

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | JAMMU | SRINAGAR | VOL 140 NO. 258 | 14 PAGES | ₹5.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2018-2020 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

FOR STRONGER TIES WITH
JAPAN: PM TO SUGA WORLD

LS PASSES BILL TO BRING COOPERATIVE
BANKS UNDER RBI BUSINESS

EXPANDING SECURITY COUNCIL
UNGA CHIEF'S PRIORITY BACK PAGE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

SAD opposes farm Bills, issues whip

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16
The Shiromani Akali Dal today decided to oppose the three farm Bills in Parliament and issued a three-line whip to its MPs.

Party president Sukhbir Badal asked his parliamentary colleagues to oppose these Bills that are to replace The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance. The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, and The Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance.

Naresh Gujral, party Chief Whip in the Rajya Sabha, today issued the notice. The party has three MPs in the House, including Gujral, Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa and Balwinder Singh Bhunder.

The SAD, an ally of the BJP, is a member of the governing



ALLY'S CONCERN BEING
ADDRESSED: NADDA

A day after Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Badal told the Lok Sabha that his party was "not consulted" over the ordinances, BJP president JP Nadda on Wednesday said they were talking to their Punjab ally to "address its concerns".

Asserting that the MSP would stay, Nadda said decisions had been taken after consultations.

coalition at the Centre. It remains to be seen whether it will vote in case a division is sought by the Opposition on any of the Bills. —TNS



Farmer organisations protest in Patiala on Wednesday. PTI

Will drop FIRs against protesting farmers: Capt

Tribune News Service

STATE GOVT WITH THEM

Farmers are protesting as the Bills will ruin them. My government is with them. The Bills will spell doom for the state, in fact the whole nation.

Capt Amarinder Singh,
PUNJAB CM



Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Wednesday appealed to farmers not to block traffic in the state over farm Bills even as he assured them that no case would be registered against them for violating Section 144 of the CrPC that prohibits public gathering as they were "fighting for their lives".

The FIRs already registered against the farmers for protesting in violation of Section 144 would be withdrawn, said the Chief Minister, talking to mediapersons outside Governor's House after submitting a memorandum against the "anti-farmer" Bills on behalf of the Punjab Congress. "The farmers are protesting as the ordinances will ruin them and their families," he said in response to a question.

His government was with the farmers, the Chief Minister asserted, adding that the Centre's legislations would harm Punjab and its agriculture. The Bills would pave the way for ending the MSP regime, which would spell doom for the state and the whole nation, he added.

Capt Amarinder urged the farmers to take their protests to Delhi, on the doorstep of the Union Government.

No Chinese infiltration in last 6 mths: MoS in Rajya Sabha

47 attempts to push terrorists across India-Pakistan border in J&K

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16
The government today said there has been no infiltration from across the Sino-Indian border over the past six months while 47 attempts were made along the India-Pakistan border during the period.

Union Minister of State for Home Nitayand Rai informed the Rajya Sabha that the highest 24 attempts along the Pakistan border were made in April.

While no infiltration bids were made in February and June, there were four attempts in March, eight in May and 11 in July, the minister said. Over the past three years, said Rai, 594 attempts were made by Pakistani militants to infiltrate into Jam-



ARMY LOSES OVER 70 MEN IN THREE YEARS

582 ULTRAS
were gunned down
by security forces in
J&K in last 3 years

76 ARMY MEN
were martyred
from 2018 till
Sept 8 this year

46 TERRORISTS
were arrested, the
MHA informed
Parliament

'EFFECTIVE APPROACH'
In Jammu and Kashmir, we have adopted a multi-pronged approach, including multi-tiered deployment, improved intelligence, fencing and technological solutions, to contain infiltration.



mu and Kashmir, of which 312 were successful.

"The government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to contain cross-border infiltration," he said. Among the measures were multi-tiered deployment along the International Border and the Line of Control,

improved intelligence and operational coordination, fencing, deploying technological solutions and taking proactive action against infiltrators, the minister said in a written reply to a question.

Sources in the security and intelligence establishment maintained that

though there was a 30 per cent fall in infiltration, August, September and October were the main months for the illegal cross-over. These months saw an average surge of 20-25 attempts, they said, adding the figure could go up to 100 (from 47 currently).

What about Galwan, it's insult to martyrs: Cong

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16

The Congress today attacked the Centre for denying any infiltration along the Indo-China border terming the claim as an insult to martyrs who died in Galwan.

"Understand the chronology. The PM said no one crossed the border. Then he took a huge loan from a China-based bank. Then the Defence Minister said China occupied our land. Now, MoS Home says

Are you giving clean chit to China, it asks

there's no infiltration. Is Modi government with Indian Army or with China?" tweeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said the government was "bolstering China by yet again denying infiltration". —TNS

'Snooping' raised: MEA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16

stry, quoting Zhenhua Data Information Technology Co, said the firm's clients were research institutions and it only mobilised data which was online. An expert panel will evaluate the implications of the alleged snooping and submit a report in 30 days, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told MPs. —TNS

No central data on deaths during lockdown: Govt

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16

The government today said it did not have a centrally compiled data on deaths or injuries caused to people while enforcing the nationwide lockdown to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

Informing this through a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home G Kisan Reddy said, "Data pertaining to complaints and cases registered, FIRs regarding harassment, injury, death of individuals in enforcing the Covid-19 lockdown across the country is not maintained centrally." The minister was responding to a question by Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge. —TNS

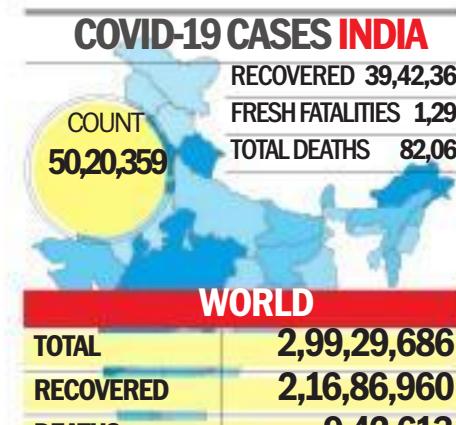
Dr Reddy's bags Russian deal for supply of Covid vaccine in India

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16

Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Laboratories on Wednesday bagged a deal from Russia for trials and supply of Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine in India.

After regulatory approvals here, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) will supply to Dr Reddy's 100 million doses of the vaccine, which is based on human adenoviral vector platform with proven safety. Dr Reddy's is set to seek approval for phase 3 clinical trials in the country from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI). Deliveries could potential-



SERUM CENTRE RESTARTS OXFORD PHASE 3 TRIALS

The DCGI on Wednesday permitted Serum Institute to restart Oxford vaccine's phase 3 trials, which were suspended temporarily due to safety concerns. The permission followed submission of global safety data to the drug controller.

Long-route bus service back in Hry after 5 mths

FARIDABAD, SEPTEMBER 16

The Haryana Roadways resumed long-route bus service, the Faridabad-Chandigarh route included, after over five months this morning. With the number of passengers remaining thin, the department faces operating losses. The Faridabad-Chandigarh bus will bypass Delhi due to Covid.

Four buses left for Chandigarh from Faridabad, the first one at 4.50 am and the last one at 10 am.

"Operating buses with few passengers will hit its financial viability. This is because the buses will miss the important stop of Delhi, due to a ban on the entry of roadways buses in the wake of Covid-19," sources said. INSIDE

Nitin Gadkari tests positive for virus

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari tested positive for Covid-19 on Wednesday. He had attended the monsoon session on Monday. "I am at present doing well with the blessings and good wishes of all. I have isolated myself," he said, asking those who came in contact with him to follow health protocols. TNS

Chargesheet against 15 for Delhi riots

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police on Wednesday filed a chargesheet in a city court under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and various Sections of the IPC against 15 persons for larger conspiracy in northeast Delhi riots in February. The special cell of the police told the court that it had relied on CD-R and WhatsApp chats. INSIDE

US tariffs on China illegal, says WTO

GENEVA: A World Trade Organisation (WTO) panel ruled on Tuesday that the Trump administration tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods are illegal, vindicating Beijing even if the US has all but incapacitated the WTO's ability to hand down a final, binding verdict. It's the first time that the Geneva-based body has ruled against a series of Trump government's such decisions. INSIDE

Recovery not 'fully entrenched'

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16

The recovery is not yet fully entrenched... It is likely to be gradual as efforts towards reopening of the economy are confronted with rising infections.

Shakti Das, RBI GOVERNOR areas — human capital in education and health, productivity, exports, tourism and food processing.

The sunrise sectors that

offered potential for higher exports in the post-Covid period were drugs and pharmaceuticals, he said. "A sharp policy focus on other global value chain intensive network products, including IT hardware, electrical appliances, electronics, telecommunications and automobiles would also provide the cutting edge to India's export strategy with considerable scope for higher value additions," he said.

Das said tourism and hospitality sectors had been impacted more by Covid, but these might see early revival.

Tatas win bid to raise Parliament building

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16

R861.90 cr to be spent on construction

project, and it is expected to be completed in 21 months.

According to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), the new building will come up at plot number 118 of the Parliament House Estate.

The existing building would continue to be used during the period of execution of the new project. —PTI

for her son and monetary benefits admissible to her after her husband's death, along with arrears. Allowing the petition in September 2010, the court granted only compassionate appointment to her son following which she moved the court again for the pensionary benefits.

The state, during the course of hearing, itself decided to grant pensionary benefits from 1991 to January 2017 to the petitioner for service rendered by her late husband. But it filed a review petition, claiming that the grant of pensionary benefits along with interest was liable to be reviewed.



Contempt proceedings initiated against Hry Roadways GM

MOTHER'S PROTEST: Former JNU student Umar Khalid's mother Sabiha at a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday. MANAS RANJAN BHU

Babri demolition verdict on Sept 30

LUCKNOW: A special court here will deliver judgment on September 30 in the Babri Masjid demolition case, ruling whether BJP veterans like LK Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi were involved in razing the mosque in 1992. —PTI

No quarantine for visitors: Thakur

Tribune News Service



JOB MUST BE CREATED

Anybody, including tourists, can enter the state without any restrictions. The economy needs to be back on track if jobs are to be created. Jai Ram Thakur, CM

for treating severe and moderate cases. There would be fewer quarantine centres, primarily in industrial belts, to

After 28 yrs, widow gets dues with interest

Saurabh Malik

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 16

For almost three decades, widow Ram Rati fought for her legitimate dues. But justice evaded her even after she won a legal battle against the state. Asked to pay interest on the payment delayed since 1991, Haryana moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court, seeking the order's review on a "factually incorrect" plea — an act that resulted in a reprimand.

Rapping the state for harassing the widow by denying legitimate pensionary benefit to her for 28 years, Justice Harsimran Singh

Sethi dismissed the state's review petition with Rs 50,000 costs. The amount is to be paid by Haryana Roadways General Manager (GM) Amarinder Singh Manais from his own pocket without reimbursement by the state as the plea was filed by him.

Justice Sethi said the cost was being imposed as "during the restricted hearing, the court time, which could have been used for deciding other urgent matters, has been wasted for this kind of frivolous petition".



Contempt proceedings initiated against Hry Roadways GM

earlier order on payment of interest. The officer intentionally and willfully disobeyed the order, Justice Sethi said. Ram Rati filed a petition more than a decade ago, seeking compassionate appointment

200 booked for blocking highways

BATHINDA, SEPTEMBER 16 Around 200 farmers belonging to various farm unions have been booked for blocking the Bathinda-Amritsar road while protesting against the Centre's contentious agriculture Bills on Tuesday.

Two FIRs were registered. In the first case, the police stated that they had got a tip-off that around 400 farmers of 11 farmer unions held a protest at Kanhya Chowk and blocked the highway. The police have registered a case against Kaka Singh Kotra, Baldev Singh Sandha, Resham Singh Yatri of BKU (Sidhpur), Ram Karan Singh Rama, Dara Singh Maiserkhana and Surmukh Singh Salebrah of BKU (Lakhawal) and Maghar Singh of BKU (Kadian) under Sections 188, 269, 270 and 283 of the IPC and Section 51 of the Disaster Management Act at the Thermal police station.

In the second case, the police stated that the protesters had blocked the highway at Jeeda village. A case has been registered against Jagsir Singh president BKU (Mansa), Beant Singh, Sukhdarshan Singh, Balwinder Singh, Resham Singh, Bhola Singh, Kartarp Singh and 200 unidentified persons at the Nehialawa police station.

Resham Singh, a member of BKU (Sidhpur) said: "It is a bid to suppress our voice. We are ready to go to jail. Our protest will continue till our demands are fulfilled and these anti-farmers Bills are taken back." — TNS



A farmer leader addresses the protesters at Badal village in Muktsar district on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Farmers continue protests at CM's hometown, Badal village

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA/MUKTSAR, SEPTEMBER 16

On the second day of their six-day protest, thousands of farmers today continued with their sit-in at the PUDA ground and raised slogans against the Central and state governments for their "anti-farmer policies" and "failure to address the genuine issues of the farming community".

Farmer unions vowed not to allow corporate officials to enter grain markets and purchase anything. The Bhartiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) held a protest march in the Patiala. "Capt Amarinder Singh had promised a loan waiver to all farmers. The Congress government is left with a

CALL FOR 'PUNJAB BANDH' ON SEPT 25

Chandigarh: As many as 10 farmer organisations on Wednesday said they would observe 'Punjab Bandh' on September 25. The decision was taken in a meeting held in Ludhiana, which was attended by Jamhuri Kisan Sabha, Kirti Kisan Union, BKU (Dakoda), Krantikari Kisan Union, Punjab Kisan Sabha, All-India Kisan Sabha, Kisan Sangharsh Committee, Azad Kisan Sangharsh Committee, Jai Kisan Andolan, Punjab Kisan Sabha Sambar and All-India Kisan Sabha (Punnawali).

little over a year and still there are no signs of any waiver," said Joginder Singh Ugrahan, a senior farmer leader.

Farmer leaders alleged that the Central Government was hell bent on handing over the entire farming sector to big multi-nationals, which would eventually destroy shopkeepers, arthiyas and the farming community.

In Muktsar too, there was no let-up in the farmers' stir at Badal village, even though the SAD, an ally of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre, voted against a contentious farm Bill on Tuesday. The farmers sought immediate revocation of all contentious Bills. The farmers have pitched a tent close to the residence of Badals.

They have even made a stage, organising revolutionary plays and singing songs. Besides, a community kitchen has been set up. The protesters alleged that the power supply was snapped at the dharna site last night.

A large number of cops are presently deployed at Badal village and barricades have been put up to prevent protesters from moving towards the Badals' residence.

The Muktsar police have registered three cases against farmers for blocking roads and protesting at Mahuana and Udekaran villages and Malout town on Tuesday. Notably, the farmers protesting at Badal village haven't been booked yet.

Unrest in border state can be dangerous: Capt

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 16 Speaking strongly against the farm Bills, Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh today said the farmers' unrest could be a fodder to terror supporters in Pakistan.

The CM said this after leading a Congress delegation to submit a memorandum to Governor VP Singh Badnore, seeking his intervention to "recommend to the Union Government not to pursue the agriculture reform Bills further."

He again clarified that the Punjab Government wasn't consulted before tabling the contentious Bills.

Flanked by PPCC chief Sunil Jakhar and other senior Congress leaders, the Chief Minister told the Governor that the party felt that any move to tinker with the pres-



CM Capt Amarinder Singh addresses mediapersons after meeting Governor VP Singh Badnore in Chandigarh. PHOTO: MANOJ MAHAJAN

WHY IS HARSIMRAT SILENT, ASKS CM

Isn't Harsimrat Badal a member of the Cabinet? Why didn't she protest there? Why doesn't she speak outside either on the issue? Capt Amarinder Singh, CHIEF MINISTER

ent procurement system, might not be conducive for the peace and development of the region, which faced serious challenges of public order due to a live international border.

"The enactment of the remaining two Bills would

ruin Punjab. If the MSP regime ends the agriculture sector would be ruined in Punjab," he said.

The CM said all, except the SAD and BJP, were on board at the all-party meeting he had convened on the issue.

Farmers' interest priority, not alliance, say Akalis

BATHINDA, SEPTEMBER 16

Former SAD minister and kisan wing president Sikander Singh Maluka and former minister Janmeja Singh Sekhon along with other party leaders today said the rights of Punjab farmers were their priority and any alliance was secondary for the party.

They said the SAD would never compromise on issues related with the people of Punjab, especially farmers. They claimed the party hadn't been taken into confidence by the Union Government and no detailed information pertaining to the Bills was given to them.

Mann said, "Till now Badals had been vigorously supporting the ordinances, but now they have suddenly started protesting. In reality, the protest is nothing more than a show." — TNS

AAP slams SAD

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 16 Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Bhagwant Mann today slammed SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal for allegedly making misleading statements about the farm Bills.

Mann said, "Till now Badals had been vigorously supporting the ordinances, but now they have suddenly started protesting. In reality, the protest is nothing more than a show." — TNS

Licence not renewed, yet centre sells drug

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, SEPTEMBER 16

A drug de-addiction centre in Bathinda has been allegedly selling buprenorphine and other medicines, which only authorised centres can sell, to addicts without a required licence from the Health Department.

As per the records of the department, the licence of the centre, situated near Ganesha Basti, had expired on September 4. However, it continued to operate even after that.

A Health Department official said the owner of the centre had applied for the renewal of the licence, but it was not approved. However, it continued to sell buprenorphine for over a week.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Amrik Singh Sandhu said, "We have completed required formalities from our end and sent it for the approval to the head office. The centre cannot prescribe buprenorphine tablets. As soon as the matter was brought to my notice, we directed the centre to stop operation till the renewal was granted."



Members of various Sikh organisations protest outside the SGPC headquarters in Amritsar. VISHAL KUMAR

Sikh bodies file plaint, protest on

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Missing Saroops

AMRITSAR, SEPTEMBER 16 Protesting Sikh bodies today filed a police complaint demanding criminal proceedings against the SGPC officials who were held accountable for misappropriation of 328 "saroops".

The sit-in site was shifted a few yards away from the SGPC headquarters main entrance gate. The protest will continue till September 18 when the SGPC has called up its executive body meeting.

Accompanied by lawyer Simranjit Singh, Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Committee members led by Balbir Singh Muchhal visited the Police Commissioner's office to file a criminal complaint against 16 SGPC officials who were pointed out by Akal Takht-constituted probe panel.

Muchhal said, "We had asked the SGPC to review its earlier decision of taking criminal action against the culprits in its next executive body meeting and file a complaint with the police. In the meantime, we got the complaint registered with the police," he said.

He said the SGPC had been asked to make available the record and data related to "saroops". As the "morcha" continued for the third day, the Sikh activists objected to barricading as it hindered the movement of devotees. Three sides leading to the Golden Temple — Guru Ram Dass Langar Hall, Gurdwara Baba Atal Rai Sahib and Jodha Ghar — were blocked.

Activist Sukhjot Singh Khosa said a nine-point demand charter was discussed with the SGPC representatives.

"They admit that our demands are justified, but they are hesitant to implement these. Our protest will continue till the FIR is registered against the guilty."

'Drop box' for school admissions

Education Department comes up with out-of-the-box strategy

GS PAUL

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, SEPTEMBER 16 In a first, the Education Department has come up with an innovative way to reach out to students seeking admission.

Special admission boxes have been placed at the entrance gates of government schools and at key spots in urban areas. In rural areas, the boxes have been installed at gurdwaras and temples in the vicinity.

Those interested are just required to drop their credentials, such as, their name, four passport size photos, proof of age, previous class result, any ID proof and their contact number. The provision is available

this year, as against 98,692 enrolments last year. There has been a spike in the number of admissions by 13,302. Most of the new admissions have been students who migrated from private schools.

District Education Officer (Secondary) Satinder Bir Singh, who came up with this initiative, said compared to last year, there had been a spurt in the number of admissions in government schools by 11.63 per cent. For admission to Classes XI and XII too, a surge has been witnessed, with 3,000 and 4,000 new enrolments, respectively.

The idea has caught the attention of Secretary, Education, Krishan Kumar, and



Boxes have been installed at gurdwaras and temples

for all students seeking admission to either primary or senior secondary classes.

So far, 1,11,994 students have enrolled themselves

will be shortly adopted in Patiala and other districts.

At a time when parents and managements of private schools are at loggerheads on the issue of school fee, many government SMART schools have caught the fancy of parents. Government Senior Secondary School (GSSS), Chheharta, has enrolled 498 students from private schools; GSSS, Mall road, saw admission of 254 private school students; and GSSS, Mahan Singh road, admitted 294 students of private schools.

Satinder said, "We have digital classrooms, and e-content will also be made available to students. We are not short of any private schools."

HC sets aside Bar Council's notification for online polls

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 16

Just about a fortnight before online elections were scheduled to elect officer-bearers of about 145 Bar Associations across Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh, along with the Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association, a Division Bench set aside a notification in this regard.

The notification, issued by the Bar Council for

online elections on September 30 and October 1 for the Bar Associations, was challenged through a bunch of petitions placed before a Special Division Bench.

The Bench was asked to adjudicate a vital question of law revolving around the powers of the Bar Council in issuing a notification for online elections.

The issue has been raised

by three former presidents of the District Bar Association of Chandigarh and two members.

The petition, among others, was argued by senior advocate Anand Chhibbar.

Shankar Gupta and other petitioners submitted the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana has shut its eyes to the plight of the needy lawyers in dire need of funds during these unprecedented trying times. — TNS

BDA announces e-auction of RESIDENTIAL PLOTS situated at BATHINDA

BEGINS ON 8 October, 2020 at 9:00 AM

AUCTION CONCLUDES ON 19 October, 2020 at 1:00 PM

Possession on 25% payment

Balance payment in easy installments at interest rate 9.5% P.A.

81 RESIDENTIAL PLOTS from ₹ 25.92 Lac

visit www.puda.e-auctions.in for details

BATHINDA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BDA Complex, Bhagu Road, Bathinda

Committed for Planned Development

</div

Three held for killing cricketer Raina's kin

Tribune News Service

PATHANKOT, SEPTEMBER 16 The police have arrested three members of the notorious 'kale kachchewale' gang who allegedly murdered Ashok Kumar and Kaushal Kumar, uncle and cousin, respectively, of cricketer Suresh Raina. The gang also injured his aunt and another cousin on the intervening night of August 19 and 20.

The gangsters have their origins in Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan. Interestingly, the police nabbed the accused on the same day when Raina visited his injured aunt Asha Rani and cousin Apan Kumar at the hospital where they are recuperating. Later, he also paid a visit to the family's ancestral house in Thariyal village falling in the jurisdiction of the Shahpur Kandi

Cops on trail of 10 members of gang

PROBE UNDERWAY

We are working on certain clues and hope to nab the accused soon. In all, 13 persons were involved in the crime.

Gulneet Singh Khurana, SSP, PATHANKOT

police station.

Raina was accompanied by his mother and sister. He praised the police for "going about its task in an efficient manner" and also spoke highly of Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh for "forming a special investigation team (SIT) to crack the case".

Pathankot SSP Gulneet Singh Khurana said the SIT

was on the lookout for 10 more members of the gang. "Before committing a crime, the members wear black clothes which is why they are identified by the nomenclature of 'kale kachchewale' gang. They split into three or four sub-groups to avoid the police. They conduct a recce of the intended target for several days and gather information about the number of family members residing in the house and their financial condition," he added. The SSP said the arrested accused had been identified as Sarwan Kumar, Shahrukh Khan and Mohabbat, who were picked up from the Defence road late last night.

The SSP said two wooden sticks, two gold rings, a gold chain and Rs 1,530 in cash had been recovered from the accused.

₹1,500 extra incentive for health workers

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 16 Health and Family Welfare Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu today announced an additional incentive of Rs 1,500 to Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) for Covid-related work.

Sidhu said the Punjab Government had acknowledged the tremendous efforts being made by more than 20,000 ASHAs & ASHA facilitators in undertaking a range of community-based interventions to tackle the Covid pandemic.

Sidhu said in the wake of the additional workload on account of Covid-related work, the government had been giving an additional incentive of Rs 1,000 per month from January 2020 onwards, adding the state had also given an additional incentive of Rs 1,500 per month to the workers from April to June for conducting house-to-house surveys. —TNS

Death rate in 9 districts higher than state average

2,717 fresh cases, 78 more succumb to Covid

VISHAV BHARTI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 16

Punjab's Covid death rate is 2.97 per cent, which is one of the highest in the country. However, there are nine districts in which the rate is alarmingly higher than the state's average fatality rate.

Kapurthala tops the list with 4.98 per cent death rate, followed by Ludhiana (4.28 per cent), Sangrur (4 per cent), Fatehgarh Sahib (3.98 per cent), Amritsar (3.8 per cent), Tarn Taran (3.71 per cent), Ferozepur (3.21 per cent), Ropar (3.19 per cent), Hoshiarpur (3.14 per cent) and SBS Nagar (3.04 per cent).

According to health officials, these are the very districts which are reporting maximum cases too. "A large number of cases from Ludhiana, Amritsar, Sangrur and

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS	DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Ludhiana	14,738	622	Moga	1,953	53
Jalandhar	10,358	281	Fatehgarh Sahib	1,538	61
Amritsar	7,236	278	Tarn Taran	1,251	46
Patiala	9,459	264	Kapurthala	2,263	108
Sangrur	2,895	116	Fazilka	1,572	25
SAS Nagar	7,443	139	SBS Nagar	1,106	32
Gurdaspur	4,504	100	Faridkot	2,174	33
Bathinda	4,220	81	Barnala	1,521	33
Hoshiarpur	3,304	103	Ropar	1,486	47
Ferozepur	2,501	80	Muktsar	1,848	27
Pathankot	2,507	40	Mansa	1,154	18
Total positive		87,184	Deaths		2,592

other districts are increasing the overall caseload," said Dr Rajesh Bhaskar, state's nodal officer for Covid.

"Over 90 per cent of the deaths in the state have taken place in tertiary care centres, which indicates people are getting treatment," he said. The districts which have reported

Ensure smooth supply of oxygen, hospitals told

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 16 To boost the supply of medical oxygen in three government medical colleges (GMCs), Medical Education and Research Minister Om Prakash Soni today directed the principals of these institutes to strengthen the supply chain and maintain an inventory of 200 cylinders at all times.

Soni directed the oxygen suppliers to ensure smooth supply to the hospitals. He said emphasis should be laid on sanitising the hospitals.

The minister handed over a cheque of Rs 1 crore each to the three principals to meet treatment expenses of Covid-19 patients.

Meanwhile, as the need for oxygen in the hospitals has increased manifold in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak, owners of furnace units in the state claimed they were facing severe shortage of oxygen. —TNS

Bathinda man held for chit fund fraud

Tribune News Service

BATHINDA, SEPTEMBER 16 A 25-year-old woman from Ablu village in Bathinda, who was allegedly duped by an agent of a chit fund company, sat on a dharna outside his house today. Later, the police were forced to take action. They arrested the agent and initiated a probe into the matter.

Satwinder Kaur, along with her mother and grandmother, reached the house of the agent and sat on a dharna. Talking to The Tribune,

Satwinder said, "Manpreet Singh, an agent of a chit fund company, had promised us good returns if we invested in a six-year scheme. We gave him Rs 86,000. However, several months have passed, but he has not paid us the money."

Kor Singh, incharge of the Killi Nihal Singhwala police post, said, "We have arrested Manpreet Singh from Ablu village. He used to work for a firm named Sarv Agro India Ltd. We are investigating how many persons have invested in the scheme."

CELEBRATE EXTRAVAGANCE

Best-in-class Luxury

VIP Seats with Dual Entertainment System

Best-in-class Convenience

Largest in its class with Power Sliding Doors

Easy to Own Packages

Never before Ownership Packages

This festive season, bring home the Carnival and celebrate extravagance like never before.

CARNIVAL SPECIAL BENEFIT PACKAGES*

3 Years Unlimited Kms Maintenance Package worth ₹ 48,000

Exchange Bonus up to ₹ 80,000

Corporate Benefit up to ₹ 46,000

Dual Entertainment System worth ₹ 36,045 (Only with Prestige and Premium)

Easy to Own Packages**

EMI Holiday Plan: Buy now, pay after 90 days. | **Lowest EMI Plan:** Choose to pay low EMI of ₹ 767 per lakh for first 6 months.

Flexible EMI Plan: Choose to pay 50% lower EMIs for 3 months, every year of loan tenure.

For more information contact 1800 108 5000

@KiaMotorsIN @KiaMotorsIN Kia Motors India @KiaMotorsIN

Visit www.kia.com/in

Book Kia Carnival

*T&C Apply. Offers valid on vehicles sold till 30th September 2020 only. **All financial package offers are from finance partners. Finance is at the sole discretion of financiers. Terms & conditions of finance schemes will differ as per financing partner's policy. Class is defined as the vehicles having OAH between 1.75m to 1.8m, OAL between 4.7m to 5.2m, OAW between 1.8m to 2.0m and Diesel Engine of capacity between 2.0L to 2.5L. Kia Motors India Pvt. Ltd. reserves the right to make any changes with respect to the trims, colors, specifications and other details of any model as mentioned or to discontinue any model/service/offer without prior notice. Kia urges you to follow traffic rules, these are meant to keep you safe on roads.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: TRICITY CHANDIGARH: CHANDIGARH: JOSHI KA, PH: 7087001111 | PUNJAB: AMRITSAR: SPEEDWAYS KIA, DABURIL, PH: 6284300158
HOSHIANPUR: LALLY MOTORS, SINGHWALA, PH: 9976600009 | JALANDHAR: LALLY MOTORS, PARAGPUR, GT ROAD, PH: 9976600009 | LUDHIANA: DADA MOTORS,
OPPO DHANDARI RLY. STN, PH: 9805712345 | MOGA: DADA MOTORS, GT ROAD, PH: 9805712345 | MOHALI: JOSHI KIA, INDUSTRIAL AREA, PHASE - 7, PH:
7087000222 | PATHANKOT: SPEEDWAYS KIA, DALHOUSIE ROAD, PH: 6284300158 | PATTIALA: YASHODHA KIA, RAJPURA ROAD, PH: 8751900002 | BARYANA: AMBALA:
MOHAN VEHICLES, PH: 8607807100 | BADHURGAT: RANSH MOTORS, HISSAR ROAD, PH: 9817979153 | BIHANI: RITU KIA, ROHTAK ROAD, PH: 7419990999
FARIDABAD: DHINGRA MOTORS, AJRONDA CHOWK, PH: 8929275400 | GURGAON: FRONTIER KIA, M.G. ROAD, PH: 9654264367, ALLIED MOTORS, SOHNA ROAD, PH:
9899486666, DHINGRA MOTORS, OLD GURGAON, PH: 8745900045 | HISSAR: RITU KIA, OP JINDAL MARG, PH: 7419994999 | KARINA: AARYAMAN KIA, GT ROAD, PH:
7298000351 | PANIPAT: AARYAMAN KIA, PH: 7298000351 | ROHTAK: RANSH MOTORS, JIND BYPASS ROAD, PH: 9817979125 | SIRSA: RITU KIA, PH: 7419997999
SONEPAT: LEGACY KIA, GT ROAD, PH: 7496969901 | YAMUNANAGAR: MOHAN VEHICLES, PH: 9817707100 | HIMACHAL PRADESH: KANGRA: SANT AUTOCRAFT, PH:
7876908055 | MANDI: SANT AUTOCRAFT, MUHAL OTTA GUTKAH, PH: 7876908055 | JAMMU & KASHMIR: JAMMU: PAL KIA, NH-1A, PH: 6006800800

INNOCEAN-109/20

KIA

The Power to Surprise

2nd test for 2,364 ETT cadre posts challenged

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 16 The "second" competitive test for recruitment to 2,364 ETT cadre posts in the Education Department has come under judicial lens with the filing of a petition. Taking up the matter, Justice Jitendra Chauhan of the High Court not only admitted the writ petition, but also directed that the appointments, if made, would be subject to the outcome of the petition.

The matter was brought to the High Court's notice after Nirmal Singh and other ETT pass candidates challenged the "second competitive test" while seeking the quashing of a clause in the advertisement dated March 6, issued by the Punjab Education Recruitment Board.

Counsel Kapil Kakkar and

Hema Kakkar contended that the petitioners passed the Punjab State Teacher Eligibility Test after completing the two-year ETT course as required under the statutory rules governing the appointment of ETT teachers in the state. They were fully eligible for the posts advertised by the Education Department.

But the recruitment board, vide a clause in the advertisement, prescribed the conducting of another written test and laid down that the merit would be determined only on its basis. Describing it as totally illegal and arbitrary, it was contended that prescribing another written test was against the statutory rules laying down the qualification and was totally unjust and unfair. —TNS



**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MECHANICAL FIELD SUB-DIVISION, KULGAM**

E-mail ID: aeemfsdkulgam786@gmail.com

GIST OF NOTICE TENDER

No. MFSD/Kulgam/01 of 2020-21 Dated: 16.09.2020

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, Sealed tenders affixed with ₹ 6/- revenue stamps are invited from registered firms/contractors for "for creation of water storage along with allied pipe fittings & fixtures at Snow Control room Bathi Pora of Mechanical Field Sub Division Kulgam."

The tender documents can be sold to those Registered firms/Contractors who produce:-

- a. GST Registration certificate.
- b. PAN card

The detailed tender document can be had from the office of the undersigned against cash payment of ₹ 200/- on or before 21.09.2020 up to 4.00 P.M. The tenders accompanied with requisite earnest money deposit of ₹ 2000/- in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Anantnag and complete in all respects shall reach the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Anantnag on 23.09.2020 up to 1400 hrs. The tenders shall be opened on the same day or any other working day convenient to the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Anantnag.

The tenderers who wish to participate in the bidding process shall remain present at the time of opening of tenders. The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Anantnag reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

**Assistant Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Field Sub-division,
Kulgam.**

No.: MFSD/Kulgam/285-86

Date: 16.09.2020

DIP/K/5789

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PW(R&B) DIVISION, SHOPIAN**

E-mail: rnbdisionshopian@gmail.com

(Phone/Fax No.: 01933-260226)

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No.: 68/3580-89/SPN/RnB-e-Tendering/2020-21

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion (in days)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Position of AA/TS	Position of Funds
1	Construction of 1st Floor including steel Truss CGI roofing and finishing work complete (For extension of Additional Accommodation to Middle School Karefa Manlo)	RMSA	52.56	AAY	45 working days	1600/-	1,05,200/-	Accorded	Available

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.o.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	15-09-2020	
2	Document downloading Start Date	16-09-2020	From 10.00 A.M.
3	Document Downloading End Date	25-09-2020	up to 4:00 P.M.
4	Bid Submission Start Date	16-09-2020	From 10.00 A.M.
5	Bid Submission End Date	25-09-2020	up to 4:00 P.M.
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	26-09-2020	at 11:00 A.M.

1. Bidders must upload the requisite cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan/Treasury Challan Receipt and Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, R&B Division, Shopian (Tender receiving authority). The Lowest responsive bidder (L1) must submit the original CDR/FDR/Additional Security deposit to the tender allotting authority before issuance of LOI/formal Allotment of contract.

2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of the Executive Engineer, R&B Division, Shopian (Tender receiving authority).

3. Unbalanced Bid: In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR only before award of contract/after opening of price bids as per the following break-up:-

S. No	Percentage of unbalance bid viz. a viz advertised cost	Additional Performance security
01.	Up to and including 15% below	Nil
02.	Greater than 15% and up to 20% below	5% of advertised cost
03.	Greater than 20% and up to 25% below	10% of advertised cost
04.	Greater than 25% and up to 30% below	15% of advertised cost
05.	Greater than 30% below	20% of advertised cost

All other terms and conditions are as per PWD form-25 (Double agreement form) and detailed NIT No. 01 of 2020-21.

No.: NIT-e-Tendering/RnB/Spn/3590-93

Dated: 15.09.2020

Digitally signed by
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PW(R&B) Division, Shopian.

To save funds, schools told to take BSNL buildings on rent

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, SEPTEMBER 16

The School Education Department has asked its district offices and school heads to take the vacant buildings of the BSNL on rent. As more than 50 per cent buildings of the BSNL, including the staff quarters, are lying vacant in all districts and subdivisions across the state, the department wants to take the buildings on rent instead of constructing its own offices, sources said.

SPACE AVAILABLE AFTER MANY TOOK VRS

With the upgrade of technology & implementation of the VRS from January 31, around 50% of staff has been reduced and a lot of space is now vacant in the BSNL buildings and staff colonies. Anil Gupta, GENERAL MANAGER, BSNL (PUNJAB CIRCLE)

The department on Tuesday wrote a letter in this regard to all district education officers and heads of government schools in the state after the BSNL approached it.

In a letter to the Secretary, School Education Depart-

ment, senior general manager, BSNL, Punjab circle, Anil Gupta wrote that with the upgrade of technology and implementation of the voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) in the BSNL from January 31, 2020, around 50 per cent of staff strength had

reduced and a lot of space was now vacant in the BSNL buildings and staff colonies.

In an initiative to utilise its vacant flats, the BSNL management had decided to commercially exploit the vacant space and staff quarters by renting these out to Central and state government departments, PSUs, autonomous bodies and other private sector organisations, Gupta said. All these buildings were earthquake-resistant with modern amenities and other facilities, Gupta said.



The annual lease rate of the agricultural land has gone down in the area. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Hit hard by pandemic, veggie growers turn farm labourers

PARVESH SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, SEPTEMBER 16

Residents of more than 100 villages of the district, who are main suppliers of vegetables to Punjab and other states, have suffered huge losses in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Annual lease rate of the agricultural land has also gone down in the area.

With one year having already gone down the drain due to the pandemic, vegetable growers fear more losses in the coming season given that the rise in the number of cases grows unabated.

Many have already turned into farm labourers, while others are contemplating to shift gears. "Covid coupled with the

AID FOR GROWERS

The state government should announce financial assistance for vegetable growers. Otherwise, there can be a shortage of vegetables across the state. Mehmood Shad, CHIEF, DISTRICT FARMERS' FEDERATION

wrong policies of the state government have caused massive losses to the vegetable growers, who have been struggling to recover their input cost. Had the government made required arrangements to transport vegetables to big towns, we would not have suffered so much," said

Salim, a vegetable grower from Malerkotla.

The growers allege that vegetables perished in their fields. Despite having made the required transport arrangements, they were not allowed to ferry their produce.

Before the lockdown, around 100 trucks of vegetables were sent daily from the Malerkotla vegetable market (the biggest vegetable market in the state) to Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh, Delhi, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur and Haryana. However, after the lockdown was imposed, the supplies reduced drastically, as only 40 trucks were sent. Besides, there were days when not a single truck was sent to supply the produce to other states.

The candidates would be required to attempt 50 per cent of the question paper and remaining 50 per cent marks would be on the basis of internal assessment of the

Tech varsities to hold exit exams on Sept 29

BATHINDA, SEPTEMBER 16

The two tech universities — IK Gujral Punjab Technical University (IKGPTU), Kapurthala, and Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University (MRSPTU), Bathinda, — have announced to starting exit classes examinations from September 29.

The IKGPTU would conduct exams in the open book mode, while the MRSPTU would conduct online exams by giving 40 MCQ questions per subject to the students.

As per a notice issued by the Controller of Examination, IKGPTU, the final semester regular examinations of April 2020 in Open Book Examination (OBE) mode would be held from September 29 onwards.

The candidates would be required to attempt 50 per cent of the question paper and remaining 50 per cent marks would be on the basis of internal assessment of the

Community centre sealed in Abohar

ABO哈尔, SEPTEMBER 16

A special team from the District Red Cross Society today sealed a community centre — Abohar Palace — being run by a private contractor here.

Sources said the contractor had not paid rent and electricity bills for the past few months. A sub-committee would be constituted to examine the alleged irregularities committed by the contractor and the next course of action would follow.

The City-1 police, on August 8, had arrested six persons during a raid at the centre, being run by a gym-

UNPAID BILLS

instructor on a contract basis for the past two years.

Some people had informed the police that illegal activities were being carried out at the centre, located near Shahid Bhagat Singh Chowk.

Contractor Rajinder, Kuldeep Singh of Fazilka, Shashi Kumar Bhambhu of Bodiala Pitha and Sahib Ram of Khuikhera, along with two women, were held while manager Pradeep Khurana reportedly managed to flee.

All those arrested were later released on bail. —OC

BRIEFLY

CHANDIGARH

Justice Nirmaljit bereaved
Raj Pal Singh Mahal (95), father of Justice Nirmaljit Kaur of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, passed away on Wednesday after suffering a cardiac arrest. He tested Covid-19 positive a month ago, and was undergoing treatment at the PGI. TNS

FAZILKA
ASI sacked for taking drugs
Harpal Singh, Assistant Sub-Inspector, posted at the Sadar police station here, has been dismissed from service after he was allegedly caught on camera consuming 'chitta'. "On the basis of the video clip, ASI Harpal Singh was dismissed on Wednesday," said SSP Harjeet Singh. oc

Moga
DJ killed for not playing music
A disc-jockey was allegedly murdered in a marriage reception party at Kaleke village in Baghupura subdivision of the district on Tuesday. The accused, Gindi, assaulted Avtar Singh after the latter refused to play music. Avtar succumbed to his injuries. TNS

Child sustains burns

Fategarh Sahib: A boy (10) sustained 80 per cent burns after a high-tension wire fell on houses at Shanti Nagar in Mandi Gobindgarh town on Tuesday evening.



With Profound grief we inform sad demise of Mrs. Rupinder Sidhu

Chairperson Harmit Trust (Home for Senior Citizens)

02.09.1947 - 09.09.2020

In Grief:

Gaurav Sidhu (Son)

Vikram Sidhu (Son)

Surdeep Sidhu & Richa Sidhu (Daughter in laws)

Member State Food Commission

Preet

Cases surge, tally breaches 1L mark

BHARTESH SINGH THAKUR

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

2,694 new Covid cases, 19 more succumb

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Faridabad	16,701	197
Gurugram	16,344	153
Sonepat	6,447	42
Ambala	6,390	63
Panipat	6,124	59
Karnal	5,985	83
Rewari	4,731	26
Rohtak	4,582	46
Panchkula	4,496	53
Hisar	4,199	33
Kurukshetra	4,143	67
Yamunanagar	3,111	44
Mahendragarh	2,641	4
Sirs	2,643	36
Bhiwani	2,188	23
Palwal	2,065	14
Jhajjar	2,003	19
Kaithal	1,889	29
Fatehabad	1,783	23
Jind	1,438	12
Nuh	997	18
Charkhi Dadri	416	1
Total	1,01,316	1,045

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 16

The number of Covid cases crossed 1-lakh mark in the state on Wednesday, with the last 25,000 patients reporting in the past 10 days alone.

The first 25,000 cases were reported in four months but in just past two months 75,000 cases had been added to the tally.

On March 17, the first case of the virus, a 29-year-old Gurugram woman, was reported in the state. The state crossed 25,000-mark on July 18—207.7 cases per day.

The rate of growth in cases has been on the rise since then as the government announced more relaxations following the Centre's directions. The 50,000 mark was breached on August 20—769.1 cases per day. The next 17 days further saw the growth rate doubling to 1,507.2 cases per day as 75,000 mark was crossed on September 6.

However, the last 10 days witnessed the rate climbing to 2,476.7 cases per day as the state's Covid tally clocked 1.01 lakh on Wednesday.

The maximum cases in the state have been registered from Faridabad (16,701), followed by Gurugram (16,344), Sonepat (6,447), Ambala (6,390) and Panipat (6,124).

As many as 78,937 persons have recovered so far with a cure rate of 77.91 per cent and 21,334 are active ones. The testing was also ramped up and

reached 15.65 lakh tests today, including rapid antigen tests. The fatality rate in the state is 1.03 per cent with 1,045 deaths—731 men and 314 women.

At present, 363 cases are under critical care with 300 on oxygen support and 63 on ventilator.

Haryana has 46,133-bed quarantine facilities in the dedicated Covid care centres and as many as 12,263 beds are available in the dedicated Covid hospitals and health centres.

25,000 TEST POSITIVE IN LAST 10 DAYS			
Cases	Date	Days	Rate (cases per day)
25,547	July 18	123	207.7
50,926	Aug 20	33	769.1
76,549	Sept 6	17	1,507.2
1,01,316	Sept 16	10	2,476.7

Cong to seek special Assembly session on farm ordinances

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KURUKSHETRA/KARNAL, SEPTEMBER 16

Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Wednesday said the Congress would meet Governor Satyadev Narayan Arya to demand a special session of the Assembly to discuss the three controversial farm ordinances introduced by the Centre.

“The Congress will launch a ‘jihad’ (struggle) from Kurukshetra as soon as the Covid pandemic subsides against the forcible implementation of the ordinances,” he told the media in Kurukshetra.

The former Chief Minister said, “We will bring a resolution in the Assembly and show farmers that we are their well-wishers. Imposing laws without the consent of farmers is tantamount to



BKU holds a march in Karnal on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

dictatorship. We will not let the government implement the laws forcibly.”

“If a farmer will be allowed to sell his crop anywhere, what is the need of the Meri Fasal, Mera Byora portal in Haryana,” he asked.

Hooda also visited farmers and arthiyas at Gharaunda and Karnal grain

markets, and criticised the Centre for introducing the ordinances, which, he said, were “anti-farmer”.

“The Congress will oppose the ordinance tooth and nail. Party leaders will hit the streets and raise their voice in the Vidhan Sabha,” he told the media at the Karnal grain market.

Faridabad-UT bus service resumes; less than 5 onboard

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDABAD, SEPTEMBER 16

The Haryana Roadways on Wednesday resumed its bus service from here to Chandigarh after a five-and-a-half-month hiatus triggered by the Covid pandemic, even though the number of passengers was fewer in all four buses that plied during the day.

“Not more than five passengers travelled in each of the four buses. The reason behind low occupancy is that Haryana Roadways has

not received permission to enter New Delhi, an important stop. The buses will be taking only the KMP route. Hence, several important stops will be missed,” an employee at the local bus depot said.

In the pre-Covid times, he said, the occupancy was at least 50 per cent.

The first bus left the local depot at 4.50 am and the last one departed at 10 am. All four buses were back here by 11 pm. This will be the schedule till further orders.

Rajeev Nagpal, General Manager, Haryana Roadways, said: “The Roadways bus service to Jaipur, Aligarh and Agra has already resumed. Now, Chandigarh has been added to the list. Gradually, we will be back to full capacity.”

He admitted the passenger occupancy had been low. “The permission to ply buses via New Delhi is awaited,” he added.

Of the 105 buses at the bus depot, only 65 are plying. The depot is incurring a daily loss of Rs 15 lakh to Rs 20 lakh, sources say.

Tohana MLA speaks out against Dy CM

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 16

Dissenting voices in Dushyant Chautala’s JJP have become shriller with party’s Tohana MLA Devennder Babli expressing resentment over his neglect in the ruling dispensation.

Babli told the media today if Dushyant Chautala is the Deputy CM today, it is only because of the nine MLAs who elected him leader of the party.

Nishan Singh, state president of the JJP, however, played down the MLA’s outburst. — TNS

SOPs for reopening school

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 16

As schools in Haryana are set to open from September 21 in keeping with the Centre’s phase-wise unlocking of activities, the Haryana School Education Department issued standard operating procedures here today.

All teachers will have to undergo the Covid test before joining school. The orders state that schools will reopen for offering guidance to students of Classes IX to XII with 50 per cent staff presence, while online classes will go on as usual.

While schools will be sani-

tised and laboratories will have to be disinfected for practical classes, the institutions will have to mandatorily display posters on prevention of Covid and keep sanitisers at the entrance. — TNS

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY AMRITSAR

Advertisement No. 7/2020

Online applications are invited for the post of Liason Officer in the University. Online registration of application for the post will start w.e.f. 18.09.2020 and end on 25.09.2020. Last Date for submitting Hard Copy of the Online application is 01.10.2020. For further details visit University Website: <http://www.gndu.ac.in>.

16.09.2020 REGISTRAR

Golden Opportunity
for Revival of Lapsed RPLI Policy

Why leave the happiness of your loved ones to chance?
Revive your lapsed RPLI policy by 30.11.2020
contact nearest post office for more details.

As a one-time measure, RPLI policies, which have crossed the limit of 5 years since date of payment of last premium, are being provided a window for revival up to 30.11.2020, subject to production of a medical certificate of good health. Policy holders of such policies who intend to revive their policies to enjoy insurance benefits may apply in writing to any nearest Post Office.

In case of any query, please feel free to make us a call on
Toll Free Number 1800 180 5232

Premium payment options: Online at www.indiapost.gov.in
At any Post Office in India

RPLI - Low Premium, High Bonus, Issey Behter Kuchh Nahi
RURAL POSTAL LIFE INSURANCE



Under the dynamic leadership of

Capt. Amarinder Singh

Chief Minister, Punjab

with sincere efforts of

Shri. Charanjit Singh Channi

Minister of Technical Education & Industrial Training, Employment Generation, Skill Development & Training, Tourism & Cultural Affairs, Punjab

PROMINENT COMPANIES TAKING PART IN JOB FAIR

Microsoft**HCL****BYJU'S****TRIDENT GROUP****KRBL limited****HDLC Life**

Sar uttha ke jyo!

lenskart**Justdial**

India's No. 1 local search engine

Canara HSBC OBC

Life Insurance

Anmol

Family Business

toXSL

Endoenergy Systems Ltd.

Information Technology

Manufacturing & Processing

Logistics & Distribution

Telecommunications

Information Technology

Manufacturing & Processing

Logistics & Distribution

Telecommunications

Information Technology

Manufacturing & Processing

Logistics & Distribution

Telecommunications

Information Technology

Manufacturing & Processing

Logistics & Distribution

Telecommunications

Information Technology

Manufacturing & Processing

Logistics & Distribution

Telecommunications

Information Technology

Manufacturing & Processing

Logistics & Distribution

Telecommunications

Information Technology

Manufacturing & Processing

Logistics & Distribution

Telecommunications

Information Technology

Manufacturing & Processing

Logistics & Distribution

Telecommunications

Information Technology

Manufacturing & Processing

Logistics & Distribution

Telecommunications

Information Technology

Manufacturing & Processing

Logistics & Distribution

Telecommunications

Information Technology

Manufacturing & Processing

Logistics & Distribution

Telecommunications

Information Technology

Manufacturing & Processing

Logistics &

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Restraining rabid shows

Judicial scrutiny should force media to introspect

INDIA'S electronic media, particularly the TRP-hungry news channels, has become synonymous with sensationalism. Truth and accuracy are the prime casualties when TV anchors and reporters stoop to new lows just to grab eyeballs. In a welcome intervention, the Supreme Court has restrained Sudarshan TV from telecasting episodes of its 'Bindass Bol' programme for two days. The channel has come up with a communally divisive conspiracy theory, dubbed 'UPSC Jihad', to show how Muslims have 'infiltrated' the Indian civil services. Under the garb of an investigative story on national security, the programme has been allegedly peddling blatant lies, claiming that the upper age limit in the civil services examination is 32 years for Hindus and 35 for Muslims, and that the latter can appear in the exam more number of times than the former.

Making a scathing observation that most of the channels are running for the sake of TRPs, the apex court has suggested that a panel of apolitical experts be set up to help in self-regulating the electronic media. Despite legislative checks and balances, the situation has only gone from bad to worse. Enacted in 1995, the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act empowers the authorities to prohibit the telecast of programmes that are likely to cause communal discord. Last week, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had merely asked Sudarshan TV to ensure that its show did not violate the programme code, while ruling out pre-censorship.

The electronic media is already under judicial scrutiny over the no-holds-barred coverage of actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death and the subsequent probe. The whole case has been reduced to a Bollywood potboiler. Citing freedom of speech to justify objectionable content is fraught with dangerous consequences. The Constitution authorises the State to impose 'reasonable restrictions' on the exercise of this right on the grounds of maintaining public order, decency, morality etc. With the State not doing the needful at times, the judiciary has taken upon itself the tough task of striking a balance between safeguarding free speech and other constitutional values. The rabble-rousing TV channels, in turn, should introspect why their credibility is in free fall.

Stocking medical oxygen

Punjab must ramp up supply, allay fears of shortage

THERE is a surge in the demand for medical oxygen cylinders as the country is faced with an onslaught of Covid-19 cases, which have risen by 10 lakh in 11 days. Compared to 750 tonnes of medical oxygen produced every day in March, the figure today has nearly quadrupled to 2,700 tonnes. With positive patients exhibiting no-to-mild symptoms being allowed to follow treatment and quarantine protocols at home, there is a scramble to stock up homes with medical supplies — paracetamol, vitamin supplements, thermometers, oximeters, and now, oxygen cylinders. The need to be prepared in advance in the unfortunate event of contracting the disease is fuelled by horror stories of patients having to shop for hospital beds and running from one facility to another as rates of private clinics and hospitals touch the roof.

Sadly, sensing an opportunity in this adversity, unscrupulous dealers have jacked up the prices and are selling these essential commodities on the black market, leading to fear of shortage of supplies. After stories of medical oxygen scarcity in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra trickled in, panic-buying of oxygen cylinders has started in Punjab, too. With a large chunk of the population suffering from comorbidities such as hypertension and diabetes, the dread of the need for oxygen therapy is palpable. The data bears out the alarm: since August, the Covid situation in Punjab has deteriorated, with the state reporting over 45,000 cases and more than 1,400 deaths. While the national case fatality rate (CFR) has declined to 1.7 per cent, Punjab has bucked the trend and is witnessing a high CFR of nearly 3 per cent.

The Capt Amarinder Singh government must allay the fears of the people and assure them of adequate quantities of medical commodities vital to fight the Covid battle. There are reports that the nodal officers appointed to deal with the pandemic have tied up with medical oxygen manufacturers to keep up the supply and ensure a cap on the prices. The officers also have the onerous task of strengthening citizens' faith in the government facilities and abilities. It is vital to check the undue panic and resultant hoarding.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Strategy without process is little more than a wish list.

— Robert Filek

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1920

Swaraj—a Means or an End?

MR. Gandhi appears to have astonished a good many among the delegates, including the President himself, by declaring in the subjects committee that Swaraj to him was only a means to an end, and if tomorrow he was convinced that some other form of government was better for the country than Swaraj, he would not hesitate to advocate it. Had such a declaration been made by someone who was merely or above everything else a political leader, and especially a leader of a country which is struggling for freedom, it would, indeed, have been profoundly astonishing and would probably have so scandalised his followers as to have immediately jeopardised his position. But Mr. Gandhi is not merely nor principally a political leader: The staunchest advocate of soul force that our age has known, he is above everything else a spiritual leader; and it is no matter for surprise that to him even political Swaraj is only a means to an end, the end, of course, being spiritual Swaraj, that is, the government of the soul, both individual and national, by itself. This is the only construction one can properly put upon Mr. Gandhi's words, consistently with his oft-repeated declarations about the paramount importance of freedom, both individual and national, of the maintenance of national honour of any cost, and of unrestricted opportunity for nationalistic self-fulfilment. Similarly, Mr. Gandhi's statement that if tomorrow he was convinced that some other form of government was better than Swaraj he would not hesitate to advocate it is not to be interpreted as meaning that he cares more for good government than for self-government. The man who held such a view would be at once set down as a reactionary. What he did probably mean was that there is nothing in a name, and Swaraj itself does not mean one particular form of government, though it is usually identified with one or other of its existing forms.

Global response to China

Nations are coming together for the strategic containment of its ambitions



G PARTHASARATHY

CHANCELLOR, JAMMU CENTRAL UNIVERSITY & FORMER HIGH COMMISSIONER TO PAKISTAN



UNYIELDING: China had not bargained for the determination of the Indian Government and armed forces to fiercely resist its territorial ambitions in Ladakh.

India should not withdraw from areas that it now controls in Ladakh, till China agrees to exchange maps on the exact location of the Line of Actual Control.

THE strength and resilience of a country are determined by the courage and fortitude its people manifest, when they face challenges, or are threatened. The people of India faced their most serious challenge when the country was engulfed, in 1918, by a deadly flu pandemic, in which an estimated 14-17 million people died. Over a hundred years later, India, like the rest of the world, is facing a similar challenge from the coronavirus pandemic. This pandemic has been accompanied by a serious military intrusion by China. Under Xi Jinping's leadership, China is seeking to become a dominant power in the world. China often uses its military muscle to fulfil its territorial ambitions, across its entire Asia-Pacific neighbourhood. What China had evidently not bargained for is the determination of the Indian Government, armed forces and people to fiercely resist its territorial ambitions in Ladakh.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi met in Moscow recently to urgently address issues pertaining to border tensions. The main decision which emerged was that both sides would avoid any action that could escalate tensions, while abiding by their past commitments and agreements to maintain peace along their border. The actionable part was that the army commanders of India and China would soon meet to continue their dialogue and pull troops back. This Chinese incursion was accompanied by crass jingoism, threats, bluff and bluster in the Chinese media against India, voiced by the Chinese Communist Party's international mouthpiece, the *Global Times*.

China's tantrums became sharper after the implications of India's counter-moves across the Pangong lake sank in. After taking control of the high mountain tops in this region, the Indian Army has positioned itself to block Chinese forces which challenge its access to the Depsang area and the Daulat Beg Oldie airfield. India can now freely move across the region, as it has in the past. New Delhi is ready for a dialogue between military commanders. China, however, has serious issues it has to address, on its side. Areas which it now controls will be largely submerged by the coming winter snow, which commences in October. Unlike their Indian counterparts, who have lived through winter in Siachen, the Chinese do not have similar battle experience. There should be no question of any withdrawal from areas that India now controls in Ladakh, till China agrees to exchange maps on the exact location of the LAC, and serious negotiations for resolving the border issue make headway.

Then PMs Manmohan Singh and Wen Jiabao concluded an agreement in 2005 on the 'Political parameters and guiding principles for settlement of the

India-China boundary question'. The agreement noted that the 'boundary should be along well-defined and easily identifiable natural geographical features, to be mutually agreed upon by the two sides', and that the two sides 'shall safeguard the interests of their settled populations in border areas'. China refuses to define the contours of the LAC that it claims to respect. It uses this ambiguity to its advantage by laying down arbitrary claims to territory without any sound historical basis, or evidence.

It is equally important now for India to make use of the fact that there is growing international concern at China's arrogance. Unlike his predecessors, President Xi Jinping enjoys an aggressive display of economic and military muscle. China ignores international conventions and seizes, or seeks to seize, control of maritime areas of its neighbours across the South China Sea. It also behaves aggressively on territorial issues with Japan and Taiwan. Remembering its humiliating defeat, when it invaded Vietnam in 1979, China is particularly harsh in threatening Vietnam, whose ships are accosted regularly, on what are Vietnamese waters.

ASEAN countries have now joined hands and demanded that China should abide by the UN Convention of the Law of the Seas, which it has been found guilty of violating by an international tribunal, whose verdict it rejected. Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a hard time when his hosts in European countries he visited recently, including Germany, France, Norway, Italy and the Czech Republic, expressed concerns on issues ranging from human rights violations in Xinjiang and Hong Kong, to Huawei's 5G ambitions.

China's focus on relations with India is predominantly aimed at redrawing its borders, while marginalising Indian influence regionally and globally. It has also sought to exploit India's rule-based trade and investment policies. Developing countries across Asia and Africa are now finding that they are unable to repay credits (described as 'aid') extended by China. They are then compelled to grant China access to their mineral resources, electrical power, and ports for military use. Across our Indian Ocean neighbourhood, such fears are rampant in countries ranging from Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia to the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. New 'enthusiasts' for Chinese assistance, like the Oli regime in Nepal, will soon be compelled to join those already disillusioned about Chinese aid. China's much-touted One-Belt One-Road project, which includes CPEC, is turning out to be a white elephant. Despite this, China will continue its policies of backing Pakistan militarily, economically and diplomatically on the Kashmir issue. India has no choice but to deal with these challenges.

A key element in India's strategy to deal with Chinese assertiveness and territorial expansion is the formation of Quad, comprising Australia, Japan, the US and India. China is already showing signs of concern and nervousness at this development. Quad should associate Vietnam and Indonesia in its maritime security activities. It should also have a European dimension, through a close association with France. Strategic containment of China's ambitions requires a significant measure of global cooperation.

Husain, hurricane of a kind!

BALVINDER

IT was in the mid-summer of the early '70s that I met MF Husain for the first time. We, a group of two artists, were holding an exhibition of our paintings at a gallery of AIFACS in New Delhi. In those days, very few visitors would visit art galleries in the summer. But lo and behold, one afternoon, Husain, whom I always admired since my art school days, dropped by. Looking keenly at each work, he spent quite some time there, but left without having a word with us. Surprisingly enough, he returned to the gallery a minute or so after his leaving. He went straight to one of my small-sized paintings and gave it a closer look. While pointing

towards that painting, he patted me and left. It was an encouraging moment that I have been cherishing.

My next meeting with him was in the beginning of the '80s, when he came to Chandigarh for helping a charitable organisation that was running a home for the destitute and physically challenged children, through the sale of artwork.

Apart from donating some of his graphic prints and posters, Husain painted on the spot six small canvases in less than two hours, like a possessed hurricane! While each of his freshly executed painting was priced at Rs 5,000, his graphic prints were priced at Rs 500 each. Not so strangely, all those works were sold then and there and

fetched more than Rs 40,000 for the organisation.

I do not remember the people who had purchased his works then for a charitable cause. Today, they must be thanking their stars for such a profitable investment, for in a recently held auction in Mumbai, one of Husain's 1972 painting titled, 'Battle of Ganga and Jamuna', fetched a record price of Rs 13.44 crore!

While Husain was painting, in his inimitable quick style, I clicked the growing process of one of his paintings, from a blank canvas to its finish. Out of about 30 photographs, a dozen of them were published, along with a small write-up, as a photo-feature in the then popular, but now defunct *The Illustrated Weekly of India*. While

remembering Husain on his 105th birth anniversary, one cannot forget the way we, as a country, mistreated him. On the one hand, the government bestowed upon him many national honours, including Padma Shri (1966), Padma Bhushan (1973) and Padma Vibhushan (1991), but on the other, it allowed the knitting of an uncongenial atmosphere around him. He remained in a self-imposed exile from 2006. Husain reportedly kept longing to return to his homeland till his death in 2011.

His birth anniversary falls on September 17. Since true artists cannot be bound by geographical or religious boundaries, Husain would be remembered with great pride and respect by one and all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Inculcate social values

Reference to 'Politicisation of administration' (Sept 15); the pillar of democracy entrusted with implementing social welfare schemes is not so experienced. It also lacks the will to take the schemes to those in need. The day-to-day interference in its working is another problem. The time has come to inculcate social values like honesty, work culture and integrity in all pillars of democracy, apart from adopting a sympathetic attitude toward the downtrodden.

KULBHUSHAN S THAKUR, DHARLARA

Timely advice

'Politicisation of administration' offers timely advice to the political class. Our politicians seem to be reading from scripts of films or TV serials while playing to the gallery. In contrast, lectures such as the one from which this article has been excerpted make us think.

NARESH JOHAR, AMRITSAR

True nation-builders

Apropos of the editorial 'Death without data' (Sept 16), all Indians are aware of their responsibility toward our brave soldiers. This pious concern was revealed during the wars of 1962, 1965 and 1971, when many Indians donated even

tons of gold to the National Defence Fund. But what about the soldiers of the unorganised sector, working as skilled and unskilled labourers? Millions of such helpless individuals and families had to leave their workplace and proceed to their ancestral villages on foot under the most inhuman and pitiable conditions. Many died of hunger, fatigue and accidents. Surprisingly, our government has no data about these unfortunate people, who in the real sense are 'Bharat nirmata'.

VK ANAND, CHANDIGARH

Question Hour goes

Apropos of 'Death without data' (Sept 16), Question Hour keeps the government on its toes. If it had not been scrapped during this session of Parliament, the government wouldn't have dared to give in writing that it doesn't have any data of deaths of migrant labourers due to the lockdown. In reality, the government has tactically removed Question Hour as it does not have the courage to face the ire of the Opposition. National interest demanded a series of clarifications from the government on various issues such as the dwindling economy, loss of jobs in millions during the lockdown, tension at the border, loss of property and the number of deaths during floods, etc. But the

government has deprived the Opposition the right to ask questions related to the aspirations of the people.

FAQIR SINGH, DASUYA

Need jobs, not wisdom

Refer to the NEP; we educate our wards not to become wise but to earn their bread and butter, and to get jobs on a purely merit basis. How can we remove the marksheets pressure? Jobs are given to the best performers. The five Cs — critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, curiosity and communication — need to be improved not just among students, but among teachers and others, too. Our national and regional languages are not known in any part of the world, or even the whole country. It is a blunder if we do not go with English language at an early stage. Nothing is new in this policy. When I was in school in the '70s, these 5Cs were there, but we now do not have good critical thinkers or even thinkers.

PK PATPATIA, AMBALA

Rights in danger

Apropos of 'Delhi cops seek 10-day custody of Umar Khalid', it is evident that the Delhi Police have been doing a one-sided investigation. Had the police been impartial, they would have registered a case against Kapil Mishra, Anurag Thakur and Parvesh Verma. There

is more video evidence against them for directly instigating violence rather than JNU students and women activists who were holding a peaceful protest. It seems that there is an invisible force which is directing police action. The people of the nation should worry about this, as Acts like UAPA and NSA have been misused by the authorities to suppress the democratic voices rising against them. We have already seen it in the case of Dr Kafeel Khan, where these Acts were used to put him in jail for a long time. We should guard our democratic rights.

ISHAN HASTIR, GURDASPUR

Joy of letters

Refer to 'Original deliverer of message'; the post office had its own joy, which the millennials don't know. Being a kid of the '80s, I have experienced the transition from letter writing and sending greeting cards by post to emails, WhatsApp and SMSes. Letters had emotions attached to them, as they were written by hand and preserved by the receiver. Stamp collection used to be a hobby. In today's fast-paced world, everything existing on paper is getting replaced by digital versions and are also sent and received in a few seconds across the globe through the Internet.

VIKRAMJIT SINGH, AMRITSAR

Why public opinion isn't turning against govt



ZOYA HASAN
PROFESSOR EMERITA, CENTRE FOR
POLITICAL STUDIES, JNU

OVER the past few weeks, one issue — the state of the Indian economy — has dominated the headlines. India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted nearly 24 per cent in April-June quarter, its biggest ever contraction since 1996. According to experts, this is an underestimation as the decline in the informal sector is not fully assessed. But it's not just the GDP numbers. There are other disturbing indicators. According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), 18.9 million salaried jobs have been lost since the pandemic in April and this figure would've gone up to 21 million by August. The situation in the vast informal sector is much worse.

This is the biggest economic catastrophe that the Indian economy has confronted since Independence. And this crisis predates the pandemic, but has clearly been aggravated by it. The government is fast losing the plot, but the unprecedented crisis and the perilous conditions of employment and livelihood all across the country have not provoked protests as one might expect from the past experiences of anti-government protests. Why this is so is an important question for us to address. Five important reasons can explain this political conundrum.

First, post-liberalisation, the structure of the Indian economy has changed sig-

nificantly. Liberalisation has weakened and fragmented the trade union movement. The main instrument for this is the labour market reforms agenda and the emergence of capital as a powerful force, shaping economic policies. There were frequent labour strikes, triggered, supported and sustained by trade unions which were in the forefront of protests against the economic policies. Labour agitations for a better economic deal are now a thing of the past. And the informal sector, which is the worst hit, is not organised enough to protest.

The second reason is the middle class' infatuation with the present dispensation and its leader. The Indian middle class is small, but it has an influence far beyond its numbers. This was evident from the role it played in the downfall of the Congress-led UPA government. During Dr Manmohan Singh's second term as Prime Minister, a major political churning was supported by the middle class under the aegis of the Anna Hazare-led anti-corruption movement, supported and propped up by the BJP-RSS. That had caused an eruption of public anger against the UPA government which was destabilised by the combined opposition of the corporate sector, middle class and the media, eventually leading to its defeat in the 2014 elections.

There's no such mass anger against the present government even though the middle class has taken a big hit from the severe economic slowdown. Not only is the middle class not protesting, it has also been solidly backing the saffron party. Evidently, its support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi rests on an ideological commitment to the BJP determined by an essentially non-economic platform driven by identity politics and majoritarianism. Hence, it is unlikely to be shaken by the economic crisis. That



STUPEFYING: The economic scenario is bleak, but the government has not been questioned enough about the crisis.

This is the biggest economic catastrophe since

Independence. This crisis predates the pandemic, but has been aggravated by it.

The govt is fast losing the plot, but the unprecedented problem and the perilous conditions of livelihood have not provoked protests as one might expect from past experiences of anti-government protests.

being so, opinion polls indicate that most people, especially the middle class, think the government's performance is fine, even while millions suffer due to the economic crisis and unemployment and Covid-19 cases record the highest daily surges seen so far globally.

Third, the Opposition parties which faced two crushing defeats in national elections, have further been weakened in various ways by the ruling dispensation. Most importantly, the government's hostile treatment of the Opposition as illegitimate and anti-national has made it difficult to undertake any political action. Targeting and stifling of the Opposition is an avowed objective of the regime. Any failing — big or small — is blamed on the Congress misrule. The party has become a favourite punching bag for all, especially the pliant and sup-

portive media. But despite an unequal playing field, Rahul Gandhi has consistently spoken up against the government's numerous failures and mismanagement of the economy and the pandemic. But the government's systematic dismantling of his political equity has prevented him from emerging as the pivot of the Opposition.

Fourth, the lack of free media is a big hurdle in building an alternative narrative. Surely, it is for the media to ask some tough questions on the economy. But rather than questioning the government on the sinking economy and the unprecedented job crisis, most English and Hindi channels are obsessed with tracking the twists and turns in the Sushant Singh Rajput case. This frenzy has diverted the public attention from the economic crisis, reverse migration and joblessness, which suits the ruling

dispensations as it blanks out issues that matter. The monopoly of the BJP over news distribution and its domination of the communication pipelines tell you why public opinion doesn't turn against this government despite disturbing developments all around.

Finally, the criminalisation of dissent has created an atmosphere of fear, making it dangerous to express critical opinions and views contrary to policy in public places, universities or social media. The regime has used a heavy-handed approach to put critics in their place. Any protest or questioning is viewed as a threat to the political order and the nation, and thus discouraged and often penalised. Compare this with the situation in the US, when the murder of an African-American, George Floyd, by a white police officer, led to thousands of people protesting across the country against his brutal killing. The anti-racism protesters were not targeted because of their skin colour, or charged, incarcerated under any stringent law. Whereas here, the anti-CAA and the anti-NRC protesters, have been systematically targeted and some of them have been booked under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), and that too after the movement had been withdrawn in view of the pandemic.

Although, there is still significant criticism of the government's functioning from various quarters — journalists who speak truth to power, political activists and intellectuals who have been speaking and writing against its failures in every sphere — from the economy to short-circuiting democracy to repressive majoritarianism — institutional collusion and the nexus between capital and media and weaponising laws to criminalise dissenters, provides the perfect cover against mass protests.

Entrance exams part of the testing business



KS CHALAM

FORMER MEMBER, UPSC

It was the Vajpayee govt which had set up a committee of industrialists for the education market, comprising Mukesh Ambani and Kumar Mangalam Birla. They submitted the 'Report on a policy framework for reforms in education' in 2000. The National Education Policy of 2020 is only a reiteration of what these captains of corporate India were demanding.

THE other day, my grand-daughter woke up at five in the morning and was in a tearing hurry to leave home to appear for the JEE test. The testing centre was 20 km away. The exam was at nine but lakhs of young aspirants like her were asked to report at the so-called testing centres two hours before the exam.

That many needed to wake up four hours before the scheduled time and rush for the centre is only one part of the whole business of testing, as part of the admission entrance examination rigmarole. I have used the term 'business', since this entire process is not a part of the academic learning model, nor related to the basic aspect of higher education process of acquiring and utilising knowledge. This testing is a pure business model developed by international business schools and pushed through the WTO.

I am reminded of the old debate in the 1990s on commercialisation of higher education forcing the marginalised and poor to cope with such change. Now, several lakh boys and girls appear for several entrance tests every year for admissions. The 'business menu card' shows the fee for each test: JEE Rs 1,300; CAT Rs 2,000; CMAT Rs 1,400; SNAP Rs 1,750; IIFT Rs 2,000; NMAT Rs 2,000, and so on. An aspirant for the engineering stream appears in at least six tests and spends about Rs 10,000 on the exams itself. The same is true for medical, UGC-NET, ICAR, CSIR-NET etc.

I am here not talking about the whopping coaching fee at all. In fact,



COMMERCIALISATION: An estimated 22 lakh appeared for the JEE this year. The test fee collected on an average for the examination is ₹84.5 crore.

the Madras High Court was told in 2019 that only 2.1 per cent of the students who have no coaching get admission in medical colleges.

An estimated 22 lakh appeared for the JEE during September this year. The test fee collected on an average for JEE is Rs 84.5 crore. The NDA government created the National Testing Agency (NTA) in 2017 to take care of this non-academic testing activity. The NTA now conducts JEE and NEET for medical entrance and university entrance tests such as JNUEE for JNU, DUET for Delhi University, UGC-NET, CSIR-NET, ICAR-AIIEEA and others have joined.

This testing conundrum is reiterated in the recent National Education Policy 2020: "Online assessment and examina-

tions: Appropriate bodies, such as the proposed National Assessment Centre or PARAKH, school boards, NTA and other identified bodies will design and implement assessment frameworks encompassing design of competencies, portfolio, rubrics, standardised assessments and assessment analytics. Studies will be undertaken to pilot new ways of assessment using education technologies focusing on 21st century skills." The language used here appears to be that of a commercial recruiting agency and not that of an experienced academic agency. It is inevitable that once the country agrees to implement the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and sustainable development

goals — the system should be in place to satisfy the international operators.

We may recall that during the 1995 discussions, the WTO insisted on GATS and contended that education be considered as a "service". India signed the agreement to implement GATS. As per this agreement, India has to agree for cross-border supply (correspondence, online courses, testing etc); consumption abroad (students to go abroad and pay fee there); commercial presence (foreign universities are allowed in, no questions asked on selection); and the presence of natural person (teachers from any part can come and teach here). International business groups and FICCI have jumped in to understand the extent of education service market in India.

It was the Vajpayee government which constituted a committee of industrialists for the education market, comprising Mukesh Ambani and Kumar Mangalam Birla. They had submitted the 'Report on a policy framework for reforms in education' in 2000. The New Education Policy of 2020 is only a reiteration of what these captains of corporate India were demanding.

The testing of candidates for various examinations is considered as one of the most lucrative business initiatives. The modus operandi is to first establish a testing agency with government funds and then privatise or allow to be taken over by private operators later, citing illogical reasons of efficiency.

The projected market size in India for schooling is \$52 billion; graduate education \$15 billion; vocational education \$5 billion and the testing business is worth

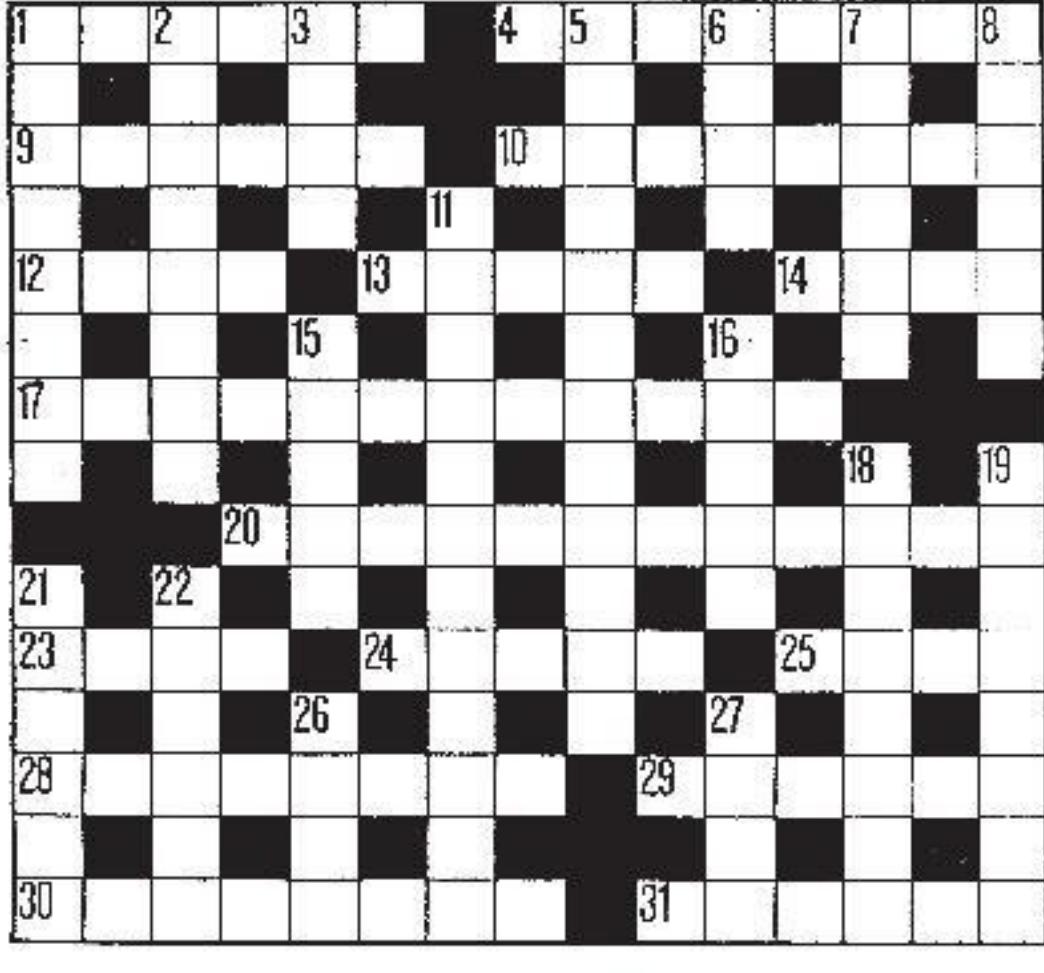
\$28 billion. It means testing is a Rs 2.05 lakh crore business. How is that such a huge market has come to be created by now? What has happened before these testing agencies crept into our system?

In fact, annual examinations were originally conducted by the school education boards and universities as it is their mandate to teach, examine and give certificates based on results. Most universities, both in the State and Central governments, have brilliant, reliable and robust systems in place with more than 150 years of experience to conduct any type of tests or examinations.

But they are now slowly being replaced through corporate lobbying with such private agencies that have neither the experience in teaching nor in the learning process. In fact, the so-called testing agencies like NTA depend upon the very same university system for all its inputs, but outsource the conducting of the tests as a mediating agency, to private players — while huge infrastructure of the universities created by public money is wasted.

We have now entered a vicious circle that does not teach, but tests. The vast system of boards and universities that have hundreds of years of legacy of teaching, learning, research and examination (including testing) are sidelined to pave the way for this mega Rs 2.05 lakh crore market to be handed over — lock, stock and barrel — to the private operators, and the eventual victims are the millions of students who will have to shell out money, not for learning, but for testing, by agencies that never taught them.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Bland, 4 Vacuous, 8 Nil, 9 Assurance, 10 Umbrage, 11 Flood, 13 Torpor, 15 Closed, 18 Style, 19 Embrace, 21 Under arms, 23 Gum, 24 Finance, 25 Cater.

Down: 1 Banquet, 2 At liberty, 3 Drama, 4 Vessel, 5 Careful, 6 Own, 7 Spend, 12 Onslaught, 14 Overrun, 16 Dreamer, 17 Degree, 18 Stuff, 20 Basic, 22 Don.

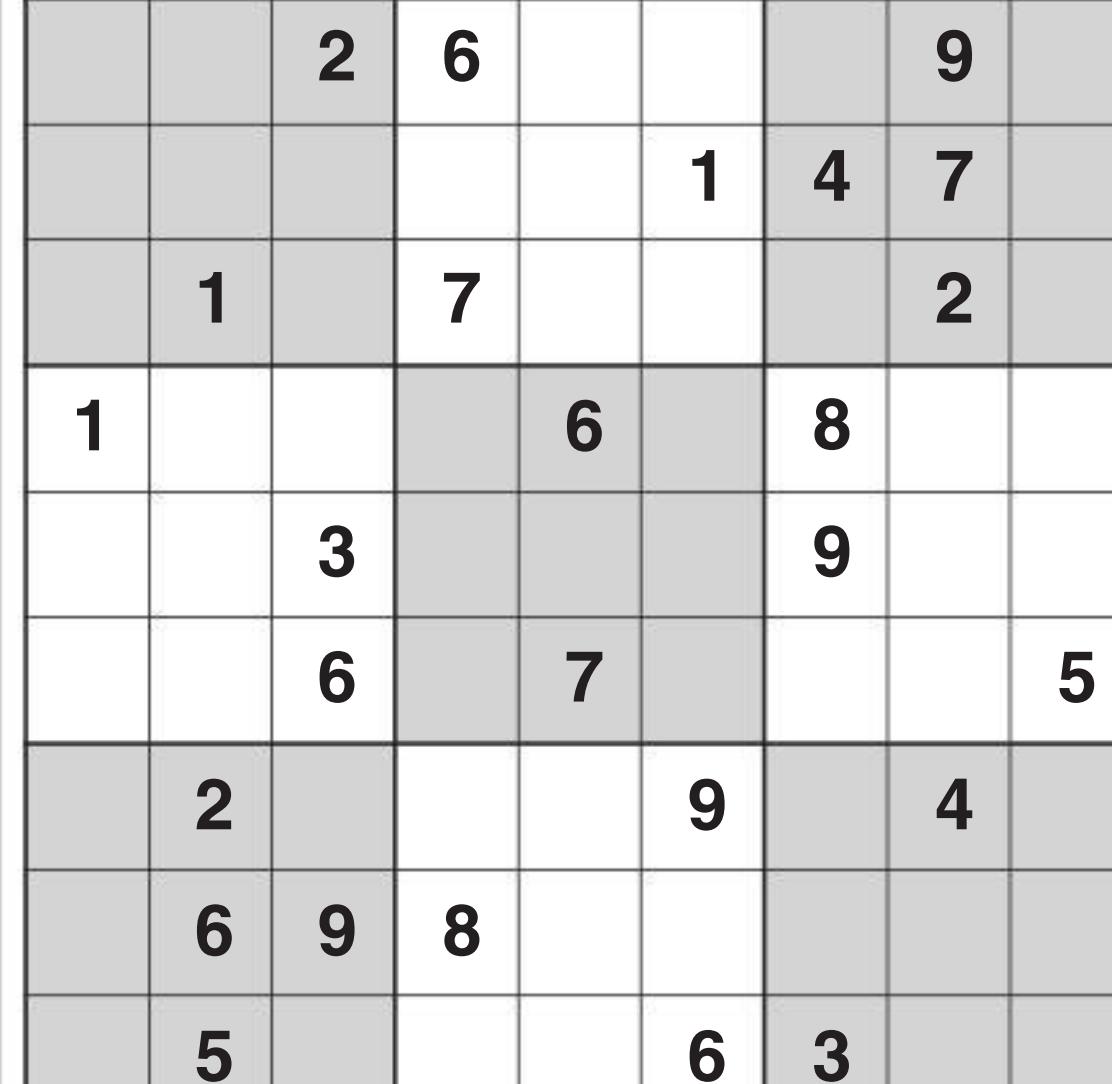
ACROSS

- 1 Distinguished (2,4)
- 4 Highly successful show (5,3)
- 9 Real (6)
- 10 Satisfactory (3,5)
- 12 Grim fate (4)
- 13 Hard-wearing cotton fabric (5)
- 14 An adhesive (4)
- 17 Varnish for furniture (6,6)
- 20 Alcohol-induced boldness (5,7)
- 23 Greek god of love (4)
- 24 Simple song (5)
- 25 Fervour (4)
- 28 Passive spectator (8)
- 29 Lay waste (6)
- 30 In the present age (8)
- 31 Horrific experience (6)

DOWN

- 1 Intermittent (2,3,3)
- 2 Gas, 78% of the atmosphere (8)
- 3 A hard durable timber (4)
- 5 Manifold variety (12)
- 6 Aggrieved (4)
- 7 Bargain contentiously (6)
- 8 Limit of one's endurance (6)
- 11 In the order given (12)
- 15 Search thoroughly (5)
- 16 Point in question (5)
- 18 Avoid humiliation (4,4)
- 19 Headlong (4-4)
- 21 Highly addictive drug (6)
- 22 Meaningless (6)
- 26 Fit of melancholy (4)
- 27 Blond (4)

SU DO KU



MEDIUM

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 17, 2020, THURSDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Bhadrapad Shaka	26
■ Ashwin Parvishite	2
■ Hijri	1442
■ Krishna Paksha Tithi 15, up to 4.30 pm	
■ Shubha Yoga up to 11.52 pm	
■ Purvaphalguni Nakshatra up to 9.48 am	
■ Moon enters Virgo sign 3:07 pm	
■ Amavas	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: THURSDAY 18:26 HRS
SUNRISE: FRIDAY 06:09 HRS

	Sunny		Partly Cloudy		Cloudy		Rainy		Foggy
--	-------	--	---------------	--	--------	--	-------	--	-------

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	35	26
New Delhi	38	27
Amritsar	37	28
Bathinda	36	28
Jalandhar	35	28
Ludhiana	35	28
Bhiwani		

CLASSIFIEDS**SITUATION VACANT**

Required hotel staff at Panchkula. Send biodata. Email id: himanshudhawan31@gmail.com. Contact 98323-99998. (CL20039828)

Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, near Chandigarh requires faculty for Chemistry, Bio-Chemistry, Microbiology, Nursing, Environmental and Medical Lab Sciences. Mail your resume at: careers@aryans.edu.in (CL20039872)

Required One Sales girl and one Accounts Assistant having experience in billing, GST etc. at Jewellers Krishnadas SCO 82, Sector 17D, Chandigarh. Phone 0172-2704343. (CL20040037)

MASHI MEMORIAL COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

AMLOH 147203 (F.S.S.)
Affiliated to Panjab University, Patiala

Applications are invited for the regular posts of Female Assistant Professor in Computer Science-1, Public Administration-1, English-1, Hindi-1, Punjabi-1, Economics-1, Sociology-1, History-1, Home Science-1, Commerce-1, Mathematics-1. Qualification, Reservation and Salary as per UGC/Punjabi University Norms. Punjabi at Matric Standard is must. Apply within 15 days along with Copies of testimonials. A copy of application be sent to Dean, College Development council, Panjab University, Patiala.

Principal
maghistrust@yahoo.in Ph: 01765-512513
CL20040204

LOST & FOUND

I. Shivesh Kumar have lost my original Graduation Marksheets and Experience Certificates. If found please contact: 98161-28710. (CL20040095)

COURT NOTICE

In the Supreme Court of India.
Extra-Ordinary Appellate Jurisdiction.
Special Leave Petition (Civil) No. 24958 of 2018

With Prayer for Interim Relief
Chaman Lal (D) through LRs and
Others
...Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s)
Versus
Kasturi Lal (D) through LRs and
others
...Respondent(s)

To: 1. Subash Chander Wanda,
30/7/258, Keshav Puram, District North West, Delhi. PID: 72663/2020 for R(10) in SLP(C) No. 24958/2018 (Sec IV-B).

2. Rakesh Nanda s/o Sudesh Kumar d/o Kasturi Lal, 30-7/258, Keshav Puram, District - North West, Delhi. PID: 72660/2020 for R(7) in SLP(C) No. 24958/2018 (Sec IV-B).

3. Mukesh Nanda s/o Sudesh Kumar d/o Kasturi Lal, 30-7/258, Keshav Puram, District North West, Delhi. PID: 72661/2020 for R(8) in SLP(C) No. 24958/2018 (Sec IV-B).

4. Monica Lamba d/o Sudesh Kumar d/o Kasturi Lal, 30-7/258, Keshav Puram, District North West, Delhi. PID: 72662/2020 for R(9) in SLP(C) No. 24958/2018 (Sec IV-B).

Whereas the petition for Special Leave to Appeal with prayer for interim relief along with application for Exemption from Filing O.T. above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Mr Umang Shankar. Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner(s) above named was listed for hearing before this court on 28th September, 2018, when the court was pleased to pass the following order:

"It is stated that there is possibility of amicable settlement between the parties. In order to find out possibility thereof, we issue notice." Till the next date of hearing status quo, existing as on today, be maintained."

And whereas, the matter above-mentioned was listed before Hon'ble Court (in Chambers) on 02nd December, 2019, when the following order was passed:

"Application for substitution in respect of LRs, of respondent No. 2 be filed within four weeks."

IA No. 114772/2019 is allowed for the reasons indicated therein. The petitioner is permitted to take out notice on respondents No. 7-16, 18-20, 23-25, 27 and 29 by way of publication in the Newspaper "Punjab Kesari" in Hindi and "The Tribune" in English".

Now, therefore, take notice that the above petition with prayer for interim will be posted for hearing before this court in due course and you may enter appearance before this court either in person or through an Advocate on record of this court duly appointed by you in that behalf within 30 days from the date of publication of notice. You may thereafter cause show to the court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why Special Leave Petition and Interim Relief as prayed be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

Take further notice that the prayer for interim relief after notice will also be listed before the court in due course.

You may file your Affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXI, S.C.R. 2013 within 30 days from the date of publication of notice or not later than 2 weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPs and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court/Tribunal against whose order the SLP is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted.

Take further notice that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Date: 14th July, 2020.

Sd/- Assistant Registrar,
CL20040124

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of
Sh. Gurinderpal Singh
Civil Judge,
Junior Division,
Patti.

Guardian No.: 8/2020
CNR No.:
PBTTA0000386-2020

Next Date: 05.10.2020

Akashdeep Kaur aged 28 years DoB 17.12.1992/UD/ Adhaar No. 5960 0252 8033 D/o Charan Singh now wife of Sandeep Singh resident of Near Old Power House Patti as Guardian and Next friend of Jessica Chahal minor daughter of Rupinder Singh & Harmeet Chahal both residents of 160 Marquards Road, Trugunia VIC 3029 Australia.

Versus

1. General Public etc.

Notice to:

1. General Public

2. Rupinder Singh DoB 11.05.1990

Australian son of Charan Singh Passport No. PA5374607.

3. Harmeet Chahal DoB 07.12.1988

Australian Passport No. PB2616260 wife of Rupinder Singh both residents of 160 Marquards Road Trugunia VIC 3029 Australia.

Petition Under Guardian and Wards Act 1890 for appointment of Petitioner Akashdeep Kaur as Guardian.

(Mention the name & Address of the person(s) to whom notice is to issue).

In the above titled petition the respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that the respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 05.10.2020 at 9.30 a.m.

For details logon to:

<https://highcourtindia.gov.in/>

trs=districtinfo&district=tarnitaran

Sd/- Gurpreet Singh (D),

CJUD/MIC,

epaper2020@tribuneindia.com

WIDEST REACH MAXIMUM RESPONSE**DISCLAIMER**

The Tribune Trust does

not take responsibility

for the contents

of the advertisements

(Display/ Classified)

carried in this

newspaper. The paper does

not endorse the

same. Readers are

requested to verify the

contents on their own before acting there upon."

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar State Institute of Medical Sciences, Sector 56, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali), Punjab**PUBLIC NOTICE**

No. AIMS/2020/(15)/786 Dated: 16.09.2020

Applications are invited Online for the Senior Residents/Tutor as per MCI Guidelines in various Departments of AIMS Mohali. The detail of Posts, Application Form etc. are available on the website www.punjabmedicaleducation.org/Mohali.

Last date of applications is 27.09.2020 till 12:00 midnight.

Sd/- Director-Principal.

DPR/Pb/77692

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
PUBLIC NOTICE

Advertisement No. 1/5/2020-2ME1/14657 Dated: 16.09.2020

Applications on the prescribed proforma are invited for the Direct Quota posts of Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors of Medicine and Anaesthesia Departments. Last date of applications is 07.10.2020 till 5:00 P.M.

The Application Form, details of Posts, Educational Qualifications, Age, Criteria for Selection and Instructions are available on the official website www.punjabmedicaleducation.org.

Sd/- (Dr. Avnish Kumar), Director, Research and Medical Education, Punjab.

DPR/Pb/77825

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

Advertisement No. PGI/RC/2020/122/3065 Dated: 16.09.2020

NOTICE FOR WALK-IN INTERVIEW

The Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh intends to fill up 06 (UR) vacant posts of **Assistant Professors** in the department of Anaesthesia (02), Gastroenterology (01), Radiotherapy (01) & Obst. & Gynaec. (02) purely on contract basis for a period of six months or till such time the regular appointments against these posts are made whichever is earlier through walk-in interview. The candidates willing to appear in the above said walk-in interview must submit their brief bio-data (in triplicate) in the prescribed proforma complete in all respects on 21.09.2020 at 11:00 a.m. positively in the Recruitment Cell of the Institute. The interview for this post will be conducted on 21.09.2020 at 02:30 p.m. onwards. For further details like required age, qualification, experience, remuneration and prescribed application form etc., candidates may visit PGI website www.pgi.ac.in.

DIRECTOR

DPR/Pb/77825

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)

HMSCL invites e-tenders for two years Rate Contract for 8002 Nos. of Glucometer with 10953400 Nos of Glucometers and 12430818 Nos of Auto disable Lancets on the website www.etenders.hry.nic.in. Please see corrigendum, if any, regarding these tenders on the website www.etenders.hry.nic.in only.

Sd/- Managing Director, HMSCL, Panchkula.

PRDH/82823

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
PWD B&R BRANCH
NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS
TENDER NOTICE NO.11 DATED 15.09.2020**

On behalf of Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer, Construction Division PWD B&R, Sirhind invites fresh bids from eligible bidders enlisted under "road works" category with PWD (B&R) for the works approved under Special Repair of link roads Phirni Bhagpura (Road Code PS050016) under Special Repair 2018-19 Phase-II MC Sirhind Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib. The availability of tender online will be from 16.09.2020 to 25.09.2020 & Last date and time of submission of tender online will be 25.09.2020 at 11:00 P.M.

*For detailed terms and conditions refer to website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.

For & on behalf of Governor of Pb.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,

Constrn. Division, PWD B&R Br.,

Sirhind.

DPR/Pb/77635

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
PWD B&R BRANCH
NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS
TENDER NOTICE NO.11 DATED 15.09.2020**

On behalf of Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer, Construction Division PWD B&R, Sirhind invites fresh bids from eligible bidders enlisted under "road works" category with PWD (B&R) for the works approved under Special Repair of link roads Phirni Bhagpura (Road Code PS050016) under Special Repair 2018-19 Phase-II MC Sirhind Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib. The availability of tender online will be from 16.09.2020 to 25.09.2020 & Last date and time of submission of tender online will be 25.09.2020 at 11:00 P.M.

*For detailed terms and conditions refer to website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.

DIRECTOR

DPR/Pb/77635

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)

HMSCL invites e-tenders for two years Rate Contract for 8002 Nos. of Glucometer with 10953400 Nos of Glucometers and 12430818 Nos of Auto disable Lancets on the website www.etenders.hry.nic.in. Please see corrigendum, if any, regarding these tenders on the website www.etenders.hry.nic.in only.

Sd/- Managing Director, HMSCL, Panchkula.

PRDH/82823

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
PWD B&R BRANCH
NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS
TENDER NOTICE NO.11 DATED 15.09.2020**

On behalf of Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer, Construction Division PWD B&R, Sirhind invites fresh bids from eligible bidders enlisted under "road works" category with PWD (B&R) for the works approved under Special Repair of link roads Phirni Bhagpura (Road Code PS050016) under Special Repair 2018-19 Phase-II MC Sirhind Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib. The availability of tender online will be from 16.09.2020 to 25.09.2020 & Last date and time of submission of tender online will be 25.09.2020 at 11:00 P.M.

*For detailed terms and conditions refer to website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.

DIRECTOR

DPR/Pb/77635

NOTICE



PDP leaders attend a party meeting in Srinagar on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

At PDP's first meeting, leaders hit out at Centre

Tribune News Service

POST ABROGATION

Srinagar, September 16 The PDP on Wednesday held the first meeting of its party leaders after the abrogation of Article 370 in August last year. And in the very first meeting, the party leaders hit out at the Narendra Modi-led government for "brazen duplicity" on Kashmir and emphasised that the "constitutional fraud" perpetrated on the people of J&K and the subsequent "bulldozing of constitutional rights" will always remain "unacceptable and will be fought uncompromisingly".

The party also sought release of all political detainees, including party president Mehbooba Mufti. "On the one hand, the BJP is

participating in dialogue with Taliban, talking reconciliation with the PLA who have invaded Ladakh and discussing with Nagaland insurgents desperate constitution and flag and on the other hand, using anything, but dialogue to deal with the mess created by them after illegal scrapping of special status of J&K. This is unacceptable," the party leaders said during the meeting. The party reaffirmed its pledge to continue fighting for the aspirations and rights of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. The meeting was organised by the youth wing of the PDP, which had written to the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, on September 14 requesting him

to allow them to hold a meeting in Srinagar. The UT Government had faced sharp criticism when they foiled the first proposed meeting of the PDP on September 3.

The meeting was presided over by party vice-president AR Veeri and general secretary GN Lone Hanjura and attended by Khurshid Alam, Waheed Parra and Ajaz Mir, all of whom stepped out of their homes for the first time since they were detained on August 5, 2019.

Waheed Parra said they could not afford to remain silent any longer. "We demand an immediate end to ruling regimes denial of the political problem. Our people have endured a brutal clampdown and the world's longest Internet slowdown," Parra said.

Tribune News Service

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 16

With 1,590 new Covid cases — 832 from the Jammu division and 758 from Kashmir — during the last 24 hours, the case-load in J&K reached 58,244.

Eighteen deaths — 11 in the Jammu province and seven in Kashmir — were reported during the same period, thus taking the death toll to 932.

As many as 747 more patients — 275 from the Jammu division and 472 from Kashmir — have recovered and discharged from various hospitals.

According to an official bulletin issued on Wednesday evening, out of 58,244 positive cases, 19,503 are active, 37,809 have recovered and 932 have died — 185 in the Jammu division and 747 in Kashmir.

The bulletin said out of 12,97,329 test results available, 12,39,085 samples have tested negative.

Till date 5,30,708 travellers and persons in contact with suspected cases have been enlisted for observation, out of which 4,15,247 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Meanwhile, the Jammu wing of the J&K High Court was closed for two days after some employees were tested positive on Wednesday.

"No person except for the sanitisation workers will be

COVID-19 PANDEMIC



UT TRACKER

	+VE	DEATHS
Bandipora	2,963	30
Srinagar	12,167	256
Anantnag	3,013	54
Baramulla	3,609	114
Shopian	1,892	30
Kupwara	2,980	60
Budgam	4,066	74
Jammu	9,219	106
Udhampur	1,603	07
Ganderbal	2,291	26
Kulgam	2,121	41
Pulwama	3,344	62
Samba	1,174	09
Rajouri	1,173	19
Kishtwar	713	03
Kathua	1,502	13
Ramban	904	04
Reasi	656	03
Poonch	1,087	06
Doda	1,167	15
Total	58,244	932

BAR SEEKS COMPLETE LOCKDOWN FOR 2 WEEKS

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association has demanded complete lockdown in the UT for two more weeks and declare Narayana Hospital, Katra, as designated Covid hospital-cum-quarantine centre after sudden surge in positive cases in the UT.

permitted entry into the High Court on September 16 and 17," Justice Gita Mittal, Chief Justice of J&K High Court, said in an order.

The District Court Complex of Rajouri was also sealed after some of the employees

were tested positive. "The District Court Complex, Rajouri, is being sealed for fumigation and sensitisation as some employees of the court tested positive today," Additional Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri, Sher Singh, tweeted.

ministries concerned.

"Have taken up with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) the issue of alarming #COVID situation in Jammu. A special team of the Union Health Ministry is being immediately deputed to visit Jammu and assist the UT Government. Also spoken to L-G Manoj Sinha regarding this," Jitendra Singh tweeted this evening.

During the last 15 days, the Jammu region recorded a single-day highest of 14 deaths with Jammu district reporting seven deaths.

As fear-stricken Jammu residents flooded social media with posts and videos highlighting 'chaotic' conditions in the premier health institutes, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh took up the matter with the

The same is the speed of rise in positive cases. The total positive cases on August 31 were 8,721, out of which 6,523 had recovered with a recovery rate of 74 per cent in the Jammu province. On September 16, the total positive cases in the region were 19,798, out of which 8,659 had recovered, meaning the recovery rate has dropped to 43 per cent from 74 per cent within 16 days. The situation is worst in Jammu district, where the recovery rate has dropped to nearly 31 per cent with deaths crossing the 100 mark.

The Centre had earlier deputed a team of experts to the Kashmir valley on August 20, when the situation was similar there.

WB-aided health project gets going

Dinesh Manhotra

Tribune News Service

Srinagar, September 16 As the Covid situation appears to be going out of control in the Jammu province due to prevailing 'chaos and anarchy' in the premier health institutes of the region, the Union Government has decided to depute a team of experts to help the local health officials to check surge of positive cases and increasing mortalities.

"Govt of India is deputing a team of senior doctors and experts to J&K. Team will help local experts with patient management, treatment protocols, oxygen availability and other medical issues to help manage surge

in Covid positive cases, particularly in Jammu," the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) tweeted this evening to allay prevailing fear among residents of the Jammu region.

Fear has gripped people as the death toll and positive cases are increasing with every passing day, especially during the last 15 days. On Tuesday, the Jammu region recorded a single-day highest of 14 deaths with Jammu district reporting seven deaths.

As fear-stricken Jammu residents flooded social media with posts and videos highlighting 'chaotic' conditions in the premier health institutes, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh took up the matter with the

ministries concerned.

They said the statement of the visionary leader evoked immense response from parliamentarians.

The NC leaders described non-inclusion of Punjabi in Jammu and Kashmir's official languages as a "conspiracy" that would be exposed at the right time. They hoped the people would fight unitarily for a rightful place to Punjabi as per their wishes and aspirations.

The leaders urged the

administration to repeal the list of the official languages of Jammu and Kashmir and issue a fresh notification by including Punjabi as one of the official languages.

Signatories to the joint statement included Harbans Singh, Deepender Kour, Tarlochan Singh Wazir, Gurdeep Singh Sasan, Surinder Singh Bunty, Dharshan Singh Azad, Harcharan Singh Baby, Charanpreet Singh, Nirman Singh, Sandeep Singh and Tejinder Singh.

NC leaders hail Farooq's statement on Pbi

Tribune News Service

Jammu, September 16 National Conference leaders today welcomed the statement of the party president Farooq Abdullah in the Lok Sabha with regard to inclusion of Punjabi as one of the official languages of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a joint statement, they said he (Farooq) had represented the right thinking view of the country and criticised the alleged

attempts of undermining Punjabi, a most loved and spoken language of mil-

lions across the world.

They said the statement of the visionary leader evoked immense response from parliamentarians.

The NC leaders described non-inclusion of Punjabi in Jammu and Kashmir's official languages as a "conspiracy" that would be exposed at the right time. They hoped the people would fight unitarily for a rightful place to Punjabi as per their wishes and aspirations.

The leaders urged the

administration to repeal the list of the official languages of Jammu and Kashmir and issue a fresh notification by including Punjabi as one of the official languages.

Signatories to the joint statement included Harbans Singh, Deepender Kour, Tarlochan Singh Wazir, Gurdeep Singh Sasan, Surinder Singh Bunty, Dharshan Singh Azad, Harcharan Singh Baby, Charanpreet Singh, Nirman Singh, Sandeep Singh and Tejinder Singh.

It is brought to the notice of persons interested in the following acquired land mentioned in the schedule of the Govt. of India Gazette Notification vide SO No. 2568 (E) published on 31.07.2020 under Section 3(D) of the National Highways Act, 1956 for the public purpose of 4-Laning of existing two lane with paved shoulder road from Makhu to Arif Ke NH-703-A from Km 18.2 to Km 24.6 in the State of Punjab, to appear in persons or by an agent or by a legal practitioner and state the nature of interest in such land and claims to compensation etc of this acquired land on 25.09.2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the office Sub Divisional Magistrate Ferozepur, Punjab.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in two Newspapers The Tribune (English) & Jagban (Punjabi) both on 01.07.2020.

it is brought to the notice of persons interested in the following acquired land mentioned in the schedule of the Govt. of India Gazette Notification vide SO No. 1992(E) published on 22.06.2020 under Section 3(D) of the National Highways Act, 1956 for the public purpose of 4-Laning of existing two lane with paved shoulder road from Makhu to Arif Ke NH-703-A from Km 18.2 to Km 24.6 in the State of Punjab, to appear in persons or by an agent or by a legal practitioner and state the nature of interest in such land and claims to compensation etc of this acquired land on 25.09.2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the office Sub Divisional Magistrate Ferozepur, Punjab.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in two Newspapers The Tribune (English) & Jagban (Punjabi) both on 01.07.2020.

it is brought to the notice of persons interested in the following acquired land mentioned in the schedule of the Govt. of India Gazette Notification vide SO No. 1992(E) published on 22.06.2020 under Section 3(D) of the National Highways Act, 1956 for the public purpose of 4-Laning of existing two lane with paved shoulder road from Makhu to Arif Ke NH-703-A from Km 18.2 to Km 24.6 in the State of Punjab, to appear in persons or by an agent or by a legal practitioner and state the nature of interest in such land and claims to compensation etc of this acquired land on 25.09.2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the office Sub Divisional Magistrate Ferozepur, Punjab.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in two Newspapers The Tribune (English) & Jagban (Punjabi) both on 01.07.2020.

it is brought to the notice of persons interested in the following acquired land mentioned in the schedule of the Govt. of India Gazette Notification vide SO No. 1992(E) published on 22.06.2020 under Section 3(D) of the National Highways Act, 1956 for the public purpose of 4-Laning of existing two lane with paved shoulder road from Makhu to Arif Ke NH-703-A from Km 18.2 to Km 24.6 in the State of Punjab, to appear in persons or by an agent or by a legal practitioner and state the nature of interest in such land and claims to compensation etc of this acquired land on 25.09.2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the office Sub Divisional Magistrate Ferozepur, Punjab.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in two Newspapers The Tribune (English) & Jagban (Punjabi) both on 01.07.2020.

it is brought to the notice of persons interested in the following acquired land mentioned in the schedule of the Govt. of India Gazette Notification vide SO No. 1992(E) published on 22.06.2020 under Section 3(D) of the National Highways Act, 1956 for the public purpose of 4-Laning of existing two lane with paved shoulder road from Makhu to Arif Ke NH-703-A from Km 18.2 to Km 24.6 in the State of Punjab, to appear in persons or by an agent or by a legal practitioner and state the nature of interest in such land and claims to compensation etc of this acquired land on 25.09.2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the office Sub Divisional Magistrate Ferozepur, Punjab.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in two Newspapers The Tribune (English) & Jagban (Punjabi) both on 01.07.2020.

it is brought to the notice of persons interested in the following acquired land mentioned in the schedule of the Govt. of India Gazette Notification vide SO No. 1992(E) published on 22.06.2020 under Section 3(D) of the National Highways Act, 1956 for the public purpose of 4-Laning of existing two lane with paved shoulder road from Makhu to Arif Ke NH-703-A from Km 18.2 to Km 24.6 in the State of Punjab, to appear in persons or by an agent or by a legal practitioner and state the nature of interest in such land and claims to compensation etc of this acquired land on 25.09.2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the office Sub Divisional Magistrate Ferozepur, Punjab.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in two Newspapers The Tribune (English) & Jagban (Punjabi) both on 01.07.2020.

it is brought to the notice of persons interested in the following acquired land mentioned in the schedule of the Govt. of India Gazette Notification vide SO No. 1992(E) published on 22.06.2020 under Section 3(D) of the National Highways Act, 1956 for the public purpose of 4-Laning of existing two lane with paved shoulder road from Makhu to Arif Ke NH-703-A from Km 18.2 to Km 24.6 in the State of Punjab, to appear in persons or by an agent or by a legal practitioner and state the nature of interest in such land and claims to compensation etc of this acquired land on 25.09.2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the office Sub Divisional Magistrate Ferozepur, Punjab.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in two Newspapers The Tribune (English) & Jagban (Punjabi) both on 01.07.2020.

it is brought to the notice of persons interested in the following acquired land mentioned in the schedule of the Govt. of India Gazette Notification vide SO No. 1992(E) published on 22.06.2020 under Section 3(D) of the National Highways Act, 1956 for the public purpose of 4-Laning of existing two lane with paved shoulder road from Makhu to Arif Ke NH-703-A from Km 18.2 to Km 24.6 in the State of Punjab, to appear in persons or by an agent or by a legal practitioner and state the nature of interest in such land and claims to compensation etc of this acquired land on 25.09.2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the office Sub Divisional Magistrate Ferozepur, Punjab.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in two Newspapers The Tribune (English) & Jagban (Punjabi) both on 01.07.2020.

it is brought to the notice of persons interested in the following acquired land mentioned in the schedule of the Govt. of India Gazette Notification vide SO No. 1992(E) published on 22.06.2020 under Section 3(D) of the National Highways Act, 1956 for the public purpose of 4-Laning of existing two lane with paved shoulder road from Makhu to Arif Ke NH-703-A from Km 18.2 to Km 24.6 in the State of Punjab, to appear in persons or by an agent or by a legal practitioner and state the nature of interest in such land and claims to compensation etc of this acquired land on 25.09.2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the office Sub Divisional Magistrate Ferozepur, Punjab.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in two Newspapers The Tribune (English) & Jagban (Punjabi) both on 01.07.2020.

it is brought to the notice of persons interested in the following



Yoshihide Suga is welcomed by officials following Shinzo Abe's departure in Tokyo. REUTERS

Look forward to strengthening partnership with Japan: Modi

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday congratulated Yoshihide Suga on his appointment as Japan's Prime Minister and said he is looking forward to jointly take the "special strategic and global partnership" between the two countries to new heights.

Suga was on Wednesday formally elected as Japan's new PM in a parliamentary vote. "Heartiest congratulations to Excellency Yoshihide Suga on the appoint-

ment as Prime Minister of Japan @kantei. I look forward to jointly taking our Special Strategic and Global Partnership to new heights. @sugawitter," Modi tweeted. He also posted a congratulatory tweet in Japanese to Suga.

Suga, who was chief Cabinet secretary in Abe's government, is to launch his own Cabinet. Suga has stressed his background as a farmer's son and a self-made politician in promising to serve the interests of ordinary people

and rural communities.

He has said he will pursue Abe's unfinished policies, and that his top priorities will be fighting the coronavirus and turning around an economy battered by the pandemic.

Shinzo Abe said before the change was official that as a lawmaker, he will support Suga's government and he thanked the people for their understanding and strong support for the upcoming leadership under Suga. — Agencies

Hafiz aides indicted for funding terror

BRUSSELS/LONDON, SEPT 16

An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Wednesday indicted four top leaders of the banned Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD), including the brother-in-law of Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, in four more cases of financing terror.

"Terror-financing charges were framed on Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki (brother-in-law of Saeed), Yahya Mujahid (JuD spokesperson), Zafar

judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttar directed the prosecution to present witnesses on next hearing on Thursday.

Last month, the Lahore ATC handed down over 16 years of imprisonment to Zafer Iqbal and Hafiz Abdus Salam and one-and-a-half-year sentence to Makki in another terror financing case. In February, Saeed was sentenced to a jail term of 11 years for terror financing. — PTI

Iqbal and Muhammad Ashraf in four more cases," a court official said after the hearing. The suspects were brought to the ATC-III amid high security from the Kot Lakhpat Jail. The official said

hotspot of Europe, has planned to introduce selective lockdowns in urban areas where Covid is spreading faster, regional health authorities said. — Agencies

Meanwhile, Spanish capital Madrid, the Covid

US tariffs on China illegal: WTO

Ruling to allow Beijing to impose retaliatory action on American goods

GENEVA, SEPTEMBER 16

A World Trade Organisation panel ruled on Tuesday that the Trump administration tariffs on USD-200 billion worth of Chinese goods are illegal, vindicating Beijing even if the United States has all but incapacitated the WTO's ability to hand down a final, binding verdict.

The decision marks the first time that the Geneva-based trade body has ruled against a series of high-profile tariffs that President Donald Trump's government has imposed on a number of countries — allies and rivals alike.

Trump has repeatedly claimed that the WTO treats the US unfairly. The ruling, in theory, would allow China to impose retaliatory tariffs on billions' worth of US goods. But it is unlikely to have much practical impact, at least in the short term, because the US can appeal the decision and the WTO's



Washington pushes arms sale to Taiwan

Washington: The US plans to sell seven major weapons systems, including mines, cruise missiles and drones to Taiwan, four people familiar with the discussions said. In the past, US military sales to the island were carefully calibrated to minimise tensions with Beijing. REUTERS

HK against US demand for Made in China label

Hong Kong: Hong Kong has filed a formal objection with the US over its demand for Made in China labels on goods exported from the Chinese semi-autonomous city, the commerce secretary has said. Washington's move last month followed China's imposition of a national security law on the former British colony. REUTERS

appeals court is currently no longer functioning — largely because of Washington's single-handed refusal to accept new members for it.

In its decision, the WTO's dispute settlement body ruled against the US government's argument that China has

wrongly engaged in practices harmful to US interests on issues including intellectual property theft and technology transfer — and it quickly drew criticism of US trade representative Robert Lighthizer.

"This panel report confirms what the Trump administra-

tion has been saying for four years: The WTO is completely inadequate to stop China's harmful technology practices," Lighthizer said in a statement. He said the United States had presented "extensive evidence" of China's intellectual property theft and the WTO has offered no fixes for it.

"The United States must be allowed to defend itself against unfair trade practice," he added. The Chinese ministry of commerce said the ruling was fair and called on the US to respect it.

The appeals court issues final rulings in trade cases and stopped functioning last year when the terms of two of its last three judges expired with no replacements. That means the United States can appeal the decision "into the void," said Timothy Keeler, a lawyer at Mayer Brown and former chief of staff for the US trade representative. — AP

Pak Senate blocks Bill related to FATF

ISLAMABAD, SEPTEMBER 16

Pakistan's Senate on Wednesday rejected the Anti-Terrorism Act (amendment) Bill, 2020, a day after it was passed by the lower house, making it the third Financial Action Task Force-related legislation to have been blocked by the Opposition-dominated upper house.

Thirty-one members voted in favour of the bill on terror financing while 34 opposed it, Dawn reported.

According to the bill, the investigating officer, with the permission of the court, can conduct covert operations to detect terrorism funding, track communications and computer system by applying latest technologies in 60 days.

Last month, two Bills were rejected by Pakistan's Senate last month, jeopardising the government's efforts to escape from being blacklisted by the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog. — PTI

Better coordination needed on virus: EU

BRUSSELS, SEPTEMBER 16

European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said on Wednesday that the bloc must rise above its fragmented approach on dealing with Covid by centralising more decision-making on health issues.

She also told EU legislators that Italy will host a global health summit next year, during its G20 presidency. Von der Leyen fully acknowledged the fragile state that the pandemic has left EU in, with the death toll closing in on 150,000 and the economy facing the worst slump in the bloc's history.

Meanwhile, Spanish capital Madrid, the Covid

TRACKING COVID

NATIONS	DEATHS
US	2,00,667
BRAZIL	1,33,217
MEXICO	71,678
UK	41,684
PERU	30,927

WORLDOMETER
TILL SEPT 16, 10 PM



Oz govt lawyer names China in 'foreign interference' probe

SYDNEY, SEPTEMBER 16

Australia has named China in a court document as the foreign state under investigation by police in its first foreign interference investigation, though Beijing dismissed the allegation as an anti-China smear. Ties between Australia and its biggest trading partner have been plagued over recent years by Australian complaints of Chinese interference in its politics.

China has consistently denied the accusations. The Australian Federal Police and the Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) have declined to comment on whether a raid

BEIJING REJECTS AUSTRALIAN ACCUSATION

Beijing: China will not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin has said. Some in Australia are spreading rumours about China, and that does not help with the development of bilateral relations, he said. REUTERS

on the offices of a New South Wales (NSW) state politician and his staffer on June 26 was related to China. But the court filing stated the search warrant used by police identifies the foreign principal as the China government.

John Zhang, who worked for NSW Labor politician Shaquett Moselmane, has asked the High Court to

quash the search warrants used to search his home, business and Moselmane's parliament office. The government's court document, signed off by Australia's Solicitor-General Stephen Donaghue, was lodged the day after it warned Australian journalists working in China to leave for safety reasons. — Reuters

BUSINESS

USD \$	Euro €	Pound £	JPY ¥	Yuan ₠	CAD \$	AUD \$	SGD \$	HKD \$
₹73.52	₹87.28	₹95.36	₹0.70	₹10.88	₹55.88	₹53.94	₹54.17	₹9.49

₹2,46,131 CR MOPPED UP

Tax collection declines 22.5% till September 15

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 16

Total tax collection of the Centre, including advance tax collection for the second quarter, fell 22.5% to Rs 2,53,532.3 crore till September 15 of the current fiscal as compared to the year-ago period, according to an income tax department source. The source shared some details about the provisional data.

During the same period ended September 15, 2019, total tax collection stood at Rs 3,27,320.2 crore, the income tax department source from Mumbai zone said over the phone on Wednesday.

However, the source refused to share the advance tax numbers separately for the current quarter.

During the first quarter ended June, gross tax collection fell 31% driven down by a massive 76% plunge in advance tax mop-up, as the country was in a full lockdown due to the pandemic.

Of the total collection till September 15, when taxpayers, both individuals and companies, are supposed to pay advance tax for the quarter, personal income tax at the national level stood at Rs 1,47,004.6 crore and corporate tax at Rs 99,126.2 crore, totalling the two major components of the tax revenue at Rs 2,46,130.8 crore, the source said.

The total collection fell 22.5%, led by a 13.9% dip in collection from Mumbai, which

utilised both the companies' inherent capabilities, skills, knowledge and assets, with respect to the scope of Maglev Train projects in India.

Aimed at expanding its footprint in the urban transportation sector as part of its diversification initiatives, BHEL has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with SwissRapide AG for Maglev Train projects in India, a company statement said.

The Maglev Rail system hovers in the air instead of rolling, due to magnetic levitation, thus the vehicles have no physical contact with the guideway. This enables the system to be highly energy-efficient, allows operating speeds of easily up to 500

km/h and significantly reduces the total cost of system ownership.

The MoU was signed by SV Srinivasan, GM & Head (Transportation Business Group), BHEL, and Niklaus H Koenig, president and CEO, SwissRapide AG.

The agreement has been signed in the backdrop of the

Prime Minister's 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives, and will enable BHEL to bring the latest, world-class technology to India and manufacture state-of-the-art Maglev trains indigenously.

The MoU sets out the foundation to cooperate and explore mutually beneficial business opportunities, and to

utilise both the companies' inherent capabilities, skills, knowledge and assets, with respect to the scope of Maglev Train projects in India.

The SwissRapide AG is specialised in the promotion, project management, planning, designing and commissioning of international Maglev Rail projects. — PTI

28.32 lakh people travelled by air in Aug says DGCA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16

A total of 28.32 lakh domestic passengers travelled by air in August this year, 76% lower than the corresponding period last year, aviation regulator DGCA said on Wednesday.

While IndiGo carried 16.82 lakh passengers, a 59.4% share of the total domestic market, SpiceJet flew 3.91 lakh passengers, which is 13.8% share of the total market, the DGCA data noted. These two airlines were followed by Air India, AirAsia India, Vistara and GoAir at 2.78 lakh, 1.92 lakh, 1.42 lakh and 1.33 lakh passengers respectively in August, the data showed. As many as 21.07 lakh people travelled by air domestically this July, the regulator had said last

month. The occupancy rate or load factor for five out of six major Indian airlines was between 58 and 69% in August. — PTI

OCCUPANCY RATE RANGES 58 TO 69%

As many as 21.07 lakh people travelled by air domestically this July, the regulator had said last month

The occupancy rate or load factor for five out of six major Indian airlines was between 58 and 69% in August. — PTI

CAMS announces IPO; NSE to sell off entire stake

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 16

CAMS, which acts as a registrar and transfer agent (RTA) for mutual funds, on Wednesday announced its initial public offering (IPO), targeting to raise Rs 2,240 crore from investors amid the liquidity flush.

The offer will see sale of 1,82,46,600 equity shares or 37.4% stake by NSE Investments, the subsidiary of NSE.

The entire quantum of shares being sold to investors is NSE's holding and there

India-China trade deficit dips to \$5.48 bn

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16

The trade deficit between India and China in April-June this fiscal year fell to \$5.48 billion as compared to \$13.1 billion in the same period last year, Parliament was informed on Wednesday. In a written reply, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the bilateral trade between the countries too dipped to \$16.55 billion during the first three months of 2020-21 as against \$21.42 billion in the same period last year. — PTI

LS passes legislation to bring cooperative banks under RBI

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16

The Lok Sabha today cleared the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020, a law that aims to protect the interest of depositors by bringing cooperative banks under the regulatory framework of RBI, amid demand by Opposition parties that the Bill be withdrawn and sent to the Select Committee and observations terming it an "infringement

/encroachment" upon powers of states and federal structure and the cooperative movement in the country.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who systematically demolished all objections raised during the discussion on the Bill, however, remained non-committal to the question as to when the beleaguered depositors of the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank, the collapse of which is precursor to the Ordinance during the Covid lockdown and now the legislation, will receive their deposits. The Finance Minister said the aim of the Bill is only to ensure that depositors of cooperative banks do not suffer. No one is infringing upon the power of states or federalism. Banking and regulation of banking is definitely under Central list. State cooperative laws are not being touched," she said.

BRIEFLY

CHENNAI

Harikrishna in joint lead after 3 rounds in rapid chess

Indian Grandmaster P Harikrishna claimed a share of the top position with Armenian GM Levon Aronian after posting two wins and a draw in three rounds of the rapid competition in the St Louis Rapid and Blitz online chess tournament. The India No. 2 started with a win over US Grandmaster Leinier Dominguez before settling for a draw with Iranian prodigy Alireza Firouzja. In the third round, Harikrishna pulled off a victory over experienced Russian Alexander Grischuk in 41 moves. World champion Magnus Carlsen was fifth with three points.

KOLKATA

EB submit bid paper, inch closer to joining ISL

East Bengal took another step towards joining the top-tier Indian Super League by submitting the invitation-to-Bid (ITB) papers to the organisers, Football Sports Development Limited. The ITB was submitted by a consortium of East Bengal and their investors Shree Cement Ltd., the century-old club announced on their Twitter handle.

LONDON

Bale's agent in talks with Tottenham over return

Out of favor at Real Madrid, Gareth Bale is hoping to secure a return to Premier League club Tottenham to revitalise his career. Bale's agent, Jonathan Barnett, confirmed to The Associated Press that he is in talks with Tottenham about the 31-year-old forward rejoining the club he left seven years ago. "That's where he wants to go," Barnett told the AP. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

TENNIS
ITALIAN OPEN
SONY SIX 2:30PM
CYCLING
TOUR DE FRANCE
EUROSPORT 4PM

Roglic extends lead



Performers dressed as riders during the start of Stage 17. AP/PTI

MERIBEL (FRANCE), SEPT 16 Colombian Miguel Angel Lopez won the 17th stage of the Tour de France as Primoz Roglic tightened his grip on the overall lead today.

Roglic took second place to extend his advantage over fellow Slovenian Tadej Pogacar, who came home third, to 57 seconds.

Bernal withdraws

Defending champion Egan Bernal has withdrawn from the Tour de France after dropping out of contention at the

Back on the right path

ITALIAN OPEN Djokovic wins first match since US Open default

ROME, SEPTEMBER 16

Novak Djokovic behaved better today in his first match since being defaulted from the US Open. The top-ranked Serb was mostly courteous with the chair umpire during a 6-3 6-2 win over local wildcard entry Salvatore Caruso in his opening match at the Italian Open. When the umpire came down to inspect a ball mark on the red clay early in the first set and made an overrule in Caruso's favour, Djokovic just replied, "Yup," and rubbed out the mark with his red sneaker.

When Caruso impressed him — the Italian hit 13 winners to Djokovic's 12 — Djokovic said, "Bravo."

Djokovic's only testy moment came during the third game of the second set, which went to deuce seven times before Djokovic finally broke Caruso's serve. As the game wore on, Djokovic appeared bothered by crowd noise, even though the Campo Centrale is empty of fans this year because of the coronavirus pandemic. The only people inside the stadium were coaches and others working at the tournament. "Which ones?" the umpire



Novak Djokovic tries to make a return against Salvatore Caruso. REUTERS

"Obviously I had an early exit (at the US Open) so had more time to prepare" Novak Djokovic

asked Djokovic, trying to figure out who was bothering him. Djokovic replied curtly: "There's 10 people in the stands."

Four-time champion Djokovic has recorded 51 victories in 60 matches, making him the second most success-

ful player in the tournament's history — just behind nine-time champion Rafael Nadal. Djokovic has won 27 of his 28 matches this year and will resume his hunt for an 18th Grand Slam title at the French Open, which begins on September 27.

Italian teenager stuns Stan

Local teenager Lorenzo Musetti stunned Stan Wawrinka 6-0 7-6(2) in the

first round. Out-hitting Wawrinka's famed backhand with a one-handed version of his own, the 18-year-old qualifier moved the three-time Grand Slam champion from corner to corner and displayed an all-court game.

Musetti became the first player born in 2002 to win on the ATP tour — after fellow Italian Jannik Sinner achieved the feat last year for players born in 2001. — AP

Halep advances despite sluggish start



Simona Halep plays a forehand against Jasmine Paolini. REUTERS



Victoria Azarenka (right) beat Venus Williams (above). REUTERS



Other results

Men's singles: Jannik Sinner bt Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-1 6-7(9) 6-2; Stefano Travaglia bt Borna Coric 7-6(2) 7-5; Matteo Berrettini bt Federico Coria 7-5 6-1; Marin Cilic bt David Goffin 6-2 6-2

Women's singles: Dayana Yastremska bt Amanda Anisimova 4-6 7-6(3) 6-4; Elise Mertens bt Magda Linette 6-2 6-4; Danka Kovinic bt Belinda Bencic 6-3 6-1

Roglic extends lead



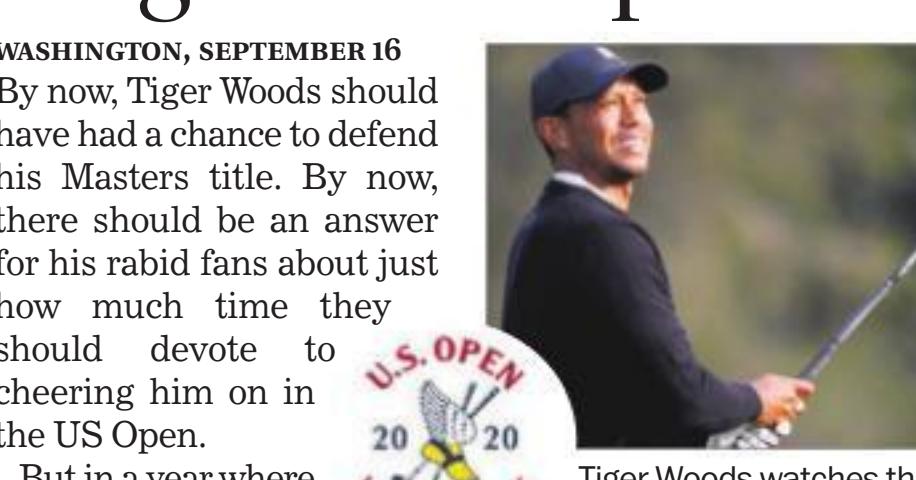
Performers dressed as riders during the start of Stage 17. AP/PTI

weekend. Bernal's hopes of winning the race fell away when he cracked in the 15th stage and he was dropped from the main bunch in the ascent to Saint-Nizier suffering from back pains in Stage 16. Bernal had said compensating for his back led to some discomfort in his knee.

The 17th stage was arguably the toughest of this year's Tour, ending 2,304 metres above sea level at top of the Col de la Loze, a punishing 21.5km ascent at an average gradient of 7.8%. — Reuters

Bernal withdraws
Defending champion Egan Bernal has withdrawn from the Tour de France after dropping out of contention at the

Tiger in need of some magic at US Open



I did make a few swing mistakes, I missed it in the wrong spots," Woods said. "I've compounded mistakes...and consequently I haven't put myself in contention to win events." — AP

RAJASTHAN FEEDER DIVISION, FEROZEPUR AUCTION NOTICE
No.: 2428/11-S Date: 16/09/2020
In Supersession of this Office Notice No. 2332/11-S Date 11.09.2020 and No. 2418/11-S dated 15.09.2020, Open auction of Fishing Rights for the year 2020-21 i.e. 01.09.2020 to 31.08.2021 (except for the period from 15 June to 31 August off season) on Rajasthan Feeder Canal RD Head to tail will be held on 21.09.2020 at 2:00 p.m. in the office of the undersigned.
Note: All terms and conditions will be intimated to the bidders at the time of bidding.
Sd/- Er. Sukhjit Singh Randhawa, Executive Engineer, DPR/Pb/77683

ਫਿਰੋਜ਼ਪੁਰ ਵਿਚ ਆਪਣਾ ਕਾਰੋਬਾਰ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਸੁਨਹਿਰਾ ਮੌਕਾ
ਹਰ ਆਮ ਅਤੇ ਖਸ ਨੂੰ ਸੁਚਿਤ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਪ੍ਰੀਸਟ ਸ਼ਾਪਿੰਗ ਕੰਪਨੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਦੁਕਾਨ ਨੰ. 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22 ਤੋਂ ਕੰਟੈਨਰ ਨੂੰ ਪੱਧੀ ਬੈਂਕੀ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਕਿਰਾਏ 'ਤੇ ਦੇਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਨਿਵਾਰੀ ਮਿਤੀ 29.09.2020 ਨੂੰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 11.00 ਵਜੇ ਰਿਮਨ੍ਡਸਤਾਂਬਾਰ ਦੇ ਦੱਤਤ ਵਿਚ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। ਹਰਕ ਬੇਲੀਕਾਰ ਨੂੰ 10,000/- ਰੁਪਏ ਬਰੋਜ਼ ਸਕਿਦਿਤੀ ਬੱਲੀ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਜਾਨੂੰ ਕਰਵਾਉਣੇ ਹੋਣਗੇ। ਬਾਕੀ ਸ਼ਸਤਾ ਮੌਕੇ 'ਤੇ ਸੁਣਾਈਆਂ ਜਾਣਗੀਆਂ।
ਸਹੀ/- ਮੁੱਖ ਕਾਰਜਕਾਰੀ ਅਫਸਰ, ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਪ੍ਰੀਸਟ, ਫਿਰੋਜ਼ਪੁਰ
DI-9717

E-TENDER NOTICE
Director General, Prisons & Correctional Services, Shimla-9 invites E-Tenders for District Chamba, Kangra and Kullu for the procurement of Ration items as per specifications of FSSAI supply for the next one year from the date of award. The detailed tender notice, tender documents and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <https://htenders.gov.in>. The date of publication of e-tender shall be on 17/09/2020 at 11:00 a.m. The last date of submission of sample shall be till 05/10/2020 up to 5 p.m. and Earnest Money deposit tender document fee, processing fee and online tenders shall be till 07/10/2020 up to 5 p.m. The tender shall be opened on 09/10/2020 at 11:00 a.m.

For Director General,
Prisons & Correctional Services,
Shimla — 171009

For any Inquiry contact during office hours
Phone No. 0177-2628850-54
Email: dg-prison-hp@nic.in
DPR/HP/397

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is brought to the kind notice of Cab Operators and general public that only OLA and UBER Companies have got the Aggregator licence from this office to operate their cabs in U.T., Chandigarh.

Except above two companies no other cab has got themselves registered in this office and has obtained license for plying their cabs in U.T., Chandigarh.

Further, the owners of cabs who have attached their cabs with such companies unofficially are advised not to attach their vehicles with such unregistered companies failing which the sole responsibility regarding challan/impounding will rest upon the owner of the cab.

General public through this PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby advised not to travel in such cabs i.e. IN DRIVER etc. to avoid any Mishap/Incident in future.

Sd/- (Harjeet Singh Sandhu, PCS)
Secretary,
State Transport Authority,
U.T., Chandigarh.

New Delhi WC decisive for Tokyo Games qualification

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16

The New Delhi World Cup in March next year was today dubbed as "decisive" by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) for qualification to the Tokyo Olympics.

The competition in Delhi, to be held from March 19 to 28, will be a combined tournament. "The 2021 ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun in New Delhi will be decisive for Tokyo 2020 Qualification regarding the World Ranking," the world shooting body said on its website. "This decision of the Executive Committee is compliant with the general approach to maintain the original Qualification System

15 Indian shooters have secured quota places for the postponed Tokyo Olympics

to will be hosting the remaining World Cups in 2021.

The Indian capital was supposed to host a combined World Cup in March this year, which was first postponed to May-June and then cancelled due to the Covid pandemic.

A total of 15 Indian shooters have secured quota places for the postponed Tokyo Games.

The ISSF Executive Committee recently approved rule changes and a new ranking system. The technical changes, mostly in team events, will be included in the ISSF Championships programme from next year.

The ranking system will also be implemented from next year. — PTI

Ex-head of world athletics Diack gets jail for corruption

HOUSTON, SEPTEMBER 16

Memphis Grizzlies, an American professional basketball team which competes in the NBA, has hired an Indian-American as its assistant coach.

Sonia Raman joins Vin Bhavnani (Oklahoma City Thunder) and Roy Rana (Sacramento Kings) as the only coaches of Indian origin in the NBA.

Raman becomes the 14th female assistant coach in the history of the NBA and the 10th among current coaching staffers in the league. She becomes the seventh female coach to be hired as an assistant in the league since the beginning of the 2019-20 season. "She has a high basketball IQ and a tremendous ability to teach the game," head coach Taylor Jenkins said. "She is going to be a great addition."

Nuggets oust Clippers

Jamal Murray scored 40 points as Denver Nuggets completed a stunning comeback in the Western Conference semifinals with a 104-91 victory over Los Angeles Clippers in Game 7. Third seeds Nuggets became the first NBA team to rally from 1-3 deficits twice in the same postseason. They defeated Utah Jazz in the first round. Denver will meet top seeds Los Angeles Lakers in the finals, beginning Friday. — PTI

Raman had served as the head coach of the women's basketball team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) since 2008. "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to be part of the Grizzlies coaching staff. I can't wait to get to Memphis and get started with Taylor, his staff and the team's emerging young core," Raman said. — PTI

THE CAR YOU PURCHASE TODAY WILL HELP GET YOUR INCREMENT TOMORROW.

When you purchase a car, not only does the automobile industry grow, its employees progress as well. They would then buy new festival attires from the showroom you manage, thereby boosting your sales and helping you secure a nice increment as well.

The chain of economy is connected to everyone. Don't break it.

Wheels of the Economy

AN INITIATIVE BY:
MULLEN LINTAS

IPG MEDIABRANDS

INS
THE INDIAN NEWSPAPER SOCIETY

The Tribune
Voice of the People

OBITUARY

Kapila Vatsyayan (Dec 25, 1928 – Sept 16, 2020)
She enriched world of arts in myriad ways

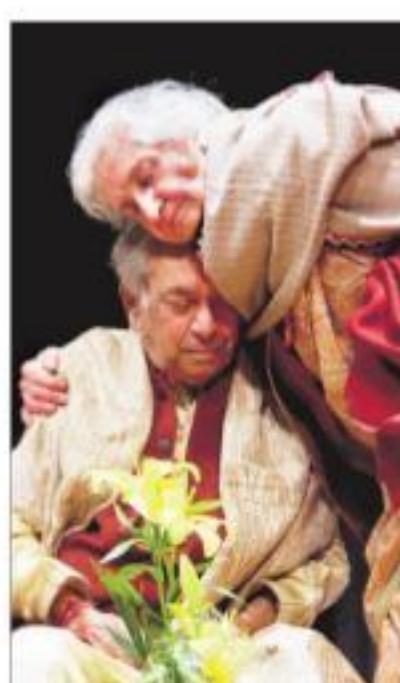
NONIKA SINGH

RENOWNED art scholar Kapila Vatsyayan was a woman of many talents, who wore many hats. A redoubtable author, an erudite scholar par extraordinaire, an able administrator/adviser and a dancer in her own time, her journey may have started when government patronage towards arts was unheard of.

She patronised arts at a personal level and worked with luminaries such as Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Indira Gandhi. The founding director of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, she was also the chairperson of the Asia Project at the India International Centre.

Vatsyayan acquired a master's degree in English literature from Delhi University and later studied in the US. Mixed influences once made her quip in an interview, "I belonged nowhere and I belonged everywhere."

Author of books such as "The Square" and "Circle of the Indian Arts", she is hailed as classic by bureaucrat author Pavan K Varma in a tweet.



Kapila Vatsyayan (L) with Pt Birju Maharaj in Delhi. PTI

Pak epicentre of terrorism: India at Geneva

GENEVA, SEPTEMBER 16
Describing Pakistan as an "epicentre of terrorism", India has said no one deserves an unsolicited lecture on human rights from Islamabad that has consistently persecuted its ethnic and religious minorities, including Hindus, Sikhs and Christians.

Exercising the Right of Reply to the statements made by Pakistan at the 45th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) here, the Indian representative on Tuesday said it has become habitual for Pakistan to malign India with false and fabricated narratives for its self-serving malicious purposes.

"Neither India nor others deserve this unsolicited lecture on human rights from a country that has consistently persecuted its ethnic and religious minorities, is an epicentre of terrorism, has the distinction of providing pensions to individuals on UN Sanctions list and has a Prime Minister who proudly admits training tens of thousands of terrorists to fight in Jammu and Kashmir," the Indian diplomat said. — PTI

Architect artist SS Bhatia remembers her from her visit to Panjab University. He recalls, "She soon transcended her well-known image as a versatile scholar of far-reaching consequence and engaged in a theatrical and audience-capturing performance."

The Padma Vibhushan recipient and former MP, she has left behind a treasure trove of wisdom and knowledge.

Printed and published by Rajesh Ramachandran for The Tribune Trust
Printed at The Tribune Press, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.

Published at The Tribune, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.

RNI No. 15/57.

Copyright © The Tribune Trust. All rights reserved.

Telephones: 0172-2655066-72

Circulation: 0172-2670419, Advertisement: 0172-2670256, 257

Editor: Rajesh Ramachandran*

*Editor for purpose of PRB Act, 1867

Expanding Security Council is UNGA President's priority

Delhi gets front row seat at UN Assembly, gets membership of 3 key bodies

SANDEEP DIKSHIT

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16
The 75th session of the UN General Assembly got underway with its new President assuring that he will attempt to break the deadlock on the expansion of the UN Security Council (UNSC) and take the process forward.

Acknowledging the fact that the UNSC's expansion has been debated for years with no significant progress, UNGA President for the session Volkan Bozkir said the issue was important because the working and working methods of the UNSC must reflect the realities of the 21st century. This is exactly what India, one of the aspirants to a permanent seat on an expanded UNSC, says.

"This process is member-states driven. We will build on the meetings in previous sessions," he said, while bemoaning the US quarantine policy that has inhibited heads of state and governments from attending the session in person.

demanded that the doctors be treated as martyrs for the purpose of compensation.

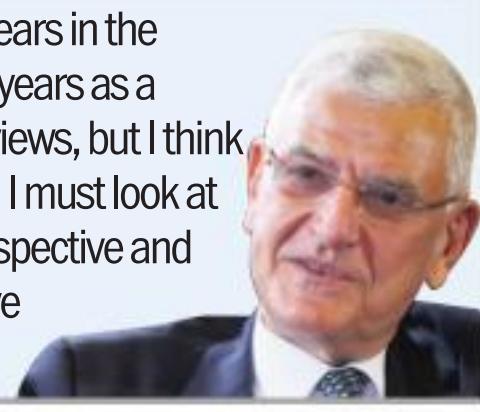
In a statement, the IMA came down heavily on the Health Ministry for not sharing Covid mortality data among doctors and said this reeked of government "indifference".

"The IMA also urges the government to seek data

'CHAIR MUST BE IMPARTIAL'

Having served for 39 years in the diplomatic services and 10 years as a politician, I will have some views, but I think the chair must be impartial. I must look at a situation from the UN perspective and not my country's perspective

Volkan Bozkir, UNGA PRESIDENT



son and, by their physical presence, guiding their delegations to indulge in off-the-record discussions.

Bozkir said his first priority would be to appoint facilitators for the process after holding consultations with member countries.

India, which has been seated in the front row and has under its belt successful elections to three ECOSOC bodies, would be taking his statement with circumspection since Bozkir is a Turkish while the question was asked by a Pakistani journalist and both their nations have plans for UNSC expansion very different from what India has

been lobbying for. Permanent memberships for itself, Germany, Brazil, Japan and nominees from Africa.

Bozkir attacked the US quarantine policy and was unaware if US President Donald Trump would be the lone head of state to address the momentous diamond jubilee session of the UNGA.

Pushing strongly for in-person meetings, he said the "silent process didn't help in making decisions".

Now that the UN has begun physical interactions, "we are going to show that the UN is back", he said while defending the WHO ahead of a UNGA special

session to discuss Covid, tentatively scheduled for the first week of November. Another special session will deal with corruption.

Asked about his country's views shaping his decisions, he agreed that having served for 39 years in the diplomatic services and 10 years as a politician, he would have "some views".

"But I think the chair must be impartial. I must look at a situation from the UN perspective and not my country's perspective," he said when asked how he would arbitrate between Turkey and Greece on their contest for the Eastern Mediterranean.

On vaccine, Bozkir said, "If it is found, the world must ensure it is distributed fairly instead of only a part of the world benefiting from it while leaving a major portion of the world to a later stage. The UN's role and GA's role comes into picture at this point. I will make it a priority to make statements on this point."

India borrowed from AIIB a month after Galwan clash

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16
Even as the External Affairs Ministry blamed the Chinese for the flare-up on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the government again confirmed that it had taken loans from Beijing-headquartered multilateral banks after the Galwan valley clash on June 15.

One of the loans was taken over a month after the clashes, according to official social media posts of the Union Finance Ministry.

The Finance Ministry had stated on June 18 — three days after the Galwan clash — that India had opted for a \$750 million loan from the Beijing-headquartered Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to strengthen its response to the adverse impacts of Covid on poor and vulnerable households.

The government can claim that the processing of the loan took place before the clashes. But it has also come to light that the Centre also signed a \$500 million agreement with AIIB on August 24 to improve the network capacity of Mumbai's suburban railway system. Despite bad blood with China, India's borrowing programme proceeded on a parallel track. — TNS

Treat docs who died of Covid as martyrs: IMA

Publishes list of 382 who sacrificed life in line of duty, seeks compensation

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) today published a list of 382 doctors, some as young as 27 years, who succumbed to Covid-19 in the line of duty and demanded adequate compensation for their families.

The association also

demanded that the doctors be treated as martyrs for the purpose of compensation.

In a statement, the IMA came down heavily on the Health Ministry for not sharing Covid mortality data among doctors and said this reeked of government "indifference".

"To feign that doctors' death data doesn't merit the attention of the nation is abominable. If the gov-

ernment doesn't maintain the statistics of total number of doctors and healthcare workers," IMA president Rajan Sharma wrote to the government. He said no nation had lost as many doctors and healthcare workers as India.

"To feign that doctors' death data doesn't merit the attention of the nation is abominable. If the gov-



Doctors treating a Covid patient at a hospital. FILE PHOTO

11 dead as boat overturns in Kota

Kota (Rajasthan): At least 11 persons, including women and children, were killed after a boat carrying over 30 devotees to a temple in Rajasthan's Bundi district capsized in Chambal river here on Wednesday. Three persons were still missing, while 20 devotees were rescued, officials said. Belonging to Khatoli-Itawa area of Kota, they were going to Kamleshwar temple in Bundi. — PTI

MARUTI SUZUKI

DON'T JUST CHOOSE ANY CNG CHOOSE S-CNG

Safety, Performance and Savings. That is what you get when you choose a Maruti Suzuki Factory-fitted S-CNG car.

Benefits of S-CNG Technology:



TO KNOW
MORE, SCAN:



*Terms and Conditions apply. Features and accessories shown may not be part of standard fitment. Black Glass Shade on the vehicle is due to lighting effect.
Images used are for illustration purposes only.