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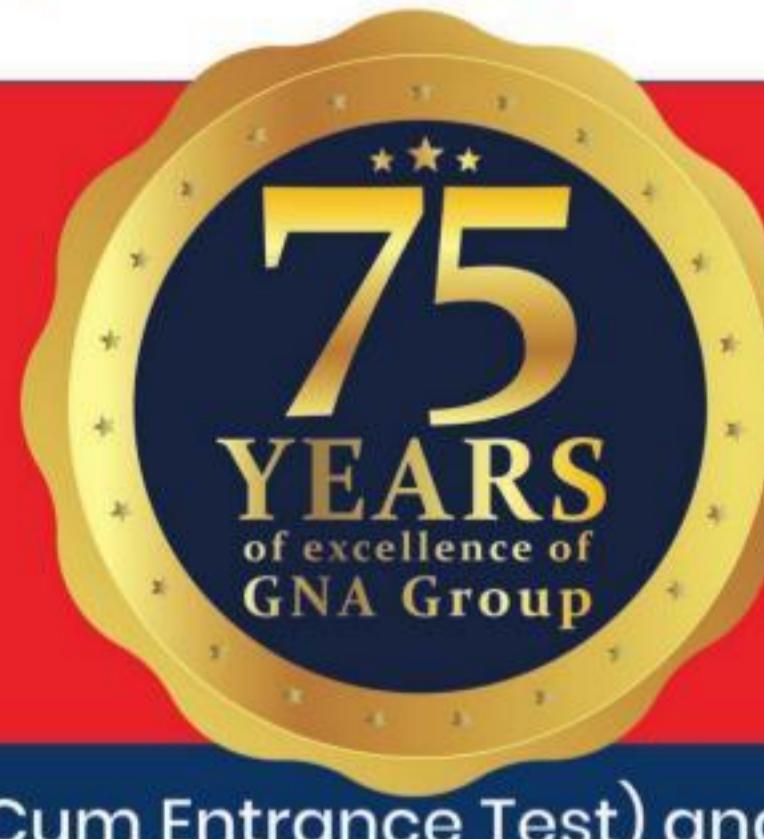
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VIOLENCE BACK PAGE

J&K polls a priority, PM Modi pitches for quick delimitation

ADITI TANDON

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

Taking the first steps for restoring the long-stalled political process in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday urged leaders of 14 political parties from the UT to join the ongoing delimitation process and said the exercise must conclude quickly to enable an early poll and an elected government in the region.

"Our priority is to strengthen grassroots democracy in J&K. Delimitation has to happen at a quick pace so that polls can happen and J&K gets an elected government that gives strength to J&K's development trajectory," the PM said after a three-and-a-half-hour-long comprehensive discussion with the leaders of mainstream J&K parties on the future of the area.

While the PM described the



Redrawing constituencies, peaceful polls milestones in restoring statehood: Shah

meeting as "an important step in the ongoing efforts towards a developed and progressive J&K," all attendees said the discussions happened in a "very cordial

atmosphere and the PM spoke of reducing "Dilli ki doori and dil ki doori."

In their first interaction with the PM since the abrogation of Article 370 and

bifurcation of the state on August 5, 2019, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration said restoration of full statehood was necessary to rebuild "the lost trust

between the Centre and the people of J&K."

National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti

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Amid rejig talks, PM calls meet on June 30

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

Amid talks of an impending Cabinet reshuffle, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called a meeting of the Council of Ministers on June 30.

Sources said the meeting was not a routine, considering the Cabinet reshuffle had long been expected. The PM has not reshuffled the Cabinet since the BJP returned to power in May 2019.

The sources said items listed on the agenda included Covid management and status update on infrastructure projects related to roads, telecom and civil aviation.

The last time the Council of Ministers met was in April at the height of the second wave of the pandemic. Over the last one month, the PM has been reviewing the performance of ministers along with their ministers of state and flagging gaps in their respective departments.

BJP president JP Nadda and national general secretary (organisation) BL Santosh were present in these

Scindia, Sushil Modi, Sonowal in the running



JD-U ALSO AMONG FRONTRUNNERS

- PM has not reshuffled the Cabinet since BJP returned to power in May 2019
- JD-U also expects a fair share in the pie, especially after the SAD left the NDA.

meetings. The expansion of Cabinet is anticipated with some ministers overburdened and many leaders, including Jyotiraditya Scindia, Sushil Modi, Sarbananda Sonowal and Jitin Prasada, waiting to be accommodated. The JD-U is also expecting a fair share in the pie after the SAD left the NDA.

NSA Doval calls for action plan against Pak-based terror groups

SANDEEP DIKSHIT

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

India has proposed an action plan against terror outfits like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) as part of the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), which also includes as its members Pakistan and China.

India's proposal was put forth by National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval at the 16th meeting of NSAs at Dushanbe in Tajikistan. India also pressed for full implementation of UN reso-

SCO MEET

TALKING TOUGH ON LASHKAR, JAISH

- Prepare action plan against Pakistan-based terror groups
- Implement UN resolutions and sanctions against terrorists
- Adopt international standards to counter terror financing
- Monitor new tech used by ultra-

lutions and sanctions against UN-designated terrorists and terror entities, sources said.

Doval also proposed adoption of international standards to counter terror financing, including an MoU between the SCO and FATF.

At the moment, Pakistan is the only SCO member that is on FATF's grey list and a decision whether it will remain on its watch list will be announced on Friday.

The NSA also suggested the need to monitor new technologies used by terrorists, including drones for smuggling of weapons and misuse of dark web, artificial intelligence, blockchain and social media.

J&K is clearly internal matter, MEA tells Pak

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

India dismissed comments by Pakistan PM Imran Khan that the nuclear deterrent would no longer be required if the Kashmir issue was resolved, stating that developments in Jammu & Kashmir were "clearly an internal matter for India".

Asked at media briefing whether back channel talks brokered by the UAE also included New Delhi making a gesture on Kashmir as well as closing down two Indian consulates in Afghanistan that were near the Pakistan

'India favours normal ties with all nations'

MINISTRY SLAMS CHINA
The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has hit back at China over the amassing of troops in eastern Ladakh even as it kept mum on the possibility of diplomatic talks this week. BACK PAGE

border, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the closure of the consulates was not a "recent development".

On bilateral ties with Pakistan, he said the Indian

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Scuffle: HP Govt takes tough stand, moves SP, ASP

SHIMLA, JUNE 24

SP Gaurav Singh and ASP (CM-Security) Brijesh Sood involved in the showdown outside the Bhuntar airport in Kullu on Wednesday have been transferred. Even though an inquiry report by DIG (Central Range) Madhusudan is yet to be submitted, the government sent out a strong signal by transferring both officers.

The SP had slapped Sood and another cop in CM's security, Balwant Singh, who retaliated. All were sent on leave. Gurdev Sharma, Commandant, Fifth IRB (Mahila), has been posted as SP, Kullu, in place of Gaurav Singh, who has been shifted to Mandi DIG's office. Sharma will be replaced by Akriti, Commandant, 1st IRB, Bangar, Una. Puneet Raghu, Additional SP, IRB, replaces Brijesh Sood.—TNS

Kullu-Kaza bus runs after 20 months

MANDI, JUNE 24

The HRTC resumed its Kullu-Kaza bus service after a gap of 20 months today. The service was stopped on October 15, 2019. Mangal Menepa, Regional Manager of the HRTC depot at Keylong in Lahaul-Spiti, said the Kullu-Kaza bus

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

After WTC debacle, Kohli seeks players with 'right' mindset



NEED TO REASSESS

“You have to reassess and re-plan and understand what dynamics work for the team and how we can be fearless.”

Virat Kohli, INDIAN CRICKET TEAM CAPTAIN

now, we have great depth and guys are ready and confident. Same thing needs to be done with Test cricket,” he added.

“We will certainly take those decisions and have

those conversations in near future,” the captain added.

Kohli looked forlorn in the aftermath of the defeat, though he has said more than once that one match is not enough to decide which team is the best in the world. However, it seems that after defeat in this one match, Kohli is ready to take some tough decisions to bring in the “right” people — this could mean curtains for some established players whose performance he’s not happy with.

India will take on England in a five-match Test series beginning on August 4. With no domestic first-class games having been played in India since early 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Kohli will fight it difficult to find the “right” players to replace the non-performers.

—TNS/Agencies

EDIT: NZ ARE CHAMPIONS

Notify Class XII marking plan by July 31, boards told

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked all state education boards that have cancelled Class XII exams due to the Covid-19 pandemic to notify their respective schemes for evaluation of students in 10 days and declare the internal assessment results by July 31.

A Bench led by Justice AM Khanwilkar, which dismissed petitions against CBSE/CISCE evaluation schemes on June 22, said it was impossible to have a uniform evaluation scheme for all state boards.

Hearing petitions seeking cancellation of state board examinations for Class XII, Haryana Government counsel said the state education boards were

NOT ENDORSING VALIDITY

“We are not endorsing the correctness and validity of the proposed schemes, to be so formulated by the boards concerned. That will be considered on its own merits, if and when the occasion arises.” SC Bench

autonomous bodies and they should be given the freedom to formulate their own assessment schemes.

“We have no difficulty in acceding to this submission,” the Bench said, adding that each board was free to formulate its own evaluation criteria and there couldn’t be a “fit-all” scheme.

However, it said, “We are not endorsing the correctness and validity of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Qadian MLA lashes out at Jakhar, two ministers

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 24

A day after he declined a job offer for his son, Qadian MLA Fatehjung Bajwa lashed out at PPCC chief Sunil Jakhar and ministers Tript Rajinder Bajwa and Sukhbinder Sarkaria, accusing them of double standards. He questioned them on opposing his son's appointment as Inspector in the Punjab Police,

“when they have secured political appointments for their kith and kin.”

Addressing the media, the MLA said his family had decided to decline the job offered to his younger son Arjun Partap Bajwa owing to “petty politics”. The Punjab Cabinet had last week approved a proposal to appoint Bajwa's son as inspector and Ludhiana MLA

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



FIE PHOTO

Officials said they would issue notices and even chargesheets to the teachers who failed to get admissions. These 12 schools had 50 or more new students in Class 1 last year, but there has not been a single admission this session, sources said.

Ramavtar Sharma, District Elementary Education Offi-

cer, said there were 42 schools with no new admissions. “While the staff in 30 schools managed to admit some new students, the remaining 12 are yet to deliver. We have decided to issue notices to the teachers and head teachers. If they still fail to give results, we may chargesheet them,” the official said.

Docs on strike today, OPDs set to take hit

ALLOWANCE CUT Emergency services to stay unaffected

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 24
Key services, including healthcare, animal husbandry and Ayurveda, are likely to be crippled on June 25 following government doctors' strike against the 6th Pay Commission recommendations on de-linking non-practicing allowance (NPA) from the basic pay.

The call for strike was given by the Joint Punjab Government Doctors Coordination Committee, which has members from the Punjab Civil Medical Services Association and is supported by the Punjab State Veterinary Officers Association, Punjab Medical Teachers Association, Rural Medical Officers Association, Punjab Dental Medical Officers Association and Punjab Ayurveda Officers Association.

The unions have convened to its units at the ground level not to attend OPD services for a day. Besides, webinars



Doctors protest against the 6th Pay Commission recommendations on de-linking non-practicing allowance from the basic pay. FILE

being organised by the government, meetings via video-conferencing and e-sanjeevani (online OPD services) would function as usual on Friday, the committee had warned that these could be suspended as well if the government did not reconsider the decision.

The district units will visit the healthcare facilities and convey to the patients about "injustice" being done to doctors by the government, said Dr Gagandeep Shergill, senior vice-president of the PCMS Association, Punjab.

Though indoor and emer-

gency services would function as usual on Friday, the committee had warned that these could be suspended as well if the government did not reconsider the decision.

"If the government does not respond even after the strike, we will convey to patients that since doctors cannot render their services, they are being referred to hospitals outside Punjab," said Dr Shergill.

CM failed on all fronts: AAP

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 24
AAP leaders today targeted the Congress government, saying Capt Amarinder Singh was a "failed CM" as his government had not fulfilled any promise made to the people during the last elections. The party cited the Congress high command's directions to the CM to deliver on his promises within a stipulated time.

Addressing a press meet here, AAP MLAs Kultar Singh Sandhu and Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer said the Congress government had proved to be a failure on all fronts, because of which there was a feud within the party.

He said after the failure of the pre-poll 'nau nukte' (9 points) programme, the Congress leadership had now directed Capt Amarinder to work on an 18-point programme. Sandhu said the ultimatum issued by the party leadership to release the list of tasks of his government by July 10 proved the CM's inefficiency. —TNS

Religious, farm bodies to aid of jobless

Spent ₹3L in a year to reach protest sites, say unemployed youths

PARVESH SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, JUNE 24
Unemployed youths, who have been sitting on indefinite protest at Sangrur since December 31 last year, claim to have spent more than Rs 3 lakh this year, only to be lathicharged by cops at Patiala during various agitations. The amount is said to be spent on transport facilities and other expenses to reach the district.

Apart from spending from their little income that they are earning by working as labourers, vegetable sellers, operators in private companies and farm labourers, the unemployed have also been getting support from gurdwaras, farmer organisations, employees' unions and various social organisations.

"Since the indefinite agitation began, we have spent lakhs to arrange various things. An amount of Rs 3 lakh has been spent on transport



Unemployed youths stage a protest in Sangrur. TRIBUNE PHOTO

facility alone to reach Patiala from various districts to gherao the CM residence there," said BED and TET pass union president Sukhwinder Dhillan.

Members of BED and TET pass union along with members of other four unions, including the All Punjab 873 DPE teachers' union, 646 PTI teachers' union, Punjab, Unemployed Art and Craft Union Punjab and Unem-

ployed Multipurpose Health Union Punjab, have been sitting on indefinite protest here before the local residence of Education Minister Vijay Inder Singla since December 31, 2020. Earlier, they had organised indefinite protest here from September 2019 to April 2020. Similarly, ETT and TET pass youths had also been sitting on indefinite protest here before the DC office.

In Bathinda, 'job letters' given at mock protest

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, JUNE 24
Showing solidarity with unemployed teachers and contract workers in different departments who have been protesting seeking regular jobs, a former municipal councillor, Vijay Kumar, along with city residents carried out a novel protest here today.

Protesters mocked the distribution of appointment letters to sons of legislators, while some participants were "beaten up" for seeking jobs by staging a protest.

"It's high time the government woke up from its slumber and provided jobs to qualified candidates, as promised by the Congress before the elections. While sons of legislators are getting jobs on compassionate grounds, those with degrees have been left to fend for themselves. Instead of giving them jobs, the protesters were being lathicharged on roads," said Kumar.

"The same voters had elected the Congress to power in the state and now they are being ignored," he added.

Terror-hit family seeks relief

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, JUNE 24
Members of a terrorist-affected family of Amritsar have approached the Chief Minister seeking job on compassionate grounds. Fifty-two-year-old Gurpreet Singh's father Abnashi Singh was kidnapped and believed to be killed by terrorists in 1980s.

Gurpreet has pleaded to the CM to accommodate either of his jobless sons—Kunwar Partap Singh and Tej Partap Singh. He said Kunwar Partap had done MTech from GNDU, whereas Tej Partap was also a graduate. Their grandfather Abnashi Singh was assistant secretary of the SGPC. He



Family members of Abnashi Singh, who was reportedly killed by terrorists in 1980s, in Amritsar. TRIBUNE PHOTO: VISHAL KUMAR

served for two decades with various SGPC chiefs, including one-and-a-half-decade stint with Gurcharan Singh Tohra



as PA. On March 31, 1987, he and a Guru Ram Das Hospital medical superintendent were kidnapped and never returned.

Traders rally behind employees, plan march to Golden Temple

BATHINDA, JUNE 24

Beopar Mandal senior vice-president and trader Amarjeet Mehta said they would take out 190-km 'padayatra' from Bathinda to the Golden Temple, Amritsar, against the state government as it failed to concede to the demands of people. He said the 'padayatra' would start on July 7 at 12 noon from Bathinda.

Mehta said the government had cheated the employees by denying them their dues in the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission. He said it was the right time when people from all walks of life, came out in support of the employees, who had been denied their financial dues by

BDA EMPLOYEES OBSERVE PEN-DOWN STRIKE

BATHINDA: Bathinda Development Authority (BDA) employees observed a pen-down strike in protest against the 6th Pay Commission report released by the government recently. BDA joint action committee members said if their demands were not met, they would observe a full-day strike on June 25 again. —TNS

MINISTERIAL WORKERS' STIR TILL JUNE 27

ABOHAL: Anguished over the decisions taken by the state government on implementing the 6th Pay Commission report, the Punjab Ministerial Staff Union (PSMU) decided to continue their strike till June 27. They staged a dharna and raised slogans against the state government at the Fazilka district headquarters. —OC

the government. Mehta pointed out various emoluments such as city compensatory allowance and non-practicing allowance (in case of doctors) had either been done away with or drastically reduced. The recommended hike in salary and allowances was meager, he said.

Cong 'to-do list' tall order for Capt

RAJMEET SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 24

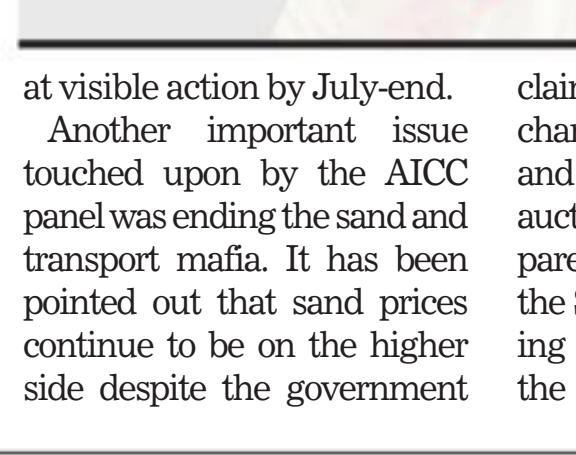
The time-bound implementation of the 18-point agenda conveyed to CM Capt Amarinder Singh is the course-correction strategy planned by the Congress high command to turn the wave in its favour in the run-up to the Assembly polls.

"After a lot of discussion and considering all issues raised by the rank and file of the state party unit, the high command has felt that major issues that caused a rift among different power centres need to be addressed immediately. The legal and administrative considerations need to be analysed too," AICC general secretary and Punjab affairs in charge Harish Rawat said.

Beginning with the emotive issue of justice promised in sacrifice and police firing cases and correcting the "Congress-SAD fixed match narrative" post the adverse judgment of the Punjab and Haryana HC on the SIT probe in the Kotkapura case, the AICC panel has stressed time-bound result in the probe by the new SIT. Sources said the CM, highlighting the summoning of Parkash Badal and his son Sukhbir Badal, hinted

CM TOLD TO IMPLEMENT 18-POINT AGENDA

- 1 Renegotiating power pacts with pvt thermal plants
- 2 200 units of free power for everyone
- 3 Nailing the transport mafia in the state
- 4 Acting against those involved in drug trade
- 5 Nailing sand mafia, de-controlling sand mining
- 6 Action in sacrifice, police firing cases
- 7 Correcting perception of 'Ghar Ghar Rozgar' scheme
- 8 No govt jobs for party MLAs' relatives
- 9 SC loan waiver for landless farm labour
- 10 Clearing dues in SC Post-Matric Scholarship scheme
- 11 Implementing 85th amendment to extend quota benefit to SC/weaker section in promotions
- 12 Five marla plots for SCs
- 13 Agricultural land to poor, Dalits
- 14 Filling posts in govt depts regularly
- 15 'Respect' for Cong workers in political, administrative set up
- 16 Clearing air over 'Fateh' kits
- 17 Course correction in bureaucratic control over governance
- 18 Addressing staff concerns in implementation of 6th pay panel



at visible action by July-end.

Another important issue touched upon by the AICC panel was ending the sand and transport mafia. It has been pointed out that sand prices continue to be on the higher side despite the government

but a final word is awaited. Despite bringing in new transport policy, the main issue of terminating illegal extension of bus routes allegedly being run by Akalis and changing the timetable to bring the state-run buses vis-a-vis those operated by powerful private operators still needs to be addressed.

Sources said hearing in the final notices of the termination of illegally extended bus routes had been delayed as private operators had moved court.

The CM has been conveyed that the perception of its flagship project "Ghar Ghar Rozgar" needs to be corrected. The issue of giving jobs to kin of MLAs has been viewed seriously, with directions to benefitting MLAs to refuse the offer. The CM has also been asked to fill the posts in government departments as promised.

The leadership wants the CM to announce the pending loan waiver for SC landless farm labourers, implementation of 30% quota for Dalits and weaker sections in political appointments, implementation of 85th amendment to extend quota benefit to SC/weaker sections in promotion with consequential seniority, 5 marla plots for SCs and clearing air on SC post-matric scheme dues.

Ministers' panel to redress staff grievances

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 24

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh today formed an Oversight Committee of Ministers to resolve grievances of employees of the state government.

Local Government Minister Brahmin Mohindra, Finance Minister Manpreet Badal, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, Medical Education and Research Minister OP Soni and Health and Family Welfare Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu will be part of the committee, an official spokesperson said.

The CM also directed the Chief Secretary to constitute an Officers' Committee to listen to the grievances of the employees of various departments. The committee shall comprise KAP Sinha, Vivek Pratap Singh and Husan Lal, all senior IAS officers of the rank of Principal Secretary. The Officers' Committee will regularly meet employees, resolve their grievances and submit a report to the Oversight Committee.

H

OSHIARPUR, JUNE 24

Various farmer organisations opposed Union Minister Som Parkash on his arrival in the district and burnt his effigy.

He had come for a press conference at the PWD Rest House today. As soon as the farmers came to know about it, they started gathering there to protest against him.

The farmers were stopped by the police before the rest house. Farmer leaders Gurdeep Singh Khunkhun, Ranjit Singh, Kamaljit Singh Rajpur Bhaijan claimed that there was a difference between the motive and policy of the Centre, which was misleading farmers regarding these laws.

Meanwhile, Som Parkash said farmer associations could take up the matter with the Centre at any time and the government was ready to amend the law. When asked that farmers were not allowing BJP office-bearers to enter villages, he said he was going to various villages every day and no such thing had come to his notice. —OC

Special vaccination drive gets tepid response in rural areas

KARAM PRAKASH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, JUNE 24

A special house-to-house vaccination drive in the rural belt has been hit by poor response owing to reluctance of people. In the first two days of launch, around 20 per cent of the daily target of vaccination could be achieved. In some blocks of the district, vaccination is said to have been below 5 per cent.

The district administration had decided to achieve the target of vaccinating at least 150 residents in the selected villages of the block.

To achieve 100 per cent vaccination in a targeted village, in each block around 10 villages have been identified where 40 per cent vaccination has already been over.

Health officials said vaccine hesitancy was still a major factor in the rural hinterland. They said residents were reluctant to get vaccination due to impending rumours in villages.

A health official said,



Health officials say villagers are hesitant to get the jab. TRIBUNE PHOTO

20% TARGET IN TWO DAYS

- In the first two days of launch, around 20 per cent of the daily target of vaccination could be achieved
- In some blocks of the district, vaccination is said to have been below 5 per cent
- The district administration has decided to achieve the target of vaccinating at least 150 residents in selected villages of the block

"Social media rumours are very much there in villages. Villagers are of the

opinion that many people have died within a few days of vaccination."

Woman, 'lover' found dead in water tank

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Bear Pak marking unearthed by farmer



Rusty cartridges recovered near the barbed fencing at Narli village. TRIBUNE PHOTO

He informed the BSF authorities, following which a team visited the scene and recovered the ammunition. In all, 2,649 cartridges were recovered.

The SSP said the ammunition had rusted and might have been buried during the militancy. The police have launched an inquiry into the matter.

Raj Kumar, panchayat member, Mandi Killianwali, said the woman had come to her parents' house after her wedding. "However, she and her lover were found dead in a water storage tank today," he said.

Meanwhile, the police had started inquest proceedings under Section 174 of the CrPC. It claimed it appeared they had jumped into the tank to end their lives.

2.6K rusty bullets seized near border

OUR CORRESPONDENT

TARN TARAN, JUNE 24

As many as 2,649 rusty Pakistan-manufactured gun cartridges have been recovered near the barbed fencing at Narli village, 50 km from here. The ammunition was buried under the earth.

Besides Pakistan marking, the cartridges bore years 1969, 1970 and 1971.

SSP Dhurman H Nimble said on information by Inspector PS Thamar, Commandant, 71st Battalion, BSF, a case under Sections 25, 54 and 59 of the Arms Act had been registered by the Khalra police.

Sukhdev Singh, former sarpanch, who had taken the land on lease from a landlord of the same village, was levelling the field with a tractor on Wednesday evening, when he heard a clanking sound near the defence drain. On close observation, he found bullets buried under the earth.

HC seeks progress report in 'false implication' case

SAURABH MALIK

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 24

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has called for progress report by a special investigation team, constituted under its orders, in a case where a widow's Covid-infected son was allegedly implicated in a drugs case after she refused sexual favour to police officers.

Justice Arun Monga of the High Court has already rapped the Punjab Police for turning into "predators" in the case.



Has rapped Punjab Police for turning into 'predators' in the case

gating agency's deletion from the array of parties.

The matter was placed before Justice Monga after the women filed a petition apprehending "bodily harm" and tampering with the evidence. Justice Monga observed the allegations and factual averments in the petition were so grisly and frightful that one could only hope the same were fictitious.

He also took note of the state counsel's submissions that it was a case of honey trap laid by the petitioner that later boomeranged, before adding if that was not the case it reflected the sorrid state of affairs in the

PUNJAB

03

Centre blamed for vax shortage

Minister: Demand-supply gap worrying

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 24

Before the third wave of Covid hits the country, states are making efforts to ensure vaccination of every citizen, but short supply of vaccines from the Centre has affected the drive in the state.

Disclosing this here today, Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu said an imbalanced supply of Covid vaccine had slowed down the pace of vaccination drive at large as Punjab had a strong infrastructure to administer vaccine to 3 lakh people per day.

He said the vaccination data revealed that the speed of the vaccination drive had increased manifold in BJP-ruled states like MP, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. He said on an average, vaccination administered per day in MP before June 20 was 1.75 lakh and it had increased to 17 lakh on June 21 and it makes nine-time increase in total which exposed "disparity" being made by the Centre in supply of vaccines among states.

Sidhu said MP had received the supply of 17 lakh doses in a day while Punjab had got just 16 lakh doses from June 1 to 24. He said the gap between

COVID METER

Cases	382	
Critical	127	
Active	5,274	
Deaths	20	
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Amritsar	47	0
Jalandhar	33	2
Ludhiana	40	0
Patiala	33	0
SAS Nagar	28	1
Total	5,93,941	15,944

demand and supply among states was a matter of concern and equal distribution of vaccines was important.

He said the success of the drive majorly depended on the supply of vaccine whereas the vaccine received by Punjab in May was just 17 lakh doses which were less and the Centre assured to deliver 21 lakh doses in June. Till now the Centre only provided 16 lakh doses which shows that the uneven supply of vaccines is hitting the drive in Punjab.

He asked the Centre to ensure supply of a minimum 2 lakh doses per day to Punjab so that the set target was achieved.

₹15 lakh grant for ventilator returned, Cong MP fumes

FATEHGHAR SAHIB, JUNE 24

Congress MP Samsher Singh Dullo lashed out at the state Health Department for returning grant worth Rs 15 lakh, which he had given for a ventilator for the Civil Hospital, Fatehgarh Sahib.

Addressing the media, he said he handed over a cheque of Rs 15 lakh from his MPLAD funds to the DC. He said after two months the office of the Civil Surgeon returned the cheque saying they couldn't use the grant as neither there was a proper place to install the machine nor they had expert staff to operate it.

The district got three ventilators from the PM Cares Fund, but the authorities installed all those ventilators at Indus Hospital, a private hospital at Peerjaan village.

Dr Mohinder Singh, Civil Surgeon, said the department had received a grant of Rs 15 lakh from the MP but there was shortage of doctors in the hospital and they do not have expert and trained staff to operate the ventilator.

He said he had written to the MP and expressed helplessness to use the grant. He said he returned the amount so that the MP might use it for other social purpose. He said the hospital got three ventilators from the PM fund and installed them in the Indus Hospital, where patients were being treated free of cost. — OC

Bank manager among two arrested for fraud

ROPAR, JUNE 24

The police have claimed to bust a gang involved in cryptocurrency investment with the arrest of two persons, including a bank manager, here today.

The arrested accused have been identified as Gagandeep Singh of Chamkaur Sahib, posted as a branch manager at a Bank of India branch in Morinda, and Mandeep Singh of Majitha Road in Amritsar.

Ropar SSP Akhi Chaudhary said both accused allegedly used

money of bank clients for investment in cryptocurrency using various applications. Recovery of Rs 5.5 lakh has also been made from accused Mandeep. The SSP said the fraud came to light when victim Gurjeet Singh from Morinda lodged a complaint with the police that bank manager Gagandeep fraudulently transferred money from credit limit accounts of his father and mother to invest in cryptocurrency with the help of Mandeep. — TNS

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Punjab Government
led by
Chief Minister
Capt. Amarinder Singh
pays glowing tributes
to the
Legendary Sikh General
Baba Banda Singh Bahadur
on his
305th Martyrdom Anniversary

Supreme sacrifice of
Dasmesh Pita Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji's
great disciple and the founder of
1st Sikh Raj stands out as an
unparalleled and iconic moment
in India's history

Department of Information & Public Relations, Punjab



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Required two teachers having qualification M.V.Sc. for coaching institute part time. Salary negotiable. Call urgently on 98157-34492. (CL21026225)

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Chandigarh 6/4 marla ground/ first floor, jointly or separately available possession going cheap. Contact to owner: 98726-6556. (CL21025845)

Chandigarh: Sector 15B, 10 marla triple, liveable South facing kothi for sale. Contact 93161-12756. (CL21026068)

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Harman 99150-01900, 98722-55755 Panchkula Sector 7 one kanal 5 BHK duplex with basement marbled bungalow. (CL21026173)

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Sector 33, 1½ kanal independent duplex 5 BHK bungalow. Harman Properties. 99150-01900, 98722-55755. (CL21026249)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Preeti S/o Mahesh Kumar Ghalotra R/o # 843, Sector 4, Panchkula have changed my name from Preeti to Preeti Ghalotra. (CL21026218)

I, Kusum Rani W/o Deepak Kurni R/o B85, Type-V, Thermal Colony, Bathinda have changed my name to Kusum. (CL21026238)

I, Akash Gupta s/o Anil Kumar Gupta r/o Flat No. NRI 2, First Floor, Onyx Paraiso Society, Zirakpur, Distt. SAS Nagar (Mohali) have changed my minor daughter's name from Mayra to Mayra Gupta. (CL21026066)

I, Asha Devi spouse of Number 10515356L Havidar Jai Singh presently residing at Village Suien, PO/ Sub-Tehsil Pangta, Distt. Mandi (HP) Unit 152 Inf BN (TA) Sikh, C/o 56 APO. I have changed my name from Asha Thakur to Asha Devi vide affidavit dated 17.06.2021. (CL21026367)

I, No. JC-762708P Sub Jitender Kumar Sharma s/o Shri Faqir Chand Sharma r/o Vill. Jatwar, Teh. Naraingarh, Distt. Ambala Haryanagar 134201 declare that the name of my wife Salaja Sharma has wrongly mentioned as Salaja in my service record. It may please be corrected as Salaja. Sharma vide affidavit dated 23.06.2021. (CL21025899)

I, JC 214325H Sub Puran Chand Rana s/o Mangat Ram, Village Bandal, PO Khouda, Sub Tehsil Tibra, Distt. Mandi, HP, declare that my daughter name and date of birth wrongly mention in my Army record as Bina Kumari, DOB: 1 October, 1978. Correct name: Veena, 1 Dec, 1978. Please all concerned note. (CL21025946)

I, Babu Ram (Armed Force Retd.) Service No. 15465336-N/o Het Ram r/o H. N. 511, Ward No. 21, St. No. 11, Choti Pauri, Nai Abadi, Teh. Aborah, Distt. Fazilka, declare that my wife's name is wrongly written as Sunita Kumari in Army record. In 10th certificate, my wife's name is correctly written as Sunita. Her correct name is Sunita. (CL21025970)

I, Surinder Singh Chadha s/o Sh. Gurdit Singh Chadha r/o House No. 44, Sector-25 Panchkula declare that my son Gagan Preet Singh & his wife Ayushi are out of my control. I disown them from all my moveable/immovable property. I shall not be responsible for any of their acts and anybody dealing with them shall do so at their own risk. (CL21026074)

I, Arvinder Kaur w/o No. 1462936P Hav. Lakhwinder Singh resident of Village Padhiana (Jalandhar) have to inform that according to service records of my husband Shri Lakhwinder Singh the spelling of my name are Arvinder Kaur and DOB is 20.07.1966. Recently I have changed my name to Arvinder Kaur from Arvinder Kaur and similarly I have assumed the DOB as 20.07.1966 instead of 15.01.1963. All concerned to please note. (CL21026079)

I, Poorti Sharma daughter of Late H. Umesh Chand Army No. 8031963L of Pioneer Corps resident of VPO Nehran Pukhar, Teh. Dabholi, District Kangra (HP) hereby state that my name has wrongly been appeared in the Army records of my father as Poorti, whereas my correct name is Poorti Sharma. (CL21026364)

I, Gurjinder Kaur, daughter of Late S. Darshan Singh, holder of Indian Passport No. M8387391, issued at Vancouver, on Oct. 21, 2015, permanent resident of Koti No. 248, Urban Estate Phase 1, Patiala, and presently residing at 14596 61A Avenue Surrey V3S8L1, do hereby change my name from Gurjinder Kaur to Gurjinder Kaur Dhillon, with immediate effect. Subject to the approval of Indian Embassy in Canada. (CL21026366)

I, Narinder Singh Guleria (new name), N.S. Guleria (former name) Jameet Singh Guleria r/o Mohalla Sapri, PO Chamba, Distt. Chamba HP, declare that I have changed my name from N.S. Guleria to Narinder Singh Guleria. In future I may be known as Narinder Singh Guleria for all purposes. (CL21026367)

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Date: 25.06.2021

Protest against six-hour supply

BATHINDA, JUNE 24 Farmers under the banner of BKU's Ekta Ugrahan and Dakonda factions gheraoed a power station here today alleging curtailed electricity supply to tubewells, thereby affecting paddy sowing in the district.

Left with no alternative, some farmers were using electricity generators to draw water, but given the skyrocketing diesel prices, it had added to their input cost, the protesters claimed.

In Mansa district, the farmers claimed they were receiving only five to six hours of power supply against the promised eight-hour uninterrupted supply. BKU Ugrahan leader Jagbir Singh Jhumba said: "Farmers are facing a lot difficulty in sowing paddy these

Generator use too expensive, sowing affected: Farmers

days due to inadequate power supply by the PSPCL to tubewells. As a result, farmers are being forced to use generators to draw water, but it consumes 5 litre diesel per hour. With fuel rates skyrocketing, it has put an additional burden on farmers, many of whom cannot afford it."

Jhumba added: "We gheraoed the power grid near Multania road today but if the problem persists, we will stage protests outside other power grids in the district as well. The

government had promised eight-hour uninterrupted supply during the paddy season. But a majority of farmers has been receiving only five to six-hour supply, making it difficult for them to carry out sowing."

BKU Dakonda leader Buta Singh said: "A small farmer is already burdened under increased input cost of sowing. Now, erratic supply has left them high and dry. The state government's tall claims of having surplus power have fallen flat. It will have to make amends or it will bear the consequences in the upcoming elections."

Meanwhile, farm organisations in Mansa have started mobilising support for a massive protest on June 26. —TNS

Farmers belonging to two BKU factions stage a protest in Bathinda on Thursday. PAWAN SHARMA

200 units of free electricity to all may be untenable

Likely to cost cash-strapped govt ₹6,000 crore

RUCHIKA M KHANNA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

₹16,668 CR SUBSIDY BILL PENDING

■ This year, PSPCL is yet to be paid ₹6,000 crore of power subsidy due in the last financial year

■ This means the government will have to clear a power subsidy bill of ₹16,668 crore this fiscal

agriculture sector; industry and other socially vulnerable sections (of ₹16,668 crore for this fiscal) and each year a large part of the subsidy is carried forward to the next year; an additional subsidy would add to the burden of the state power utilities.

Even this year, an amount of

Rs 6,000 crore of power subsidy due in the last fiscal has not been paid to the PSPCL.

Jasvir Singh Dhiman, president of PSEB Engineers Association, says: "Though we do not object to giving free power to any section, the government should at least pay the subsidy to PSPCL on time."

Officials in the power department told *The Tribune* that there were 75 lakh domestic power consumers in Punjab. Of these, over 15 lakh consumers, those belonging to SC, BC, from a minority religion and those in the Below Poverty Line category, got 200 units of free power and the subsidy amount arising on this account was Rs 1,600 crore.

Recently, the management held a meeting with the association, but engineers alleged that no concrete headway had been made towards the resolution of their demands.

Tejinder Singh, Deputy Director, Horticulture Department, said: 13 WhatsApp groups launched to benefit the farmers got a good response. A survey conducted by the government indicated fruit orchards covering 33,948 hectares have come up in Fazilka district. "Due to the pandemic, training camps are not being held, but the department is trying to keep the

farmers informed through social media. Farmers are advised to get soil and leaf tested at the state-of-the-art laboratory that has been set up at the Citrus Estate in Abohar."

Recently, farmers joined the two-hour online camps organised by the Punjab Agriculture University. Today, some experts visited orchards in Abohar to resolve the issues raised by farmers.

A study by PAU scientists indicated kinnow fruit drop starts soon after flowering and leads to falling of small fruits.

This is due to natural overproduction and not of much concern to the grower. Fruit drop leads to reduction of excess load on trees. The second wave of fruit drop commences approximately one to two months after bloom, young developing fruit abscise from trees with excessive fruit set in May, consisting of about 10 per cent of the total dropped fruits, the study indicates.

Jagdev Singh Brar, who now prefers to grow vegetables and fruits in his Daulatpura village farms, said kinnow fruit produce might be 20 to 25 per cent less than that of the last year, which saw a bumper crop but prices nosedived due to glut.

As the departments of agriculture and horticulture have not been able to organise seminars due to Covid restrictions, farmers are getting connected through social media for advice on new techniques in vegetable and fruit growing.

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SKM mobilises Dalits, students, women for protest tomorrow

June 26 marks seven months of farmers' stir, Emergency anniv

Tribune News Service

ROHTAK, JUNE 24

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) has said associations of labourers, women, students, Dalits and minorities would be roped in for the June 26 event to mark seven months of the farmers' agitation against the three agricultural laws enacted last year.

Farmers at the Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur border points are gearing up for June 26 and they will observe the day as "Save Agriculture, Save Democracy Day".

The SKM told the media here today that memorandums would be submitted to the President through the Governors of different states on June 26.

June 26 also marks the anniversary of Emergency imposed in 1975 by then Congress government.

"It is an irony that the BJP leadership, which claims to be the victim of the Emergency, has declared a sort of undeclared emergency in the country, where voices of dissent are suppressed with brutal force," said Inderjit Singh, vice-president, All-India Kisan Sabha, Haryana unit.

Yogendra Yadav, SKM



Farmer leaders at a press conference in Rohtak on Thursday.

EFFORTS TO SABOTAGE AGITATION FAILED

“The Centre has failed to sabotage the agitation. It claims that the agitation is politically motivated. Let me tell the Centre that no political party has the capability to sustain such a massive agitation for so long. Yogendra Yadav, SKM LEADER

leader, said the BJP regime at the Centre had made emergency-like situation a normal way of life.

When asked about the possible solution to the stalemate between farmers and the Centre, he said: "Satta (government) should bow before janata (public)."

Jhajjar: Rajya Sabha member Deepender Hooda visited the family of Mukesh Modgil, who died of burn injuries at the Tikri border a week ago after four men associated with the farmers' agitation allegedly set him on fire, in the district's Kassar village today.

He expressed his condolences, and demanded financial aid and a government job for the deceased's wife.

Black flags outside BJP office in Hisar

HISAR, JUNE 24

A group of protesting farmers waved black flags and tore banners of the BJP near the party head office as local party leaders participated in the state executive body meeting via the online mode here today.

As the farmers had given a call to stage a protest demonstration during the BJP meeting, the police had erected barricades near Sector 14. The farmers, however, took another alternative route and reached in front of the BJP head office even as the police

tried to block their way. The farmers, carrying black flags, staged a demonstration and raised anti-government slogans. Some youths also tore a banner of the BJP.

Satbir Dhayal of the BKU said they would continue to protest against ruling party leaders until the Centre withdrew the three agriculture laws.

Meanwhile, BJP leaders, including Hisar MLA Kamal Gupta, attended the meeting held in Chandigarh through video-conference. — TNS

No hassle: Now, get fitness certificate for commercial vehicles anywhere in state

RAVINDER SAINI

Tribune News Service

ROHTAK, JUNE 24

Now, owners of commercial vehicles need not face inconvenience in getting fitness certificates for their vehicles due to heavy rush at the government inspection centre.

They will now be able to get fitness test of their vehicles done anywhere in the state as the state government has decided to allow authorised dealers of the original equipment manufacturers (automobile companies) to operate "testing stations" for fitness test and grant/renewal of certificate of fitness for the make of vehicles concerned, say sources.

The sources say the decision had been taken in view of the problem of capacity, including expert manpower and infrastructure, for testing and



Auto firms to operate 'testing stations'

perennial complaints of transparency. The dealers would have to apply for a letter of authority by paying a fee.

"The test of fitness and grant of certificate of fitness has, thus far, been done by the Board of inspection, but it has, however, been plagued by problems, hence it has been decided to increase the availability of quality facilities for testing fitness and for the grant of certificate of fitness," said an order by the Transport Commissioner.

Eight Sonepat men duped of ₹69L on pretext of police jobs

Tribune News Service

ONE BOOKED

■ The accused, Vishal Vashisth, claimed he had good relations with officials
■ He duped Kuldeep of Sonepat into believing that he could get his son a job in the police
■ In exchange, Vashisth sought ₹10 lakh; he has been booked

ernment had advertised posts of constable and Sub-inspector, Vashisth had called up Kuldeep and asked him to fill his son's form for the ASI's post. He claimed to get the job for his son and, in return, he demanded Rs 10 lakh, alleged the complainant.

"He asked me to rope in more candidates. I talked to five youths who agreed to pay up. Later, two more youths joined. Vashisth demanded

Rs 8 lakh for the post of constable and Rs 25 lakh for the Sub-inspector's," Kuldeep said in his complaint.

The gullible youths ended up paying Vashisth Rs 69 lakh. "He took Rs 50 lakh in cash, while Rs 19 lakh was deposited in his bank account," said Kuldeep in his complaint.

When the result for the police posts was announced in January 2019 and none of the eight youths made the cut, they demanded the money back.

"At first, he made excuses and later threatened me of dire consequences. After much persuasion, Vashisth returned Rs 59 lakh by selling his brother's land," said the complainant.

"The accused has been booked under Sections 420 and 406 of the IPC. The investigation is in progress," said Baroda police station SHO Inspector Badan Singh.

Mining mafia attacks RTA's vehicle; 3 hurt

Tribune News Service

HISAR, JUNE 24

The incident of the attack on a vehicle of the regional transport authority (RTA) by an overloaded truck left three officials seriously injured, while the vehicle was completely damaged near Chaudhariwas village in the district on Tuesday night.

The police registered a case of attempt to murder one of the officials.

The police said the RTA inspector Kuldeep Singh,



CASE REGISTERED

On Tuesday night, a driver, who was carrying sand in his truck, rammed into the RTA's vehicle when he was to stop near Chaudhariwas village of Hisar district. An attempt-to-murder case was registered.

along with constable Sandeep and another employee Jitender, was deployed at the Shahpur-Ludas chowk when they signalled the overloaded truck (HR-55L-9196) coming from Rajgarh in Rajasthan to

stop. However, the truck driver sped up, after which the team overtook the truck and tried to bring his vehicle to a halt. The truck, however, rammed into the government vehicle from behind and sped

away. The officials suffered serious injuries, but managed to contact their colleagues who rushed them to hospital.

Sources said the RTA officials got a tip-off that mining and overloading mafia were working in tandem by creating a WhatsApp group in which they shared information about the presence of the RTA officials. But the RTA team managed to dodge them on Tuesday night.

DTO Sunil Kumar Dhaka said the attack had not dampened their resolve and they would continue to act against the overloading mafia.

Acid poured into infant's mouth; dead

Tribune News Service

PANIPAT, JUNE 24

A four-month-old child was allegedly murdered by pouring some acidic substance into his mouth in Vikas Nagar Colony in the city area.

The police have registered a case against a woman, Lakshmi, for allegedly murdering the child.

The deceased was identified as Harshit, son of Nawal Kishor Kanta, mother of the deceased, in the police complaint, said they were living in a rented accommodation in the Vikas Nagar on the Barsat road. She said Lakshmi was also living in the same building with her family.

Kanta said around a week ago, she had a feud with Lakshmi over the children. She went to take water on the first floor on Tuesday and her son Harshit was in a room.

As she returned to the room,

Neighbour booked for murder

she witnessed Lakshmi coming out from her room. She saw that her child was vomiting some acidic substance into his mouth.

The police have registered a case against a woman, Lakshmi, for allegedly murdering the child.

Kanta and her husband Nawal Kishor alleged that Lakshmi had murdered their son by pouring some acidic substance into his mouth.

We received a complaint in this regard today. As per the post-mortem report, some acidic substance (like some toilet cleaner) was found in the stomach of the child's body, said inspector Sunil Kumar SHO, City.

A case was registered against Lakshmi under Sections 302, 328 of the IPC on the basis of the postmortem report, said the SHO, City.

ARMY COLLEGE OF NURSING, JALANDHAR CANTT			
REQUIRES			
Post	Vacancies	Qualification & Experience	
Assistant Professor	01	M Sc (Nursing) in any specialty with 03 years teaching experience or more.	Desirable: Ph.D (in Nursing)
Tutor/ Clinical Instructor	05	M Sc (Nursing) or B Sc (Nursing)/ Post Basic B Sc (Nursing) with one year experience.	

* No of posts may increase or decrease
How to Apply: Eligible candidates to apply on prescribed form, available at college website and send it to college with self-attested copies of testimonials/certificates along with Demand Draft of Rs. 200/- in favour of "Army College of Nursing" payable at Jalandhar by 17 July 2021. Only short listed candidates will be interviewed. No TA/DA admissible.
Salary: As per AWES Rules and Regulations/Negotiable.
Contact Tele: 0181-2266167, 2660080. Website: www.acn.cantt.in

Panels formed to check illegal cutting of trees

YAMUNANAGAR, JUNE 24

After an order was issued by Lokayukta Justice Nawal Kishore Agarwal regarding formation of committees to check illegal cutting of trees, the authorities of Municipal Corporation, Yamunanagar, have swung into action.

They have formed committees in all 22 wards of Yamunanagar and Jagadhri for providing legal protection to healthy trees.

On March 31, Lokayukta had issued the order on the complaint of Dr SL Saini, president of Haryana Environment Society, an NGO.

In 2019, Yamunanagar SHO Inspector Badan Singh.

RISING STAR UNIT RUN CANTEEN HQ 9 CORPS EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited for the following post in the Rising Star Unit Run Canteen purely on contract basis for the period of maximum 11 months from the date of appointment.

SR.	Post	No. of Vacancy	Pay Scale	Age	Q.R.S
1.	Canteen Manager	01	40,000/- per month (fixed)	Age should be below 64 yrs on 01 Jul, 2021	Retired Army Officer only required Preference will be given to the retired officer who had experience in CSD dealing/Mtr and Inventory Management

Candidates are requested to forward/submit their resume/biodata to OIC Canteen at Rising Star URC at the undermentioned address along with supporting documents on or before 10 Jul, 2021.

Address: OIC Canteen, Rising Star URC, C/o 56 APO, Yojna Cantt, PIN - 176052

Email ID: rsrucycantt@gmail.com

Tentative date of interview will be 13 Jul, 2021. Any change in date will be communicated to candidates telephonically.

DI-4949

THE TRIBUNE TRUST CHANDIGARH SALE OF WASTE MATERIAL LAST DATE FOR TENDER: 30.06.2021

Sealed tenders for sale of waste material are invited for the following items:

- 1) White newsprint waste (clipping)
 - 2) Printed newspapers including file copies
 - 3) Reel ends
 - 4) Newsprint reel wrappers and sweepings etc.
- The waste material tender is for the period from 01.07.2021 to 30.09.2021. The material is required to be lifted from our Chandigarh, Gurugram, Jalandhar & Bathinda plants.

Earnest Money of Rs 30,000/- each for item Nos. 1 & 2 and Rs 15,000/- each for item Nos. 3 & 4 for Chandigarh only and for other stations in the form of Demand Draft/Cheque on any scheduled bank drawn in favour of **The Tribune Trust, Chandigarh** is required to be given along with the tender. Offers received without Earnest Money will not be considered.

The newsprint reel wrappers and sweepings will have to be lifted from our Chandigarh plant daily except on Sundays, failing which the Management will have the sole discretion to dispose of the material to any other party without referring the matter to the party whose tender has been accepted. Against daily lifting of the material, a monthly incentive of Rs 5,000/- will be offered to the tenderer. However, for each default, a sum of Rs 500/- will be realised from the tenderer as penal amount.

If the buyer of any of the materials fails to comply with the conditions of lifting of the material, The Tribune Trust reserves the right to cancel the accepted offer and forfeit the security deposit. Decision of The Tribune Trust in this regard will be final.

NOTE:

TCS will be collected over and above the tendered rates as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act.

* Declaration under Section 206 AB is mandatory, otherwise TCS@5% will be charged instead of 1% from the tenderer.

* In case of non-submission of PAN No, TCS will be charged@20% from the tenderer.

GST as applicable will be charged.

Tenders will be received up to 12:30 p.m. on 30.06.2021 and opened at the same time and date.

Envelopes containing the tenders should be superscribed, "Tender for waste material" and sent to the undersigned.

Rajneesh Rana
Senior Manager (Material)
The Tribune Trust, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.



CHEQUE-BOUNCE CASE

The assertion by Justice Gill came on a petition filed against the State of Haryana and another respondent by a woman. She was seeking the quashing of an order, dated May 6, 2019, passed by Faridabad Judicial Magistrate First Class, vide which she was declared a 'proclaimed person' on a complaint in a cheque bounce case under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act

Instruments Act.

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

India ups the ante

Diplomatic, military steps aimed at reining in China, Pak

THE India-US multi-domain war game in the Indian Ocean was a show of strength and synergy that demonstrated growing bilateral cooperation between the two allies. It came a month after China and Pakistan jointly carried out a military exercise in Tibet, near the Line of Actual Control (LAC), apparently with the intention of riling India. The LAC has witnessed a standoff between Indian and Chinese troops for the past over a year, and the disengagement process that took off in Ladakh in February has got stalled. While New Delhi has kept various communication channels open, Beijing's reluctance to extend the disengagement of troops to all friction points has proved to be a major stumbling block. China has been insisting that the prolonged border issue should not be linked to bilateral relations, while India is unequivocal in stating that the two matters are inseparable.

Even as the importance of diplomatic talks to resolve disputes cannot be overestimated, India has been rightly displaying its military assertiveness from time to time so as to keep the hostile neighbour on the back foot. The visible support of a strong ally like the US is vital for India to safeguard its strategic interests. China's contention that its military deployment along the border is a 'normal defence arrangement aimed at preventing and responding to encroachment and threat on China's territory' doesn't hold water as India is in no mood to act as the aggressor.

It's commendable that India is looking at the larger picture to ensure long-lasting peace and stability in the entire region. Earlier this week, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar alluded to Pakistan when he reiterated India's zero tolerance for cross-border terrorism and stressed the urgency of dismantling terror havens and sanctuaries to end violence in Afghanistan. New Delhi is said to be in touch with various stakeholders in Afghanistan, a country in which it has invested over \$3 billion in the past two decades. India's strategy of upping the ante to rein in China and Pakistan can provide a much-needed fillip to regional security.

New Zealand are champions

Win WTC final with dogged show against India

NEWZEALAND became the first world champions of Test cricket on Wednesday, beating India by eight wickets in the final of the World Test Championship (WTC) in Southampton. New Zealand's win, which came nearly two years after their heartbreaking loss in the 50-over World Cup final, should gladden the hearts of all cricket lovers. New Zealand are known to play the game with doggedness, passion and honour; over the years, their cricketers have shown themselves to be top professionals, yet endearingly self-effacing and fair. The captain, Kane Williamson, exemplifies all things that are good about sport and New Zealand: In times when maniac behaviour by superstars is no longer shocking, he stands out as a quiet man with a shy smile — and limitless flair and doggedness. He showed this in both innings at Southampton, making 52 not out under pressure to shepherd his team on the final evening.

When India toured New Zealand early 2020, they were thrashed badly — Virat Kohli's men lost the first Test inside four days, the second within three days. Last year, India's batting frailties in conditions in which the ball seamed and swung alarmingly were exposed by New Zealand's fast bowlers, who took 38 wickets at a miserly cost of 17.5 per wicket. In the WTC final, despite only a maximum of 317.3 overs available over six days due to rain — as against 450 overs available over five days in a normal Test — the same bowlers wrecked Indian batting in both innings. The inability of India's batsmen to tackle the moving ball directed at the off-stump line was there for all to see.

Before the final started, Kohli had suggested that one match cannot decide which team was the best in the world; after the defeat, he said that in future, the winner should be decided after a series of three Tests. Though he did not mention the playing conditions, the fact is that his team was beaten in conditions that were alien to it — and home-like for the Kiwis. Perhaps, future champions could be decided on the home-and-away basis so that both teams are tested in familiar and unfamiliar conditions. However, for now, it is time to celebrate the victory of New Zealand, the people's champions.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Absolute power can only be supported by error, ignorance and prejudice. — Lord Chesterfield

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

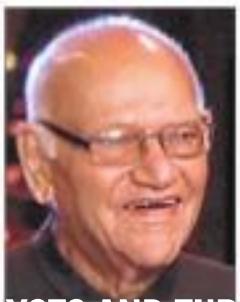
LAHORE, SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1921

THE 30TH JUNE.

WITHIN less than a week the 30th June will have come and gone. By that day, according to the decision arrived at by the All-India Congress Committee at Bezwada, the country is to collect a crore of rupees for the Tilak Swaraj Fund, to enlist a crore of members for the Congress Committees, and to introduce 20 lakhs of *charkhas* in Indian homes. Quite apart from the question whether if this programme is fully carried out Swaraj will be attained within the next months, the decision is evidently one which it is incumbent upon all who believe in the Congress and own allegiance to it to do everything in their power to give effect to. We keep the two questions apart for obvious reasons. In the first place, the injunction that we should go on doing our work and should not care for the fruits of labour has wisdom behind it. Secondly, no man is infallible, and Mahatma Gandhi has said again and again that if Swaraj is not attained within a year, in spite of the country doing its utmost to attain it, it will be due to some defect in his calculation and not any inherent defect in the scheme itself. The question whether Swaraj is to be attained within a year is not and never has been the primary question for us. We judge every scheme put before the country by one single standard, namely, whether it is calculated to help the country forward on the path that inevitably leads to Swaraj. Every such scheme from this point of view is an educative and preparatory scheme, and despite all that has been said by so many higher authorities, we have refused to look upon Gandhi's programme itself in any other light. That is why what to others has been its chief recommendation, namely, the hope it holds out of the attainment of Swaraj within the specified year, has been to us not only a subsidiary thing, but a thing of no great value.

A threat to the nation, really?

It's a sad day for democracy when young activists are branded terrorists by police



TRYSTS AND TURNS

JULIO RIBEIRO



NOT GUILTY: These activists indulged in neither murder nor mayhem; and nor did they encourage the forcible removal of the elected government from office. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Should the police be empowered with authority that can keep citizens in jail for long years without trial?

The Delhi High Court adjudged

the confinement of the students as ill-intentioned and ordered their release on bail.

If the law was fairly and honestly interpreted and used, the police would have a powerful tool up their sleeves to counter truly subversive activities. But if it is misusing the Act to suppress dissenting voices that serve as irritants to autocratic regimes, then the application of its provisions to conscientious dissenters is nothing short of demonic! Natasha, Devangana and Asif could not be classified as terrorists by any stretch of imagination. They indulged in neither murder nor mayhem, did not encourage by words or deeds the forcible removal of the elected government from office, said or did nothing to incite their followers to revolt against the ruling dispensation. The Delhi High Court perused the entire thousand-page chargesheet filed by the Delhi Police more than a year ago and found no evidence to show that these three young students were terrorists.

The police could honestly allege that they were inciting local Muslim women to sit in dharma at Shaheen Bagh, disrupt traffic and shout slogans in protest against the CAA. But did they provoke the riots in Delhi in February 2020? In my view, no! Further, provoking riots does not make them terrorists.

lar authority that can keep citizens in jail for long years without trial?

It is unusual for cases prosecuted under the Act to start the course of trial till many years intervene. The accused languish in jail for years. The very process of trial becomes a punishment imposed by the investigating arm of the judicial process system. The police, like in the case of fake encounters, become the investigator, the prosecutor and the judge!

If it can be ensured that trials would start and end in a year at the most, the ends of justice would have been met. In this particular case, I had spoken to the Police Commissioner of Delhi on the phone. He had averred that he had enough evidence to nail the students. My reply was that in that case let the trial start so that the people know that they were real terrorists and not mere protesters exercising their lungs.

But this regime has been consistently applying the UAPA and the sedition clause of the IPC to magnify offences that would only invite a slap on the wrists.

The most recent example is that of Disha Ravi, a young student from Bengaluru who was whisked away by a police party from Delhi by plane. Mercifully, she was rescued by the trial court itself after spending

three-four uncomfortable nights in the cold of Delhi at the height of winter she had never experienced in her native clime. Her only fault was that she was an environmental activist and was probably coming in the way of the government's development agenda.

Since 2016, after the BJP won its landslide victory in the Lok Sabha elections of 2014, riding on the crest of a wave called hope, opponents and critics of the regime have been saddled with these harsh interpretations of the laws, resulting in a steep ten-fold increase in the number of cases. Only 2 per cent of UAPA and sedition cases that have run through the gauntlet of trials have ended in conviction, which means that 98% of the accused have spent years in prison for offences they had not committed or the evidence to prove it was scanty!

Of all the democracies, this nation has the unenviable record of accommodating more undertrials in our jails than actual convicts. The undertrials jostle for space to sleep and a piece of cloth to spread on the floor. My college friend, Rajamani Iyer, whose son was taken in for a white-collar offence he swore to me he had not committed, was denied bail for months. And after the bail was finally granted, he lingered in the Arthur Road holding centre in Mumbai for 24 days till he agreed to accept court-favoured sureties who he had to compensate! I brought this fact to the notice of the then Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court through a letter. I am sure she must have ordered an inquiry and taken some corrective action, the details of which have not been communicated to me.

We have numerous flaws in our democracy. But only democracies slipping into autocracy treat the right to liberty cavalierly. The right to liberty is guaranteed by our Constitution. Our courts have always prided in upholding it. Yet, recently, habeas corpus petitions have not been treated with the same reverence as they were earlier. Activists languish in jails despite their advanced age, their disabilities and chronic illnesses. Are they really such a threat to the existence of the nation as my ex-colleagues in the IPS say they are?

The bicycle is back in vogue

ANSHULA RAO

WE are still adapting to a life not totally free from the virus, even as warnings of a deadly third wave keep negating our thoughts. But still, this plight has its benefits.

The virus has impacted society. Instead of showing up outside, many have been turning inwards to the world of reading, heeding spiritual talks, cooking, gardening, etc. A main encouraging change is seeing more and more cycle enthusiasts of all ages enjoying the simplicity of riding. The gyms were closed and many regulars resorted to open-sky cycling, where adhering to social distancing goes without saying.

One morning, I came across a neighbour, a retired IFS officer, who, seeing me on a cycle, remarked, 'Beta, you earn more than double my pension. How come you are not using your car?' Even in my office, I came across objections. Many complained that I was doing it only to attract attention.

Anyway, that time of flaunting automobiles seems to have faded away to some extent now because of the pandemic. Fitness matters, not wealth. That is why cycle sales have gone up and more and more well-to-do people are enjoying cycling without hesitation. I have also again reverted to this non-motorised vehicle for regular morning 'drives' and small purchases.

Many a time, when I am cycling, young men and women overtake me easily. This sometimes reminds me of an incident when I was a schoolgoing kid in the '70s. My father took the initiative of going to Chandigarh on a bicycle from Patiala. Both my brother and I took this challenge happily. My grandparents, residing in Chandigarh, would receive our weary lot. After cycling continuously for more than an hour, my brother and I were horrified to see no trace of our father. He was too far behind to be visible, plodding pedals at his own easy pace. Now, it's my time to be in the sluggish period. It brings to mind what Albert Einstein said, 'Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pro-Pakistan stand

Though the advice to the government regarding the resumption of statehood to Jammu & Kashmir is laudable ('Restore J&K statehood'), the eulogy for the PAGD parties is baffling. While painting these parties as victims of a vilification campaign, the pro-Pakistan pro-separatist stance of these parties has been ignored. Even now, the PAGD parties are asking for the restoration of the divisive Article 370, which in any case was a temporary provision in the Constitution, and asking for invitation to Pakistan for talks on Kashmir, ignoring the fact that Kashmir is an integral part of India. Pakistan has no locus standi on Kashmir. In fact, Pakistan is an illegal occupier of PoK.

AK SHARMA, CHANDIGARH

Sooner the better

'Restore J&K statehood' underlines common people's genuine concern about this border state. The Centre's thoughtful move to mend the fences in the trouble-torn Valley is admirable. No real progress is possible without ensuring peace and harmony. Statehood should be restored so that the common people get a chance to vote and bring into power a govern-

ment of their own choice. They must get proper equal opportunities to dream, grow and prosper like citizens in other parts of the country. The Prime Minister has taken the right step by inviting the leaders for a meeting to explore the possibilities of empowering the people through the due processes of demarcation of new Assembly constituencies and the holding of elections.

RAJ BHADUR YADAV, FATEHABAD

Indecent behaviour

It is shameful that police officials scuffled and that too in the presence of the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. What type of example are they setting for other officials? They had heated arguments over allowing members of the 'Four-lane Prabhat Kisan Sangh' to assemble outside the airport. It is the democratic right of these farmers to protest against atrocities. Moreover, they were not even protesting, they were just present there to meet Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and the Chief Minister. There is nothing wrong in it. On the other hand, the ministers displayed a humble attitude by stopping their vehicles and listening to the farmers patiently.

RITISH PANDIT, SUNETR

Controversial decision

Refer to 'Jobs to MLAs' sons'; the Punjab Government has not only lost its credibility, but also has become a laughing stock. How could the Chief Minister be advised irresponsibly on such issues without gauging its consequences, triggering anger among people, particularly unemployed teachers, who are all demanding jobs? What is surprising is that the Cabinet also endorsed the

same

without

debating its pros and cons. The jobs may or may not be accepted but the damage has been done. Time will only tell which way the wind will blow in the 2022 Assembly elections.

RAVINDER SINGH, JALANDHAR

Free ration

Reference to 'Free ration scheme for 5 more months'; foodgrains will be given to 81.35 crore beneficiaries and the government will spend Rs 67,266 crore on this scheme. It is astonishing that 60% of the population is reeling under hunger. It has not yet covered the BPL families. The BPL survey has not been done since 2002. Will the bellies of the beneficiaries be filled in five months? Such a scheme will become a never-ending chain. Moreover, what are the parameters for the selection of the beneficiaries? The taxpayers' money is being spent with an eye on the elections in Uttar Pradesh and the next General Election. Incurring such huge amounts on such schemes indicates that there is no dearth of money with the Centre. The PIL demanding Rs 4 lakh ex gratia for the kin of Covid victims holds good.

RAJ KUMAR KAPOOR, ROPAR

Spectre of 'colour revolution' worries PLA



JAYADEVA RANADE
PRESIDENT, CENTRE FOR CHINA ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

ent. Two articles by PLA officers this May reflect these anxieties.

On May 20, 2021, the Chinese government's largest think tank, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), published an article authored jointly by two PLA officers from the Political College of National Defense University and the Joint Logistics Support Force Longyan Comprehensive Warehouse Support Team.

Their article disclosed that serious concerns exist about the PLA rank and file adhering to the policy of the party's absolute leadership over the army.

Asserting that "the party's absolute leadership over the army is the fundamental principle of our party's army building and ruling the army", they said this principle is facing new challenges today. They enumerated the reasons as: the pace of military modernisation and rejuvenating the army; new methods of building the army at the grassroots level; the "profound new changes" in mission requirements, including the composition of officers and soldiers and troop organisation; and the external social environment.

They said these obstruct efforts to ensure that the grassroots level accepts "the party's absolute leadership over the army".

The article insisted that unless "the party's absolute leadership of the army is accepted down the line to the grassroots level", the majority of officers and soldiers will face severe tests in their missions in complex struggles.

Additionally, it regretted that "officers and soldiers of the new era generally lack the training in the severe and complex environment and the baptism of blood and fire on the battlefield."

The article emphasised that if the grassroots level of the army is not strong politically and "lack under-



The appearance of the articles suggests that instances of indiscipline involving younger personnel have occurred in the PLA which, in turn, have raised concerns about the political reliability and loyalty of the younger personnel. Xi Jinping is adamant that the PLA remains under the CCP. The articles probably herald the start of a new campaign in the PLA, emphasising political reliability.

NEW CHALLENGE: Conceding the Net's importance for young soldiers, stress is laid on countering online propaganda. REUTERS

ITH anti-China sentiment rising globally and US President Joe Biden making efforts to form a broad coalition to contain China's rise, anxiety in the leadership echelons of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has heightened over the possibility of a 'colour revolution'. This anxiety has spread to the CCP's sword arm, the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

While an article in the *People's Liberation Army Daily* on May 5, 2020, had pointed to such concerns in military circles, at least two recent articles underscore that these worries have resurfaced, and more strongly. Last year's *PLA Daily* article had alluded to major powers utilising the difficult post-Covid global economic situation for gaining overall strategic advantage. It had cautioned they could use the economic crisis to cause a recession in China and provoke social unrest. Advocating that financial and military preparedness would have to be commensurate, it warned that an economic crisis could, in turn, cause a political crisis.

Amid a series of warnings to citizens by China's Ministry of State Security (MoSS) since April this year to be vigilant against attempts by the US and the West to instigate a 'colour revolution' in China, similar anxieties in the PLA have recently become transpar-

standing and mastery of the party's absolute leadership over the military", they would be more susceptible to "the extremely deceptive political propaganda of the hostile forces."

Keeping in mind that college and high school graduates today constitute the largest single source of recruits and their thinking could well have been influenced by "liberal" teachers and professors, the article emphasised the importance of clearing out "the fog of thought".

It recalled Chinese President Xi Jinping's warning that "some Western countries are stepping up to instigate 'colour revolutions' in our country, stepping up the implementation of online 'Cultural Cold War' and 'political genetic modification' projects in an attempt to root out our military officers and soldiers and pull the mil-

itary out of the party banner."

Xi Jinping asserted that "The challenges we face in the field of ideology and political security are very serious" and it is imperative "to first strengthen positive publicity and guidance of public opinion... Consolidate and strengthen the mainstream ideological and public opinion... and guide officers and soldiers to grasp correct standpoints and viewpoints."

He called for self-confidence in the present system while comparing China and foreign countries. The article reiterated Xi Jinping's caution that "The so-called process of 'democratisation' in the West has brought about long-term turmoil and war" and "the most fundamental thing is to always uphold the party's absolute leadership over the army."

Acknowledging the importance of the

Internet for the young officers and soldiers, described as of the "media generation", the article underscored the importance of countering online propaganda. It recalled Xi Jinping's instruction that the new situation "urgently requires us to change our minds, carry out online struggles like a war, and continuously strengthen the ability of officers and soldiers to resist the erosion of social corruption and the infiltration and destruction of hostile forces".

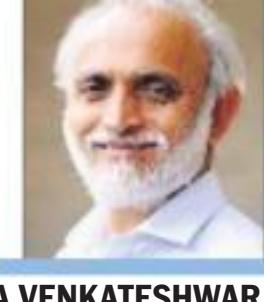
Expressing doubts about the political reliability of the younger PLA officers and soldiers, the article's authors recommended enhanced emphasis on "educating" the personnel.

The sentiments were indirectly echoed the same week in a *Liberation Army Daily* article whose author was identified only as a member of PLA Unit 31006. He asserted that "Party

members must enhance their sense of honour" and bolster the "sense of pride as a member of the party organisation." The unnamed author spoke of the inspiration gained from "the firm belief of the revolutionary ancestors" and urged the soldiers to emulate "their infinite loyalty to the party" and the manner they cherished "the honourable title of" communist!

The appearance of these articles suggests that instances of indiscipline involving younger personnel have occurred in the PLA which, in turn, have raised concerns about the political reliability and loyalty of the younger personnel. Xi Jinping is personally adamant that the PLA remains under the CCP. The articles probably herald the start of a new campaign in the PLA, emphasising political reliability.

The grand illusion of Centre-state cooperation



PARSA VENKATESHWAR RAO JR
SENIOR JOURNALIST

The PM's claim of Centre-state *bhagidari* merits a closer look. The basic principle is that the states can avail of increased credit facility — 1 per cent of state GDP — if reforms directed by the Centre are implemented. In plain terms, the reforms were forced upon the states by the economic crunch caused by the pandemic. And the PM is arguing that this is the way to carry forward reforms.

PRIIME Minister Narendra Modi rarely speaks of the nitty-gritty of governance. It is as though he leaves it to the ministers, if ever, or to the bureaucrats mostly. So, it was a surprise that he chose to write a blog on June 22 in which he talked about how he was successful in pushing the states to carry out certain reforms like 'one nation one ration card', simplifying the business licensing process, notifying floor rates for property tax, bringing in revenue for the municipalities which could help in paying the wages of municipal workers, and the implementation of direct benefit transfer (DBT) in lieu of free electricity and water supply. He argues that the last reform has checked the wastage of power and water. These reforms had to be implemented by the state governments, and these changes would have taken a longer time if the Centre did not offer the incentive of raising the credit facility by 1 per cent of the state GDP apart from another 1 per cent increase in credit facility due to the Covid-19 crisis and the economic crunch it caused.

The Prime Minister reveals that many of the states had adopted the governance changes and they availed of the 1 per cent credit that was offered in its wake, and this amounted to Rs 1.06 lakh crore in 2020-21. And he concludes that this showed that reforms can be implemented not through stealth and compulsion as it was done earlier, but through conviction and incentives as it was done by his government. And he calls this 'Centre-state *bhagidari*', another variant of his



FLAWED APPROACH: The 'one nation one ration card' reform should have been carried out as a direct response to the pandemic-induced crisis, not as a carrot-and-stick policy. PTI

formulation of cooperative federalism.

It is an interesting claim, and it merits a closer look. The basic principle is that the states can avail increased credit facility — 1 per cent of the state GDP — if reforms directed by the Centre are implemented. In plain terms, it is a carrot-and-stick policy, and it was forced upon the states by the economic crunch caused by the pandemic, and the Centre seems to have felt that this was the best time to force the states to adopt the slated reforms. And the PM is arguing that this is the way to carry forward reforms, implying that it would have to be another crisis like the pandemic, a time when the states are in need for additional finance, and this finance is not provided by way of grant

but by loosening the credit strings. And then calling it an act of partnership between the Centre and the states does not sound right. There is something in all this that is not falling in place.

The PM seems to overlook the fact that the Centre is taking advantage of a crisis — a national medical emergency — to force the states to swallow a bitter pill. Economic reforms, at the best of times, should happen when there is no crunch or crisis, but they are undertaken because they would improve the finances of the states and the economic well-being of the people, and in the words of the Prime Minister, "Each of the reforms was linked to improve ease of living to the public, particularly the poor, the vulnerable and middle class."

And the second aim was to "promote fiscal sustainability." It can be argued that changes happen only in response to a crisis. But to arm-twist the states to adopt reforms at a time when they should be focusing on dealing with the plight of the people seems an odd argument. It is possible to argue that 'one nation one ration card' was particularly helpful amid the pandemic when the poor migrants were shuttling between cities and villages. But this should have been done as a direct response to the crisis triggered by the pandemic, and not as a carrot-and-stick policy, the kind that lending institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) adopted towards countries in economic distress, as India was in 1991. And for the PM to describe this as Centre-state cooperation is not very convincing.

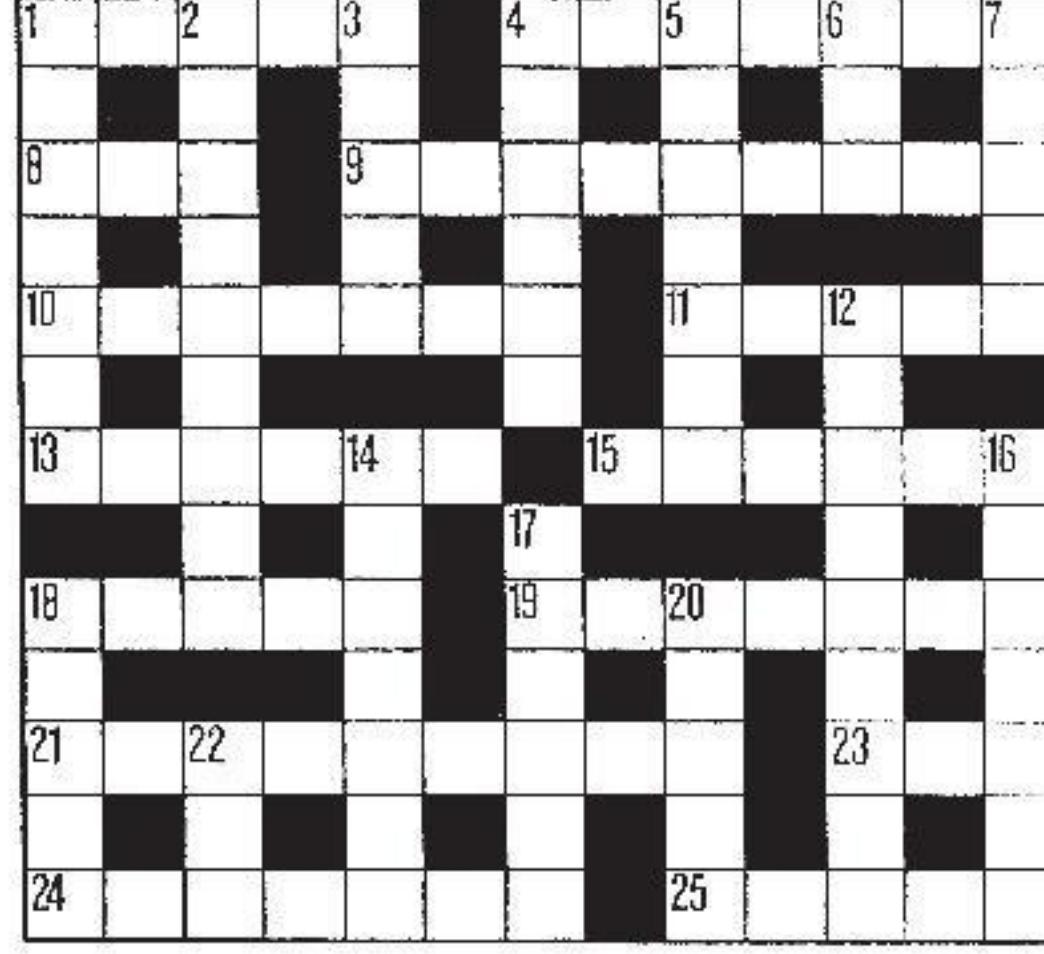
It seems the Prime Minister has forgotten that the states in the first decade of this century had adopted electricity reforms by unbundling generation, transmission and distribution to get out of the crisis of state electricity boards (SEBs) sinking under the financial burden and faced with the prospect of bankruptcy, and the state governments not in a position to bail them out, and the continuous shortfall of power which affected industrial development of the respective states. It was a complicated reform and quite painful too, but many state governments undertook power reforms because they were left with no other choice.

The credit incentive offered by the Centre and tying it with the purse

strings might seem a clever ploy but it cannot be considered as global best practice. In a federal polity, the Centre should have no say in the financial matters of the states. There was the system of a state government seeking an overdraft from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and it depended on the state governments' promise of exercising control over expenditure. It was purely a financial issue between the state government and the central bank. The states could have sought guarantees from the Central Government, and the RBI could concede the overdraft facility based on the Centre's guarantees. But after the initial reforms of the 1990s, state governments, particularly Andhra Pradesh under the then Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, sought loan from private entities like Peerless Insurance. There were pitfalls of turning to private lenders, but it also opened up the possibility of market borrowing by the states.

This was the kind of financial devolution that should characterise economic reforms in a federal polity. India still remains a centralised state with the tax devolution policy, and the issue has been made more complicated by the Goods and Services Tax (GST), where the Centre and states are forced to get together to levy and share taxes. The PM's argument in his blog claiming success of certain reforms is nothing more than arm-twisting the states to adopt changes in lieu of increased credit access. It is the domination of the Centre over the states by another name.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Chicken out, 8 Carve, 9 Presage, 10 Cheer on, 11 Attic, 12 Action, 14 Set off, 17 Nurse, 19 Equator, 21 Ovulate, 22 Trash, 23 Talk turkey.

Down: 2 Harvest, 3 Clear, 4 Expand, 5 Operate, 6 Trait, 7 Henceforth, 8 Cock a snook, 13 Over all, 15 Outpace, 16 Select, 18 Rivet, 20 Utter.

ACROSS

- 1 Confine narrowly (5)
- 4 Spirited (7)
- 8 Nothing (3)
- 9 Confronted with (2,7)
- 10 Investigation (7)
- 11 Lure into trap (5)
- 13 To journey (6)
- 15 Elementary textbook (6)
- 18 Founder of psychoanalysis (5)
- 19 Self-esteem-boosting action (3-4)
- 21 Straightforward (9)
- 23 To exercise (3)
- 24 Omen (7)
- 25 Military chaplain (5)

DOWN

- 1 Declare guilty (7)
- 2 Having equal scores (3,6)
- 3 Cut back (5)
- 4 Scarcity (6)
- 5 Calumny (7)
- 6 Tavern (3)
- 7 Make ends meet (3,2)
- 12 Regain consciousness (4,5)
- 14 Confirm (7)
- 16 Filled to bursting (7)
- 17 Altitude (6)
- 18 Disgruntled (3,2)
- 20 Freely available (2,3)
- 22 Armed hostilities (3)

SU DO KU

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

EASY

CALENDAR

JUNE 25, 2021, FRIDAY

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| ■ Vikrami Samvat | 2078 |
| ■ Shaka Samvat | 1943 |
| ■ Aashadh Shaka | 4 |
| ■ Aashadh Parvishtha | 11 |
| ■ Hijri | 1442 |
| ■ Krishan Paksha Tithi 1, up to 9 pm | |
| ■ Brahma Yoga up to 10.37 pm | |
| ■ Moola Nakshatra up to 6.40 am | |
| ■ Purvashadha Nakshatra up to 4.25 am | |
| ■ Moon in Sagittarius sign | |
| ■ Gandmool up to 6:40 am | |

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: 19:28 HRS
SUNRISE: 05:23 HRS



CITY MAX MIN

Chandigarh	38	29	
New Delhi	37	29	
Amritsar	40	27	
Bathinda	39	28	
Jalandhar	39	28	
Ludhiana	39	28	
B			

Support pours in for Kullu SP on social media

Opinion divided on who started scuffle | Sister wants justice for ASP

ABHINAV VASHISHT

KULLU, JUNE 24
There has been an outpouring of support for Kullu SP Gaurav Singh on social media though the probe into the incident of scuffle involving him and two other police officials here yesterday is underway.

Most people have expressed concern over deteriorating discipline in the police force, while opinion is divided on who was at fault; the Kullu SP slapped the Additional SP, CM's security, and in retaliation the CM's personal security officer (PSO) kicked the SP.

Social media is replete with video clips of the incident showing the police officials slapping and kicking each other outside the Bhuntar airport in Kullu yesterday where CM Jai Ram Thakur had come to receive Union Minis-

STATEMENTS OF SP, 2 OFFICIALS RECORDED

- The written statements of SP Gaurav Singh, Additional SP (Chief Minister's security) Brijesh Sood and PSO to Chief Minister Balwant were recorded before the inquiry officer, DIG (Central Range) Madhusudan, in Kullu on Thursday
- Sood and Balwant have been sent on compulsory leave with their headquarters in Shimla while SP Gaurav Singh has been asked to report at the DIG office, Mandi. The CM ordered that the probe into the incident be completed in three days

ter for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari.

Social organisations and eminent persons have posted comments in the SP's support but some people also thought that he was at fault. Some conscientious people felt that it would be premature to comment on the incident until the inquiry is complete. Many reputed persons have remarked that it was unruly on the part of the Chief Minister's PSO to attack the SP. Kullu residents have sup-

ported the SP for allowing a peaceful gathering of people demanding higher compensation for their lands acquired for a highway project. "In a democracy, people have every right to express their opinion and the SP was right in allowing them to express their resentment. So, why should the CM's security object to it," the posts read. Many people have said that the Kullu SP is an excellent officer and he should not be transferred. They even credited him with

improving law and order and tightening the noose around the drug mafia.

Members of the Four Lane Bharhat Kisan Sangh have also come out in the SP's support and thanked the district administration and the SP for allowing them to gather peacefully outside the airport, affording them an opportunity to raise their issues with the Union Minister and the CM.

Meanwhile, Sunanda Karol, sister of Additional SP Brijesh Sood, in a Facebook post demanded justice for her brother. "Law does not permit anyone to raise his hand on others, much less on a police officer," she writes. "Isn't slapping the CM's security in-charge a punishable offence?" She has also appealed to the Sood Sabha and locals for help in providing justice to her brother.

19 tunnels to be constructed, work on 8 under way: Gadkari

Inaugurates, lays stone of ₹6,155-cr road projects

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KULLU, JUNE 24

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, during a visit to the Atal Tunnel today, said that 19 tunnels would be constructed in Himachal.

He said the work was in progress on eight tunnels while the work on 11 tunnels would be awarded soon. Gadkari was accompanied by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. They were accorded a traditional welcome by people of Lahaul and Spiti district while they entered the north portal of the tunnel.

Gadkari said the BRO would also construct tunnels at Shinkula, Baralacha, Tanglangla and Lachungla for better connectivity to border areas.

Later, the Union minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of nine road projects of 222 km worth Rs 6,155 crore through video-conferencing from Manali.

He dedicated the four-laned Parwanoo-Solan section of the NH-22 (now NH-5) to public. He also inaugurated a



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari being accorded a traditional welcome by locals in Lahaul on Thursday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

double-lane bridge built by the NHAI at a cost of Rs 12.86 crore on the Beas in Manali. The 80-metre long and 28-metre wide bridge would ease traffic jams in Manali.

He said that better roads would go a long way in promoting tourism. In two years, the travelling distance between Delhi and Kullu would reduce to seven hours.

Gadkari said the road projects worth Rs 15,000 crore would be awarded this year. The DPR for the construction of a 40-km left bank double lane road project from Kullu

to Manali would be prepared at the earliest.

Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways Gen VK Singh said that road projects worth Rs 2,000 crore had been completed in Himachal and the work was in progress on projects worth Rs 7,000 crore.

Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur, addressing the event virtually from New Delhi, said the road infrastructure had witnessed an unprecedented expansion during Gadkari's tenure.

Union Minister asked to clear status of 69 NHs

HAMIRPUR, JUNE 24

"Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari must clear the status of 69 national highways (NHs) he had announced during his previous visit to the state," said Ram Lal Thakur, MLA, Sri Naina Devi Constituency, here on Thursday.

He said the state had approved the preparation of the detailed project report (DPR) of 58 NHs but nothing was seen on the ground. Ram Lal alleged that despite repeated meetings with the NHAI authorities, there was no development on the NHs.

He said CM Jai Ram Thakur had said a 140-km-long NH from Kullu to Samshar in Anni was to be built but nothing had been done. "A fund of Rs 7.5 crore was sanctioned by the government for this project but the DPR was not prepared even after months."

Meanwhile, Prem Kaushal, HPCC spokesperson, said the purpose of Gadkari's visit was just for tourism. — OC

39-km Parwanoo-Solan stretch on Shimla highway opened

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, JUNE 24

Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport & Highways, today inaugurated the 39-km Parwanoo-Solan stretch of the Kalka-Shimla national highway-05 virtually from Kullu district today.

The work, which began in September 2015, was supposed to be completed within 30 months, but its smooth implementation was affected due unavailability of land, exodus of migrants during the Covid, besides an NGT order putting the work on hold for a few months owing to environmental concerns. It was supposed to be completed by March 2018.

About 97 per cent of the work has been completed and an overpass at Solan and a viaduct bridge near Parwanoo were among a few structures which were yet to be completed by the GR Infraprojects.

The project cost has escalated from Rs 748 crore due to change of scope for executing additional work. "Additional Rs 123 crore have been sought from the National Highways



The work was to be completed in 2018

Sirmaur woman held for duping Haryana groom

SOLAN, JUNE 24

A woman (24) married a Haryana man and duped him of cash and valuables in Paonta Sahib. The police today arrested Sheela of Kando Hayras village from Renuka.

Sheela presented herself as Asha to Baber Singh of Pipiwala village in Haryana and married him at the Paonta Sahib gurdwara on March 20.

DSP Bir Bahadur said a case of cheating, criminal conspiracy and breach of faith had been registered against seven persons. Two Haryana residents — Pirthi and Rishi — had offered to get him married to a local woman. They visited her house at Majra and the wedding was fixed. Five others hatched the conspiracy by posing as the bride's relatives.

The bride demanded Rs 1.5 lakh cash soon after the marriage to repay her parents' loans and after staying with her husband for a few days, she fled with the jewellery and a mobile phone on April 14.

The DSP said a similar case had been registered against Sheela in other places in Haryana. Probe is on. — TNS

Massive tourist influx chokes road to Kasauli

AMBHIKA SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, JUNE 24

The road leading to Kasauli are bursting at the seams with a huge rush of tourists heading for the hills to beat the summer heat of the plains from Delhi, Punjab and Haryana. The traffic situation has worsened after the lockdown was lifted in the plains and the state did away with the RT-PCR test for the visitors.

Garkhal junction, where five roads converge, has become a major headache for motorists as well as police. A motorist has to cross this junction to reach Kasauli from the Parwanoo-Dhararampur national highway.

Narrow single lane roads are far too inadequate to handle such a huge volume of traffic as tourists enter from the national highway. The constant movement of VIPs, including Central ministers, adds to the turmoil as policemen face a challenging task to ensure smooth passage of vehicles at this junction.

"The vehicles heading towards Kasauli and return-



COMMERCIALISATION RISES, INFRA MISSING

- Kasauli has seen immense commercialisation in the last two decades. Despite multi-fold increase in the number of hotels, not even a single road has been widened
- It is surprising why the government has not initiated any move to work out a bypass for the Garkhal junction
- It is also used by trucks carrying goods from the industrial belt of Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh. Multi-axle trucks often add to the traffic woes

◀◀ Traffic chaos at the Garkhal junction en route to Kasauli. TRIBUNE PHOTO

ing back are routed through two different roads at Garkhal to avoid traffic bottlenecks. Staff from the police station at Kasauli is deputed at the weekends to channelise traffic at this junction but since all roads are narrow and single lane, handling the huge traffic

becomes tough," said Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Parwanoo, Yogesh Rolta.

Residents residing along the roads are subject to air and noise pollution because of constant honking by vehicles lined up on all roads. Unsavoury scenes are often

witnessed as the desperate tourists sometimes argue with the policemen, who are engaged in manning the traffic smoothly. Policemen deployed here they were helpless as roads were choked with vehicles.

The district administration has failed to come up with a

solution and decongest the roads despite the National Green Tribunal (NGT) directions to do so.

The NGT had directed the state government to devise ways to decongest the Garkhal junction after undertaking a study on its carrying capacity in 2017. Its recommendations have, however, failed to yield any result.

Kasauli has seen immense commercialization in the last two decades. Despite manifold increase in the number of hotels and tourists in the Kasauli Planning Area, not even a single road has been widened.

It is surprising why the government has not initiated any move to work out a bypass for Garkhal junction. It is also used by goods trucks from the industrial belt of Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh. Multi-axle trucks often add to the traffic woes due to their huge size.

Despite roads being available to channelise industrial vehicles the administration was turning a blind eye to this problem which was growing by each passing day.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Under Section 3(E) of NH Act, 1956)

Announcement of Award for acquisition of land for construction of National Highways for Land owners/Persons interested therein and payment of compensation Amount
Kind attention of all landowners/interested persons is invited to the Notification No.825 (E) dated 12.02.2019 issued under Section 3A of the NH Act, 1956 for acquisition of land for 4 laning and upgradation of Amritsar connecting Mehta, Sri Hargobindpur, Tanda, Hoshiarpur in the state of Punjab, Una and terminating at its junction with 503 near Una in the state of Himachal Pradesh of NH-503A (Amritsar to Tanda) and the Notification No. 660 (E) dated 11.02.2020 issued under Section 3D of the NH Act, 1956 and published in the following newspapers:-

Sr No	Notification	Names of Newspapers in which published	Date of Newspaper
1	Section 3A	The Tribune (English), Jagbanli (Punjabi) & Dainik Sawera (Hindi)	22.02.2019
2	Section 3D	The Tribune (English), Jagbanli (Punjabi) & Dainik Sawera (Hindi)	25.02.2020

It is informed that the undersigned has announced the Award in respect of Village, Bhoi, Boparai, Chananke, Chuchang, Ghanshampur, Jiwan Pandher, Khabe Rajputan, Kohala, Malak Nangal, Mattewal, Mehta, Saido Lehal, Saiduke, Suro Padda, Taharpur, Tanel, Udh Nangal in Tehsil Baba Bakala, District Amritsar, under Section 3G of the NH Act, 1956 vide order dated 23.11.2020

The land acquiring agency (NHAI) has placed the requisite amount of compensation at the disposal of the undersigned.

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

- 1) The compensation amount in respect of all such landowners, who have already submitted their Bank account details, is being credited to their respective bank Accounts through RTGS
- 2) The landowners, who have not submitted their Bank Account details, may do so immediately in the office of the undersigned and the amount shall be credited to their accounts within one week of the receipt of such Bank Account details;
- 3) All other claimants entitled to receive the compensation amount may collect their amount of compensation from the office of the undersigned on any working day between 9:00 am to 5:00 pm within a period of 60 days.

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

The landowners/persons interested therein are further called upon to surrender or deliver the possession of the subject land all to the undersigned along with an application, duplicate Jamabandi, passport size photographs, valid id Card/Aadhaar Card, Notarized affidavit in acceptable format, copy of Bank Passbook (with Name, Address, Account No. and IFSC Code) within 15 Days from the issue of this Public Notice, failing which the possession of subject land will be taken with police assistance on expiry of the period of 60 days.

Competent Authority
Land Acquisition Collector-Cum Sub Divisional Magistrate, Baba Bakala

25 pleas challenging Art 370 abrogation pending in SC

SATYA PRAKASH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi leads a Jammu and Kashmir outreach, around 25 petitions challenging the validity of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, which divided the erstwhile state into two union territories, and nullification of Article 370, remain pending before the Supreme Court for almost two years.

The top court had on August 28, 2019, referred petitions challenging the Presidential order nullifying Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories to a five-judge Constitution Bench.

In March last year, it had refused to refer it to a larger Bench of seven judges.

"The Supreme Court can always turn the clock back," a five-judge Constitution Bench had said this on 1 October, 2020, when it took up the petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, and the August 5 Presidential order nullifying Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

There are around 25 petitions challenging the Presidential order nullifying Article 370, including those by Delhi-based advocate ML Sharma, Jammu and Kashmir-based lawyer Shakir Shabir, National Conference Lok Sabha MPs Mohammad Akbar Lone, Justice (retd)



LEADERS AFTER MEETING PM MODI

CONG STEERS CLEAR OF ART 370

New Delhi: Asked who all raised the issue of abrogation of Article 370 at the meeting with the PM, Congress veteran and former CM of J&K Ghulam Nabi Azad said, "Most of the people said special status should be left to the Supreme Court." TNS

Hasnain Masoodi, bureaucrat-turned-politician Shah Faesal and his party colleague Shehla Rashid.

There is another PIL filed by former interlocutor for Jammu and Kashmir Radha Kumar, Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Kapil Kak, Major General (Retd) Ashok Mehta, and former IAS officers Hindal Haidar Tyabji, Amitabh Pande and Gopal Pillai, who have urged the top court to declare the August 5 Presidential order "unconstitutional, void and inoperative".

The Sajad Gani Lone-led Jammu and Kashmir Peo-

ple's Conference (JKPC) had in November last year moved the Supreme Court demanding early hearing of petitions challenging the nullification of Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution.

Referring to the "sweeping changes" introduced in Jammu and Kashmir by the Centre, the plea filed through JKPC spokesperson Adnan Ashraf had submitted that such changes would have an irreparable impact on the rights of people of the erstwhile state.

This was the second such plea in the top court. Earli-

er, petitioner Shakir Shabir had demanded early hearing, expressing the apprehension that mere passage of time can render the abrogation of Article 370 permanent, making the petitions infructuous.

He had pointed out that since the promulgation of the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019 amending Article 367 of the Constitution of India and abrogating Article 370 on August 5, 2019, several laws had been passed, effecting key changes in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kullu-Kaza bus service resumes after 20 months

service resumed today. The bus that started from Kullu at 4.30 am had 18 passengers on board, he said. After starting from Kullu at 4.30 am, the bus will have a brief stopover at Manali from where it will head for Kaza at 6 am. The Kullu-Kaza fare is Rs 498 per passenger. The bus will begin its return journey from Kaza at 5 am every day.

Notify Class ...

proposed schemes, to be so formulated by the boards concerned. That will be considered on its own merits, if and when the occasion arises."

The Bench said the evaluation schemes must provide for a proper grievance redressal mechanism for the students after the declaration of results.

In Pb, fatality ...

back. The number of cases and deaths started coming down last month, but the case fatality rate went up. It increased to 4.2 per cent in the first week of June. In the subsequent week (June 8 to 14), it rose further to 5.8.

At present the state's overall CFR is 2.7 per cent, which means for every 100 confirmed cases, 2.7 have passed away from the virus. In April, the CFR had come down to 2.4. This increase in fatality rate is being seen nationally also. It was 1.2 per cent around 10 days back, and now it is 1.3 per cent.

At present, the CFR in Haryana is 1.2 per cent, Jammu & Kashmir 1.4 per cent; Himachal Pradesh 1.7 per cent and Chandigarh 1.3 per cent. Several districts in Punjab have over 3 per cent CFR. In the last seven days (June 16 to June 23), the state reported 3,016 cases and 185 deaths. Thus the state's case fatality rate in the last seven days remained 6.1.

On an average, the daily number of cases last week came down to 450, which in the middle of last month stood between 8,000 and 9,000. The average daily deaths remained around 25.

FROM PAGE 1

J&K poll a priority, quick delimitation a must: PM



STATEHOOD DEMAND

We have demanded that full statehood with J&K's independent cadre be restored to us as a measure of confidence-building.

Omar Abdullah, NC LEADER



PEOPLE ANGRY

People are angry and humiliated. They do not accept the way in which Article 370 was abrogated.

Mehbooba Mufti, PDP CHIEF

Mehbooba, Farooq not on same page on Pak

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24 PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday again urged the government to engage Pakistan for resolving the Kashmir issue, pointing out that the government was even talking to China.

She said if engagement with Pakistan healed the people of J&K, the government should consider it. Importantly, although NC president Farooq Abdullah distanced himself from Mufti's remarks on Pakistan ahead of the meeting with the PM, his son Omar Abdullah defended Mufti, saying Mufti had only said what late PM Vajpayee used to say—that we cannot change our neighbours.

Omar and Mufti raised at the PM's meeting the abrogation of Article 370, terming the man-

"We told the PM that there can be no better time to restore full statehood in J&K and conduct elections. He, however, said delimitation should happen first and then elections and statehood will follow," said Azad. He added that the PM agreed with all parties that bureaucratic rule could not replace political rule and the two were very different in the nature of outreach.

All other participants, including People's Conference's Saj-

ad Lone, former Deputy CM Muzaffar Baig, and Apni Party's Altaf Bukhari hailed the meeting for its "cordiality and great atmospherics", saying the PM "heard everyone as they poured their hearts out and shared the anguish and pain of J&K's people and assured early restoration of the democratic processes in J&K."

NSA Ajit Doval, Lt Governor of J&K Manoj Sinha and Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh too attended.

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NSA Ajit Doval, Lt Governor of J&K Manoj Sinha and Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh too attended.

On the move unconstitutional. Post meeting, Mufti said the government must talk to Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue "if it heals the people".

"We told the PM that there can be no better time to restore full statehood in J&K and conduct elections. He, however, said delimitation should happen first and then elections and statehood will follow," said Azad. He added that the PM agreed with all parties that bureaucratic rule could not replace political rule and the two were very different in the nature of outreach.

All other participants, including People's Conference's Saj-

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J&K clearly...

FROM PAGE 1

stand was well known. "We desire normal ties with all nations, including Pakistan. Pakistan must work towards creating a conducive atmosphere by taking credible, verifiable and irreversible action of not allowing any territory under its control to be used for cross-border terrorism against India in any manner," said Bagchi.

On Afghanistan, he said it was for the Afghan people to decide their partners, and the size of that partnership. "India has brought electricity, dams, schools, health clinics, roads and community projects to Afghanistan. The world knows what Pakistan has brought to Afghanistan," he said.

Police sources said the four suspects were being questioned by Delhi Police Special Cell sleuths.

Since the case is being investigated by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the anti-terror agency would take their

4 from Kargil detained in Israel embassy blast case

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

The Delhi Police have detained four youths from Kargil in connection with the Israel embassy blast that took place in January.

Police sources said the four suspects were being questioned by Delhi Police Special Cell sleuths.

Since the case is being investigated by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the anti-terror agency would take their

custody soon, said the sources. Delhi Police officials said the role of the youths in the blast was being ascertained for their formal arrest.

On June 15, the NIA had released CCTV footage of two suspects. It had also announced a reward of Rs 10 lakh for information on the duo. A low-intensity explosion took place near the Israel embassy in the high-security area of New Delhi on January 29, but no injuries were reported.

Qadian MLA...

FROM PAGE 1

Chairman, State Farmers Commission. Tript Bajwa's son Ravi Nandan Singh is Chairman of the Gurdaspur Zila Parishad and Sukhbir Singh Sarkaria's nephew Dilraj Singh is Chairman, Amritsar Zila Parishad," the MLA pointed out. Rubbishing the criticism, state congress president Jakhari said his nephew Ajay Vir did not draw a salary or other emolument. "By accepting a government job for his son, Fatehjot not only hurt the feelings of those jobless but also damaged the reputation of the CM and that of the party," he retorted.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

Notice Inviting e-Tender

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Nagrota Bagwan invites online tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works through online e-tendering process:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Cost of tender form (Rs.)
1	Jandhra and Multi-village Group-Piped Water Supply Scheme for Changer Area under Nagrota Bagwan Constituency in Tehsil Baroh District Kangra (HP). (Sub Head:- Construction of RCC Under Ground Reservoir 35000 litres Capacity, Node No. 1 at Village Tramli, 30000 liters Capacity, Node No. 3 at Village Nandoti and 110000 litres Capacity, Node No. 4 at Village Suhni).	15,19,880/-	30,400/-	400/-only

Time Limit:- 6 Months

Last date of filling/uploaded the tender through e-tendering: 02.07.2021 up to 11:00 a.m. and opened on same day at 11:30 a.m. The tender forms and other details conditions can be seen from the website <http://htpender.gov.in>.

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Nagrota Bagwan, (H.P.).

JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, JS Division Chauntra on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Jal Shakti Vibhag.

Name of work:- Providing Sewerage scheme Joginder Nagar Town in Tehsil Joginder Nagar District Mandi H.P. SH Networking connectivity of house to house Sewerage connection Laying, Jointing of 150 mm dia D.I. pipe at Ward 7 left out area.

Estimated Cost	Rs. 8,95,630/- only
Earnest Money	Rs. 17,920/- only
Time Limit	Three Months
Cost of bid form	Rs. 250/-

Schedule of tendering:-

1. Bid Submission start date	21.06.2021 05:00 p.m.
2. Bid Submission end date	28.06.2021 05:00 p.m.
3. Opening of Cover	29.06.2021 at 11:30 a.m.
4. Opening of Financial bid	Date and place to be notified separately

Terms and Conditions:- Tender documents, Terms and conditions and other instruction can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <https://htpenders.gov.in>.

Executive Engineer, JS Division, Chauntra.

DPR/HP/1785

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan-II, Pusa, New Delhi — 110012 (Agricultural Education Division)

F. No. 1(6)/2018-Exam Cell-Part(IV) Dated: June, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

The candidates aspiring to appear in ICAR's AIEEA (PG) and AICE-JRF/SRF (Ph.D.)-2021 examination are hereby notified that the extant eligibility requirements for admission through these examinations stand partially modified with respect to the requirement of ICAR accreditation for candidates passed out from public funded/Govt. and private agricultural and allied science institutions.

The detailed notification for further information of candidates and compliance by Registrars of all such institutions is available on the websites of ICAR (www.icar.org.in) and Agricultural Education Portal (<http://education.icar.gov.in>).

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority in the Council.

Sd/- Under Secretary (Agri. Edn.)

davp 01304/11/0001/2122

HP JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Sealed item rate tenders for the following works are hereby invited on Form PW 6 and 8 by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Shillai on behalf of Governor of H.P. from the approved contractors registered in the Jal Shakti Vibhag in the appropriate class. The application for purchase of tender documents shall be entertained up to 3:00 P.M. on dated 29.06.2021 on payment non-refundable in cash or by money order as per cost shown below. The tender forms shall be issued in the office of the Executive Engineer up to 4:00 P.M



GLOBE TROT

**HOUSE OF CARDS:** A partially collapsed 12-storey building near Miami Beach in Florida, US, on Thursday. REUTERS**One dead in Florida building collapse**

SURFSIDE, FLA.: Rescue workers scoured through tonnes of rubble early Thursday after a 12-storey oceanfront residential building partially collapsed just north of Miami Beach, leaving a person dead and 51 still unaccounted for. REUTERS

Graft: Pak court junks Sharif's appeal against convictions

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani court on Thursday dismissed appeals by former PM Nawaz Sharif against his conviction in corruption cases. The Bench said Sharif was a "fugitive from law hence has lost his right of audience before this court". AP

US blocks solar components from China over labour abuses

WASHINGTON: A major Chinese producer of material used to make solar panels will be barred from the US market as part of a broader effort to halt commerce tied to China's repressive campaign against Uyghurs and other minorities, the Biden administration said on Thursday. PTI

US to evacuate Af interpreters before military withdrawal

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden's administration will evacuate a group of Afghan interpreters and translators outside of the country before the US military completes its withdrawal so they can complete their visa process in safety. REUTERS

Britain, Russia engage in war of words over Black Sea passage

Moscow has accused UK of spreading lies over navy confrontation

LONDON, JUNE 24 Britain said it would not accept unlawful interference with innocent passage at sea, and that its navy would uphold international law, in a written statement to Parliament following a warship confrontation with Russia.

"The Royal Navy will always uphold international law and will not accept unlawful interference with innocent passage," Defence Minister Ben Wallace said in the statement.

Russia has accused Britain of spreading lies over the confrontation in the Black Sea and warned London that it would respond resolutely to any further provocative actions by the British navy off the coast of Russia-annexed Crimea.

Wallace's statement said the British warship HMS Defender was warned about a Russian live fire exercise, and that it noted the exercise being conducted out of

**BRITISH WARSHIP WAS ACTING LEGALLY, SAYS JOHNSON**

PM Boris Johnson said a British warship was acting legally in international waters after a confrontation with the Russian military off the coast of Russia-annexed Crimea. "I think it was wholly appropriate to use international waters," the PM said. "The important point is that we don't recognise the Russian annexation of Crimea," he said.

range of its position. Wallace also said Russian aircraft flew around 500 feet (152.4 m) above the Defender. "These aircraft posed no

immediate threat to HMS Defender, but some of these manoeuvres were neither safe nor professional," he said. "HMS Defender

responded by the VHF radio to the Russian units on several occasions and was, at all times, courteous and professional." —Reuters

WILL BOMB SHIPS, RUSSIA WARNS BRITAIN

Russia warned Britain on Thursday that it would bomb British naval vessels in the Black Sea if there were any further provocative actions by the British navy off the coast of Russia-annexed Crimea.

Russia summoned the British ambassador for a formal diplomatic scolding after the warship breached what the Kremlin says are its territorial waters but which Britain and most of the world say belong to Ukraine.

Britain said no warning shots had been fired and no bombs had been dropped in the path of the Royal Navy destroyer Defender, it said.

**WEEKLY UPDATE RELEASED ON JUNE 22**

ALPHA BETA GAMMA DELTA

170 119 71 85

TRACKING VIRUS**NATION DEATHS**

US	6,18,321
BRAZIL	5,07,240
INDIA	3,92,123
MEXICO	2,31,847
UK	1,28,048

WORLDOMETER
TILL JUNE 24,
11 PM

variant, and is expected to become a dominant lineage if current trends continue." The update India reported the highest numbers of new Covid cases. —PTI

US allows some H-1B visa seekers to re-apply

WASHINGTON, JUNE 24 Some foreign guest workers in the US will be able to re-submit their applications for the H1-B visa, the most sought-after non-immigrant visa among Indian IT professionals, if their petition was solely rejected because it was based on the initial registration period, according to a federal agency.



According to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), such re-submission of applications is for those whose applications have been rejected or administratively closed solely because the requested start date was after October 1, 2020. —PTI

Questions raised over Nepal Prez impartiality

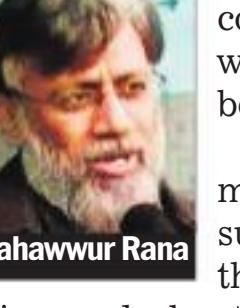
KATHMANDU, JUNE 24 Questioning the impartiality of President Bidya Devi Bhandari in the May 22 dissolution of the House of Representatives, lawyers representing petitioners against the move have argued that her actions make it clear that she didn't want anybody except KP Sharma Oli as PM.

A five-member Constitutional Bench began the hearing, starting with the writ filed by 146 lawmakers backing President Sher Bahadur Deuba's claim to Prime Ministership.—PTI

In-person extradition hearing of 26/11 accused

WASHINGTON, JUNE 24 A federal US court in Los Angeles has scheduled on its calendar the in-person extradition hearing of Tahawwur Rana, the Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman who is sought for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack in India.

The extradition hearing, at the request of the Indian government, would be held in the court of Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Chooljian



in Los Angeles. The court records suggested that the US government submitted a set of sealed Indian documents before the court twice this week, the latest one being on Wednesday.

The US government, in multiple submissions before the court, has made a declaration in support of the "United States' Surrebuttal in Support of its Request for Certification of Extradition." —PTI

Pro-democracy Apple Daily's final edition



The final edition of Hong Kong's last remaining pro-democracy paper sold out in hours on Thursday, as readers scooped up all 1 million copies of the Apple Daily.

People lined up early in the morning to buy the paper, which, in recent years, has become an increasingly outspoken critic of the Chinese and Hong Kong authorities. AP

BUSINESS

USD \$	EURO €	POUND £	JPY ¥	YUAN ₠	CAD \$	AUD \$	SGD \$	HKD \$
₹74.18	₹88.52	₹103.04	₹0.67	₹11.46	₹60.29	₹56.19	₹55.19	₹9.55

BSE	392.92
52,699	

NSE	103.50
15,790.45	

GOLD	₹47,190
Mumbai (MCX)	

SILVER	₹67,900
Mumbai (MCX)	

S&P slashes India's FY22 growth forecast to 9.5%

Cautions risk to outlook from Covid waves

**PROJECTS 7.8% UPTICK IN FY23**

The rating agency lowered the growth outlook saying that a severe second Covid outbreak in April and May led to lockdowns imposed by states and sharp contraction in economic activity.

Reliance will build four 'Giga factories' to make solar cells, batteries for energy storage, making fuel cells and producing green hydrogen in Gujarat, Reliance chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani said at the company's AGM with shareholders.

The oil-to-telecom conglomerate, which owns the world's biggest oil refining complex, will also set up 100 gigawatts (GW) of solar power generation capacity by 2030 and invest in setting up a carbon fibre plant.

Ambani bets big on clean energy

Reliance Industries to invest ₹75,000 cr in new biz over 3 years

FOUR GIGA FACTORIES

RIL chairman Mukesh Ambani said his company will invest ₹60,000 crore on these initiatives

Another ₹15,000 crore will be invested to provide infrastructure and utilities to manufacturing ancillary materials and equipment needed to support the four Giga factories

It will also set up 100 GW of solar power generation capacity by 2030 and invest in setting up a carbon fibre plant

**JIOPHONE NEXT ON SEPT 10**

Ambani said Jio and Google have jointly developed an affordable smartphone 'JioPhone Next', which will be available from September 10

He promised JioPhone Next will be the most affordable smartphone not just in India but globally

YASIR ON RIL BOARD

Saudi Aramco chairman and head of the Kingdom's cash-rich wealth fund PIF Yasir Othman Al-Rumayyan will join the Board of Reliance Industries as a precursor to a \$15-billion deal that is now expected to conclude this

**RELIANCE RETAIL TO CREATE OVER 10 LAKH JOBS**

Ambani said RIL's retailing arm Reliance Retail would grow at least three times in the next 3 to 5 years and create over 10 lakh jobs

The company has plans to onboard over one crore merchant partners over the next three years on its e-commerce venture JioMart

Sensex rallies 393 pts amid firm global cues

MUMBAI, JUNE 24

Equity benchmark Sensex rallied 393 points on Thursday, tracking gains in Infosys, TCS and HDFC Bank amid a positive trend in global markets. The BSE index ended 392.92 points higher at 52,699. Similarly, the NSE Nifty surged 103.50 points to 15,790.45.

Infosys was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising over 3%, followed by TCS, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech and Asian Paints.

On the other hand, Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, PowerGrid and SBI were among the laggards. According to Binod Modi, Head-Strategy at Reliance Securities, benchmarks recovered sharply mainly led by sharp rebound in financials and IT.

Improved prospects of sustained earnings recovery and recent weakness in rupee also augur well for IT stocks, he said, adding that favourable cues from global markets also aided sentiments. —PTI

**INFOSYS TOP GAINER**

Infosys was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising over 3%, followed by TCS, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech and Asian Paints

On the other hand, Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, PowerGrid and SBI were among the laggards

According to Binod Modi, Head-Strategy at Reliance Securities, benchmarks recovered sharply mainly led by sharp rebound in financials and IT

Covid curbs hit disposable paper product industry

VIJAY C ROY
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 24

The Covid pandemic has hit the demand for disposable paper products. As the institutional segment such as hotels, restaurants, caterers, travel and tourism, offices and malls — which contribute bulk of the demand — were severely impacted due to restrictions imposed to contain the virus, the once thriving segment has performed poorly.

SALES DIP DRAMATICALLY

The industry performed poorly as the institutional segment that accounts for bulk of the demand was badly hit.

Manoj Pachisia, CO-FOUNDER, ORIGAMI

the industry volumes. Traders are of the view that amid the pandemic-driven lockdown, the sale of disposable paper products plunged.

However, it's difficult to quantify the numbers.

"The industry performed poorly as the institutional segment that accounts for bulk of the demand was badly hit. There was a sharp decline in sales as the demand in the rural areas is driven by events, functions and festivals and not by lifestyle adoption which is the main driver in urban areas," said Manoj Pachisia and Neelam Pachisia, co-founders, Origami

SAT stays SEBI's penalties on Cairn

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has stayed the penalties imposed by markets regulator SEBI on Cairn India and others involved in the case to deposit ₹2.5 crore with SEBI within three weeks.

While staying the penalties, the tribunal also directed Cairn India and others involved in the case to deposit ₹2.5 crore with SEBI within three weeks.

If the amount

Army plans to deploy futuristic combat vehicles along LAC

AJAY BANERJEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24
The Ministry of Defence on Thursday revived the much delayed project to have modern infantry combat vehicles (ICVs) to replace the Army's Russian ICVs, called BMPs. These vehicles are used to carry infantry into the battlefield and are equipped with anti-tank missiles and heavy guns.

Called futuristic infantry combat vehicles (FICVs), nearly 1,750 are intended to be made for operations in the plains and deserts along the western borders. The FICVs will also be used for high altitude — up to 5,000 m — in the Himalayas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. These would be eastern Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and north Sikkim. At present, some BMPs and T-72 are stationed in the Himalayas.

The Army looks to use the FICVs to destroy enemy tanks, armoured personnel carriers, combat vehicles, low-



The infantry combat vehicle Ballowy Machine Pikate in Delhi.

DEFENCE MINISTRY REVIVES PROJECT

- Nearly 1,750 futuristic infantry combat vehicles (FICVs) will be procured for operations along the LAC and western borders
- Such vehicles will also be able to operate in a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear environment

flying helicopters and ground-based weapon platforms and positions. It should be able to operate in a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear environment, including across water bodies.

The project intends to

Beijing all set to run electric train close to Arunachal

BEIJING, JUNE 24
China is all set to operationalise the first electric train in the remote Himalayan region of Tibet, connecting the provincial capital Lhasa with Nyingchi — a strategically located Tibetan border town close to Arunachal Pradesh.

The 435-km Lhasa-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway is expected to be inaugurated ahead of the centenary celebrations of the ruling Communist Party of China on July 1, according to official media reports.

The electricity transmission process has been completed and tested, Liu Yuxiang, Chief Engineer of the Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway, was quoted as saying by the state-run CCTV earlier. The Sichuan-Tibet Railway will be the second railway into Tibet after the Qinghai-Tibet Railway.

— PTI

K'taka HC grants interim relief to Twitter India MD

LONI CASE Asks UP cops not to take coercive steps

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

Twitter India Managing Director Manish Maheshwari today gave a miss to the summons by the UP Police for "personal appearance" in a case related to a social media post linked to the assault of a Muslim man in Ghaziabad's Loni, after he got relief from the Karnataka High Court, which said if Ghaziabad Police wanted to examine him then it could do so through virtual mode.

Maheshwari was supposed to appear before the UP Police at Loni police station in Ghaziabad today.

The Twitter India through its lawyers had conveyed to the police that Maheshwari was available for questioning via video call but the cops sent fresh summons on Tuesday, asking him to appear before it.

"Clarification given by you is inappropriate. Being the MD of Twitter in India, you are the representative of the company. Therefore, you are bound



'CAN BE EXAMINED THROUGH VIRTUAL MODE'

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ Justice G Narendar said the police could examine Twitter India Managing Director Manish Maheshwari through virtual mode | ■ Maheshwari was supposed to appear before the UP Police on Thursday |
| ■ He gave UP Police summons for 'personal appearance' a miss | |

by the Indian law to cooperate in the investigation," the police had said in its notice.

The High Court was hearing Maheshwari's petition against a notice issued by the UP Police under Section 41A of the CrPC, asking him to appear before the police, agencies reported from Bengaluru.

(With inputs from agencies)

Will aim to be among top 3 naval powers in 10 years: Rajnath

KARWAR (KARNATAKA), JUNE 24
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said the naval base being developed here under "Project Seabird" should be Asia's biggest, and he would try to get budget allocation enhanced for it, if required.

He also said India should aim to be among one of the top three naval powers in the world in the next 10-12 years.

"I had a curiosity before visiting Project Seabird to see and understand it... I'm happy seeing Karwar closely and can say that my confidence level has increased towards this naval base," Singh said.

Addressing the Indian Navy officers and sailors, he said, with the completion of the project, not only India's defence preparedness will be strengthened, but also the country's trade, economy and the humanitarian assistance that it provides would also get more strength.

"It is said this will become India's largest naval base, but I have said not only India's, our wish is that this should become Asia's biggest naval base," he added. — PTI

Chinese actions led to border tension, says MEA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

'IN VIOLATION OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS'

These acts are in violation of bilateral agreements, including the 1993 and 1996 pacts, that mandate that the two sides shall strictly respect and observe the LAC

Arindam Bagchi, MEA SPOKESPERSON

equipment was a "normal defence arrangement" to prevent and respond to encroachment and threats on China's territory, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said. "It is well recognised that it has been the Chinese actions over the last year, including amassing of a large number of troops close to border areas in the western sector, and trying to

unilaterally alter the status quo along the LAC, which have seriously disturbed peace and tranquility in the border areas."

"These acts are in violation of bilateral agreements, including the 1993 and 1996 pacts that mandate that the two sides shall strictly respect and observe the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and that two sides will keep their military forces in the areas along the LAC to a

minimum level," he added.

As regards the WMCC meeting, Bagchi said there were no updates to share for the moment. "We will certainly keep you informed as and when there are further developments," he said.

In an indication of the stalemate between the two sides, the WMCC has not met for over three months over disengagement in Gogra, Hot Springs, Demchok and Depsang Plains.

Pokhriyal, who is in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) undergoing treatment for post-Covid complications, said many students have been sending him messages with their queries and apprehensions.

"I will interact with the students tomorrow at 4 pm to discuss their concerns and queries related to the evaluation of CBSE board exams," Pokhriyal tweeted.

Uneasiness pervades among students and parents, stemming from alleged lack of clarity with regard to evaluation of Class XII exams.

Bank fraud case: CBI books Thapar, others

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

'CONSORTIUM CHEATED'

The accused cheated the SBI and other consortium members, including Bank of Maharashtra, Axis bank, Yes Bank, Corporation Bank, Barclays Bank, IndusInd Bank etc. — CTI

The accused defrauded banks by way of "diversion of funds, sham transactions, borrowing funds from the bank by misrepresentation, fabricating books of accounts, entries, vouchers and financial statements, furnishing false, incorrect or misleading information, siphoning off funds including loan proceeds", it said.

Along with Thapar, several other executives of the company have been booked in the case. — TNS

PM for increasing India's share in global toy biz

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today made a push for increasing India's share in the about 100 billion dollar global toy market with a focus on product innovation.

He added that the designs

of the available toys and gaming modules were against the Indian ethos and values as they foster violence and distress.

In his virtual address to the country's first "Toycathon-21", Modi noted that India's share in the global market was a meagre 1.5 billion dollar

Urge people to be 'vocal for local toys'

which needed to be improved.

"India meets 80 per cent of its domestic demand for toys through import which is a drain on its foreign exchange

reserves, he added.

The PM pitched for improving the country's standing in what he called "Toycconomy" or the economic aspects of the toy and gaming industry.

The "Toycathon" was an effort aimed at making India a hub for ideation and production of toys.

I-T Dept detects ₹100 cr hawala transactions

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

The Income Tax (IT) Department today said it has unearthed an alleged hawala racket of over Rs 100 crore after it recently conducted raids in Raipur. The Central Board of Direct Taxes said the searches were carried out on June 21. — TNS

NHRC team in Bengal to probe post-poll violence

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Seven-member committee will make field visits, meet victims

places of violence to probe into the complaints, including Cooch Behar.

They will meet the victims and officials of the state. The committee was constituted on the SC orders. The members include functionaries of the

NHRC, National Commission for Minorities and National Commission for Women.

The apex court had rejected the state government's plea to rescind the order to constitute the committee. The committee will submit the probe report to the court for necessary action. There have been more than 1,000 complaints of violence "unleashed by TMC workers on political opponents" in the recent Assembly elections.

Cong must ensure full vaccine coverage: Sonia

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on Thursday said the party must play an active role in ensuring full vaccination coverage besides gearing up for a probable third wave.

Addressing a virtual meeting of the AICC general secretaries and state in-charges here today, Sonia said, "At the national level, the daily rate of vaccination has to treble so that 75 per cent

of our population gets fully vaccinated by year-end. No doubt, this is dependent entirely on adequacy of vaccine supply."

"We have to ensure that vaccine registration takes place, vaccine hesitancy wherever evident is overcome and vaccine wastage minimised," she said amid BJP's repeated accusations that the Congress is promoting vaccine hesitancy. — TNS



Defamation case: Rahul appears in Gujarat court

SURAT, JUNE 24
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi appeared before a magistrate's court in Surat on Thursday to record his statement in a criminal defamation suit filed by a Gujarat MLA, and denied making any defamatory remarks on people with "Modi" surname.

The suit was filed by Surat BJP MLA Purnesh Modi over Rahul's alleged remark on the "Modi" surname. — PTI

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To book online, log on @ mahindrasyou.com/own-online/

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