

The Sunday Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

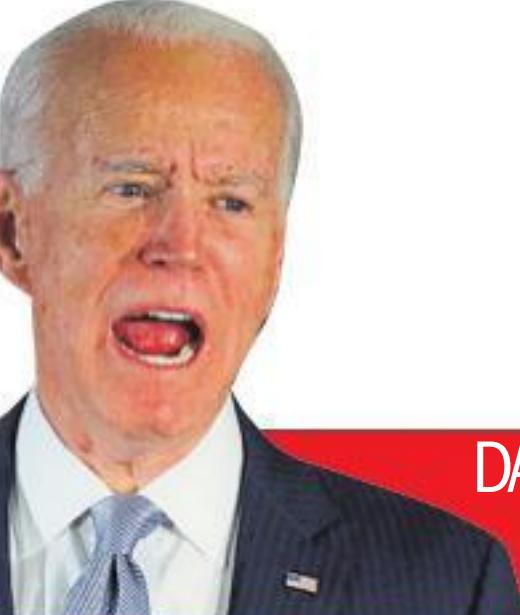
CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | VOL 140 NO 296 | 18 PAGES | ₹6.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2018-2020 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

DAYS BEFORE POLL, BIDEN VOWS
FREE VACCINE TO ALL WORLD

WHEN KAMEEZ GOT A COLLAR
SPECTRUM

RJD PROMISES 10 LAKH JOBS,
FARM LOAN WAIVER BACK PAGE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020



Covid-19 Cases India

RECOVERED 70,16,046
FRESH FATALITIES 650
TOTAL DEATHS 1,17,956

COUNT 78,14,682

WORLD

TOTAL 4,27,80,024

RECOVERED 3,15,70,113

DEATHS 11,52,572

ACTIVE CASES BELOW 7 LAKH
FOR SECOND DAY BACK PAGE

Farooq is Gupkar
alliance president,
Mehbooba deputy

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 24

National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah was on Saturday unanimously chosen chairman of the recently floated People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration while PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti will be his deputy, the coalition said. **INSIDE**

Amid LAC tension, nod for 47 ITBP border outposts

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

In the wake of tension between Indian and Chinese troops, the Centre has given approval to the ITBP to set up 47 border outposts to increase vigil along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy today said the ITBP, in developments that took place over the last few months, had broken the myth of some countries that they had a powerful army. He said this in an indirect reference to the ongoing standoff between India and China in Ladakh.



REDDY'S DIG AT CHINA

Armed forces of some nations thought they were the most powerful... ITBP has broken the myth in past few months. G Kishan Reddy, MOS (HOME)

US WATCHING LAC: WH

The US is closely monitoring the border row between India and China and does not want the situation to escalate, a senior Trump administration official has said.

Addressing the paramilitary force's personnel on the occasion of its 59th raising day here, the Minister said, "I am happy to inform that the ITBP has been given the approval by the Ministry of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Why selective outrage, asks BJP; Capt trashes charge as baseless

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 24

Senior BJP leaders Nirmala Sitharaman and Prakash Javadekar today hit out at Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for their "selective outrage" in cases of atrocities against women, questioning their "silence" over the Hoshiarpur rape and murder case.



SWIFT ACTION TAKEN

There cannot be any comparison between Hoshiarpur and Hathras as prompt action was taken by the Punjab Police.

Capt Amarinder Singh, PUNJAB CM



WHY ARE GANDHIS MUM?

Rahul and Priyanka have not said a word on the Hoshiarpur incident. Does this kind of selective outrage suit their party?

Nirmala Sitharaman, UNION MINISTER

16-YR-OLD GIRL IN UP OBJECTS TO HARASSMENT, SHOT PAGE 7

between the Hoshiarpur and Hathras cases. He pointed out in the latter instance, the UP Government and the police not only failed to initiate stern action, but

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

IN BRIEF

Punjab BJP kisan morcha chief quits

Tarlochan Singh Gill resigned from the BJP over the central farm laws. **INSIDE**

No compound interest on loans up to ₹2 cr

NEW DELHI: The Finance Ministry on Saturday issued norms for implementation of interest waiver scheme for loans up to Rs 2 crore. **INSIDE**

Last date to file ITR extended till Dec 31

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Saturday further extended the deadline for filing returns by individuals for FY 2019-20 till December 31. **INSIDE**



A NEW MILESTONE IN ARENA OF SPORTS



Chief Minister
Capt. Amarinder Singh

will lay the foundation stone of

**MAHARAJA BHUPINDER SINGH
PUNJAB SPORTS UNIVERSITY, PATIALA**

on October 25, 2020 (Sunday)

at 11:00 AM

at Sidhuwal (Patiala)

Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi

Sports, Youth Services and NRI Affairs Minister

will also grace the occasion



'Girl's body in my house,' accused told victim's kin

Minister announces 5 marla plot for family in Tanda

OUR CORRESPONDENT

TANDA URMAR, OCTOBER 24

Surjit Singh, one of the accused in the rape and murder of a six-year-old girl at Jalalpur village in Tanda, had himself informed the victim's family that her body was lying in his cattle shed.

Surjit, 90, and his grandson Surpreet Singh, 20, were arrested for the minor's murder after her half-burnt body was found on their premises. The Hoshiarpur police are investigating various aspects and are set to submit a challan in the court within a week. As the two-day police remand of the accused ended today, the two were produced in the court, which extended their custody by three days.

The police have retrieved the CCTV footage from the village purportedly showing Surpreet carrying the victim.

Surpreet was accused of taking the victim from her home on the pretext of giving her biscuits. The victim's father has told the police around 5 pm on the day of the crime, when the victim's family was looking for her, Surjit came to them claiming her body was lying in his cattle shed and that she was set on fire. When the family reached the scene, they found the charred body on a hayrack.

The victim's sister claimed Surpreet frequented their house on one pretext or the other. They had objected to this, but to no avail. On the day of the crime, Surpreet had visited their house in the morning, saying he wanted to meet the girl. Her parents asked him to leave and went off to work. On returning home in the evening, they



Industries Minister Sunder Sham Arora with the victim's family in Tanda.

FAMILY WORKED FOR ACCUSED

- The victim's father and his elder daughters used to work for the accused two-three years ago, but left the work a year-and-a-half ago
- Accused's kin claim Surpreet Singh was not mentally stable and was undergoing treatment. The victim's father, however, rejected the claim
- The two accused were produced in a local court, which extended their police custody by three days

failed to find her. The victim's sibling told them that Surpreet had taken her away.

Amid anger among villagers, the family of the accused has left the house. Sukhwinder Singh, a resi-

Police retrieve CCTV footage from Jalalpur village

dent, told *The Tribune* the accused's family had been claiming earlier that Surpreet was not mentally stable and that he was undergoing treatment for the same. The victim's father, however, rejected the claim, saying had Surpreet been mentally unstable, he would have harmed his own family first. Sukhwinder said the victim's

father and his elder daughters used to work for the accused two-three years ago, but they left work a year-and-a-half ago. SSP Navjot Singh Mahal said the police were preparing the challan, which was expected to be presented in the court within a week.

Meanwhile, Minister for Industries and Commerce Sunder Sham Arora met the victim's family this evening. He handed over five fixed deposits worth Rs 50,000 each to the father in the name of his five daughters. He also announced a five marla residential plot for the family in the village besides promising funds for the construction of a house. Union Minister of State for Industries Som Parkash also visited the family and promised all help by the Centre.

CM launches phase-II of eco-project

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 24

Launching the phase-II of the Rs 11,000-crore Urban Environment Improvement Programme (UEIP), Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh today virtually laid the foundation stones of projects worth Rs 700 crore

Kickstarting projects across 167 towns in the state, the CM said the Excise and Taxation Department would soon notify a one-time settlement scheme for pending VAT assessments to promote economic activity in urban areas. Capt Amarinder said he had asked the Industries and Taxation Departments to work out a more user-friendly system. —TNS

Man posing as cop nabbed in Abohar

ABO哈尔, OCTOBER 24

The Special Operations Cell, Fazilka, and Counter-Intelligence branch of the Abohar police today nabbed a man allegedly impersonating a sub-inspector.

He was identified as Gurmeet Singh of Nureka village, under the jurisdiction of Amirkhas police station in Fazilka subdivision.

A case under Sections 170 (pretending to hold office as public servant), 171 (wearing garb used by public servant), 419 (cheating by personation) and 420 (cheating) of the IPC has been registered at the City-1 police station. A team led by SI Hardyal

Singh, on a tip-off, intercepted a car near the Abohar-Malout bypass. The occupant was wearing the Punjab Police uniform bearing two stars, used by a sub-inspector. The ID produced by him was reportedly found to be fake on verification. SSP Harjeet Singh said the accused was being interrogated. —OC

Accused Gurmeet Singh

DASME SH INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH & DENTAL SCIENCES, FARIDKOT

Kudos to DIRDIAN Stars WE ARE PROUD OF YOU

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL M.D.S. & B.D.S. STUDENTS For their Exemplary Success in Exams (2019-20) OUR PROUD LAURELS - UNIVERSITY RANK ACHIEVERS

POST-GRADUATE (M.D.S.)	B.D.S. FINAL YEAR	B.D.S. 3 RD YEAR
Dr. Anupdeep Kaur 438/600 University 5 TH Rank Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics	Dr. Manisha Garg 438/600 University 5 TH Rank Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics	Tarun Mahajan 1221/1600 University 2 ND Rank
Poochali 3225/1600 University 3 RD Rank	Kanika Juneja 1221/1600 University 2 ND Rank	Gurjeet Singh 466/600 University 3 RD Rank
Amandeep Kaur 633/800 University 3 RD Rank	Jasmine Sandhu 483/600 University 2 ND Rank	Shubhangi Mittal 463/600 University 2 ND Rank

B.D.S. 2ND YEAR

Total Appeared Students	Total Pass Students	First Division Students
Final Year B.D.S.	38	71% 100%
Third Year B.D.S.	80	98% 94%
Second Year B.D.S.	102	75% 100%
First Year B.D.S.	85	73% 95%

DISTINCTION HOLDERS

Jasmeen Sandhu Physiology & Biochemistry

Chandna Physiology & Biochemistry

Harman Physiology & Biochemistry

Anupdeep Kaur Patho. & Micro. Pharmacology

Smile Monga Pathology & Microbiology

Gurjeet Singh Oral Pathology

Ramandeep Kaur Maxillofacial Surgery

Kamaljeet Kaur Periodontics

Tarun Mahajan Oral Medicine & Radiology

Kanika Juneja Oral Medicine & Radiology, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Poshali Perinatal & Paediatric Dentistry & Endodontics

Aditya Raj Periodontics & Implantology

Gurjeet Singh Oral Medicine & Radiology

Shubhangi Mittal Oral Medicine & Radiology, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Aparna Goyal Oral Medicine & Radiology

Tarun Mahajan Ramgarh 3RD Year garnit 3: BDS 4TH Year

Kanika Juneja Oral Medicine & Radiology

Aditya Raj Periodontics & Implantology

Tarun Mahajan Oral Medicine & Radiology

Shubhangi Mittal Periodontics & Implantology

Gurjeet Singh Oral Medicine & Radiology

Aditya Raj Periodontics & Implantology

Kanika Juneja Oral Medicine & Radiology

Shubhangi Mittal Periodontics & Implantology

Gurjeet Singh Oral Medicine & Radiology

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Gurjeet Singh Oral Medicine & Radiology

Aditya Raj Periodontics & Implantology

Senior leaders make beeline for segment



MUKESH TANDON

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANIPAT, OCTOBER 24

Electioneering in Baroda has picked up pace as the day of polling nears. The bypoll is scheduled for November 3. Senior leaders of the BJP, Congress and INLD, and their supporters are leaving no stone unturned to seek votes for the candidates.

Big posters dot the roads of the segment, while nominees go door to door to woo the electorate.

In all, 14 candidates are in fray. Among them are wrestler-turned-politician Yogeshwar Dutt of the ruling BJP-JJP coalition, Induraj Narwal of the Congress and Joginder Malik of the INLD.

Though the poll battle is in Baroda, all parties have set up their election offices in adjoining Gohana.

State BJP chief Om Prakash Dhankar, Karnal MP Sanjay Bhatia, Sonepat MP Ramesh Kaushik, Rai MLA Mohan Lal Kaushik, and former ministers Ram Bilas Sharma and Capt Abhimanyu have visited Baroda.

As for the Congress, state party chief Kumari Selja, Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Hooda and Rajya Sabha member Deepender Hooda are spearheading the campaign of Narwal.

As regards to the INLD, party supremo Om Prakash Chautala is campaigning in a special vehicle (*rath*).



BJP's Capt Abhimanyu talks to the media in Gohana on Saturday; and (right) Congress' Deepender Hooda campaigns in Bichpadi village.

Ex-FM: Electors will show Hooda his place

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HONEST CANDIDATE

“The BJP is a party of honest leaders and it has fielded honest candidate Yogeshwar Dutt. He resigned from the DSP's post to serve the people of the Baroda constituency.”

Capt Abhimanyu, FORMER MINISTER

He told this to the media in Gohana on Saturday.

The Baroda segment is considered a bastion of Hooda.

“The BJP is a party of honest leaders and it has fielded honest candidate Yogeshwar Dutt. He is known not only in the state, but also globally. He resigned from the DSP's post to serve the people of the Baroda constituency,” former Finance Minister Capt Abhimanyu said.

He further said the Congress was responsible for the backwardness of the constituency. “Time has come to vote for the candi-

date who will ensure segment's development.”

Meanwhile, state BJP chief Om Prakash Dhankar on Saturday hit the campaign trail in support of BJP candidate Dutt. He visited several villages.

“The Congress is misleading farmers about the three farm laws. It does not want farmers to make progress. Farmers need to see through the lies of the Congress,” he said while addressing people in the segment's Madina village.

Govt's report card blank: Former CM

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NO ACHIEVEMENT

“The list of works of the Congress government is so long that it would take an entire day to count, whereas the BJP does not have a single achievement to show.”

Bhupinder Singh Hooda, FORMER CM

increased their problems. The input cost has risen. The three farm laws will exacerbate the situation. The result of the Baroda by-election will manifest the anger of the people.”

Former Chief Minister Hooda said this while on a campaign trail in Khanpur Khurd, Baroda, Banwasa, Ridana, Dhanana, Ghadwal, Bhavat and Nizampur villages of the constituency.

The Congress has fielded Induraj Narwal for the bypoll. “The list of works of the Congress government is so long that it would take an entire day to count, whereas the BJP does not have a single achievement to show,” he said.

He further said, “Instead of waiving debt of farmers, the BJP government has

“The bypoll result, which will be announced on November 10, will shake the foundation of the state government,” he added.

Villagers seek more money for AIIMS land

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

REWARI, OCTOBER 24

Residents of Majra village are seeking Rs 50 lakh per acre from the state government for selling their land for the AIIMS project.

The demand has left the district authorities worried as the state government intends to buy the land for Rs 30 lakh per acre. It has started making efforts to convince the villagers about selling land at government rates in order to get land for the project.

It recently held a meeting with the landowners who turned down the government's offer.

A five-member team of the Centre led by Sunil Sharma, Joint Secretary, Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, inspected the proposed land of 200 acres for the project in Majra and nearby villages on October 1. The team found the land suitable for the project.

“Thereafter, the district administration initiated efforts to buy the land from the villagers but the latter are demanding Rs 50 lakh per acre while the state government had made a commitment to buy the land at Rs 30 lakh per acre when the villagers offered the land for the AIIMS project. Now, they have raised the amount,” said an officer.

DC Yashendra Singh said they were in the process of convincing villagers to settle the issue so that the project could be executed soon.

Sub-registrar among 18 booked for fraud

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FORGED DOCUMENTS

In all, 11 sale deeds of 27 shops belonging to the Church of North India Trust Association were allegedly registered on the basis of a forged power of attorney in Yamunanagar district.

A case was registered under Sections 120-B, 406, 420, 465, 467, 468 and 471 of the IPC in Jagadhri on October 23

420, 465, 467, 468 and 471 in Jagadhri on October 23.

In his police complaint, complainant Parmod Kumar Tandi said that St Peter's Church, Yamunanagar, and its pastor's house along with 28 shops belong to CNITA.

“The accused, after preparing forged power of attorney dated June 1, 2017—allegedly carried out by Dip Manish Sandya and Eno Chodup Panlook of Kalimpang district, Rajeev Anand, Sanjeev Uppal, Naresh Sahni, Gulshan Lal, Didar Singh, Sushil Kumar Jain, Amresh Devi, Subhash Jain, Ajay Jain, Alka Singh, Arun Singh, all residents of Yamunanagar district; Chhotu Ram, sub-registrar of Jagadhri tehsil, Narendra nambardar, Shiv Ram nambardar and Ankit Bangia of Delhi.

The case was registered under Sections 120-B, 406,

Chhotu Ram could not be contacted.

HOMAGE

Homage by Golfers of Amritsar to the Dearest fellow Golfer

SUMANT SUD

Teed Off to his last Resting Place on Oct 20th, 2020

Fondly Remembered by Fellow Golfers of Amritsar



14

ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow we inform you of the sad and sudden demise of our beloved son Anhad Singh Libra, (Son of Nirmal and Karamjit Singh Libra) who left for his heavenly abode on 18th October 2020.

Antim Ardas will take place on 28th October 2020 (Wednesday) at Gurudwara Sri Santar Sahib, Sector 38 West, Chandigarh at 1.30 p.m.



15th June 1991

18th October 2020

Grief Stricken:-
(Grand Mother)
Saurabh Singh Libra & Bani Kaur
(Brother & Sister-in-Law)
Sohaya Kaur
(Niece)
Sardarni Dimple Libra
(Tajji)
Sumer Singh Libra
(Brother)

Mobile: 99103-56060, 98722-55546.

DL2245

Proposed airport in Mandi CM's jumla: HPCC gen secy

Ashray says his father Anil Sharma may rejoin Congress, if expelled from BJP | Criticises Mandi MP

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, OCTOBER 24

Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) general secretary Ashray Sharma today said that the proposed international airport project in Mandi was a mere 'jumla' of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur.

He said, "If Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur gets an airport constructed in Mandi, I will quit politics. The promise to construct an airport in

Mandi is a mere 'jumla' of the Chief Minister. During three years of the BJP rule in the state, it has failed miserably to ensure development in Mandi. Also, the government has failed to check the spread of Covid-19. As a result, many people died due to poor health facilities".

Ashray defended his father Anil Sharma, BJP legislator from Mandi Sadar, whom Mandi MP Ram Swaroop had criticised two days ago. Addressing

'Grandfather behind telecom revolution'

MP Ram Swaroop Sharma targeted my grandfather, former Telecom Minister Sukh Ram, and my father Anil Sharma, saying that the family has stalled the progress of Mandi Sadar. He forgot that it was Pandit Sukh Ram who led the telecommunication revolution in India and Himachal Pradesh when he was the Union Telecom Minister. **ASHRAY SHARMA**



Ashray Sharma, CONG LEADER

mediapersons here, he said, "Ram Swaroop Sharma has failed miserably as MP to usher in development in

Mandi. He got a lead of 27,000 votes in Mandi Sadar but did nothing for the progress of the area and for

the people of the region".

"MP Ram Swaroop Sharma targeted my grandfather, former Telecom Minister Sukh Ram, and my father Anil Sharma, who is a BJP legislator, saying that the Sukh Ram family has stalled the progress of Mandi Sadar. He forgot that it was Pandit Sukh Ram who led the revolution in telecommunication in India and Himachal Pradesh when he was the Union Telecom Minister," he added.

Ashray hinted that his

father may rejoin the Congress if he was expelled from the BJP. He said, "The BJP is repeatedly humiliating my father at public forums while the voters of Mandi Sadar have elected him on the party ticket. It is the responsibility of the government to ensure development of Mandi Sadar because the people have shown faith in the BJP. But unfortunately the government has instead stalled the development of Mandi".

Kasauli hotels struggle to cope with tourist rush

AMBika SHARMA
TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, OCTOBER 24

Hotels in the Kasauli planning area are back in business with tourists thronging the popular hill station during the festive season. However, a shortage of staff is making it difficult for the hotels to handle the flow of visitors.

expenditure. Though business has picked up, it will take time to make up for the losses incurred during the six-month lockdown," adds Chimni.

Benefits such as exemption from demand charges on electricity bills are not available anymore, and banks have started demanding loan repayment up to March, either in five installments or in lump sum. Hoteliers are demanding the extension of exemptions for some more months. They say that the monthly GST payment should be made quarterly for the next five to six months.

The hoteliers had initially called their employees in phases owing to a gradual increase in business, but now some of the employees were refusing to return to work. "Some employees are reluctant to join duty, as they have taken up other jobs such as agriculture on their own land. Also, the Covid scare is dissuading them from returning to work," says Rocky Chimni, vice-president of Kasauli Residents and Welfare Association.

As the hotels have not hired casual staff for months, they are finding it difficult to meet the requirements of the rising tourist rush. "Some hotels are refusing bookings, as they have limited operational rooms due to the paucity of staff. We are trying to break even, and are forced us to work with the limited staff to meet the overhead

A majority of tourists are careless and do not even wear masks. This can lead to the spread of Covid-19," he says. The police should challan tourists who do not wear masks, says Pradeep.

No entry to Dhalpur for 2 hours before Rath Yatra

ABHINAV VASHISHT

KULLU, OCTOBER 24

Kullu SP Gaurav Singh said the entry routes to the Dhalpur area would be sealed two hours before the Rath Yatra during the Dussehra festivities tomorrow so that people do not crowd up to view the event. He added that only those having valid identity cards to participate in the Rath Yatra or those part of emergency services would be allowed to come to Dhalpur.

He said Section 144 had been imposed from Friday, so unnecessary gathering of people would not be allowed. He said the police would ensure that people wear face masks and maintain social distancing during the festivities.

The SP said the Dhalpur ground had been divided into four sectors and 635 police personnel would be deployed during the festival. He said 500 additional police



Section 144 has been imposed in Dhalpur to avoid rush. FILE PHOTO

personnel had been sought for the festival.

He said devotees could come to pay obeisance at the camp temple of Lord Raghunath and camp temples of seven deities participating in the festivities after the Rath Yatra, during the seven-day festivities till October 31.

The SP said police personnel would keep a vigil at the Bajaura check post. He said additional nakkas would be put up during the festival. He said adequate police personnel would be deployed for traffic management and there would be night patrolling as well.

He added the police control room was operational round the clock and 90 cameras had been set up at key locations to keep a strict vigil. He said drones would be used to monitor crowds and violators would be penalised.

173 cases, 5 Covid deaths

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 24

As many as 173 persons tested positive for Covid in the state today, taking the total number of cases to 20,213. Besides, five patients died of the virus, raising the fatality figure to 285. While three deaths took place in Shimla, two persons died in Kangra and Hamirpur.

The highest number of 58 cases were reported in Mandi, followed by 32 in Kullu, 22 in Shimla, 16 in Solan, nine in Kangra, eight in Hamirpur, seven each in Una and Mandi, six in Una, five in Bilaspur and three in Chamba.

STATE TRACKER

Samples tested	365,838
Recovered	17,296
Active cases	2,605

Positive cases 20,213

Deaths 285

DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Una	1,503	15
Solan	3,529	36
Kangra	2,859	61
Chamba	1,093	14
Hamirpur	1,171	12
Sirmaur	2,215	16
Mandi	2,666	34
Bilaspur	1,186	7
Shimla	2,172	63
Kullu	1,235	21
Kinnaur	272	5
Lahaul & Spiti	312	1
Total	20,213	285

Bids invited for Town Hall restaurant

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 24

The Shimla MC has invited online bids for running a high-end restaurant on the ground floor of the iconic Town Hall building on the Mall Road. An amount of Rs 5 lakh has been fixed as the

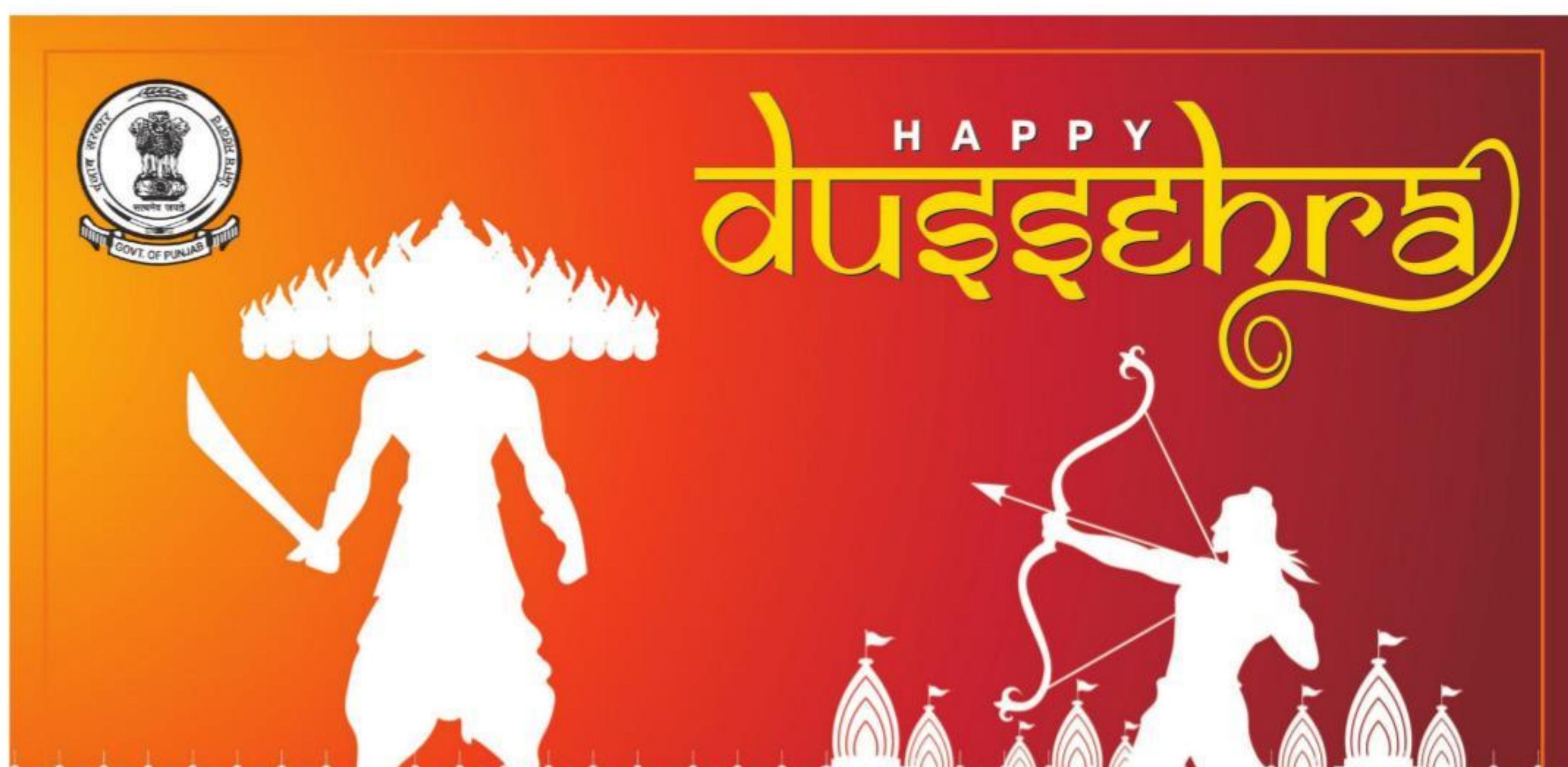
minimum monthly reserved licence fee. The MC had been trying to lease out this premium space in the heart of the city for some time. The technical bid will be opened on November 11 and the financial bid on November 17. TNS

JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA TEONA PUJARIAN (BATHINDA) PUNJAB-151302

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to Tender Notice Published on 10.10.2020 in Daily The Tribune for the Outsourcing of Man Power. It is being informed that due to technical reasons, tenders for the outsourcing of Man power stands withdrawn till further notice.

(Sunita Devi)
Principal



RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

Estate Department, Central Vista, Sector-17, Chandigarh - 160017

http://www.rbi.org.in

E-TENDERING

Tender for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 2X120 KVA Uninterrupted Power Supply System in N+1 Parallel Redundant Mode at Bank's Office Building, Reserve Bank of India, Chandigarh

In consonance with Notification No.5/9/2020-5HB-III/5234 dated 02/09/2020 issued by Govt. of Punjab, Deptt. of Medical Education & Research, Combined counseling for admission to undergraduate (Medical/Dental) courses in all the Medical/Dental Colleges including under Private Universities and Minority Institutions in the State of Punjab will be conducted by BFUHS Faridkot. Online Applications are invited from eligible candidates on the basis of NEET-UG-2020 result from 26.10.2020. Last date for submission of online application is 01.11.2020. Last date for depositation of Registration Fee (through Online Payment Gateway only) is 02.11.2020. Corrigendum/Instructions, if any, issued by Govt. of India/ Govt. of Punjab shall be applicable. For Prospectus/Counselling Schedule & other updates visit www.bfuhs.ac.in.

REGISTRAR

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

For & on behalf of the President of India, Chief Workshop Manager, N. Ry. C&W workshop, Jagadhi Workshop/Yamuna Nagar invites open e-tender for the following work:

1 Name of work	Segregation, loading, transportation and unloading of MS/SS Scrap from C&W Workshop premises/ Jagadhi workshop to Dy. CMM/Store Depot/ Jagadhi At C&W Workshop, Northern Railway, Jagadhi Workshop.
2 Location	Northern Railway, Carriage & Wagon Repair Shop, Jagadhi Workshop, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana-135002
3 Cost of Work/Tender Value	₹ 55,20,240/-
4 Quantity	20400 MT
5 Cost of Tender form	Nil As per GCC July 2020.
6 Earnest money amount	₹ 1,10,400/-
7 Completion period of the work	24 months from the date of issuance of Letter of Acceptance
8 Date & Time for submission of tender form	09.11.2020 till 15.30 hrs.
9 Opening of tender	Tender opening will be done any time after the tender closing time. The tenderers need not be present during the opening. Railway reserves the right to open the tender any time after closing of tender.
10 Website particulars	www.reps.gov.in
Tender No.- 6-S/50/Tender/2019-20/PLI	Dated: 23.10.2020
2350/20	

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Punjab Government

led by
Chief Minister
Capt. Amarinder Singh

extends heartiest
greetings on the
auspicious occasion of

DUSSEHRA

marking the victory of 'truth over untruth'
and 'good over evil'



Pouring out anger



Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee members protest the rising prices of onion and other essential commodities, in New Delhi on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MUKESH AGGARWAL

PM: Working on empowering farmers, boosting agri sector

With focus on healthcare and tourism, inaugurates 3 projects in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 24

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said his government was taking initiatives to strengthen the agriculture sector in the country so that farmers did not have to face any trouble. His statement comes amid opposition to the new farm laws by farmers' groups and political parties.

Modi inaugurated three projects in Gujarat — one each related to agriculture, healthcare and tourism development — via video-conference from New Delhi.

"In order to double the farmers' income and to reduce the production cost and their troubles, we will have to increase our efforts with the changing times," he said.

"Whether granting freedom to farmers to sell their produce

INDIA LEADING IN SOLAR POWER

In 2010, when a solar power plant was inaugurated in Patan, nobody had imagined that one day India will show the way to the world for 'One Sun, One World, One Grid'. Today, India is leading in both solar power production and its use. Narendra Modi, PM



ASIA'S LONGEST TEMPLE ROPEWAY

PM Narendra Modi launched 'Kisan Suryodaya Yojana' aimed at providing day-time electricity to state farmers.

He also inaugurated Paediatric Heart Hospital at the UN Mehta Institute of Cardiology in Ahmedabad.

Asia's longest rope-way on Mount Girnar near Junagadh city, a major pilgrimage site, was also launched.

anywhere in the country or creating thousands of farmer producer organisations, whether completing stalled irrigation projects or improving crop insurance scheme or 100 per cent neem-coating of urea or

soil health card...the aim is to strengthen the agriculture sector so that farmers do not have trouble in farming. Initiatives like these are being taken continuously for it," he said.

He launched the state gov-

ernment's Kisan Suryoday Yojana (KSY) aimed at providing day-time electricity to the farmers in the state for irrigation and farming purposes.

The Prime Minister also inaugu-

rated Paediatric Heart Hospital at the UN Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre in Ahmedabad, developed at a cost of Rs 470 crore by the state's Health and Family Welfare Department. Besides, he launched the recently-completed ropeway project on Mount Girnar, a major tourist and pilgrimage site near Junagadh city in the state. The 2.3-km ropeway is being touted as the longest temple ropeway in Asia.

Modi held the Opposition responsible for the delay in completion of the Girnar ropeway project, which was proposed in 1983. — PTI

Says NCM Act doesn't define 'minority', claims Hindus deprived of rights



seized of petitions challenging the constitutionality of Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992.

Section 2 (c) simply says, "minority", for the purposes of this Act, means a community

notified as such by the Central government. However, the Act doesn't lay down any guidelines for determination of claim of any religious or linguistic group to be declared as "minority" under the NCM Act.

Air quality remains 'very poor', Delhi gasping

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

Delhi's air quality remained in the "very poor" category on Saturday with the Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at 347.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), said, "Some locations entered severe zone, but that will be short-lived as winds are expected to increase slightly." Some areas like Mundka, Wazirpur and Alipur recorded "severe" levels of air pollution, authorities said.

It said the air quality could improve on October 26.

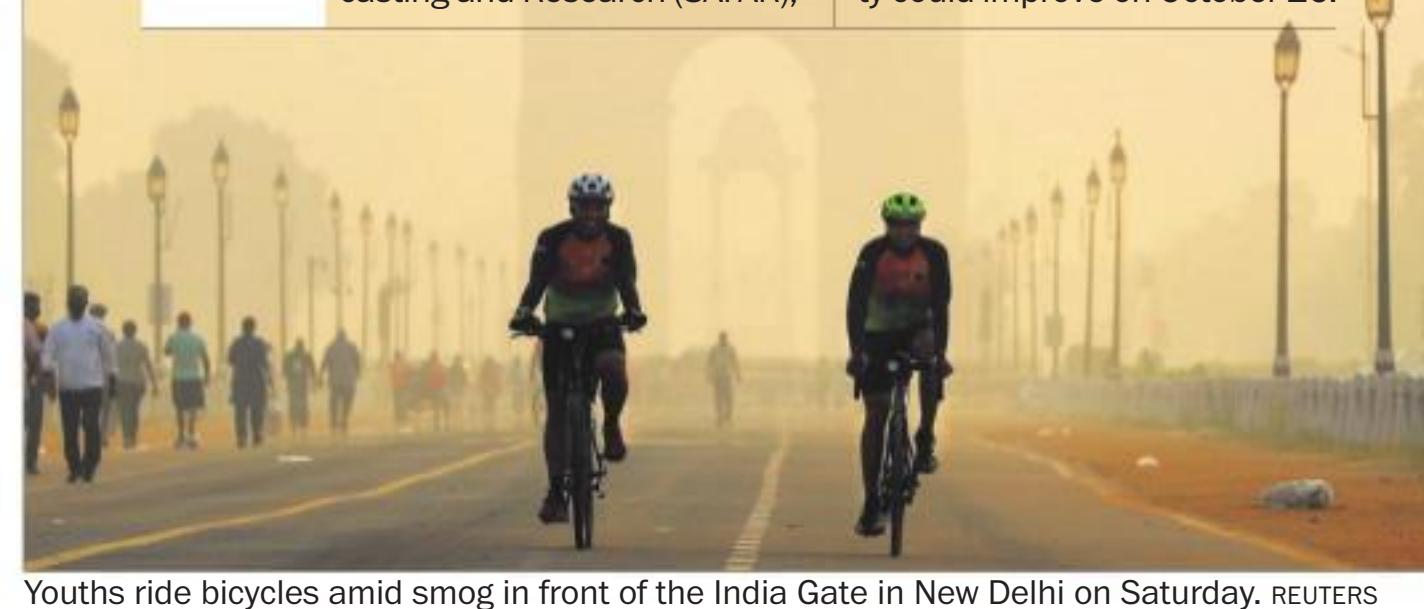
The overall Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) is in the very poor category with few Delhi locations entering at higher zone, but that will be

AQI ON SATURDAY
347

'AQI COULD IMPROVE BY TOMORROW'

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR),

said, "Some locations entered severe zone, but that will be short-lived." It said the air quality could improve on October 26.



Youths ride bicycles amid smog in front of the India Gate in New Delhi on Saturday. REUTERS

short-lived. This is mainly because the extremely calm local surface winds which were

prevailing yesterday are likely to increase slightly and may further pick up by Oct 26,"

SAFAR said. It also said the AQI is predicted to continue to remain in the "very poor" cate-

gory, but without further deterioration. "Slow improvement in the current condition is expected by October 26, leading to a middle range of very poor," it said.

SAFAR synergised stubble fire counts stood at 1,292 on Friday and its share in Delhi's pollution was nine per cent. "The boundary layer wind direction is westerly and wind speed is low. Hence, pollutant transport towards the Delhi region will remain low. The SAFAR model estimate of stubble burning share in PM 2.5 is 9 per cent for today," it said.

The Delhi Government has kick-started its "Red Light On, Gaadi Off" anti-pollution campaign for which it has deployed 2,500 environment marshals at 100 traffic signals. — PTI

FROM PAGE 1

Amid LAC tension...

Home Affairs to establish 47 border posts, besides acquiring special clothing and equipment for high-altitude locations. The work is on to prepare priority border roads for the force."

Reddy said while India believed in the philosophy of 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam' (world is one family), its culture taught it to worship both 'shastra and astra' (sacred scriptures and weapons) at the same time. "This has taught us that the enemy can raise its head anytime, anywhere and we should be fully

prepared to face any possibility. The ITBP is an important pillar of that preparedness of the country," Reddy noted.

"The armies of some countries had a myth that they were among the powerful armies of the world, but during the developments in the past few months, the ITBP has broken that myth," the Minister said, adding that the country and its citizens were proud of the force's valour and dedication.

The ITBP is the designated force to guard the 3,488-km-long Sino-India LAC that runs from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh.

16-yr-old girl objects to harassment, shot in UP

FIROZABAD (UP), OCTOBER 24

A 16-year-old girl was shot dead allegedly after she objected to harassment by three youths in Uttar Pradesh's Firozabad district, the police said on Saturday.

The girl, a student of Class XII, had objected to the three youths passing comments and harassing her when she was returning home from her institute on Friday afternoon, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sachindra Patel said.

Inflamed over being reprimanded by the girl, the youths barged into her house on Friday night when she was asleep and started beating her, the police said.

When her father and other family members intervened, the youths shot the girl and fled, they said.

The police team, which reached the spot after being informed by the girl's fam-

ily, has registered a case against Manish Yadav, Sopali Yadav and Gaurav Chak, the police said.

Two of the accused have been taken into custody for questioning, SSP Patel said, adding that investigations were on and all angles are being looked into.

The body has been sent for a post-mortem examination, he said. — PTI

BJP alleges selective...

also seemingly tried to cover up the matter. This, he said, was in sharp contrast to the "prompt action" taken by the Punjab Police, which immediately arrested the accused and were preparing to file the challan within a week. A six-year-old girl was allegedly raped, killed and then set on fire at a village

in Hoshiarpur on Wednesday.

"Had the BJP government in UP responded as effectively and speedily as we did in Punjab, neither the Congress and the Gandhis, nor scores of NGOs and human rights activists would have been forced to take to streets to fight for the victim," he said. — TNS

"Had the BJP government in UP responded as effectively and speedily as we did in Punjab, neither the Congress and the Gandhis, nor scores of NGOs and human rights activists would have been forced to take to streets to fight for the victim," he said. — TNS

CWC to study sediment deposition in reservoirs

VIJAY MOHAN

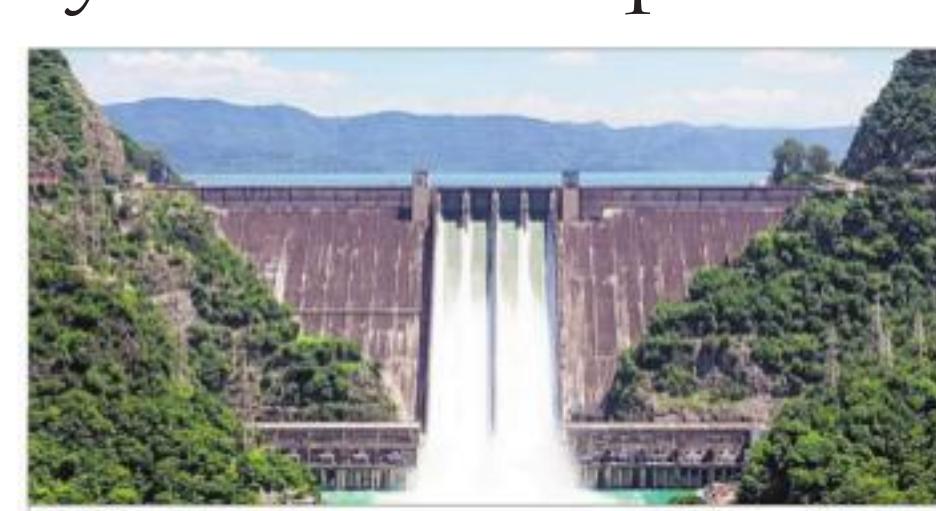
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 24

The Central Water Commission (CWC) will undertake sedimentation studies at major reservoirs across the country to assess the change in their storage capacity as well as to determine their life expectancy.

According to sources, a list of 32 reservoirs in different states, including those situated in North India, has been drawn up where the level of sedimentation and its effects will be examined. Funding for the project has been received from the World Bank.

Sedimentation is the process where loose soil, silt, rock and debris flow in with the water that enters reservoirs and deposit on the bed. The level of sedimentation depends upon the geology of the area through which rivers flow.



WHAT IS SEDIMENTATION

■ Sedimentation is the process where loose soil, silt, rock and debris flow in with the water that enters reservoirs and deposit on the bed. The level of sedimentation depends upon the geology of the area through which rivers flow.

ditions of the area through which the feeding rivers and tributaries flow. Sedimentation, according to

detrimental effects on the dam's intended benefits such as provision of water for drinking and irrigation, flood control and power generation. Large-scale deforestation, unscientific agricultural practices, industrial processes and anthropogenic activities in the catchment areas tend to increase in silt load in rivers and aggravates sedimentation of reservoirs.

Citing the example of the Bhakra Dam on the Sutlej in Himachal, an official said over the past about 50 years, the designed capacity of the dam's reservoir may have reduced by almost 25 per cent due to deposit of silt.

Sources said the surveys would be carried out through integrated hydrographic and integrated bathymetric systems that include employment of drones and use of artificial intelligence.

BJP leader moves SC over pleas on 'minority' definition

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

Delhi BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyay has moved the Supreme Court seeking transfer of itself to all petitions pending in various high courts challenging the validity of Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

The Supreme Court should hear all cases on the issue to avoid the multiplicity of litigation and conflicting views on the interpretation of Articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution that deal with the protection of interests of minorities and the right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions, he said.

An authoritative pronouncement on this crucial issue was needed, Upadhyay — who has been filing petitions on this issue before various fora — told *The Tribune*. Currently, various high courts, including Delhi, Guwahati and Meghalaya, were

seized of petitions challenging the constitutionality of Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992.

Section 2 (c) simply says, "minority", for the purposes of this Act, means a community notified as such by the Central government. However, the Act doesn't lay down any guidelines for determination of claim of any religious or linguistic group to be declared as "minority" under the NCM Act.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Sr. DEN-II/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against below titled tenders with closing date- 18.11.2020 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against these tenders towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.reps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.reps.gov.in

Tender Type	Open	Tendering Section	WORKS	Bidding System	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	23.10.2020	Bid Starting Date	04.11.2020	Bid Closing Date/Time	18.11.2020, 15:00 Hrs.

S.N.	Tender No.	Details of Tender				
1	43-2020-21-JRC-DRM-FZR	Construction of buildings and other allied civil works in connection with Upgradation of signalling Gears with Electronic Interlocking at NSS, BXB, BHM stations on PGW-NSS section and KUPR, NAS, HSX on JRC-HSX section of Firozpur division.	Advertised Value	Tender Doc. Cost	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
		Rs. 30081180.31	Nil	Rs. 300400.00	45 days	09 Months
		Similar Nature Work:- Any Civil Engineering works other than track work.				

Tender Notice No.- 770W/169/WA-I/43/2020-21/FZR Date:- 23.10.2020

2341/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
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EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - MCPH Division No. 4	1. Supplying of sewerage M.S. rodding set for day to day cleaning of sewerage line/sewerage manholes & public toilet blocks of MCPH Sub Division No.6/12/13 & 18 Chandigarh (re-invite) Est. Cost : Rs. 8,69,200/- EMD : Rs. 17,390/- Time Limit: 01 Month	23.10.2020 To 29.10.2020 at 02:00 P.M	29.10.2020 at 03:00 P.M

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SIKH KHATRI/ARORA

Doctor doing MD, 26/5'7" Tall, fair, Slim girl from Arora family looking for Gursikh Non-trimner, Teetotaler, Well settled Educated match preferably Doctor around Chandigarh. Whatsapp Profile & Photo 7986247206. (CL20055516)

Suitable match for PR Canada, Arora Sikh girl, 28 / 5'-3", Dentist working as Pharmacovigilance Scientist in Chandigarh. Seeing ND / NTT only. 98720-0328. gurbax.sachdeva@yahoo.com (CL20055389)

Required Govt. Officer for 1991 born, Aggarwal girl, 5'-11" (Manglik), job under Ministry of Home Affairs (Central Govt.). Mob. 964694024. (CL20054036)

Match for Infosys, NCR 1991/5'-2", 16 Lacs, Beautiful, Status Family, Upper Caste Welcome. 62847-76065. (CL20054176)

Match for Doctor MD (Microbiology) 1987/ 5'-4", 24 Lacs, Beautiful, Status Family, Upper caste welcome. 62847-76065. (CL20054206)

Aggarwal high status financer very beautiful slim homely 25, 5'-7", M.Sc. best budget, Ludhiana. 92161-75915. (CL20054304)

Match for professionally qualified fair, beautiful Jindal girl, B.Tech. 5'-3", 12.05.1994, 05:02 am, Panchkula Resident of Tricity, working Bangalore, 13 LPA. Boy working in Bangalore/ Tricity preferred. 98724-96995. (CL20054383)

Match for non-manglik (Garg), SBI Officer beautiful girl, Dec. 1992 born, 5'-1", B.Tech. Father SDO. Preferred Govt. employee. M.A. Eng. M.Ed., Oct. 85, 5'-1" girl. Pvt. colleg. job. 98728-22191. (CL20053309)

Suitable match for Sikh Ramgarhia girl May 95 born, 5'-5", B.Tech. CSE, St. Software Engineer with reputed Multinational Company. Decent well-educated service class family. Contact: 98884-04038, 96461-16006. (CL20053321)

Suitable match for Patiala Hindu Dhiman girl, M.Tech. (IT), 1989/ 5'-2", working as Clerk in Nationalised Bank. Preferred Govt. employee. Upper caste no bar. Mob: 94176-63010. (CL20053377)

M.Com. Lecturer Ramgarhia girl 10.6.1993, 5'-3", Ludhiana. Family background Hoshiarpur. Vegetarian family. 98555-75754, 82880-16953. (CL20054398)

Compatible match for Ramgarhia beautiful girl January 1986. Ph.D. Main Judiciary clear, Govt. service, industrialist. 70313-00002. (CL20054515)

SM4 Hindu Dhiman girl, 14.8/90/ 5'-3", MBA, Ph.D. Assistant Professor Patiala University. Mobile 9876936304. (CL20054743)

Match for 33 yrs, 5'-7" vegetarian girl, B.Sc. (Non-Medical), Asstt. Professor. Contact: 98556-40160. (CL20053575)

Suitable match for beautiful Singla girl, 5'-4", Sep. 90 born, B.Com, MBA, homely girl from reputed business family. Tohama. Decent marriage. Preferably from Haryana and Tri City. Contact: 94162-65525. (CL20055223)

Suitable match for very beautiful Manglik girl, 1993 born, 5'-5", working as Senior Software Engineer, package 42 lakh, very reputed business family. Yamuna Nagar. 98120-04637. (CL20055391)

CA, CS, beautiful Bansal girl 5'-3", 1.40 pm, 7.30 (Karnal), working MNC, Punc, 22 lac, residence Panchkula. 79866-10728. himanshubansal.7000@gmail.com (CL20055549)

Suitable match for Gupta girl, Nov. 1982. (B.Tech/ MBA), working MNC, decent well educated family. Upper caste no bar. 95969-78787, arunagupta7272@gmail.com (CL20055558)

Suitable match for Anshik manglik Arora beautiful girl, B.Sc., B.Ed., CTET clear, 5'-3", 17.08.91, 9:25 a.m. Kaithal. After kundli match. 90367-07553, 98961-3747. (CL20054431)

Looking Suitable match for Manglik girl, B.Tech, B.Ed., 5'-4"/ 29.11.1990, 6.03 am, Nabha. Mobile 9814590759. (CL20054642)

High status beautiful girl, 05.06.1992, 03:45 pm, 5'-4", B.Tech, preference business, job. 72068-84934. (CL20055464)

Match for Arora Khatri girl, 23 January 1991, 6:15 a.m., Height 5'-5", M.A., B.Ed., Private English Teacher Patiala. 9815043481, 9888777788. (CL20054919)

PQM4 party Manglik CS Inter M.Com, MNC employed girl DoB 23.06.1991, time: 21:36, Panchkula, 5'-3". Preference. WhatsApp: 9842757009. (CL20055372)

Match for Panchkula based girl 18.10.1989, 9:53 am, Chandigarh, 5'-4", MA. Innocent, having online and offline business for French Learning, earning handsomely. Father retired Class I Officer. WhatsApp: 99158-07342. (CL20055775)

Arora girl MNC HR Manager Bangalore, born Dehradun 28.6.84, 1441 hrs, 5'-6", MBA, simple marriage, marriage bureau excuse. 99155-09590, cmgirdhar1950@gmail.com (CL20056026)

Unmarried divorcee big businessman/service boy for very rich Aggarwal family Postgraduate beautiful divorcee girl 31/ 5'-2", unlimited expenses on marriage, Caste no bar. Preference Tricity, Ludhiana, Jalandhar & Delhi. 98149-30537. (CL20056207)

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES Seeking Hi status officer, Post Graduation Doctor posted in Punjab match for SDM girl 1990, 5'-4". 94634-87508. (CL20053332)

MAHAJAN

Match for M.Tech. Asstt. Professor Mahajan girl, 5'-3"/ June 1983, Brahmhi khatri welcome. 98555-3329, 84279-83366. (CL20055521)

AGGARWAL

Well settled boy for Garg fair beautiful 38, 5'-1" girl, unmarried, B.Sc. (IT), Govt. job Officer, Bank of Baroda, Delhi. 10 LPA. Mobile WhatsApp 70222-55147. Email: 5207ak@gmail.com (CL2004993)

PQM for Non-Manglik, C.A., 5'-4", 21.12.1988, 4:25 p.m., Chandigarh, Scale-III officer Government. bank. 98883-81668. aggarpalbeena06@gmail.com (CL20054124)

Suitable match for beautiful, fair Singla girl, 5'-1", 05.11.1987, 1:02 p.m., Chandigarh, B.Tech, M.Tech, Permanent Punjab Govt. job, (Distt. Mohali). Chandigarh based educated status family. Decent Marriage. Contact: 98147-11609, Send biodata and Photo. WhatsApp: 98147-37375. (CL20054821)

Unmarried divorcee big businessman/service boy for very rich Aggarwal family Postgraduate beautiful divorcee girl 31/ 5'-2", unlimited expenses on marriage, Caste no bar. Preference Tricity, Ludhiana, Jalandhar & Delhi. 98149-30537. (CL20056026)

Match for Singhla girl, wheatish brown 5'-4", 21.09.90, 3:00 am, Karnal, Manager in MNC Bangalore 40 LPA, family in Panchkula. WhatsApp: 99880-78514. (CL20055261)

Industrialist Aggarwal girls 1993 MBA 5'-3", 1992 M.Tech and 1991 MDS. Contact highly rich businessman, Chandigarh. Patiala. 84271-23150, 86993-72414. (CL20055696)

Yamunanagar, Haryana based Bansal Manglik issueless divorcee girl 34/5'-1", B.Sc. B.Ed. seeks Liberal minded qualified match. Contact: 92554-96516. (CL20051089)

Medic/M/MS/C Civil Services match for fair and beautiful Manglik Single girl, 31/5'-2", MD Microbiology. Father Head of the department in Punjab Medical college. Contact: 94172-43263, 98888-71294. (CL20053312)

Match for Garg girl, MBA, 5'-3", October 1992 born, Manglik, good looking, status Punjabi family settled in Chandigarh, decent marriage, looking for well qualified match, kundli must, marriage bureau to excuse. Contact: 80544-83433, 94200-4037. (CL20053386)

Bathinda Goel slim beautiful, 20.01.94, 6:50 PM, Kotkapura, 5'-5" SBI Dy. MGR. 98761-88252. (CL20053653)

Match for Aggarwal 26 years, beautiful B.Tech, MBA, 5' Manager in Bank preferred Tricity. 82848-34910. (CL20056315)

NM Garg girl, MBA, July 1991/ 5'-2", Patiala. 98722-37890. (CL20053716)

Beautiful MCA Government teacher Amritsar, 5'-4", 31 educated family, caste no bar. 82880-84606. (CL20053793)

Age 25 height 5'-4", Edu - MBA, job in New York. Want suitable match. 82258-82995, 97544-71131. (CL20053389)

Required Govt. Officer for 1991 born, Aggarwal girl, 5'-11" (Manglik), job under Ministry of Home Affairs (Central Govt.). Mob. 96460-41173. (CL20056338)

PQM for Singla girl, Dec. 1994, 5'-3", B.Sc., B.Ed. (PTET) pass, M.Sc. (Mathematics and Computing) from IIT. Looking for well educated and well settled Gazetteed Officer/Govt/employee/businessman, handsome, vegetarian, teetotaller Aggarwal boy. Send complete biodata with latest snap (Marriage bureau excuse). 94176-2501. (CL20056378)

Maheshwari/ Aggarwal girl

30.9.1991, 9:50 PM, Moga, 5'-5", MBA (Marketing, Thapar Uni. Patiala), Job Bangalore 15 Lac. Joint family business, pure veg. family. 94171-72502 (Bathinda). (CL20056333)

Bansal (Gupta) girl, 26.1.1992, 5'-2", 4:00 a.m. Graduation in Economics from (PU) Chandigarh. Preference Tricity Chandigarh, Mohali, Zirakpur etc. WhatsApp: 96460-41173. (CL20056338)

PQM for Singla girl, Dec. 1994, 5'-3", B.Sc., B.Ed. (PTET) pass, M.Sc. (Mathematics and Computing) from IIT. Looking for well educated and well settled Gazetteed Officer/Govt/employee/businessman, handsome, vegetarian, teetotaller Aggarwal boy. Send complete biodata with latest snap (Marriage bureau excuse). 94176-2501. (CL20056378)

KHATRI/ARORA

Suitable match for Arora girl, 30.9.1991, 9:50 PM, Moga, 5'-5", MBA/ LL.B. looking for well settled teetotaller/Veg. boy, father/mother ret'd. Govt. employees. Preferably Govt. job or working in MNC Cont.

94632-77373. (CL20053352)

ARORA

Arora girl 27/5'-4", B.Tech/ MBA/ LL.B. looking for well settled teetotaller/Veg. boy, father/mother ret'd. Govt. employees. Preferably Govt. job or working in MNC Cont.

94632-77373. (CL20053352)

Match for beautiful, fair, slim (Manglik) girl, 26.1.1991, 5'-4", 12.00 a.m., Graduation in Economics from (PU) Chandigarh. Preference Tricity Chandigarh, Mohali, Zirakpur etc. WhatsApp: 96460-41173. (CL20056338)

PQM for Singla girl, Dec. 1994, 5'-3", B.Sc., B.Ed. (PTET) pass, M.Sc. (Mathematics and Computing) from IIT. Looking for well educated and well settled Gazetteed Officer/Govt/employee/businessman, handsome, vegetarian, teetotaller Aggarwal boy. Send complete biodata with latest snap (Marriage bureau excuse). 94176-2501. (CL20056378)

KHATRI/ARORA

Suitable match for Arora girl, 27 years, ht. 5'-4", B.Tech IT, posted in Infosys Chandigarh. Father Manager in reputed group, mother Govt. Teacher in Haryana. Contact: 94664-52728. (CL20056345)

Match for Chandigarh based fair Punjabi girl, 1991-5'-2", 12.05.1994, 05:02 am, Panchkula. Resident of Tricity, working Bangalore, 13 LPA. Boy working in Bangalore/ Tricity preferred. 98724-96995. (CL20054125)

Match for Chandigarh based fair Punjabi girl, 1991-5'-2", 12.05.1994, 05:02 am, Panchkula. Resident of Tricity, working Bangalore, 13 LPA. Boy working in Bangalore/ Tricity preferred. 98724-96995. (CL20054125)

Match for Chandigarh based fair Punjabi girl, 1991-5'-2", 12.05.1994, 05:02 am, Panchkula. Resident of Tricity, working Bangalore, 13 LPA. Boy working in Bangalore/ Tricity preferred. 98724-96995. (CL20054125)

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KAMBOJ

SM for Kamboj Sikh girl 1989/5'-7", M.Com, B.Ed, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, settled Kamboj boy with agriculture land preferred. Contact: 62844-99201, 98781-60941. (CL20054584)

Kamboj Sikh girl, 1993/ 5'-3", M.Sc. Medical Bio-Technology from Windsor University, Canada, Canada PR required qualified. Canadian PR boy/ required to going Canada. 98141-83992. (CL20056182)

Kamboj Sikh (Jossan) fair, beautiful girl, 31, 5'-3". Ph.D. Boy should be well educated, Canadian citizen/PR. Contact: 9592982537, 9914912154. (CL20056298)

Kamboj Sikh beautiful girl 27/5'-4". M.Tech, urban planning A.Rch Professor job brother in Canada. Father businessman having urban rural property, preferred qualified well settled business/NRI. 98778-81427. (CL20056304)

Suitable match for beautiful Kamboj only daughter, 1995/ 5'-7", B.Sc., MCA, Family near Patiala. 9464773016. (CL20054421)

DOCTOR/ENGINEER

MD/ MS match for MD Psychiatry Aggarwal girl, 6.9.1992, 2.12 pm, Nabha, 5'-1". Working in private hospital, handsome salary. Doctors family of Ludhiana. Upper caste no bar, 98726-19732. (CL20056292)

Delhi based well settled, educated, b.f.b. V.fair, Punjabi Brahmin girl, 33/5'-6", working with reputed MNC, earning 25 LPA+/ suitable match upto 35 yrs. CA/ MBA/ BE/ employed professional, never married of a status family from Delhi/ NCR. Contact: matrimonyfor20@gmail.com , 99906-26447. (CL20042624)

PQM4 1992 born, 5'-1", MDS, Singh girl, Canadian PR under process. 491-62844-52431. (CL20047870)

Wanted SM4 1990 born, 5'-5", Rajput DNB Dermatology. Higher caste preferred. Contact: 98154-92942. (CL20052880)

MD, MS for Mazhab Sikhs girl, M.S ENT, SR Govt, Hospital, 5'-5", 12/87, no bar. 95010-28263. (CL20053483)

Govt. MBBS 11.45 am, 8.6.91, Himachal (HP). Contact only Himachali MD Govt. Officers. 94185-44930. (CL20053516)

Suitable match for Hindu NP Nai (Verna) girl, 25.11.1988, 5'-6", pursuing Ph.D. Physiotherapy, Doctor. Upper caste welcome. 98552-89359. (CL20053786)

Seeking match for smart well travelled MBBS, MD (Paediatrics) practising both in Mumbai & Chandigarh, 11/1971, 5'-6", issueless divorce. Invite proposals from very well settled Doctor/ Engineers from Chandigarh, Mumbai 45 to 50 yrs only (Serious enquires please). WhatsApp: 89280-87804. Email: ensut7613@gmail.com (CL20053820)

Beautiful Mahajan girl 5'-6", 28.12.1991, BAMS and Diploma in Gynaecology and O.B.S. family in Agra, education from Pune. 96342-33014. (CL20054027)

Cleanshaven Medicos MD/MS well settled match for B'ful 29, 5'-7", slim girl MD Anaesthesia Ramgarhia family. 098120-01501. (CL20054092)

Match MD/MS for Hindu, Arora, beautiful, fair, slim, 5'-3", Doctor girl, 17.12.1989, MS Obs. & Gynas from PGIMS Rohtak. Contact: 70156-32349. (CL20054258)

Medico, Non-Medico match for beautiful Parmar girl MD Pharmacology, May 1984, 5'-4", working in Corporate Hospital in Ludhiana. Upper caste no bar. WhatsApp: 97795-84884. (CL20054362)

MD/ MS/ DM/ MCH match for fair, beautiful girl, MD Radio Diagnosis, Jun 90/ 5'-2", Saraswati, Brahmin, Angsik manglik kundi preferred. 98885-27555. (CL20054454)

Suitable match for Jat-Sikh MBBS girl 5'-7", 89. Preference to Doctor of Tricity. Contact: 98726-65888, 97806-77126. (CL20054478)

Seeking Post Graduate Doctor/ Industrialist, preferably from Ludhiana for beautiful 25 years, 5'-5", Brahmin girl from status family. MDS, well established Clinic in Ludhiana. Contact: 86990-95471. (CL20054808)

Medico match for Hindu Khatri girl MBBS MS (Eye), Feb, 1990, 5'-5", upper caste no bar. 94174-66455. (CL20054859)

MD/ MS match for 5'-7", 1989, MD Paediatrics, Senior resident GMCH, Chandigarh. Status Hindu family. 95010-22477. (CL20055108)

Hindu Arora slim girl MBBS, PCMS, regular Govt. job, 5'-5", 8 Feb, 1990, 11:15 pm, Faridkot. 98144-10166. (CL20055960)

Suitable match for BAMS Doctor Ramdasia girl 27/ 5'-1". Caste no bar. Reputed family. 82648-56117. (CL20056021)

Match for Khatri beautiful girl, Dec, 1990, 5'-4", MBBS, 3 years job in reputed Hospital, status family. Preferred Doctor/ high business from Ludhiana/ Tricity area. 95010-40687. (CL20056114)

MD/ MS PCS match for MDS Orthodontics, 5 June 1985 born, 5'-4", Sikh Arora/ Khatri. 78886-64617. (CL20056117)

Smart match for Ramdasia Sikh girl 26, 5'-7". M.Tech (CSE) Data Scientist Noida. 98781-51797. (CL20056122)

Wanted a meritorious Sikh match from Doctors, Engineers or Civil Servants for a Sikh Khatri girl, 27/ 5'-1", doing MD Medicine at a Government Medical College. Only boys with traditional values need to apply. Contact: 98760-87191, 98763-17721. (CL20056145)

Consultant/ abroad settled Medie/ Civil Services match for beautiful Brahm 30/5'-3", MD Pathology Senior Resident girl. Parents Professors Medical College. 98142-90885. (CL20056178)

SM4 28/5'-4" beautiful Sikh Brahm MBBS Doctor match as Gazetted Medical Officer in South Delhi. Send BHP via Email: manwinderbhang89@gmail.com WhatsApp: 98722- 03221. (CL20056341)

Suitable match (Doctor/ Engineer/ IAS/ PCS) for 5'-4", 29 years, beautiful, fair, slim Hindu Khatri girl. MBBS, MD (Pathology) girl. Educationists/ doctors family. WhatsApp: 90410-05130, 98140-05130. (CL20056382)

WIDOW

Suitable match for 32 old year widow, Hindu Rajput, private job, having 9 year daughter. Hindu upper caste from tricity preferred. Contact: 7018516091, 950107577. (CL20054181)

Extremely beautiful, Punjabi Khatri, widow, issueless, homely girl 26.11.1992, 12:30 pm, New Delhi, 5'-4", weight 70 kg, B.Tech, seeks well-established businessman, Govt. employee, Doctor, Tricity, Delhi preferred. 80593-44162. (CL20056319)

SCHEDULED CASTES

Ramdasia Sikh Patiala girl, 1992/ 5'-3", M.Sc. Mathematics. B.Ed., PSTET, CTET cleared, self employed (home tuitions), pursuing M.Sc. Food & Nutrition. Father Chief Manager (PSU). Mother Bank employee. Brother Officer (PSU). Preference to Govt job/Bank/ PSU/ Businessman. WhatsApp: 89684-96582. (CL20054773)

SM4 beautiful slim Chandigarh based Addharmi girl 31, 5'-5", MA, Diploma in Elementary Education, CTET qualified. Father retired Govt. servant, Bhabhi Law Officer, one brother Income Tax Officer, other officer in Punjab Govt. Preference to Govt job/Bank/ PSU/ Businessman. WhatsApp: 89684-96582. (CL20054773)

SM for Bhagat (Julaha) girl, MCA, 26.12.1986, 5'-2", working IT Company Mohali. 78320-01256. (CL20054802)

Beautiful SC girl, 5'-3", 35, MA, B.Ed based in Yamunanagar. 99199-33793. (CL20053923)

Wanted SC IAS/ IPS/ DM/ MCH/ MD/ MS match for MD Gyanा final year, DoB 3.10.1994, HT 5'-1". Parents Doctors. Phone 98146-53604, 98148-73480. (CL20054845)

Suitable match for Ad-Dharmi SC smart girl 1992 born, 5'-3" ht/ BE Electronics and communications from Chitkari University and Masters from Canada in Electrical and Computers. Now working with reputed firm in Canada. Mohali based family. Father Gazetted Officer in Punjab. Boy preferred having PR status in Canada with equivalent qualifications in IT, Finance or Doctor. Please contact: 85570-050906. (CL20053439)

Suitable Teetotaller match for Mahasha Hindu fair, 32/5', BAMS Doctor girl. Father Retd. Gazetteed Officer. Mother retd. Teacher. Sister MBBS Doctor married. Own Flat Chandigarh. Simple and Early marriage. 98728-90940. (CL20053937)

SMF SC girl, October 1988/5', BA, ETT, B.Ed., regular Private School teacher. Father retired in B-Class Officer. Mother retired Lecturer. Tricity preferred. 98722-15748. (CL20047513)

Himachali Ravidasia girl, 30, 5'-3", MA Sanskrit and Social Work, NTT, doing B.Ed., 98159-87868. (CL20053368)

Suitable match for Hindu NP Nai (Verna) girl, 25.11.1988, 5'-6", pursuing Ph.D. Physiotherapy, Doctor. Upper caste welcome. 98552-89359. (CL20053786)

Officer match for 1993 born girl, Probationary Officer in Govt. Bank, B.Tech & MBA, B.Com, PGDCA girl, now working as pvt. school teacher from well settled family. Father retired Gazetteed officer. Govt service/ pvt job/ business preferred. Doaba preferred. Mob: 9814429207, 7814503083. (CL20055401)

Ramdasia Sikh girl 1988/ 5'-5", B.Sc., B.Ed., MBA (England), M.Sc. (England), doing Teacher Training Course (England), looking well-qualified, non-turbated, NIRI or willing to go abroad. Caste no bar. WhatsApp details on 94784-00081. (CL20055195)

S/M for 1988 born, 5'-1" ht, beautiful MA Education, B.Ed, B.Com, PGDCA girl, now working as pvt. school teacher from well settled family. Father retired Gazetteed officer. Govt service/ pvt job/ business preferred. Doaba preferred. Mob: 9814429207, 7814503083. (CL20055195)

Only NRI (preference Italy) match for Ravidasia girl, March 1992/ 5'-5", 10+2, two year Diploma cutting and sewing and beauty parlour. Father Govt. employee. Sister settled in Italy. 77195-11477, 97797-35944. (CL20055661)

Match For Hindu Ravidasia Girl Govt. Job United India Insurance B.Tech 5'-3" 1992 94640-73470. Cast no bar (CL20055670)

Suitable match for Ad-dharmi SC girl, 5'-3", 5.08.1985, B.Ed., MA, PTET & CTET cleared. Contact: 9475563970. (CL20055675)

Vegetarian match for B.Tech, 5'-4" 1986, beautiful Ravidasia girl, short-period divorcee, IELTS Instructor. Father TGT (IT) (retd.). 9891482831. (CL20055749)

Beautiful, slim girl 1992, 5'-5", BE, B.Tech (IIM) Bangalore. 22.5 LPA, Program Manager Amazon India well settled family. Caste no bar. WhatsApp 91095-23533. (CL20055874)

Suitable match for Kabirpanthi fair girl, 08.01.1992, 02:25 pm, Nangal Dam, 5', B.Com, M.Com. Father Retired Govt. job. WhatsApp 92809-47264. (CL20054226)

Well settled vegetarian/teetotaller unmarried match for Ravidasia girl (Chamar), fair, slim, unmarried girl, 5'-4", 1977 born, Regular Govt teacher. Contact: 8968946303. (CL20053443)

Suitable match for Kabirpanthi fair girl, 08.01.1992, 02:25 pm, Nangal Dam, 5', B.Com, M.Com. Father Retired Govt. job. WhatsApp 92809-47264. (CL20054226)

Suitable match for Hindu SC (Mahasha girl) born in August 1991, 5'-3", MCA from Regional Campus Jalandhar under GNDU. Studying in Melbourne (Australia) match from Australia required. Contact: 94653-64507. (CL20055630)

Ramdasia Sikh, 7 March 1992, 5'-1", B.Com., M.Com. Job from Panchnala, PHD Microbiology. Radha Swami family. 94170-37848. (CL20055603)

Match For SC (Mahasha girl) born in August 1991, 5'-3", MCA from Regional Campus Jalandhar under GNDU. Studying in Melbourne (Australia) match from Australia required. Contact: 94653-64507. (CL20055630)

Suitable match for Hindu SC girl, 27/ 5'-2", working on contract, Chandigarh. Preferred Govt. job or businessman. Caste no bar. Contact No. 76580-15269. (CL20056050)

Match For SC (Mahasha girl) born in August 1991, 5'-3", MCA from Regional Campus Jalandhar under GNDU. Studying in Melbourne (Australia) match from Australia required. Contact: 94653-64507. (CL20055630)

Suitable match for Hindu SC girl, 27/ 5'-2", working on contract, Chandigarh. Preferred Govt. job or businessman. Caste no bar. Contact No. 76580-15269. (CL20056050)

Professional qualified Passi match for beautiful Passi girl 29/ 5'-3", B.Tech (Computer Science) PO Nationalized Bank. 88146-79533. (CL20056224)

Suitable match required for Graduate 1978 born unmarried SC (Koli) homely Himachali girl. Contact: 941665277. (CL20056122)

Stable match SC/ Ramdasia girl 28/ 5'-3", B.Tech, working in Gurugram. Preference to DELHI/ NCR employed. Email: pib279@gmail.com (CL20054434)

Suitable match for Ramdasia Sikh girl, 1991/ 5'-4", M.Sc. Psy., M.Phil, PG Diploma Guidance and Counselling, double UGC (NET) qualified, working as contractual Teacher on Central Govt. grade in a reputed school. Father retd. Gazetteed Officer. 623948844. (CL20054443)

SC Ad-dharmi 30/ 5'-2", Radha Soami Govt. Teacher requires clean shaven veg. Govt. employee boy urban Cont. Ludhiana. 97939-55401. (CL20054611)

Suitable match for Ramdasia Sikh girl, October 1987, 5'-4", working as Graphic Designer. Ambala based well settled family. Father Govt. employee. Contact: 94175959. (CL20054046)

Suitable match for Ramdasia Sikh girl, 1991/ 5'-6", M.Sc. Nursing, Central Govt. job. Preference Australian/ Canadian or good job boy. Contact: 94632-03360, 94632-03358. (CL20054757)

SCHEMED CASTES

Suitable match for beautiful, slim, fair Ramdasia Sikh girl 1991, 5'-3", B.Sc. (Maths), Panjab University. Father Govt. Service, well-educated family. Preferred Govt. employed. 97792-39781. (CL20054770)

CLASSIFIEDS

2 kanal houses in Sectors 7, 8, 18, 21, 33 Chandigarh. Contact: Delhi Punjab Real Estate Pvt. Ltd. 98724-07701. (CL20056063)

3 bay SCO in Sectors 9, Chandigarh. Good location. Contact: Delhi Punjab Real Estate Pvt. Ltd. 98724-07701. (CL20056066)

8 Marla newly 1st floor, facing park 3388/23D. 8 marla newly flowerw 18C, 10C. newly 1st floor (1.75). 95019-97089, 94170-30964. (CL20056083)

One kanal houses in Sector 32, 33 and two kanal in Sector 8. Atul 9876424094. (CL20056348)

10 marla houses in Sector 20, 21, 44 and 8 marla in Sector 19, 43. Atul 9876424094. (CL20056351)

Industrial units/showroom/floors/booth in Industrial Area Phase-I Sectors 7, 29, 30, 30. Atul 9876424094. (CL20056352)

Plot for Sale

1. One kanal, Two adjoining plots facing park in Sector 77, Mohali.
2. One kanal, B Road, facing huge park, 25 percent built, Sector 69, Mohali. Contact:

99143-55108

CL20045259

Chandigarh: Showroom ground floor vacant Sector -35C (Inner Market) prime retail market. Allied Realty 98140-16644. (CL20053569)

Chandigarh: Showroom vacant Sector 37C, front half, prime retail market. Allied Realty 98140-16644. (CL20053571)

Chandigarh: 2 kanal facing North Sector 27B. Allied Realty 98140-16644. (CL20053573)

Flat 4 BHK, 1550 sqft, first floor Darshan Vihar, Sector 6B, Mohali and kothi 160 gaz Kharar. Contact 98725-83967. (CL20053587)

Chandigarh: one kanal in prime sector ample parking confirm deal contact Karan Sandhu 98788-2747 dealer excuse. (CL20054041)

Wanted/ available all sizes kothies full/ floorwise in all sectors Chandigarh, Rama Properties 98140-4287, 97804-18830. (CL20054043)

Zirakpur deals: Showroom, plot, flats, kothies and all type properties, fair deal. Contact: 98766-10603. (CL20054099)

SOLAN (H.P.)

Excellent peaceful location, drive in 3 slabs (Approx 17000 ft) Suitable for high-end Apartments, Marriage Place, Guest House etc. Drive in 630 Mtrs (18 Biswa) Plot in the city, Fully developed Map of 6 Shops, 6 Apartments (3 Beds each) Approved. Contact:

98100-00849, 98160-4627889

CL20053937

14 marla first floor, facing park Sector 37A. 10 marla Sector 20 newly built ground and second floor commercial location, facing market, reasonable price. Allied Realty 98141-66155. (CL20055147)

Showroom vacant ground and second floor Sector-21C, Chandigarh, Allied Realty 98140-16644. (CL20054116)

Ten marla newly built ground floor Sector 37. Chandigarh, drawing dining, three bed, three bath, Bhaijan Property 85588-55555. (CL20054168)

Chandigarh two kanal sector 15, 16 double storey Sector 18, 21, single lane Sector 27, 28, Sikka Associates 98140-10101. (CL20054184)

Chandigarh ten marla corner Sector 15, 19 triple storey Sector 21, 34 East facing Sector 38, 40, Sikka Associates 98140-10101. (CL20054187)

Chandigarh five marla good locations Sector 22, 40, 46. Six marla park facing Sector 20, Sikka Associates 98140-10101. (CL20054214)

7.5 marla 2.5 storey vacant, Sector 22B, Chandigarh, Bhasin Property 85588-55555. (CL20054216)

Chandigarh one kanal Sector 8, 11, park facing, Sector 21, 33, corner, Sector 35, 36, Sikka Associates: 98140-10101. (CL20054220)

For sale one kanal corner adjoining park well maintained beautiful kothi in central location in Mohali. Priced at 5 crores. Interested party with good taste only contact: 98556-64366, 98725-5113. (CL20054254)

CHB flats Sector 38W, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 51, 51, 61, 63, Society flats 48, 49, 50, 51, Regent Estates: 97948-64287, 98143-42287. (CL20054257)

Prime Property for Sale at JALANDHAR

Ideal for Commercial use Showroom, Bank, Corporate Office, Hospital, Clinic or Residence.

Area 42 Marla on Kapurthala Road Contact :

8850136992

or mail :

ssturttech@gmail.com

CL20054259

Freehold kothi eight marla triple renovated Sector 43A, freehold kothi 10 marla single/triple Sector 44B, independent 12 marla single/triple Sector 43B, SCO leasehold full/floorwise Sector 44D, busy market. Rajesh Estates: 98140-12730, 98148-22730. (CL20054328)

Available/wanted full/floorwise kanal 11, 21, 33, 34, 35, 36, 40, ten marla 15, 21, 27, 31, 37, 40, 42, 44, eight marla 18, 20, 38, 40, 43, 44, 46, seven marla Sector 35, 37, five marla 22, 23, 40, 46, 38. Rajesh Estates: 98140-12730, 98148-22730. (CL20054329)

Available/wanted HIG/MIG Sector 38W, 39B, 43B, 44A, 45A, 49D, 51A, 61, 63, Society flats 48, 49, 50, 51. Rajesh Estates: 98140-12730, 98148-22730. (CL20054333)

HIG first 205A renovated Sector 51A, 43B, MIG first corner 2215A, Sector 63, MIG second 1477B Sector 61, HIG Super 1017/2 Sector 39B, HIG first floor facing park Sector 63, Rajesh Estates: 98140-12730, 98148-22730. (CL20054337)

Available pair of booth No. 4 & 5, size 10 sq. yds. North East facing at 100 ft. wide road, front pocket, D.C case @ 78 lakh, Sector 89, Mohali. Sanjeev Arora: 98149-27195. The Realty Mart. (CL20055357)

Available pair of booth No. 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51. Rajesh Estates: 98140-12730, 98148-22730. (CL20055358)

Available/wanted HIG/MIG Sector 38W, 39B, 43B, 44A, 45A, 49D, 51A, 61, 63, Society flats 48, 49, 50, 51. Rajesh Estates: 98140-12730, 98148-22730. (CL20055359)

HIG first 205A renovated Sector 51A, 43B, MIG first corner 2215A, Sector 63, MIG second 1477B Sector 61, HIG Super 1017/2 Sector 39B, HIG first floor facing park Sector 63, Rajesh Estates: 98140-12730, 98148-22730. (CL20055359)

Available pair of booth No. 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51. Rajesh Estates: 98140-12730, 98148-22730. (CL20055359)

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Prime location, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, ground floor flat, 956 sq. ft. for sale in Savitri Green 2, Zirakpur. Contact: g s s 7 7 4 3 2 1 @ y a h o o . c o m (CL20055172)

GMADA Purab Premium Apartments - North East facing 1904.67 sq. ft. 3 BHK + servant room, super area 3133.15 sq. ft, Tower A-5, Mobile 96463-36999. (CL20055445)

Two bedroom, DD, FF, GH-1, Mansadevi Complex, Sector 5, Panchkula. 97803-01478. (CL20055957)

Two bedroom MIG flat ground floor corner three side entry 41A, Chandigarh. Contact: 77196-44830. (CL20056009)

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In the 19th-century Punjab, both plains and hills boasted of talented painters. Some of them, however, got lost in the whorls of time

ARTS page 14



After distilling a 1,500-page novel, filmmaker Mira Nair's cinematic gaze turns towards 20th century's iconoclastic Amrita Sher-Gil and her extraordinary art

ENTERTAINMENT page 15



City Makers reiterates a commonsensical point that Indian policymakers have forgotten: a home of your own is the most important asset for any family

BOOKS page 16

When kameez got a collar

JASVINDER KAUR

DURING the entire British period, the traditional dress of women in Punjab did not undergo many changes. Their ensemble of *salwar*, *kameez* and *dupatta* — commonly called 'suit' — saw little structural changes during this period. As men had a closer interaction with their European rulers, their dressing style was influenced by them. Women, on the other hand, practised *purdah* and therefore had limited interaction with the outside world. Due to this practice their dressing style, by and large, did not change much.

However, European influences did bring in some changes like the fusion of several western elements into women's traditional clothes, the manner of tying a *saree*, and above all, the use of cosmetics and accessories. This is evident in old photographs of that period. At first glance, Punjabi women did look dressed in their traditional clothes. However, a closer look will reveal the presence of quite a few Western elements in many garments and accessories supplementing the basic Indian dress, mostly in upper-class women.

Borrowing from men's clothes

In Europe, women's dressing as well as their lifestyle had changed dramatically after World War I. Women had to lead more active lives, filling in the jobs that had once been the domain of men. This necessitated a new way of dressing that gave them the comfort and freedom to perform these new jobs with ease. Many women began wearing clothes similar to those worn by men.

In this post-war period, military influences were evident in the cut and colour of women's garments. Jackets, waistcoats, ties, military collars, cuffs and boots became part of their wardrobes. According to newspapers of the era, it was difficult to make out the difference between men and women as they seemed to have similar silhouettes. Famous designer Coco Chanel, in the early part of her career in the 1920s, rode on this trend — as well as gave impetus to it. She started designing comfortable clothes for women that were inspired by menswear. One of her well-known outfits was based on the Englishman's tweed suit.

Punjabi women's clothes were also impacted by western styles as they also started adding collars and cuffs, found in men's shirts, to their *kameez/kurtas*. Some district gazetteers mention women using European-style collars and cuffs on ordinary *kurtas*. Even the back of the *kameez* was now being styled like men's shirt with

Trends in Europe post World War I also influenced women's dressing style and make-up in India during that era. Collared shirts with cuffs, *vaskat* (waistcoats), use of lipstick, face powder and wavy hairstyles are all legacy of the colonial rule



The *vaskat*, modelled on men's waistcoat, has a deep U-shaped neckline with turned-down lapels; pockets on either side have flaps like men's coats.

a cross-back and a pleat below the collar. This style remained popular throughout Punjab till shortly after Independence. Even when its popularity waned, older women continued to wear this style for a long time.

However, this style has survived in Haryana (part of undivided Punjab) and Western UP. One can spot this trend in a recent Hindi film *Saand Ki Aankh* where Haryanvi women are seen wearing short shirts with men-style collars and cuffs.

This style is also evident in old photographs and was replicated even in formal wear:

Vaskat or waistcoat

A garment like the men's waistcoat entered Punjabi women's wardrobe around the end of 19th century. This

was called the *vaskat*. The 1888-89 Gazetteer of Ludhiana district mentions that Jat women wore *kurtas* with a waistcoat as was worn by men. This was worn over their *kurtas* or *kameez* with a *dupatta* draped over it. It became part of their formal attire worn at fairs and festive events. The word *vaskat* itself was a distortion of the word waistcoat, similar to English waistcoat.

The waistcoat had evolved in men's dress by the early 20th century. The man behind evolution of its finer details was Prince Albert of Wales (later King Edward VII), who also brought changes in men's fashion that are evident even today. Being a trendsetter, his wardrobe was copied all over the



A portrait of a family in Jalandhar in the early 20th century. Though all women are wearing traditional Punjabi attire, *kameez* have cuffs and collars. They are also wearing western style shoes.

PHOTO COURTESY: SIDHU FAMILY



world. When Bertie (as he was known), went on vacation, tailors from all over Europe followed him, making notes and taking pictures. Edward decided to alter the waistcoat by lowering its height to reveal more shirt-front. Some say the change was done as the earlier version was more prone to food stains while some claim it was less constricting for the prince as he felt bloated during a meal and undid the bottom button of the waistcoat. This norm is followed till today.

Vaskat had many similarities to its parent garment — the waistcoat. The U-shaped neck, plain straight back, pointed lapels, use of European-style buttons — are all indicative of its origin. Some of these even had turned-over pockets like the men's overcoats worn in England.

Cosmetics and accessories

The lifestyle changes that took place in Europe in the 1920s encouraged women to come out to work, as well as socialise. With the freedom to dress also came the freedom to use cosmetics, earlier associated with women of ill repute.

Cosmetics became popular in Europe. Lipstick, contained in a round, metal tube, had been invented in 1915. Commonly called 'make-up', cosmetics now became essential for a woman's appearance. Hollywood movies of the 1920s and 1930s feature women carrying a distinctive look: red cupid-bow lips, dark rouge on the cheeks, kohl-rimmed eyes, plucked eyebrows, and wavy hair, generally with a shingle bob cut. They had typical mask-like appearance, achieved by using loose powder on the face.

During that time, hardly any women in rural Punjab used western cosmetics. These were neither available nor affordable. However, there were some traditional ingredients that could give similar results. Bark of *Sakk* tree (walnut tree) came in bags from the hills. Chewed upon for dental health and hygiene, it



Portrait of an upper-class woman sporting waves in her hair.

widely available in Punjab. It came in a round, small cardboard box with a 'Made in England' stamp at the back. Whether women used any other cosmetics or not, they did use the face powder and Coty's face powder became a must for almost every urban woman. Other make-up products, as well as perfumes, became available in Punjab to a limited extent, and were advertised by shops in newspapers and magazines.

Many publications started publishing tips on how to use make-up. Sister Susie, in 1935, wrote about using mascara, lipstick, rouge and nail polish. Women at that time were not cosmetic conscious.

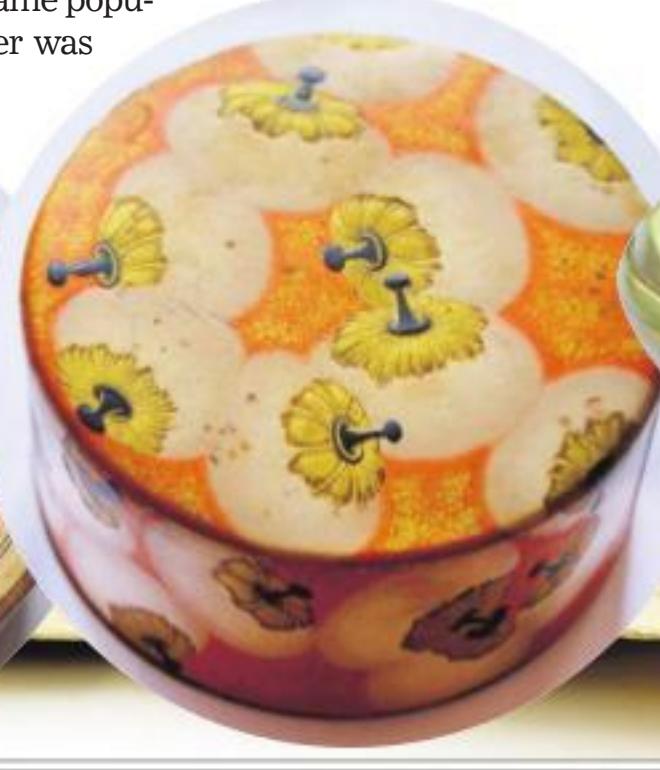
Along with make-up, wealthy women of Punjab also became aware of the latest hair grooming trends. Curling was as popular in Punjab as it was in Europe, and women used curling irons to create waves in their hair, a popular style in Europe of the 1920s and 1930s. This wavy style is evident in many photographs of the period, even if the women's heads are covered, as was the norm in Punjab. There were shops in Lahore and Amritsar selling curling irons, and they often advertised them in magazines and newspapers like *The Tribune*.

Photographs of Punjabi women from the 1920s and 1930s show them wearing mostly Indian clothes, but with some western accessories. The most common and visible of these accessories was the brooch. The typical image of a woman from a well-to-do family has her with a covered head, wavy hair, and wearing a *saree* or a *dupatta*, held in place at the shoulder with a brooch.

After Independence, women's dressing style changed as many of the above-mentioned styles faded away. However, as availability of things increased, more and more people started using cosmetics. It has become a huge multi-billion dollar industry.

A container of Coty's loose powder and (right) surme daani and surme.

PHOTOS BY THE WRITER



Women's formal *kameez* with cuffs and collars.

The little-known artists from region

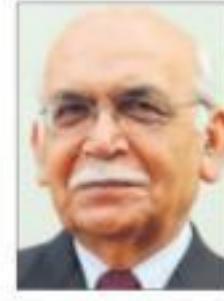
In the 19th century, both plains and hills boasted of talented painters. Some of them, however, got lost in the whorls of time

Until quite recently, historians of Indian art have tended to adopt a cautious, even at times, a caustic attitude to paintings of the ... (Punjab).

— WG Archer, *Paintings of the Sikhs*. 1966

Historians of art have generally evaded coming to terms with painting in the nineteenth century Punjab: they have drawn near to it but, almost as if they were examining a thorny branch, touched it gingerly. No serious student of Indian art has been able entirely to ignore it and yet a close look at it has frequently been cast with reluctance, if not distaste.

— Oriental Art, Spring 1969



ART & SOUL

BN GOSWAMY

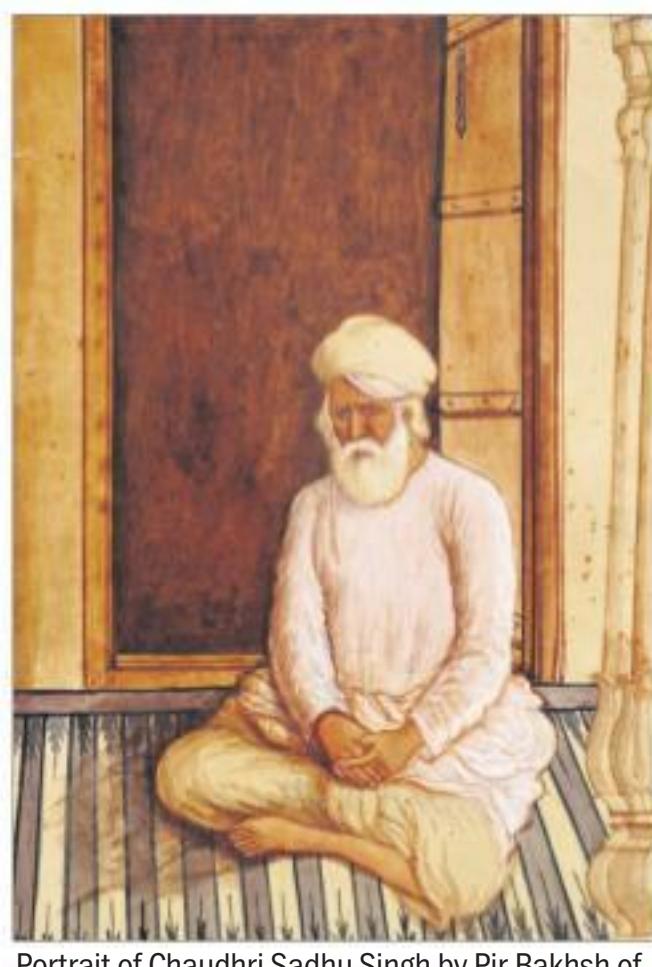
I WAS not exactly looking for it — it just turned up in the sheaf of images I keep ferreting away somewhere in my folders — but it did two things, this sketch. It brought a quick smile to my lips, and, at the same time, introduced me to a Punjabi 'artist' whose name seems to have got lost in the whorls of time. It was a sketch, recording/celebrating? virtually the first coming of railways to our part of the world, somewhere in the early sixties of the 19th century, and the painter/draughtsman seems to have drawn it — on a sheet picked up from a discarded *sarkari* register perhaps — at the asking of a lithographic press, the Chashma-e-Noor, at Amritsar. In the lower part of the sketch is a complete scene: at the extreme left three persons, one of them a Muslim, at the ticket window, with a large clock on the wall dutifully recording the time as 12.50; the train having just steamed away, two and a half carriages are seen, one of them occupied completely by women — a *zenana dibba*, to be sure — but all *desis*, with the words, in English letters, 'THIRD CLASS' — the artist evidently not being on good terms with vowels — and, in Urdu letters, 'darjasyam', meaning 'Third Class', emblazoned outside. In another carriage are seen hatted gentlemen — British or Anglicised — the three sporting superior airs. Right in front of course is the engine, the driver, a hatted figure, busy at work, obviously employed by Northern Railways, for the words 'NR' are painted on the door of his cubicle. However, the 'artist' does not forget to claim credit, and adds — clearly establishing his knowledge of English —



the words 'HURNAM SINGH': his own name. Sadly, we — at least I — am not aware of any other work by this artist. But it would have been nice, considering the delightful vignette that he boldly brings in at the top of the sketch: a rag-tag party of four musicians and three soldiers following their leader; an English 'sahib' on horseback with a whip, which looks more like a *morchhal* than a whip, hurrying, having perhaps just performed with elan the ceremonial task of celebrating the arrival of railways.

One would be entitled to wonder where all this is leading, if anywhere, especially when I open with what many would be inclined to dismiss as a negligible work of art. It is not that I am unaware, as far as the plains of the Punjab are concerned, of more substantial names — apart of course from those of painters from the Punjab Hills, Pahari in other words, who were working at different courts including that of Lahore or in the Malwa states, or, again, artists from Jaipur/Alwar working at Patiala — who were active in the 19th century. But I am greatly interested in seeing if we are missing out on some names. To that purpose, I am aiming at exploring collections, in the hope of making some discoveries.

I am encouraged in this endeavour by the initial flush of success I have had, while working with the great collection of paint-



Portrait of Chaudhri Sadhu Singh by Pir Bakhsheesh Jhang, 1850. Chandigarh Museum.

ings in the Chandigarh Museum. There are, for instance, two Punjab portraits here, each quite accomplished, of personages that one surely does not know much about: one, a simply dressed elderly Sikh of gentle bearing, sitting cross-legged, hands resting in lap, on a finely woven *durrie* spread out in

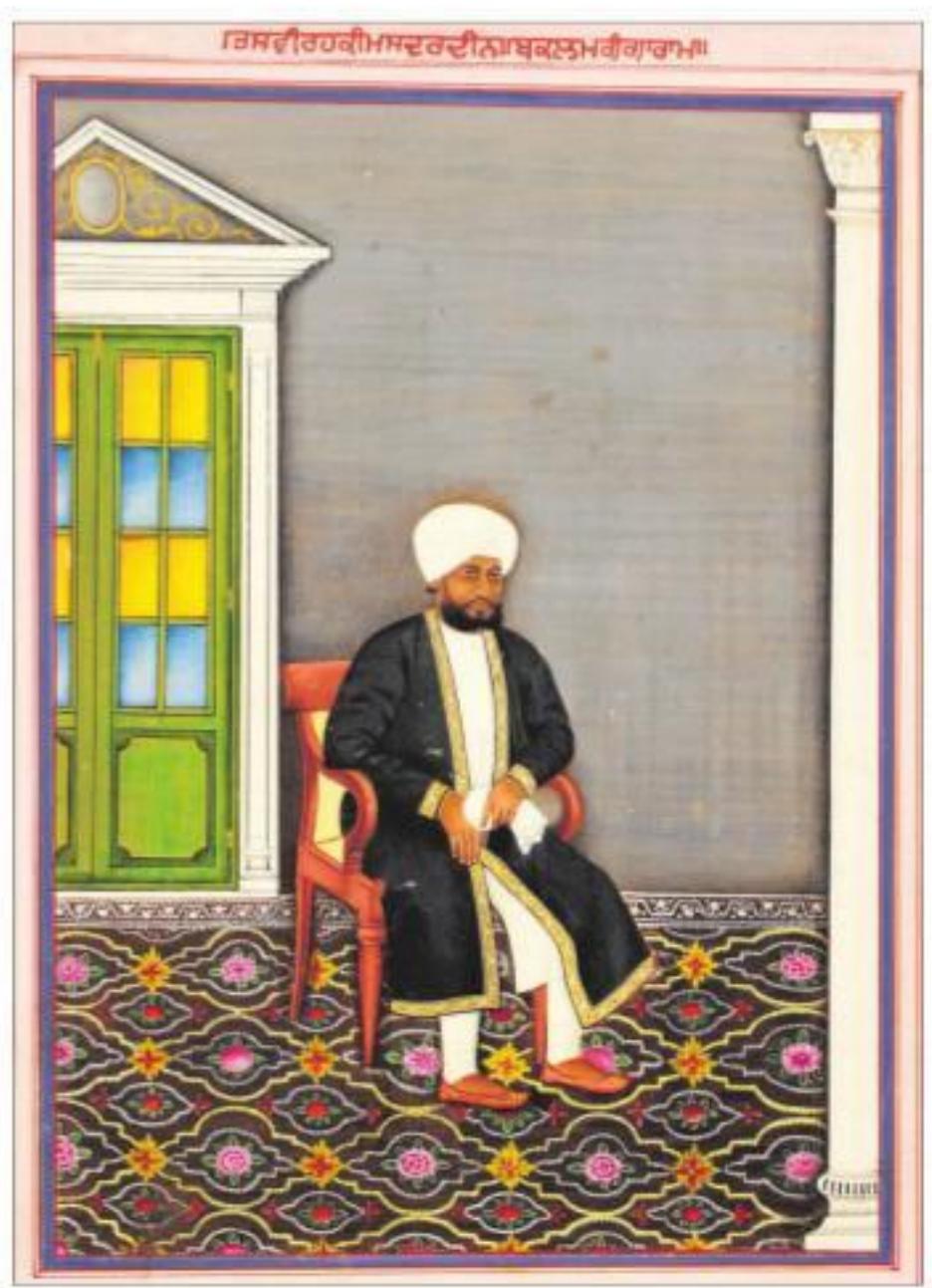
front of a half-open door. There is a gravity of air about the figure, reflectiveness written all over it, and the colouring — shades of brown — deftly handled. On verso is a pencilled note in English, identifying the person as "Chaudri Sadhu Singh, Member MC (?) Jhang" — Jhang being the name of a town and district now in Pakistan, and associated in the Punjabi mind with the immortal love story of 'Heer' — and stating that is is "by Pir Bakhsheesh of Jhang". Interestingly, there is another portrait by Pir Bakhsheesh also in the collection: a fierce looking person identified by the pencilled inscription at the back as 'Nawab Mohammed Ismael Khan Tial'. Not having ever heard of Pir Bakhsheesh, I searched for him only to discover that he was also a painter of monuments, and in the collection of the V&A Museum in London, there is an attractive study of the Mausoleum of Hazrat Burhan Shah at Chiniot, that town having been once a tehsil headquarters of the district of Jhang. More than this we do not know anything, at least at the moment, about Pir Bakhsheesh.

Nor do we seem to know much about the painter 'Ganga Ram' who seems to have been active at Patiala or some Phulkian state in the 19th century. There is a portrait by him of 'Hakim Sadr Din' — Sadruddin surely — a noble-looking figure seated in a chair who, judging from the finely designed *chogha* he

wears and the expensive looking carpet on which the chair is placed, might well have been a royal physician, and thus part of high nobility attached to a court, Patiala perhaps? The figure is clearly identified by an inscription in Gurmukhi on the top margin which says it is a 'tasveer' *bagalam* — that is in the hand of — *Ganga Ram*. More about the painter we do not seem to know.

Finally, it is time to turn attention — in this very collection — to the engaging work of Sardul Singh whom one knows a bit about, as being the son of Kapur Singh, well-known painter, and thus grandson of the celebrated Kishan Singh. Active around 1900, Sardul Singh — based as a painter and photographer in Amritsar — turned out series on the lives and deeds of the great Sikh gurus. Of uncommon interest is a folio in the collection — painted in the style that we easily associate with 19th century Punjab — showing how the *Janamsakhi* of Bhai Bala came to be written. Bhai Bala is seen narrating the events of Guru Nanak Dev's life to Guru Angad, while, seated in a corner, Baba Buddha Ji, is reducing everything to writing. Boldly lettered inscriptions in Gurmukhi describe everything, including the painter's name who speaks of himself as the 'das' — humble servant — of the great Gurus.

As for my endeavours, not too bad for a beginning?



Portrait of Hakim Sadruddin by Ganga Ram, mid-19th century. Chandigarh Museum; (extreme left) A Railway Train, lithographed sketch by Hurnam Singh. Mid 19th-century. Private collection.

Theatre of protest plays out

Drama groups across Punjab are out at railway stations, toll plazas and village nukkads — with the farmers in their fight



SARIKA SHARMA

IN the last three weeks, Ludhiana-based Harkesh Chaudhary has taken his play to 25 locations across Punjab. From Jagraon railway station to Sudhar toll plaza, from Romana Albel Singh near Jaito to Mehal Kalan in Barnala, Rambur Phul and Lehra Bega in Bathinda, Barea in Mansa, Ferozepur Cantt, among others. His hour-long play *Uththan da Vela*, which translates as 'Time to Rise', is his way of showing solidarity with Punjab farmers, protesting against Centre's farm laws. And not just him, there are several theatre groups, big and small, which have come up with productions on farmers' issues.

The venues are the least ideal — railway stations, petrol pumps and toll plazas. The stage is as basic as it could get. But that doesn't deter these theatre actors and directors who know their art is not, and cannot be, for art's sake alone today. The idea is to entertain the protesters, often running into several thousands, but never entertainment alone. They identify with the cause of their audience — colourful and spirited.

Amritsar-based Kewal Dhaliwal's Manch Rangmarch has revived Joginder Baharla's Punjabi opera *Harian Saunian* and has been performing it at toll plazas and petrol

PLAY LIST	
Rangkarmi ka Bachcha Sahib Singh's Adakar Manch, Mohali	
Madaari Natyam Abhineta Da Rangmarch, Bathinda	
Eh Lahu Kisda Hai PULS Manch	
Assi Arndda Hunde Haan & Tain Ki Dard Na Aaya Aawaam Rang Manch, Seora, Khanna	
Lockdown Azad Rangmarch, Barnala	
Mitti De Jaaye Adakar Manch Sirjana, Raikot	
Laare, Muaavza, Khu De Daddu Amritsar Natak Kala Kendra, Chandigarh	

pumps across Bathinda, Barnala, Sangrur and Mansa districts. A member of Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA), Bahrala had written the play in 1950. Seventy years later, it is as relevant. Based on a conversation between the crops and the farmers, where the crops wonder why does the farmer, who works so hard to make them grow and fruit, remain poor. The message of the half-an-hour show is simple: "Our fields. Our crop. Our soil. We sow. Our right." An opera, the production has been appreciated by the audience, says Dhaliwal. "It is a colourful play, full of dance and song. It makes an immediate connect with

people who feel so happy their lives are being understood that they shower ₹10 notes on us."

The energy at the protest sites is the greatest reward, says Satpal Banga from Patiala-based People's Art. "People cry, raise slogans, applaud," he says. Banga has revived Gursharan Singh's 1980 play *Eh Zameen Saadi Hai*. Originally written against the Punjab government's decision to take away the barren land small farmers had been cultivating for years, it has now been tweaked as per the present times. However, a play isn't where their activism ends. Banga's team has been going to villages, speaking to people and telling them why the farmers and farm organisations are opposing the laws.

Activism in theatre is what the late thespian Gursharan Singh, the man who inspires various thespers spread across Punjab today, practised. This is why it isn't surprising that he is often evoked at the protest sites.

Amolak Singh, president of Punjab Lok Sabhyacharak (PULS) Manch, says this is the ideal coming together of theatre, people and farming community. "Artists are performing at around 120 protest sites and each is alive with art and activism. This is something that has happened after a long time," he says.

Taking tabla to the world online, in beats and pieces

KRISHNARAJ IYENGAR

SON of tabla luminary Pt Anindo Chatterjee, Anubrata is one of India's finest young tabla players. Having inherited the traditional repertoire of various *gharanas* from his father and his grand guru, the legendary Pandit Gyan Prakash Ghosh, he is upbeat about future projects.

With a solid classical grounding and a refreshing contemporary outlook, Anubrata, 36, has successfully touched diverse global audiences.

Changing tides

Anubrata feels the audience has significantly changed since Anindoji's era. "I believe music is just a reflection of society that we live in and is thus ever changing," he opines.

Bridging the gap between connoisseurs and lay people has been his endeavour even as he presents purely traditional repertoire with immaculate *tayari* (technical proves), *nikaas* (delivery) and *laykaari* (mathematics) which sweeps the uninitiated off their seats.

Anubrata believes a lay person can be transformed into a connoisseur if he is drawn to the details of Indian music through an appealing performance. He feels too much emphasis is laid on fully understanding classical music to enjoy it. "It is absolutely alright not to understand the details of our art and yet enjoy it. Just like when you visit a movie theatre, you do not have the knowledge of cinematography



Anubrata Chatterjee believes music must be taken to the layman

or filmmaking but have an enriching experience," he adds.

As the West understands us

Anubrata feels western audiences research any music that appeals to them. "They try to connect to Indian music's soul and have evolved over the years," he says.

Recalling a funny anecdote, he says, "In 1975, my father was accompanying legendary sitarist Pandit Nikhil Banerjee at London's Wigmore Hall. The audience misunderstood his appreciating nods to Nikhilji's *aalaap* and asked the organisers for a ticket refund. They thought the latter was erring, which my father disapproved of! The audiences have evolved much since then."

Anubrata's organisation, Matra, organises regular workshops and shows in India and abroad to spread awareness. Its short-duration concerts, called 'Beats And Pieces', present

pure classical music to lay people. "Every 15 minutes, there is a new *raag*, *taal*, artiste and energy. I have only compromised on the duration and not the musical content," he insists. Most audiences, he feels, have avoided classical concerts finding them too long and boring.

While he wants 'Beats and Pieces' to be a TV show, for now he plans to take it online in the wake of the pandemic which has also put several of his plans on hold. These include The Koto Tabla Project with Japanese Koto maestro Yumi Kurosawa. The two artistes have done over 15 shows in the US and got featured at the National Gallery in Washington DC. They were scheduled to perform 15 more shows this year.

Unlocking creativity

During the lockdown, the artistes suffered immensely, with social distancing hitting the concert scene hard. But Anubrata is neck-deep in online video gigs, classes through Matra, which also offers stage performance tips and traditional repertoire training to young and established tabla players.

Talking about the future, he says he plans to do a biographical documentary on his father, "a living legend".

His musical mantra is individuality. "Justice would be done to the great *ustads* only when you infuse your individuality into their repertoire," citing his father's example and that of several other masters who have shaped tabla's traditions.

Reflection of Mira Nair's Punjabiyat

After distilling Vikram Seth's 1,500-page novel *A Suitable Boy*, the filmmaker who has given internationally acclaimed films like *Salaam Bombay* and *Monsoon Wedding* turns her cinematic gaze towards 20th century's iconoclast Amrita Sher-Gil and her extraordinary art

NONIKA SINGH

INTERNATIONALLY feted, New York-based filmmaker Mira Nair, right now riding on the buzz generated by her BBC series *A Suitable Boy*, is a true blue Punjabi, born into a Punjabi Nair (only spelt differently) family. Her father, an IAS officer posted in Orissa, was educated at Government College, Lahore. She was born in Rourkela. Her mother is from Amritsar.

She laughs easily, doesn't take herself too seriously or her work pompously, loves Urdu *ghazals* and Punjabi folk music and is an eternal optimist. Even in the face of adversity, she looks at the upside rather than the downside. Currently busy creating a biopic on renowned artist Amrita Sher-Gil, in a freewheeling interaction, the filmmaker, who has given us some timeless cinema from *Salaam Bombay* to *The Namesake* to *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, talks about how beyond aesthetics, beauty and emotions, her cinema is about life.

If you think she deliberately sets out to adapt literary works, she says, "I don't have a checklist of books which I hope to or intend to adapt. Even though right now I am sitting in my library, it isn't as if I am going to make a movie out of each one. *The Namesake* was like a solace to me after I laid my mother-in-law to rest in New York and could instantly relate to Jhumpa Lahiri's tale of longing and yearning of immigrants." Similarly, Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* spoke to her since married into a Muslim family, she could instantly empathise with the outsider tag and being marked for who you are. As for Vikram Seth's *A Suitable Boy*, it was the book's relevance, the contemporariness of the novel written way back in 1993 and the nostalgia for the period (1950s) it details that did the trick for her.

Can her series that bats for syncretism and harmony, change perceptions in the polarised times we live in? "Well, I don't think of my work that grandly. But yes, I do hope it can initiate a dialogue." As her cinema talks about serious issues, yet is bereft of melancholy, we wonder if that is by conscious design. "I don't want my cinema to be like boring homework; come and take this message. Somewhere deep down, the celebratory aspect of it is also a reflection of my Punjabiyat."

Often the stories she tells, especially like the classic *Monsoon Wedding*, are also a means to touch base with the Punjabi in her. Indeed, characters inhabiting two worlds too fascinate her. That could be one of the reasons why she has chosen the 20th century artist Amrita Sher-Gil as a subject for her next film. She says, "Yes she came from the West to the East and settled here in Punjab, while my journey has been in the reverse direction." Interestingly, Amrita has always captured her imagination. The fact that here was an extraordinary artist who died so young before she could be truly recognised pains her no end. Can we hope to love Nair's Amrita? "I don't create work to earn your love. But yes, I am sure it can inspire others, especially the



“I would hate to generalise. Men can be as sensitive. But having said that, I must say I will never portray a woman as whimpering or not standing up for herself. In my films, she will always be a beating heart.

young, for here was a flame.”

Research for the biopic has taken her to Amrita's letters, her photographs, paintings and, of course, the two books by Amrita's nephew Vivian Sundaram. While she already has two screenplay writers on board, the hunt for the reel Amrita is on.

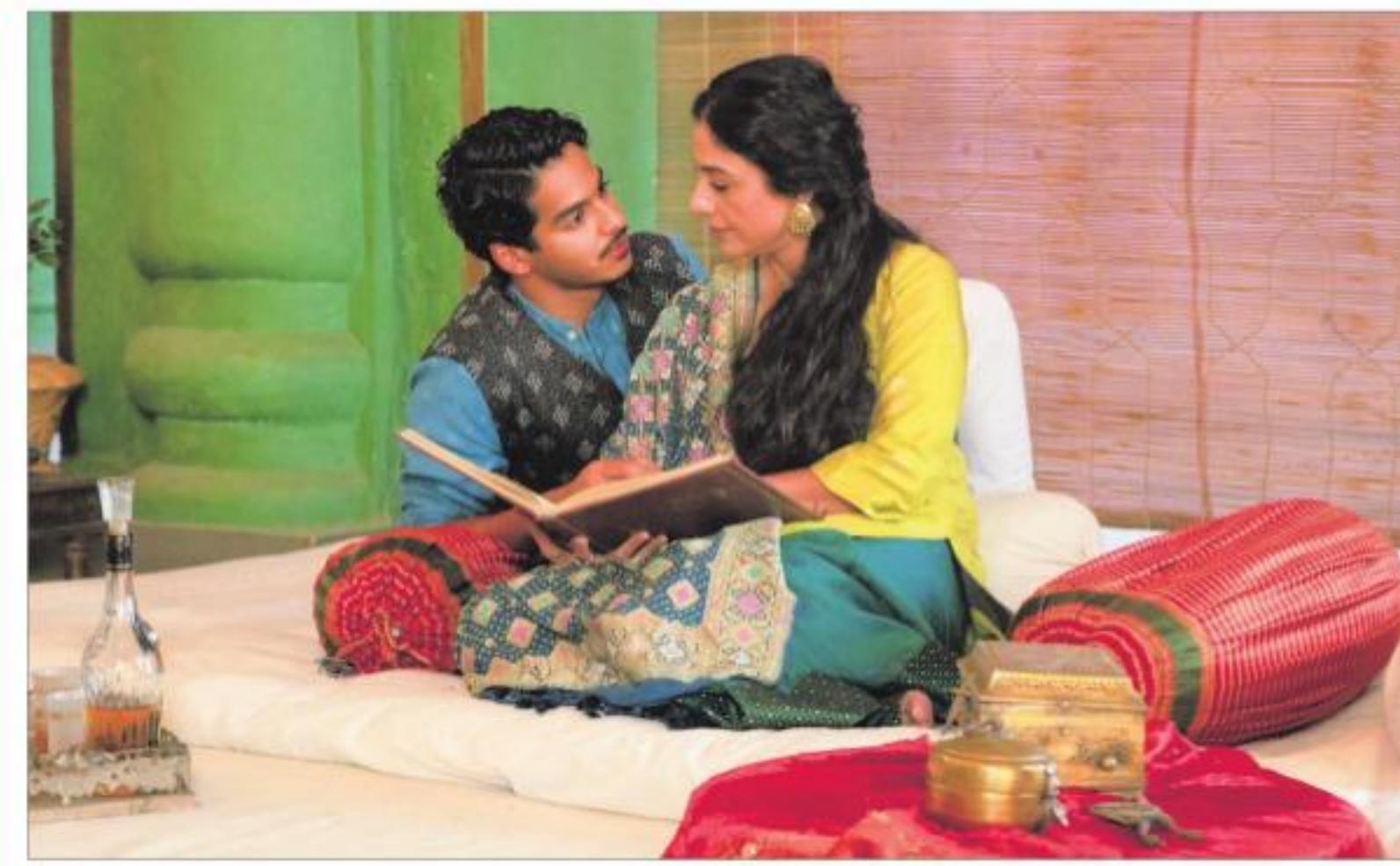
Casting may not be half the work done, but she agrees it is important as miscasting can mess things up. Her latest, *A Suitable Boy*, currently streaming on Netflix, appears to be a showcase of the very best (name any actor worth his/her salt and he/she is there), that the Indian film industry has to offer. In hindsight, could she have taken more fresh faces? She takes a slight affront, "But every actor fit the part." Besides, hasn't she been always unafraid to try people who have had no intention of ever becoming an actor. If you remember *Salaam Bombay* and the bunch of child actors who came through workshops, she reminds us of Kamini Khanna (*Monsoon Wedding*) whom

she discovered in a park in New Delhi. She is mighty proud of her two latest discoveries, the female lead Lata played by Tanya Maniktala, whom she describes as "dewdrop in motion", and Joyeeta Dutta (Tasneem), who she is positive is going to be a star.

Blending stars with new talent is a process she truly enjoys, even as one star seems to be a clear favourite. She shares, "No doubt Tabu is a dear friend. But I cast her for only she could distil Saeeda Bai with just one *ada*." And Nair can suffice her work with such riches.

Much of what we see in *A Suitable Boy* is poetic, so visually sumptuous and aesthetic. Do women directors have a distinct signature? "I would hate to generalise. Men can be as sensitive. But having said that, I must say I will never portray a woman as whimpering or not standing up for herself. In my films, she will always be a beating heart."

So those of you who are marvelling at



A MUSICAL JOURNEY



If *Monsoon Wedding* figures as one of your favourite films, here is good news for you. Its musical stage adaptation with fresh songs composed by none other than Vishal Bhardwaj is all set to premiere in India. Guess what, Nair is not only keen to bring the musical to City Beautiful, she even has a story around Chandigarh in her mind. But for now, it's Amrita that her creative energies are channelled towards. On whether Amrita's art or the colourful persona take precedence, she says, "Artist makes the art."



Lata's choice of the suitable boy and reading it as an endorsement of arranged marriage, she begs to differ rather vociferously, "Without naming him, I would say he represents the real spirit of modern India." Dare we say Nair herself represents cross-cultural cinema. Rather, she is often hailed as the diva of the same? She smiles, "Well, titles are for you to give..."

All she knows is she has the rhythm of amalgamation and her works are a counter to the western eye. Also when she gets into the specifics of culture, "local becomes universal." As it did with *Salaam Bombay*, from which she draws till date and, of course, the quintessential *Monsoon Wedding* whose musical adaptation for stage will soon premiere in India. Perhaps, it will come to City Beautiful too. Till then, she tells her Punjabi admirers, "Keep the spirit of largesse, the world so needs today, alive."



Nothing remains private

MANISHA GANGAHAR

"It's my life... Mind your business and leave my business..."

But not anymore! The 1992 song has been inundated by the world of *Black Mirror* and the "my", the "private" and the "personal" come crumbling down, gradually but surely. Disturbing yet intriguing, the science fiction series being aired on Netflix pans out the worst tendencies of our society and where we might be heading, courtesy the technology.

Black Mirror, created by Charlie Brooker, while exploring our warped future, suggests that our virtual selves have lives of their own, existences that are recognised through surveillance and identities "housed" within the formulations that eerily displace the established perceptions of self, place and home. The means to power is now the "personal data" which when wrought in the hands of the Other or the State leaves human existence in a bleak state of affairs, as the dystopian television series envisages.

While almost every State upholds the Right to Privacy and even has laws to protect its violation, privacy remains a "concept in disarray", difficult to comprehend and articulate. In the new order of the day — surveillance capitalism — the private is always under the gaze, most of the times with the 'consent' of the subject without he or she actually being aware of how much intrusion is being allowed.

Several episodes of *Black Mirror*, with each being an independent story, focus on how the cutting-edge technology not merely facilitates modern conveniences but traps people in virtu-



Fascinating & disturbing, *Black Mirror* focuses on how technology traps a person in virtual captivity

al captivity. In the episode "Arkangel", a chip technology called 'Arkangel' allows the mother in the episode, Marie, to keep a check on her daughter, Sara, and censor certain images and track her acts. While the system is initially successful, some flaws lead to serious problems. As Sara becomes a teenager, parental surveillance, at its extreme, begins to choke her. In "The Entire History of You," people have devices implanted in them that monitor and record everything they experience. The episode ends up revealing some ugly truths about people and their behaviour. It reveals the possible out-

comes of constant surveillance and consequences of losing control of private information gathered by these surveillance systems. In "Shut Up and Dance", a hacker captures people's secrets and blackmails them by making them perform a series of tasks, each growing more disturbing and extreme. How far will people go to keep their technology usage private? There would be no filters to a hacker's access to sensitive and personal information.

With technology being the protagonist in all seasons, *Black Mirror* is fascinating and disturbing. What remains interesting is that the situations and the settings of the episodes are quite familiar but are pushed to the farthest limit in the dystopian future. In the episode "Fifteen Million Merits", Bing Madsen exists in a constant state of surveillance, with an unseen authority monitoring his every action, including trivial routines like brushing his teeth or urinating. Each activity he undertakes — feeding himself, performing the rituals of personal hygiene, even skipping an advertisement — costs him a currency called 'merits', which he earns by pedalling a stationary bicycle in front of a screen. There is no privacy left. The man on the street would rationalise the encroachment upon one's privacy saying that his needs are better understood and facilitated for; but it could also be interpreted as using or rather appropriating somebody's personal information for another's benefit. Is the cost limited to needs being met? Perhaps not! One is bound to feel violated and exposed, lose peace of mind and be agitated and freak out knowing that nothing remains private.

CAPTION CONTEST 1278



Entries are invited to suggest a caption for the above photograph. The caption should only be in English, witty and not exceeding 10 words, and reach Spectrum, The Tribune, Chandigarh, 160030, by Thursday. The best five captions will be published and awarded ₹300, ₹250, ₹200, ₹150 and ₹100, respectively. Each caption must be accompanied by a clipping of the caption contest and its number. Photocopies of the caption photo will not be accepted. Please mention the pin code in your address.

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

Selected entries for Caption Contest 1277

October 18 issue (see photo)

- Multitasking— Ishan Jain, Shimla
- Body sunliser— Ashwini K Gupta, Chhota Shimla
- Aroga with yoga — Ashok Kumar, SAS Nagar
- Arms and the men — Davinder Kumar, Jalandhar
- Ode to Sun God — Promil Chona, Chandigarh



Because everyone deserves a home

MEETA RAJIVLOCHAN

HERE is a wonderful book that reiterates a very commonsensical point that most Indians, especially policymakers, have forgotten: that a home of your own is perhaps the most important asset for any family and especially for women.

We know that the Aadhaar ID revolutionised the lives of millions of citizens by providing them an identity; Jhabvala and Brahmbhatt say that owning a home too has the potential to revolutionise lives. The book shares with us a series of vignettes of life in urban and peri-urban slums.



Providing a future for the millions of slum-dwellers should be an important goal for any government.

The authors point out that a home is far more than a roof over your head. A house provides the women in the family with a place from where they can run their business; it provides access to a private toilet and freedom from trudging in the dark to unsafe open toilets; it provides access to secure drinking water. Thereby, it saves both time and cost for the inmates. Most importantly, the authors say, a house means a future for the children — it means that they can study and go to school in all-weather conditions.

Providing a future for the millions of people who live in India's slums today should be an important goal for any government. By underlining the benefits of such an effort, the authors provide a strong material incentive for the government to move forward to help the poor. Till recently, low-income housing had not been a priority for any government. Since Independence, governments mostly shed tears for the poor but did little to help them except allow illegal squatters to occupy huge swathes of private and public land. Being illegal

had its own downside, which no one seemed to notice. The reality is that it is only the Modi government that has made any concrete efforts to provide ownership of a house to the poor.

The authors pick up stories from Ahmedabad, Jodhpur, Ranchi and Delhi to help us understand the complexities involved in housing the poor. They explain that the city of Ahmedabad provides some pointers for how city governments can provide basic services to the urban poor.

The main issue here, the authors say, is about winning the trust of poor communities that have faced neglect for decades. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation realised that serious outreach efforts were needed to win that trust. They tried to build partnerships with community-based organisations like the Mahila Housing SEWA Trust (MHT) as part of that outreach effort. The authors point out that one of the great successes of the Swachh Bharat Mission has been to focus the attention of city governments through the country on the importance of providing services to slum communities if cities are to be made and kept clean.

Renana Jhabvala, chairperson of SEWA Bharat, a federation of women-led institutions providing economic and social support to women in the informal sector, and Bijal Brahmbhatt, director of the Mahila Housing SEWA Trust, have both had a ringside view of the daily struggle in women's lives in urban slums. The Trust has played a seminal role in transforming lives and offering hope to women for a better future in the city of Ahmedabad. The stories narrated in this slim volume show the huge difference that ownership of an independent house, supply of reliable drinking water and gutters that function, can make to the lives of ordinary people. A recent independent research about the Swachh Bharat Mission further supports the insights that Jhabvala and Brahmbhatt provide. It says that having access to a *swachh* life has meant a saving of as much as Rs. 47,000 per year per family in terms of medical costs on illnesses caused by poor quality drinking water and insanitary conditions of living.

An important assertion the authors make is about the importance of a community-based process of data collection. This data, they say, can be both robust and granular. It can provide a voice to the urban poor in the planning process that plays such a critical role in their lives. This is something that is often neglected by city governments. Lack of good data can render any planning process ineffective.

Forgotten data firm that invented future

SANJAY KHURANA

IMAGINE a computer programme predicting and manipulating all sorts of human behaviour — from buying a dishwasher to countering an insurgency to casting votes.

The author, a Professor of American History at Harvard, writes about an American company, Simulmatics

Corporation, which was founded by Edward L Greenfield in 1959. It mined data, targeted voters, accelerated news, manipulated consumers, destabilised politics, and disordered knowledge — decades before Facebook, Google, Amazon and Cambridge Analytica were born.

Borrowing methods of psychological warfare from New York, Massachusetts and the hamlets of Vietnam, Simulmatics deployed their 'People Machine' to predict and influence human behaviour for the presidential campaign of Eisenhower and Kennedy, the *New York Times*, Mad Men advertising agency, and most shockingly, the strategy of the Vietnam war.

Simulmatics scientists were known as the What-If Men. They believed that by simulating human behaviour, their 'People Machine' would help the human race avert each and every disaster. It could defeat Communism. It could counter insurgencies and it could win elections.

Simulmatics pioneered the use of computer simulation 60 years ago. It helped in pattern detection and prediction in American political campaigning, segmenting the electorate into voter types and issues into clus-

ters in order to advise candidates about strategies for voter-targeted issues.

In the 1950s and 1960s, these lost pioneers invented the future by building the machine in which the world now finds itself trapped and tormented.

Hardly anyone remembers Simulmatics Corporation anymore. But the scientists of this long-vanished company helped build the machine through which humanity would, by the 21st century, find itself exploited, connected and even governed.

In 1961, the company introduced what-if simulation to the advertising industry, targeting segmented consumers with custom-fit messages. In 1962, it became the first data firm to provide real-time computing to an American newspaper for analysing election results.

Beginning in 1965, it conducted psychological research in Vietnam as part of a larger project of waging a war by way of computer-run data analysis and modelling. In 1967 and 1968, on the streets of American cities, Simulmatics attempted to build a race riot prediction machine. In 1969, after the murder of Martin Luther King Jr and Robert F Kennedy, the 'People Machine' crashed, and Simulmatics filed for bankruptcy in 1970. The company died but the fantasy of predicting human behaviour by way of machines did not.

By the early 21st century, the mission of Simulmatics Corporation had become the mission of companies in practically every sector.

The book, divided into three parts, is an engrossing read about a group of young scientists who came together 60 years ago to work for a data company that invented the future.

Hindi masters & masterpieces

RENU SUD SINHA

HOW is a literary translator born? If you are a linguist, it can be a profession. However, if you are proficient in a couple of languages and a voracious reader, it can just be a labour of love. Poonam Saxena falls into the second category. A self-confessed lover of Hindi fiction, she has earlier translated works of doyens like Dr Rahi Masoom Raza and Dr Dharamvir Bharati. "The Greatest Hindi Stories Ever Told" is her maiden endeavour at translating short stories.

A collection of 25 stories, the writers included are all well-known names from the world of Hindi literature. Old literary masters such as Premchand, Manu Bhandari, Bhagwati Charan Verma, Phanishwar Nath Renu, Krishna Sobti,

Shivani share space with contemporary names such as Asghar Wajahat, Uday Prakash and Sara Rai.

Stories from the Nayi Kahani movement form a major chunk of this selection. This movement that originated post-Independence, and flourished between 1954 and 1963, aptly reflects the turmoil and the churning that a new nation goes through.

Mohan Rakesh, Bhisham Sahni, Rajendra Yadav, Kamleshwar and Amarkant, who laid the foundation of this new literary trend, also form a rightful part of this anthology.

Migration to cities as a new social construct brought forth its own ills. Loneliness, cracks in the family system, oppression of women and the marginalised, eroding of traditional values and a new emerging, unfamiliar and uncomfortable ethos, these writers cap-

tured the stark reality brilliantly.

Saxena has tried to accommodate a vast range of stories — there is Chandradhar Sharma Guleri's "She Had Said So", regarded as first modern short story (1915), as also tales by contemporary writers. The themes are varying as well. Sobti's "The Times Have Changed" and Mohan Rakesh's "Lord of the Rubble" underline the fragility of the seemingly strong Hindu-Muslim ties that Partition unravelled quickly.

While some like Phanishwar Nath Renu's "Third Vow" seem dated, Mannu Bhandari's "Trishanku" and Kamleshwar's "A Death in Delhi" are a telling comment on our society's facade of modernism and hypocrisy. Premchand's "Thakur's Well", Krishna Baldev Vaid's "Escape", Agyea's "Gangrene" and Rajendra Yadav's "Where Lakshmi is Held" portray women's exploitation and their yearning for freedom, irrespective of the strata they belong to.

For those unfamiliar with the magic of Hindi short stories, this book is a worthy beginning.

Slice of life from olive green

VIKRAM PARMAR

WHEN a book has the word Army in its title, one spontaneously imagines tales of valour. With Rachna Bisht Rawat's collection, titled 'Insomnia: Army Stories', a pleasant surprise awaits. More than heroic deeds, her collection captures emotions of men who guard the nation.

An Army officer's wife and sister, the author has seen the men in olive green from close quarters, so tales were always floating around her; but compiling those takes acumen and she has used it to the hilt.

A daredevil officer survives grievous injuries in battle and then gets killed in a freak accident, as a stray

bullet pierces his head during a practice camp. The bloody bullet had his name written on it is how his Brigadier father accepts the tragedy.

A retired General is haunted by his past. 'The Kashmir posting was a bloody curse,' he says. Two soldiers, 'nameless, faceless', develop a unique bond from across the border at the world's highest battlefield, Siachen glacier; another one set in the same clime, where a dangerous rescue of a dog takes place and then a claim, 'Ham fauji hain. Apne saathiyon ko kabhi marne ke liye nahi chhortey', generates goosebumps.

A character nicknamed Krur Singh, standing for the quintessential Commanding Officer, floats through a few stories.

Pranked and loved by his juniors in equal measure, he is an epitome of a tough boss, yet with a heart that beats with silent pride for his troops. 'We are fighting men. Forgiven and forgotten,' he beams. Another impressive tale, Déjà vu, narrates the dilemma of a lady duty officer at Lansdowne Military Hospital, who treats the apparition of a Sikh soldier; Rawat's tryst with the supernatural is indeed impressive.

A generous sprinkling of Hindi phrases, with expletives in place, makes the stories real; as they happen and as they should have been captured.

From Kashmir to Garhwal to Arunachal, the author has traversed the land and culled out tales from the lives of men who take pride in duty. Rawat's characters are from real life, moulded with creative licence, yet they speak more than is said. Her language is simple, that's why the stories stand out.

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Demystifying the Upanishads

GITANJALI SHARMA

THE essence of Vedas, Upanishads are not separate texts, making it difficult to comprehend and absorb these philosophical teachings and ideas. Dating back to 500 BCE and beyond, these ancient instructions are scattered primarily in the last section of the Vedas. Also known as Vedanta, they can possibly be best unravelled by accepting and understanding their umbilical connect to the Vedas.

As Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr sets out to decode these "problematic" and "intractable" texts, he finds a large portion packed with references to other worlds and rituals. Attempting to throw light on the baffling texts (count varying from 108 to 235), he justly clarifies that the challenge lies in reading and understanding them in the context of the time and place they were written.

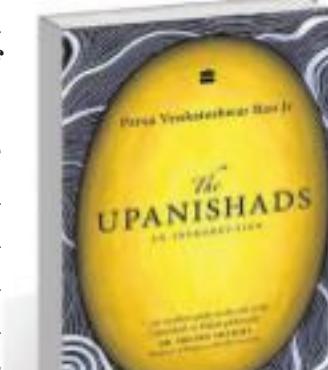
Spread over the later portions of the four Vedas — Rig, Yajur, Sama and Atharva — there's little clarity on which Upanishad came first and which later. All that can be attempted apparently is to make sense of the different views expressed in them.

As the title promises, an introduction is what the author strives to provide of the esoteric spread comprising snatches of meditative conversations. Along the course comes a glimpse and, on occasion, an insight into the map laid out by these early texts to understand the self and fathom the universe for what it is.

With a subject so vast and intricate, it takes much attentiveness to keep up with, let alone penetrate, the philosophical exchanges underlining the connection between the "atman" (self) and the "Brahman" (source of all things), and other central themes like liberation from re-death. Dipping into each Veda, the author picks out the key Upanishad ideas it embodies. For instance, the Aitareya Upanishad (which belongs to Rig Veda) highlights "prana" or breath as the animated force that makes the human being the living person he or she is. Building on the theme, the Taittiriya Upanishad (in Yajur Veda) dwells on the five elements of the universe, and their corresponding connection with the five senses of the human body.

Even as large portions of the Upanishads have been devoted to understanding the Brahman or the Absolute, some of its most beautiful and poetic passages, the book reveals, are those that declare the inability of the mind to comprehend It.

Arguing that Indian philosophy is a footnote to the Upanishads, Parsa has managed to piece together a broad framework of the fragmented texts. Questions remain undoubtedly, so do many unknowns, only whetting the appetite to delve deeper and unravel the mystique around the Brahman.



THE UPANISHADS: AN INTRODUCTION
by Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr.
HarperCollins.
Pages 176.
₹399

BACKFLAP

THE recent times have seen several feminist retellings of Sita's story. Kannada writer SL Bhyrappa makes a similar attempt. So, what sets his book apart? 'Uttara Kaanda', the epilogue to what we know as 'Valmiki Ramayana', is essentially Sita's story. Translated into English by Rashmi Terdal, 'Uttara Kaanda' is Sita's soliloquy as she looks back at her life — abandoned at birth and abandoned again by her husband. Following Ravana's death and the end of exile, Rama is anointed king of Ayodhya, but Sita's exile doesn't end. Pregnant, she is sent to live in the forest. Written in Kannada in 2017, Bhyrappa's 24th novel is a moving retelling.

UTTARA KAANDA
by SL Bhyrappa.
Translated by Rashmi Terdal.
Eka by Westland.
Pages 352. ₹599

WAS RAHMAN comes armed with 30 years of experience in data, technology and artificial intelligence. His book, 'AI and Machine Learning', weaves the historical context of the subject with present-day knowledge, including legal, government, business and consumer perspectives. It also offers insights into the application of AI and ML in different sectors such as healthcare, home, transport and public services and offers a futuristic look at what may happen next.

AI AND MACHINE LEARNING
by Was Rahman.
Sage.
Pages 160. ₹395

A TAMIL MONTH
by V Sanjaya Kumar.
Bloomsbury.
Pages 332. ₹599

POLITICS becomes the stage for V Sanjay Kumar's newest novel. A thriller, it is based in Tamil Nadu, a state steeped in religion, history and casteism. The protagonist is Nanban, whose meeting with politician Veerappan Gounder seems like his chance to challenge the status quo. Together they embark on a campaign where no ideal is too high and no action too dastardly to get what Nanban wants — but at what price?

SAN entrepreneur in the clean energy sector for over a decade, Sumanth Sinha has had a ringside view of the energy scenario. A passionate advocate for climate change solutions, his book, 'Fossil Free', provides an introduction to the challenges, realities and complexities of the global and local energy industry. He also shares his vision for energy which is not only clean, but also practical and affordable.

FOSIL FREE
by Sumanth Sinha.
HarperCollins.
Pages 328. ₹699

BEEN there, done that. That's Sandeep Aggarwal, founder of two billion-dollar companies. And this is his story. He couldn't speak English for most of his life but dreamt big and dreams are what come true. The Wall Street analyst recounts the many challenges and the many failures on the way. Helping him tell his story is Sunny Sen, a former journalist who now runs a media tech company.

FALL AGAIN, RISE AGAIN
by Sandeep Aggarwal with Sunny Sen.
Rupa.
Pages 200. ₹295

THEY say no one writes drama like John Grisham. In his newest book, another legal fiction, he brings back his hero, Jake Brigance, for a third time. A small-town lawyer, Brigance is tasked to defend a 16-year-old accused of murder. In interviews, Grisham has called his character autobiographical in some ways. A lawyer by training, he practised for a few years before turning to writing.

A TIME FOR MERCY
by John Grisham.
Hachette.
Pages 468. ₹699

AN IIT graduate, Sanjiv Bhatla quit his profession early to pursue a career in writing, and his oeuvre already includes two novels, four books of poetry and one on Islam. As he pens a book on Hinduism, he says the religion is unique because it never left the land of its birth. If it ever did, it only accompanied the natives who went to alien regions in search of livelihood. The thin global reception, however, surprises him and this book is his attempt at trying to understand this phenomenon.

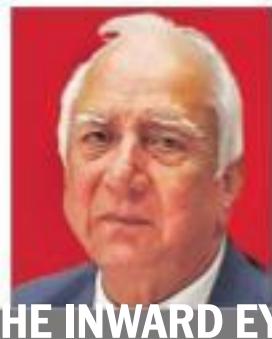
2 TYPES OF HINDUISM
by Sanjiv Bhatla.
Crabwise.
Pages 360. ₹599

WHAT does one do at 60? Sit back and ponder over what the future might hold? Or look for opportunities that life offers? Post retirement, banker Bipin Gupta found himself surrounded by a similar barrage of questions. He got in touch with several like him all over the country and sought their feedback on how to live a fulfilling retired life and re-privitise the journey of life. The result is his debut book.

GETTING IT RIGHT@60
by Bipin Gupta.
Pages 150. ₹255

GETTING IT RIGHT@60
by Bipin Gupta.
Pages 150. ₹255

The farmers enter the fray



THE INWARD EYE

GURBACHAN JAGAT

Distressed as they were, the final death blow is sought to be delivered in the agricultural reforms. Why not have MSP till a better alternative is found? Why let the oligarchs loose to prey on farmers? Was there a demand from farmers for these reforms? How has the Centre decided suo motu that this would benefit farmers?

IT was the early 1960s and I spent two years in my ancestral village in Punjab, two searing summers and two bone-chilling winters — all without electricity and its attendant conveniences. Life for the typical farming household started before daybreak around 3 am in summers. I would hear the tinkling of the bells as the farmers would start moving out with their ploughs and oxen in order to finish the day's ploughing before the sun came up. An acre was the maximum you could plough with oxen and irrigate i.e. if you were fortunate enough to own a Persian wheel. Otherwise you put in the seed and looked up to the sky for rain. It is pertinent to mention that farming was still being done in the old organic way minus the commercial fertilisers, pesticides and all the overheads that come with modern agriculture. In addition to the ploughing, fodder had to be fetched, cattle taken for grazing, water had to be brought, etc. All in all, it was a hard but simple life, with joys and sorrows which were shared by all. There was hardly any money and consumerism was unheard of, the old barter system took care of the basic needs. The village was indeed one big extended family. But time, science and greed were conspiring to change all this, to disturb this tranquil balance.

India, at the time, was deficient in foodgrains, requiring regular imports which a poor country could ill-afford. Governments both at the Centre and the state brought in a transformative change, new technologies came in — and with a vengeance in the shape of the Green Revolution in Punjab and Haryana. Modern agriculture was introduced, which brought with it new seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, tubewells were bored and canal systems improved. The innovative and hardworking farmer of this region took up this challenge and answered the then PM Lal Bahadur Shastri's call of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan'. As a result, wheat and rice yields went up.

Sir Geoffrey Boycott, the motormouth



GOOD SPORT

ROHIT MAHAJAN

As a commentator, he is either too honest or too stupid to attempt to hide ugly opinions — his is a career full of unacceptable comments and actions, followed by apologies

GEORGE BOYCOTT, the cricketer-commentator from England, is fit to be nominated as an ambassador for propagation of sexism and racism in cricket and society. Sexism and bigotry bedevil Indian sport and society too; many who practise them here soften their words, couch them under terms such as 'talent' and 'quality'. A critique of Boycott's views is important because those entrenched in positions of privilege in our own country think like him, even if they dare not publicly utter the words he does.

Boycott's career is full of unacceptable comments and actions, followed by apologies. He is 80, yet he continues to spout nonsense. His views demonstrate how the privileged few refuse to allow the 'outsiders' in by continually harping on the dilution of quality and absence of talent.

On his 80th birthday recently, Boycott criticised the BBC for "sacrificing quality for equality", following being removed as a commentator for the broadcaster after a 14-year stint. The new panel had three cricketers — two white men, Alastair Cook and James Anderson, and Isa Guha, a



Geoffrey Boycott turned 80 just days ago.

woman of colour.

Woman and colour — these are two attributes that act as a red rag for Boycott. He reacted true to type, saying: "They have sacrificed quality for equality. It is now all about political correctness, about gender and race." Clearly, by bringing up gender and race, Boycott was attacking Guha — even though he's been replaced by Cook and Anderson, not Guha!

Race to stupidity

Boycott isn't a wise old man. His sexism and racism are founded in north England's Yorkshire, where cricketers of colour complain of racism to this day.

Can a compensation of a lakh or two be enough to replace a working farmer and a family member? Who is going to run his farm if any has been left after trying to pay off his debt? Who is going to feed and educate his children, what about medical aid? Today we have trains called 'Cancer Special' and till recently ambulances carried pictures of a political chieftain (what a shame). It has been false promises all the way from governments of all hues. I heard a CM in 1979 telling the farmers that special flights would take off from Amritsar carrying vegetables to the Middle East, which would bring thousands of crores to Punjab. The flight of fantasy is yet to take off.

Industrialisation did not take place in Punjab as it was considered a border state and thereby it was not encouraged by the Centre; the result was that tertiary industry did not come into play, resulting in negligible lateral or vertical growth of the farmer. Having achieved food security, the Centre's interest reduced and the next level of growth which should have been encouraged and brought about in the shape of agro industry was largely ignored. One answer that the people found on their own was immigration to foreign lands. Lakhs of young men and women have left. Our manpower was our biggest asset and 'natural resource'; our loss has been the gain of foreign countries. Even traders in small towns are selling off and leaving as their fortunes were tied to those of the farmers. The affluent class is also insecure and as a first step has started sending children abroad; while earlier they went after graduation, they are now leaving after school.

The past few years have broken the back of the MSMEs, the 'kiryawala' and the labourer. These blows came in the form of demonetisation, faulty implementation of GST, lockdown (labourers became migrants), with its resultant unemployment and falling GDP. The economy is in freefall but we are

engaged in cultural activities and educational adventures. Now, coming to the last bastion of rural India — the farming class. Distressed as they were, the final death blow is sought to be delivered in the agricultural reforms announced lately. Leaving aside other issues, why not have the MSP till a better alternative is found? Why cannot the FCI procure grains as earlier? Why let the oligarchs loose to prey on the farmers? Was there a demand from the farmers for these reforms and did they agitate for them? Did any state government request for these reforms? How has the Centre decided suo motu that this would benefit the farmers? They now say that the MSP will stay, if so, why not put it in the Act? Your mala fides are clear because you have a history of broken promises. Why put the farmers at the mercy of the oligarch who will swallow up his land without a hiccup? How is the farmer of 2-5 acres of land going to fight these multi-billionaires? They will not be able to do so, but rest assured that they are not prepared to give up their land.

Because, that is his pride, he's not going to commit suicide on a mass scale. He will fight back — how, I do not know. The 'ann daata' of yesterday who turned this land into the granary bowl of this country and brought us out of being a food-dependent nation is not going to be reduced to carrying a begging bowl. As I reflect on the time gone by, I do hope that this will not be the farmers' swansong. I leave you with Oliver Goldsmith's words: 'Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey, where wealth accumulates and men decay: Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade; A breath can make them, as a breath has made; But a bold peasantry, their country's pride, when once destroyed can never be supplied.'

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

Secular business in our country



MUSINGS & MALEDICTIONS

KEKI DARUWALLA

'Investigative' agencies look, or those TV aficionados. You put Farooq Abdullah and his son in jail for over a year, and when he talks of the Gupkar Declaration, you call him in to answer charges regarding a scandal about cricket. Let us be fair, it was a scandal, but why raise it up now? You dispense with Article 370 and the state of Jammu and Kashmir itself. Not a whimper from Jammu, have you noticed? You get the mosque where you want, and the temple where you want. Then you tinker with citizenship. You are playing with air, water, earth and fire of the state and polity, the state as you want it, the polity as envisaged in your manifesto. The loyalty of the powers-that-be is towards the manifesto, the law book becomes irrelevant.

The executive follows the line. Akhlaque Ahmad is killed by a mob because meat (suspected beef) is found in his refrigerator. The attention of the police is to find out whether it is beef or lamb, not towards arresting the killers. Take another case. On December 3, 2018, a mob protesting cow slaughter in Bulandshahr killed Inspector Subodh Singh. Journalist Jyoti Punwani drew attention to the fact that the National Security Act was invoked against three Muslims suspected of cow slaughter during that time, 'but the arrest of Singh's killers is happening at a leisurely pace'. The Shiv Sena played a big part in the riots in Mumbai after the demolition of the Babri mosque, but no action was taken. The long arm of the law gets cramps.

Secularism, as the term has come down to us historically, has many facets to it. It faces off against what is ecclesiastical. It has nothing to do with the kingdom of God. It is the opposite of what is sectarian or communal. It has evolved out of freethinking, with no hang-ups regarding the hereafter, no ridiculous thoughts pertaining to heaven and hell or 70-odd hours lining up to welcome the latest jihadi martyr. It is neither a votary of crusades or jihad. Secularism is a freethinker's exercise of mental abilities as he or she views the world, our existence in our politics, how we govern or mis-govern ourselves. Secularism is also arraigned against any privilege, especially the assumed privileges of any community, majority or minority. We just have to dig a little into our past to find out that the Indian dharma, which is the Hindu dharma, places more weight on our duties than our rights. Finally, it is about equality, not privilege.

Let's end with a good word from the Brits. The East India Company took a dim view of the missionaries. "By the regulations of 1793, the Governor-General promised to preserve the laws of the Shastras and the Koran, and to protect Indians in the free exercise of their religion."

Between one home and another, the pandemic lays it bare



We live in a time when individuals across economic and political divides need to find the agency within ourselves to challenge the structure that subjugates us

MY tears began to flow early as we set off on our first trip together as a family since the Covid-19 pandemic was declared in 2020. A family of five, we live in a suburb of Delhi and regularly visit my father-in-law, who lives in a village in east Uttar Pradesh. Papa is in his nineties, and often stays with us in the city. This year, our children and I had not met him even once.

As we cruised on the highway towards Varanasi, our children played the soulful songs of the film, *Masaan*. The music, the long drive and recent memories of this highway being a witness to mass migration of dispossessed workers walking home despite hunger and police threats — all of it mixed up to release unexpressed grief, fears and anxieties. My eyes began to well up, and I didn't discourage myself from having a good cry.

As I type this column, I am sitting in an open area called a *hatha* in our village home. The morning light is dappled, birds are chirping, a cat and a monkey are

perched on opposite walls and there is a steady drizzle of harsingar flowers from an overgrown creeper above me. There are jamun, guava, custard apple, lemon and mango trees. Children from the extended family are using a long bamboo stick with a woven basket on its top edge to catch fruit from the upper branches of the lemon tree. Invariably, the fruit falls to the ground and the children tease each other as the stick passes from hand to hand. In this moment, this could be a slice of heaven.

Islam Bo, an elderly woman from the village, updates me on how the community has coped with lockdown and pandemic for the past seven months. "You go from home to home, Islam Bo, do you wear a mask?" I ask her. In response, she makes a gesture of brushing off my question.

"There is no corona here," she says. "I keep a *gamcha* and wrap it around my face when I see policemen. They are the only people I fear when I go out to graze my goats."

I show her a wad of surgical masks we have brought for everyone here. She takes a few for her son, who is trying to earn an income as a masseuse till his barber shop by the railway station begins to get customers again.

The private school in the village remains closed. Teachers' salaries have been stopped as parents are unable to pay fees or afford mobile phones for online classes. Some teachers in the village school come from Kerala.

We are a country of internal migrants. The husbands of most women I meet here work in Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and the Gulf countries.

"In Mumbai, I live in a small *kholi* and sell handkerchiefs on the footpath in town area. It's a decent life," shares Azeemul one afternoon when he comes to chat with my husband and me. "Sometimes, I go to the sea beach and feel free of all pain and worries. I don't know if I will go back. I fear the police and the state. The pandemic has disrupted everything."

Azeemul's young sons have just returned after a futile visit to Gujarat, where they had gone to find work. These boys have grown up in the years that I have been visiting this home as my own. They are bright and strong, they are graduates, yet they are unable to clear entrance tests for the railway or police jobs they hope to get. They are defeated by the poor quality of education and training they have access to.

My husband is routinely frustrated by the multiple social, cultural and systemic barriers that come in the way when he tries to plan solutions in the community.

"Meet people where they are," I remind him. "The onus is on us to understand the context of people before we try to influence the course of their lives. They know their possibilities better than us."

We meet Shagufta, our neighbour, in her home. Shagufta's husband, Wasim, has been an Uber driver in Delhi before he was left stranded by the lockdown. Unable to sustain his survival in the city, pay EMIs due on his car or send money home, Wasim

has lived through a nightmare that refuses to end. The finance company's representatives came to this home in the village to intimidate his wife for recovery of the loan. Shagufta has begun to spin thread for blankets to earn a basic sustenance.

As we reassure her that we will look at the loan papers and negotiate with recovery agents on her behalf, our daughters and Wasim's two children check each other out. They are growing up in the same time and same place, yet their realities are a world apart from each other. Our children's experiences are buffered by privilege, Shagufta's children are vulnerable due to the lack of it.

Oppressive systems ultimately destroy all players, regardless of their roles within them. We live in a time when individuals across economic and political divides need to find the agency within ourselves to challenge the structure that subjugates us.

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Interest on interest for loans up to ₹2 cr waived

Govt to reimburse lenders after refund to borrowers

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

The Union Finance Ministry on Saturday issued operational guidelines for implementation of the interest waiver scheme for loans up to Rs 2 crore during the Covid-hit period of March 1 to August 31.

Lending institutions will credit the difference between compound interest and simple interest to the eligible borrowers for six months, irrespective of whether the moratorium on repayment of the loan has been fully or partially availed.

The lenders will have to claim the reimbursement from the government, but only after crediting the amount to borrowers' accounts. The scheme was announced on directions of the Supreme Court, which posted the matter for hearing on November 2. A letter containing the operational guidelines was sent to all banks and NBFCs on Friday.

The government has taken the stand that this is an ex gratia gesture due to the unprecedented and extreme situation.

As per the scheme, the bor-



LOAN CATEGORIES...

MSME | EDUCATION
HOUSING

AUTO

PERSONAL LOANS

CONSUMER DURABLES

CREDIT CARD DUES



INSTITUTIONS COVERED

All public and private banks, NBFCs, housing finance companies, co-operative banks, regional rural banks, National Housing Bank and All-India Financial Institutions

rower's accounts should not be in the non-performing asset (NPA) category as on February 29. Housing, education, auto, MSME and consumer durable loans and credit card dues are covered.

For accounts that were closed between March 1 and August 31, interest would be credited from March 1, 2020, till the date of closure of the account.

The government said the

rate of interest would be as specified in the loan agreement. In case no interest was charged on EMI for a certain period on consumer durable loans, the interest would be applied at lenders' base rate.

The ministry has told the lenders that for the purpose of reimbursement, the compound interest will be reckoned on a monthly basis.

Remdesivir offers little benefit: WHO

Warns nations to consider drug's failed trial before clearing it for Covid care

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

The World Health Organisation has warned drug regulators across the world against ignoring its "robust" evidence on little or no benefit of anti-viral Remdesivir in patients hospitalised with Covid19.

The warning came from WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan after the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) this Thursday granted full approval to Gilead Sciences Inc's Remdesivir for treating hospitalised Covid patients.

The WHO-led largest Solidarity Trials that tested Remdesivir among Covid patients found that the drug neither improved survival nor reduced the duration of stay in the hospital.

"We believe our results are very robust. We hope that people who are doing treatment guidelines in other countries as well as regulators across the world will take note of our results in addition to the other evidence... because you need to look at global evidence for a drug before you make decisions," Swaminathan said.

She noted that the FDA appears to have "not considered the WHO solidarity trials on Remdesivir" before granting its full approval to the drug.



FIRST TO GET US FDA'S APPROVAL

- Veklury (Remdesivir) is the first treatment for Covid-19 that has received the US FDA's approval
- The approval followed manufacturing firm Gilead Sciences Inc's own trials on 1,062 persons
- It said Remdesivir cut recovery time by five days and reduced mortality among patients on oxygen support
- Indian Covid task force currently allows the use of this drug among investigational therapies

KEJRI FOR FREE VACCINE THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said the Covid-19 vaccine should be made available throughout the country for free, saying all people were troubled by the virus
- "The whole country should get free Covid-19 vaccine. It is the right of the entire country," he added
- He ruled out reopening of schools in the national capital for now. PTI



al results on Remdesivir" before granting its full approval to the drug.

The WHO trial, which ran through March 22 to October 4, 2020, and followed 11,266 patients in 405 hospitals across 30 countries in all six WHO regions, found that Remdesivir had "little or no effect on hospitalised Covid19 patients as indicated by overall mortality, ini-

tiation of ventilation and duration of hospital stay".

It said the study drug did not appreciably reduce initiation of ventilation in those not already ventilated.

The FDA, however, while approving anti-viral drug Veklury (Remdesivir) for use in adult and paediatric patients 12 years of age and older and weighing at least 40 kg, said, "Veklury should only be

administered in a hospital or in a healthcare setting capable of providing acute care comparable to inpatient hospital care."

Veklury is the first treatment for Covid to receive FDA approval. FDA approvals followed Gilead's own results of trials on 1062 people that said Remdesivir cut recovery time by five days and reduced risk of death in patients receiving oxygen support.

Active cases below 7 lakh for second day

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

Active Covid-19 cases in India remained below the seven lakh mark for the second straight day on Saturday even as total cases rose to 78,14,682.

Of the total disease load, active cases are 6,80,680, which make up just 8.71 per cent of all cases.

The change in the active cases across the states and UTs is varied, the government said today, indicating different stages in the fight against the global pandemic.

Haryana is among states that are controlling active case growth well on a day-to-day basis, said the Health Ministry today, others being Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mizoram, Nagaland, West Bengal and Delhi.

The declining trend of the active cases is complemented by the progressive rise in the number of recovered cases which now stands at 70,16,046.

Of the total recoveries, 61 per cent are in six states and UTs — Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, UP and Delhi. Punjab with 23 deaths over the last 24 hours today returned to the table of top 10 states with the maximum 24-hour Covid death burden. — TNS

RJD releases manifesto, promises 10 lakh jobs, farm loan waiver

BIHAR ELECTIONS

PATNA, OCTOBER 24

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), which heads the opposition Grand Alliance coalition in the Bihar elections, released poll manifesto on Saturday reiterating its promise of 10 lakh jobs and loan waiver for the farmers.

The manifesto was released by Tejashwi Yadav at a press conference in the party office here.

The cover page of the manifesto displays photographs of Mahatama Gandhi, Dalits' icon BR Ambedkar, freedom fighter Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, socialist veterans — Ram Manohar Lohia and Karpoori Thakur — Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan among others, but it does not have photo of the party's founder and its charis-



RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and party MP Manoj Jha release party's manifesto 'Prann Hamara' in Patna on Saturday. PTI

matic leader Lalu Prasad.

Tejashwi Yadav's photo finds a prominent space on the cover page.

There is a message from Prasad in the document in which he highlighted how his party government in the past fought the battle to ensure social justice for the downtrodden and brought Bihar back on the path of

development.

Prasad, who is in jail in Ranchi after his conviction in four cases of multi-crore fodder scam, also made a scathing attack on rival NDA government in the state, saying, "there is no job, atrocities against women have increased and happiness is missing from the face of farmers". — PTI

BJP politicising Hoshiarpur rape case for votes: Congress

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

After the BJP today asked why Congress' top leadership did not visit the family of Hoshiarpur rape victim like they had in the Hathras case, the opposition party said the two cases were different, so were the state responses to them.

"There is a reason why many opposition leaders felt it was their prime duty to go to Hathras. In Uttar Pradesh, the police was not even ready to file a rape case, while the Punjab Police arrested the accused within 36 hours, registered a rape case after the DGP and the Chief Minister worked tirelessly to this end. The Punjab CM has insisted on exemplary punishment. The Punjab State Women's Commission and the SC Commission have taken cognizance and asked for a report from the SSP" Mahila Congress chief Sushmita Dev today said, explaining why Rahul Gandhi and



Lok Janshakti Party chief Chirag Paswan at a rally in Rohtas district on Saturday. PTI

Ex-CECs: Compliance of norms uphill task

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission has the requisite powers to take strict measures like banning rallies and counter-marching polls for violation of Covid-19 guidelines during campaigning, but it will be an uphill task to ensure compliance.

According to former chief election commissioners (CECs). Campaigning is on for the Bihar Assembly polls as well as for by-elections in other states. PTI

Covid testing for int'l departures at Delhi

NEW DELHI: International passengers taking their flights from the Delhi airport will soon be able to get themselves tested for Covid-19 right before their departure. Genestrings Diagnostic Center which operates the testing lab at the airport said on Saturday. The Covid-19 testing facility, which started operating on September 12 at the Delhi airport, is available only for international arrivals currently. PTI

Zila Parishad poll in R'than from Nov 23

JAIPUR: Voting for the Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections will be held in 21 districts of Rajasthan in four phases from November 23 to December 5, the State Election Commission announced on Saturday. The counting of votes will be taken up on December 8, it said. State Election Commissioner PS Mehra said the first phase of voting for Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections would be held in 21 districts on November 23, second on November 27, third on December 1 and fourth on December 5. PTI

Four held for duping banks of ₹20 crore

NEW DELHI: Four members of a family have been arrested for allegedly duping several banks of over Rs 20 crore by forging documents and fraudulently availing loans by mortgaging same properties multiple times, the police said on Saturday. In one such case, the accused fraudulently availed loan on a property which was already acquired by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, they said. Ashwani Arora and Vijay Arora along with their wives, who were absconding for four years, were arrested from Ghaziabad and Delhi. PTI

Indian men, women in Asian chess finals

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

B Adhiban and R Vaishali shone bright as the top-seeded Indian men's and women's teams entered the finals of the Asian Nations Online chess championship with victories over Kazakhstan and Mongolia, respectively, today.

While the men beat Kazakhstan 2.5-1.5 and 3-1 in the two-leg semifinal, the women's side posted 3.5-0.5 and 4-0 wins over Mongolia. The women will meet Indonesia in the finals on Sunday.

The Indian team, led by Surya Sekhar Ganguly, faces Australia in Sunday's final. Ganguly didn't play any match on Saturday.

B Adhiban notched important victories over Rinat Jumabayev on the top board in both his matches. In the first match, Nihal



Murugan Ashwin of Kings XI Punjab celebrates the wicket of Jonny Bairstow of Sunrisers Hyderabad during IPL match at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Saturday. KXIP beat SRH by 12 runs. PTI

IPL: KKR crush table-toppers Delhi

ABU DHABI, OCTOBER 24

Nitish Rana smashed a whirlwind 81 while Sunil Narine struck a 32-ball 64 as Kolkata Knight Riders demolished joint leaders Delhi Capitals by 59 runs in their Indian Premier League (IPL) match today.

Promoted to open, Rana smashed 13 fours and one six in his 53-ball 81 and Narine hit four sixes and

six fours as KKR reached an imposing 194/6 in 20 overs. The left-handed duo of Rana and Narine added 115 runs off only 59 balls to seize the momentum. In the chase, Delhi lost Ajinkya Rahane (0) and Shikhar Dhawan (6) early to Pat Cummins and were reduced to 13/2. Captain Shreyas Iyer made 47 off 38 balls, but his effort was not

quick enough, especially with Rishabh Pant crawling to 27 off 33 balls. KKR leg-spinner Varun Chakravarthy ended up with 5/20 as the Delhi batsmen threw away their wickets in trying to hit big shots.

Brief scores: KKR 194/6 (Rana 81, Narine 64; Nortje 2/27; DC 135/9 (Iyer 47; Chakravarthy 5/20, Cummins 3/17) — PTI

Former BJP CM among 5 in race for U'khand RS seat

DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 24

The Uttarakhand BJP has sent a list of five names to the central leadership to finalise the party's candidate for the forthcoming election to one Rajya Sabha seat from the state.

The list includes the names of former Chief Minister Vijay Bahuguna, BJP's national office secretary Mahendra Pandey, former MP Balraj Pasi, state BJP vice-president Anil Goyal and senior party leader Naresh Bansal, sources said.

The election to the Rajya Sabha seat held by Raj Babbar is scheduled to take place on November 9. Babbar's term concludes on November 25.

The last date for filing nominations for the seat is October 27. Babbar's candida-



RAJ BABBAR'S TERM ENDS ON NOV 25

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- The last date for filing nominations for the seat is October 27

ture is a strong possibility considering his stature as a former Chief Minister.

The desertion by many leaders, including heavyweights like Bahuguna, ahead of the 2017 Assembly polls had harmed the Congress's prospects. Political observers here feel Bahuguna may be rewarded by the BJP with a nomination to the Upper House. — PTI