

The Sunday Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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KHATTAR GOVT TO REPLACE 'PB' WITH 'HRY' IN 163 LAWS HARYANA

TUNNEL VISION: THE ROAD FORWARD SPECTRUM

ROHIT POWERS TEAM INDIA TO 300 ON DAY 1 BACK PAGE

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021

J&K statehood at appropriate time: Shah

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 13
The government today said full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir would be restored at the appropriate time and 6,000 Kashmiri Pandits would be resettled in the Valley by 2022.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha before the passage of The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Amendment Bill, Home Minister Amit Shah said the Bill aimed to merge the J&K cadre of officers with the all-India AGMUT cadre for better administration. He defended the abrogation of Article 370, saying it had enabled large-scale development and facilitated the extension of 170 laws, including the quota policy.

"Nowhere does the current Bill say statehood will not be



OUR GOVERNMENT WORKS ON SENTIMENTS

Article 370 abrogated for development... The Modi govt doesn't work on laws and schemes. It works on sentiments. We believe J&K people are ours. Amit Shah

ABROGATION OF ART 370 BETRAYAL: NC'S MASOODI

You are continuously increasing confusion... What is the objective of this (J&K reorganisation) Bill? You are taking J&K towards uncertainty. The abrogation of Art 370 is a betrayal of pact the govt had with people. Hasnain Masoodi, NATIONAL CONFERENCE

FIRST PHASE OF BUDGET SESSION CONCLUDES, PARLIAMENT TO RECONVENE ON MARCH 8

granted. The statehood will be given at the appropriate time," Shah said after Opposition MPs Hasnain Masoodi (NC), Manish Tewari (Congress) and Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) opposed the Bill and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's statutory resolution seeking its withdrawal was rejected by a voice vote.

The minister attacked "three families that ruled J&K for 70 years" and asked, "Did these three families that ruled J&K for 70 years ever give an account of their work? We will give an account, but let these

people look within and ask whether they have the right to ask others for accounts." Listing a range of works undertaken in the UT after August 5, 2019, when Article 370 was scrapped, the government said it would defend the move in the apex court which had

referred 15 petitions challenging the abrogation to a Constitutional Bench.

"Had the move been unconstitutional, the SC could have stayed it. But there is no stay. Should development be suspended till the matter is decided? Nowhere does the legal status say the move can't be implemented," Shah said after Masoodi called for halting the implementation of the move till the matter was sub judice.

On Tewari's suggestion that the government seek an early hearing in the SC, Shah said, "The Congress is not even before the SC. It has no position — yes or no. The hearing has been delayed because such a sensitive matter cannot be heard virtually."

On the post Article 370 phase in J&K, Home Minister

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Reform push to make nation top economy: Sitharaman

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 13
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, responding to a discussion on the Union Budget in the Lok Sabha, today lambasted the Congress, calling party leader Rahul Gandhi as "Doomsday Man" and accusing the Congress of having joined the "break India fringe group."

The minister also claimed Rahul was constantly insulting constitutional functionaries.

She praised PM Narendra Modi for leading the country in times of the Covid-19 pandemic with a "clear-headed approach," emphasising that challenges posed by the pandemic had not deterred the



RAHUL DOOMSDAY MAN

The Modi govt doesn't work for cronies; Rahul is becoming 'Doomsday Man' Nirmala Sitharaman, FINANCE MINISTER

government from undertaking reforms for attaining long-term goals. Defending the Budget, Sitharaman said the

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Cong questions 'U-turn' on MSP

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 13
Days after the Centre accused the Opposition of U-turn on farm reforms, the Congress hit back citing an old report by a panel led by the then Gujarat CM, Narendra Modi, that had suggested legalisation of the MSP regime.

"What about this U-turn Madam Finance Minister?" Congress whip in Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh asked.

Quoting the 2011 report of the Working Group on Consumer Affairs, Jairam said, "The committee recommendation was that we should

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UNDER SURVEILLANCE, ALLEGES TMC'S MAHUA

I am under some sort of surveillance... Upon enquiring, I was told cops from Barakhamba Road police station have been deputed for my protection. I never sought any protection. Mahua Moitra, TRINAMOOL MP

Right to protest can't be anytime, everywhere: SC

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 13
The Supreme Court (SC) has dismissed a petition seeking review of its Shaheen Bagh verdict that said roads and public spaces couldn't be blocked indefinitely and demonstrations had to be in designated places.

"The right to protest cannot be anytime and everywhere. There may be some spontaneous protests but in case of prolonged dissent or protest, there cannot be continued occupation of public places affecting the rights of others," a three-judge Bench headed by Justice SK Kaul said.

"We have considered the earlier judicial pronouncements and recorded our opinion that the Constitutional scheme comes with a right to

DISMISSES REVIEW PLEA IN SHAHEEN BAGH CASE

■ SC dismisses plea seeking review of its Oct 7 verdict on anti-CAA protesters
■ It had said public space can't be blocked indefinitely and protest has to be held in designated places
■ Petitioners allege the court stance appears 'giving way to unrestricted sanction to police action'



protest and express dissent but with an obligation to have certain duties," said the Bench, which also included Justice Aniruddha Bose and Justice Krishna Murari.

Maintaining that "democracy and dissent go hand in hand", the SC had on October 7 last year ruled that roads and public space couldn't be blocked indefinitely and demonstrations expressing dissent had to be in designated places.

However, review petitioner Kanji Fatima and 11 other Shaheen Bagh protesters had requested the top court to reconsider its ruling, saying the judgment "appeared to be giving way to an unrestricted sanction to the police to take action by misusing these observations."

The protesters, who had blocked the Kalindi Kunj-Shaheen Bagh stretch in Delhi since December 15, 2019, were removed on March 24 after Covid lockdown was enforced.

Parl panel mulls LAC visit; Rahul skips meet

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 13

Members of the parliamentary standing committee on defence have proposed a five-day tour to forward areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Panel chairman Jual Oram said the visit would be subject to clearance from the government and the Lok Sabha Speaker.

Oram said the committee

OFFICIALS QUESTION FREQUENT ABSENCE

■ Official sources questioned Rahul Gandhi's frequent absence from the panel meetings
■ Rahul has attacked the Union Government for allegedly ceding Indian territory to China
■ The Congress leader has also raised questions on the disengagement agreement with China



members at this week's meeting expressed a unanimous view to visit the Galwan valley and Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh, which saw violent stand-off

between Indian and Chinese troops. The aim is to get first-hand information of the ground situation amid the disengagement of troops.

Committee sources said Congress leader and panel member Rahul Gandhi was absent from the meeting. He has been attacking the government on handling of the

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TRIBUNE PHOTO: PAWAN SHARMA

High-stake elections, will indicate voter mood in Punjab's urban areas

JUPINDERJIT SINGH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 13
Ahead of the civic body polls in Punjab on Sunday, an edgy Opposition accused the ruling Congress of "tampering" with voter lists and "misusing" government machinery. Denying the charges, PPCC chief Sunil Jakhar observed: "It seems the Opposition has already conceded defeat."

While SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal decried "attempts to kill the Opposition," BJP state president Ashwani Sharma said he apprehended

CIVIC POLL

FEB 14 & 17 DRY DAYS
7,000 EVMS TO BE USED
25,010 EMPLOYEES ON DUTY
19,000 POLICEMEN ON JOB
4,102 POLLING STATIONS

violence during polling. But AAP's Raghav Chadha claimed a groundswell of support for the party.

The elections to eight

municipal corporations and 109 municipal councils & nagar panchayats are being fiercely fought. These are being viewed as a prelude to the Assembly elections due early next year.

While winning is a matter of prestige for Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and the Congress, the Akalis view the elections as an opportunity to retrieve lost ground. Sukhbir has been at the forefront of campaigning. In Jalalabad, he accompanied candidates to the poll office for filing nomination papers.

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Rescuers boring wider hole in Tapovan tunnel

Tribune News Service

JOSHIMATH, FEBRUARY 13
Rescuers today began boring a wider hole into the Tapovan tunnel in a bid to locate around 35 persons feared trapped inside for around a week.

The Silt Flushing Tunnel (SFT) was reportedly punctured on Friday night by drilling a 75 mm-diameter hole into it, but now it was being widened to 300 mm so that a camera and a water flushing pipe could be inserted into the tunnel.

A senior official of the Uttarakhand Government said there was no big breakthrough yet in the rescue work. "We have drilled a hole, but we can't say it is a big breakthrough unless we

find something concrete." The official, however, maintained that the rescue work had been accelerated with the installation of some additional machines. The rescuers are working on two strategies — drilling a hole vertically down-

New lake poses no danger: Experts

ward and also digging and excavating debris and sludge inside the tunnel. According to district officials, 166 persons are still missing while 38 bodies have been found.

"As only 12 bodies have been identified so far, we have taken DNA samples of the remaining 26," a senior administration official said.



Rescue work on at Raini village in Chamoli district on Saturday. PTI

SKM: We want court to probe R-Day violence

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



DELHI COPS TAKE DEEP, IQBAL TO RED FORT

Actor-activist Deep Sidhu and Iqbal Singh (in blue turban), arrested by the Delhi Police for R-Day violence, were taken to Red Fort on Saturday to recreate the crime scene.

AIRPLB moves SC over divorce PIL

NEW DELHI: The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has moved the Supreme Court against a BJP leader's PIL seeking "uniform grounds of divorce" for all citizens, irrespective of religions they follow. —TNS

IN BRIEF

Recall Govt, Shiv Sena urges Centre

MUMBAI: Accusing Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari of toeing the BJP's line, the Shiv Sena has urged the Centre to recall him. If the Centre wants the Constitution to be upheld, it should recall him, stated Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana'. —PTI

AIMPLB moves SC over divorce PIL

NEW DELHI: The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has moved the Supreme Court against a BJP leader's PIL seeking "uniform grounds of divorce" for all citizens, irrespective of religions they follow. —TNS

AIR TRAVEL SET TO BE COSTLIER FROM APRIL 1

NEW DELHI: Air travel is set to get costlier from April 1 with the Director General of Civil Aviation revising airfare bands sensing recovery of the sector and air traffic nearing pre-Covid levels. BACK PAGE

PETROL RATE HIKE FOR FIFTH DAY IN A ROW

NEW DELHI: The petrol price in Mumbai neared Rs 95 mark as fuel rates were hiked for the fifth day in a row. It was Rs 88.4 a litre in Delhi while diesel rate climbed to Rs 78.74. —PTI

Cable metro part of plan to ease Shimla traffic

BHANU P LOHAMI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



1.20L vehicles registered in Shimla town
2,500 can be accommodated in public parking lots
24,000 remain parked on roadsides in town

remain parked alongside roads. The exact data on private parking is not available. "Shimla city was designed

that limit," said Shimla SP Mohit Chawla, the man behind the latest initiative.

International and best practices were studied and it took around seven months to prepare the vision document, he said. The town has been divided into eight sectors for initiating remedial measures.

The short-term measures listed in the document include deployment of 119 additional traffic police personnel in the town, clearing encroachments, diversion of traffic from busy roads during

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Key accused in akhara shooting held, was sacked by coach: Cops

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, FEBRUARY 13

Sukhwinder, prime suspect in the killing of wrestling coach Manoj Malik, his wife and three others, was arrested in a joint operation by the Delhi and Rohtak police from the Samaypur Badli area of Delhi today.

Sukhwinder, also a wrestling coach, is being interrogated by members of the special investigation team (SIT) constituted

by the Rohtak police to probe the case.

Rahul Sharma, SP, said preliminary investigation revealed that Manoj had recently terminated the services of Sukhwinder following a

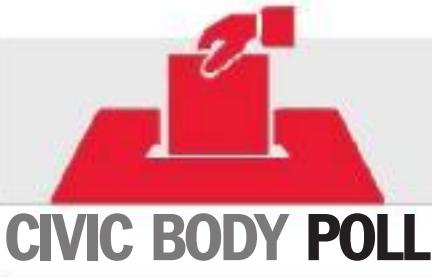
complaint by a woman wrestler. Sukhwinder, who had been nursing a grudge against Manoj, allegedly opened fire at him, his wife Sakshi Malik and several others at an akhara here late Friday evening, killing five of them and injuring many others.

Earlier, the Rohtak police had announced a reward of Rs 1 lakh for information leading to the arrest of Sukhwinder, who is a native of Baroda village in Sonepat.

paper.tribuneindia.com

19K cops deployed as state votes today

9,222 candidates vie for 2,302 wards | Polling from 8 am to 4 pm amid tight security



Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 13
The voting process of elections to eight municipal corporations and 109 municipal councils and municipal panchayats will be held from 8 am to 4 pm on Sunday. All arrangements have been put in place by the administration.

An official spokesperson for the commission said 30 IAS/PCS officers had been deputed as observers to conduct free and fair elections. Apart from this, IG/DIG-level officers had also been appointed as police observers.

IPS Mukhwinder Singh Chhina has been deputed as the observer for SAS Nagar, Roopnagar and Fatehgarh Sahib; Surjeet Singh for



Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Gurdaspur and Pathankot; Baljit Singh Rathore for Bathinda, Mansa and Faridkot; Surinder Kumar Kalia for Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala and SBS Nagar. The spokesperson said Harbaz Singh had been selected as the observer for

Ferozepur, Muktsar, Moga and Fazilka; and Gurinder Singh Dhillon for Patiala, Ludhiana, Barnala and Sangrur. He said the voting would be conducted on electronic voting machines (EVMs) and 7,000 EVMs had been arranged for the purpose. He said the commis-

sion had appointed 20,510 employees for uninterrupted voting. Around 19,000 police personnel had also been deputed to conduct free and fair elections. The spokesperson said 9,222 candidates were in the fray in 2,302 wards. The commission had set up

33 PATIALA BOOTHS HYPERSENSITIVE

Patiala: The district administration of Patiala has deputed 1,800 police officials along with four SP-level officers and eight DSP-level officers in all four municipal council areas. Police officials said 33 polling booths out of 190 in Rajpura, Samana, Nabha and Patran had been earmarked as hyper-sensitive and 50 sensitive.

« Officials carry EVMs at a distribution centre in Amritsar. SUNIL KUMAR

4,102 polling stations for these elections, of which 1,708 were sensitive and 861 hyper-sensitive.

The State Election Commission announced that February 14 and 17 would be dry days. The counting of votes would start at 9 am on February 17.

In Gurdaspur, uneasy calm on election eve

Ravi Dhaliwal
Tribune News Service

Congress MLAs engage in turf war

POLICE ON TOES

“Ten wards have been declared sensitive. Here extra barricades have been set up and cops have been deployed at strategic points based on intelligence inputs.” Parvinder Kaur, DSP (City)

“Ten wards have been declared sensitive. Here extra barricades have been established and cops have been deployed at strategic points based on intelligence inputs,” she said.

The anger against the BJP following the farmers’ unrest is all pervasive. Officers say they are keeping a close watch on all 36 candidates fielded by the party. Many have even been asked to lay low tomorrow.

After Batala, Gurdaspur is on the police watch list. Here the Congress has fielded candidates in all 29 wards while the SAD is contesting in 17 wards. The BJP is contesting 20 wards.

Gurdaspur SAD president Gurbachan Singh Babbari has been alleging that nomination papers of his candidates have been rejected on flimsy grounds. The party is struggling against the tide so much so that it could not find candidates to contest in several wards, including ward No. 17, where incidentally the SAD office is located.

Oppn fears violence, rigging in Bathinda

Tribune News Service

BATHINDA, FEBRUARY 13
Highlighting alleged irregularities in the voters’ list in Bathinda, the SAD and AAP have raised doubts over the intention of the state government and State Election Commission with regard to conducting free and fair elections.

Former SAD minister Sikander Singh Maluka today raised fears of booth capturing and rigging in the MC and nagar panchayat polls with the support of the police.

Maluka said a police officer linked with the Bathinda CIA had warned party candidates and supporters against having party booths outside the polling stations. “Even the administration is also playing in hands of the ruling Con-

gress and has changed a polling station a day prior to the elections,” he said. Referring to irregularities in the voters’ list, Bathinda AAP district president Navdeep Singh Jeeda said there were many flaws which raised suspicion of rigging in

the election.

He said the Bathinda Municipal Corporation had more than 750 names in the voters’ list with incomplete information.

“In the voters’ list, in some cases, photographs are missing while some have missing addresses or

voter card numbers. This raises serious doubts over the intention of the ruling party and the EC,” he added.

“It is the responsibility of the EC to conduct free and fair elections. Such irregularities damage its credibility,” Jeeda added.

AAP leader Navdeep Jeeda addresses the media in Bathinda.

CAPT MADE FALSE PROMISES: MANN

Chandigarh: Aam Aadmi Party state president and Sangrur MP Bhagwant Mann on Saturday said CM Capt Amarinder Singh had made big promises, including waiver of farmers’ debt and ‘ghar ghar rozgar’ to youth, before the 2017 elections. However, four years had passed, but the CM had not fulfilled even a single promise, he claimed.

Nominee’s kin alleges threat, gangster booked

FATEHGHAR SAHIB, FEBRUARY 13
The police have booked Sonu Pehlwan, a gangster from Ludhiana, and around 15 of his accomplices for allegedly threatening to eliminate the husband of a Congress candidate in the Sirhind-Fatehgarh Sahib Municipal Council elections.

As per the FIR lodged with the Fatehgarh Sahib police station under Sections 452 (trespass), 506 (criminal intimidation), 148 (rioting), 149 (unlawful assembly) of the IPC and Section 25 of the Arms Act, Gurjot Singh, husband of Congress can-

didate from ward No. 17 Reeta Rani, claimed around 15 unidentified men surrounded him as he came out of his house in Sirhind city for campaigning.

One of the suspects, Sonu Pehlwan, allegedly pulled out a weapon and threatened to teach him a lesson for contesting on a Congress ticket. Apprehending threat to life, the complainant rushed back into the house and was followed by the suspects, who tried to pry open the door and continued to threaten him. Gurjot said he had to call off campaigning in view of the threat. — OC

SUKHMEET BHASIN
Tribune News Service

BATHINDA, FEBRUARY 13

Many youngsters, particularly women students and professionals with little political background, have been fielded by mainstream parties in Bathinda. The candidates say they are in it for development and to change the way people look at politics.

Mandeep Kaur (26), who has done MCom in finance and was working with a private firm, has been fielded by AAP from ward number 33. She is aiming to bring a revolution in the civic policies and curb corruption. Talking to The Tribune, Mandeep said she wanted

to inspire youngsters to take up politics as a career and remove corruption.

“Instead of blaming the system, one should get actively involved in it to clean it from the inside... So, I decided to contest the polls and bring the change I want to see in society. Mandeep Kaur, NOMINEE

to inspire youngsters to take up politics as a career and remove corruption.

“Instead of blaming the system, one should get actively involved in it to clean it from the inside. In my ward, there is water shortage and problem pertaining to water logging as well. Also, some streets maps have not been approved by the MCB. So, I decided to

contest the polls and bring about the change in society that I want to see,” she said.

Mandeep’s way of campaigning has also attracted much attention. On Thursday night, she, along with her supporters, took out a ‘jaago’ in her ward.

Sareena Goyal (30), who has done MA, MPhil and is currently pursuing PhD, has been fielded by the

JJP from ward number 27. She has been facing repeated backlash with unidentified persons tearing her posters or blackening her face on those.

Unfazed by such incidents, she terms her entry into politics as a social initiative. A postgraduate, Gurpreet Kaur (29) is contesting from ward number 41 on AAP ticket. “A lot of problems are being faced by the women in my ward. I want to be their voice. They run from pillar to post to get their pension or other scheme cards, but nobody listens to them. I will ensure that their work is done with ease,” she said.

FIRs won’t deter us, say Sangrur protesters

SANGRUR, FEBRUARY 13
The farmers’ stir in front of the residence of BJP leader Satwant Singh Punia entered its 124th day today. The protesters have announced intensifying their agitation in the coming days if the central government did not repeal the farm laws.

“The number of women has never receded here as they are well aware that it is their fight also. Many women have been coming here after locking their houses as their male members have gone to the Delhi borders to participate in the protest,” said Gurmail Kaur, a protester.

Stir enters 124th day

Another woman Shinderpal Kaur said the BJP government had been registering false FIRs against farmer leaders. “But their FIRs cannot force us to end the protest,” she said. BKU (Ugrahan) leader Gobinder Singh said they were getting a good response for their agitation as the number of protesters had been increasing. “Majority of protesters have been coming on their own as they have understood that the fight against the central farm laws will go on for a long time,” he said. — TNS



Women hold a demonstration against the three agricultural laws in Sangrur. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Moga farmer dies at Singhu

MOGA, FEBRUARY 13

A 72-year-old Moga farmer, who was taking part in the protest against the three farm laws, died after suffering a cardiac arrest at the Singhu border on the outskirts of Delhi, local officials said today.

The deceased has been identified as Hansa Singh of Said Mohammad village at Dharamkot. His associates said Hansa had gone to the Singhu border over two months ago. Eyewitnesses said after he collapsed on Thursday night, he was taken to a hospital in Sonepat district. However, he was declared brought dead by doctors. His body was cremated at his native village today. — TNS

Patar: Need to spread Guru’s message on co-existence

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 13

The Punjab Arts Council organised an online Trilingual National Kavi Darbar dedicated to the 400th Parkash Purb of Guru Tegh Bahadur.

Nine prominent poets recited their poems and songs in Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu during the event. Punjabi poet and council chairman Surjit Patar inaugurated the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Patar said the significance of the teachings, sacrifice and incomparable martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur had increased even more in the present era when the existence of many religions was threatened by divisions in society. He said some politicians were spreading communal hatred for their petty political interests.



Patar said Guru Tegh Bahadur, known as ‘Hind Di Chadar’, sacrificed his life to save religions and the down-trodden. He called upon poets and scholars to raise their voice against hatred, which was being spread to divide the people on communal and caste lines, and spread the message of co-existence espoused by the Guru. — TNS

Towering Tricolour



A 165-ft Tricolour was hoisted at the Joint Check Post, Hussainiwala, right opposite the Pakistan's 145-ft flag near the zero line. Ferozepur MLA Parminder Singh Pinki unfurled the flag in the presence of senior BSF, civil and police officials. ANIRUDH GUPTA

Pak intruder shot along IB, ₹74-cr heroin seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT

TARN TARAN, FEBRUARY 13 In a joint operation by the Border Security Force (BSF) and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), a Pakistan intruder was shot and 14-kg heroin seized on the intervening night of February 12-13 near the International Border.

A pistol magazine with six live rounds and two mobiles were also recovered from the spot. The 14.8-kg heroin concealed in 14 packets was reported to be worth Rs 74 crore in the international market. The BSF said on specific inputs, a joint ambush was laid at



The 14.8-kg contraband was concealed in 14 packets.

Thekhakan (Khalra) barrier in the district.

Around 2.30 am, the teams observed two intruders enter the Indian side from across the border. The security men heard the sound of

PVC pipes rubbing against the barbed fencing as the suspects transferred packets to the Indian side.

The intruders were challenged by the BSF and heard the sound of cocking of a weapon. The BSF team fired in self-defence in which one intruder was killed near the fencing. The other intruder fled back into the Pakistan territory. It was learnt that Pakistan Rangers, during a flag meeting with the BSF refused to take back the body of their national.

The BSF said 70.904-kg heroin had been recovered and two Pakistan intruders killed so far this year.

Facilitation centres okayed for 15 clusters

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 13

With an aim to speed up recovery from the Covid-induced stress and to create more job opportunities in the state, the government has identified 15 industrial clusters for setting up common facilitation centres (CFCs) under the Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme of the Government of India, said Industries Minister Sunder Sham Arora.

The Centre has given final approval to project reports of Hitech Metal Cluster, Mohali; Oil Expeller & Parts Cluster, Ludhiana; Garments Cluster, Ludhiana; and Foundry Cluster, Kapurthala, for which the central government will provide a grant of 70-90 per cent of the project cost (up to maximum of Rs 15 crore), the minister said.

He said Hi-tech Metal Cluster, Mohali and Oil Expeller & Parts Cluster, Ludhiana, had already been completed, while work on the remaining was in full swing. Auto Tech Cluster, Ludhiana, Sewing Machine Cluster, Ludhiana, and Cutting Tools Cluster, Patiala have got in-principle approval from the government and initial work of capacity building in the remaining was going on, he said. — TNS

False epicentre report triggers panic in Asr

Central body admits to faulty assessment

but unconfirmed reports of cracks appearing in buildings are doing the rounds. However, officials of the district administration said no authentic case of cracks developing in any building had surfaced.

Arshpreet Singh, a resident of Ranjit Avenue, said, "Post dinner, my family was watching programmes on TV when they felt the floor under their feet trembling. They moved out of the house for their safety." There are four seismic zones in India covering 38 cities. Amritsar falls in the fourth zone.

Residents want MLA's kin arrested for Faridkot deaths

FARIDKOT, FEBRUARY 13

A group of residents held a candle march today demanding justice for the three members of a family who died here last week after being allegedly harassed by a relative of a sitting Congress MLA.

The protesters demanded the arrest of suspect Dimpy Vinayak, brother-in-law of Gidderbaha Congress MLA Amrinder Singh Raja Warring. On the basis of a suicide note, the Faridkot police had registered a criminal case under Section 306 (abetment of suicide) of the IPC against Vinayak. A 35-year-old private contractor with the PSPCL, Karan Kataria, had allegedly killed his two children and injured his wife before turning the gun on himself at Narain Nagar here on February 6.



Residents take part in a candle march in Faridkot. TRIBUNE PHOTO

It is alleged the police registered the case against Dimpy amid pressure after a six-page suicide note left by the deceased went viral on the social media. Due to alleged political interference, the police were yet to arrest the suspect. Accusing the police of soft-

pedalling the issue, the participants, including ex-AAP MP Prof Sadhu Singh, claimed instead of making the arrest, the police were pressuring the victim's family to reach a compromise. SHO Gurwinder Singh, however, said investigation was on. — TNS

Ration depot allocation stayed

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 13

The Punjab and Haryana HC has stayed the process of allocation of ration depots in Ludhiana, Patiala and Fazila districts while taking up

three separate petitions. The allocation has already been stayed in Jalandhar and Amritsar. The matters will now come up for hearing on March 3. — TNS

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CORRIGENDUM

The dates of online publication/download of tenders, called through e-procurement vide this Office Notice Inviting Tender No. PW-GHR-CB-NIT-E-Tendering/2019-20-10285-314 dated 10.12.2020, are hereby extended as below, due to some administrative/Technical reasons.

1. Date of Online publication	May be read as 01.03.2021 17:00 Hrs. instead of 15.02.2021 17:00 Hrs.
2. Document Download start date	May be read as 01.03.2021 17:00 Hrs. instead of 15.02.2021 17:00 Hrs.
3. Bid submission start date	May be read as 01.03.2021 17:30 Hrs. instead of 15.02.2021 17:30 Hrs.
4. Bid submission end date	May be read as 15.03.2021 17:00 Hrs. instead of 03.03.2021 17:00 Hrs.
5. Physical submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	May be read as 16.03.2021 11:00 Hrs. instead of 04.03.2021 11:00 Hrs.
Bid Opening Date	May be read as 16.03.2021 11:30 Hrs. instead of 04.03.2021 11:30 Hrs.

All other terms & conditions will remain un-changed.

Executive Engineer,
Gohar Division,(B&R), HP.PWD.Gohar.

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre, Mohali-VI, requires a Physiotherapist, Age 25 to 45 years, on purely contract basis. For ESM age limit 50 years. Applications along with Bio-Data and Photocopies of experience and qualification certificates to reach by 15 Mar 2021 to Director, Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre, Sector-56, Phase-VI, Mohali (Pb.), PIN – 160055. Telephone: 0172-2225352.

Sd/- Director,
Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre,
Mohali.

DI-20402

GYMKHANA CLUB SECTOR-1 MDC, PANCHKULA

(0172-2558888, 2559855, 2559755)

The Gymkhana Club MDC Panchkula/Shivalik Country Club offering the Temporary Visitors Members Category as "Golden Card Holder" from time to time for persons who are interested to use the facilities of Gym, Squash Court, T.T., Yoga, Swimming Pool, & Spa etc. for individual person only for the residents of Panchkula, Chandigarh & Mohali on annual basis @ Rs. 50,000/- per year + GST & usual charges for usage of facilities. This number shall be restricted to 100 and they shall be offered time slots for the said facilities as decided from time to time by Club Management.

Sd/- Gen. Manager

PRDH/1298/11/1/2021/1775/31/4

kannriya vidyalay baniyeket, eneaposi, dhalhojji kent (jila chba) hi. pr. - 176303
dusmabh :- 01899 - 254679,292224
deksa :- <https://banikhk.kvs.ac.in> deksa :- kvdalhouse@gmail.com

वार्ष - इन इंटरव्यू - वर्ष 2021-22

सीविडामक आधार पर विनियोग पदों का पैनल तैयार करते हैं।

Interview for preparing Contractual panel for various posts (2021-22)

विद्यालय में दिनांक 26.02.2021 एवं 27.02.2021 को प्रातः 9:00 बजे सीविडामक आधार पर नियमित विनियोग पदों पर नियुक्ति हुई पैनल तैयार किया जायेगा।

राजाकारण का दिनांक और समय

Date and time of Interview

26.02.2021 पूर्व 08:00 बजे से 09:00 बजे तक

पैचाकारण और 09:10 बजे से साहाकारण

27.02.2021 पूर्व 08:00 बजे से 09:00 बजे तक

पैचाकारण और 09:10 बजे से साहाकारण

इच्छुक एवं योग्य उम्मीदवार विद्यालय की वेबसाइट <https://banikhk.kvs.ac.in> से आवेदन कार्ड डाउनलोड कर दूसरे रूप से भर (along with copy of certificates) अथवा साहाकारण के दिवस विद्यालय में सम्मिलित प्रमाण पत्रों की छापाप्रतियोगी के साथ एक फोटो अवधारणा लाए। उक्त विद्यालय पूर्णत अस्थाय नियुक्ति हुई है जिसके कार्यालय की गारंटी नहीं दी जा सकती।

वर्ष 2021-22 के लिए फर्मों का पंजीकरण

REGISTRATION OF FIRMS FOR THE YEAR 2021-22

केन्द्रीय विद्यालय डलहोजी (बनीखेत, एनएचपीसी, डलहोजी केंट (जिला चंबा) हि. प्र. - 176303

दूसमाख :- 01899 - 254679,292224

देक्षा :- <https://banikhk.kvs.ac.in> देक्षा :- kvdalhouse@gmail.com

वार्ष - इन इंटरव्यू - वर्ष 2021-22

सीविडामक आधारित विनियोग पदों का पैनल तैयार करते हैं।

Interview for preparing Contractual panel for various posts (2021-22)

विद्यालय में दिनांक 26.02.2021 एवं 27.02.2021 को प्रातः 9:00 बजे सीविडामक आधार पर नियमित विनियोग पदों पर नियुक्ति हुई पैनल तैयार किया जायेगा।

राजाकारण का दिनांक और समय

Date and time of Interview

26.02.2021 पूर्व 08:00 बजे से 09:00 बजे तक

पैचाकारण और 09:10 बजे से साहाकारण

27.02.2021 पूर्व 08:00 बजे से 09:00 बजे तक

पैचाकारण और 09:10 बजे से साहाकारण

इच्छुक एवं योग्य उम्मीदवार विद्यालय की वेबसाइट <https://banikhk.kvs.ac.in> से आवेदन कार्ड डाउनलोड कर दूसरे रूप से भर (along with copy of certificates) अथवा साहाकारण के दिवस विद्यालय में सम्मिलित प्रमाण पत्रों की छापाप्रतियोगी के साथ एक फोटो अवधारणा लाए। उक्त विद्यालय पूर्णत अस्थाय नियुक्ति हुई है जिसके कार्यालय की गारंटी नहीं दी जा सकती।

वर्ष 2021-22 के लिए फर्मों का पंजीकरण

REGISTRATION OF FIRMS FOR THE YEAR 2021-22

केन्द्रीय विद्यालय डलहोजी (बनीखेत, एनएचपीसी, डलहोजी केंट (जिला चंबा) हि. प्र. - 176303

दूसमाख :- 01899 - 254679,292224

देक्षा :- <https://banikhk.kvs.ac.in> देक्षा :- kvdalhouse@gmail.com

वार्ष - इन इंटरव्यू - वर्ष 2021-22

सीविडामक आधारित विनियोग पदों का पैनल तैयार करते हैं।

Interview for preparing Contractual panel for various posts (2021-22)

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राजाकारण का दिनांक और समय

Date and time of Interview

26.02.2021 पूर्व 08:00 बजे से 09:00 बजे तक

पैचाकारण और 09:10 बजे से साहाकारण

27.02.2021 पूर्व 08:00 बजे से 09:00 बजे तक

पैचाकारण और 09:1

नगर निगम, डगवाहा
धी-टेंडर नेटिस

नंबर: 658/CE
 नगर निगम, डगवाहा वैल दिवास दे 46.95 लंब्ध रुपए दे कोंग लाली भवन बहादुरगढ़ा लंब्ध कै
 अपेटिव माइट्रीटोर अचे ठेकारां वैल सुरीयपाई हीटिंग दी मंग मिति 04.03.2021 उत्तर
 वीडी जांची हो। देवेंज सरकारी लाली पंजाब सरकारी लाली डैम्पर्सीट www.procp.punjab.gov.in ते एकांगा जांस्थिर हो।

DPR/Pb/1491

सरी/- निगरान एंजिनीअर, नगर निगम, डगवाहा



केन्द्रीय विद्यालय डीबीएन शिकार (बी.एस.एफ)
 ८९ वीं वाहिनी, बैप्स्टाफ - शिकार मुख्यालय, गुरुदासपुर (पंजाब) - 143605
 दृश्य - ०१८१-२०७६५५ ईमेल - kvhshikar@gmail.com वेबसाईट - www.shikarpurbsf.kvs.ac.in

फॉर्म पंजीयन / Registration of Firms

केन्द्रीय विद्यालय-डीबीएन शिकार (बी.एस.एफ) में सत्र 2021-2022 हेतु विद्यालय के लिए समय-समय पर उपयोगी सामाजी प्रदान करने हेतु इच्छुक व्यक्ति अथवा कर्म अपना पंजीयन दिनांक 20.03.2021 तक व्यक्तिगत रूप से उपरिकृत होकर या डाक के माध्यम से कर सकते हैं। पंजीयन कर्म विद्यालय की वेबसाईट www.shikarpurbsf.kvs.ac.in से डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं।

प्राचार्य

**Office of the Chief Medical Officer
Chamba, District Chamba**

No. NHM/CBA/ADHP/19-

Dated-

CORIGENDUM

This is with reference to tender No - NHM/CBA/ADHP/19-1572-77 on Dated - 23.01.2021 regarding printing of IEC material. Average annual turnover may be read as Rs. 2 lakh in place of Rs. 5 lakh.

**Chief Medical Officer,
Chamba, Distt. Chamba HP.**

DPR/HP/5748

**GOVT. OF PUNJAB
DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION
PUNJAB RURAL WATER & SANITATION SECTOR
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFBI), THROUGH E-TENDERING SYSTEM

(eproc.punjab.gov.in)

The Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation Divn No. 2, Ferozepur on Behalf of Chairman GPWSC Bodal Pire Ke Guruharsai Dist. Ferozepur invites, bid from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the following table, the bids shall be on lumpsum/ Item rate basis.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Approx. value of work (In lacs)	Bid Security (Rs)	1.Tender Processing fee	Period of Completion
1	Providing Water Supply 72,93,746/- Scheme Bodal Pire Ke Block Guruharsai Distt. Ferozepur Under Head (लाइ) JMM	145,875/-	As per website	10+3 Months	

1. Availability of bidding document on website from 15.02.2021 at 10:00 to 16.02.2021 at 16:00 HOURS

2. Prebid Meeting at Superintending Engineer, WSS Circle, Ferozepur Office on dt 02.03.2021 at 11.15 AM

2. The dead line for submission of bids online is 16.03.2021 at 16:00 HOURS

3. Part I bid named Technical Qualification part of bid will be opened on 17.03.2021 at 11:00 HOURS

Note :
 1) Other details including eligibility criteria of bidders can be seen in the bidding documents on websites : <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the User ID and Password for participating in e-tendering may obtain the same by registering in the e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>). The contractors once registered can participate in any of the department tenders of Government of Punjab. All other details can be seen in the bidding document. For any clarification/difficulty regarding e-tendering process flow, please contact on our helpdesk numbers 01722791326, 01791226
 2) Bidder has to pay the Bid security through online must be furnished through e-payment facility available at website.
 3) Corrigendum if any, will be given on above website & will not be advertised in Newspapers.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,
W/S & Sanitation Division No. 2, Ferozepur
On behalf of Chairman GPWSC VIII. Bodal Pire Ke
Block Guruharsai, Distt-Ferozepur**

DPR/Pb/1504

**HIMACHAL PRADESH IRRIGATION AND
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**
FOR E-TENDERING

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Anni, District Kullu (H.P.) invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work through e-tendering process:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Cost of Tender
1	Augmentation of WSS Nagot Pali, WSS Kritua Kohila and WSS Parkot Kamand Phase-IV th in GP Kohila in Anni Block, Distt. Kullu (H.P) (SH: C/o Intake Chambers = 5 Nos., C/o Storage Tank 11500 Ltr Cap. at Node D, C/o Storage Tank 10000 Ltr. capacity at Node E, Laying, Jointing and Testing of GI pipe 20mm dia at Point C to X from RD 0 to 700 = 700 Rmt & 20mm dia at Point C to Z from RD 0 to 600 = 600 Rmt, 20mm dia at Point B to 10 from RD 0 to 600 = 600 Rmt, 32mm dia point A to 1 from RD 0 to 600 = 600 Rmt & Providing water supply connection for 183 No's households (under Jal Jeevan Mission.)	856749.00	17135.00	6 Months	250/-

2 Aug. of WSS Buchairi, WSS Upper and Lower Tarala and WSS Khadvi Kafri in GP Buchairi in Anni Block, Distt. Kullu (SH: C/o Intake Chamber = 8 Nos., C/o Storage Tank 20000Ltr capacity at Node C & B, C/o Storage Tank 10000 Ltr capacity at Node D & G, C/o Storage Tank 15000 Ltr capacity at Node A, Laying, Jointing and Testing of GI pipe 32mm dia point A to 2 from RD 0 to 800 = 800 Rmt, & point C to 22 from RD 0 to 1400 = 1400 Rmt, and Providing water supply connection for 444 No's households (under Jal Jeevan Mission.)

1834845.00 36697/- 6 400/-

3 Retrofitting of WSS Manjapal Lagoon in G.P.Durah in Nirmand Block, Distt. Kullu (H.P) (SH: C/o Sector Storage Tank 10000 Ltr Cap. at Node 2 & point B, and Laying, Jointing and Testing of GI pipe 20 mm = 750 & G.I pipe of 25 mm = 3000 mts and installation of Function house water tap connections (under Jal Jeevan Mission.)

74456.00 14889/- 3 Months 250/-

4 Augmentation of WSS Khaneg and WSS to L/S Sub Village Lajheri in Anni Block, Distt. Kullu (SH: C/o 7 Nos. Intake Chambers, C/o Sector Storage Tanks at Node F=40000 Ltr cap. at node H 13000 Lts cap at Node N=10000 Lts cap, Laying, Jointing and Testing of G.I. pipe 50mm =250mts and Providing & Installation of functional water tap connection for 46 households under (Jal Jeevan Mission.)

1170018.00 23400/- 4 Months 400/-

5 Retrofitting of WSS Koil in Nirmand Block, Distt. Kullu (SH: C/o RCC Head weir = 2 Nos., C/o Intake chambers (2 Nos.), C/o Sector Storage Tank 5000 Lts at point B1, 10000 litres cap at Node K& each. Laying, Jointing and Testing of GI pipe 20 mm dia = 1790Rmt, 32mm dia = 3060 Rmt, 40 mm dia G.I pipe = 740mm and 65 mm dia = 2900 mts (under Jal Jeevan Mission.)

178277.00 35655/- 4 Months 400/-

6 Retrofitting of WSS Koil in Nirmand Block, Distt. Kullu (SH: C/o Sedimentation tank 10313 Lts Cap, Filter Tank units 3 of 27.23 Sqmt. Laying, Jointing and Testing of GI pipe 65 mm dia = 3700 Rmt, (under Jal Jeevan Mission.)

1973873.00 39477/- 6 Months 400/-

1 Last Date of filling/uploading the tender through e-tendering:- 18.02.2021 up to 05:00 PM.

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from the website www.hptenders.gov.in or from office of above Executive Engineer, up to date specified above.

DPR/HP/5755

Bill to recover damages in next session: Khattar

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 13
 Chief Minister ML Khattar today met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and said that he discussed the farmers' agitation and organisational issues in the meeting.

After a late-night meeting,

Khattar also said the Haryana Government would bring a Bill in the next session to recover losses for damaged public property. Khattar said that he informed Shah of the ongoing farmers' stir and maha-panchayats. — TNS

Appointment of Contractual Teachers

केन्द्रीय विद्यालय-डीबीएन शिकार (बी.एस.एफ) में सत्र 2021-2022 के लिए पूर्णतः अशकालीन सविद्या के आधार पर विभिन्न पदों जैसे PGT/TGT/PRT/Sports Coach cum Yoga/Nurse/ Art & Crafts Music & Dance/Counsellor इत्यादि दीपैल बनाया जाना है। 18 से 65 वर्ष के मध्य आयु वाले योग्य अभ्यर्थी इन पदों हेतु आवेदन कर सकते हैं। यथावत् नियमानुसार किया जाएगा। अधिक जानकारी, योग्यता, नियम-शर्त तथा आवेदन पत्र विद्यालय की वेबसाईट www.shikarpurbsf.kvs.ac.in से प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं। इन पदों हेतु ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण दिनांक 14.02.2021 से 01.03.2021 तक विद्यालय की वेबसाईट पर किए जाएंगे। अभ्यर्थी परीक्षा/ साक्षात्कार की तारीख की जानकारी हेतु विद्यालय की वेबसाईट www.shikarpurbsf.kvs.ac.in का अवलोकन 01.03.2021 के उपरांत करते रहें।

PUBLIC NOTICE

Announcement of Award for acquisition of land for construction of National Highways for Land owners/Persons interested therein and payment of compensation Amount.

Kind attention of all landowners/interested persons is invited to the Notification dated 12.02.2019 issued under Section 3A of the NH Act, 1956 for acquisition of land for the building/ construction of a National Highway and the Notification dated 11.02.2020 issued under Section 3D of the NH Act, 1956 and published in the following newspapers:

Sr. No.	Notification	Name of Newspapers in which published	Date of Newspaper
1.	Section 3A	The Tribune (English), Dainik Savera (Hindi) & Jagran (Punjabi)	22.02.2019
2.	Section 3D	Times of India (English) & Ajit (Punjabi)	27.02.2020

It is informed that the undersigned has announced the Award in respect of Village Chappa Ram Singh, Fatehpur Rajputan, Nawanshahid, Gill, Tarfan, Rasulpur Kalan and Akalgarh Dhanipur under Section 3G of the NH Act, 1956 vide order dated 20.08.2020 and 08.09.2020.

The land acquiring agency (MoRTH/NHAI/NHIDCL) has placed the requisite amount of compensation at the disposal of the undersigned. Notices have also been issued to the concerned landowners/interested persons as required under Section 3(E) of the NH Act, 1956.

Accordingly, all the concerned landowners/interested persons are hereby informed/notified through this additional Public notice that the Compensation amount is hereby offered to all the landowners. Further, it may be noted that:

1) The compensation amount in respect of all such landowners, who have already submitted their Bank account details, will be credited to their respective Bank Accounts through RTGS. You are requested to check the bank details in the office of undersigned on any working day within 1 week of this notice.

2) The landowners, who have not submitted their Bank Accounts details, may do so immediately in the office of the undersigned and the amount shall be credited to their accounts within one week of the receipt of such Bank Account details;

3) All other claimants entitled to receive the compensation amount may collect their amount of compensation from the office of the undersigned on any working day between 9:00 am to 5:00 pm within a period of 60 days.

It may further be noted that since the amount of Compensation has been determined and tendered to the concerned landowners/persons interested therein through his additional public notice, any failure to collect the compensation amount would be to their account and the amount shall be deemed to have been paid on expiry of this period of sixty days from the date of publishing of this notice.

The landowners/persons interested therein are further called upon to surrender or deliver the possession of the subject land to the undersigned, failing which the possession of subject land will be taken with police assistance on expiry of the period of 60 days.

In a press statement issued by the Assembly Speaker Gian Chand Gupta. The panel has presented its recommendations. CM Manohar Lal Khattar has approved the recommendations, which have cleared the way for passing the Bill in this regard. After that, Gupta held a meeting with Chief Secretary Vijai Vardhan, Secretary Vidhan Sabha Rajender Kumar Nandal and Legal Remembrancer (LR) Bimlesh Tanwar.

'A Bill will be brought in the House session starting from March 5 for replacing the word 'Punjab' with 'Haryana' in 163 laws,' said Gupta.

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Zahoor Ahmad Rather

Charges framed against former cop for attack on CRPF convoy

Tribune News Service

**BANIHAL INCIDENT**

The case relates to an attack on the CRPF convoy at Tethar, Banihal, Ramban district, J&K, by a terrorist who had exploded an explosive-laden Santro car on March 30, 2019 with the intention of killing security personnel and waging war against the Government of India.

National Investigation Agency

Top TRF ultra held in Samba

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 13

A top terrorist affiliated with The Resistance Front (TRF), wanted in connection with the killing of three BJP workers and a policeman in south Kashmir last year, was arrested in Samba district, the police said on Saturday.

Zahoor Ahmad Rather, alias Sahil, Khalid, was hiding in Samba district of the Jammu region and was arrested on specific information by the Anantnag police, a senior police official said.

The Resistance Front is an offshoot of the LeT. — PTI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today said it had filed a supplementary chargesheet in a case relating to an attack on the CRPF convoy at Banihal in March 2019 against Hizb-ul-Mujahideen terrorist Naveed Mushtaq Shah, a former constable of the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Police, in a special court in Jammu.

The charges were framed under various sections of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC), Explosive Substances Act, Jammu and Kashmir Public Property (Prevention of Damage) Act and Unlawful Activities (Perversion) Act (UAPA), NIA officials said.

In the chargesheet it has been alleged that accused Naveed, who is a former constable of the J&K Police, had deserted the force with

arms and ammunition in 2017, when he was posted as a guard on the Food Corporation of India (FCI) premises in Budgam, the officials said, adding that he later joined the terror group Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and became its active member.

"Investigation has established that accused Naveed

was actively involved in the planning and execution of the attack on the CRPF convoy in Banihal along with other terrorists Riyaz Ahmed Naikoo, Rayees Ahmed Khan and Dr Saifullah Mir, who were subsequently killed in encounters with security forces," a senior NIA official said.

Deceased terrorists Sahil Abdullah Bhat, Adil Bashir Sheikh and Zubair Ahmed Wani were also actively involved in the preparation of the explosives that went into the making of the IED," he said, adding that the charges had also been abated against the deceased terrorists involved in the conspiracy.

PAGD wins DDC chairperson election in Bandipora

INDEPENDENTS BAG POSTS IN POONCH

In the Jammu region, while Independents won both the posts in Poonch district, voting could not take place in the three districts of Ramban, Rajouri and Kishtwar due to lack of quorum.

In Poonch, Tazim Akhtar was elected chairperson of the DDC and Mohammad Ashfaq vice-chairperson.

phase of the polls, the chairpersons and vice-chairpersons for the DDCs in Baramulla and Bandipora, both in north Kashmir, were elected

on Saturday, the officials said.

They said the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) won the election to the post of the chair-

person in Bandipora district and an Independent candidate won from Baramulla.

In Bandipora, candidate of the PAGD Abdul Gani Bhat from the NC was elected the chairperson, while Kaunsar Shafeeq of the PDP was elected as the vice-chairperson, the officials said.

The PAGD has won five chairperson posts in the Valley after the successes in Kulgam, Ganderbal, Pulwama and Anantnag. — PTI

'Reform push to make nation top economy'

Budget has set the pace for India to become "self-reliant" so as to become one of the top economies in the world.

Responding to Gandhi's speech on Thursday, during which he talked about the recent farm laws and not on the Budget proposals, she said:

"It's clear that their (Congress) belief in a democratically elected parliamentary system is finished." She said she wanted Rahul to speak on 10 issues, but was disappointed.

"I wanted to know from the

Congress why it took a U-turn on the farm laws. But no reply came," she remarked, even as she questioned the steps taken by the Congress-ruled Punjab Government to stop stubble-burning.

"Rahul Gandhi did not refer to any clause in the three farm laws which, he claims, are against the farmers," the Finance Minister pointed out. On the "Hum do, hamare do," jibe, Sitharaman retorted: "The Modi government works for the common people, not for crony capitalists."

J&K to get statehood at appropriate time: Shah

quoted BR Ambedkar to say, "Kings will now be born in J&K from the ballot of voters and not from the wombs of queens." The minister was referring to successful conduct of panchayat and district development council polls and said 21 subjects of governance, including mining, had been decentralised in J&K and Rs 1,500 crore provided for the works.

The minister also rejected Congress' allegations that 4G was restored under foreign pressure.

On charges of human rights violations, Shah said, "These charges are relevant to times when three families ruled J&K. They never cared for the rights of West Pakistani refugees, Valmikis and Kashmiri Pandits because these people didn't comprise their vote bank."

Shah invited sharp reactions after he said their government "worked on feelings, not laws". "The Modi government does not work on laws. Modi government does not work on schemes and

planning. It works on sentiments. We believe Jammu and Kashmir is ours. The people of J&K are ours. The whole country stands with Jammu and Kashmir. J&K will get statehood the moment development of the region, derailed by the "three-family rule", is restored to an appropriate level," Shah said.

Congress MP Ravneet Bittu attacked Shah saying, "We knew all along that this government does what it feels right... it has no care for laws."

WESTERN RAILWAY E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No.S/06/2021 Date 10.02.2021

S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
111	Equipped Hopper Assy.	176 Pairs	26.02.2021
112	Catenary Ending Clamp (65)	1652 Set	01.03.2021
113	Stainless Steel Wire Rope	1466 Nos.	01.03.2021
114	Micro Filter Element for Final Filter	89 Nos.	02.03.2021
115	Instrument Cooling Fan	289 Nos.	02.03.2021
116	Flexible Poly Vinyl Chloride [PVC] flooring sheet	120 Nos.	03.03.2021
117	M.C.Controller	9 Nos.	03.03.2021
118	Capacitor	3496 Nos.	03.03.2021
119	Capacitor Suitable for RC Damping Network	437 Nos.	03.03.2021
120	Circuit Breaker for Convertor Oil Pump	11 Nos.	03.03.2021
121	Sliding Door	20 Nos.	03.03.2021
122	Piston Head Disc	800 Nos.	04.03.2021
123	Catenary Wire Splice (65mm)	1271 Set	05.03.2021
124	Fan Chamber	41 Nos.	05.03.2021
125	Vertical Damper Capacity 400 Kg	304 Nos.	05.03.2021
126	MMI Cab Control Panel for MRVC-II EMU Rake	11 Nos.	05.03.2021
127	Permanent Field Divert	15 Nos.	05.03.2021
128	Set of Labyrinth and Bearing Cap and Clamp Plate (DE)	156 Set	06.03.2021
129	Supply of SSDAC	32 Set	08.03.2021
130	Supply of Roof Mounted Ventilation Unit	44 Set	08.03.2021
131	Roller Bearing WJP 130 x 240 PE	128 Set	08.03.2021
132	Axle box bearing (Tapered roller bearing) for WAP-5	20 Nos.	08.03.2021
133	Stainless Steel Dustbin for BIO-Toilets	2500 Nos.	09.03.2021
134	Circuit breaker DC supply	12 Nos.	09.03.2021
135	Juniper Hood 40 mm	58 Nos.	10.03.2021
136	Juniper Hood 48 mm	25 Nos.	10.03.2021
137	F.S. All Steel Locknut Size M24 for WAP7	6552 Nos.	10.03.2021
138	R/W Paint Golden Yellow	22640 Ltrs.	11.03.2021
139	Bolster liner size 153mm X 120mm X 8mm thick	19734 Nos.	11.03.2021

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.irps.gov.in and www.wirailways.gov.in.

For Principal Chief Materials Manager

Lokesh Kumar, 602, Sector 37, Chandigarh

Mobile No.: 9810000000, Email ID: lokesh_kumar@westernrailways.gov.in

Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRail Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRail

Cable metro part of plan to ease Shimla traffic

peak hours and introducing shuttle services.

Increased use of public transport, cable metro projects, multi-storey parking lots at strategic points, widening of roads, construction of overbridges, expansion of the old ISBT and shifting of Lakkar Bazaar bus stand to Dhaliali are some of the long-term measures suggested in the vision document.

The plan identifies 22 traffic bottlenecks in the town. It blames traffic chaos on acute shortage of parking space, haphazard parking alongside narrow roads, lack of traffic sense among people and existence of offices, hospitals, educational institutions and shopping centres along busy road.

The performance of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will be keenly watched. It is the first election with the reins of the campaign firmly with the young and energetic Raghav Chadha, in-charge of AAP affairs in Punjab, and not Sangrur MP Bhagwant Mann.

The BJP, contesting on

Congress questions...

we should protect farmers' interests by mandating through statutory provisions that no farmer-trader transaction should be below MSP"

The report, which the Congress veteran referred to, says under 'Enforce MSP' section: "Enforce MSP since intermediaries play a vital role in the functioning of the market and at times they have advance contracts with the farmers. In respect of all essential commodities,

High-stake elections...

its own after three decades, is testing the waters. Besides facing public anger over the Centre's three farm laws, it doesn't have a widespread network in the state. Nevertheless, the party is hoping to maintain its hold over key pockets of Gurdaspur and surrounding areas.

CALENDAR

February 14, 2021, Sunday

- Vickram Samvat 2077
- Shaika Samvat 1942
- Magh Shaka 25
- Phalgun Parvishite 3
- Hijri 1442
- Siddha Paksha Tithi 3, up to 2:00 am
- Purvabhadrapad Nakshatra up to 4:33 pm
- Moon enters Pisces sign 10.09 am

Parl panel mulls LAC visit...

LAC standoff, alleging that the government had "ceded" Indian territory to the Chinese.

The government has denied the claim as "misinformation". The sources today questioned Rahul's frequent absence

from the panel meetings.

The Congress, meanwhile, decided to step up the offensive on the issue and has called a press conference of former Defence Minister AK Antony on the matter on Sunday.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
1.	Providing Street Lights on the Road in Front of Nirankari Bhawan, Mauli Jagran, Manimajra, Chandigarh. DNIT Amount: Rs.10,47,656/- Earnest Money: Rs.20,954/- Time Limit: 30 Days	09.02.2021 To 19.02.2021 at 11:00 A.M.	19.02.2021 at 12:00 P.M.
2.	Shifting of Street Light Poles and Laying of Circuit Cables on Slow Carriage Road, Sector 32 A/B, Chandigarh under Sub Division No. 4, M.C., Chandigarh. DNIT Amount: Rs. 6,32,820/- Tender Fee: Rs. 1000/- Earnest Money: Rs. 12,657/- Time Limit: 30 Days	09.02.2021 To 19.02.2021 at 11:00 A.M.	19.02.2021 at 12:00 P.M.
3.	Laying of main cable at Material Recovery Facility-cum-Garbage Transfer Station, 3BRD, Chandigarh-Electrical Connection-Reg. DNIT Amount: Rs. 17,42,766/- Tender Fee: Rs. 1000/- Earnest Money: Rs. 34,856/- Time Limit: 30 Days	11.02.2021 To 16.02.2021 at 01:00 P.M.	16.02.2021 at 02:00 P.M.
4.	Providing and fixing of C.I. benches in various green belt of Sector 39 and 40, Chandigarh under WDF. DNIT Amount: Rs. 7,09,500/- Earnest Money: 14,190/- Time Limit: Two Months	15.02.2021 To 22.02.2021 at 03:00 P.M.	22.02.2021 at 03:00 P.M.
5.	Construction of Toe Wall under MS Flat Railing and Fixing of Red Sandstone under benches in Green Belts of Sector 39 and 40, Chandigarh under WDF. DNIT Amount: Rs. 6,98,987/- Earnest Money: 13,980/- Time Limit: Two Months	15.02.2021 To 22.02.2021 at 03:00 P.M.	22.02.2021 at 03:00 P.M.
6.	Purchase of 05 Nos. Tractor Driven Power Sprayer for use in Horticulture Division No. 1 & 2, M.C., Chandigarh. DNIT Amount: Rs. 7,19,800/- Earnest Money: Rs. 14,396/-	12.02.2021 To 22.02.2021 at 11:15 A.M.	22.02.2021 at 11:15 A.M.

The Tender Notice alongwith detailed terms and conditions is available/uploaded on website at www.chandigarh.gov.in or etenders.chd.nic.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (Elect.)-cum-NODAL OFFICER (H&E Circle)
M.C., New Deluxe Building, Room No. 402, Sector 17, Chandigarh

MATRIMONIALS

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

JAT SIKH

Jat Sikh girl working as DGM with IT Firm, MBA-IT, Age 35, 5'-6". 25 LPA. Nice marriage. WhatsApp 93134-16445. (CL20094745)

Jatt Sikh MBBS, convert educated girl, 1992, 5'-5", USMLE-1 & CS cleared. Seeking US citizen or doing Residency. Please correspond with biodata and picture. E-mail: dockinr2020@gmail.com (CL20096847)

Canada PR Jat Sikh Sidhu girl 1989, 5'-3", BDS, Dental Hygienist, AFK (Step 1st clear). Only Canadian or USA Doctors or Engineer prefers. Contact 98140-05337. (CL20096214)

Match for Jat Sikh Canadian PR girl, B.Com, MBA, March 1993, 5'-5", very pretty, attractive and intelligent working in bank, also pursuing CPA Programme, boy should be equally qualified, having well paying permanent job/business in Canada and abstainer from intoxicants. Reply with complete details of family and boy with 5/6 recent photos. WhatsApp +90568-19191. (CL20096878)

Suitable match for beautiful Jat Sikh Brar girl 1985 5'-5" Graduate, GNM, IELTS 5 Band, 97808-47505 Bathinda. (CL20094920)

Jat Sikh girl, 92 born, 5'-4", MBBS Usme step 1 & 2 done. Looking for educated boy either doctor Lawyer, Engineer preferably in Canada. Contact with details WhatsApp: 60444-64520. (CL20095136)

Wanted well settled handsome boy for fair, beautiful slim, 5'-3", July 1991, pursuing Ph.D Maths. 88470-56114. (CL20095266)

Suitable match for Jatt Sikh girl, 1993/ 5'-7", B.Sc. Hons School and M.Sc. Hons School in Zoology from Punjab University Chandigarh, CSIR, UGC, JRF, GATE qualified, pursuing Ph.D. from Deptt. of Zoology, Punjab University Chandigarh. Younger brother Canada. Mohali, Fatehgarh Sahib, Khanna, Patiala nearby preferred. Contact 84735-71465. WhatsApp 98766-01326. (CL20095353)

Jat Sikh girl 36, 5'-8", innocent issueless divorcee after one month, M.Sc. Cosmetology & Health Care, MA, B.Ed., 3 visits to Australian younger brother & Bhabhi permanent settled Australia, seeks NRI or good settled in India, 36/40 issueless only, bureau excuse. 98761-40028, 0061469035229. (CL20095461)

Match for Jatt Sikh girl 1990, 5'-2", BCA, M.Sc. IT, working as Assistant Manager in Bank. Issueless divorce after 20 days of marriage. M: 98148-11974 (Ldh.). (CL20095497)

Smart young beautiful Jatt Sikh girl 26, 5'-8", Nursing done, Canada working 5 years, PR applied, seeks well settled businessman/serviceman, Canadian PR preferred. Mail: jatindersingh45321@gmail.com (CL20095510)

Jat Sikh two sisters MD 1.1.1988/ 5'-5" contact both expatriates and settled in India Jat Sikh MD Skin specialist 2nd year 13.4.1991/ 5'-6". 62393-40005. (CL20095525)

Only Jatt Sikh US based well educated and professionally qualified match for 92 born Jat Sikh girl, who is working in medical device industry in USA. Masters in Biotechnology from US, 5'-4" born and raised in Punjab. Contact 91-9814-761540 on WhatsApp if interested. (CL20095803)

Upper middle class Jatt Sikh family seeks match for their US citizen daughter, 32, 5'-3", doing Residency (Internal Medicine). Please respond to: californiabarr@yahoo.com (CL20097362)

Jat Sikhs parents invite matrimonial alliance for their daughter 32 yrs old, 5'-11" tall, beautiful, family oriented, never married, MBA professionally employed in California. The boy should be professionally qualified, tall and well settled in USA with family values. Serious enquires only. Please respond with latest photo and biodata to gunpreet113@icloud.com or call at +15165030142. (CL20089891)

Well educated, reputed Jat Sikh family seeks PQM match for their slim, beautiful, qualified daughter 5'-6", Dec. 1984 born, working in Software company, issueless divorce. Father retired Senior Officer, well settled family. WhatsApp No.99710-01575, match84@outlook.com Send full family details & picture. (CL20089076)

Army Doctor/Indian Airforce/Indian landlord Garcha family looking for well educated match from reputed landlord family for their daughter, June 1991 born/ height 5'-6", beautiful, slim, B.A, M.A, B.Ed, M.Ed, homely. WhatsApp bio with pic on 79752-5439 or call on 79866-55380. (CL20089666)

MD/MS/MBBS match preferred for beautiful, Jatt Sikh 1990/5'-5", MBBS girl. Contact 92177-69396, WhatsApp: 70098-60490. (CL20091983)

Well educated Jat Sikh family seeking match for their extremely beautiful and very smart daughter, 35, 5'-6", working as a Doctor in USA. Divorced after a brief marriage. Looking for tall, handsome, well qualified boy belonging to a respectable Jat Sikh family. Please respond with bio data and pictures to docmat11@gmail.com. (CL20092226)

Patiala based Jat Sikh family seeks match for Assistant Professor daughter, August 1991 born, 5'-6", 9041997833, WhatsApp 9463613917. (CL20094485)

Professional non turban Jatt Sikh match for 5'-3", November 1992 born daughter. MBA (USA) now professionally employed in USA, belonging to old chief of Punjab family. Father Advocate, mother retired College Lecturer. Family owns urban and rural agricultural property in India. US citizen preferred. Respond with biodata and recent pictures to matrimony1192@gmail.com (CL20094583)

Match for beautiful Jatt Sikh girl, 5'-5", Nov 1990, Software Engineer in USA. Contact: matri5223@gmail.com, +91 6504078878. (CL20094604)

Professionally qualified well settled business/ working (cartsurd) match for convert educated Jat Sikh beautiful girl 5'-5" Dec. 1987. M.Pharm, working in reputed MNC at Chandigarh with handsome package. Please respond with details and photo at WhatsApp No. 98780-02053 (nm), call, 98727-07053 (Call). (CL20094868)

Match for Jatt Sikh girl 1993 born, 5'-7", B.Pharma, PGD, Parents living Mohali. Preferred NRI. Preferred WhatsApp 98787-97106, 98140-31542. (CL20094672)

Suitable match Jat Sikh B.Tech, convert educated Shergill girl, 1990, B.Tech, family residing Australia since 25 years. Email: dshm1927@gmail.com (CL20096033)

Match for Canadian PR Jat Sikh Sandhu B.Tech, India MBA (Canada) girl 1988, 5'-4", Now in India till 18th Feb. Interested can Call/WhatsApp: 97796-00143. (CL20096057)

Jat Sikh girl issueless divorcee 30/ 5'-2", M.Sc., M.Ed. PTET clear. Teetotaller groom preferred from India or abroad. Simple marriage. Contact: 94560-12994. (CL20096102)

Jat Sikh Ratal girl 28 year, 5'-3", Canada PR job at Bank, Montreal match Govt. job like Bank, Professor, Doctor. Preferred Canada PR boy. 98550-82064. (CL20096866)

Suitable match for Jat Sikh girl, 25 yrs, 5'-8", fair, very beautiful, smart, convert educated, Pursuing MDS. Father Senior Army Officer. Looking for Jat Sikh, tall, clean shaven, well qualified and well settled match in India. Contact WhatsApp: 94651-73215. (CL20096104)

Jat Sikh Canadian PR girl 1991, 5'-8", short marriage, innocent divorcee. MBA, preferred only Canadian PR. Boy. 98150-98301, 98782-76077. (CL20094692)

Suitable match for Jat Sikh Neuro Scientist girl, 27, 5'-5", Canadian PR. Father retd. Chief Engineer. Girl born and brought up in India. +1(587)-707-7001. E-mail: maildevinder59@gmail.com (CL20094717)

Well qualified match for Jat Sikh Software professional girl working in USA, 93 born, fair, slim 5'-5" with IT background. Only USA working professional required. Caste no bar. WA 94171-0075. (CL20094775)

Classified: 0172-2670257, 2670338, 2670258

E-mail at: classified@tribunemail.com

Display: 0172-2670256, 2670342

E-mail at: advt@tribunemail.com

Circulation: 0172-2670319, 2670250, 2670442

E-mail at: circulation@tribunemail.com

Suitable match for Jatt Sikh divorcee girl 1977 born, 5'-3", MA, looks very young, fair complexion, slim having one female child. Child (Canadian citizen) stay optional with maternal grandparents. Belongs to reputed family of Ludhiana. Only Jatt Sikh families contact. Ludhiana preferred. Marriage bureau excused. 89682-16579. (CL20096704)

Jat Sikh girl 1998, 5'-6", Postgraduate Diploma in Nutrition and Dietician, 6.5 Band. Want to go abroad. No dowry. 99142-02074. (CL20096847)

Canada PR Jat Sikh Sidhu girl 1989, 5'-3", BDS, Dental Hygienist, AFK (Step 1st clear). Only Canadian or USA Doctors or Engineer prefers. Contact 98140-05337. (CL20096214)

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Suitable match for beautiful Jat Sikh Brar girl 1985 5'-5" Graduate, GNM, IELTS 5 Band, 97808-47505 Bathinda. (CL20094920)

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Match for Australian Govt. Officer, fair, Jat Sikh girl, 27, 5'-5", B.Tech, family residing Australia since 25 years. Email: dshm1927@gmail.com (CL20097119)

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Jat Sikh Ratal girl 28 year, 5'-3", Canada PR job at Bank, Montreal match Govt. job like Bank, Professor, Doctor. Preferred Canada PR boy. 98550-82064. (CL20096866)

Suitable match for Jat Sikh girl, 25 yrs, 5'-8", fair, very beautiful, smart, convert educated, Pursuing MDS. Father Senior Army Officer. Looking for Jat Sikh, tall, clean shaven, well qualified and well settled match in India. Contact WhatsApp: 94651-73215. (CL20096104)

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Match for well qualified Hindhu Khatri
Manglik girl, 29.11.1990, 6:15 am, Jalandhar, 5'-4", private job. Religious middle class family, kundi matching must. Only Hindhu Khatri family. Contact between 12-5.30 pm; WhatsApp: 9889-25856. (CL20096524)

Match for beautiful Sood girl, divorcee, 38/ 5'-4", MFC, MBA. Brother Citizen of Australia. Only B.Tech., MBA can correspond.

Australias/ Canada/ well settled India preferred. WhatsApp: 9885562043. (CL20096574)

Professional match for Sep. 89, 5'-5", M.Tech, PGD Project Mgt, working Canada on work permit.

9876732998. (CL20096666)

Suitable match for Khatri girl, M.Tech,

15-03/1990/ 5'-4", working in MNC Mohali, upper caste welcome. Tricity preferred. WhatsApp: 86993-39309. (CL20096720)

Khatri Manglik girl from

industrial family 07.03.1993, 8:30 am, Ludhiana, 5'-2", MA (English), B.Ed. Seeks only vegetarian settled match. Marriage bureau excuse. WhatsApp latest photograph biodata.

98720-74124. (CL20096872)

Match for Khatri beautiful girl 43 having child wants status well established businessman from high status family. 75893-36244. (CL20096884)

Hindhu Khatri Manglik girl 07.12.1991,

06.35 am, Hoshiarpur, 5'-3", Software Engineer Bangalore. 98884-75952.

70097-43549. (CL20096889)

Suitable match Punjabi Khatri

short period divorcee 32, B.Tech, girl, working MNC Poona. Parents

residents Panchkula. 98885-29503. (CL20096893)

Kashyap Rajput girl 5.2.1989, 5'-3",

B.CA, M.Sc. FO in NSO (Contract).

Mobile: 82888-54437. (CL20095103)

SM4 Kangra based Manglik

Pathania girl, 1990, 5'-1", (MA) Graduate. Contact: 88948-08289,

98720-27306. (CL20095181)

Govt. employed/ Doctor match

for Jat beautiful girl 27, 5'-2", BDS Doctor, own practice, at

Karnal. Parents Govt. Officer. 99911-

10048. 94160-08007. (CL20097283)

RAJPUT

Rajput match for Himachali beautiful Rajput slim girl 5'-3", born Feb. 1990, BA, B.Ed. 3 years, computer course from NITT presently, working in MNC, preference Govt. services professional Defence, Engineer, Doctor. Contact: 87997-9192. (CL20095070)

Mair Rajput Sikh girl M.Sc., B.Ed (Physics) pursuing Ph.D (Thapar) March 92, 5'-2". 94160-87734, 94165-50170. (CL20094713)

SM for Doaba Sikh Rajput Parhar girl 5'-4" born, 1990, MCA, working Delhi status family. Contact with details at parhar093@gmail.com (CL20094908)

Professionally qualified Himachali

Rajput boy height btw 5'-6", 5"-9" for

Himachali Rajput girl Oct. 1992, 5'-1",

qualified CTET, HT-TET, HP-SET, NET. Pursuing Ph.D. Send biodata.

98160-34477. (CL20094918)

Alliance invited for Army Officer's

daughter, Himachali Rajput girl, B.Tech. (IT), MBA (Marketing) working with MNC at Hyderabad. Dob

09 May 93. Ht. 5'-2". Interests in Public

Speaking & Reading. Parents presently based at Chandigarh. Contact- Email

a n k a s h 9 3 9 8 @ g m a i l . c o m

(CL20096850)

Kashyap Rajput girl 5.2.1989, 5'-3",

B.CA, M.Sc. FO in NSO (Contract).

Mobile: 82888-54437. (CL20095103)

SM4 Kangra based Manglik

Pathania girl, 1990, 5'-1", (MA) Graduate. Contact: 88948-08289,

98720-27306. (CL20095181)

Rajput Chauhan girl D.O.B. 10

December 1988, Karmal, Height 5'-4",

B.Tech., 27 LPA, Bangalore. 94667-

72894. (CL20095506)

Match for beautiful Himachali girl

1996, 5'-6", pursuing M.Tech, parents

Defence background, brother Army

Officer. Engineer with Canadian PR.

98776-00372. (CL20096890)

Suitable match for Khatri Hindu

girl 26.5.1982, 6:00 pm, Chandigarh, Tricity preferred. 98855-51566. (CL20096905)

Manglik Bhatia Khatri, beautiful

girl, 07.10.1992, 1:00 pm, Ludhiana,

5'-2", B.Sc. Nursing. 94179-60692.

(CL20096919)

M4 NM PB girl, upper middle class

23.10.85/ 23.45 pm Chandigarh 5'-0",

Interior Designer, seeks well settled

Prof/ businesswoman, upper caste no bar. Call- WhatsApp: 98109-93314. (CL20096927)

Suitable match for beautiful Manglik

girl, LLM qualified, working as Legal

Associate, repeated family. 23.06.1993,

01:40 pm, 5'-5", Chandigarh. 98159-

59157. (CL20097008)

Professional match for Canadian PR

beautiful Hindhu Khatri girl 1995/ 5'-4",

B.Tech. Computer Science, employed

family based at Chandigarh. Father CA,

Mother in Govt. job. WhatsApp: 96530-

0010. (CL20097027)

Match for slim beautiful Khatri girl

27/ 5"-2", M.Sc., B.Ed. required well

settled business family of Ludhiana.

98146-88533. (CL20097057)

Highly rich Chandigarh settle,

Khatris, girls, Anshik Manglik 1991,

M.Com., 1995, B.Tech., required

landlord industrialist, business family

Tricity preferred. Contact: 93576-07766

(CL20096920)

Match for Hindu Khatri girl , 34,

5'-7", Chandigarh, Govt. Bank Officer.

Local Bankers preferred. Contact:

98766-15083. (CL20097204)

Match for Hindu Khatri girl , 34,

5'-7", Chandigarh, Govt. Bank Officer.

Local Bankers preferred. Contact:

98724-3127. (CL20097068)

Well settled small family match for

Khatri beautiful girl, Aug. 1984, 5'-3",

M.A. (English), B.Ed., teaching

profession (only WhatsApp) 98037-

78994. (CL20097106)

Suitable match for Khatri girl

5'-2", 20th September 1993,

7:00 am, Chandigarh, B.Sc., B.Ed.,

working in Private School. Residence

near Chandigarh. Contact: 98763-

0291, 98766-65098, 90413-56002.

(CL20097202)

Match for Hindu Khatri girl , 34,

5'-7", Chandigarh, Govt. Bank Officer.

Local Bankers preferred. Contact:

98766-15083. (CL20097204)

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5'-7", Chandigarh, Govt. Bank Officer.

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Match for Hindu Khatri girl , 34,

5'-7", Chandigarh, Govt. Bank Officer.

Local Bankers preferred. Contact:

98766-15083. (CL20097204)

Match for Hindu Khatri girl , 34,

BRAHMIN

Status Industrialist family of Doaba requires suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin girl, convent educated, B.Com, MBA, very beautiful, fair, size 5'-5", 88 born. Business family preferred. Khatries are also welcome. Contact with complete bio-data. 98153-33500, 79732-84913. (CL20096530)

Suitable match for Himachali Saraswat Brahmin girl 04.12.1992, 07:04 pm., 5'-1", Jalandhar, M.Tech. (CSE), working in MNC Bangalore. Living in Jalandhar. Contact: 62396-00197. (CL20096765)

Govt. employee/ well settled businessman for Saraswat Brahmin girl 19.7.88, 9:25 pm. Sanaur-Patiala born, 5'-5", B.Sc. Nursing, Govt. Staff Nurse. (Patiala). Patiala preferred. Upper caste welcome. 977935136, 9750384462. (CL20094735)

Suitable match for Vashist Brahmin girl 12.01.1987, 8:22 am. Hoshiarpur, 5'-3", MA, B.Ed. TET qualified. Required teetotaller, well settled boy. Ph: 62844-45454. (CL20097251)

Suitable match in tricity for Brahmin girl, 05-03-1991, 04:05 a.m. Chandigarh, 5'-5", M.A, ETET, working as teacher in Private School. M: 94632-00729. (CL2009735)

Brahmin, B.Tech., 5'-5", 30.09.90, 10:05 a.m., Ambala, Scale-1 officer, Central Government, upper caste no bar, Goverment job preferred. 94661-57029. (CL20085094)

High status, Delhi based Pbi Brahmin Businessman family having multiple Business (Hospital, Colonizer, Hoteliers) seeks alliance for their slim, beautiful, educated Daughter Nov, 87 born, 5'5" looking for tall, smart, educated Boy from Businessman and Industrial family. Khatri families are also welcome. Delhi NCR, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Jalandhar preferred.

9915500818, 9810093144

CL20096718

Beautiful, slim, Manglik Brahmin girl 1989 born, 5'-4", B.Sc. Nursing GNDU, MPA USA, working in USA, seeks smart & educated groom settled in USA. Upper caste no bar. Contact: 88720-2221, 98720-12001, udsharma404@gmail.com (CL20090792)

SM4 Himachali Brahmin girl 5'-6", 1.2.1990, 6 am, Hamirpur, ENT Consultant at Chd. Father rt. Senior Civil Service Officer. Doctor/ IAS/ Allied Services prfd. Contact 94125-31370. (CL20092123)

1984 born Sarwat Brahmin beautiful girl Ht. 5 feet 3 inches MA, B.Ed. permanent Mistress Punjab Government School, annual salary Rs. 8 lac. WhatsApp No. 62840-83482. (CL20094626)

Match for slim Punjabi Saraswat Brahmin girl Anshik Manglik, CS LLB working in Chandigarh, Dob 17.11.84 (younger looks), 7:28 pm, 5'-6", package 10 Lac. Contact No. 99154-81244. (CL20094725)

Well settled match for Manglik/Non-manglik Girl Brahmin girl, 22.08.1994, 01:45 a.m. Ludhiana, 5'-4", B.A.M.S. Kundli must. WhatsApp: 98789-17283. (CL20094624)

Suitable match for beautiful Brahmin Bhardwaj girl (single child) LL.B., LL.M. from Panjab University Chandigarh, 4.2.1996, 5'-9". Preparing for Judicial Service. Contact: 87258-71071. (CL20094743)

NCR based Gaur Brahmin girl, fair, 9.2.1987, 5'-4", MBA, PSU Admin Officer (issues divorced). Father owns school. 98135-22432, sidgautam1179@gmail.com (CL20094750)

PR Canada, Mohyal Brahmin, Manglik girl, 3.1.1992, 4.05 p.m., working as Software Engineer in MNC, Toronto. Marriage bureau data. Send message with bio-data, photo. No. 88702-01745. (CL20094784)

Match for Punjabi Saraswat Brahmin Manglik girl, 5'-5", 1994, M.Tech, Computer Science, Assistant Professor Private College. 98889-00339. (CL20094916)

Himachali beautiful convent educated girl 5'-4", 29.4.86, 9:30 am, Shimla (BA LLB Hon's LL.M.) PU Campus, NET, faculty Chd 10 Lac PA. Parents Retd. Govt. Officers. 94184-70220. (CL20094921)

Brahmin girl, slim, smart, 1990/5'-6", MBA Finance, Punjab Government Service, vegetarian family, tricity preferred. Contact: 82640-14689, 95019-41248. (CL20094937)

Suitable match for Tricity only Punjabi Brahmin, 25.01.1991/ 9:53 am. Chandigarh born, slim, fair, beautiful, 160 cm girl. Teacher in Mohali. Advertisement for wider choice. Please contact with photo, birth details. WhatsApp: 99884-26113, 95018-06645. (CL20094967)

Suitable match for convent educated Brahmin girl, 5'-5", 20.11.1983, 1:45 a.m., 5'. Contact: 94189-41674, 98053-95290. (CL20095038)

Medico/Defence match for Brahmin MDS Feb. 1991, 5'-8", fair, well educated reputed family. 94636-08210. (CL20095261)

Match for Gaur Brahmin girl Nov, 86 born, 10.55 a.m., 5'-5", M.Com, MBA, B.Ed., UGC NET Lecturer in private school. 95413-14167. (CL20095099)

Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin, Dec. 91 born, 5'-7", convent educated, MBA, slim and beautiful Manglik girl, working as an Officer in a leading PSU. We are looking for a Govt. employed/ Defence match (preferably Manglik). Contact: 93162-31533. (CL20095107)

3143 Saraswat Brahmin girl, 5'-2", 25.04.1990, 11:50 a.m./ M.B.E., M.Com, B.Ed., NET, pursuing Ph.D. from PU Chd. Serving as Asst. Prof. in PU Constituent College, visually impaired. Upper caste no bar. 9640-93821, 99884-141491. (CL20095114)

Match for Punjabi Brahmin Kanya, 5'-1", 21 Sept. 1991, 8:05 p.m., Gurdaspur, M.Sc Maths, pursuing PhD from IIT Ropar. Pls. Contact: 94110-50774, 73006-17787. (CL20095129)

Well settled professionally qualified match for Punjabi Saraswat Brahmin girl, convent educated, B.Com, MBA, very beautiful, fair, 5'-5", 88 born. Business family preferred. Khatries are also welcome. Contact with complete bio-data. 98153-33500, 79732-84913. (CL20096530)

Suitable match for Himachali Saraswat Brahmin girl, 04.12.1992, 07:04 pm., 5'-1", Jalandhar, M.Tech. (CSE), working in MNC Bangalore. Living in Jalandhar. Contact: 62396-00197. (CL20096765)

Govt. employee/ well settled businessman for Saraswat Brahmin girl 04.12.1992, 07:04 pm., 5'-1", Jalandhar, M.Tech. (CSE), working in MNC Bangalore. Living in Jalandhar. Contact: 62396-00197. (CL20096765)

Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin girl, 04.12.1992, 07:04 pm., 5'-1", Jalandhar, M.Tech. (CSE), working in MNC Bangalore. Living in Jalandhar. Contact: 62396-00197. (CL20096765)

Professional match for Punjabi Saraswat Brahmin girl, 04.12.1992, 07:04 pm., 5'-1", Jalandhar, M.Tech. (CSE), working in MNC Bangalore. Living in Jalandhar. Contact: 62396-00197. (CL20096765)

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Suitable match for Brahmin girl, 04.12.1992, 07:04 pm., 5'-1", Jalandhar, M.Tech. (CSE), working in MNC Bangalore. Living in Jalandhar. Contact: 62396-00197. (CL20096765)

Himachali Brahmin girl, December 1987 born, Palampur, M.Sc. Chemistry, B.Ed., HPITET, CTET & CSIR NET, working Asst. Professor on contract basis. Himachali preferred. 98824-49988. (CL20096873)

Match for Brahmin girl 5'-5", 30 Nov. 1991, 2:35 p.m. Hoshiarpur, M.Tech., required businessman, Govt. job or NRI. Preference Hoshiarpur. Contact: 94649-28286. (CL20096961)

Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin girl, tall, fair girl, 5'-7", 19.10.1989, job MNC. Kundli must. Punjabi preferred. 988399809, 80541-60260. (CL20095930)

Professional match for beautiful Saraswat Brahmin girl, 20.03.1990/ 5'-1", M.Tech. (Computer Science), working in MNC with package of 6 Lacs at Mohali. 98836-43814, 96464-03115. (CL20096989)

Suitable match for Brahmin girl 5'-3", 28 May 1989, 1.20 a.m., Pathankot, M.Tech. Assistant Professor, Govt. Eng

HOT-sale 600 yard single storey house, corner with service land, Sector-8, Chandigarh. Direct deal, only genuine purchaser. Contact (Col. Ahluwalia) 98765-58145. (CL20096381)

One kanal old North East facing Sector 11, Chd., kindly genuine buyer contact only, dealer please excuse, very reasonable price. 98155-13838, 93161-39234. (CL20096983)

Chandigarh 7.5 marla triple storey house for sale in Sector 22. Subhash Mangat & Co. 98155-70278, 98726-65556. (CL20097149)

Chandigarh 1240 sq. yard plot on B-Road in Sector 8 for sale. Subhash Mangat & Co. 98726-65556, 98155-70278. (CL20097150)

Chandigarh 10 marla ground floor for sale in Sector 21. Subhash Mangat & Co. 98155-70278. (CL20097153)

Chandigarh 1 kanal double storey liveable Sector 21D. Subhash Mangat & Co. 98726-65556, 98720-99939. (CL20097154)

Chandigarh 1 kanal newly built first floor, three bed, drawing dining with servant quarter with lift Sector 27. Subhash Mangat & Co. 98726-65556, 98720-99999. (CL20097155)

Chandigarh: For sale SCO two bay buildup prime location company transfer Sector 34. 10 marla new ground floor Sector 15, 8 marla old facing East Sector 20. Kitty Estates 99881-01191. (CL20097167)

Chandigarh: HIG upper first floor facing park Sector 38 West. 1 kanal Sector 20, 21. Verma: 98766-35909. (CL20097176)

5 marla old liveable top floor in Sector 38A. brand new all floors of 5, 7, 8 and 10 marla in Chandigarh. Contact: Sheba Karam Properties: 98786-90761. (CL20097181)

Prime location big size showroom on Main Road, Sector 45, Burail, Chandigarh. Ample parking. 98151-80816. (CL20097191)

10 marla ground floor with basement facing park, Sector 35, Chd. Highrise Properties: # 95922-58181, 90236-5556. (CL20097209)

5 marla, triple storey, facing park, liveable Sector 38-A for immediate sale. 98787-84444, 98143-33330. (CL20097227)

Running hotel 2 bay second floor 8 rooms opposite bus stand Sector 22B, for sale. 98787-84444, 98143-33330. (CL20097246)

Chandigarh lease hold full show room corner 4C, Jagdeep Attri (Hissar Wale) 70099-40480. (CL20097303)

10/7/5 marla 2½ storey liveable newly built full/floorwise sector 21-22, Chandigarh. Bedi Bros - 70092-83003. (CL20097305)

One kanal corner plot for sale in Sector 6. Satya Estates: 99157-86900. (CL20096163)

Brand new 10 marla duplex house East and park facing in Sector 12A. Satya Estates: 99157-86900. (CL20096165)

262 sq. yards duplex, stilt parking, ultra-modern, adjoining park, B-Road, Sector 23, Panchkula. 98884-04935. (CL20096514)

Showroom for sale Sector 5 Panchkula six floor, rented value about 8 lac P.M. A-one location. Vacant showroom Sector 9, Panchkula. Man Market, Opposite Sector 5, SCO for sale Sector 20, Panchkula. Gupta Associates, Showroom 176, Sector 17 C, Chandigarh. 98159-04681. (CL20096655)

Panchkula: 180 sq. mtr. B-Road plot 247, Sector 23. Booked with Popular Property 94631-81559. (CL20096769)

14 marla double renovated B Road Sector 16, 6½ marla new double with basement. Sector 28, Panchkula. 92165-57440. (CL20096856)

Independent commercial showroom floors Sawastik Vihar Market Sector 5, Panchkula. Arya Real Estates: 98769-37605, 98685-88648. (CL20096939)

9 marla 229/ 28; 14 marla 45/ 27, 6, 10 marla/ 25, 26, 27, 28, 28 Aria Real Estates: 98769-37605, 98685-88648. (CL20096977)

Ten marla triple B-Road Sec. 12, fourteen marla duplex B-Road, Sec. 21, Showroom 18x72, built up Sec 16 Shirdi Properties: 98884-76525. (CL20096979)

Prime/ professional location kanal old house/ plot Sector 6, 2, 7/ MDC, 4, 6. Keshav Associates: 92161-78567. (CL20096999)

10 marla liveable house Sector 8, 9, Panchkula 14 marla Sector 9, Contact: 94171-41512, 94635-90070. (CL20097010)

Plot 6.5 marla Sector 26 East, 25% built, 14 marla East/27, 10 marla Sector 26. Contact: 94171-41512, 94635-90070. (CL20097012)

Prime location builder floors 10 marla/14 marla clinic site Sector 125, Kharaham plot area 139 say yds, demand 69.75 lacs. Contact: 99888-29147. (CL20097029)

Janta Land: Showroom & Commercial shops, (buildup/ sites), ample parking, busiest market, Sector 66A. Empire Estates 98150-83500. (CL20097291)

Mohali: 8 & 10 marla kothi facing B-Road, corner in (Phase I to XII) (Sector 67 to 71). (Sector 77 to 80). Empire Estates 98159-50922, 90566-66055. (CL20097292)

10/8 marla B-Road with front huge parking, 2½ storey marbel house Sector 67, Bedi Bros - 70092-83003. (CL20097310)

Mohali: 1 kanal brand new houses, old houses, top locations in Phase-3A, 3B, 3B2, VII, XI, Sector-68, 69, 70, 71. Empire Estates 98159-50922, 90566-66055. (CL20097317)

Floor for sale: Desperate deal - one kanal, 4 BHK, 2nd floor with new lift, facing East, in front of 60 feet VIP road, Sector 7, Panchkula @ 2.5 Cr. No negotiable. Dealer & investors please be excuse. 99880-49922. (CL20097292)

Special Plot: 10 marla, corner, North-East facing attached own garden space approx. 350 sq. yds. in Panchkula. Kindly query only rich taste buyers. Lalit 98888-67755. (CL20097101)

10 marla plot facing park, facing east, 35% buildup sector 11, Panchkula. Dhruv Properties (since 1990) 98551-65590, 94170-12755. (CL20097130)

Panchkula: 1 kanal plot and duplex Sector 8, 14 marla duplex Sector 2, 12, Ground, basement 14 marla floors Sector 4, 6 MDC, corner duplex floors Sector 6 MDC. Pre-bookings corner facing park 1 kanal floors Sector 6 MDC, Sector 8, 11 marla corner floors Sector 7, 10 marla duplex facing park Sector 7, 1 kanal plots Sector 25, 27, 28, Kitty Estates: 99883-61191. (CL20097170)

Panchkula: Builtup showroom Sector 5, SCO plot Sector 4, twelve marla clinic site Sector 7. Contact: Sethi Estates: 98140-30249. (CL20097173)

Panchkula: Pre-rented bay shop Sector 7, SCO Bank rented Sector 10. Contact: Sethi Estates: 98140-30249. (CL20097175)

10 marla brand new duplex Sector 7/ duplex Sector 21/ single storey Sector 8/ duplex Sector 16, Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20095987)

14 marla excellent duplex fully marbled Sector 12/ single storey Sector 10/ duplex Sector 9/ duplex Sector 2, Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20095979)

1 kanal excellent duplex Sector - 8. Duplex main road Sector- 4/ duplex Sector - 2/ duplex Sector 21. Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20095993)

Plot 1 kanal on main road Sector 15/ main road Sector 10/ facing park road Sector- 21, Gulshan Wadhera 98154-80358. (CL20095997)

10 marla excellent duplex fully marbled North facing Sector 8, another brand new ultra modern duplex Sector 16, Gulshan Wadhera 98154-80358. (CL20095970)

10 marla excellent triple storey Sector 10/ brand new duplex Sector 11/ single storey Sector 4, Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20095974)

10 marla excellent duplex fully marbled Sector 12/ single storey Sector 10/ duplex Sector 9/ duplex Sector 2, Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20095978)

14 marla brand new duplex Sector 7/ duplex Sector 21/ single storey Sector 8/ duplex Sector 16, Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20095987)

1 kanal excellent duplex Sector - 8. Duplex main road Sector- 4/ duplex Sector - 2/ duplex Sector 21. Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20095993)

10 marla excellent duplex fully marbled North facing Sector 8, another brand new ultra modern duplex Sector 16, Gulshan Wadhera 98154-80358. (CL20095970)

10 marla excellent triple storey Sector 10/ brand new duplex Sector 11/ single storey Sector 4, Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20095974)

10 marla brand new duplex Sector 7/ duplex Sector 21/ single storey Sector 8/ duplex Sector 16, Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20095987)

1 kanal excellent duplex Sector - 8. Duplex main road Sector- 4/ duplex Sector - 2/ duplex Sector 21. Gulshan Wadhera: 98154-80358. (CL20095993)

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A theatre director reflects: Hope and love make us strong, it is this impulse that pushes us to explore the arts. It is what we fight for when all is lost. This is why we tell stories **ARTS page 12**



By 10.30 am on December 3, 1971, Lance Naik Albert Ekka of 14 Guards had earned the first PVC during Operation 'Cactus Lily', commonly referred to as the Bangladesh War

TRIBUTE page 13

In 'The Hidden Garden', Dr Gopi Chand Narang plumbs the depths of Mir Taqi Mir's poetic and non-poetic selves to delineate a holistic picture of his craftsmanship

BOOKS page 14

TUNNEL VISION

THESE are our Hills of Home. Five generations of our family have lived in this cottage in the oak woods of Mussoorie. This is where we return after we have spanned the globe. This is our stability, our security, our refuge. But, last Sunday, just a snow-goose flight away, the Hills of Home snarled, and growled, and struck back. Innocent people lost their lives in swirling torrents of slush. Others withered away, slowly, painfully, in Stygian gloom and bone-crushing cold. For many of the people of Garhwal, the Hills of Home became the Hills of the Homeless. In the silence of our home, we sit sad and pensive. We share the anguish of Alan Paton and 'Cry, the Beloved Country', not for South Africa as Paton did, but for Uttarakhand and our awesome Himalayas.

The Himalayas are the greatest mountain range in the world, but they are also the youngest. They are massive, towering infants growing at the rate that a human fingernail does in a year. A fingernail is very small. Try and imagine a fingernail the size of the Himalayas and the force needed to make it grow! This titanic power is provided by the continental plate on which India rests, its forward edge thrusting like the blade of a monstrous bulldozer under the Eurasian plate: slowly, implacably. It raised the bed of the ancient Tethys Sea to create the Himalayas.

The white limestone of our mountains is made of the shells of billions of prehistoric sea creatures which lived and died in the Tethys. On a trek in these mountains, we picked up something which our guide said was a *Sudarshan Chakra*. It was an ammonite: a fossilised shell of a prehistoric creature related to our present-day cuttlefish!

Stranger than fiction

It was those fossils, that limestone that nearly wiped out Mussoorie. Quarriers had discovered that the Mussoorie Range was made of the purest limestone known in India. It would make the most superb cement. It even had some very valuable, but rather secretive, defence uses. So these great business houses suggested that all citizens of Mussoorie should be evacuated to other places so that they, the quarriers, could excavate all this valuable mineral!

This sounds an unlikely tale, but it is absolutely true. It was then that our late mother, Maisie Gantzer, and two other ladies — Princess Sita of Kapurthala and Mai Badhwar, the daughter of an

ICS officer — decided to do something about it. All three were senior citizens, two were widows, the third unmarried. They were inexperienced in such civic agitations but they were very sincere, and very determined. The people of Mussoorie rallied around them.

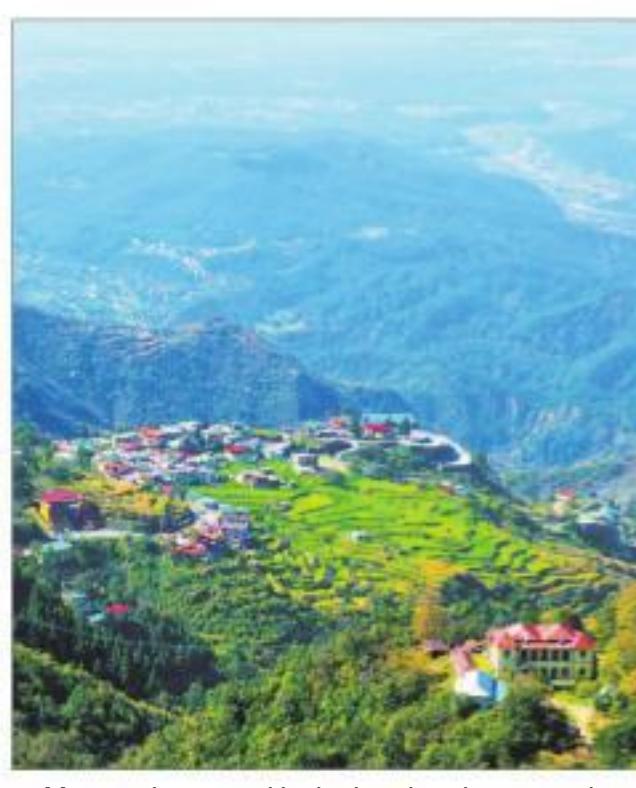
To cut a long story short, the Supreme Court intervened, the quarriers were ousted, and the apex court set up a high-powered monitoring committee to oversee all environmental matters in Mussoorie and the Doon valley.

The Third Pole

This, we believe, is one of the earliest references to the environment by the Supreme Court. People, particularly those of us who live in the Himalayas, began to realise how fragile our snow-covered mountains were. That was the first time it was brought home to us that on the massive, growing, unstable base of the Himalayas rested the world's largest mass of ice and snow, after the Arctic and Antarctic Polar regions. This is why geologists have begun calling the Himalayas the Third Pole. This great weight of snow and ice is bound up in vast frozen rivers: the glaciers. They move slower than sluggish snails and their melting ice creates many of our mighty rivers, including our sacred Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra and even our Saraswati. On a trek beyond Badrinath, local people showed us a waterfall gushing out of the mountains. They claimed that it was the source of the Saraswati. This impressive cascading torrent has not been developed as a tourist/religious destination.

This neglect is curious. Tourism is often considered to be the basic business activity of Uttarakhand. It, consequently, has attracted the most astute of commercial interests as well as the most shadowy. It is a fact that widening the bridle path that serves the Saraswati waterfall would call for a great amount of engineering skill. It would not, however, need the massive inputs of men, machinery and material that a tunnel would. Contracts to bore tunnels into our fragile, tremor-prone mountains become a far more attractive proposition for many reasons which may, or may not, occur to our well-meaning politicians. Clearly, however, the larger the account, the more the scope for padding. When the 'developer' has to provision for working in high altitudes in winter, projected costs are bound to soar!

The Himalayas are the youngest in the world and growing, making the mountain range unstable. Unmindful development, ignoring local wisdom and environmental concerns, is fraught with danger as Chamoli disaster has shown yet again. Travel writers Hugh and Colleen Gantzer, who call Uttarakhand home, call out the flawed development model



Mussoorie created its hydro-electric power plant without digging a tunnel or building a dam. It tapped two mountain streams and diverted their water down a steep slope to power the Galog Power House. After powering the generators, the water flowed back into the streambeds to irrigate downstream farms and villages.

Global warming to blame

Here, however, ambitious contractors run into a hazard. Repeated studies of our Himalayas have shown that our mountains are getting warmer. Wild plants are blossoming and fruiting many months before their usual time. More significantly, glaciers are melting earlier.

Environmentalists claim that this is because of climate change. They say that we are releasing more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than our forests can absorb and recycle. The strange thing,

however, is that the Uttarakhand government seems very eager to deplete the forest cover for various reasons. "Security" is one of them though it is significant that no reliable authority has been quoted to support their claim! The old scapegoat of tourism can no longer be burdened with this because one of our government's proposals would deplete the habitat of wild elephants. That would deter tourists!

The bogey of tourism

This, then, begs the question, does tourism development call for erecting more and still more concrete and metal monstrosities? Do we need the sort of over-building that has blighted Mussoorie, to attract more tourists? Not so, say tourism specialists. In fact, the pandemic, coupled with the growth of digital mass communication, has hit MICE: Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions. In this Covid-19 age, tourists tend to avoid such mass gatherings. People confined to their flats, because of the lockdown, increasingly opt for the great outdoors, experiencing the wide open spaces in small, intimate groups. Uttarakhand has plenty of these. Road tourism is what our state should concentrate on.

The road forward

But, double-lane, concrete roads are not the answer, especially not if the state is promoting its faraway places. Upgrade Dak Bungalows, PWD Rest Houses, Circuit Houses and Forest Houses. Offer cheap and easy-to-read guide maps also listing local fairs, festivals, places of interest and handicrafts. Then leave it to market forces on what to develop. Local politicians can always find the funds to promote whatever will benefit them. Let them do it. Highway facilities will grow if the traffic grows, and the traffic will grow if the local people are interested, provided the state builds roads to the remotest areas.

Uttarakhand has two major remote-area problems: migration and border infiltration. If the enormous budgets earmarked for hydel projects are diverted to establishing motorable roads to these so-called 'ghost villages', there is likely to be a reverse migration. These returning villagers, bringing back their urban skills, will put their homestays, Garhwali cuisine and handicrafts on the tourism map. In the Lake District in England, we stayed in a very exclusive hotel. It had once been a mill and now specialised in local cuisine, including porridge slow-boiled overnight.

Here, at home, we relished an excellent Garhwali soup made of stinging nettle, with a swirl of cream.

If mountain getaways, cuisine and culture can re-populate 'ghost villages', the security of our borders will be strengthened.

The role model

This brings us back to where we began. If the Uttarakhand government does not dig tunnels and build dams for hydel projects, how will it cater to the power needs of its tourism industry? Simple: follow Mussoorie's example.

Back in the first decade of the 20th century, the Mussoorie City Board created its own hydro-electric power plant. It tapped the water of two mountain streams and diverted them into large sedimentation tanks to allow suspended particles to settle. Then, in metal pipes of decreasing diameter, it drew this water down a steep slope till it gushed out in powerful finger-width jets in the Galog Power House. There were no dams, no tunnels, no toxic fumes, no waste products and no consumption of water because, after powering the generators, the water flowed back into the streambeds to irrigate downstream farms and villages.

The only unusual maintenance it required was the cleaning out of lime encrusting the pipes about once in 18 months. This scheme, reputedly, made the Mussoorie municipality the richest in India. Then, the hydel plant passed into the fell hands of the state government. But Galog still manages to limp along after more than a century of service.

Why can't we have a large number of similar run-of-the-river systems controlled by local civic bodies? In fact, our decision-makers must realise that that voters have begun to suspect that all grandiose projects are inherently dangerous, and likely to be motivated by suspicious intentions! If you trust the voters to elect you, you must trust them to accept or reject your schemes. Don't decide for them, decide with them!

Finally, Uttarakhand has a number of glaciers, our only source of water. They fill our rivers, re-charge our springs and are replenished whenever water, carried aloft from the oceans, falls as snow on the world's highest abodes of snow, the Himalayas. If these torrents of heaven are not caught in the tangled locks of the forests of the great mountains, they will wreak havoc on earth, and all its inhabitants, beneath.

That is what happened on a terrible Sunday, just a snow-goose flight away, in our beautiful Hills of Home.

Repeated studies show the Himalayas (top) are getting warmer and glaciers are melting earlier. Environmentalists claim this is because of climate change; and (left) rescue work underway at the Tapovan tunnel after the February 7 Chamoli tragedy.

PHOTO: PTI

Fake works and the real threat they pose

Imitation art has been destroying reputations, collectors are being duped, galleries have gone bankrupt

In lockstep, the incentive to be a proficient forger has soared; a single, expertly executed old master (painting) knockoff can finance a long, comfortable retirement. The technologies available to abet the aspiring forger have also improved. Naturally, then, the frauds are getting better, touching off a crisis of authentication for the institutions of the art world: the museums and galleries and auction houses and experts who are expected to know the real thing from its imitation.

— The Guardian

Wolfgang Beltracchi is considered one of the most audacious forgers of recent decades. In 2011, he was found guilty by a German court of forgery and corruption relating to 14 fakes that had sold for a total of \$45m, sending shockwaves through the art world. Beltracchi has since claimed to have forged around 300 works by artists, including Max Ernst, Max Pechstein, André Derain, and Fernand Léger.

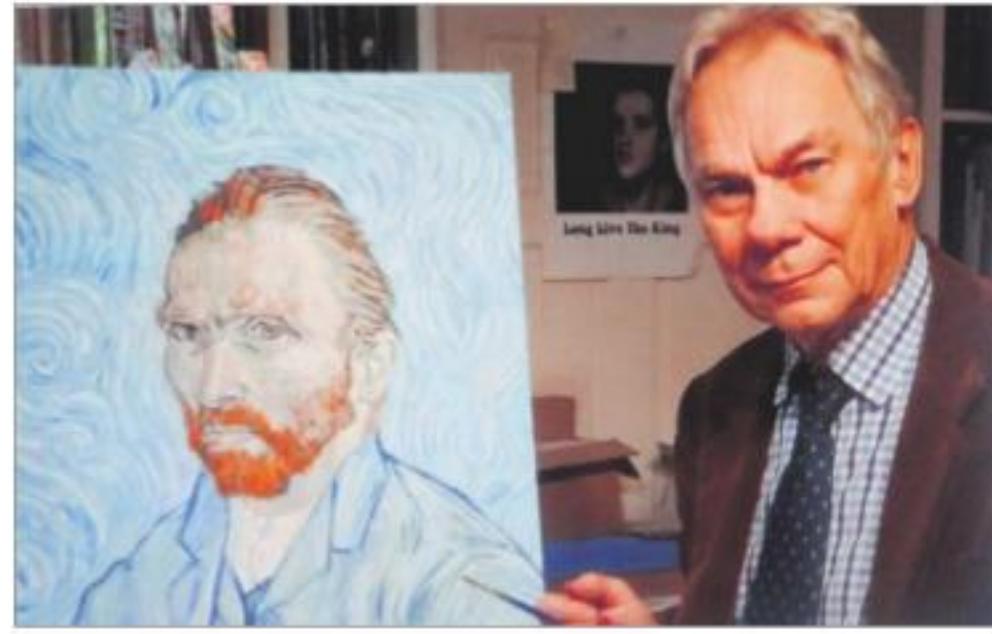
— The Art Newspaper



ART &
SOUL

BN GOSWAMY

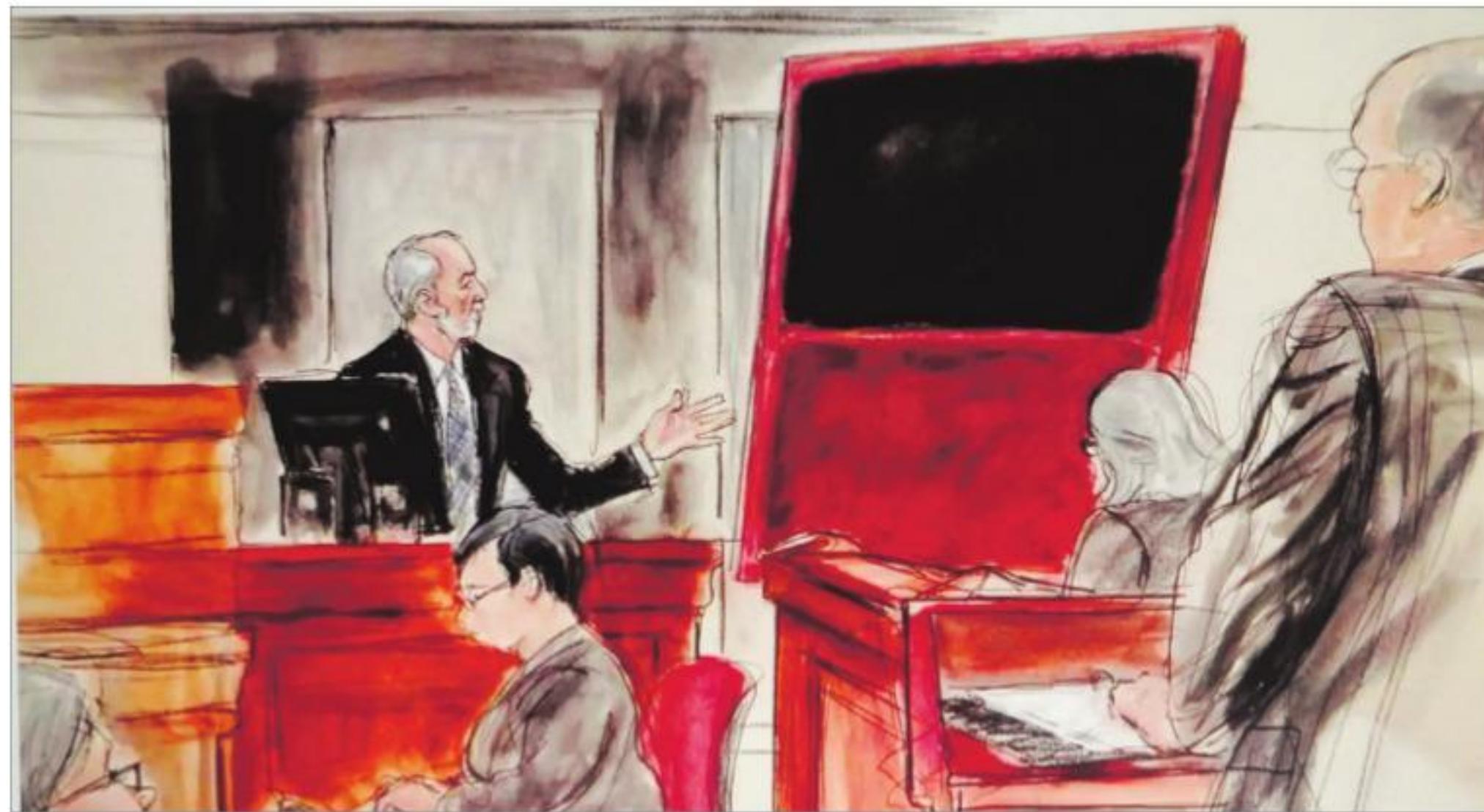
We might pretend otherwise, but, we all know that the world, including, of course, the land we live in, is swarming with fakes: fake claims, fake products, fake news, fake gurus, fake politicians, fake passports, fake degrees, fake guarantees, fake documents, to name just a few. It should come as no surprise, therefore, when someone says that so is the world of art: full of fakes. Just look at the headlines, or reports, in art journals. Not long ago, *The Telegraph* reported that all works, except one, in a collection of 21 paintings by the great Italian painter, Amedeo Modigliani, which were on exhibition at Genoa's Palazzo Ducale, were fake. Modigliani is one of the most copied artists in the world and his paintings sell in the millions. Marc Restellini, a French expert on Modigliani believes that there are over 1,000 fake Modigliani paintings in the world. The exhibition closed in July and the paintings were handed over for investigation. Again, another newspaper, reporting on a case involving a con-man, John Drewe, who got an art teacher to pro-



The painter John Myatt with his copy of Van Gogh's self-portrait; (right) Vermeer's 17th century work: The Girl with a Pearl Ear-ring. Two versions by the contemporary painter, van Meegeren, both fakes.



The Hand that Paints. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN BRITIGAN



An artist's impression of a court-room with a trial involving the famous Knoedler Gallery of New York and a forged Mark Rothko painting.

duce forgeries, wrote: "John Drewe has now begun his six-year sentence for what Scotland Yard has described as 'the biggest contemporary art fraud of the twentieth century'. Although it may be a slight exaggeration to describe it as the biggest case of the century, Drewe is believed to have sold 200 forgeries of works by modern masters, of which only 60 have been tracked down and the remainder are still in circulation. Among the artists involved are Chagall, Dubuffet, Bissiere, De Staél, Le Corbusier, Giacometti, Sutherland and Nicholson." The art teacher whose talents John Drewe drew

upon for forging works was John Myatt, who had once put in an advertisement in *Private Eye*, offering to paint "genuine fakes" for £150!

These names and these cases come, one realises, from other lands. But ours is no exception, for stories about faking not only works belonging to the tradition — sculptures, paintings, drawings, calligraphies — but also modern and contemporary, are beginning to tumble out in alarming numbers. One is beginning to dread pronouncing judgments or giving opinions. Because the three words that keep emerging from this murky segment of the

art world are Fraud, Fake, and Forgery. The question, however, is whether one can distinguish one from the other. On my part, I tried to look for precise definitions and this is what I landed upon in a serious, concerned, article on the question. "What is a Fake?" the question was asked. And the answer: "A fake is a new creation based on an object that already exists. It is, in the words of Theirry Lenain, meant to steal the identity, place, and status of the original it simulates." And what is a Forgery? "A forgery is another type of deception. It is an exacting new copy of an original, a copy that purports to be the original

itself." Finally, what is a Fraud? The answer: "A fraud is the final piece in the triad. Fraud is a crime in which the perpetrator is charged with seeking to benefit from conveying a fake or forgery." I am sure legal minds will be able to put this to some use, but, personally, I do not find it too enlightening.

The common man, unconcerned with niceties, is having fun with all this, I am sure. There are galleries which have, for years, been having annual shows of fakes and forgeries, inviting entries for a modest price. It is the 30th year of doing this for a gallery in Newport, for instance. Book after book is turning up, telling you cases of faking and forging and offering advice about how to discern and how not to get caught in this web. A gentleman once held a competition publishing two paintings looking exactly alike, and offering a prize of US dollars 500 to anyone who could, within a given time, tell the original from its copy — a portrait of a girl by Modigliani; in another case the famous Vermeer painting of a Girl with a Pearl Ear-ring. "The odds are terrific: 50-50," it was announced. "Is it the left one, or the right one? Are you ready? Begin." And then, after a little while: "Sorry, your time is up. If you selected the one at left, you are wrong. And if you selected the one at right, you are wrong. In fact, they are both fakes."

With all this going on, fakes have been destroying reputations, collectors are being duped, galleries have gone bankrupt, and panels of experts who authenticate works are being held to ridicule, if not worse. But then, this is only about the world of art: "the curse of museums and the plague of art collectors". How about all the other fakes that I mentioned at the beginning?

On Valentine's, celebrating power of love in arts

NEELAM MANSINGH CHOWDHRY

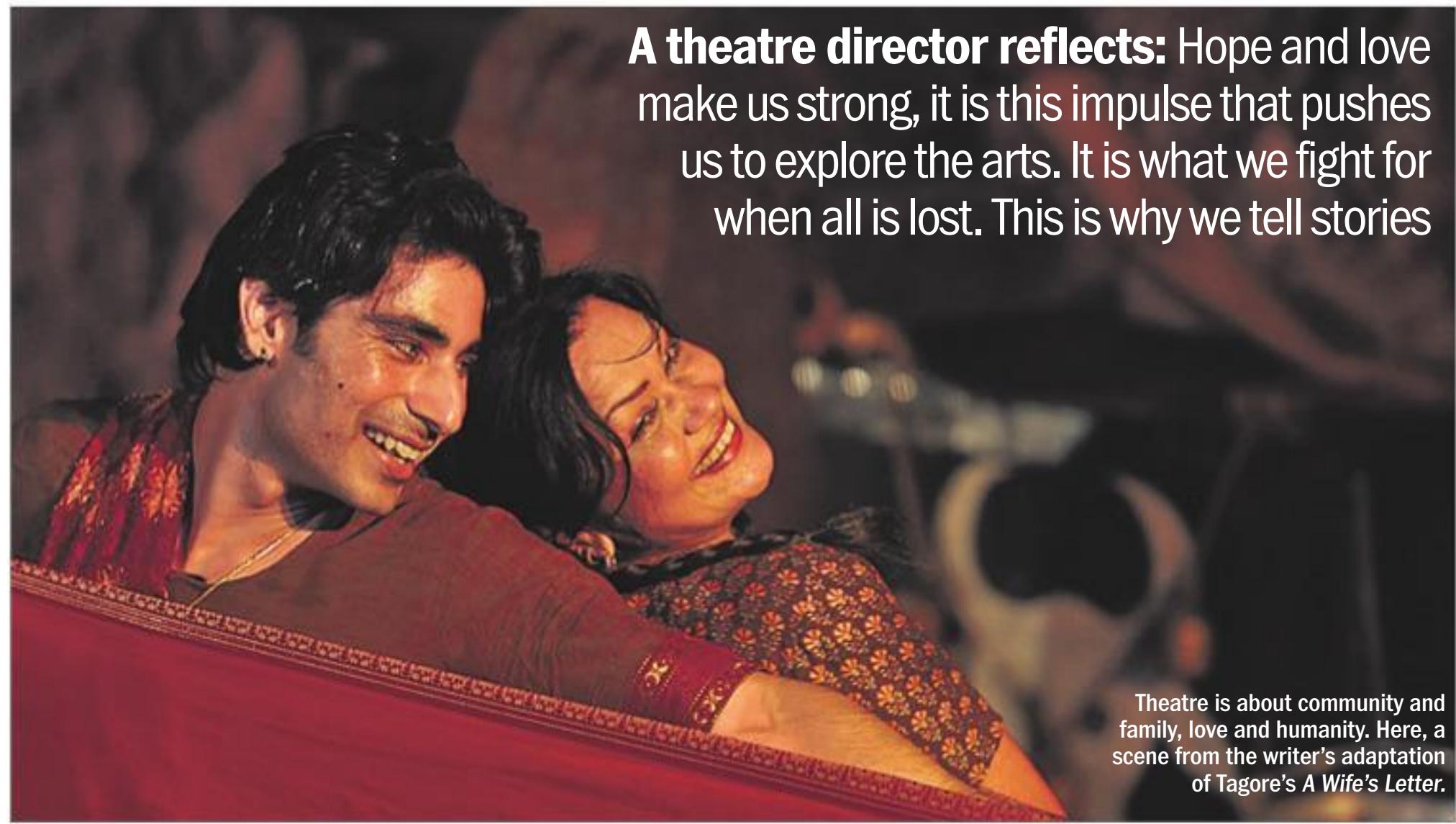
A POET shared his experience of meeting a nomad, who when asked about the role of art in any culture, replied: "The job of the artist is to remember where the water holes are. The survival of a whole group depends on the water holes scattered around the desert. When people forget the water holes, the artist leads them to it." What an apt metaphor for the role of the artist. The water is the history, the memory the juice and the elixir of shared experience.

Theatre is about community and family, love and humanity. Love is not only an abstract feeling and no matter how deep or intense your feelings may be, it's got to be accompanied by action. Love is action, about support, understanding and pride.

In order to engage in effective action, you find something that you value and put it in the centre of your life. I could not have managed my theatre company for 35 years without my family. The premise came from love, but it was transformed through effective action. My husband designed the posters, the brochure and handled my accounts. My sons did the sub-titling on tours and handled the sets and props. They helped in the ushering during shows at the Rock Garden, much to the chagrin of a society where helping the wife/mother was seen as gender reversal, dissolving the stereotypical entrenched practices of role playing!

Hope and love is what makes us strong. It is this impulse that makes us explore the arts. It is what we fight for when all is lost. This is why we tell stories, stories that need to be shared and taken forward. This is only possible if you 'hear' and 'listen' with empathy and love.

Our body tells a story — how we sit, walk, eat, interact, dress, all tell a story. We read, see films, hear stories and through experiencing these, make them our own. The artist combines and edits existing material to create something new. Every work of art bears references to another work. Everything then becomes a remix, processed and combined so new stories and fresh ways of working are generated. All this can only happen if there



A theatre director reflects: Hope and love make us strong, it is this impulse that pushes us to explore the arts. It is what we fight for when all is lost. This is why we tell stories

is openness, curiosity and love.

Even when we talk about catastrophe,

pain, the darkness of the human condition, the very fact that we are performing shows the existence of hope. It's impossible to do theatre if one is not conscious of this. Most of my recent work has been on migration, loss and fractured identities, works of Saadat Hasan Manto, devised production revolving around an image, a moment in history, in an attempt to give voice to the voiceless.

Despite them being dark and brooding, there is a sense of affirmation. Tiny little gestures of assertions — through a song, a childhood game, sharing of food. It is imperative that hope and humanity glimmer through, no matter how savage the times!

Very often this question comes up: do we have the right to tell stories of people that are far removed from our world? "How else can we imagine living together without having the ability to see beyond where we are, to find ourselves linked with others we have never directly known, to understand that in some abiding and urgent sense, we share a

world," says Judith Butler. "What is that one moment that alters your life?" I ask myself. Is it the people I met or my experiences? I suppose it is a mix of what I have seen, heard, smelt, experienced, eaten, remembered and forgotten.

Love has the capacity to transform you in one instant, like a haiku. In the same way, a painting, a book or a work of art can. It can unblock clogged hearts and souls, creating fresh ways of seeing and feeling.

The work of Pina Bausch, *Nelken (Carnations)* changed all my tidy and safe definitions on what was possible on the stage. A stage covered with silk carnations and dancers in cascading gowns, crawling amongst the flowers, giggling and playing leapfrog before they are confronted with passport officers and snarling dogs. Men sniff onion rings and pour powdered coffee on their head while a naked woman carries an accordion, but doesn't play it. It met with immediate rejection, as I didn't know how to access the performance.

But the show clung to me, made me rest-

Kitchen Katha, a play about food, suggested to me that "each of us is born with a box of matches inside us but we can't strike them all by ourselves". In *Black Box*, I understood incarceration and the existential question of aloneness. In *Gummi Hai*, I plunged into grief and loss, how grief is processed and managed. Working on these plays was my way of leading many lives, of becoming many people, understanding myself. But is this possible without identification, sympathy, connections and love?

Theatre is not necessarily a cosy place designed to make us feel good. We stick around, for it reminds us of the wonders and passions that we always had for the world but have now lost or forgotten them. Theatre holds out hope for a shared space in a segregated world, invites us to enter a space of the unspoken, the unspeakable and helps us reimagine reality, not just as an idea, but something we can touch, feel, smell, taste.

Art, even as it entertains, is always a search for meaning, a struggle. One of the basic functions of art is what the Greeks named catharsis. According to Aristotle, catharsis is the purifying and cleansing of emotions, by evoking a sense of fear and pity in the audience. The etymology of the word is 'to shine through dark spaces'. Yet, when we try to explore the dark spaces in our soul through our work, very often we have a tendency to shut the issues with the busy work of the daylight hours. But without looking into those dark spaces, as Carl Jung said, we will lose touch with our essential humanity.

In these confused, uncertain days and the escalating global tensions, we seem to be in some sort of greyness. In negative times, we need to discover what was once contained in such 'hackneyed values' as beauty, harmony, order, peace and joy. And a visit to the theatre, as a visit to a restaurant or time spent with a friend, should leave one feeling better on the way out.

It's Valentine's Day, and Karnadeva is hovering among young hearts, it's only appropriate that we have a quote that celebrates this event — "Love is wise, hatred is foolish," as Bertrand Russell put it. Say no to hatred and divisiveness, say no to intolerance and prejudice, say yes to diversity and love.

Albert Ekka, braveheart from tribal belt

Lance Naik of 14 Guards was posthumously awarded Param Vir Chakra for exploits in the battle of Ganga Sagar

Lt Col Dilbag Singh Dabas

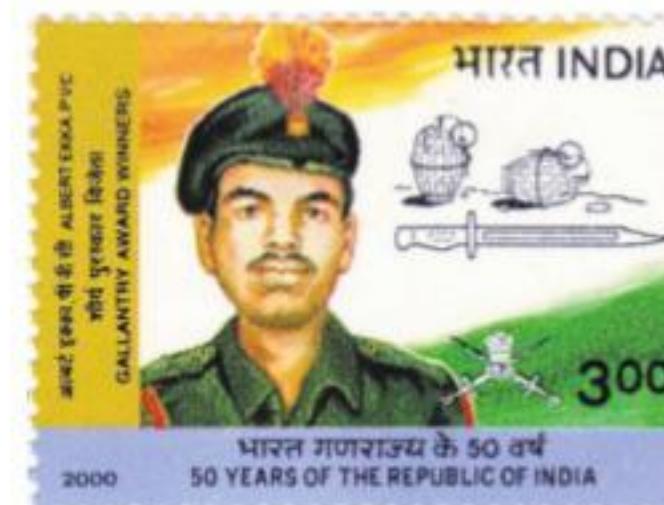
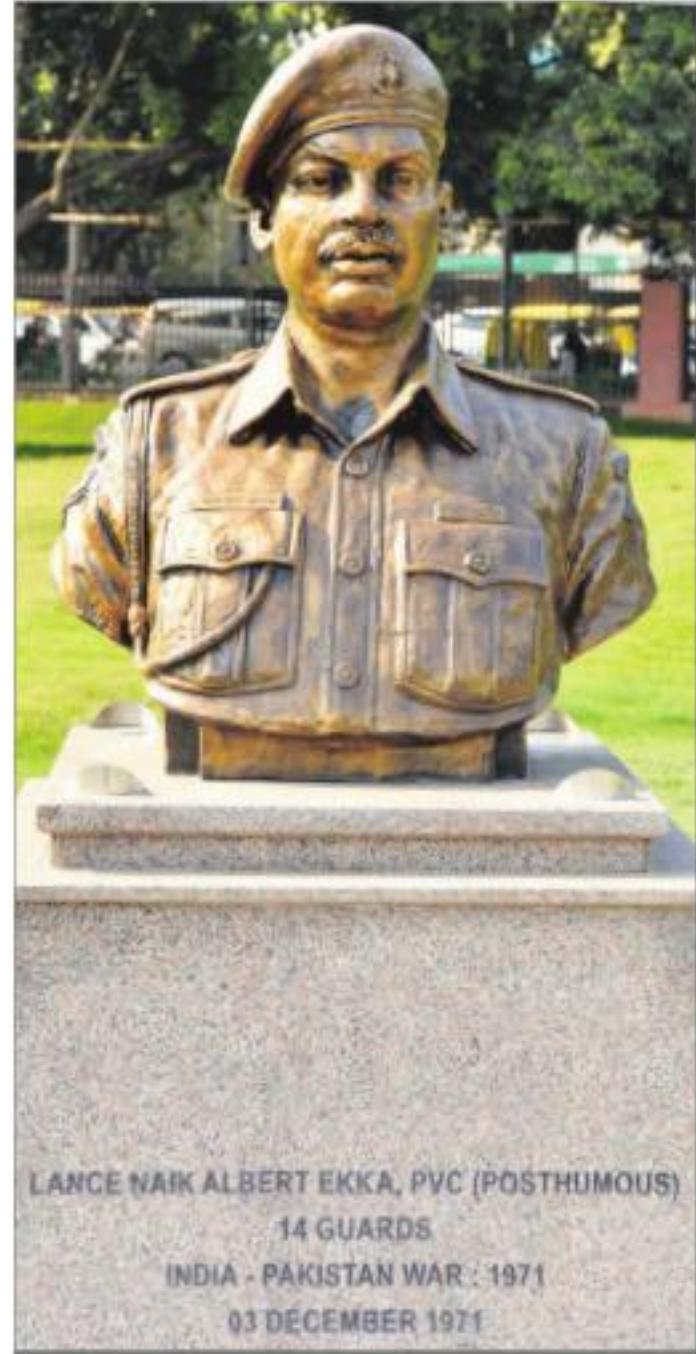
It was during the season of the traditional song, dance and feasting at tribal village Zari in Ranchi district of Chota Nagpur (now Gumla district of Jharkhand) that a son was born to Mariam and Julius Ekka on December 27, 1942. The Ekkas, a devout Christian couple, named the child Albert. Like most Adivasis, Albert was at ease in the art of tracking and was a good marksman with the bow and arrow. And he was also exceptionally good at the game of hockey. During one of the district tournaments, Subedar Major Bhagirath Soren of 7th Bihar spotted Albert and got him enrolled in his battalion.

After the 1947-48 India-Pakistan war in Jammu and Kashmir, General (later Field Marshal) KM Cariappa decided to form a Guards Brigade in the Indian Army on the lines of Guards units and formations in the western armies. The raising of the Brigade commenced on September 1, 1949, and within three years, four existing infantry battalions — 2nd Punjab, 1st Grenadiers, 1st Rajputana Rifles and 1st Rajput, having converted into Guards battalions — formed the Brigade of the Guards.

In January 1968, 32nd Guards battalion was raised at Kota. It consisted of Ahirs from the Kumaon Regiment, Mazhabhi Sikhs from the Sikh Light Infantry and Biharis from the Bihar Regiment, all in equal proportion. 'C' Company of 7th Bihar Battalion, to which Albert belonged, was allotted to the newly raised 32nd Guards. And Rifleman Albert Ekka, the ace hockey player of 7th Bihar, was now a proud Guardsman of 32nd Guards Battalion. In April 1971, 32nd was re-designated as 14th Battalion of the Brigade of the Guards.

The bombing of forward Indian airfields by the Pakistan Air Force at 4.30 pm on December 3, 1971, signalled the commencement of hostilities and soon began the unavoidable third round with Pakistan, with both countries fighting a two-front war.

But even before the declaration of war on December 3, two most decisive victo-



By 10.30 am on December 3, six hours before the declaration of war, 14 Guards had completely decimated the seemingly impregnable defences at Ganga Sagar complex inside the eastern front of East Pakistan west of Agartala, and its braveheart Lance Naik Albert Ekka had earned the first Param Vir Chakra during Operation 'Cactus Lily', commonly referred to as the Bangladesh War

(Left) Lance Naik Albert Ekka's bust at Param Yodha Sthal, National War Memorial, New Delhi.

Tribune photo: MUKESH AGGARWAL



Ekka noticed an enemy light machine gun inflicting heavy casualties on his company. With complete disregard to personal safety, he charged the machine gun bunker, bayoneted the firing crew of two and silenced the machine gun. Though seriously wounded in this encounter, he continued to fight alongside his comrades through half-a-km deep objective, clearing bunker after bunker with undaunted courage.

Towards the northern end of the objective, one enemy medium machine gun opened up from the second storey of a well-fortified building, inflicting heavy casualties and holding up the attack. Once again, this gallant soldier, without giving a thought to his personal safety, despite his serious injuries and heavy volume of enemy fire, crawled forward till he reached the building and lobbed a grenade through the loophole of the bunker, killing one enemy and injuring the other. The medium machine gun, however, continued to fire. With outstanding courage and determination, Lance Naik Albert Ekka scaled a side wall and after boldly entering the bunker, bayoneted the enemy who was still firing. He silenced the machine gun, saving further casualties to his company and ensuring the success of the attack.

In this process, however, he received fatal injuries and succumbed to them after the capture of the objective.

In this action, Lance Naik Albert Ekka displayed the most conspicuous acts of valour and determination and made the supreme sacrifice in the best traditions of the Army."

Lance Naik Albert Ekka, PVC, undoubtedly, is a shining jewel in 14 Guards' crown, but 7 Bihar also deserves a fair amount of glory for having nurtured him during his formative six years in combat fatigues.

Near the main gate of its headquarters, as a mark of respect, the Tezpur-based 4 Corps has most suitably displayed the majestic bust of two of its bravest of the braves. One is that of Lance Naik Albert Ekka, the Param Vir from one of the tribal belts of India.

— The writer is Gunner Veteran

ries had been attained by the Indian Army in East Pakistan. The first — in the morning hours of November 21, the first full-fledged defensive battle at Garibpur, 7 km inside East Pakistan's western front, had been fought and decisively won by 14 Punjab (Nabha Akal), with direct support from 6 Field Regiment (Artillery) and 'C' Squadron of 45 Cavalry (Armour). The second — by 10.30 am on December 3, six hours before the declaration of war, 14 Guards had completely decimated the seemingly impregnable defences at Ganga Sagar complex inside the eastern front of East Pakistan west of Agartala, and its braveheart Lance Naik Albert Ekka had earned the first Param Vir Chakra during Operation 'Cactus Lily', commonly referred to as the Bangladesh War.

During the third round with Pakistan in

December 1971, to meet the challenges of the war on two fronts, the Indian Army adopted an aggressive strategy in the eastern theatre to sever the eastern half of Pakistan and liberate it from the tyrannical west and a defensive strategy in the western theatre to prevent Pakistan from occupying any Indian territory.

While the clouds of war were hovering rather low, 14 Guards, ex-73 Mountain Brigade, was concentrated near the border town of Pratapgarh on the southern outskirts of Agartala. It was soon to win a battle honour, a theatre honour, a Param Vir Chakra and a number of gallantry awards for the outstanding performance of its officers and men in the forthcoming battle of Ganga Sagar.

Ganga Sagar complex inside East Pakistan comprised Ganga Sagar railway station, Goal Gangail, Lilahat, Triangle

Mogra. It was during the capture of the whole complex that Lance Naik Albert Ekka of 14 Guards, for his most conspicuous acts of bravery, was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra. The battle account of his grit and determination, against all possible odds:

"At 2 am on December 3, 1971, Lance Naik Albert Ekka was part of the left forward Bravo Company of 14th Guards during the attack on the enemy defences at Ganga Sagar on the eastern front. It was a well-fortified position held in strength and in great depth by the enemy. The assaulting troops were subjected to intense artillery shelling and heavy small arms fire, but they charged the enemy on the objective and were soon locked in bitter hand-to-hand combat. During that close quarter battle, Lance Naik Albert

CAPTION CONTEST 1292



Entries are invited to suggest a caption for the above photograph. The caption should only be in English, witty and not exceeding 10 words, and reach Spectrum, The Tribune, Chandigarh 160030, by Thursday. The best five captions will be published and

awarded ₹300, ₹250, ₹200, ₹150 and ₹100, respectively. Each caption must be accompanied by a clipping of the caption contest and its number. Photocopies of the caption photo will not be accepted. Please mention the pin code in your address.

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

Selected entries for Caption Contest 1291

- February 7 issue (see photo)
- Making India rice-sourceful — Seema Rani, Jalandhar
- Groundwork — Daljit Kaur, Chandigarh
- Paddy cure — Sandeep Daniel, Shimla
- Grain in the muddy lane — Ritu, Ludhiana
- Planting hope — Aman Jain, Derabassi



Laughter as practical happiness

Remembering the legendary cartoonist RK Laxman in his birth centenary year

USHA LAXMAN

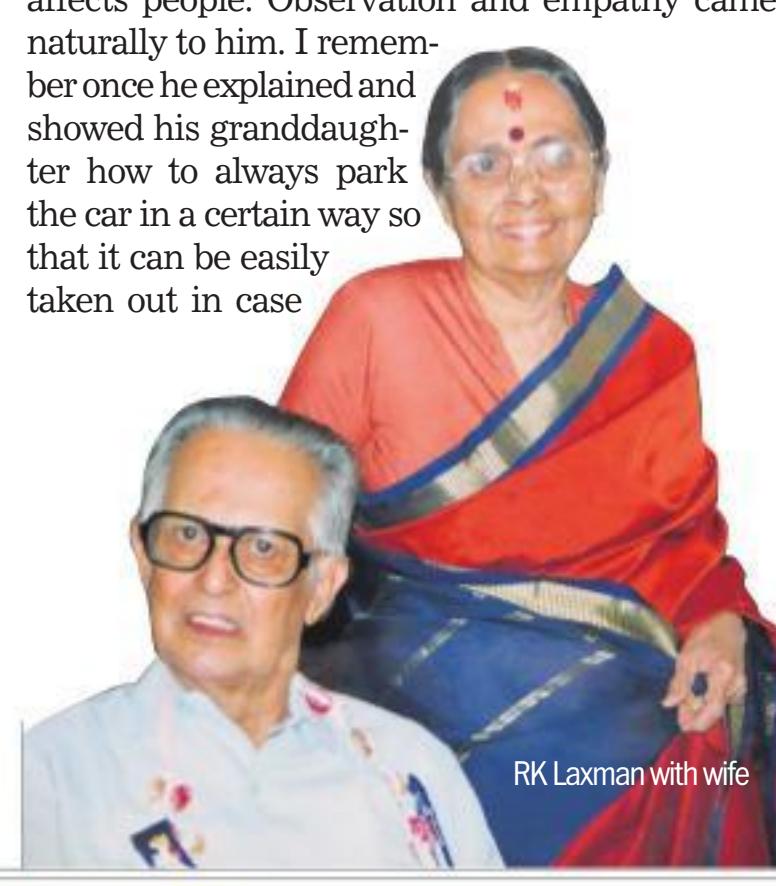
RK LAXMAN once said, "One should make it a point to take the opportunity to laugh even if it be the most trivial provocation. This necessitates setting aside the thought that occupies the mind." He always felt that laughter is 'practical happiness' while peace of mind is 'spiritual happiness', which is why one should make it a point to laugh even at the most trivial of things. "There is abundant relief in looking for objects to laugh at. It is a surprising phenomenon of the mind which fastens on the lifebelt of laughter in the sea of moods," he would say.

If you would ask him to describe the humdrum of daily life, he would say, "It's like a life of a squirrel in a wheel cage." His day would begin like that of many others — reading the daily newspaper. Only for him it was also about extracting a sense out of the events, happenings, speeches, policies and plans.

RK Laxman, who passed away in 2015, has been called one of the earliest social media activists of the country. He started highlighting issues in his own way, without garnering hate, and helped awaken Indians to the fact that the common man is the fundamental building block of this country.

There were viewers who looked upon Laxman as a social reformer. His cartoons made such an impact upon the *aam admi* that he would receive letters complaining about postal delays, telephone issues, the sloppiness of municipal authorities, inflated electricity bills, bribes in school admissions, corruption prevalent in all places at all levels, etc.

In his concern for people, in the event of situations happening, his mind would always plan ahead, accessing the state of affairs and how it affects people. Observation and empathy came naturally to him. I remember once he explained and showed his granddaughter how to always park the car in a certain way so that it can be easily taken out in case



of emergency. She parks her car in the same parking place as her grandfather, following his instructions even today.

2021 happens to be RK Laxman's centennial birth year but his Common Man continues to be as relevant as he was then. Though in a different era, the scenarios and situations continue to be the same. The Common Man cartoons strike a chord with the youth of today and connect them to his ideology. I have started a social media platform called Laxman Legacy to reach out to the youngsters and it has been a success.

If Laxman were alive today, he would have had a lot of things to say about this new, ever-immersive digital era and how this pandemic has changed our lives. His talent and interest extended beyond cartoons and caricature. He even conceptualised, devised and created TV serial *Wagle Ki Duniya*, based on The Common Man, on Door darshan. For millions of viewers across the country, *Wagle Ki Duniya* in the evenings became a habit as engrossing as his cartoons.

Among hundreds of people at the audition for the protagonist Srinivas Wagle, he chose Anjan Srivastav and guided him on the art of subtle acting where the lines you speak have to be silent and the acting and expressions prove the

actor's talent. After the serial, Anjan's popularity as actor grew by leaps and bounds and even today he is popularly known as Wagle, TV's Common Man. *Wagle ki Duniya* was based on Laxman's concept of life and to bring out humour in every situation. Laxman was the live source of material to the team.

The new series *Wagle Ki Duniya — Nayi Peedhi, Nayi Kissey* is also based on the same concept, bridging the gap of the '80s generation and the current generation, where the problems faced are similar, but, on different grounds. A nostalgic journey nonetheless, a memorable recall and an emotional connect.

He never recognised his cartoons as game-changers. He always said that whatever I am doing, it is for the Common Man and I am just bringing it to the surface for people to understand and see how you they find solutions to these situations. He always told the youth to do what they thought was right for them, what they liked and were passionate about. To him, qualification didn't matter, he gave weightage to the capacity to read and understand and write.

RK Laxman's The Common Man, at 100 Not Out!

— The writer is RK Laxman's daughter-in-law



Cartoons by RK Laxman: Pandora's box, and a young boy with RK Narayan's photo.

COURTESY FAMILY OF RK LAXMAN

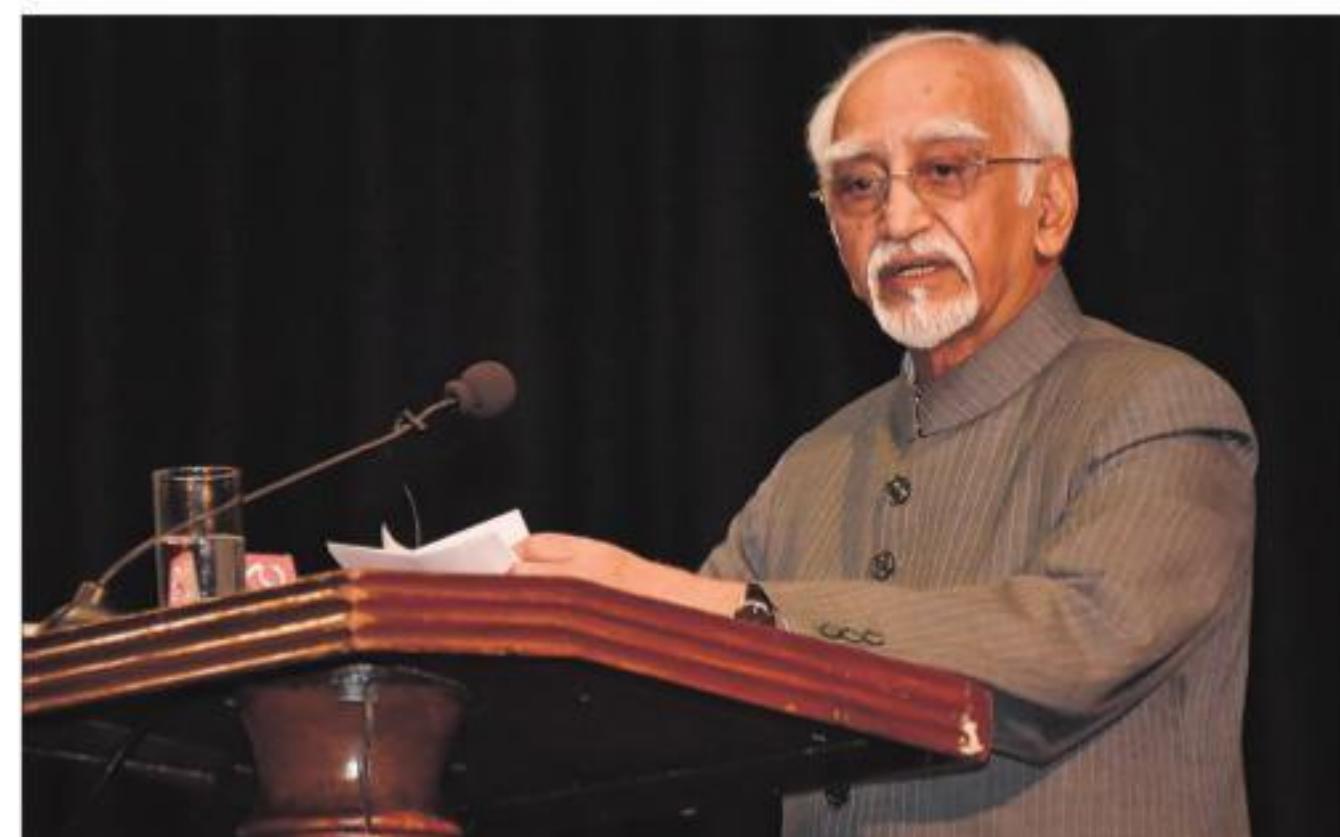
Enriching journey of objectivity, ideas

VIVEK KATIU

FIRST, a disclosure. Hamid Ansari was one of my 'gurus' in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS). He emphasised, by precept and example, the virtues of discretion, deep study and reflection, dispassionate analysis and objectivity. His autobiography 'By Many a Happy Accident' bears testimony to his firm adherence to these qualities amidst the demands of diplomatic work. Nor, after retirement from the IFS, did he give up these attributes in the academia or as a university Vice-Chancellor; as chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities, or in his two terms in the high office of Vice President of India.

At the beginning of college life, Ansari, after reading Harold Laski's 'An Introduction to Politics', decided to shift from the science stream to the humanities. That changed not only the course of his life, but possibly led him to consider a career in the civil service. A 'happy accident' led him to the IFS. That was beneficial for the country, for Ansari made an ideal diplomat who actively promoted the country's interests abroad.

Ansari spent the major part of his diplomatic career in West Asia and in India's western neighbourhood — Iraq, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, as well as in Afghanistan and Iran; he was India's ambassador to the last three nations. Over a period of three-and-a-half decades, he closely observed an area for which he has had an abiding scholarly interest. During the period of his diplomatic service, this entire region witnessed enormous turbulence, including violence and revolution, the rise and waning of nationalism, the growth and consolidation of Islamic identities in the post-colonial era



Through the past two decades, even as Vice President of India, Hamid Ansari has extensively expressed his views on social and political issues. FILE PHOTO: THE TRIBUNE

and in some cases — Saudi Arabia and the UAE, but also Iran — the impact of enormous and sudden wealth on traditional societies and polities. Ansari's accounts of his assignments capture some of these fascinating transformations even as they relate India's ties with these countries and some interesting diplomatic events and matters concerning his family's journey.

Ansari also served in the Indian mission in Brussels, as ambassador to Australia and in the significant assignment of Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. The last job was at a time when Pakistan's global diplomatic onslaught on developments in J&K was intense. His quiet but persuasive diplomacy at the UN was of great help in India combating it successfully.

Ansari has never sought to publicise his accomplishments and has always been circumspect, adhering to the well-known bureaucratic principle of need to know. An

author, however, has an obligation to his readers as well. They want to know a full account of interesting incidents as those concerning Israeli interference in Indian politics before the 1971 election (page 44), or of the Asadullah Sarwari incident causing Afghan President Najibullah's outburst (pages 86-87). In both cases, the incomplete accounts can only frustrate them. Perhaps, in a later edition, Ansari will shed his reticence.

After he hung up his foreign service boots, Ansari took to multi-faceted work making significant contributions in all that he undertook. All through these two decades and more, he has, as a patriot who has a deep commitment to the national well-being, propagated his conviction that the country needs to firmly adhere to its inclusive and plural values and ways and eschew the drive towards painting it in a monochromatic hue. His concern for the welfare of the Muslim minority and need

for its condition to improve, even as he has urged it to introspect and become a full participant in national life, is not driven by sectional interest but on the principle of inclusive growth. It is his desire for the state to "develop a formula of equidistance and minimum involvement" (page 304) that is problematic, especially in view of some of the Directive Principles of State Policy of the Constitution.

Through the past two decades, even as Vice President, Ansari extensively expressed his views on social and political issues of ideological and administrative kinds. A chapter of the book has given precis of his speeches and addresses. They all bear the imprint of his scholarship and vision. Serious students of public affairs need to ponder over them for they are the product of thoughtfulness and experience. It would have been useful for the general reader though if Ansari had summarised his worldview in a running cohesive account.

Even while moving with men and women and interacting so sincerely and even charmingly with them, this work clearly indicates that Ansari's passion has been for the life of the mind. Clearly, he has been happiest in the world of ideas relating to statecraft and social evolution and in poetic works reflecting the milieu of his Indo-Persianate cultural background, leavened with modernisation. That era is rapidly passing all over South Asia. And new patterns of public culture are emerging without the urbanity of the past era. But these are part of historical processes which both in their political and social manifestation are naturally causing Ansari deep distress.

His autobiography is a must read for all those who care about the country, especially those who may completely disagree with his worldview. They, in particular, would find much food for thought.

BACKFLAP

WHO in this world isn't looking for greater peace and satisfaction? But how does one gain it? Psychologist Scott Haas is a votary of the Japanese concept of *ukeireru*. In his book, he offers an elegant, practical and life-changing look at the ways in which we can reduce anxiety and stress and increase overall well-being. He says *ukeireru* helps improve your relationships, with a greater focus on listening, finding commonalities. It helps find calm in mundane acts like making coffee and drinking tea, nudges one to learn to pause, take in the situation, and then decide on a course of action that reframes things.



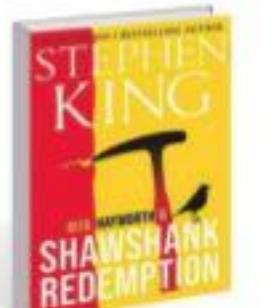
**UKEIRERU:
HAPPINESS AND
ACCEPTANCE
THROUGH JAPANESE
WISDOM**
by Scott Haas.
Hachette.
Pages 240. ₹599

BRINGING together yoga guru BKS Iyengar's inspirational messages and his recommendations on *asanas* that help an individual cope with trauma, 'Imagine If' is a tool for our turbulent times. A practitioner of Iyengar Yoga herself, Rajvi trained under Iyengar and came across several instances of people overcoming mental and physical weaknesses with the help of yoga. In her new book, she narrates stories involving people from all over the world, and how yoga helped them lend a new perspective to life. "Yoga does not change the way a person sees things; it transforms the person who sees," Iyengar would say. The book is a glimpse into how yoga can transform you if you open yourself to it.



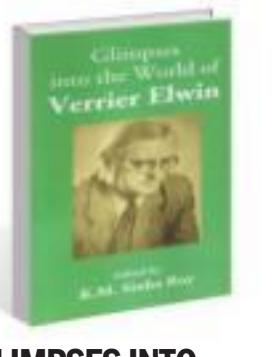
**IMAGINE IF: STORIES
OF ORDINARY
PEOPLE WITH
EXTRAORDINARY
GRIT**
by Rajvi H Mehta.
Westland.
Pages 160. ₹299

REGERED as Stephen King's most iconic stories, 'Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption', a tale of unjust imprisonment and offbeat escape which was the basis for Oscar-nominated 'The Shawshank Redemption', is now available for the first time as a stand-alone book. Originally published in 1982 in the collection 'Different Seasons', it was adapted for the big screen in 1994. King has authored more than 60 books, many of which have been turned into films, television series and streamed events.



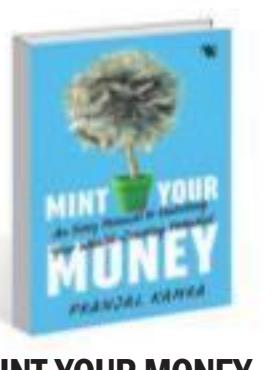
**RITA HAYWORTH AND
SHAWSHANK
REDEMPTION**
by Stephen King.
Hachette.
Pages 144. ₹350

In his life of 62 years, British-born Indian anthropologist, ethnologist and tribal activist Verrier Elwin did enough to inspire generations of scholars to delve into his work over and over again. The present book is a compilation of papers presented at a two-day seminar on Elwin organised by the Archaeological Survey of India in 2017. What's interesting is that it includes pieces by both, the scholars who study Elwin and the tribals whose lives he affected, irrespective of the fact whether they ever met him or not. Written in English and Hindi, these pieces try to explain his experiences in Central India, more specifically Bastar, where he worked, married and lived for a large part of his life. They seek to define his contemporary relevance in times when jungles and those living in them are threatened by 'development'.



**GLIMPSES INTO
THE WORLD OF
VERRIER ELWIN**
Edited by
KM Sinha Roy.
Gyan Books.
Pages 210. ₹490

TIT is never too late to start saving, and it's never too soon, says seasoned value investor and YouTuber Pranjal Kamra. A devastating pandemic, a global economic slump and a teetering job market have shown us, more clearly than ever, how essential it is to set aside savings. But in case you are not familiar with finance, in his book Kamra takes you step by step through investing, debt, tax and insurance, demystifying these and showing you how you can make it all work for you. 'Mint Your Money' is specifically tailored to Indian needs and the Indian finance environment.



MINT YOUR MONEY
by Pranjal Kamra.
Westland.
Pages 192. ₹250

THE nerd, fat boy, skinny girl, Asian kid, the queer — school can be miserable for those who seemingly cannot conform. Maulik Pancholy's protagonist, Rahul Kapoor, an Indian-American, is a skinny geek, struggling with sexual identity and OCD — a perfect fodder for the school bully. In his semi-autobiographical debut novel, evident in the author's note, actor Pancholy has perfectly captured the angst of a seventh grader who doesn't fit into the norms of a middle-class white society. Supported by his family, a fiercely protective best friend and his friend-philosopher-guide grandfather, Rahul tackles bullying and racism head-on, while finding the courage to accept his own truth. Appropriately for ages 9-12.



THE BEST AT IT
by Maulik
Pancholy.
HarperCollins.
Pages 336. ₹299

Dip into the ocean of ancient tales

ARADHIKA SHARMA

THE ancient, yet eternally modern, 'Kathasaritsagara' ('The Ocean of the Rivers of Story') is a significant work that serves to remind us of our cultural heritage and scholarship. Estimated to have been compiled around 1070 CE and retold by the Shaivya Brahman, Somadeva Bhatt, during the reign of Raja Ananta of the Lohara dynasty of Kashmir, the 'Kathasaritsagara' is said to be the inspiration behind great masterpieces of the world. These include the 'Arabian Nights' — the compendium of Middle-Eastern folk tales written during the Islamic Golden Age; the 'Grimm's Fairy Tales' by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm written in 1812; and Geoffrey Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales', written between 1387 and 1400. The work continues to inspire authors and fascinate readers thousands of years after it was written.

However, as admitted by Somadeva himself, the 'Kathasaritsagara' is an abridged version of a much larger compendium of stories — 'Brihatkatha' ('The Great Story') written by Gunadhya in the lost Paishachi dialect in the 1st century CE. Writes Somadeva: "My purpose is to ensure that this conglomeration of stories is remembered."

Meena Arora Nayak's retelling of the legends and tales contained in this mighty work is an opportune reminder of the country's cultural diversity. The classic, which is one of the oldest surviving collections of stories in the world, contains more than 350 tales told across 18 books in over 20,000 stanzas. 'Kathasaritsagara' consists of 18 *lambhakas* (books) of 124 *tarangas* (chapters) named 'waves'. Nayak, however, has consciously chosen to cover just 14 *lambhakas* in the interest of a more linear and less rambling narrative.

The central story of this epic revolves around Naravahanadatta, the son of the famed Raja Udayana, and his marital quests wherein he cohorts with the ladies of terrestrial and celestial origin. Nayak's primary attempt is to adhere to the core narrative of Naravahanadatta's story.

'Kathasaritsagara' celebrates the art and craft of the oldest form of literature — the short story. All the stories are adroitly intertwined, while proceeding from the original

tale. Yet, many are self-contained, one nimbly leading to another. Interspersed with legends, myths, fairy tales, folk tales, and anecdotes, the 'Kathasaritsagara' follows the 'frame narrative' or the story within a story technique. Still, the stories are complete in themselves and many of them, such as the tale of Nala-Damyanti, are well known and oft narrated.

"Somadeva wrote the 'Kathasaritsagara' as a cure for the psyche rather than an intellectual pursuit," says Nayak. The stories are told for the pure delight of storytelling, without aiming for moral teachings. Yet, wisdom is intrinsic to them. In 'The Bodhisattva Calls for Help', Naravahanadatta's minister Gomukha says: "Those who have good thoughts lead a good life and those who have evil thoughts... suffer misery."

In 'Upkosa Outwits Her Harassers', the virtuous Upkosa outmanoeuvres (in a way that would make the modern feminists proud) four respected but lecherous men who were trying to sexually exploit her. Diametrically opposite to this story is that of 'Bodhisattva and the Wanton Wife', in which the treacherous wife betrays her husband for the

love of another man and, subsequently, has to suffer poverty and humiliation.

'Kathasaritsagara' includes tales of penance and sin; of temptation and redemption; of crime and punishment; of curses and boons; justice and injustice; love, longing, separation, and union with the beloved and the divine.

The pages abound with talking swans and monkeys, huge, bloodthirsty *rakshasas*, snake gods, wise *rishis*, beauteous *apsaras*, gallant princes, *yakshas*, scholars and *yoginis* and magical shoes in which you can stride in the skies. There's a whole section of stories on foolish men; it includes stories such as 'Kesha-Murkha', 'Asthi-Murkha', 'The Fool Who Marked the Ocean'.

In the story named 'The City of Wooden People', Naravahanadatta comes across the "expansive city of Hemapura", which was populated with wooden people — "moneylenders, prostitutes, citizens, horses, elephants — all going about their business like real live beings, but mechanical and mute." Thus, imagination takes wondrous flights, bringing abundant fantasy into mundane life, leaving the reader enthralled today, as he must have been centuries ago.

SUMIT PAUL

AS a student of classical Persian language and literature at the University of Tehran and after that at Oxford, I was already *au fait* with the names of the sub-continent's formidable Urdu poets Mir Taqi Mir, Momin Khan 'Momin', Daagh Dehlavi, among others. In fact, it would have been sacrilegious on my part not to have heard these names, especially of Mir and Ghalib.

While translating Buddhist scholastic work 'Mahabhinishkrmana' (The Great Renunciation) into English as 'The Light of Asia', Sir Edwin Arnold tellingly wrote in the preface, "Veil after veil will lift, but there'll be veil after veil behind." The same can be said about the redoubtable Mir Taqi Mir, whose vast oeuvre and consummate poetic genius will continue to engage great critics, theorists, interpreters and translators like the venerable Dr Gopi

Chand Narang and Surinder Deol in exploring hitherto unknown facets of such a sublime poet. Dr Narang needs no introduction. I was reading his perspicuous critical analyses in Urdu and English long before I came to India. He is a world-renowned critic whose name was suggested to me by my British Professor of Urdu, the legendary Sir Ralph Russell, at SOAS, London. Ergo, reviewing his book 'The Hidden



Garden' (translated from the Urdu by Surinder Deol) is like manna from heaven for me.

I feel indeed privileged. As I've stated at the outset, though much has been written on the poetic greatness of Mir Taqi Mir, an etiological (the study of causation or origination) analysis of his poetry was much-needed. Life's varied and myriad circumstances invariably play a vital role in determining a poet or writer's persona or poetic self. Before Dr Narang, all other experts on Mir attempted to delve into his verses without bothering much to know about the circumstances that egged him on to write certain *ghazals* and pen specific *masnavis* such as 'Muaamlaat-e-I'shq' and 'Khwaab-o-Khayaal'. As a trained theorist, having studied Swiss linguist and semiotician Ferdinand de Saussure and after that the greatest exponent Umberto Eco's *semiotics* (science of signs and symbols), Dr Narang has clinically explored the sights and angst in Mir's poetry and the trials and tribulations that he faced in life with a dignified sangfroid.

Employing W.K. Wimsatt Jr and Monroe C. Beardsley's cel-

THE HIDDEN GARDEN: MIR TAQI MIR
by Gopi
Chand Narang.
Translated from the Urdu by Surinder Deol.
Penguin Random House.
Pages 224.
₹499

epaper.tribuneindia.com



THE ITINERANT

NECHAL SANDHU

In troubled Northern Ireland

SELECTION for the Police Command Course in the United Kingdom in the late 1980s held out promise of exposure to the Home Office Large Major Enquiry System (HOLMES), which had tipped the scales against hardened criminals within a year of introduction. Moving quickly between jurisdictions after serious crimes, lawbreakers made it difficult for county police forces, then numbering 43, to manually collate and analyse clues collected from locales separated by significant distances. The West Yorkshire Police, that ran the course from a complex enveloping a 19th century Bishop's house, comprehensively slaked our curiosities about HOLMES and concordant computer-beneficiated tools. The remaining four weeks at Bishopsgarth involved schooling in a wide range of policing subjects.

Of the week-long field visits to London, Leeds, Manchester, Scotland and Northern Ireland, integral to the programme, schedule of the last one remained uncertain, with the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) expectedly pre-occupied with the Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA), which had superseded other republican groups in two decades to emerge as the most violent one. Ultimately, our brash course coordinator, Chief Superintendent David Clarkson, settled on a date and let the hosts know. And so, on a windy Sunday morning, the 10 of us boarded a Shorts 360 aircraft from Leeds Bradford Airport. Quite a flight that was — the aircraft was buffeted by strong winds all along and it was not until the pilot competently set the bird down on the Belfast Harbour Airport runway that our innards stopped sloshing around our thoracic cavities.

Inspector Brian McCargo was there to receive us — much of what he said in 'sing songy' brogue flew over our heads. Our digs for the



Occupants of Divis Flats in West Belfast were known to tip refrigerators from balconies to crush any man or vehicle suspected of spying. istock

week were in the stately Culloden, built as the residence of the local Bishop and turned into a hotel in the late 1960s. Its imposing structure sat atop Hollywood Hills overlooking Belfast Lough. The week began with a call on Sir John Hermon, then RUC Chief Constable for eight years. Self-assured and calm, he detailed the bloody ravages perpetrated by the PIRA. Keen to divest the RUC of its militarist image, he had rejected the shoot to kill approach. At the time of our visit, he was helming a change in interrogation techniques — an unannounced visit to the Castlereagh Police Station in Belfast showed that mistreatment of prisoners was improbable. Later,

I gathered that his humane approach had significantly reduced mistrust between his force and community members, including the Catholics.

Garnerville Training School arranged sessions about the history of the 20-plus years of Irish ethno-nationalist conflict and approaches adopted, including use of the British army and MI-5, for quelling violence. On the technical side, we were introduced to modifications in police station design, police patrol vehicles and body armour to reduce casualties, the use of electronics to defeat Improvised Explosive Devices, and the like. A trip to Ballykinler military base, not far from Belfast, one afternoon served as a worthwhile introduction to the twin roles of the British army since its deployment of about 19 years in the province. Besides supporting the RUC in Internal Security duties, the army was conducting independent counter-insurgency operations.

Responding to our urge to savour usquebaugh, we were allowed unchaperoned one evening to visit the Cultra, a pub on the slopes below the Culloden, with strict advice that we were not to disclose any association with the RUC. The hostess beguiled us into trying Guinness, instead of Irish whiskey. A dark stout produced since the 18th century in the neighbouring Republic of Ireland, its viscous petroleum-like look and lactic acid flavour put me off. On another evening, we visited Anderson McAuley, the Harrods of Belfast, in the heart of the city. Favourite of the well-heeled for more than a century and a quarter, this tony multi-floored department store selling a wide range of goods seemed to be losing its verve. The same evening, we drove past Divis Flats in West Belfast, occupants of which were known to think nothing of tipping a refrigerator over

the handrails of their balconies to crush any man or vehicle suspected of spying in this stronghold of Irish nationalist paramilitaries. An Army Observation Point atop this tower, among the tallest in Belfast, could only be accessed by helicopter in those days. A few tots of Black Bush were needed that evening to soothe one's nerves. Sensing our new-found predilection for this brand, Brian offered to arrange a visit to the Bushmills distillery.

Two days later, we headed out in four separate Ford Granada sedans, rather than the new armoured Land Rover Tangis, for Londonderry about 80 miles away in the northwest of the province. While each adopted a different route, we arrived at the appointed rendezvous in a police station at about the same time. All the while, our drivers used coded communications to ensure a coordinated arrival; our driver's call sign was "Alpha X-Ray Idiot". After our engagements in the police station, we headed out to Bushmills, where our tour between the mashing tuns, yeast washbacks crafted out of pine, and copper stills was punctuated by generous swills. Consequently, we were not in the best shape for negotiating the nearby Giant's Causeway, a World Heritage Site marked by thousands of basalt columns of uneven heights disappearing into the sea.

The week ended too soon and fortunately without mishap thanks to Brian, who, though a Catholic, had joined the RUC to contend with his co-denominationists staging a bloody insurrection. Quite brave of him, considering that he had to live in the community! We left the Emerald Isle reinforced professionally but sad that this land of beautiful rolling meadows had been wracked for years by The Troubles, the downplayed euphemism for unrelenting fratricidal conflict.

The state power

MUSINGS & MALEDICTIONS
KEKI DARUWALA

been fired at protesters. If all this escalates, we will see blood on the streets. The chorus of condemnation of the Junta would have been much fiercer if Suu Kyi had raised her voice for the Rohingya. But regrettably, she kept quiet and lost much of her halo. The atrocious treatment of the Rohingya has ethnic and religious dimensions, and this persecution has had 'national' approval in Myanmar. Our right-wing parties need to take a lesson from this. National jingoism can take many forms, and religious jingoism can be a part of it. Donald Trump seems to have taken too much of our right-wing time. We need to devote more attention to our neighbours. We need to support democracy in our neighbouring countries, more strongly. Formerly, political exiles from Pakistan and Nepal used to flock to us. Pakistani poets have stayed here for years. Exiled Ranas from Kathmandu came here. Now you don't see them.

The jackbooted Pakistan state is a veteran in trampling on human rights. It took Pakistanis about half a century to conduct an election, resulting in the Prime Minister getting hanged. (ZA Bhutto could have won without any tampering, but he went for the overkill. Overkill is a syndrome strong rulers are addicted to.) It must be mentioned that the Pakistani military is very watchful of its own rights — in fact, those are the only rights protected in Pakistan. From this beleaguered, army-besieged, and khaki-burdened country, with a puppet in-swing bowler as Prime Minister, comes this delightful story. Gulalai Ismail, human rights activist, daughter of Mohammed Ismail, escaped from Pakistan and finds herself in New York. Imagine the embarrassment of the state, the ISI, IB, Rangers, Paramilitary forces, which I surmise outnumber the electorate, caught flat-footed! *Yah Allah*, what a pass have things come to. So the state has now jailed her father for sedition and terrorism-financing. Sounds a bit familiar.

What does a political leader do, recovering from poison which almost kills him? Navalny is reported to be very rich and could have stayed in luxury abroad. But you can't fight a system while staying outside the reach of its tentacles. The trouble is that Navalny has ideals also, a pretty dangerous thing to be equipped with. If you are constantly attacking a Russian head of state, ideals are a bomb in your coat pocket ticking away. Entire Europe knows it was a state nerve agent which poisoned Navalny and that the courts which try political prisoners are a farce. The question one can ask: 'is the state a criminal?' Of course, it is or was in Hitler's or Stalin's times. State-sponsored killing would be as old as history. Isn't the state a much bigger criminal than an individual? Can Jack the Ripper or Al Capone match a state on the rampage?

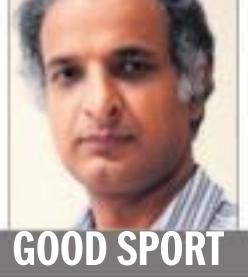
It is not just Russia. Look at Myanmar. The Junta takes over and dismisses the government on the brazen excuse of 'voter fraud'. Aung San Suu Kyi is imprisoned. The political 'party' the army backed, lost. It is much worse when the army becomes the state — as it did in Burma from 1962 to 2011. The fig leaf of the army just being the army is necessary. Even the fig leaves of judiciary and human rights, with a commission to enforce those rights, offer some palliative.

The usual story is unfolding now: protests, the three-fingered salute, car horns blaring and the water canon in action. Rubber bullets have

Nearer home, we are much better off. Some leftists, liberals, tribal leaders, etc, get a smooth passage into Tihar and other salubrious places.

The government has differences with farmers, but everything is hunky dory. They have held a dozen peaceful meetings. Farmers bring their own *chai paani*, government side gets lunches from Parliament canteens. No slogan bazi, no *hulla gulla*.

Sport transcends religion, leave it alone



GOOD SPORT

ROHIT MAHAJAN

An English bowler, Ted Wainwright, said of the great Ranjitsinhji: "Ranji, he never made a Christian stroke in his life."

Charles Fry, Ranjitsinhji's friend and captain at Sussex, believed Ranji's distinctive strokes were due to "a combination of perfect poise and the quickness peculiar to the athletic Hindu".

It's all rubbish, really — there's no Christian stroke or Hindu quickness or, for that matter, Muslim reverse-swing. It can be safely assumed that both Wainwright and Fry were not really referring to Ranji's religion — and that, in the idiom of their day, they were overflowing with "Oriental" clichés.

Sport is secular. What god or gods you believe in — or don't believe in — plays no role in how you perform. Bob Woolmer's atheism didn't prevent him from trying his best with a deeply religious Pakistani cricket team. John Wright, born in a Christian family, and an enthusiastic choir boy as a child, did his best to coach an Indian team that had players from different religious backgrounds.

'Religion poisons everything' — that's the sub-title of a book by Christopher Hitchens, the atheist writer and polemicist. In India, it seems that there are clear attempts to poison cricket, too, with religious hatred.

It's no surprise, then, that it's a cricket administrator who has poured poison into cricket.



It's terrible what Wasim Jaffer has been subjected to. PTI

Wasim Jaffer, who played 31 Test matches for India, is Muslim. So is Zaheer Khan or Mohammed Siraj, the emerging fast bowler. Sachin Tendulkar is Hindu. Shubman Gill is Sikh. Virat Kohli is from a family of Hindus, but is "non-religious".

Big deal! Sport transcends religion. Sportspersons know it well. They know a player must perform, whichever god he does or doesn't bow down to.

It's no surprise, then, that it's a cricket administrator who has poured poison into cricket.

Jaffer, who had an excellent

career lasting over two decades, winning several Ranji Trophy titles with Mumbai and Vidarbha, resigned his position as Uttarakhand's coach recently. He alleged that the Cricket Association of Uttarakhand (CAU) secretary and selectors had been "pushing non-deserving players" for selection into the state team. His resignation letter suggested that the CAU's affairs were run in an unprofessional manner.

Immediately after that, CAU fired a salvo at Jaffer — its secretary alleged that Jaffer was making "religion-based" selections. He alleged that Jaffer was trying to "break the team through religious activities". As if on cue, the team's manager added allegations of his own — that Jaffer used to call "maulvis" for Friday prayers at the team's camp, and changed the team's religion-based slogan to "Go Uttarakhand".

Later, Jaffer denied the allegations, and said that it was a very painful episode for him. "The communal angle that has been brought up, that is very, very sad," Jaffer said.

"Had I been communal, both Samad Fallah and Mohammad Nazim would have played all the games. It's a very petty thing to say, or even think," he said.

It's terrible that a cricketer and

coach has to explain this.

Social media erupted in a battle on the issue. There were several voices in support of Jaffer, too. CAU's secretary then began to backtrack, saying he never knew of any allegation of communal bias against Jaffer.

So all this trouble was over nothing? No. It's likely that the CAU secretary, who has inherited control of the association from his father, has been unnerved by his own wild allegation. And it is also possible that Sourav Ganguly, BCCI's president, had a quiet word with him.

Among his brother cricketers, few dared to stand up for Jaffer — not his India captains Sachin Tendulkar, Ganguly and Rahul Dravid. Anil Kumble, his coaching partner at IPL team KXIP, was one of the few players who supported him, the others being Manoj Tiwary and Dodd Ganesh. Ajinkya Rahane, who has shared long partnerships with Jaffer for Mumbai, said he had "no idea" about the issue.

Jaffer's prominent Mumbai teammates Sanjay Manjrekar — known for often saying the right thing — or Tendulkar kept their silence.

Clearly, even the 'God' of cricket is not necessarily a good friend to a man in need. A good straight-drive doesn't make you a great human being.

Life's lessons from the wise dogs of Dhauladhar mountains



IMMORTAL FOR A MOMENT

NATASHA BADHWAR

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DGCA raises fare cap, air travel to be dearer

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 13
Air travel is set to get costlier from April 1, with the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) revising airfare bands sensing recovery of the sector and air traffic nearing pre-Covid levels.

The air traffic has improved following a government decision to allow airlines to operate at 80 per cent of the scheduled capacity.

With DGCA's airfare band revision, domestic air travel would get costlier by 10 to 30 per cent, depending on the duration of the flight.

Minister for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri today said, "We had 2,97,102 passengers on 2,349 flights on February 12, the highest since resumption of domes-

Up to 30% price hiked

BAND REVISION

Flight duration (in minutes)	Minimum	Maximum
LESS THAN 40	New: ₹2,200	₹7,800
	Old: ₹2,000	₹6,000
40 TO 60	New: ₹2,800	₹9,800
	Old: ₹2,500	₹7,500
60 TO 90	New: ₹3,300	₹11,700
	Old: ₹3,000	₹9,000
130 TO 180	New: ₹6,100	₹20,400
	Old: ₹5,500	₹15,700
180 & MORE	New: ₹7,200	₹24,200
	Old: ₹6,500	₹18,600

TOUCHING PRE-COVID NUMBERS

With air travel emerging as a preferred mode of travel due to safety and efficiency, we are almost touching pre-Covid numbers. Hardeep Singh Puri, MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION

tic flights on May 25, 2020. With air travel emerging as a preferred mode of travel

due to safety and efficiency, we are almost touching pre-Covid numbers."

The Union minister's remarks signaled a definite surge in demand for air travel. Taking a cue from the government, the DGCA has now announced a new price band beginning April 1.

Airlines were adversely hit during Covid and reported massive losses in the last quarter. The rise in air fares, sector experts say, will help boost the finances of airline operators. As per the order, minimum fare on all seven sectors has been increased by 10-12 per cent and the limit on maximum fare has been raised by around 30 per cent. The seven sectors have been classified on the basis of approximate duration of flight.

For instance, for flights with the duration of 90 to 120 minutes, the lower fare

cap has been increased to Rs 3,900 from Rs 3,500, whereas the cap on maximum chargeable fare has been increased to Rs 13,000 from Rs 10,000. Routes like Varanasi-Jaipur, Ahmedabad-Kolkata, Bengaluru-Bhopal and Delhi-Bhubaneswar among others fall under this category.

Earlier, airfares on domestic routes were capped from May 25, 2020, with an intention to allow air services to resume without a massive drop or rise in prices. Domestic flights resumed after a two-month shutdown due to the Covid outbreak.

As per the third-quarter results for the current financial year, SpiceJet reported a net loss of Rs 57 crore as against a profit of Rs 77.9 crore during the same period last year. —TNS

Wait for in-flight Net connectivity gets longer

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 13
Surfing the Internet on jetliners cruising 30,000 feet above the earth may not become a reality in the country soon.

The issuing of draft rules by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in August for the use of WiFi on portable electronic devices on flights aroused hopes that the facility Indian flyers had been waiting for would be extended soon.

As on date, authorisation under the Flight Maritime Connectivity Rules, 2018, has been granted to 13 companies. But the government has no plan to allow "in-flight connectivity" immediately. Sanjay Dhotre, MoS, Communications, Education, Electronics & IT, has been quoted saying that no timeline has been set by the government for allowing in-flight net connectivity. —TNS

IN PARLIAMENT



BJP, Cong members flag Myanmar issue

Congress leader Manish Tewari and BJP's Tapir Gao on Saturday pitched for the restoration of democracy in Myanmar. They were speaking in the Lok Sabha during zero hour. Noting that India was now a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, Tewari said, "We must create a coalition to ensure that pressure is brought on Myanmar's military to respect the November 8 election verdict." Gao said the GoI should lead to restore democracy in Myanmar because India had a 1000 km-long border with Myanmar. PTI

Bill to modify SC list in Tamil Nadu tabled

A Bill to modify the list of Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Minister Krishan Pal Gurjar. The Tamil Nadu Government has proposed certain modifications in the list by way of grouping seven castes which at present exist as separate castes. The Registrar-General of India has conveyed concurrence to the proposed modifications, the Bill says. PTI

Japan jolted



A house damaged at Koirimachi in Japan on Saturday. AP

An earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale struck the coast of northeast Japan on Saturday

PM Yoshihide Suga headed to his office immediately after reports of the quake and set up a crisis centre. AP

Rahul: PM Modi wants to hand over agri business to his cronies

JAIPUR, FEBRUARY 13

Continuing his scathing attack on PM Narendra Modi over the farm laws on the second day of his visit to Rajasthan, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi today alleged that the PM wanted to "hand over the entire agriculture business to his two friends".

Gandhi addressed two farmers' rallies at Roopangarh in Ajmer and Nagaur's Makrana. At Rupangarh, he said 40 per cent people of the country were stakeholders in the farming business. "Modi wants to give this entire business to his two friends. This is the objective of the farm laws," he claimed.

Wearing a Rajasthani tur-



ban, Rahul reached the rally site driving a tractor with CM Ashok Gehlot and state Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra accompanying him.

He spoke while standing on a platform made of two tractor-trailers. The farmers sat or stood on tractor-trailers around the platform. —PTI

Second round of vaccination starts

VINAYAK PADMADEO
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GHAZIPUR, FEBRUARY 13

It is not even noon, but the Ghazipur flower market wears a deserted look. Most of the shop owners are waiting for customers. "We are sitting idle," says Manoj, a helper at Virender Florist.

Next to him is Abhay Deol, owner of Shri Sai Shradhha Saburi Pushp Bhandar. Deol says the entire market is hit.

Florists rue biz plunge amid farmers' protest

DOUBLE WHAMMY

- Flower sellers say the Covid lockdown followed by the farmers' on Delhi borders is double whammy for them
- Ruin losses, they say people from certain places aren't able to reach them for purchases

"You wouldn't have been able to step into this place in these days last year. It was jam-packed," Deol says.

First lockdown hurt us and now it's the farmer agitation. Customers from nearby areas,

like Indirapuram, are not coming. The business is down by at least 70% than last year," he adds. According to Virender, owner of Virender Florist, "I had to throw flowers worth Rs 80,000 on January 26. Nobody

came during the rally."

Rahul Yadav, a partner in LS Florist, says he had to throw flowers worth over Rs 2 lakh due to dearth of buyers. "The rates have shot up because of Valentine's Day, but it is not enough," he explains. "Our sales also depend on the wedding season. There are no auspicious days other than February 16 for wedding this month. Lockdown, then 'kisan andolan' and now this," he rues.

HIMACHAL PRADESH RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT E-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Dated:-

No.: EE/RDD/D/Sala/2020-21
The Executive Engineer (RDD) Zonal Office Dharamshala, on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 cover system for the undermentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost in Rs.	EMD Rs.	Time limit	Cost of tender form Rs.	Eligible class of contractor
1.	C/o Mukhamtri Lok Bhawan at G.P. Kotla Kalan Upper, Dev. Block Una, Distt. Una H.P. (SH:- Civil work and WS & SI work).	23,33,246/-	43000/-	One Year	500/-	"D"
2.	C/o Mukhamtri Lok Bhawan at G.P. Jhalera, Dev. Block Una, Distt. Una H.P. (SH:- Civil work and WS & SI work).	23,33,246/-	43000/-	One Year	500/-	"D"
3.	C/o Mukhamtri Lok Bhawan at G.P. Dehlan Upper, Dev. Block Una, Distt. Una H.P. (SH:- Civil work and WS & SI work).	23,33,246/-	43000/-	One Year	500/-	"D"
4.	C/o Mukhamtri Lok Bhawan at Dhanotu G.P. Dadam, Dev. Block Rait, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH:- Civil work and WS & SI work).	23,33,246/-	43000/-	One Year	500/-	"D"

1. **Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:** The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://hpptenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in RDD may obtain the same from the website <https://hpptenders.gov.in> digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the Digital Signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in the tender. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

2. Key Dates:-

1. Date of online Publication 18/02/2021 11.00 Hrs.
2. Document Download Start and End Date 18/02/2021, 04/03/2021 11.00 Hrs up to 17.00 Hrs.
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date 08/02/2021, 04/03/2021 11.00 Hrs. up to 17.00 Hrs.
4. Last date of Physical Submission of EMD, Cost of Tender and other relevant documents' 05/03/2021 11.00 Hrs.
5. Date of Technical Bid opening. Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by opening of Financial Bid. 06/03/2021 11.30 Hrs.

3. **TENDER DETAILS:** The Tender Document Shall be uploaded online in 2 cover:-

i) **Cover-1** Shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility information".

ii) **Cover-2** Shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid" where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

4. **SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:** i) The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in shape of FDR duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer (RDD) Zonal Office Dharamshala and other technical document in the O/o the Executive Engineer (RDD) Dharamshala.

5. **LIST OF MACHINERY, TOOL, PLANT:-** The bidders must have to submit/upload the list of machinery/tools/equipment in the form of affidavit.

6. **CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION:-** The bidders have to produce/enlistment of competent authority in appropriate class valid at the time of tender and upload as pdf.

7. **GST REGISTRATION:-** The bidders have to produce/upload the GST registration at the time of tender and upload as pdf.

8. **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:-** The bidder must have successfully completed at least one similar nature of work not less than 40% of estimated cost for one civil work of any value during the last 5 years (without liquidated damages or compensation) and the bidder must have

i) **Work done certificate and work in hand certificate:-** The bidders have to submit upload the list of work which are completed/in hand (progress) in the proforma shown General rule No. 19 in schedule "F". This statement should be countersigned by the Engineer-in-Charge not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent in State/Central Govt. PSUs with his seal. The original attested copies of same may be submitted at the time of physical submission of tender.

ii) **Affidavit:-** Contractor have to submit an affidavit wherein mentioned that they have not more than two works in hand in Rural Development Department.

9. **BID OPENING DETAILS:-** The bids shall be opened on **06.03.2021 at 11.30 hrs** in the O/o Executive Engineer (RDD) Dharamshala and by the authorized officer. If the office happens to closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

10. The bid for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period of **90 days** after the deadline date for the submission.

11. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officers inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidders. It is the bidders responsibility to verify the website or the latest information related to tender.

Executive Engineer,
RDD, Zonal Office,
Dharamsala – 176215.

Rohit powers India to 300 on Day 1



Rohit Sharma during a match in Chennai on Saturday. PTI

CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 13
Rohit Sharma struck an attractive, aggressive 161 on a challenging wicket, helping India seize the initiative with a solid 300/6 on Day 1 of the second cricket Test against England today.

Ajinkya Rahane looked equally attractive during his knock of 67 off 149 balls as the two Mumbaiarks added 162 runs for the fourth wicket. It was worth the trouble for the 12,000 spectators who flocked the stadium as Indian cricket welcomed fans back into live matches for the first time during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Rohit had scored six Test

hundreds before today, all in India, and this would rank very high due to the quality of attack he faced and the challenging conditions.

Rohit made batting look easy on a difficult wicket, hitting 18 fours and two sixes in his 231-ball knock. He also silenced those who doubt his temperament by scoring runs when it mattered the most as India attempt to level the series after a crushing loss in the first Test.

Rohit displayed great control with his sweeps, putting out a big front-foot stride outside the off-stump to sweep both Moeen Ali and Jack Leach. Knowing fully well that the track would start crumbling with the passage of play, Rohit attacked at the first opportunity, picking up 80 runs in the first session.