000/-	₹. 5,000/-	15.09.2020	दोपहर 03.00 बजे
6.	पीर माजरा	तालाब	₹. 15,000/-	₹. 5,000/-		मण्डवी
7.	फक्कुर	तालाब	₹. 30,000/- ₹. 15,000/-	₹. 5,000/- ₹. 5,000/-		
8.	भूतपालग्राम	तालाब	₹. 16,500/-	₹. 5,000/-	16.09.2020	सरकारी स्कूल
9.	मण्डवर	02-03-00 05-बीचा-04	₹. 83,125/- ₹. 39,710/-	₹. 20,000/- ₹. 10,000/-	सुबह 11.00 बजे	मण्डवर
10.	मसीनी जोड़ोंवा	13-00-00 बंजर	₹. 1,95,000/-	₹. 20,000/-	16.09.2020 दोपहर 03.00 बजे	सरकारी स्कूल
11.	रायपुर	तालाब	₹. 15,000/-	₹. 5,000/-	17.09.2020	मसीनी जोड़ोंवा
12.	कामी माजरा	तालाब	₹. 15,000/-	₹. 5,000/-	सुबह 11.00 बजे	रायपुर
13.	पांसरा	00-05-15 00-04-19	₹. 28325/- ₹. 18,810/- ₹. 10,000/-	₹. 10,000/- ₹. 5,000/- ₹. 5,000/-	17.09.2020 दोपहर 03.00 बजे	पांसरा
14.	ताकपुर	05-00-00	₹. 1,60,500/- ₹. 15,000/-	₹. 20,000/- ₹. 5,000/-		
15.	दौलतपुर	तालाब	₹. 15,000/-	₹. 5,000/-	18.09.2020	सरकारी स्कूल
16.	हवीन्पुर	तालाब	₹. 15,000/-	₹. 5,000/-	सुबह 11.00 बजे	गढ़ीपुरजन
17.	गढ़ीपुरजन	तालाब	₹. 15,000/-	₹. 5,000/-		
18.	टोली	तालाब	₹. 15,000/-	₹. 5,000/-	18.09.2020 दोपहर 03.00 बजे	टोली
19.	गण्डान खेडी	01-00-00	₹. 36,000/- ₹. 20,000/-	₹. 10,000/- ₹. 5,000/-		
20.	तेली	तालाब	₹. 15,000/-	₹. 5,000/-	21.09.2020	सरकारी स्कूल
21.	गधोली	01-04-00	₹. 8030/-	₹. 5,000/-	सुबह 11.00 बजे	गधोली
22.	मानकुर	तालाब	₹. 15,000/-	₹. 5,000/-		
23.	चनेटी	तालाब	₹. 15,000/-	₹. 5,000/-	21.09.2020 दोपहर 03.00 बजे	चनेटी
24.	भगवानगढ़	00-07-00	₹. 27,100/- ₹. 15,000/-	₹. 5,000/- ₹. 5,000/-		
25.	तेलीपुरा	02-00-00	₹. 49,500/- ₹. 15,000/-	₹. 10,000/- ₹. 5,000/-	22.09.2020 सुबह 11.00 बजे	सरकारी स्कूल
26.	जड़ौड़ा	01-00-00	₹. 15,600/- ₹. 12,800/-	₹. 10,000/- ₹. 5,000/-		जड़ौड

# MATRIMONIALS

## BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

## SAINI

**Suitable match for Saini fair Skin Tone, beautiful girl** 26 January 1995, 7:20 p.m., Bathinda, 5', doing AMIE in Computer Science, working with Samsung, 99144-19993, 94642-82334. (CL20037895)

**SM For Hindu Saini girl, Sept. 85'** 5'-3", MCA, professional IT job (Infosys) Chandigarh. Settled in Tricity. 98146-33142. (CL20038017)

**Saini Sikh girl 1991 born, 5'-4", MCA, Software Engineer Chandigarh preferred Australia/New Zealand/ Canada. WhatsApp: 97282-61096, 98968-14504. (CL20038656)**

**Sikh Saini girl 1985, 5'-4", B.Sc. Nursing, also prefer abroad/ urban area boy.** 90419-14494. (CL20038733)

**Match for Saini divorcee issues** slim beautiful working girl 87 born, 5'-4", Graduate, preference around Ambala. 74978-82816. (CL20038904)

**Saini smart girl Canada, DoB 07.09.1994, height 5'-3", Qualification B.Tech. from Chandigarh University, work permit Canada. Boy Canada/ PR or work permit. Family well-settled and qualified. Contact: 79869-38711, 98156-90383. (CL20038962)**

**SM4 beautiful Saini Sikh girl Aug. 89, 5'-6", Chandigarh born, MA, M.Ed., PGDCA, WhatsApp biodata with photograph on 95011-02418. (CL20039602)**

## SOOD

**Match for Manglik Sood girl from well-settled upper middle class family, DoB 16.02.1991 (3:30 p.m., Jalandhar), M.Sc. Physics (95%), B.Ed., PTET, C.TET clear doing job as a Manager (IT Branch) Trident Group (Barnala). Father businessman, own agriculture land, mother English mistress. 98146-71137, 94172-71137. (CL20038613)**

## RAJPUT

**Wanted groom for Rajput fair beautiful 31 years girl 5'-2", Gynaecologist.** Contact: 86043-64891, 95925-56777. (CL20038949)

**Shimla based Chauhan girl 5'-5", 16.12.1989 (3 am., Chandigarh), B.Com (Coms.) HR Manager IT Park, Chandigarh. (9 lacs +) brother, sister presently abroad. Preferred H.P. WhatsApp: 079734-35626. (CL20038976)**

**Suitable match for Sunar girl 5'-2", B.Com, 05.04.1988, 11.31 p.m., Chandigarh. Father businessman, preferred Tricity based businessman. 81959-2904. (CL20039003)**

**Anshik Manglik Rajput girl 20.11.1993, 01:07 am, Mandi Gobindgarh, 5'-5", M.Sc. (Animation) job Graphic Designer at TV channel Chd. Preference good job and businessman. 98142-54948. (CL20039194)**

**Match for Kshatriya beautiful girl 5'-3", 23.01.1981, working IBM Bangalore never married, looking for well educated Kshatriya & Rajput bride. 76248-22672. (CL20039540)**

**Hindu Rajput girl 29, 5'-4". Post Graduate, Central Govt. job.** Contact: 70877-83741, 62843-83223. (CL20039568)

**Civil Services/ Medico (PG) for Sikh Mair Rajput MD girl 26/5'-5", 94630-05768. (CL20039579)**

**Kashyap Rajput 1985, 5'-2/3", BA (Hons.) MA girl seeks educated working boy. Upper caste welcome. 93161-16774. (CL20039593)**

**Match for Himachali Rajput girl 06.07.92, 5'-7", B.Tech., job Chandigarh, Palampur 75080-77520, 62931-29957. (CL20039597)**

**Hindu teetotaller match for Manglik Mair Rajput Seday girl 5'-2", 22.02.1987, 8:10 pm, Samruddha, B.Sc. B.Ed. Officer Govt. Bank. No bars. 95012-89779 (WhatsApp). (CL20039618)**

**Professional qualified match for Hindu Arora girl, Dec. 1992, 5'-2", M.Sc. (Chemistry) B.Ed. Parent's Govt. employee, brother in Canada. Preferred Canadian permanent resident. WhatsApp 98786-24113, 96461-14061. (CL20039630)**

**Maid Rajput Goldfemidit girl 1992, 5'-3", MBA, expects suitable good looking, intelligent boy. Preferred abroad and Govt. employee. 98760-69925. (CL20039707)**

**Match for Rajput Thakur girl, 09.11.90, 8:24 am, 5'-3", BCA, M.Sc. Job: Dips Institute, Jalandhar. Mob: 9868719414. (CL20039750)**

## AHLUWALIA

**PQM4 Ahluwalia beautiful girl, 17.10.88/ 5'-5", B.Tech (E&C), Central Govt. job. Prof. Govt. job. Upper caste no bar. 92145-43821. (CL20036291)**

## MUSLIM

**Infosys placed convented 5.8/24 BSE beautiful girl, caste no bar. 98888-84827. (CL20038045)**

## JAT

**Required well-settled Govt/ Private job match for Jat fair girl, 29.06.1986, 5'-4", M.Sc., EdB, HTET, PGT (Biology) qualified. Avoid guitars Sihag, Duan, Saharan, 94666-37661, 94168-81031. (CL20038336)**

**SM Chandigarh based Himachali Jat girl non-Manglik MBA 26.09.1989, 12:30 pm, 5'-2". 97793-12202. (CL20039596)**

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

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## TONK-KASHATRIYA

**Suitable match for Sikh Tonk Kashatryia girl, 1992/ 5-1/2" regular Government Teacher (Mathematics). Wanted Government employee. Preference Malwa region. Contact: 97800-01575, 76965-98626. (CL20038610)**

## SCHEDULED CASTES

**SM4 1989 Balmiki girl, 5'-6", M.Sc. preparing for GATE.** Father retired officer. Malhotra and Gill. Well educated family. 76578-68708. (CL20039745)

**Match for Chandigarh based SC girl, 5 feet, 26.04.1995, B.Sc., Fashion Designing (Graduation). Contact: 98722-42458, 98886-51980. (CL20033481)**

**Match for MBBS 5th fair Dec 1988, Ravidasia Govt. job girl. Wanted Doctor/Officer/ Foreigner. Parents Govt. employees. Elder sis Australian citizen. 75288-14105. Doaba. (CL20033862)**

**Match for SC Ad-dharmi girl, 5'-3", 28 yrs Adharmi (Rambasias Sikhs) girl, Govt. Teacher Amritsar. 95308-36003. (CL20038883)**

**Suitable match for SC girl, 1985 born, 5', MA, B.Ed., TET clear. (CL20039079)**

**Match for SC Ad-dharmi girl, 5'-3", 28 yrs Adharmi (Rambasias Sikhs) girl, Govt. Teacher Amritsar. 95308-36003. (CL20038883)**

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## MISC

**Girth match for beautiful, slim, fair, 5 feet 2 inches, October 93 born. B.Tech (E&C) girl. Preference to Himachali boys. 70180-80276. (CL20038178)**

**Seeking suitable match for never married Prajapati girl, 81 born, 5'-5", currently studying in Sindh, leading to PR. Family in Chandigarh. Elder brother Australian Citizen. Upper caste no bar. 94170-72965. +6142629802. funny\_mints@yahoo.com (CL20038344)**

**Suitable match for SC girl, 1985 born, 5', MA, B.Ed., TET clear. (CL20039079)**

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**Vegetarian match for Manglik, Jatt, Sandhu, 1995/ 5'-8", Physics Teacher, 8 bands. Required PR/ work permit/ interested for abroad/ Govt. job reputed family boy. Preferred Patiala, Moga. 9464711299. (CL20038459)**

**Suitable qualified match for Jat Sikh beautiful girl, 1985 born, 5'-3", BCA, B.Ed, M.Ed, MCA, Lecturer, preferred NRI. Contact: 98785-82069, 70873-33564. (CL20038491)**

**Suitable match for beautiful Jat Sikh Canadian citizen girl, August 1993 born, 5'-8", slim, working for RIN in G.T.A. Canadian citizen/PR/work permit preferred please respond with details and recent pictures to: sidhu.buttar1229@gmail.com (CL20038567)**

**Suitable match for Jat Sikh girl, 33/5'-3" Govt. job at Chandigarh alone welcome. 95014-96973. (CL20039629)**

**Suitable match for Jat Sikh girl, 33/5'-3" Govt. job at Chandigarh alone welcome. 98150-29832. (CL20039689)**

**PQM for Gill Jatt Sikh girl 1990, 5'-3", convert educated M.Tech, CSE. Parents retired teachers. Younger brother & elder sister settled abroad. Malwa preferred. Marriage bureau excuse. Biota photo WhatsApp 0014313510009, 82848-43812. (CL20039721)**

**Well educated, decent match for Canadian PR, 33, 5'-6", Registered Clinical Counsellor (RCC) & University Teacher (Ph.D.) Surrey, Vancouver based family. WhatsApp 77880-93147 (No phone calls please). (CL20039714)**

**Suitable match for Jat Sikh smart only girl DOB 13 Nov. 1983, height 5'-4", MA English, Ed. Contact: 99151-54567. (CL20038586)**

**Ahluwalia Sikh girl, 1989 born, height 5'-7", Govt. job. Preferred Govt. job or property (agricultural land). Ph: 62846-63951. (CL20038589)**

**Non-Drinker, Vegetarian Equally Qualified Australian/ American match for 5'-8" 1991, Doctor, MD (Pathology). 98789-60578. (CL20038613)**

**Qualified match for Jatt Sikh Sandhu girl, 1990 born, 5'-6", M.A. Economics, M.Sc Mass Comm. Only Canada work permit or PR contact. Dowry seeker excuse please. WhatsApp: +91 88722-50011. (CL20038706)**

**Suitable groom for Doctor working in USA where she did residency in Internal Medicine beautiful 5'-5". January 1992. Dentist sister married and settled in USA Jat Sikh business family, upper caste no bar. WhatsApp: +91 88722-50011. (CL20038744)**

**Jat Sikh Dhaliwal beautiful slim unmarried 38 yrs, 5'-5", Graduate, nanny, computer course, preferred Govt. employed/overseas settled divorcee/ widower may be considered. Contact: 77103-77332. (CL20038764)**

**RAMGARHIA/DHIMAN**

**Suitable match for Hindu Dhiman BDS girl 88/5"-4", upper caste no bar Haryana Tricity preferred. 93560-5905. (CL20038351)**

**Beautiful NRI Sikh Ramgarhia girl, 1992/ 5"-5", B.Tech (CSE), Diploma working girl. 97705-02406, 74895-90144. (CL20038401)**

**SM4 b'ful Delhi based Sikh Ramgarhia girl, 30/ 5"-2", MBA (HR). Prefer service class, educated family, non alcoholic. # 97166-36171. (CL20038475)**

**Compatible match for Ramgarhia beautiful girl January 1986, PhD main, Judiciary clear Govt. service, industrial family. 70313-00002. (CL20038836)**

**Dhiman manglik girl Ambala 27/09/1990, 10:15 am, 5'-5", Job Mohali Msc (IT) 94664-09960. (CL20039009)**

**Teetotaller match for Ramgarhia Sikhi girl fair 27 1/2"-4", M.Com, now pursuing Ph.D. Preferred Doaba region, 98141-62720. (CL20039116)**

**Suitable match Ramgarhia Sikhi girl 1989/5"-2", M.Tech, wanted businessman, NRI boy. 98140-25142. (CL20039505)**

**Ramgarhia girl Oct. 1991, 5'-2", Diploma in Computer and Accounts, Post Graduate. Preferred urban area. 97801-7225 (Ludhiana). (CL20039555)**

**Professionally qualified and suitable match for Ramgarhia beautiful girl 28/5"-5", Ph.D Chemistry from IIT (Delhi), now doing well settled teetotaller and vegetarian match from respectable family. NRI family also welcomed. WhatsApp: 81461-59644. (CL20038884)**

**Suitable match for Ramgarhia Sikhi girl 1990/ 5"-4", M.B.A. SC. IT, Developer job Mohali, 95014-82675. (CL20039632)**

**Ramgarhia girl 1984, 5"-3", MA, B.Ed, CTET, PTET pass seeks Govt. job boy. 98781-90500 (Patiala). (CL20039666)**

**Ramgarhia Dhiman girl 7.10.1985, 5"-1", BCA, Govt. job Computer Operator, 10 years service. Turbaned vegetarian with good job required. Father Suppt. (retd.). 93572-20266. (CL20039185)**

**Match for Ramgarhia Sikhi girl 28, 7.91, 5"-4%", BA, B.Ed., MA M.Phil. Private job. Prefer Mohali, Chd., Ropar Distt. 94652-16209, 98553-99467. (CL20039729)**

**SIKH LOBANA**

**PQ Doctor match USA/ NRI for beautiful Lubana girl, July 1993, 5'-4", Medical Radiodiagnosis from Chandigarh. Caste no bar. Contact: 94637-43086. (CL20038771)**

**AGGARWAL**

**Suitable match for Panchkula based homely Aggarwal (Garg) girl 1990 born 5'-4", (B.Com) MBA beautiful, fair complexion, from businessman family, (preferred) settled well educated Tricity or nearby. 98884-60099. (CL20037854)**

**Civil Services boy required for**

**beautiful 1988 born, HCS girl, 5'-1", all 4 members of family are officers. Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi posting preferred. Caste no bar. 97290-26565. (CL20037881)**

**Suitable match for Haryana based Singh beautiful 1993 born/ 5'-5", MBA girl. Working in Pvt. Bank. Tricity preferred. 94665-61593. (CL20039529)**

**Professionally Qualified match**

**preferably Medico for Convent educated slim, fair, beautiful Singla Sikhi girl, 1991, 5'-4", M.Sc., M.Phil Art & Craft. Preferred well settled boy. 94710-78198. (CL20039418)**

**Suitable match for Jat Sikh girl 1994 born, 5'-4", B.Tech. (C.S.), working in MNC (Pune), working partner preferred. Semi full biodes & snaps to WhatsApp +91 76940-70076. (CL20039543)**

**Suitable match for beautiful Jatt Sikh girl, 1991, 5'-4", M.Sc., M.Phil Art & Craft. Preferred well settled boy. 94710-78198. (CL20039418)**

**Match for Jat Sikh girl 1992/ 5'-6", BDS, seek well settled Canadian boy. Serious people contact. 62846-29572. (CL20039550)**

**CA Jat Sikh girl 86 born, 5'-4", extremely intelligent, beautiful and slim, working with MNC in Dubai. Belongs to well known industrialist family of Mohali. Looking for well educated & professionally very settled boy from similar status family. WhatsApp profile 70095-93310. (CL20039569)**

**Jat Sikh Gill smart girl, 1987/ 5'-4", M.Ed., private teacher Lajpati, MELA, IELTS 8. WhatsApp 9118283-71708. (CL20039573)**

**Match for Jatt Sikh girl BDS, 23 years height 5'-2", preferably from America, Canada, only Delta Professionals preferred. 62807-00719, between 4 pm. (CL20039584)**

**Khatri/Arora**

**Professional or business class match for Doctor girl MBBS, Bansal, 13.2.1995, 10.35 p.m., 5'-2", slim, fair, Ambala based Doctors status family. WhatsApp: 97288-86118. (CL20037852)**

**Suitable match for fair, beautiful Gupta girl, July 80, 5'-3", M.Sc., MCA, Scale-II officer Govt. bank. Innocent divorcee. WhatsApp: 89013-91395. (CL20038379)**

**Highly Educated preferably Settled**

**abroad for Goyal B.Tech. MS (IIT-Delhi), Ph.D. Singapore 1992, 5'-4" girl. Industrial Ludhiana Family. Decent Marriage. WhatsApp Biota 95015-50797. (CL20037863)**

**Match for Mohali based Goyal girl, Ph.D Physics, 5'-1", 17.08.1978, 06:15 am, Bathinda, 9463331341, 90361-25385. (CL20038088)**

**Beautiful Garg girl 5'-4", 04.09.1989, 11:35 pm, Chandigarh. Working Bangalore, CTC 30 lac per annum.**

**Match for Manglik girl, Ph.D., August 1992, working in PGI Chandigarh. Employed preferred. schanderchahra@gmail.com (CL20038226)**

**Suitable match for Arora Manglik girl Ph.D., August 1992, working in PGI Chandigarh. Employed preferred. schanderchahra@gmail.com (CL20038247)**

**Match for Manglik girl, Ph.D., August 1992, working in PGI Chandigarh. Employed preferred. schanderchahra@gmail.com (CL20038058)**

**Suitable match for Arora Manglik girl Ph.D., August 1992, working in PGI Chandigarh. Employed preferred. schanderchahra@gmail.com (CL20038058)**

**Match for Khatri Arora**

**One Kanal Kothi Sale/ Exchange Two Kanal Chandigarh/ Panchkula 9878709884 Direct meeting Owner. (Sector 17A /50-51) (CL20037812)**

**Wanted match for 31y, B.Tech, 5'-6", working in Infosys Chandigarh. 62831-61885. (CL20038144)**

**KT teetotaller Hindu Khatri/ Arora match for M.Tech/NIT working girl in IT MNC at Mohali, 13.08.93, 10.20 a.m. Karnal, 5'-4", Email: ctp47kn@gmail.com M: 97298-1205. (CL20037863)**

**Match for 31y, B.Tech, 5'-6", working in Infosys Chandigarh. 62831-61885. (CL20038144)**

**KT teetotaller Hindu Khatri/ Arora match for M.Tech/NIT working girl in IT MNC at Mohali, 13.08.93, 10.20 a.m. Karnal, 5'-4", Email: ctp47kn@gmail.com M: 97298-1205. (CL20037863)**

**Match for 31y, B.Tech, 5'-6", working in Infosys Chandigarh. 62831-61885. (CL20038144)**

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**Match for 31y, B.Tech, 5'-6", working in Infosys Chandigarh. 62831-61885. (CL20038144)**

**Bhola Estates:** 98153-01547 sale, purchase residential, commercial, industrial property in Chandigarh, Mohali, Panchkula, Zirakpur, New Chandigarh in all sectors. Full floors/ flats/ also deals Omaxe, Ecocity, DLF, Airport Road, WTC, Hero Homes, genuine deals. Spot payment. (CL20039683)

**C201-202 (D), good proposal for rental return.** 6 kanal, FAR 3, transfer/registry, front 80 ft. road, Phas 8-B, Mohali. Gulmohar Township India Pvt. Ltd. SCO 222-223 (2nd floor), Sector 34-A, Chandigarh. 98143-30427. (CL20039684)

**B-73, good proposal for rental return,** 2 kanal, from 60 ft. road, North East, Phase 7, Mohali. Gulmohar Township India Pvt. Ltd. SCO 222-223 (2nd floor), Sector 34-A, Chandigarh. 98143-30427. (CL20039685)

**2 kanal, industrial plot, Sector 82,** front 80 ft. road, ready possession Gulmohar Township India Pvt. Ltd. SCO 222-223 (2nd floor), Sector 34-A, Chandigarh. 98143-30427. (CL20039687)

**Luxurious flat 3 BHK, 4 BHK & SCO 20x80, 200 feet Airport Road,** Mohali. 98727-0355. (CL20039688)

**Chandigarh: 1 kanal corner and B-Road houses and floors available in 8 Sector to 40 Sector.** Contact: 98780-61933. (CL20039692)

**Newly constructed 7 storey building** with 36 flats for sale in Sector 80, Mohali. rental income 7-10 lakhs/month. Can also be used for commercial activity. Owner 98760-43251. (CL20039694)

**51, first floor, Sector 11, 1 kanal,** under construction, built-up with rich specification, at reasonable price. Gulmohar Township India Pvt. Ltd. SCO 222-223 (2nd floor), Sector 34-A, Chandigarh. 98143-30427. (CL20039696)

**303, Sector 21, 1 kanal, under construction, built-up with rich specification, at reasonable price.** Gulmohar Township India Pvt. Ltd. SCO 222-223 (2nd floor), Sector 34-A, Chandigarh. 98143-30427. (CL20039697)

**Showroom ground floor with basement Sector 34-3 and Iml floor showroom.** Sector- 8/20/21/19. One/two/4 kanal kothies Chandigarh. 98142-10100. (CL20039702)

**Shop cum flat beautiful location** Nagayao near Chandigarh. Price will be good rented income. 98142-10100. (CL20039704)

**685 sq. yds. corner, industrial plot,** Sector 82, Facing East 60 ft. road, Gulmohar Township India Pvt. Ltd. SCO 222-223 (2nd floor), Sector 34-A, Chandigarh. 98143-30427. (CL20039709)

**Panchkula: Ten marla triple storey liveable house B-Road, East facing Sector 7.** Sethi Estates 98140-30249. (CL20039715)

**MOHALI**

**Mohali: 8 marla B-Road Phase-6,** Triple Phase-2, 3B1. Corner & F/park Sector 71, Empire Estates 98159-50922, 90566-66055. (CL20038089)

**Mohali: 1 kanal B-Road & F/park** Phase 3B1, 3A, 69, VII, X, Corner house Sector 71, Empire Estates 98150-83500. (CL20039737)

**Mohali (Commercial): Showroom** full or floorwise Phase 5, 3B2, VII, X, XI, Sector 70, Empire Estates 98159-50922. (CL20039739)

**Mohali: Big size industrial,** commercial properties on wider roads for multi-development activities. Royal Castle 98767-60000. (CL20038263)

**Mohali: New one kanal duplex with lift** facing park fully marbled house with the best of facilities. Genuine buyer only. Dealers excuse. 987-666-9885. (CL20039765)

**MDC - Sector 4 (stilt +3) 14 marla** floors 1900 sqft approx 3+1 with lift and stilt parking excellent locations, facing park. 987-666-9885. (CL20039770)

**CHANDIGARH**

# 3048, Sector 35D, 350 sq. yards, three bedroom, single storey house Chandigarh, very reasonable price. Best deal in 14 marla house in Chandigarh. Rates revised. Contact: 98140-06052. (CL20039184)

**Aerocity Mohali, 5 Marla, block-C,** double storey house, newly built, excellent location. Contact: 90238-77001. (CL20039485)

**One kanal kothi 19 (6.25), 10 marla** triple 34 (3.60), 11 marla corner 15 (4.50), 8 marla triple 18 (2.22). 22, 88288-78339, 98767-82699. (CL20039657)

**10 marla first (60% built) and second floor (55% built) built on B-road in Sector 40, Chd. Bansal 98728-36355. (CL20038479)**

**Section 11, Clkd: One kanal ready floors available at competitive rates.** 95922-58181. (CL20038541)

**One kanal park facing houses in** Sector 35, 38, 21, 19, 34, Chd. Call 90236-55596. (CL20038543)

**Chandigarh newly built one kanal prime locations independent floors with lift.** Prudent Consultants Co. 98898-06399, 99880-13347. (CL20038607)

**Showroom pre-rented excellent location,** huge parking freehold good rent. 5% only. genuine parties. Best deal in 14 marla house in Chandigarh. Rates revised. Contact: 95923-27641. (CL20038609)

**HIM-1 Excellent location on main roads** Phase-4. Suitable for Professionals Doctors/Advocates/ Institutes. 99143-27641. (CL20038608)

**One kanal excellent location Phase-3B2** Old liveable kothi facing park. Only genuine parties: 99143-27641. (CL20038607)

**Showroom pre-rented excellent location,** huge parking freehold good rent. 5% only. genuine parties. Best deal in 14 marla house in Chandigarh. Rates revised. Contact: 95923-27641. (CL20038609)

**8 Marla Plot, Vacant, Corner.** Prime location Janta Market 3B1-Mohali. Immediate sale. 98720-94800. (CL20038047)

**Commercial: Sector 38:- Showroom** ground with basement and first floor low lease. Chaudha Property 98141-08377, 89687-5177. (CL20039776)

**PANCHKULA**

**Panchkula 10 marla, 14 marla & 1** kanal very good locations Sector 2, 4, 7, 8, 9. Subhash Manga & Company 98720-9999. (CL20039612)

**Panchkula 15 marla duplex with** basement Sector 12, 10 marla 5 years old duplex Sector 21, 7 marla triple with basement Sector 21, Atulya Estates. 95210-10346. (CL20037978)

**Ground floor of 10 marla 50% sale** dead spread allotment, reasonable price. Sector 15, Panchkula. Parveen Walia 92168-86277. (CL20038075)

**Excellent triplex kothi just like new** 14 marla. Sector 2, Panchkula. Contact: Parveen Walia 92168-86277. (CL20038751)

**Panchkula Mansa Devi: 350** sq.yards luxurious 3 BHK + servant, extra ordinary top location, branded cloth market, near My Shop Phase-7. 99143-27641. (CL20038761)

**Kothi for sale: Ready to move 90 gaj** Sector 127, Mohali. 97810-01167. (CL20038830)

**Kothi for sale: 5 BHK Model Town,** Kharar, Mohali. Contact: 97810-01167. (CL20038834)

**Showroom fully built, Vacant,** extra ordinary top location, branded cloth market, near My Shop Phase-7. 99143-27641. (CL20038761)

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Ukiyo-e broke away from the rigid classicism of earlier Japanese works, inspiring the greatest of artists, not just in Japan, but the world over

ARTS page 12



Revamp your spaces by giving a designer touch. A room-wise guide will help you turn any dull and dated area into a welcoming and timeless interior

HOMES page 13



S Jaishankar's book, *The India Way*, reveals the worldview of the Minister of External Affairs at a critical juncture in foreign policymaking

BOOKS page 14

An Indo-Islamic Cultural Centre, comprising a museum, library and community kitchen centred on Awadh's heritage, is proposed at the 5-acre 'masjid complex' in Ayodhya. Curator **Pushpesh Pant** writes about the project that symbolises the *Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb*

**T**HE region of Awadh joined Agra in 1902 to form the United Provinces of Oudh and Agra. Agra had served as capital of the Mughal Empire and was considered so strategically important by the British that it established a cantonment there. It took nearly half a century after the First War of Independence in 1857 for the British to feel secure and they moved the centre of power from Agra to Allahabad. The high court and university were established in Allahabad and the capital and administrative offices of the United Provinces were moved from Agra to Lucknow. It was then that the heartland of Awadh regained its old glory.

Awadh (mispronounced as Oudh by the British) derives from Ayodhya, seat of an ancient kingdom that dates back to the age of 16 Great Janapadas, four to five centuries before the birth of Christ. Lord Ram of Ayodhya is the divine hero of the epic *Ramayana*. And this, at times, distracts attention from the other sub-regions of Awadh.

Faizabad was the capital from where the nawabs of Awadh governed their principality till it was shifted to Lucknow. Its location allowed it to act as a confluence of diverse cultural streams — culinary and artistic. It reached its zenith when Wajid Ali Shah held court here and generously patronised arts and crafts. The city has always taken pride in its refined language, manners and hospitality, its learned scholars and talented poets. It has been described as the Paris of the Orient. What is today referred to as the syncretic *Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb* — shared heritage of composite culture — is the priceless legacy of Awadh.

The rich tapestry of Indo-Islamic culture in Awadh is woven with multi-hued strands. Kashmiri Pandits, Punjabi Khatris, Kayasthas and *prabasi* Bengalis, soldiers of fortune and members of nobility despatched from Delhi to govern — all have contributed to its mesmerising pattern.

The fabulous culinary gems of Awadh, exotic and aromatic delicacies, have dazzled the world but few realise that the cuisine of this region is inseparable from the fairs and festivals celebrated according to the cycle of seasons. These unveil the rich crafts tradition of the tract, stretching from Rohilkhand — encompassing Rampur, Amroha, Sambhal, Budaun, Shahjahanpur — to Kannauj, famed for its *ittir*, and along the banks of Yamuna through Farrukhabad, Firozabad and Agra. The footprint of Awadh is really large. And the beloved Ganga river, after embracing the Yamuna at Allahabad, moves on to Varanasi via Chunar and Mirzapur.

When one talks of the Awadh Archives, it envisions documenting, cataloguing and drawing from a rich repertoire of arts and crafts — *chikankari* and *zardozi*, pottery and perfumes, illustrated/illuminated manuscripts and calligraphy; from glassware in Firozabad to *ittar ka karkhana* (perfumeries) and handmade carpets in Mirzapur.

In cities and towns of Awadh, there has been a long tradition of cultivating language and literature, practising and patronising calligraphy.

#### Moving on

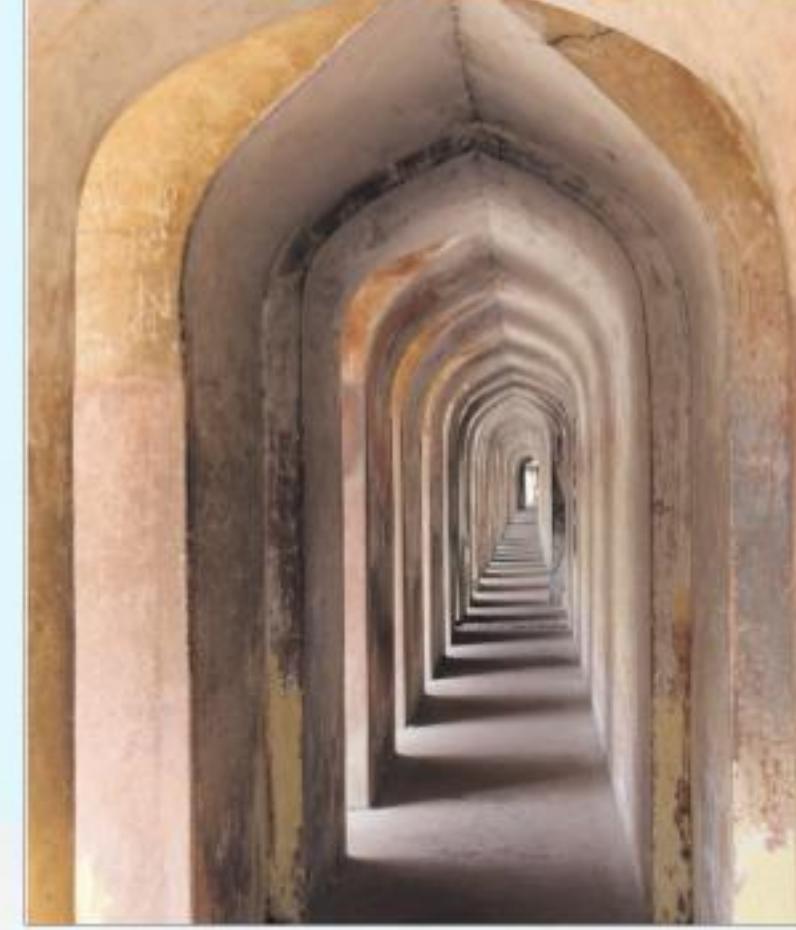
It is a matter of great satisfaction that the UP Sunni Waqf Board has decided to 'move on' and embark on the path of reconciliation. Only this mindset can ensure that sores are not allowed to fester dangerously. The land made available to it is around 5 acres, where a mosque will be built. The board has decided to set up an Indo-Islamic Cultural Centre on the premises that will house the Awadh Archives.

Perhaps, there is a need to remove some cobwebs. A mosque is primarily a place to offer ritual worship where the community congregates. But it is also a place that, like a temple, performs other functions such as providing educa-

# Awadh Archives in Ayodhya



Ghats on the banks of Ayodhya's Sarayu river, the beloved river of Awadh. iStock



The Mughal architecture is evident in the labyrinths within the Bada Imambara (above) and Rumi darwaza (below) in Lucknow; and the Awadh Archives will draw from a rich repertoire of arts and crafts like Lucknow's chikankari work and blue pottery from Chinhat. iStock

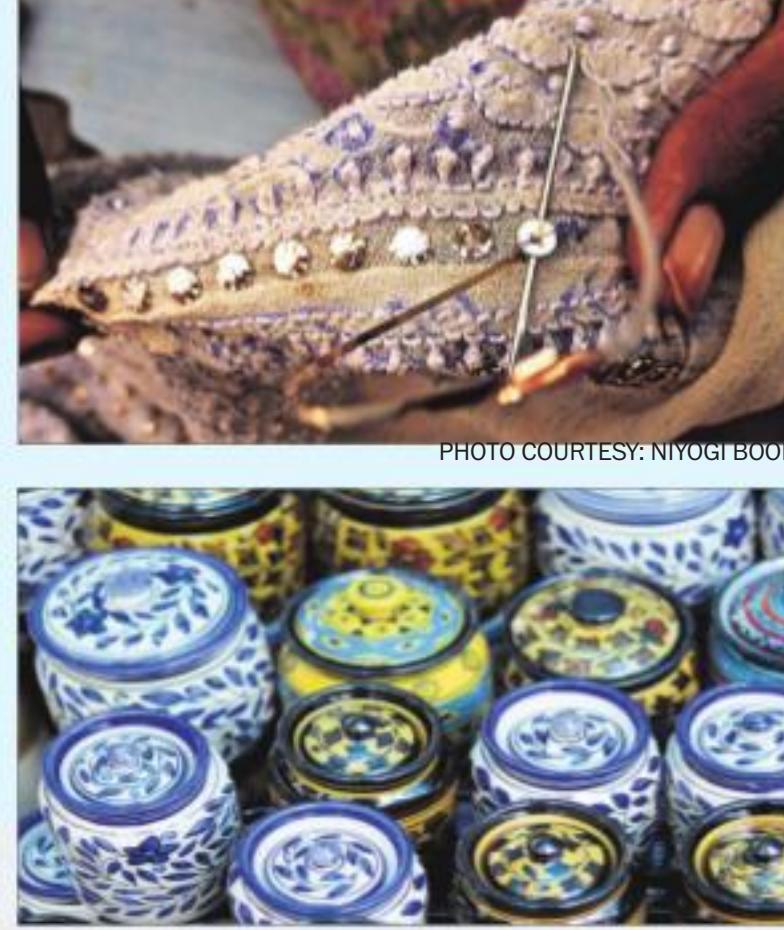


PHOTO COURTESY: NIYOGI BOOKS

Ahmednagar who asserted their sovereignty after the dissolution of the Bahmani Empire. What can't be forgotten is the Deccan's Awadh connection. The Nizam sent from Delhi was, before this, a Subedar in Awadh. He carried with him memories of Faizabad and more. But let us not digress.

#### Discovering lost riches

Time to return to Awadh, not just Lucknow and its legendary talukas — Mehmudabad, Jehangirabad, Kotwara, Balrampur and many more. They take justifiable pride in nurturing and protecting the 'sajha virasat' but it's time we turned our gaze to the countryside — that is where the master chefs and craftspersons came from, bringing with them the flavours and fragrances of their beloved villages. The element of folk and provençal in Awadh has never been less remarkable than the haute in the courts.

What can be more satisfying than discovering the lost riches — objects of art such as brassware from Moradabad, made-to-measure *shervani* and *achhakan* from Aligarh, blue pottery from Chinhat, juxtaposed with carafes, chandeliers from Firozabad — and share the agony and ecstasy of their making with visitors to the archives.

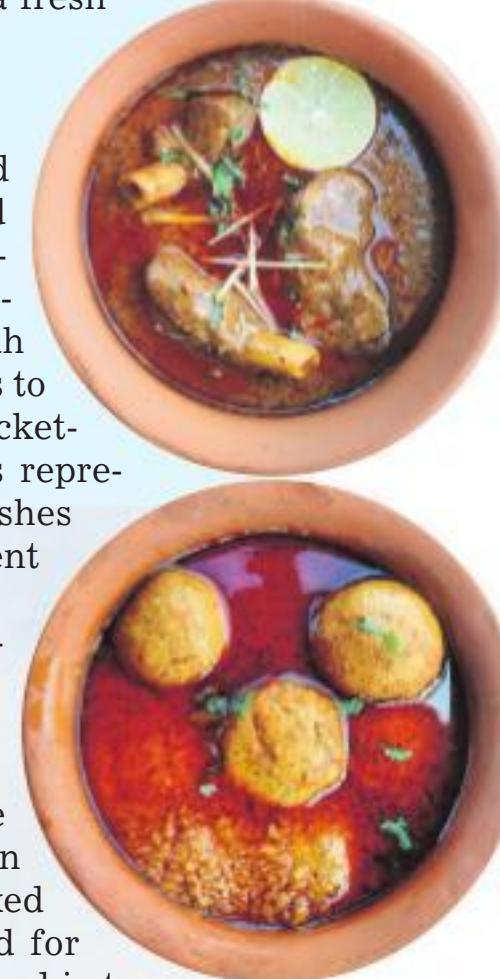
True, the space will be limited, and there may be paucity of funds. This is where digital technology offers unprecedented creative opportunities. From calligraphy to abstract designs to 3D virtual tours of the majestic mosques in India — Sunheri and Atala Masjid in Jaunpur, Taj ul Masjid (Bhopal) and the ancient wooden mosque in Kerala will help the pilgrims and tourists to appreciate the evolution of mosque architecture in India. Its essential features — minaret and dome(s), open courtyard with a pulpit — will be interestingly explained. The arches and domes were incorporated in other religious and secular buildings with passage of time — in the gurdwaras in Punjab and palaces and cenotaphs in Rajasthan and Bundelkhand.

Awadh Archives, in short, will strive to provide a portal to view the gallery of Indo-Islamic culture. The digital displays will facilitate the visitor to appreciate much better the processes of carpet weaving, glassware manufacture and gold embroidery. Handicrafts on the verge of extinction such as beating tiny sheets of silver and gold into wafer-thin foil/leaves and handmade pottery will also get a fresh lease of life.

#### From the kitchen shelf

Most people have naturally asked enough questions about the food that will be available in the community cafeteria. It is not conceived as *langar* in a Sufi dargah or in a gurdwara. The objective is to provide hygienic, nutritious, pocket-friendly light meals and snacks representing the variety of popular dishes — many forgotten — from different sub-regions of Awadh.

The Waqf Board being a charitable non-profit organisation will hopefully try to keep the prices low, but it's unreasonable to expect subsidised meals. For the project to be viable, the kitchen must recover food and other fixed costs. The province is renowned for master chefs and what is proposed is to conduct training classes in basic kitchen craft under their supervision to create livelihood and self-employment for young adults and school dropouts in Faizabad and adjacent areas. It may be possible to take advantages of synergies provided by Hunar Se Rozgar Tak or Kaushal schemes of the government and attract some support under the Corporate Social Responsibility programme.



The cultural centre brings back the focus on Awadh delicacies like *kofte chui mukke* and *Nihari Muradabadi*. PHOTOS COURTESY: OSAMA JALALI



# Our floating world

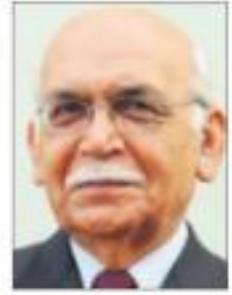
Ukiyo-e style broke away from the rigid classicism of earlier Japanese works, inspiring the greatest of artists, not just in Japan, but the world over

*"...living only for the moment, savouring the moon, the snow, the cherry blossoms, and the maple leaves, singing songs, drinking sake, and diverting oneself just in floating, unconcerned by the prospect of imminent poverty, buoyant and care-free, like a gourd carried along with the river current: this is what we call ukiyo."*

— Asai Ryoi, c. 1661

*"When I was 50 I had published a universe of designs, but all I have done before the age of 70 is not anything of great value. At 75, I'll have learned something of the pattern of nature, of animals, of plants, of trees, birds, fish and insects. When I am 80, you will see real progress. At 90, I shall have cut my way deeply into the mystery of life itself. At 100 I shall be a marvellous artist. At 110, everything I create — a dot, a line — will jump to life as never before."*

— Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849)



ART &  
SOUL

BN GOSWAMY

**A**LITTLE short of 300 years ago, there emerged in Japan an art movement that changed the world of art nearly all over the world. *Ukiyo-e*, meaning, literally, 'Pictures of the Floating World', is what this movement aimed at producing, moving away from the rigid classicism of earlier Japanese works and submerging itself in the ordinary, hedonistic world of the common man in which Kabuki actors and seductive courtesans, tea-houses and entertainment parlours, wrestling heroes and famous romantic vistas, all moved about raucously. The word *ukiyo*, which came to be associated with the movement, had originally expressed the Buddhist idea of the transitory nature of life. But suddenly this rather sober, even pessimistic, notion was overturned. From meaning 'transitory', which life of course is, the emphasis shifted to 'floating', expressing an attitude of *jou de vivre*. This new visual world, created by some remarkably gifted artists, was brought into being in the form of woodblock prints, which made it



The Great Wave off Kanagawa. By Hokusai, c. 1829-1833



(Left) Acrobats. By Torii Kiyomitsu, ca. 1840; (above) Boy Watching Mt. Fuji. Also by Hokusai, 1839.

possible for anyone with a bit of extra cash to move into a world of dazzling images. The movement took off like a blazing fire, and names of artists — like Hokusai, Hiroshige, Utamaro, Sharaku, among them — started becoming household names, even as their inexpensive wood-blocks hung about, grew into posters, turned greeting cards, or wrapping paper, peppering home after home and street corner after street corner.

I have written about *ukiyo-e* before, in this very column. The subject is seductive and what it leads to — in terms of exploring its complexities and measuring its impact on the world of art alone — can keep one occupied for a long, long time. It is possible to take just one artist alone and his work — the great Hokusai for instance: 30,000 works; obsessive concerns with single themes like *Thirty Six Views of Mt. Fuji*, and another 100 that followed; *Remarkable Views of Bridges in Various Provinces*; a single extraordinary work 180 meters in length; constant self-examination — and find it hard to emerge from it. It is equally possible at the same

time to go across to Europe from Japan and see how electrifying and profound the impact produced by *ukiyo-e* prints was on artists who were to become icons of modern art in their own right — Monet, Degas, Renoir, Toulouse-Lautrec, among others — admiring these new flat colours, shadowless surfaces, and dramatic angles, that were coming in from Japan. Volumes have been written, and the theme is not exhausted yet.

On another note, however. Against this background, I find myself asking whether in some strange, time-bending way, we — all of us — are not part of a 'Floating World' too. Not floating, as Asai Ryoi described, merrily "like a gourd carried along with the river current", nor like logs cut fresh from a forest and rushing downstream: now moving, now stuck briefly in some corner. But drifting; unaware of where we are headed. Or — even worse — aware but unable to do anything about it. Consider the world we are living in at any level: political, economic, social, cultural, above all, moral. It is sheer mayhem. There is no merriment in it, no celebratory noises do we hear except those bellowed out

by mindless media or cash-rich corporations, in the name of entertainment. A virus rises and spreads from some unknown source, or lab perhaps, and begins to squeeze the world, holding it from its scrawny neck. A black man is choked to death by a white policeman in uniform, nation-wide protests and riots break out, and yet nothing, nothing truly, happens. Millions of migrant labourers/workers begin to trudge homewards, all possession, all jobs, all dignity, lost, and continue to hope for better days to come. In another corner of the world, men opposed to the establishment are administered slow doses of poison so as to neutralise them. A known terrorist organisation threatened to set the world on fire if its demands were not to be met and yet, despite all the efforts of the wide range of nations, it keeps expanding and 'burning'. We are moved, but remain unable to move.

Intriguingly, or as a diversion perhaps, I look at some of the *ukiyo-e* images — mostly Hokusai — from time to time, and see in them things that tell us something or the other about our world of today, or about our

mindsets. In the *Great Wave off Kanagawa* by Hokusai, "arguably the single most famous image in all Asian Art", are caught some hapless little boats. We do not even see them at first, for so overpowering is the 'noise' we hear made by the roaring wave, drowning all other sounds and sights, but slowly we begin to see them: not one, but three, all but about to be submerged and swept. In *The Suspension Bridge on the Border of Hida*, where two figures are seen, precariously positioned with everything shaking and heaving under them while they take their rickety steps, we can almost see ourselves. When mindless young men fly a kite from a sharply sloping slate roof — *Kite Flying from Rooftop* — we nearly tumble ourselves. In Torii Kiyomitsu's *Acrobats*, just about everything points to nothing else than showmanship, performance.

It is but rarely that we come upon a calming sight like *A Boy Watching Mt. Fuji*. The rest of it — if not in *ukiyo-e*, at least in our own lives and our 'floating' surroundings — is a world that is all leak and creek, pitch and roll, keel and tilt. Isn't it?

## Locked down

'Dialects of Silence' is photographer Parul Sharma's stunning ode to the pandemic-hit Delhi



**T**O begin with, there was stillness. As the lockdown tethered Dilliwallahs indoors, photographer Parul Sharma noted an emptiness — a certain kind of peace that was dramatically opposite to Delhi's pace. The peace was shattered soon. Migrants started their long journey home and Covid deaths didn't remain a thing that haunted Europeans and Americans. Sharma set out to capture the apparitions that had engulfed the city.

From the deserted corridors of power to railway stations and mortuaries, from popular haunts to hospitals fighting an unseen virus, from the destitute to the gurdwaras that worked overtime to feed them, she has documented all in what is now a book, 'Dialects of Silence', by Roli.

Captured in black and white, time seemed to have come to a halt for some, yet it slipped by from the hands of others like the young widow reading the Fatihah before her husband's freshly dug grave and migrant families left to fend for themselves under flyovers and makeshift shelters. As Delhi faced the virus' fury, doctors clocked in 18-hour shifts, seven days a week. Sharma captured them in animated discussions, the struggle for life in neonatal wards, the dead at mortuaries and crematoriums, but no one to mourn them...

In the forward to the book, art historian BN Goswamy says the photos have the power to embed themselves in our minds, to creep up on us. "There is, in Parul Sharma's clear-eyed work, so much sharpness. And so much heart."



## Say it with tablescapes

RASHMI GOPAL RAO

WITH the festive season ringing in, styling the furniture is one of the easiest ways to add sparkle and festive zing to your home. Here are some tips and tricks to do up your centre and dining table:

**Natural finish**

Go for natural and eco-friendly accessories. Experiment with a crochet or *kantha* table cloth or even one reimagined through an old *sari*, table mats of natural materials like bamboo, handloom or even plantain leaves. Locally sourced flowers like mogra, marigold and champa, accompanied by candles and table runners, are a great idea. Place different potted succulents in a galvanised tray for visual impact. "For a large table, place foraged flowers and branches in a vase for effect. Fresh evergreen boughs and pinecones are a classic decor. For outdoors, beautify the table with a sculptural piece of driftwood," says Hemil Parikh of Elysium Abodes LLP.

**Style cues**

It is time to take out the silver. Polish it and let it speak for you at your centre table. "Place large pieces of silverware inwards and the medium-size ones in their periphery. Set the dining table with mats, quarter plates, dining plates and cutlery from left to right. Place napkins with rings on the plates. You may like to place a flower on each plate," says Vandana Sarawgi of SR Artefacts.

Opt for décor elements in contrasting colours. For instance, if your table is dark brown or black, go for décor items in gold or brass. For tables in white wood, choose elements in bold hues like red, yellow or blue. For a traditional dark wood dining table, choose a long maroon *ikkat* print table runner and adorn it with brass décor elements. For a contemporary dining table in light brown wood or white wood, opt for a short table runner in pastel colours.

Experiment with a crochet or *kantha* table cloth, or even one reimagined through an old *sari*. PHOTO BY THE WRITER

**Do it yourself**

Get creative. Place small aromatic candles in mason jars and embellish the jars with macramé covers for warm, cozy vibes. Fill a transparent vase with sticks or branches dipped in peppy colours. Wrap these sticks with string lights to add radiance to the space. If you have extra ceramic mugs, paint these in bright colours and intriguing designs to create statement décor pieces. Bring out empty wine or champagne bottles and splash some vibrant colours on them with a toothbrush," suggests Saloni Khosla of Pepperfry.

## Lend that designer touch

A room-wise guide to help revamp your spaces and make these welcoming

SHRISTI NANGALIA

DESIGNERS do not have a décor guide or rule book when it comes to decorating spaces. The design of each space is dealt with individually while honouring the context of the site and working in lines with the functional and aesthetical requirements. Having said that it is the designer touch which makes any dull and dated room turn into a welcoming and timeless interior volume. Herewith are some tips and tricks on how you can have your own Instagram-worthy living room, dining room, bedroom, kid's room and more.

**Living room: Find the focal point**

The key to good design lies in a composed layout and proper layering of all elements of space. To get the décor of your living room right, look for potential areas where focal points can be



Match neutral colours with bright ones for the kid's room.

**Dining area: Try multiple patterns**

A huge artwork can take the décor of the living room to a new level.

STOCK

Consider reupholstering the furniture and adding playful patterned cushions and a throw for a multi-layered, yet refined, appeal. Add an area rug, one that nods to the colour scheme of the upholstery and cushions. Top the space with table accessories or vases. Finally, introduce suitable indoor plants in pots and planters to enliven the setup. If you do not have a green thumb, dried flowers and potpourri could be the right fix.

**Kid's bedroom: Punch in a dash of colour**

The palette of the living room can act as a fair starting point to decorate the dining room since both the spaces ideally lie together in the home. The dining room is the right place to experiment with patterns, accessories and lighting.

You can try accenting the space with multiples patterns in a similar colour or tone, creating an interesting tablescape with décor pieces of the same make, or bringing in a statement pendant light to crown the dining area. If the space and interior theme permits, you can install a coffee station or a bar trolley to effectuate a high-end allure to the space.

**Bedroom: Create an intriguing backdrop**

To amp up the décor of the bedroom and pull off a chic and relaxing aura, use the walls to create an intriguing backdrop.

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# The colour of caste

ROOPINDER SINGH

PRESIDENT Donald Trump has become an icon for the right-wing White supremacist movement in Germany. Why should we be surprised? The Nazis used the legal precedents set by the US race laws of the Jim Crow era to subjugate the Black community as a template for the restrictive and widely reviled anti-Jewish legal infrastructure. Only, they could not go as far as some American laws did at that time!

Wilkerson, a former 'New York Times' reporter and an academic, examines the "millennia-long caste system of India", and the "officially vanquished caste system of Nazi Germany" to understand and explain the "shape-shifting, unspoken, race-based caste pyramid in the United States".

The analogy is not novel. The liberal academic WEB Du Bois (the first Black person to earn a PhD from Harvard) wrote about "colour caste". In the 1940s, BR Ambedkar, who got his first PhD from Columbia University (second from the University of London), wrote about the similarity between the position of the Untouchables and Negroes. In 1959, Martin Luther King visited India, and received a tumultuous welcome as an American Untouchable leader by the Dalits.

Wilkerson was the first Black woman to win the Pulitzer, and turned from journalism to academics. She is the author of the much-acclaimed 'The Warmth of Other Suns' (2010). In this book, she uses stories and anecdotes to bring home the stark horror of racial encounters and to present the human dimension that underlines the data presented in the book. Slavery was abolished in 1865, but discrimination continues in rules, even laws, financial provisions, educational opportunities — practically in all social spheres.

News reports of the Jim Crow era would say: "two men and two women were killed, and four Negroes." Merely being photographed shaking a Black man's hand cost a White mayoral candidate his election in Birmingham, Alabama. The overarching rule was that the lowest caste was to remain low at every time, at any cost. Pushbacks, like Crow-era parents naming their daughter Miss in the 1970s so that she would have

to be called 'Miss', a prefix that Black people were not permitted to use, are revealing.

We are told never to judge a book by its cover, not to assume what's inside without reading it. Yet humans size up other humans and make assumptions based upon what they look like many times a day. We prejudge complicated breathing beings in ways we are taught never to judge inanimate objects," she points out.

All systems that seek to suppress the "natural range of intelligence and talent in any subset of human beings" are inherently evil. For four centuries, the US racial laws have done precisely that, long after slavery was abolished. Marriage between Blacks and Whites was first outlawed in Virginia in 1691; it was subsequently a crime in 41 states, punishable by fine and imprisonment. The US supreme court overturned these prohibitions in 1967, yet Alabama held out till 2000.

Systemic marginalisation and denial of opportunity to the Black population is well documented and reiterated in the book. The Blacks face excessive media coverage of poverty and crime out of proportion of the population. The conviction and sentencing rates, as compared with the Whites for similar offences, are sky high.

Police shootings of Blacks have always been there, the issue flares up from time to time, as it has now, but it dies down after much lip service and little reform. The upper castes recognise the "urgent necessity of a bottom-rung" and ensure it. The prejudice is systemic, and there is little will or vision to effect the necessary changes.

The author takes us beyond racism, towards the more insidious casteism — "any action that seeks to limit, hold back, or put something in a defined ranking, seeks to keep someone in their place by elevating or denigrating that person on the basis of their perceived category." Failing to see oneself and "the lies that divide us" in this brilliant book would take a blinkered vision.

The release of racial pathogens from the permafrost heated by right-wing activism becomes less inexplicable as we read this history of discrimination. The White backlash to President Barack Obama's election and the rise of Donald Trump now makes some sense.

"The land of the free" is also "home of the brave" Black citizens at the bottom of the caste hierarchy that America still uses to reinforce its racism. In doing so, it loses so much.

# Memoirs of a cricketing guru

ROHIT MAHAJAN

AFTER a drought lasting a long time, cricketing autobiographies are making a comeback — by the 1980s, Sunil Gavaskar had written four books, Kapil Dev wrote at least two, and even Sandeep Patil came up with one. Then there was a lull as few cricketers put pen to paper. The autobiographies have made a comeback in the recent years, with books by Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh, Sanjay Manjrekar and Sourav Ganguly.

Coaches, though, rarely foray into writing. This offering by Gurcharan Singh, the great cricket coach from Delhi, shows that it's important they did — such stories should be essential reading for young players trying to make a career in sport, and coaches who must deal with talented but temperamental youngsters and their parents.

Guchi Sir, as the 85-year-old is known as, may not be a household name among fans, but among his peers, the respect he draws is almost unparalleled. Over 100 of his trainees have played First Class cricket, and 12 of them



Twelve of his trainees have played for India.



**PITCHING IT STRAIGHT**  
by Gurcharan Singh  
with MS Unnikrishnan  
Vitasta.  
Pages 183.  
₹399

have played for India; coaches dream of guiding a single player to the international level — Singh has done it several times.

Singh owes his success to his talent in the sport — he was a fine cricketer for Punjab and Railways — plus his passion and discipline.

There are several examples of the last attribute:

Kirti Azad, son of a powerful politician, could be

difficult as a child, but

Singh would have none

of it; after one episode of bad behaviour, Singh threw Kirti out of his camp. Kirti's father, Bhagwat Jha Azad, backed Singh, and the young

cricketer learnt his lesson. "Kirti maintained good behaviour thereafter to emerge as an outstanding player," writes Singh.

Apart from producing top cricketers, Singh did something that Delhi's cricket and cricketers would forever remain indebted to him for — he shaped the cricket centre at the National Stadium after joining there as the coach in 1969. Two clubs were formed, NIS and Veterans, and he became a much sought-after coach at schools and colleges of the city, and for VIP kids in the capital.

The strict disciplinarian in him didn't faze even when dealing with VIPs — an Army General didn't like his sons being turned away from Singh's nets. The General tried to get him transferred out. "Eventually, I prevailed upon Gen Chaju Singh that his sons were good at studies, but not in cricket," he writes. The General got the point. One kid who ran away from his strict coaching became famous as actor Shah Rukh Khan.

The book is peppered with anecdotes, and recounts his emotional visit to his ancestral visit in Pakistan, 72 years after Partition, when his father was killed by rioters.

If you're a bit dissatisfied with this book, it's for a good reason — at 180-odd pages, it just about skims through the trove of stories that Singh has collected in his 85 years.

# Contemporary politics & global transformation

VIVEK KATJU

A S a professional diplomat, S Jaishankar gained enormous experience over a long and distinguished career from 1977 to 2018. He served in critical assignments as Foreign Secretary, and earlier as Ambassador to the United States and before that to China. In 2019, he made a spectacular entry into political life when he was inducted into the Cabinet as Minister of External Affairs. Soon after retiring from the Indian Foreign Service in 2018, Jaishankar joined the TATA group in a senior executive position. He has now made his debut as an author with his book, 'The India Way'.



Jaishankar's book is a collection of eight essays.

trade assuming critical roles. Much of all this is thought-provoking, but the writing meanders somewhat in a stream of consciousness manner. Also, theoretical propositions have to be tested with obvious ground realities. It would have been useful if he had also considered the deterrent power provided by the possession of nuclear weapons, as the North Korea example demonstrates. Nor does his assertion that middle powers and those regionally influential will have a great say "in their vicinity" take into account the interference in India's neighbourhood, including in the south.

Jaishankar is at his best in delineating the various phases of India-China and India-Japan relations, as well as Indo-ASEAN ties. The narrative flows smoothly. His familiarity with these relationships gained through his diplomatic assignments has helped. Some of his assertions on the nature of the evolution of India-China relations over the past six years are currently being severely tested.

Jaishankar's treatment of the growth of India's foreign policy reveals an impatience with the cautious approach. He overlooks the great domestic challenges that the country faced not only in the first decade of Independence, but later too. He concedes though that the governments of the day acted with determination at times such as in 1971.

Nationalism is a force both within

nations as well in interstate relations. Jaishankar is right in assessing that it is rising all over the world. The question is not of nationalism, but its use within polities and in dealing with the outside world. He also notes that the West should accept, in respect of the direction of changes in India, that "an elite created in a Western mould has now outlived its relevance". The use of the word "created" shows a surprising ignorance of the processes and outcomes of the Indian Renaissance. In any event, the outside world has no role in deciding India's electoral decisions and if comments come, they are not because of the background of the elites, but their actions.

The Mahabharat essay is well written but the attraction of a country's culture and literature increases with its political and economic success. A narrative about the Mahabharat's strategic significance cannot be artificially generated; it is not sustainable.

Through some aspects of this book, Jaishankar, not surprisingly, seeks to directly defend some aspects of the Modi government's foreign policy. One such is an indirect reference to Modi's Pakistan policy. He notes: "that India should offer a hand of friendship, but nevertheless respond strongly to acts of terror; is hardly a contradiction, except for those determined to see one."

Jaishankar naturally and correctly endorses the present policy of insisting that dialogue can resume only if Pakistani terror ends. The question though is: if the Manmohan Singh government had overlooked the lessons of history in respect of Pakistan, should the Modi government have gone down the same route?

The book is a very useful addition to India's foreign policy literature both for the issues it covers and for revealing the worldview of the current Minister of External Affairs at a critical juncture in foreign policymaking.



**THE INDIA WAY:  
STRATEGIES FOR AN  
UNCERTAIN WORLD**  
by S. Jaishankar.  
HarperCollins.  
Pages 226.  
₹699

# How the apex court embraced sexuality

SAURABH MALIK

THE sun was gradually going down on the summer of 2018 as Keshav Suri looked out of his window. It was September 6, the day of judgment on Section 377, a provision in the penal code that criminalised sexual acts "against the order of nature". The hospitality tycoon recalls how the sky was daubed in bright, beautiful hues as if to announce, "This is a special day."

"As the judgment was read out, I was stunned. It is one thing to have conviction in your dream, and quite another to experience the gratification of it. I had known in my heart that it would be a favourable outcome, but what I hadn't expected was the kind of judgment that came out..." writes Suri in 'Sex and the Supreme Court: How the Law is Upholding the Dignity of the Indian Citizen'.

Edited by Saurabh Kirpal, the book forcefully projects itself as a farraginous chronicle of compendious writings by legal luminaries and citizens who played their part in bringing about a metamorphosis in the legal thought process.

The book describes Suri as "one of those who petitioned to revoke Section 377 in the Supreme Court of India". What he and other authors of eminence have talked about on a multitude of issues today appears as if it was bound to happen. But back then, change was hard to predict. The law, like a wary transgressor, was transgressing the walls of privacy built around the lives of people and peeping behind the curtains into the seclusion of bedrooms to catch them in acts perceived to be unlawful. From "unnatural sex" to "adultery", it was all illegal.

But things changed in and around 2018, when the Supreme Court through a series of unrelated judgments paved the way for sexual autonomy. The book adroitly captures the journey brought about by the judgments: from a closed society protected by archaic laws to the one governed by constitutional morality and not social conventions.

"Twenty Eighteen was a dramatic



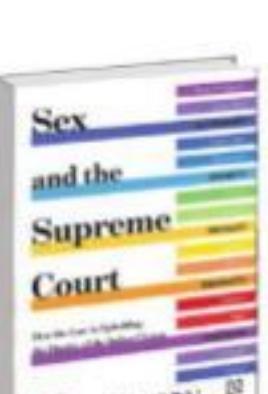
2018 was a dramatic year for constitutionalism.

year for Indian constitutionalism. This was the year the Supreme Court embraced sexuality as an integral part of citizenship," write Menaka Guruswamy and Arundhati Katju in one of the write-ups "From adultery to sexual autonomy".

At first glance, any book with "sex" in the title can give a somewhat different impression. But a closer look brings out the seriousness of the topics and the dexterity with which these have been handled. Authors Justice MB Lokur, Justice BD Ahmed, Justice AK Sikri, Mukul Rohatgi, Madhavi Divan, Menaka Guruswamy, Arundhati Katju and Saurabh Kirpal are among the names not just confined to the text of judgments, their eminence has travelled beyond legal circles.

The topics are broadly grouped into four categories: "Sex and the Individual", "Sex and the Community", "Sex and the Workplace" and "Sex and Religion". The hardback comes out to be different from books presenting a drab analysis of path-breaking judgments.

Some of the articles emerge as powerful stories that help the reader go along on a corporeal and emotional journey from uncertainties to celebrations, and are not just absorbing and amusing, but also stimulating, stirring and thought-provoking. A must-read book.



## BACKFLAP



**HELLFIRE**  
by Leesa Gazi. Translated by Shabnam Nadiya.  
Westland.  
Pages 198. ₹399

**SIT YOURSELF DOWN: A NOVICE'S JOURNEY INTO THE HEART OF VIPASSANA**  
by Gayatri Jayaraman.  
Hachette.  
Pages 212. ₹399

**A BRUTAL HAND | INSOMNIA**  
by Ravi Subramanian & Jigs Ashar.  
Westland.  
Pages 177 | 164. ₹250

# Whither the Fourth Estate



THE INWARD EYE

GURBACHAN JAGAT

History will remember this period. Let it not be said that the men and women of the Indian media were stifled and hushed by the posturing of bullies and corporate houses dancing to the pulls and pushes of the puppeteers.



EVER since I can remember, I've been greatly interested in hearing or reading the latest news. Even in junior school days, I would read newspapers. We were in Pune (spelt as Poona then) at that time and I still remember reading the Free Press Journal, a popular paper of the region. Then, of course, was the daily ritual of hearing the news on All India Radio at 9 pm, a routine from which my father rarely deviated. It was a joy to listen to Melville de Mellow in English and Devki Nandan Pandey in Hindi. The diction was superb, the news content solid and straight-forward. It was not interspersed with opinions or expert interventions. AIR was the only Indian radio station, and you could go to the BBC or Voice of America. We got to hear discussions between adults conducted with due decorum and no raised voices. It was a delight to listen to them as they flitted from subject to subject — politics, literature, arts, sports, etc. One graduated to reading editorials — what with a galaxy of editors in Frank Moraes, Chalapathi Rau, CR Irani, Girilal Jain, Khushwant Singh, etc. The erudite scholarship that they brought and the analysis forced the mind to think and to read extensively in order to absorb more.

Then the age of TV dawned and we had our own Doordarshan, which was more or less a visual replica of AIR, though the news tended to be one-sided. The monopoly of DD did not last long and private channels started coming in a big way. Ultimately, foreign channels also arrived. We now have national English and Hindi language channels, regional language and international channels. All these carry all kinds of shows. The irony though is that

At the moment, SS Rajput suicide occupies prime time, I'm not a movie buff, but I understand he

was an exceptional talent whose death is a great loss to the cinema industry. So far, so good — if his family suspects foul play, let them go to the police and get it investigated. I may mention in passing that the Mumbai Police is still one of the best and there was no reason to doubt its integrity even before a complaint was made. Why is the Bihar government intervening at the highest level and why is the CBI/ED there? Why above all have the TV channels made it a 24/7 *tamasha*? Is this media trial really the only issue confronting us in these perilous times, or are we being distracted by the Pied Piper and being made to dance to his tunes? The entire nexus of corporate ownership of media and its fealty to the political bosses needs to be thoroughly examined.

Now let me take up the Covid tragedy, the forgotten migrants, the soldiers on harsh mountainous terrain in not only Ladakh but all along the treacherous LAC and LoC, and the shattered economy and its corresponding abysmal unemployment. How many studio studs have walked the distance with the migrants? Where are the migrants now? How many of these experts visited the hospitals and told stories of what is happening there, stories of horror we get to hear from other sources? How many of these armchair warriors have gone and reported on the conditions under which our soldiers live and fight? How many have an idea of what the approaching winter will mean to our sons and brothers there? The largest contraction in the economy and its corresponding destruction of jobs and livelihoods — should that not be prime time?

My dear friends in the TV and

print media, this war in Ladakh, the challenges being faced because of corona and the free-falling economy are not going to be won by shouting in the studios; they will be won in the field and for that you have to present a sober, truthful face, inform the public and motivate them. Go to hospitals, talk to doctors and patients and their families and report. These issues of national importance should be the focus of your presentation, not to be hidden in the obscurity of charts and slides or diminished in the din of Bollywood saga.

Thankfully, it is in the print media that a few honourable exceptions are still holding the fort. The Fourth Estate is an inalienable part of our democracy. It is the watchdog which guards against corruption, misinformation and lies. Today, social media has been weaponised by vested interests and lobbies which spread misinformation and hate. They affect elections even in other advanced countries and thereby dominate policymaking and its subsequent fallouts. It falls on the shoulders of the traditional media, TV and print, to uphold the values of honest, independent and unbiased reporting. Nixon was brought down by the unwavering role played by the media. History will remember this period. Let it not be said that the men and women of the Indian media were stifled and hushed by the posturing of bullies and corporate houses dancing to the pulls and pushes of the puppeteers. Will the traditional media rise to the occasion and show us the unvarnished face of truth? Time will tell.

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

# Mighty Putin versus the rest



MUSINGS &amp; MALEDICTIONS

KEKI DARUWALA

are gentler, just bulldozers at dawn. Russians are well practised in Novichok. One of their best known victims was Litvinenko, who was given tea laced with Polonium 210. This was in 2006. Litvinenko had defected from the FSB to the UK and was very critical of Putin.

An enquiry by the British government found that he was poisoned at a London hotel bar. The British Prime Minister stated that the assassination was state-sponsored.

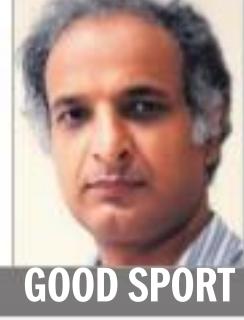
Does Vladimir Putin, who has headed Russia for about 20 years, realise the damage to his image, and that of the system prevailing in Russia? Very often, it is his own opponents who are victims. Before Navalny, we came across the case of Politkovskaya, a fearless critic who exposed the goings-on in the Soviet army as well. An attempt to kill her failed, so shots from a pistol finished her. I read her book four days after her assassins were acquitted. There were some horrific passages in it. One I remember is a case of a mother whose son in the army was missing and went to an officer for redress. And there on the fellow's table was a jar with the skull of her son preserved for posterity. That's what she believed.

After every such incident, the Russian government is in denial. Mr Putin has even started contradicting history. Like Don Quixote attacking the windmills, he lashed out at what history has made out of what is commonly known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 1939. He was incensed (have leaders got the right to get incensed?) at what the European Parliament did in September 2019, as it passed a resolution on the "Importance of remembrance for the future of Europe". It said unequivocally that "the Second War, the most devastating war in Europe's history, was started as an immediate result of the notorious Nazi-Soviet Treaty on Non-Aggression of 23rd August, 1939, also known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, and secret protocols, whereby two totalitarian regimes that shared the goal of world conquest divided Europe into two zones of influence".

As things unravelled on 20th August, on a return flight from Siberia to Moscow, Alexander Navalny, Opposition leader and severest critic of Vladimir Putin, fell unconscious. He had taken a cup of tea at the airport. He was taken to Minsk for treatment. The matter was so serious that he was despatched post haste to Germany. On September 2, the German Chancellor, the indomitable Angela Merkel, announced that Navalny was "the victim of a crime that intended to silence him". You cannot be more specific than that. Germany has also confirmed that Navalny was a victim of Novichok, which means 'newcomer' in Russian. Novichok is a lethal group of nerve agents developed by the erstwhile USSR military (those heady days!) under a programme codenamed 'Foliant' about 30 years ago. The moral of the story is that don't let the military fiddle with labs, lethal agents and gasses. Civilians

One may end with a silent prayer that President Putin may play cat and mouse with the Russian Constitution, but please restrain his agencies from playing havoc with the political Opposition.

## 39 soon, but far from tired to retire



GOOD SPORT

ROHIT MAHAJAN

Like Serena Williams, arguably the greatest woman tennis player of all time, Yuvraj Singh does not need to prove anything. Born a few weeks after Serena in 1981, he too wants to fight on in 2020, the worst year in collective memory of the world



REUTERS/ROBERT DEUTSCH/USA TODAY SPORTS

in 2017. She missed the rest of the Grand Slams that year to take a break for the birth of her daughter.

Since making her return in 2018, she has lost four Grand Slam finals, including to first-time winners Naomi Osaka and Bianca Andreescu.

Time is running out for Serena to overtake — or to perhaps even match — Margaret Court.

The French Open begins on September 21. Serena will be there, and on September 26, she would blow 39 candles on her birthday cake in Paris. She will be pursuing Margaret in another Slam there,

but it seems increasingly unlikely that she will get to the 24th. And in the face of Serena's matchless spirit, numbers and records seem increasingly insignificant.

### Our own Yuvraj Singh

We too have a great who turns 39 this year, on December 12. Yuvraj Singh wants to return to cricket, to play for Punjab. He carries a sense of injury — he believes he was unfairly overlooked for the 2015 World Cup, unfairly dropped in 2017.

Team sports are brutal — you can be a good player but the number of

players in a team is limited; you could be dropped for the team's failure, for strategic reasons, or because you may not be part of the plans of your captain or coach. No one can drop Serena, she can play on even if her ranking drops down to 200; but a player could be dropped due to a variety of reasons — age, strategy, bias, for example.

Last year, Yuvraj retired from most cricket, excepting T20 or T10 carnival leagues across the world. Now he plans to return for Punjab in the coming domestic season, playing "at least T20 cricket".

Yuvraj made his Ranji Trophy debut for Punjab at age 15 in 1997; he has played 64 matches in the country's top First Class tournament; to his great credit, 31 of these matches were in the second stage of his career, when he was trying to re-establish himself in the Indian team after recovering from cancer.

Like Serena, Yuvraj doesn't need to prove anything; born a few weeks after Serena in 1981, Yuvraj finds that he still has some fire left in the belly. He too wants to fight on in 2020, the worst year in the collective memory of the world. Hope his passion for cricket will keep him unsullied by the increasingly mucky politics of the Punjab Cricket Association.

## In season of darkness, braving it out for world we deserve



IMMORTAL FOR A MOMENT  
NATALASH BADHWAR

The pandemic, the cruel lockdown, the onslaught of fake news, clampdown on democratic freedoms have exhausted us. Yet, within us all are also immense reserves for nurturance and solidarity.

In our home, my bathroom has been occupied for the last 10 days by a cat we adopted during the lockdown and her newborn kittens. I call them kit-lots in my head, because their eyes are barely open and they don't walk yet. The possibility of watching them grow up in our home has captured our imagination.

In another room, my husband has been in quarantine for the last one week after being exposed to a friend who was subsequently diagnosed with Covid-19. Kanta, who works in our home and keeps us well-fed while we pretend to run the rest of the world through our home office, attends weddings every weekend and it is only a matter of time before we give her the virus to take back to her extended family or she brings this unwanted gift to our home.

My brother is awaiting his RT-PCR test result. More and more colleagues at work are getting infected. There have been four deaths in my extended family and none of them have been counted as official statistics despite clear and extreme symptoms of Covid-19.

How is your life in the pandemic, dear reader?

I know the answer is hard to frame accurately in a sentence. Depending on our privilege, location, work situations and fate, we are all having a mixed bag of experiences. I'm lucky that I have this column and your attention to be able to process my feelings as I share my experiences here.

As it did for many others too, the lockdown started with abject horror and shock for me. Within two days of the Prime Minister's pronouncement on March 24, we began to witness mass hunger in the cities as daily-wage labourers were shut out of workplaces abruptly. All eateries that served low-cost meals were closed. As a filmmaker and a member of the Karwan-e-Mohabbat — a people's campaign against hate crimes and injustice — I found myself both documenting the unfolding humanitarian crisis as well as participating in large-scale food distribu-

tion in solidarity with those who were stranded without work, shelter and food.

In retrospect, there was a pattern to my days in the first six weeks. I would spend the day coordinating with teams who were raising funds, distributing food packets and making short films to raise awareness about the plight of India's working poor. The news of millions of migrant labourers walking on the highways and dying of exhaustion and hunger would keep streaming in all day. I would pause at least once a day to find a quiet corner and cry. We were busy, we were angry, many of us were hurtling towards a meltdown, but we also needed to make space for grief.

It was reported in the news that India's foodgrain stock had reached a record high of 73.85 million tonnes in April 2020. At the same time India had reached a record high of hunger and dispossession, evoking memories of the mass migration during the Par-

tition of India in 1947. It was hard to believe that a government would turn against its people when they were most vulnerable.

In our neighbourhood, besides the distress of the poor, we began to notice the hunger and desperation of street dogs and cats that had been dependent on scraps of food from restaurants and roadside food stalls in the area. Many of us who had barely spoken to each other before began to greet each other from behind our masks as we crossed paths while walking our pets or on the way to the grocery store. Without much ado, we began to co-ordinate the feeding of animals.

At home, I found respite from the incredulity of the news by adopting two young cats who had begun to visit every day and meow for food. We named them Black and White, based on their dominant colour, but when White moved in and it seemed that we were becoming family, our children proposed that the cats deserved more formal names. Now we find ourselves looking out for the needs of a reticent Faiza and a boisterous Sahil as

they make themselves at home with us.

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." The opening words of 'A Tale of Two Cities' by Charles Dickens reassure us that our struggle with the convoluted times we live in is not unprecedented in recent history.

The Covid-19 pandemic, the thoughtlessness of India's cruel lockdown, the destruction of livelihoods, the onslaught of fake news as well as the clampdown on democratic freedoms and constitutional rights by our own government have exhausted us. Yet, within us all are also immense reserves for nurturance and solidarity. For renewal of relationships and braving it out to restore the world we demand to live in.

**The writer is an author and filmmaker**  
**natalash.badhwar@gmail.com**

# Nitish, Nadda hold talks on seat-sharing

**BIHAR POLL** BJP national prez kickstarts campaign

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12  
Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday held a crucial meeting with BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda on seat-sharing among the NDA alliance partners for the assembly elections in the state.

Nadda, who was accompanied by party colleagues like Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, national general secretary and state in charge Bhupendra Yadav and state president Sanjay Jaiswal, called on Kumar at his official residence 1, Anney Marg.

The JD(U) national president, who was accompanied by key party aide Rajiv Ranjan Singh, alias Lalan, accorded a warm welcome to Nadda, who hails from Himachal Pradesh but was born and brought up in Patna. At the meeting, which lasted more than half an hour, leaders of the two parties are understood to have discussed the key issue of seat-sharing among alliance partners in the NDA, which also includes Ram Vilas Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (LJP).

The BJP leadership is also



BJP chief JP Nadda flags off the 'Aatmanirbhar Bihar' drive in Patna. PTI

**FLIGHT BOOKINGS FROM DARBHANGA SOON**

New Delhi: Flight bookings from Darbhanga to Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru will start by the end of September, said Civil Aviation Minis-

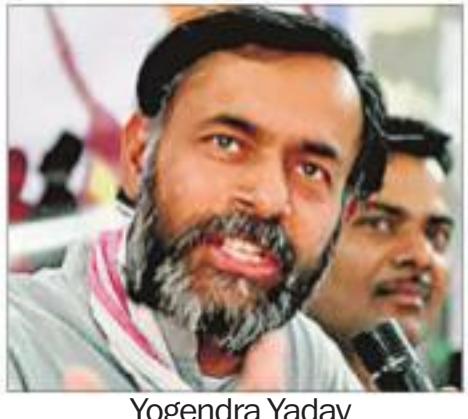
ter Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday. The minister said flight operations would begin in the first week of November before Chhath Puja. — TNS

understood to have assured Kumar that it will intervene and iron out the differences that have of late cropped up between the JD(U) and the LJP on account of the beligerent stance adopted by the latter's young president Chirag Paswan.

Kumar is believed to have expressed unhappiness over statements made by LJP president Chirag Paswan and stressed on early resolu-



Sitaram Yechury



Yogendra Yadav

## Riots: Yechury, Yadav, Ghosh 'co-plotters'

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12  
The Delhi Police have named CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, Swaraj Abhiyan leader Yogendra Yadav, economist Jayati Ghosh, Delhi University professor and activist Apoorvanand and documentary filmmaker Rahul Roy as their mentors, who allegedly asked them to carry out the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act and go to "any extreme".

They have been accused of asking anti-CAA protesters to go to "any extreme", spreading discontent by calling CAA/NRC anti-Muslim and organising demonstrations to "malign the image of the Government of India". The names appeared in a supplementary charge sheet. They have been made accused on the confessions of three students.

All three are facing charges under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. In the charge sheet, which was made public just two days before the commencement of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, the Del-

hi Police has claimed that Kaliata and Narwal admitted to not just their complicity in the riots but also named Ghosh, Apoorvanand and Roy as their mentors, who allegedly asked them to carry out the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act and go to "any extreme".

Their similarly-worded dis-

closure statements – mentioned in the charge sheet – claim the two JNU students said they organised the Daryaganj protest in December and the Jafrafaid chakka jam (road block) against the CAA on February 22, 2020 at the behest of Ghosh, Apoorvanand and Roy.

The student-activists also told the police the three coor-

dinated with the Islamist group Popular Front of India (PFI) and the Jamia Coordination Committee to mentor the Pinjra Tod members to carry forward their campaign against the CAA, according to the chargesheet. — PTI

# HP BJP leaders file complaint against Shiv Sena MP Raut

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA/NEW DELHI, SEPT 12  
BJP leaders today filed a complaint against Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut for allegedly using obscene and derogatory words against actress Kangana Ranaut.

Seeking registration of an FIR under Sections 294 and 509 of the IPC, BJP state secretary Payal Vadiya and state IT cell head Chetan Bragata said: "On September 5, 'Raut used unconstitutional and abusive language on a news channel and in a fit of rage not only abused and insulted Kangana, but also showed scant regard for the law of the country."

Meanwhile, the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) today said a sched-

uled flight would be suspen-

ded for two weeks if anyone

was found taking photo-

graphs on the aircraft. On Friday, the DGCA had written to IndiGo CEO Wolfgang Prock-Schauer, listing out the violations that allegedly took place on a Chandigarh-Mumbai flight in which actor Kangana Ranaut was travelling.

"It has been decided that in case any violation (photography) occurs on any scheduled passenger aircraft, the sched-



### DGCA THREATENS ROUTE SUSPENSION FOR VIOLATION

■ The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has said a scheduled flight will be suspended for two weeks if anyone is found taking photographs on the aircraft. ■ The announcement comes a day after the Director General of Civil Aviation wrote to IndiGo CEO Wolfgang Prock-Schauer, listing out the violations that allegedly took place on a Chandigarh-Mumbai flight in which actor Kangana Ranaut was travelling

### IN WEST BENGAL, CONG RALLIES FOR RHEA

■ Kolkata: Congress activists took out rallies in the metropolis on Saturday in protest against the "victimisation" of actor Rhea Chakraborty, days after its Bengal unit chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury described her arrest as "ludicrous".

■ Over 300 party activists marched from PCC headquarters to Wellington crossing, opposing the "vili-

fication campaign" against Rhea in the name of investigation, and held placards that read "we will not stop till she gets justice". PTI

said the regulator should have ensured action against the airlines as well as the journalists involved. "It is a safety violation. Television journalists were moving inside the aircraft when the seat belt signs were on. You don't need the airline to inquire the incident. Evidence is there in front of you. The DGCA should have taken action as it did in the case of Kunal Kamra."

## Sonia leaves for US for check-up

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12  
Congress president Sonia Gandhi has left for the US for her routine check-up, party sources said on Saturday. Gandhi, who recuperated from a malignancy a few years ago, has been visiting a health facility in the US for regular reviews. She will be away for about 10 days, it is learnt.

## Record spike of 97,570 infections

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

### OXFORD RESUMES VACCINE TRIAL

London: Oxford University says trials of Covid vaccine that it is developing with pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca have been resumed. The university said in large trials such as this "it is expected that some participants will become unwell". — AP

co-morbid patients.

"We must ensure Covid-19 patients are not denied beds

and are provided prompt treatment. The collective goal must be to reduce case mortality rate to less than 1 per cent. Timely treatment of co-morbid patients to reduce fatality is important," the Health Ministry told private practitioners.

Senior doctors from private sector hospitals also shared their experiences at the meeting. Meanwhile, India today reported record single-day recoveries of 81,553 taking national recoveries to 36,24,196 and the cure rate to 77.77 per cent. — TNS

## Bhushan moves SC for right to appeal

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

### CONTUMPT CASES



orders in criminal contempt cases would be heard in open court by a different Bench,

Bhushan submitted in his petition. "Contempt proceedings are one in which the injured party (Supreme Court)

acts as the prosecutor; the witness and the judge, thereby raising fear of inherent bias. As a judge the power of the Supreme Court to convict and sentence the accused is unlimited and arbitrary... No one can be at once a suitor and a judge.

Thus, there is a need for an intra-court appeal," Bhushan submitted. The petition comes less than two weeks after the Supreme Court imposed a token fine of Re 1 on Bhushan,

who was convicted for criminal contempt for his two tweets against the judiciary, saying he

had attempted to "denigrate the reputation of the institution of administration of justice".

The conviction and sentence had come after Bhushan refused to apologise to the court. After the sentence was pronounced, he had announced that he would pay the fine and file a review petition.

Bhushan is facing another criminal contempt case initiated in the top court 2009 for his statement in Tehelka magazine that half the 16 former CJIs were "corrupt".

## Opportunity for Oppn as session reconvenes

KV PRASAD

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12  
The fortnight-long Monsoon session of Parliament beginning Monday will witness unprecedented sittings of both the Houses. The country's supreme legislative body would convene in an unusual manner — staggered and separate — on account of the raging health pandemic.

Since the unlock process commenced in early June, members from the Opposition sought meetings of the House in some form or the other with many suggesting virtual or hybrid sessions as many Parliaments elsewhere convened. Come September 14, the sittings start.

The session, to be held on the 175th day after the sudden adjournment of the Budget session on March 23, would see members occupying seats in both the chambers while only one of the Houses will be in session and several measures are underway to secure the well-being of MPs, Secretariat, support staff and media personnel, with restricted access.

Besides fulfilling the constitutional obligation of a Parliament session within 180 days, it comes in the backdrop of three serious challenges the country is in the grip of — Covid-19, economic slowdown and continuing stand-off with China in Ladakh. The com-



**THREE CHALLENGES**

The Monsoon session comes in the backdrop of three challenges the country is facing at present — Covid-19, economic slowdown and LAC stand-off.

blended effect of all these remain a cause for concern.

Notwithstanding the controversy over the decision in this session to do away with the Question Hour, which provides an opportunity for every MP to elicit a response from the executive on its action, policies and programmes, there are any number of parliamentary devices for members to flag hot-button issues.

By Sunday, the Business Advisory Committee of either House should have determined priority to be accorded to issues. This accommodative exercise permits the government to push forward its legislative agenda while the Opposition identifies issues it would like to debate and discuss. The session, which will run its course till October 1, affords an opportunity to the Opposition to get the best possible deal from the government on the issues it raised during the past five months.

## Six accused of assaulting Navy veteran get bail

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 12

Six suspected Shiv Sena workers who assaulted a retired Navy officer for allegedly forwarding a cartoon of CM Uddhav Thackeray on social media were granted bail on Saturday.

The National Federation of Defence Honorary Commissioned Officers have condemned the attack.

After the BJP alleged political pressure in the case, Joint Commissioner of Police (law and order) Vishwas Nangre Patil denied that the bail was granted in view of the Covid situation.

The six persons were arrested after local BJP MLA Atul Bhatkalkar posted a video of the Friday's assault on Madan Sharma (62) on Twitter. A complaint was filed against Sena workers at the Kandivali police station. — PTI

## Last respects



■ Political leaders, rights activists and the general public on Saturday paid their last respects to Swami Agnivesh, and remembered him as a "truly secular" person who fought for the rights of bonded labourers and women.

■ Social activist Agnivesh, who was suffering from liver cirrhosis for a long time, died of multi-organ failure at a Delhi hospital on Friday. He was 80.

■ His mortal remains were consigned to flames by Swami Aryavesh, the president of Arya Samaj, at Agnilesh Ashram in Beliaghata, Gurugram, around 4 pm. PTI

## PMAY will empower the poor, says Modi

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated 1.75 lakh houses built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) (PMAY) in Madhya Pradesh. He said the scheme was meant to empower the poor, adding that the Centre's drive for integrated development of villages and rural areas in the country would be intensified. The Prime Minister said under the PMAY, 18 lakh houses had been constructed in the country during the crisis period.

He also called for the need to strengthen the poor in

order to end poverty. "The speed with which these houses were constructed is a record. The construction of a house under the PMAY used to take an average of 125 days earlier. But during the Covid period, it came down to 45 to 60 days. This is an example of turning a crisis into an opportunity," he said. "This has become possible as the migrants who returned home during the lockdown also joined the work and availed benefits of the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan, under which Rs 23,000 crore have been spent on infrastructure and other works," he said.

Bansal to key roles is being seen as a signal to Anandpur Sahib MP Manish Tewari, who has always coveted the Chandigarh LS nomination and has been Bansal's rival in the Chandigarh politics. In a fine balancing act, Sonia has also ensured a fair mix of veterans and youngsters across party structures, so that the generational shift happens under the watch of experienced hands. Younger leaders have been preferred for strenuous party positions, including those of general secretaries and in charges where the expectation is to connect with the masses and the rank and file. The regular CWC continues to be dominated by veterans.

## Peace process...

FROM PAGE 1

government team may try to slow down the process till the US elections in the hope that a Joe Biden victory might change the policy. In an indication of Pakistan's pivotal role in facilitating the US-Taliban accord in February, the US Army's Central Command chief, Gen Kenneth McKenzie, met Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, a day before the negotiations began.

The Afghan Government team is headed by Abdullah Abdullah, who is pro-India. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the US Special Afghan envoy Zalmay Khalilzad addressed one of India's main concerns — that Afghanistan might revert to being the training ground for terrorists if the Taliban shares power in Kabul. — TNS

## Congress revamp: Sonia gives quietus to dissent

NEWS ANALYSIS

ADITI TANDON

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12  
Congress president Sonia Gandhi's Friday act of restructuring the party has given a quietus to the recent dissent in her ranks, besides delivering a snub to the ginner group that sought election to all party posts.

The restructuring lays the ground for the return of former party president Rahul Gandhi, as and when he chooses, with the majority of new appointees owing allegiance to him.

Though three of the 23 leaders who recently wrote to

### CLEARING WAY FOR RAHUL

■ Most of the new appointees owe allegiance to Rahul Gandhi  
■ The restructuring lays the ground for his return, as and when he chooses  
■ Though three of the 23 leaders who wrote to Sonia on party overhaul have been accommodated in the revamp, their key demands have not been met

Sonia on party overhaul have been accommodated in the revamp, their key demands have not been met.

Dissenters had sought election to the powerful Congress Working Committee (CWC), but Sonia chose to go by the past convention of nominations for each of the 57 mem-

### TIME TO ASSESS PUBLIC MOOD

■ The changes bear the Sonia Gandhi imprint and signal a balance of experience, loyalty and youthful energy. The litmus test for the Congress, however, is to accurately assess the public mood and catch the people's imagination through transformative leadership. ■ Ashwani Kumar, FORMER LAW MINISTER

bers of the reconstituted panel, which has 22 regular and 26 permanent members and nine special invitees. Second, the ginner group wanted the defunct Congress Parliamentary Board reconstituted, but it has not happened. Sonia has instead formed a special six-member committee for assis-

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