

The Sunday Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | VOL 141 NO. 17 | 16 PAGES | ₹6.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2021-2023 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

LANKAN TAMILS SEEK UN ACTION
OVER RIGHTS ABUSE WORLD

RHYME & REASON – MUSIC HAS A MORAL
OBLIGATION TO BE INCLUSIVE SPECTRUM

WON'T ALLOW INTERFERENCE,
SAYS NEPAL FM BACK PAGE

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021

Will challenge NIA notices, say farmers

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 16



REPLACE AGRI PANEL MEMBERS: PLEA IN SC

The Bhartiya Kisan Union (Lokshakti) on Saturday requested the SC to remove the remaining three members of the committee set up to resolve the impasse over the 3 farm laws and select people who can do the job "on the basis of mutual harmony". It pointed out that those on the panel had already backed the laws. PTI

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

64% health workers take jab, poor show in Pb

DAY 1: Some operational hitches | 1,91,181 vaccinated at 3,351 sites | RML doctors wary

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH, JAN 16 A sanitation worker from AIIMS-New Delhi today became the first Indian to get the Covid-19 vaccine shot moments after Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the world's largest inoculation drive following an emotional address.

As many as 1,91,181 health workers were vaccinated by 16,755 personnel at 3,351 sites across the country. The mammoth exercise that seeks to cover 30 crore at-risk people by July. The inoculation coverage on the opening day was 63.7 per cent of the three lakh target beneficiaries. Delays in uploading beneficiary lists

WILL COMPENSATE FOR SIDE-EFFECTS: BIOTECH

Bharat Biotech, the developer of Covaxin, said on Saturday that it would compensate those who report serious side-effects after receiving the shot. The vaccine recipients, including all health staffers at AIIMS, Delhi, signed a consent form that specified the compensation for a "serious adverse event" would be paid by Bharat Biotech. TNS

DR REDDY'S GETS NOD FOR SPUTNIK PH-3 TRIAL

30 CRORE AT-RISK PEOPLE TO BE COVERED BY JULY | HARYANA REPORTS 13 ADVERSE EVENTS | DELHI 52, INCLUDING ONE SERIOUS

and non-scheduled vaccinations were the operational challenges reported today, said the government, assuring these would be fixed.

PUNJAB 21.9% | HIMACHAL 61% | HARYANA 78%



THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR – FIRST RECIPIENT

UN WARNS AGAINST 'VACCINALISM'

United Nations: As the world Covid toll crossed 2 million, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said the pandemic's impact had worsened due to lack of a global coordinated effort. He said "vaccinalism" by governments would delay a global recovery. PTI

Sanitation worker Manish Kumar receives a Covaxin shot at AIIMS, New Delhi. TRIBUNE PHOTO

COVID-19 CASES INDIA

COUNT 1,05,42,841
RECOVERED 1,01,79,715
FRESH FATALITIES 175
TOTAL DEATHS 1,52,093

WORLD

TOTAL 9,44,33,200
RECOVERED 6,74,75,595
DEATHS 20,20,385

COVISHIELD ALONE FOR

Punjab, HP, J&K, Ladakh, Uttarakhand and Chandigarh.

COVAXIN & COVISHIELD FOR HRY, 10 MORE STATES

count stood at 61.46 per cent in Himachal Pradesh, with 1,536 of the targeted 2,499 being vaccinated.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

IN BRIEF

BARC ex-CEO in ICU, kin appeal to Modi

MUMBAI: Arrested in the TRP scam, Partha Dasgupta, former CEO of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC), has been admitted to the ICU of JJ Hospital here. His daughter took to Twitter to allege that he was tortured in prison, and appealed to the PM to "save his life". — PTI

Poor visibility, flights delayed

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

The State Election Commission today announced civic body elections in Punjab on February 14. The State Election Commissioner, Jagpal Singh Sandhu, announced the schedule for elections and by-elections to eight municipal corporations and 109 municipal councils and nagar panchayats. — TNS

More snow in HP from January 22: IMD

ty dropped to zero in the city.

Meanwhile, the weather department has forecast that a fresh western disturbance is likely to cause scattered to fairly widespread rain and snow over Himachal Pradesh after January 22. — PTI

This is the third time this season — after December 8 and January 1 — that visibility

Kashmiri-origin Sameera Fazili on Team Biden

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 16

PROUD MOMENT: KIN IN SRINAGAR

- Sameera Fazili is a graduate of Yale Law School and Harvard College
- Her father, a surgeon, and mother, a pathologist, left Valley in 1970-71
- From Buffalo, she now lives in Georgia with her hubby, 3 kids

advice to the US president.

Fazili is the second Kashmiri-origin Indian-American appointed to a key position in

the incoming Biden administration. Her appointment has sparked off jubilations in her extended family in Srinagar.

"It is a proud moment for the entire Kashmir," her uncle Rouf Fazili said. "She was not born here and her parents left the Valley in 1970-71, but she has a strong affinity with Kashmir," he said. The last time she visited the Valley was in 2007. Currently the economic agency lead on the Biden-Harris Transition, she was earlier posted at Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. — PTI

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Study SC verdicts, file synopsis: HC to Judge

SAURABH MALIK

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 16

For almost 15 years, police officials Amarjit Singh, Jaswant Singh and Kabal Singh faced unwanted and unnecessary criminal prosecution in a murder case only to find the dead man walking. Ordering Rs 1.5 lakh compensation for the three, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed the Ludhiana Additional District and Sessions Judge to virtually do some homework.

Considering that the Judge failed to exercise jurisdiction, Justice Arvind Singh Sangwan directed him to go through at least 10 Supreme Court judgments, including two by Constitutional Bench, on interpretation of anticipatory bail provisions. He was asked to submit within 30 days a written synopsis to the Director, Chandigarh Judicial Academy.

"A murdered man was found alive. Still 15-year-long agony of the petitioners-accused was not buried by the courts below." Justice Arvind Singh Sangwan, PUNJAB AND HARYANA HC

DEAD MAN WALKING: ₹1.5L RELIEF FOR 3 COPS

- In 2005, a drugs case accused fled police custody but father concocted son's murder story and received ₹2L relief. In 2019, the 'murdered' man was held
- The Ludhiana Additional Sessions Judge dismissed their anticipatory bail plea even after being told they were being prosecuted in pursuance to a fraud
- A cancellation was filed before magistrate, but father moved protest petition that was treated as criminal complaint. Three cops were summoned to face trial
- The HC has ordered ₹1.5L compensation for the cops and asked the Judge to study at least 10 SC judgments and file synopsis within 30 days

15-YEAR AGONY NOT BURIED BY COURTS

“A murdered man was found alive. Still 15-year-long agony of the petitioners-accused was not buried by the courts below.” Justice Arvind Singh Sangwan, PUNJAB AND HARYANA HC

accused was not buried by the courts below,” Justice Sangwan asserted.

Castigating the Judge and another judicial officer, Justice Sangwan asserted the

National Judicial Academy and Chandigarh Judicial Academy were holding seminars and imparting training that judicial consciousness demanded real and substanti-

tive justice. There was nothing illegal if a court, in quest of truth and justice, passed an order acknowledging the constitutional right of a citizen in an exceptional case.

The constitutional vision of imparting justice by the district judiciary encouraged the courts to be an instrument to establish a welfare state based on an equal justice to all. But the Ludhiana Additional Sessions Judge and Judicial Magistrate First Class failed to exercise jurisdiction.

Complainant Naginder Singh's son, an accused in a drugs case, had escaped from police custody in 2005. But Naginder Singh came out with his son's murder story and received Rs 2 lakh in compensation. The "murdered" man was, however, arrested on August 30, 2019.

A cancellation was filed before the magistrate. But the complainant came out with a protest petition, which was treated a criminal complaint and petitioners were summoned to face trial. Just-

ice Sangwan added trial court ignored the fact that the petitioners filed an application to dismiss protest petition as the summoning order was procured by playing fraud with the court.

Nothing precluded the trial court to dismiss the protest petition. The Additional Sessions Judge dismissed the anticipatory bail plea even after being told the petitioners were being prosecuted in pursuance to a fraud.

Setting aside the protest petition and summoning order, Justice Sangwan ordered discharge of the petitioners in the FIR registered in August 2010 at Dehlon police station in Ludhiana district.

Justice Sangwan ordered the prosecution could initiate proceedings against two witnesses and the complainant and recover Rs 2 lakh from him or his legal representatives. The costs of Rs 50,000 each, too, could be recovered from them after paying it to the petitioners.

Civic body poll on Feb 14

Model code comes into force | Counting of votes on Feb 17

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 16

The State Election Commission today announced civic body elections in Punjab on February 14. State Election Commissioner Jagpal Singh Sandhu announced the schedule for elections or by-elections to eight municipal corporations and 109 municipal councils and nagar panchayats.

With the announcement, the model code of conduct has come into force with immediate effect within the municipal areas of the municipalities where elections will be held. The code will stay in force till the completion of the electoral process.

Sandhu said the process of filing of nomination papers would commence on January 30 and end on February 3. The papers would be scrutinised on February 4, while these could be withdrawn till February 5, which would also

SPEND CAP FOR EACH CANDIDATE

3 lakh

is expenditure limit in municipal corporations



2.70 lakh

fixed in case of class I municipal councils

1.05 lakh

each candidate can spend in nagar panchayat

1.70 lakh

cap for class II & ₹1.45L for class III councils

UP FOR GRABS

Civic body

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS

Nos.

Members

COUNCILS/NAGAR PANCHAYATS

109

1,902

election observers and six IPS officers as police observers to ensure free and fair conduct of elections. He said 400 members would be elected for the eight municipal corporations and 1,902 for 109 municipal councils or nagar panchayats in the state.

Campaigning would end at 5 pm on February 12 and voting would take place from 8 am to 4 pm on February 14. The counting of votes would be done on February 17.

As many as 145 returning officers and 145 assistant returning officers had been appointed for conduct of elections. Thirty IAS or PCS officers would be appointed as

Jobless plan door-to-door drive to expose govt 'lies'

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, JANUARY 16

Jobless members of five unions, under the banner of the Joint Front of Unemployed, have announced a campaign against the government in the constituency of Education Minister Vijay Inder Singh to protest the failure of the state government in giving them jobs.

Members of B.Ed and TET Pass Union, All Punjab 873 DPE Teachers Union, 646 PTE Teachers Union Punjab, Unemployed Art and Craft Union Punjab and Unemployed Multipurpose Health Union Punjab have been sitting on an indefinite protest in front of Singla's residence for the last 17 days.

"We will launch a campaign in the coming days. We have decided to visit each house of the Sangrur constituency to expose the lies of the Punjab Government and its ministers. Despite our meetings with them and their assurances, the government is not starting the recruitment process," said Sukhwinder Dhillan, president of the B.Ed and TET Pass Union.

On Saturday, members raised slogans against the state government and announced to intensify their agitation. "After covering Sangrur, we will launch a similar campaign in other constituencies," said Dhillan.

Say despite assurance no recruitment yet

in the coming days. We have decided to visit each house of the Sangrur constituency to expose the lies of the Punjab Government and its ministers. Despite our meetings with them and their assurances, the government is not starting the recruitment process," said Sukhwinder Dhillan, president of the B.Ed and TET Pass Union.

On Saturday, members raised slogans against the state government and announced to intensify their agitation. "After covering Sangrur, we will launch a similar campaign in other constituencies," said Dhillan.

Abohar farmers conduct rehearsal for Delhi march

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ABOHAL, JANUARY 16

Several farmer unions on Saturday conducted the rehearsal for the proposed tractor march near Delhi borders on Republic Day against the contentious central agriculture laws. A tractor march was taken out from three villages, which converged on the new grain market here.

Senior activists of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan), (Qadian) and Lakhawal discussed a roadmap for the departure to the national capital to join the historic tractor-march that would be monitored by the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha there.

BKU (Lakhawal) state sec-

retary Subhash Godara, BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) district secretary Sukhwander Singh and BKU (Qadian) district secretary Makhan Singh said hundreds of farmers had shown interest and got themselves listed for the participation in the tractor march planned at Delhi borders. We will not tolerate any hurdle that the Haryana Government might try to create on our way, they said.

SAD: Farmers dying, Centre indifferent

OUR CORRESPONDENT

TARN TAN, JANUARY 16

SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal condemned the Union Government for not working sincerely towards ending the farmers' agitation, even though more than 70 lives have been lost.

He warned the Modi government to be ready to pay heavy price in case the issue was not resolved soon. He alleged that the Centre was not sincere and only trying to tire out the farmers.

"It was intimidating farmers by issuing notices to them through various agencies like the NIA. Farmers are not anti-national. We condemn this," said Sukhbir while addressing a gathering at Ghasitpur village, 18 km from here.

Meanwhile, Manjeet Singh Ghasitpur, the former district president of the Congress, declared to join the SAD during the event.

50 days on, no dearth of supplies at protest sites

PARVESH SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

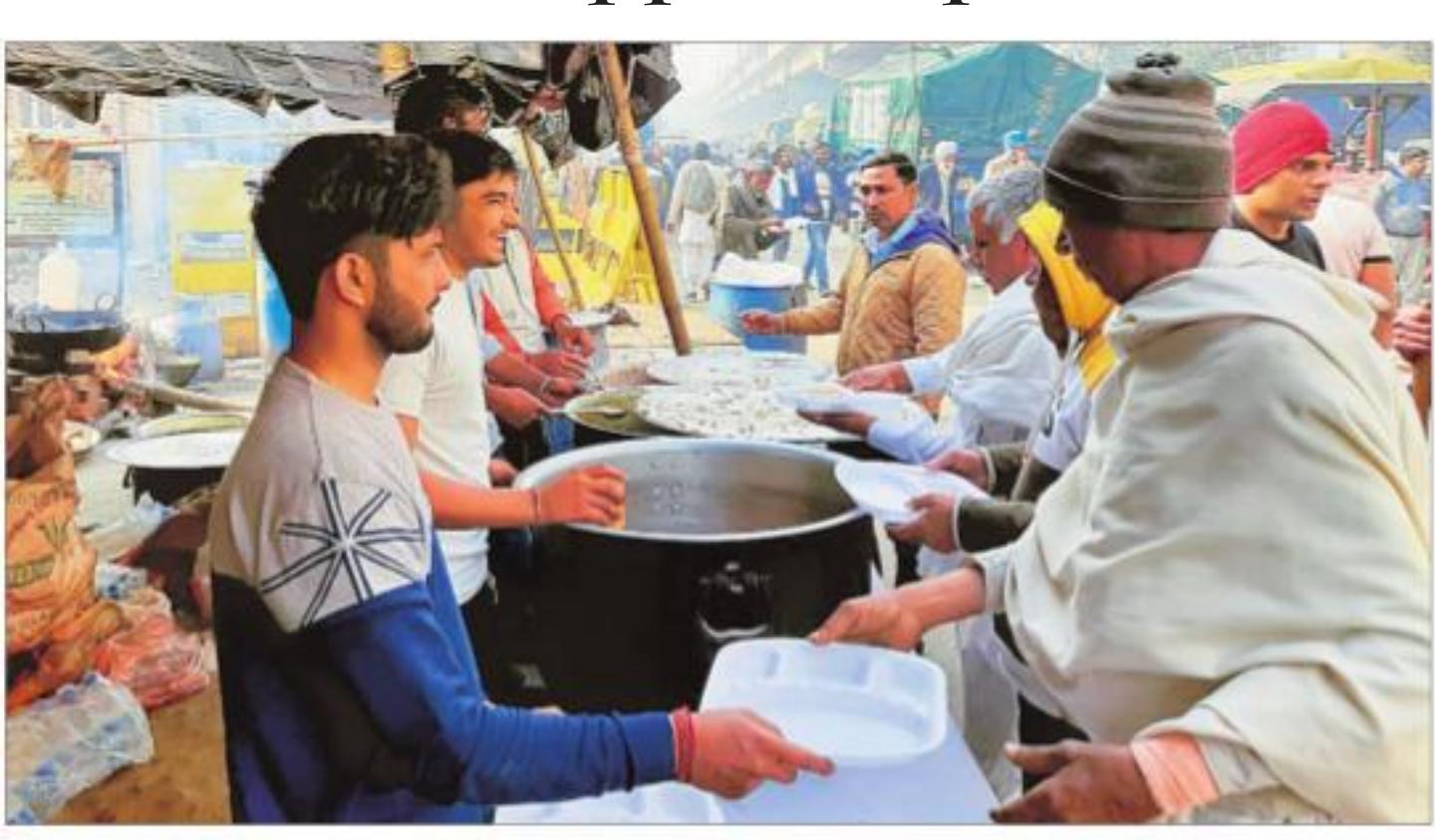
SANGRUR, JANUARY 16

As the farmers' protest against the central agricultural laws continues to intensify at the Delhi borders, so is the enthusiasm of those serving free food to them.

"We have started this langar with the blessings of Guru Nanak Dev and we have never faced shortage of any item. In fact, we have to ask donors to stop sending ration as we do not have any vacant space left to adjust more. We have enough ration to run langar for months," said Gurmeet Singh, a youngster at the Tikri border.

Haryana residents, too, are serving kheer and other food items to all farmers round the clock. "Youngsters are supplying fresh milk to us daily and sometimes we prepare kheer even thrice a day," said Anil Kumar from Haryana.

Apart from langars, there is non-stop delivery of water bottles, dry fruit, lassi, hot milk, tea, water (in small and



Langar being served to protesting farmers at the Tikri border. TRIBUNE PHOTO

big bottles), pakoras, jalebis and panjiri.

"Numerous trucks, trailers, and tempo pass by distributing bottles of water said they were from Hoshiarpur district and an NRI had purchased 10 tonne water for protesters.

"It's not just us. There are many more providing essential commodities to the protesters for free," said Satinder Singh, another youngster.

FALLING SHORT OF SPACE

"We have started the langar with the blessings of Guru Nanak Dev and we have never faced shortage of any item. We have to ask donors to stop sending ration as we do not have any space left."

Gurmeet Singh, TIKRI PROTESTER

Nambardars pledge support

BATHINDA, JANUARY 16

The Punjab Nambardar Union's Bathinda wing has vowed full support to the farmers' call for the tractor march on Republic Day at Delhi. Union members said they would carry out a tractor march in different villages in the district on Sunday as preparation for the main march on January 26.

those staying back would take part in the protests."

"We stand shoulder to shoulder with protesting farmers and demand that new agricultural laws be repealed as they would not affect only agriculture sector, but also almost every other sector directly or indirectly linked to it," added Singh. — TNS



Farmers burn an effigy of IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva in Amritsar on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Tepid response on Day 1, only 2 turn up in Ferozepur

VACCINATION DRIVE 214 of 500 get jab in Ludhiana

VISHAV BHARTI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 16
The first day of the Covid vaccination drive witnessed a poor response from the frontline healthcare workers across the state.

Among the districts, Ferozepur got the coldest response. As many as 300 doses were to be given but the district could find only two healthcare workers who were ready to be vaccinated.

Similarly, in Barnala, 200 doses were to be administered at two centres but only 15 could be given. In Pathankot, 16 doses were administered against a target of 100; in Moga, 25 against the target of 200; in Fazilka, 26 against 200; and in Bathinda, 36 against 300.

At some places, even doctors refused to take the shot, citing "questionable" credentials of the vaccine. In Mohali district, there were three centres, one each in SAS Nagar, Dera Bassi and Banur. These centres were asked to administer 300 doses but only 36 healthcare workers came forward.

Among these, most were workers from private health centres. In Banur, just eight health workers came for-



A health worker gets vaccinated at Govt Rajindra Hospital, Patiala.

HEALTH STAFF STAY AWAY

District	%age of target achieved
Ferozepur	0.6
Barnala	7.5
Mohali	12
Moga	12.5
Hoshiarpur	13.7

It was the first day of vaccination. We are expecting better response in the coming days.

Balbir Singh Sidhu,
HEALTH MINISTER

ward, all of whom were from private hospitals.

Ludhiana is the only district which could administer over 40 per cent of the doses, with 214 out of 500 coming forward. However, that too was possible as senior health officials from Chandigarh were camping in Ludhiana, said sources.

When contacted, Hussan Lal, Principal Secretary,

Health and Family Welfare, accepted that the response on the first day was not as per their expectations. "There were two reasons. First, we started a little late. Second, people showed reluctance but when doctors came forward to take the shot and shared their videos, the situation started improving but by 4.30 pm, we had to wind up," he said.

When contacted, Hussan Lal, Principal Secretary,

AllIMS head goes first in Bathinda to allay fears

BATHINDA, JANUARY 16

As per the Health Department's directions, as many as 300 health workers were to be vaccinated at three sites in Bathinda district today. However, only 34 turned up to get vaccinated.

To allay any apprehensions, Bathinda AIIMS Director Dr DK Singh was the first person who got himself vaccinated, followed by Civil Surgeon Dr Tejwant Singh Dhillon who exhorted people not to fall prey to rumours against the Covid vaccine that were being circulated on social media platforms.

Finance Minister Man-

Vaccine safe, says minister

preet Badal was also present during the rollout of the vaccine at the District Hospital in Bathinda.

Dr Meenakshi, District Immunisation Officer, was among the first female health workers who got herself vaccinated. She said, "This vaccine is completely safe and after being administered, I didn't feel any uneasiness or side-effects."

Civil Surgeon Dr Dhillon said, "Things will definitely improve with time and more people will come for vaccination in the coming days. To allay people's fear, we got ourselves vaccinated first." — TNS

5 vaccinated in CM's presence

Tribune News Service

MOHALI, JANUARY 16

Five healthcare workers (HCWs) got a Covid jab in the presence of Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh here, who virtually kicked off the process to inoculate 1.74 lakh workers in the first phase.

Dr Sandeep Singh, Dr Charan Kamal, Dr Dimple Dhaliwal Srivastva, computer operator Asha Yadav and Class IV employee Surjit Singh were administered the first dose of the Covishield vaccine in the presence of the

WILL GET JAB IN NEXT PHASE, SAYS CAPT

I wanted to get vaccinated first but only HCWs can be covered in the first phase. I will get myself vaccinated in the next phase.

Capt Amarinder Singh, CM

CM at the Civil Hospital here. Interacting with mediapersons, Captain Amarinder Singh said it was his desire to get vaccinated first but in

accordance with the directives of the Government of India, only HCWs could be covered in the first phase. "I will definitely get myself vaccinated in the next phase," he said.

He said the vaccine would be administered to the HCWs first, followed by the Army and police personnel, in line with the guidelines of the Government of India. He said the number of daily cases had come down from the peak of 3,700 to 242. The target was to bring them down to zero, he said.

HEALTH WORKERS DIVIDED

WHY I OPTED OUT

I have no plans of getting vaccinated as of now. There is no specific reason. However, I may get the jab after other staff members go ahead with it.

Mandip Kaur, JUNIOR ASSISTANT (CLERICAL), SMO OFFICE, BATHINDA

I am planning to start a family. After consulting a gynaecologist, I have decided to skip it for now, but will definitely get vaccinated later.

Kuldeep Kaur, STAFF NURSE (OT), CIVIL HOSPITAL, BATHINDA

WHY I TOOK IT

The Covid-19 vaccine is safe, there are no side-effects. As a medical officer, I may come in contact with Covid patients. To ensure my safety, I got myself vaccinated today.

Dr Meenakshi, CIVIL HOSPITAL, BATHINDA

This vaccination is for our own safety. I got myself vaccinated and did not experience any side-effect. People should not fall prey to rumours against it.

Dr Tejwant Dhillon, BATHINDA



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Covid vaccine administered at 77 sites

TRENT NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 16
The Covid vaccination started in the state today with woman sanitation workers of the Health Department among the first ones to get the dose.

In Panchkula's Government Dispensary, sanitation worker Saroj Bala was the first one to get vaccinated.

Director General (Health Services) Suraj Bhan Kamboj, Additional Director General (Health Services) Dr Veena Singh, National Health Mission Director (NHM) Dr VK Bansal, Panchkula Civil Surgeon Dr Jasjeet Kaur and State Immunisation Officer Dr Virender Ahlawat were among the few who got vaccinated to infuse confidence among people about the vaccine.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said his government had made arrangements for the implementation of the vaccination programme that commenced today at 77 sites across the state. "Two vaccines — Covishield of the Serum Institute of India and Covaxin of India Biotech — have been authorised for emergency use in the state," he said.

Dr JS Poonia, Civil Surgeon, Sonepat, said the first dose was administered to Seeta, a Class IV employee in the General Hospital.

"We have fixed five sites — BPS Medical College for Women in Khanpur Kalan, General Hospital in Sonepat, Community Health Centre (CHC) in Gannaur, Primary



Civil Surgeon Dr Yogesh Sharma being administered the vaccine in Karnal on Saturday. SAYEED AHMED

Director, NHM, said: "In all, 5,907 persons out of the targeted 7,533 were administered the vaccine across the state today. This comes out to be 78.4 per cent."

Sonepat/Panipat: In all, 165 health workers got vaccinated in Sonepat district, while 140 health staffers received the jab in Panipat.

Dr JS Poonia, Civil Surgeon, Sonepat, said the first dose was administered to Seeta, a Class IV employee in the General Hospital.

"We have fixed five sites — BPS Medical College for Women in Khanpur Kalan, General Hospital in Sonepat, Community Health Centre (CHC) in Gannaur, Primary

Health Centre (PHC) in Murthal and Nidan Hospital — for the drive," he said.

Panipat Civil Surgeon Dr SL Verma said the first shot was administered to Poonam, a sanitation worker in the General Hospital. After her, he got himself vaccinated.

"No staffer has reported any side effect so far," Dr Verma said.

Karnal: Ram Kumar, a 48-year-old sanitation worker of the Health Department, got the first shot at the Civil Hospital here. He was among the 375 health workers to get vaccinated against the target of 456.

Civil Surgeon Dr Yogesh Sharma, who inaugurated the drive here, and Kalpana

Chawla Government Medical College Director Dr Jagdish Dureja also received the jab.

Kaithal Civil Surgeon Dr Om Parkash said that of the 200 identified health workers, around 140 were vaccinated.

Faridabad: Around 500 healthcare workers each in Faridabad and Palwal districts received the first jab. A department official claimed the recipients were not given a choice between the two vaccines.

Hisar: The district health authorities started the vaccination programme at the Jindal Institute of Medical Sciences (JIMS), where sanitation worker Sunita was the first one to receive the jab.

After taking the shot, Sunita (45), spent half an hour under observation. Emerging out of the observation room, she said she had no side effects. By 3.30 pm, 184 persons were vaccinated out of the target of 400.

Rewari: Anganwadi worker Neetu received the first shot in Bahadurgarh (Jhajjar), while sanitation worker Bimla

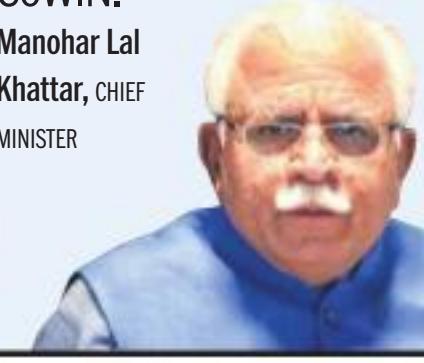
was the first one in Mahendragarh to have been administered the jab. In Rewari, it was sanitation worker Veena Devi.

Mahendragarh Civil Surgeon Dr Ashok Kumar said 55 persons in Kanina, 72 in Narnaul and 84 in Mahendragarh were administered doses till 4 pm.

EFFECTIVE STEP

◆ The vaccination programme will prove to be an effective step in overcoming the pandemic. The population has been prioritised in view of the high demand of vaccine initially. To ensure smooth, effective and target-based implementation of the programme, beneficiaries have been enrolled with CoWIN.

Manohar Lal
Khattar, CHIEF
MINISTER



Health workers in Gurugram listen to PM Narendra Modi at the launch of the vaccination campaign on Saturday. S CHANDAN

Four deaths, 167 new cases

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 16
With four deaths and 167 fresh cases, the Covid tally reached 2.6 lakh in the state today.

One death each was reported from Ambala, Bhiwani, Jind and Sirsa.

The maximum fresh cases were reported from Gurugram at 35, followed by 21 from Faridabad, 22 from Panchkula, 18 from Panipat, 13 from Karnal and 12 from Rohtak.

A total of 218 people got cured in the last 24 hours, taking the tally of recovered persons to 2.61 lakh. — TNS

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Gurugram	57,778	349
Faridabad	46,017	410
Hisar	17,055	322
Sonepat	14,718	83
Rohtak	12,217	147
Ambala	11,739	144
Rewari	11,359	75
Karnal	11,027	152
Panipat	10,677	151
Panchkula	10,326	145
Kurukshetra	8,764	131
Sirsa	8,012	116
Mahendragarh	6,601	21
Yamunanagar	6,681	147
Bhiwani	6,305	143
Jhajjar	5,850	101
Jind	4,842	94
Fatehabad	4,706	118
Palwal	4,414	27
Kaithal	3,826	51
Nuh	1,701	30
Charkhi Dadri	1,516	26
Total	2,66,131	2,983

An auspicious day: Vij

AMBALA, JANUARY 16
Health Minister Anil Vij today reached the Civil Hospital here to inspect the Covid vaccination drive.

"It is an auspicious day for India. I salute scientists who have prepared the vaccines. People shouldn't feel protected after getting the first dose of the vaccine as two doses are necessary. One still needs to follow the Covid guidelines," he said.

The vaccine was administered at four centres — the Civil Hospital in Ambala

STILL NEED TO FOLLOW NORMS

◆ I salute scientists who have prepared the vaccines. People shouldn't feel protected after getting the first dose of the vaccine as two doses are necessary. One still needs to follow Covid norms. Anil Vij, HEALTH MINISTER

Protesters to oppose BJP leaders on R-Day

HISAR, JANUARY 16

In a show of strength, farmers gathered at the Mini-secretariat in Fatehabad today and announced that they would oppose BJP leaders on the Republic Day.

Woman and Child Development Minister Kamlesh Dhadha, BJP MLA from Kalayat, will unfurl the national flag in Fatehabad on January 26.

All-India Kisan Mahasabha president Raldu Singh said the agitation would continue until the Centre repealed the three farm laws. "The today's gathering was a show of strength and a rehearsal for the January 26 programme. We will protest when BJP leaders reach the city to participate in the Republic Day function," he added. — TNS

ALL GEARED UP FOR JANUARY 26

◆ The Saturday's gathering in Fatehabad was a show of strength and a rehearsal for the Jan 26 programme. We will protest when BJP leaders reach the city to participate in the R-Day function. Raldu Singh, FARMER LEADER

SEDITION CHARGES AGAINST KHPA LEADER

- The Bahadurgarh police have booked a khp leader, Sunil Gulia of Jahangirpur village, on sedition charges
- He had allegedly made an inflammatory video and put it on social media
- Sunil Kumar, SHO, City police station, said that in the video, Gulia was seen issuing a threat that he and his supporters would protest violently if the Centre failed to repeal the laws
- He said the video message was inflammatory. Hence, Gulia had been booked under Sections 121 and 124 of the IPC.

Two more die at Tikri border

JAHJAR, JANUARY 16

Two more farmers from Punjab died reportedly due to cardiac arrest at Tikri border in the past 24 hours.

The deceased have been identified as Jangir Singh (83) of Chhajali village in Sangrur and Bohar Singh (35) of Bhittialan village in Moga district.

The farmers claimed the

nature's call and went to sleep again. He too was found dead by fellow farmers when they brought tea for him, he added.

Dr Sanjay Dahiya, Civil Surgeon, confirmed that bodies of the farmers were brought to the Civil Hospital in Bahadurgarh town.

As many as 16 protesters have lost their lives in the protest at Tikri. — TNS

nature's call and went to sleep again. He too was found dead by fellow farmers when they brought tea for him, he added.

Dr Sanjay Dahiya, Civil Surgeon, confirmed that bodies of the farmers were brought to the Civil Hospital in Bahadurgarh town.

As many as 16 protesters have lost their lives in the protest at Tikri. — TNS

Scrap laws, says Kiran

KARNAL, JANUARY 16

Congress leader and Tosham MLA Kiran Choudhry demanded the government to repeal the three farm laws.

"Farmers don't want these laws as these are against them and the government should repeal them with immediate effect," said Choudhry

violent movements cannot be suppressed with attempts of confrontation, provocative action, water cannons, tear gas shells and police lathi charge. The more the government tries to suppress the voice of the public, the louder it gets and the echo will be heard across the state.

He demanded repealing of the laws and said if the Union Government does not do it, the Congress would repeal those after coming to power.

while interacting with the media at PWD Rest House here today.

She accused the BJP government for forcing the farmers to protest amid the harsh climate and said more than 60 farmers had lost their lives in the ongoing protest, but the government did not give a lead to the issue. — TNS

Gram sachiv exam cancelled after paper 'leak'

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, JANUARY 16

A week after the conduct of examination for the post of gram sachiv, the Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC) today announced to cancel the examination after reports of paper leak in various centres.

Around eight lakh candidates had appeared in the examination for 697 posts which was organised across the state on January 9 and 10.

The commission though has not cited any reason

behind the cancellation of the exam, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala stated that the HSSC took the step following recovery of question paper and answer key from some mobile phones as an unfair means.

Meanwhile, an SIT of the

Hisar police today arrested two more accused involved in the alleged paper leak case taking the total number of arrests to 18.

Hisar police today arrested two more accused involved in the alleged paper leak case taking the total number of arrests to 18.

2 MORE ARRESTED

A special investigation team of the Hisar police on Saturday arrested two more accused in connection with paper leak case, taking the total number of arrests to 18.

Singh said two accused identified as Sandeep and Chandan were arrested by the police today. He said Sandeep was deployed as an observer at Saini High School in Hisar who clicked the photo of the question paper and handed over the phone to another accused Jitender.

Jitender after solving the paper prepared an answer key and forwarded the same to Rakesh. Rakesh appeared in the exam in place of Amit at the centre in Campus School in HAU Hisar.

Name of Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding
All Part & Parcel of property House No. SRS/B-11/3574, Gali No. 07, Kirti Nagar, Sirsia, Haryana, Also at (1) C/o Sharisti Jewellers, Sangha Road Near Ding Mor, Distt. Sirsa, Also at (2) H. No. 272, Ward No. 1 Shakti Nagar, Distt. Fatehabad, Haryana.	16.10.2020	14.01.2020	Rs. 16,14,712/- (Rupees Sixteen Lacs Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Twelve Only) including interest applied up to 16-10-2020 and Interest cost/other charges thereof w.e.f. 17-10-2020 (Less recovery if any)	
Comprised in Khetw No. 1079, Khata No. 1237 to 1300, Kitta 87, As per Jamabandi for the years 2012-2013, Situated at Village Khajha Khera, Kirti Nagar, Sirsa, Tehsil & Distt. Sirsa. Bounded as : East : House = 22' West : Rasta = 22', North : House = 66', South : House = 66' As per Sale Deed No. 10714 dated 19-12-2018, standing in the name of Sh. Sunil Verma S/o Sh. Naresh Kumar.	Place: Sirsa	Sd/-Authorized Officer		

Day 1: Hesitation, confusion keep many away

61.46% health workers vaccinated across state | Lahaul-Spiti tops with 85.81%

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JANUARY 16

On the first day of the Covid-19 vaccination drive, Himachal registered an average response from health care workers. Against the target of 2,499 on the first day, 1,536 health care workers turned up to take the jab. In terms of percentage, it works out to be 61.46 per cent. Lahaul-Spiti topped the list with 85.81 per cent vaccination, while Solan performed the worst with 31 per cent.

In Shimla district, of the total 351 people approved for vaccination, only 195 (55 per cent) turned up at the IGMC Hospital, DDU Hospital and a centre at Rampur. At the IGMC, 111 health workers were vaccinated against the target of 177, 34 at the DDU Hospital against approved 100 and 50 staffers at Rampur against 74. On a positive note, no case of major adverse effect following immunisation (AEFI) reported in any of the sites. Only three minor AEFI cases were reported in the RPGMC, Tanda, the Civil Hospital, Paonta Sahib and the MMU, Solan. They showed symptoms such as dizziness, nausea and anxiety but recovered after management, as per the protocol.

The low turnout could be blamed on hesitation and



DISTRICT	TARGET	ACHIEVED
Bilaspur	176	106
Chamba	128	110
Hamirpur	260	128
Kangra	383	271
Kinnaur	97	50
Kullu	100	80
Lahaul-Spiti	91	79
Mandi	360	260
Shimla	354	195
Sirmaur	180	90
Solan	200	62
Una	170	105

Health workers show victory signs after vaccination at the IGMC Hospital in Shimla. AMIT KANWAR

apprehension regarding vaccination, and confusion created by the late delivery of messages to the beneficiaries. "We were to vaccinate 100 people at the DDU Hospital but only 34 of them turned up. We even called up the beneficiaries, but they did not come on one pretext or the other," said Chief Medical Officer Dr Surekha Chopra. "There is some initial reluctance but I am sure all of them will show up in the due course of time".

Besides, quite a few could not get vaccinated because their names were missing from the list generated by the CowIN portal. "The numbers would have been higher had there been no confusion because of the late delivery of messages. These are initial glitches. We expect the process to be smooth from Monday," said Dr Saad Rizvi, nodal officer for vaccination at the IGMC Hospital.

In the morning, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched the drive at the IGMC Hospital. He urged people not to have any doubt or fear in their minds regarding safety and efficacy of the vaccine. He said that the government had constituted a state-level steering committee, state task force, district task forces and block task forces to monitor the administration of vaccine. He added that AEFI management training had been given to the session site vaccinators.

Thakur said that Covishield

would give favourable and expected results in eradicating the virus. He added that there would be a gap of 28 days between the first and second doses of the vaccine and antibodies would develop after 42 days of vaccination. Therefore, it was vital to take appropriate precautions during this period. He directed the officers concerned to make a micro plan for the vaccination campaign to be undertaken in 111 centres of the district covering 11,877 beneficiaries up to February 1. — OC

360 administered Covishield in Mandi

MANDI, JANUARY 16

The Covishield vaccine was administered to 360 health workers in Mandi district today. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur took stock of the preparations at the vaccination centres at Vijay Senior Secondary School, Lal Bahadur Shastri Medical College and Hospital, Civil Hospitals at Sundernagar, and Karsog in the district. He also reviewed the work plan for the vaccination campaign and the bird flu situation.

Thakur said that Covishield

Tanda hospital ward boy accused of molesting, making video of patient

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Accused removed

DHARAMSALA, JANUARY 16
The incident is unfortunate. We have removed the ward boy, who was employed through outsourcing. An inquiry is on. Dr Bhanu Awasthi, PRINCIPAL, TANDA MEDICAL COLLEGE

X-ray. When I came back, my daughter was still inside. We got suspicious as it was taking too much time, and pushed the door open. My daughter was crying. She complained that she had been inappropriately touched by the person doing the X-ray and he also made a video of her while she was asked to remove her

clothes," he said.

"We caught hold of the accused and complained to the hospital authorities. Later, we came to know that the person doing the X-ray was a ward boy and not a technician. Action should also be taken against the technician who allowed him to do X-rays on his behalf," he said.

He alleged that people suggested him not to report the matter to the police. "My daughter said she wanted the accused to get punished. So, we filed a police complaint against him," he said.

The police have arrested the ward boy and are investigating the matter.

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Sealed tenders marked to the Finance Director at Company's plant address within 10 days of this advertisement are invited for sale of unusable items ("Products") as below:-
1. Old and used machinery of hose manufacturing plant including forklifts/stackers/reciprocating chiller/air compressor/ old motors, gearbox and miscellaneous machine parts, 2. All kind of scrap i.e. paper & box, 3. Cured rubber scrap, 4. Uncured rubber scrap, 5. Empty Drums of 100 ltrs. capacity, 6. Hose wire Scrap, 7. MS Scrap, 8. Scrap Wood, 9. Waste of polypropylene plastic, 10. Waste of polypropylene hard, 11. Plastic spools, 12. Plastic Mandrel, 13. Wooden scrap with Iron Frame, 14. Plastic Drums 210 ltr., 15. Steel Drums 210 ltr.
For sale on "as is where is" basis. Products can be viewed between 10 am to 4 pm on any working day at the plant. The Company, i.e., Gates India Private Limited, reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever and without any prior notice.
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A paramedic being vaccinated at MMU Medical College, Solan.

In Solan, only 62 vaccinated

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, JANUARY 16

As against the target of 200, barely 62 health workers turned up for vaccination against Covid-19 at two centres in Solan district today. A number of health staffers did not take part in the campaign despite having registered for it, while a worker, who was to take the first shot of the drive at Solan, blatantly refused to take the vaccine.

As many as 30 health staffers were vaccinated at the Regional Hospital, Solan, and 32 at MMU Medical College, Kumarhatti, on the first day of the statewide drive. Dr Shalini received the first shot at the Regional Hospital, Solan, while Dr Sumit Chaddha was administered the first shot at MMU Medical College, Kumarhatti.

Over 1,200 panchayats go to polls today

SHIMLA, JANUARY 16

Over 1,200 panchayats will go to polls in the first of the three-phase Panchayati Raj Institution elections in the state tomorrow. Electoral Officer Sanjeev Mahajan said here today. Voting would be held from 8 am to 4 pm. The remaining two phases were slated for January 19 and 21, he added.

Mahajan said that 7,583 polling parties would ensure the smooth conduct of polling in the first phase. The counting of votes for ward members, deputy village heads and village heads would be done soon after the completion of voting. However, the counting of votes for the members of panchayat samitis and zila parishads would be held on January 22. The election process would be completed by January 23, he added. PTI

epaper.tribuneindia.com

QUOTATIONS

Sealed quotations are invited for hiring Commercial Vehicles (Registered under Motor Vehicles Act for carrying goods) from Transport Operators/Transporters at Tribune Printing Center, Gurugram for newspaper supply to various destinations/routes mentioned below:-

Sr. No.	Route Name	Route Type
1	Gurugram to Delhi/Gurugram/Noida Distribution Centers	(Independent/Sharing)
2	Gurugram- Kalanaur-Hisar	(Independent/Sharing)
3	Kalanaur-Bhiwani-Tosham	(Independent/Sharing)
4	Gurugram-Sonipat-Khanpur Kalan	(Independent/Sharing)
5	Gurugram-Faridabad-Hodel	(Independent/Sharing)
6	Gurugram-Rohtak-Jind-Saffidon	Sharing
7	Gurugram-Charki Dadri-Jui	Sharing
8	Gurugram-Jaipur	Sharing
9	Rohtak-Gohana	Sharing
10	Gurugram-Nuh-Ferozepur Zirka	Sharing
11	Gurugram-Narnaul, Rewari-Mahendergarh, Sahlewlas, Kosli	Sharing
12	Hansi-Narnaud	Sharing
13	Tosham-Behl	Sharing

Preference will be given to the bidders having minimum experience of 3 years in respect of the newspapers supply. The vehicles to be used for supply of newspapers should have commercial permit to carry goods as per the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act, Insurance of vehicle as per law and the driver should possess valid driving license. Quotations not fulfilling necessary requirements will not be considered.

Sealed quotations along with experience details mentioning "Quotation for supply of Newspapers" should reach at the following address postively by 27.01.2021 till 05:00 p.m.

The quotations received after due date shall not be considered.

For any query, please contact: Girish Arya - 098884-88823, 0172-2670429 and 0172-2670442.

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Punjab Government
is organising
A State Level Function
to pay glowing tributes to
66 SIKH KUKA MARTYRS
who were blown by cannons in 1872 for revolting
against the British rule
on
**NAMDHARI KUKA
MARTYRDOM DAY**

Under the aegis of
Sri Satguru Uday Singh Ji
--PROGRAMME--
January 17, 2021 (Sunday)
Time: 11:00 AM
Namdhari Shaheedi Samarak,
Malerkotla

Department of Information & Public Relations, Punjab

MATRIMONIALS

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

MAHAJAN

Mahajan girl, 1982/ 5'-3". Post Graduate in Journalism, working with times internet. Upper caste welcome. Contact: 98883-70372. (CL20084258)

Mahajan girl, 5'-6", 04.10.1994, 07.21 am, Chandigarh, MBA. Regional HR Manager for MNC at Chandigarh. Parents both in Govt. Service at Chandigarh. 98786-50554, 94178-07000. (CL20085501)

PQM for beautiful & CPA (USA) girl (5'-3"), 27.10.90, working MNC, Gurgaon. Package 16 lac. Upper caste welcome. 98885-13667. (CL20085700)

AGGARWAL

PQ Garg girl Anshik Manglik slim 26 yrs, 5'-7", Haryana Govt. Lecturer contact surrounding Yamunanagar Karnal, Ambala, Kurukshetra. Govt. employee only. 94666-31001. (CL20085185)

Manglik Goyal fair girl, August, 1994, 5'-1", B.Com, M.Com, Patiala, French Tutor, preparing Government Exams. 98156-25197. (CL20083336)

Agarwal Industrialist B.Tech girl. Two sister very beautiful, 1994, Panchkula, very decent marriage. WhatsApp: 90417-32493, 90418-04272. (CL20083355)

Match for Patiala Garg girl, 15.07.1991, 11:38 p.m., 5'-2", MBA. 9872237890. (CL20083513)

PQM for Kansai Manglik beautiful 5'-5", MBA, working girl. Tata Group, Delhi. Package 7 lac, 20.09.94, 6:12 pm, Panipat. 92165-84680. (CL20083732)

Suitable match for vegetarian Jindal beautiful Patiala girl, 5'-4", 7.8.92, 7.25 p.m. Samana, M.Tech, CSE. Father Sr. XEN PSPCL. Send biodata or whatsapp 96466-54602. (CL20083806)

PQM for 1994 born Manglik girl RBI employed. Preferred Central Govt. Employ. Cont - 98882-07079, 98880-27097. (CL20083894)

Smart Garg girl 11.08.92, 9:40 a.m., Ludhiana, 5'-7", B.Tech, ECE, 87280-98784. (CL20083343)

Professional match for 1994 born, 5'-5", Non-manglik Singla girl B.Tech, Sr. Software Engineer, working Noida, annual package 33 lac. WhatsApp: 9779230156. (CL20083943)

Match for smart, convert educated, Anshik Manglik, Chandigarh Singla working girl, 13-01-1991, 09:38 a.m., (Gurgaon), 5'-7", B.Tech, MBA. Contact 94170-55990. (CL20083993)

Match for beautiful intellectual Agarwal girl, Tech. entrepreneur (based in Mohali), 5'-1", Dec. 1992, born, smart/working Prof. Tricity preference. 98143-47605. (CL20084019)

Suitable match for Garg girl, 13.03.1989, District Sangrur, 5'-3.5", M.Tech, Assistant Professor. 93162-87900. (CL20084143)

Tricity Govt. job match for Agarwal High Court Chandigarh girl, 21.02.93, 5'-5.5 am' Ambala. 98147-16315. (CL20084168)

Match for beautiful Garg girl, 5.6.92, 11:02 am, Jind 5', MS Pharma (NIPER), Associate Consultant reputed MNC Noida. Package 8+. Boy working in NCR preferred/ background Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh/Delhi based well settled family. 98911-22888/98911-42888. (CL20084235)

Manglik rich girls, 17.03.1996/ 6:45 pm, 5'-2" 02.10.1994, 3:50 pm, 5'-1", Yamunanagar. 093541-29677. (CL20084274)

High status match for Jalandhar based Aggarwal Manglik 1995, 5'-3", Postgraduate, very beautiful girl. 99888-18454. (CL20084377)

Match for 5'-1", 05.10.93, 08:10 a.m., Patiala, Jindal girl, BE (ECE), PNB/ Clerical since 2017. 97790-98864. (CL20084466)

Match for beautiful Manglik Garg girl September 1994/ 5'-3", Karnal, M.Com, Haryana/ Tricity preferred. 98961-97874. (CL20084651)

Match for UK (Scotland) settled Gupta Manglik girl, November 90, born, 5'-2", CA (Inter) cleared, doing Auditing job. Castle no bar. UK settled prefer. Contact: 98158-75551. (CL20084777)

Suitable match for Chandigarh based Aggarwal, beautiful, fair, cultured, middle-class, working, family girl, Jan, 94, 5'-5", Bachelor in Mass Comm. Preference well settled boy from Punjab/ Haryana/ Chandigarh family. Caste no bar. Contact 99880-13570, sarojisinghal1403@gmail.com. (CL20084780)

Garg girl, M.A. (English), B.Ed, PSTET, IELTS Teacher, 13.02.1993, 12:50 AM, Bathinda, 5'-2". Selected Govt. Teacher Appointment Awarded. Preference Govt. Employee. WhatsApp: 98031-00769. (CL20084831)

Unmarried/ widower match for beautiful MA English Teacher, 5'-2%", 1977 girl from Panchkula. 98727-22414. (CL20084303)

PQM for Hindu Arora girl, 22.10.1994, 06:00 p.m. Narwana, working Gurgaon NCR package 8.5 lacs. 5'. Contact: 94161-42490, 87082-99740. (CL20085150)

Employed match for beautiful Khatri, B.Tech IT, homey girl (interested in job), 14.06.90, 3:30 p.m., Narwana (Jind), 5'-3", presently staying Kaithal (Haryana). Father retired SBI DGM. Two sisters - one sister married. 98878-4466, 82838-05991. sedchavan@yahoo.com. (CL20085218)

Match for M.Tech, Sep, 89, 5'-5", working Canada. Professionals holding PR/work permit preferred. 978082882. (CL20085289)

Established handsome educated business match for very beautiful professionally qualified November 93, 5'-4", Kurukshetra, status family. 90340-83138. (CL20085391)

Doctor/ flourished businessman/agriculturist match for 1980 born, Fazilka, 5'-4", BDS girl, nearby districts preferred. 98721-60150. (CL20085405)

Ahlu Khatri family Anshik Punjabi girl, 29.09.1992, 9:50 am, Chandigarh, 5'-6". Double MA, B.Ed., ITI, working private school. Father/ Mother retired Govt. Officer. Looking well educated boy resident in Tricity. Zipakpur only. 94174-61699, 95016-24273. (CL20085458)

Suitable match for convent educated Aggarwal Jindal 5'-2", 19990, B.Tech, MS (USA) H1B girl. Send biodata, photo. WhatsApp 79864-15629. (CL20085149)

Match for Arora girl, 1991, 5'-5", Ludhiana Government Bank Officer. Prefer Government employee boy. Seek Radhu Swami family. 94637-53008, 96461-75924. (CL20085460)

Arora Manglik Post-graduate girl regular Chandigarh Administration Employee 27 years/ 5'-7" required Employed match. 94164-89750. (CL20085156)

Match for Arora girl 1987/height 5'-3", qualification M.Com., B.Ed, only Panipat contact No. 08950-06711, 090347-16570. (CL20085523)

Smart, sweet, MA Chandigarh business Bansal girl 5'-7" (8.50 am, 28.5.1994 Chandigarh), 94633-79956, 94633-79959. (CL20085395)

Suitable match for Hindu Arora girl 1991, M.Com., B.Ed., 5'-6".

Arora working, short marriage divorced girl, 30, 5'-2", MBA, unmarried/ issueless divorced preferred, 72065-54704. (CL20085282)

Malout based beautiful Arora girl 1994, 5'-2", B.Tech. Wanted businessman or job boy. 93567-22798. (CL20085439)

Match for Arora girl 1991, 5'-5", Ludhiana Government Bank Officer. Prefer Government employee boy. Seek Radhu Swami family. 94637-53008, 96461-75924. (CL20085460)

Arora Manglik Post-graduate girl regular Chandigarh Administration Employee 27 years/ 5'-7" required Employed match. 94164-89750. (CL20085156)

Match for Arora girl 1987/height 5'-3", qualification M.Com., B.Ed, only Panipat contact No. 08950-06711, 090347-16570. (CL20085523)

Suitable match for Hindu Arora girl 1991, M.Com., B.Ed., 5'-6".

Arora working, short marriage divorced girl, 30, 5'-2", MBA, unmarried/ issueless divorced preferred, 72065-54704. (CL20085282)

KHATRI/ARORA

Manglik teetotaller educated local match for Hindu Khatri girl, 25, 5'-3" slim Wheatish complexion, Post Graduate, employed locally. 94173-39732. (CL20084265)

PQM4 Manglik 5'-5", 8.6.90, 1:35 pm Sri Sanganagar born Punjabi Arora girl, MDS Endodontist & Conservative (Delhi NCR). Father mother Medical Doctor. Pref. Medical Doctor, upper caste accepted. 94069-49899. (CL20079338)

Businessman family, 09.06.1994,

5:55, Yamunanagar, B.Tech, 5"-6",

02.06.1993, 8:25, Kurukshetra. M.Sc,

5'-1", 90684-08080. (CL20085491)

Aggarwal reputed business family of Patiala sees handsome well-settled Groom. Daughter is 5'-5" tall, fair & beautiful. Post Graduate from Thapar University. Non-Manglik. 11 July 1989, 10:30 pm Patiala. 98885-61581. (CL20085494)

Suitable match for beautiful, slim Garg Manglik girl, 1996, 5'-3", B.Tech, pursuing MBA. Father running a well reputed industries, preferred reputed industrialist. 98882-65900. (CL20085512)

Suitable match for extremely beautiful Singh fair girl 26.02.1992, 8:55 a.m., Chandigarh, B.Sc (CS), M.Sc Maths, B.Ed, Data Science, Khatri & Rajput also contact Ph. 70900-83829. (CL20085627)

Singla girl, B.Tech, 6.11.1992, 5'-5",

2:35 am, Anshik Manglik, Chandigarh, working in Govt. Bank. Preferred family having own house in Shimla. Contact with full details 89881-08603, 98160-80748. (CL20083520)

High status, beautiful girl, 26.01.1996, 2:59 am, 5'-3", MBA, business family preferred. 72068-84934. (CL20083353)

Suitable match for vegetarian beautiful Arora working girl, 5'-2", 1986, MBA (HR). Father Govt. Officer, Mohali. Tricity working preferred. Contact: 94176-80409, 83601-95093. Email: d_k_6_m_o_n_g_a @ g_m_a_i_l . c o m (CL20083509)

Match for non-Manglik Punjabi Arora girl Nov, 92/5'-5", B.Tech., Senior Software Engineer MNC Hyderabad, 9 Lacs. Parents well settled at Chandigarh. Hyderabadi working boy preferred. Call/WhatsApp: 98143-34345. (CL20083545)

Rich Agarwal girls most beautiful, 1995, M.Com, 1994, M.Sc, 1991, MDS Only industrialist, businessman boys. Ludhiana Chandigarh, 84271-23150, 86993-72414. (CL20085671)

Goyal girl 1993, 5'-1", MBBS Govt. contract job, Panchkula, well settled Chandigarh family. Contact: 98153-45161. (CL20085693)

Match for smart, convert educated, Anshik Manglik, Chandigarh Singla working girl, 13-01-1991, 09:38 a.m., (Gurgaon), 5'-7", B.Tech, MBA. Contact 94170-55990. (CL20083993)

Match for beautiful intellectual Agarwal girl, Tech. entrepreneur (based in Mohali), 5'-1", Dec. 1992, born, smart/working Prof. Tricity preference. 98143-47605. (CL20084019)

Suitable match for Garg girl, 13.03.1989, District Sangrur, 5'-3.5", M.Tech, Assistant Professor. 93162-87900. (CL20084143)

Tricity Govt. job match for Agarwal High Court Chandigarh girl, 21.02.93, 5'-5.5 am' Ambala. 98147-16315. (CL20084168)

Match for beautiful Garg girl, 5.6.92, 11:02 am, Jind 5', MS Pharma (NIPER), Associate Consultant reputed MNC Noida. Package 8+. Boy working in NCR preferred/ background Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh/Delhi based well settled family. 98911-22888/98911-42888. (CL20084235)

Manglik rich girls, 17.03.1996/ 6:45 pm, 5'-2" 02.10.1994, 3:50 pm, 5'-1", Yamunanagar. 093541-29677. (CL20084274)

High status match for Jalandhar based Aggarwal Manglik 1995, 5'-3", Postgraduate, very beautiful girl. 99888-18454. (CL20084377)

Match for 5'-1", 05.10.93, 08:10 a.m., Patiala, Jindal girl, BE (ECE), PNB/ Clerical since 2017. 97790-98864. (CL20084466)

Match for beautiful Manglik Garg girl September 1994/ 5'-3", Karnal, M.Com, Haryana/ Tricity preferred. 98961-97874. (CL20084651)

Match for UK (Scotland) settled Gupta Manglik girl, November 90, born, 5'-2", CA (Inter) cleared, doing Auditing job. Castle no bar. UK settled prefer. Contact: 98158-75551. (CL20084777)

Suitable match for Chandigarh based Aggarwal, beautiful, fair, cultured, middle-class, working, family girl, Jan, 94, 5'-5", Bachelor in Mass Comm. Preference well settled boy from Punjab/ Haryana/ Chandigarh family. Caste no bar. Contact 99880-13570, sarojisinghal1403@gmail.com. (CL20084780)

Arora girl, M.A. (English), B.Ed, PSTET, IELTS Teacher, 13.02.1993, 12:50 AM, Bathinda, 5'-2". Selected Govt. Teacher Appointment Awarded. Preference Govt. Employee. WhatsApp: 98031-00769. (CL20084831)

Unmarried/ widower match for beautiful MA English Teacher, 5'-2%", 1977 girl from

SCHEDULED CASTES

SM4 Ad-dharmi 90 born girl, 5', M.Sc Comp., working Teacher in CBSE School, Jalandhar. Require Govt. employee. 88722-21654, 9730-18632. (CL2008542)

Match for Hindu Valmiki girl, 5'-4", Graduate, Assistant Manager SBI. Surrounding Patiala, Ambala, Ludhiana. 98555-56926. (CL2008537)

SMF fair, beautiful (SC) girl 1988, 5'-2", B.Tech & MBA, working in MNC at Noida. Contact: 99100-61623. (CL20080333)

Doctor, Engineer, Civil servant or other officer match for Chamaar good looking Ph.D girl, 42, 5'-6", working as Associate Professor in Govt. Aided College. Legally divorcee with one 8 year old baby girl. Contact: 70871-38816. (CL20083402)

Wanted match for Associate Professor, M.Tech, Dec. 86 born, 5'-7", fair, Balmiki girl. 98881-17189, 94630-08253. (CL20083407)

Suitable match for Ludhiana based Ravidas girl, 23 years, 5' height. Master in Fashion Designing willing to settle abroad, 96461-19286. (CL20083511)

Match for SC beautiful girl 1987, 5'-3", MA, B.Ed. Pvt. school teacher. Hoshiarpur preferred. 82839-06679. (CL20083560)

M4 SC Adharmi girl 86 born 5'-6", Ph.D. (Bio Tech. Agriculture). 98780-31951. (CL20083563)

Valmiki unmarried girl 34 M.A., B.Ed., Teacher. Preferred Govt. employee/ businesswoman. Widower/ divorcee with small child also acceptable. Caste no bar. 94679-21723. (CL20083577)

Suitable match required for Ravidasikhi girl, 29/ 5'-4", Class-1 Officer in Punjab Government. Seeks vegetarian, non-smoker, teetotaller match. Patiala preferred. 7681914905. (CL20083800)

SMF Ravidasikhi girl, 1990, BA, ETI, teacher in private school. Father retd. 98724-11528. (CL20083817)

Qualified match for Doctor (MDS) Ravidasikhi, Hindu Punjabi beautiful girl 5'-3", June 88, 6:35 pm. Doctor family. Contact: 98618-79639. (CL20083964)

Suitable match required for Himachali unmarried SC Koli 1994 born convent educated M.Sc. Gold Medalist job oriented girl. NET and SET qualified. Both parents class 1 Officers employed with H.P. Govt. Send biodata on r k a s h a y a p 9 4 9 8 @ g m a i l . c o m (CL20084244)

Wanted suitable match for Valmiki unmarried girl, Govt Lecturer, 1977, 5'-1", wretched complexion. Well educated preferred. Goru Damane, Hans. Caste no bar. 847984200. (CL20084269)

Wanted Canada PR/ Citizen boy for beautiful Randassia Sikh girl, B.Tech, PG Diploma in Canada, 92 born/ 5'-6", on work permit in Canada. 8699563530. (CL20084273)

HCS/ Bank PO match for Ravidasikhi Chamkar, SBI PO 2016, Dec. 93, 5'-7", BE slim beautiful. Well settled family at Chandigarh. 98772-21862. (CL20084317)

Suitable match for Manglik SC Ad-dharmi girl from well established family, 02.10.1987, 5'-4", 5.15 p.m., pursuing Ph.D (Economics), requires well qualified gentleman. Send biodata & photo. 84373-04408. (CL20084374)

Ravidasikhi Himachal based girl 1986, 5'-4", B.Tech, Web Trainer required well settled boy from Himachal, Tricity, Punjab. 70180-73130. (CL20084426)

PQM4 beautiful fair Ravidasikhi girl 1992, Nursing Officer PGI Chandigarh (permanent Govt. job), Radha Soami family. Required well settled Govt. employee in Tricity only. 98156-53665. (CL20084499)

Valmiki girl M.Sc. IT fair 22 May 88/5'-4". Mob.: 73407-44877 & 97793-0314. (CL20084515)

PQ NR1 match for Randassia Sikh girl, BDS, MAS 1992, 5'-5", small educated Mohali based family. Father retd. Central Govt. Class 1 Gazetteed Officer. Dowry seekers kindly excuse. Only officers families need to share family details on WhatsApp 94914-29632. No calling pl. (CL20084623)

SMF B.Tech (IT), MBA, Punjabi Ad-dharmi, SC, slim, fair, 5'-2", April 93 born, 5'-2", April 93 born, working Gurgaon. Well educated family settled in Mohali. WhatsApp full details on 98887-98888. (CL20085110)

Majhi Sikhi beautiful girl 29/ 5'-4", MCA required suitable match preferred Govt. job boy, father Govt. Bank Manager. Retired. 88724-80926, 98152-55483. (CL20085174)

Match for Ravidasikhi Weaver girl, 5'-6"/26, Graduate + B.Sc. Nursing. Well settled Tricity preferred. 90414-62894. (CL20085205)

Suitable match for beautiful girl 27, 5'-4", M.Sc., B.Ed. Govt. Teacher, caste no bar. 82692-35586, 83491-02485 (W). (CL20085335)

Canadian PR educated Saraswat Brahmin girl Dec. 91, looking well-settled professional Punjabi Brahmin boy. WhatsApp biodata +14163884547 No calls. (CL20083666)

Jati Sikh Canadian PR beautiful girl, 32 years, 5'-3", presently pursuing Dentistry (DDS) in Canada. Issueless divorcee after short time. Seeking suitable match. Canada PR/citizen only. 9878289794. (CL20083949)

Ph.D. beautiful Sikhi Ahluwalia girl likely to settle abroad, 1986/ 5'-5", looking for well educated and preferably NRI match, working in MNC or reputed place having B1/ B2 visa for USA. Brother already in USA. 97798-08043. (CL20084002)

Well settled USA girl B.Sc., 24 yrs, 5'-1", looking for matrimonial. No caste no bar. 97129-45194. (CL20084139)

Hindu Khatri girl, 87/ 5'-5", Australian Registered Nurse. 7719643509. (CL20084056)

Suitable match for fair & beautiful Aggarwal girl, 1988, 5'-2", MBBS, MPH (USA), doing Ph.D Epidemiology (USA). Looking for well educated & settled boy USA/ Canada. Caste no bar. Contact 98141-60210. (CL20084242)

SM4 Saraswat Brahmin Manglik girl, very short time divorcee, Govt. job, 26, 5'-1". Ludhiana preferred, 8427971938. (CL20083859)

PQM4 BE DCE-MBA IIM Manglik Rajak Rajput girl, 32+ LPA, 5'-6", 8 Oct, 90, 7:39 am, Delhi # 98104-76472, 98724-33958. (CL20080690)

Suitable match for beautiful, very fair, only child (60 cms/ August 1987, MBA (International Business), Manglik, Father IG(P). Caste no bar. Email: gugayatri@gmail.com (CL20083625)

Canadian PR educated Saraswat Brahmin girl Dec. 91, looking well-settled professional Punjabi Brahmin boy. WhatsApp biodata +14163884547 No calls. (CL20084008)

Manglik Mehra girl 28, 5', MA, B.Ed, IELTS 6.5 Band, upper caste no bar. 98155-70617. (CL20085515)

EDUCATED

SM4 Punjabi Ravidasikhi girl 19.2.1990, 5'-4", M.Com, working Punjab Govt. Bank as Assistant Manager, preferred Tricity. 90416-63328. (CL20085542)

Majhi Sikhi girl, 33, 5'-5", European citizen. The girl has come to India. WhatsApp: 77106-20339. (CL20085537)

Match for Sikh Ramdasikhi girl 16.12.1984/ 5'-2", M.Sc., M.Tech. Preferred Govt. or Non Govt. Better salary. Contact 98729-30206, 84277-27279. (CL20085601)

Ravidasikhi Sikhi 1994, 5'-2", BDS, IELTS, 6.5 band fair Colour, seeking Graduate Canada PR/ Study bus boy, father Gazetteed Officer. Class-1, Mother home maker. 76268-51210. (CL20085608)

Gen. Sikh 5'-10", Dip/ BA, 1992, on work permit PR. March. Preferred MBBS/ BDS/ MPT/ NSG, 97813-00623. (CL20085500)

USA Citizen 1993, 5'-5", MS Engg. Software Engineer Apple \$150,001. Req. well educated match. Caste no bar. 70675-80823. (CL20085506)

Qualified well settled match for Sharma girl, 44 years, 5'-3".

Canadian PR Jat Sikhi beautiful girl 30/5'-4", doing Govt. job in Canada, required Govt. job or well settled boy in Canada. 95012-16200. (CL20085514)

Very beautiful 88, 5'-5", University topper. New Zealand citizen seeks Punjabi well settled boy only from New Zealand or India. No matrimonials. 99781-06855. (CL20085522)

Smart for 1988 born, 5'-2", MA, B.Ed., CTET, Sikh Ramdasikhi girl, teacher private school. Preferred turbanned Sikh Ramdasikhi from Tricity. 90417-82983. (CL20085462)

Match for 1988 born, 5'-2", MA, B.Ed., CTET, Sikh Ramdasikhi girl, teacher private school. Preferred turbanned Sikh Ramdasikhi from Tricity. 90417-82983. (CL20085462)

SMF fair, beautiful (SC) girl 1988, 5'-2", B.Tech & MBA, working in MNC at Noida. Contact: 99100-61623. (CL20080333)

Doctor, Engineer, Civil servant or other officer match for Chamaar good looking Ph.D girl, 42, 5'-6", working as Associate Professor in Govt. Aided College. Legally divorcee with one 8 year old baby girl. Contact: 70871-38816. (CL20083402)

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M4 SC Adharmi girl 86 born 5'-6", Ph.D. (Bio Tech. Agriculture). 98780-31951. (CL20083563)

Valmiki unmarried girl 34 M.A., B.Ed., Teacher. Preferred Govt. employee/ businesswoman. Widower/ divorcee with small child also acceptable. Caste no bar. 94679-21723. (CL20083577)

Suitable match required for Ravidasikhi girl, 29/ 5'-4", Class-1 Officer in Punjab Government. Seeks vegetarian, non-smoker, teetotaller match. Patiala preferred. 7681914905. (CL20083800)

SMF Ravidasikhi girl, 1990, BA, ETI, teacher in private school. Father retd. 98724-11528. (CL20083817)

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Preferably Canada settled/ M.Tech (India) handsome match for Ramdasikhi good looking Dec. 1989/ 5'-4", M.Sc (Chemistry), B.Ed., on student visa(Canada), caste no bar. Contact: 98880-02534. (CL20085425)

Never married, female Punjabi 43, slim US citizen, Graduate, working in OHIO, seeking any Hindu Software Engineers/others, no bar, 38-44, from USA, Canada (on any visa) or from India willing to relocate to Columbus, Ohio, serious inquiries only email: Bio/ Photo to vivah2021@gmail.com (CL20083527)

Educated match preference in France for Sikh girl, 33 yrs, 5'-2", working in Finance. 9886-61346, 0033684768126, ktn1@hotmail.fr (CL20085827)

MANGLIK

Dhiman Manglik vegetarian Hindu girl 24.04.1991, 12:35 pm Chandigarh, 5'-6", M.Sc., B.Ed. Job IT Park Mohali. Cleanshaven Tricity preferred. Upper caste welcome. WhatsApp 94283-33138. (CL20082873)

Wanted Australian PR manglik/ non-manglik boy for Dhiman girl 1992, 5'-4", B.Ed, M.Ed, PG diploma, Counselling M.A. Psychology. Two brothers in Australia. Upper caste no bar. 97800-89300. (CL20085380)

PQM4 BE DCE-MBA IIM Manglik Rajak Rajput girl, 32+ LPA, 5'-6", 8 Oct, 90, 7:39 am, Delhi # 98104-76472, 98724-33958. (CL20080690)

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Suitable match for fair, beautiful Aggarwal girl, 1988, 5'-2", MBBS, MPH (USA), doing Ph.D Epidemiology (USA). Looking for well educated & settled boy USA/ Canada. Caste no bar. Contact 98141-60210. (CL20084242)

SM4 Saraswat Brahmin Manglik girl, very short time divorcee, Govt. job, 26, 5'-1". Ludhiana preferred, 8427971938. (CL20083859)

PQM for beautiful girl 29, 5'-4", working in Australia sees suitable match. 86025-07879. (CL20084335)

Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin Manglik girl, 1995 born, 5'-5", software Engineer package 9 lac. Very repeated family. Looking 4 only non-drunker, non-smoker, vegetarian groom. 94175-83039. (CL20083783)

Match for fair, beautiful, very fair, only child (60 cms/ August 1987, MBA (International Business), Manglik, Father IG(P). Caste no bar. Email: gug

CLASSIFIEDS

SIKH

Looking for a professionally qualified or defence officer match for Lubana Sikh girl, 1987 born, 5'-5", daughter of an Army Colonel, B.Tech, MBA, Canadian PR, working at Oil & Gas company, flexible to settle in India. Interested send biodata with photographs. Upper caste no bar. E-mail: juktiran3@gmail.com WhatsApp: 9876840098. (CL20084186)

Professionally qualified match for beautiful Kambaj unmarried girl, BE, MBA, October 1977, 5'-7", 15 LPA, working in Chandigarh. Upper caste no bar. Email: k77lucky@gmail.com (CL20084077)

Suitable match for Sikh Arora Divorcee issueless girl, 28 yrs., 5'-4", undergraduate. Father own business at Ludhiana, pure vegetarian family. 98883-73498, 88470-82474. (CL20083948)

Match for slim, fair, divorcee Arora Sikh girl Karnal, 13.6.1987, 5'-6", B.Com. Interior Designing. 96712-58313. (CL20085388)

Suitable Sardar match vegetarian for Jalandhar based Arora girl, 26 yrs, 5'-4", B.Sc. Non-Med. Contact: 7837209232. (CL20085685)

Suitable match for beautiful Arora Gursikh girl slim, August 1990, 5'-2", B.Com, CS, working in Semi Govt. Tricity preferred. Contact: 98551-93333. (CL20085726)

RAMGARHIA/DHIMAN

Ramgarhia Sikh girl 1988/ 5'-3" BA (Fine Arts), Art and Craft Diploma. Relatives in Canada. Jat Sikh can contact. Preferred Govt. Employee. Canada. 90232-32121. (CL20083550)

Ramgarhia Sikh girl 35, 5'-3", Canadian PR and school teacher seeks well educated settled match in Canada. virdi.kpt11@gmail.com (CL20083620)

M.Sc Lecturer in Govt. Medical College, Ht. 5'-4", Dob 31.5.94, looking for HP based boy. Belongs to Palampur. 98160-80244, 88006-99324. (CL20083882)

Seeking well educated and settled Cutsyrdi boy in Tricity for beautiful Sikh girl, 29, 5'-8", LLB, permanent Officer job in Chandigarh. 97800-150000 p.m. 94637-47896, 99888-1961. (CL20083711)

MD/PCMS/ Gazzeted officer vegetarian match for Ramdasia Singh MD (Medicine) Doctor girl, working as Senior Resident, 34 yrs, 5'-6", 150000 p.m. 94637-47896, 99888-1961. (CL20083711)

Sikh Kyshap Raiput Mehra girl, Govt. Job 1993, 5'-2", M.Tech. seeks well settled, teetotaller boy and family against dowry, preferred Tricity. 85570-33156. (CL20083766)

Suitable match for Nai Sikh girl, 5'-3", 1991, B.Sc Nurse, PTE 64 Score, Chandigarh. 99887-63326. (CL20083717)

Hindu Dhiman girl B.Tech. Computer Science 18.10.93, height 5 feet, working in Mohali. 97800-40052. (CL20084189)

Suitable match for Sikh Kashyap Rajput Mehra girl, 05.10.1988/ 5'-5", convent educated, B.Tech, MBA, Software Engineer, working in MNC Gurgaon, 8 lakh annum. Contact: 99711-19557, 96503-39827. Email: surjeet.singh5423@gmail.com (CL20083790)

Suitable match for Ramgarhia vegetarian beautiful Sikh girl, 30, 5'-5", LLB (Perf). Greedy excuse, Advocate perfect, cont/ WhatsApp 89302-02603. Marriage bureau excuse. (CL20083849)

PQM for beautiful girl 1993/ 5'-4". Postgraduate employed. Father retired Army Officer. Defence Officer preferred. Email: jatinder2825@gmail.com with photo. (CL20083877)

Saini Sikh btdl Sep. 93, 5'-5", B-Design Nift, Mgmt IIM, works in Bangalore. Appld Canada PR. Pref to clean shave. 92347-50141. (CL20083979)

Suitable match for Ramgarhia Sikh girl 1990/ 5'-6", Amritsar, Master in Fine Arts (applied Art), Professor reputed University in Delhi. Send details on WhatsApp 98151-33398. (CL20085132)

Suitable match required for Ramgarhia Sikh working girl, M.Com., B.Ed., Nov. 84. Contact 96532-11594. (CL20085134)

Himachal based Hindu Dhiman girl, May 90, 5'-4", B.Tech., working IT professional sees similar match. 094631-38480. (CL20085151)

Professionally qualified match for M.Tech., Sept. 90, 5'-5", PR applied/ work permit. Preferred non-drinker, British Columbia. 98551-71219. (CL20085124)

Ramgarhia girl 1988, ITI, BA. Contact only Distt. Muktsah Sahib. WhatsApp 98776-49508. (CL20085441)

Ramgarhia beautiful girl 1992, 5'-5", B.Tech, MBA, MS Systems, Biology & Bioinformatics from USA. Job in USA, H1B1 visa. Contact: + 919227-43919. (CL20086367)

Confirmed residential LOIs in upcoming GMADA Aeropolis on Airport Road Mohali, excellent investment opportunity. 25, 60, 100 and 200 yard SCOs available on the Airport Road. Contact: Fortune 98151-78832, 92167-0970. (CL20086367)

Confirmed residential LOIs in GMADA Aeropolis on Airport Road Mohali, once in a lifetime opportunity. All sizes available. Fortune 98151-78832, 92167-0970. (CL20086367)

Wanted Suitable match Dhiman Girl Hindu 29-06-91, 12:25 am, 5'-3", Ambala. Central Govt employee Gotra Dhanjal and Laal. Ph: 94164-66833. (CL20085786)

SIKH LOBANA

Suitable match for 1989 born, 5'-1", M.Sc. Nursing girl. Assistant Professor in Nursing College. Upper caste no bar. 88721-42888. (CL20085390)

Suitable match for girl, 29, 5'-5", beautiful, Punjabi Saini girl, Post Graduate working in Chandigarh. Match from Chandigarh Mohali and Panchkula. 78768-25848. (CL20085707)

Pretty and highly qualified Ph.D Sikh doctor 35 years, 5.7 currently working as Lecturer in Scandinavia seeks a qualified and modern Sikh match working in USA or Europe, please contact Mr. Singh at Phone No. 55-374-4045 text only and email: timehta13@gmail.com (CL20085720)

PROPERTY

Wanted on outright purchase A/4 bedroom cottage in Kasauli with adequate lawns and parking. Clear and transferable title a must. Please Email details to: gujral@sgst.com (CL20083424)

SIKH KHATRI State: # 99, Sector 17, Panchkula 94179-77016, 85669-15000, 94638-37635, 70093-27189. Property consultants specialised in commercial and residential accommodation. (CL20085393)

SIKH ARORA

PROPERTY FOR SALE One/ two kanal facing park Sector 8, 34, 35. Four kanal 8, 9, Chandigarh Shaleen Ent. 98881-21133. (CL200870617)

10Marla Ground Floor B Road Big parking suitable Professional Sector 15 / Facing Park Sector 32 Chandigarh . Arora (HSAS) Rtd.50-51 / 17A. 9875709884. (CL20076517)

5 Marla Kothi facing park Sector 23 / Eight Marla Duplex (well maintained) Sector 40, Chandigarh 9875709884. (CL20076519)

Omax New Chandigarh: 500 gaj & 300 gaj plots available at best locations. 93160-37544. (CL20087887)

Match for slim, fair, divorcee Arora Sikh girl Karnal, 13.6.1987, 5'-6", B.Com. Interior Designing. 96712-58313. (CL20085388)

Suitable Sardar match vegetarian for Jalandhar based Arora girl, 26 yrs, 5'-4", B.Sc. Non-Med. Contact: 7837209232. (CL20085685)

Suitable match for beautiful Arora Gursikh girl slim, August 1990, 5'-2", B.Com, CS, working in Semi Govt. Tricity preferred. Contact: 98551-93333. (CL20085726)

Chandigarh showroom for sale A-one location huge parking Sector 37. Direct deal. 98149-67149. (CL20083380)

Chandigarh ten marla renovated House No. 1224, Sector 21-B, fully marbled. Genuine buyers only. 98149-67149. (CL20083379)

Chandigarh showroom for sale A-one location huge parking Sector 37. Direct deal. 98149-67149. (CL20083380)

Chandigarh direct deal corner 4 kanal house & facing park, (going very cheap). Required payment urgently, genuine buyers. 98149-67149. (CL20083384)

2 kanal newly high class Sector 18, wider choice Sectors 8, 18, 27, 2, 7, 21, 33. Sharan 98728-92299, 98766-60333. (CL20085744)

12 marla triple storey good house prime location on highway, suitable hotel, business centre. Rare deal. Sharan 98728-92299, 98766-60333. (CL20085754)

5000 and 2000 square feet concrete structure Ground/Basement opposite Chandigarh Railways Station Daria. 93170-94170. (CL20085643)

Chandigarh 5 marla brand new floors B-road facing park, good parking space in Sector 22, 38. Allied Realty 98141-66155. (CL20085752)

Chandigarh more than one kanal decent house prime location in Defence Sector very reasonable price. Immediate sale. 98149-67149. (CL20085744)

10 marla prime Sector 9, four kanal Sectors 9, 8, 2, 27, three kanal Sector 9. Sharan 98728-92299, 98766-60333. (CL20085655)

14 marla newly built prime location on highway, suitable hotel, business centre. Rare deal. Sharan 98728-92299, 98766-60333. (CL20085658)

10 marla sector 44 , 42 also big builtup Janta Land 82 1 kanal Phase 9, 8, 2, Royal 98889-88899. (CL20084689)

10 marla sector 44 , 43, 8 marla sector 44 38W, 7 marla Sector 37, 32. Call 93170-94170, 98764-24094. (CL20085641)

2500 and 2000 square feet concrete structure Ground/Basement opposite Chandigarh Railways Station Daria. 93170-94170. (CL20085643)

10 marla sector 44 , 43, 8 marla sector 44 38W, 7 marla Sector 37, 32. Call 93170-94170, 98764-24094. (CL20085641)

10 marla sector 44 , 43, 8 marla sector 44 38W, 7 marla Sector 37, 32. Call 93170-94170, 98764-24094. (CL20085641)

10 marla sector 44 , 43, 8 marla sector 44 38W, 7 marla Sector 37, 32. Call 93170-94170, 98764-24094. (CL20085641)

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10 marla sector 44 , 43, 8 marla sector 44 38W, 7 marla Sector 37, 32. Call 93170-94170, 98764-24094. (CL20085641)

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Luxury 4 room flat, Bollywood

Heights, Peer Muchalla, Zirakpur near Sector-20 Panchkula. Mob: 62833-16758. (CL20085355)

The Sunday Tribune

Spectrum



The fascinating story of Sophia Plowden, an ardent chronicler of Persian and Hindustani songs of naught performers at the Lucknow court in the late 18th century

ARTS page 12



Four women pilots of Air India did the country proud as they flew over North Pole, undertaking one of the world's longest direct commercial flights

SOCIETY page 13



Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's 'The Last Queen' is an exploration of Rani Jinda's inner world beyond the confines of her identity as a king's wife and a prince's mother

BOOKS page 14

Every movement needs its songs; it is an enormous responsibility. Punjabi musicians, to their credit, have come out and taken a stance. But music is the terms of agreement between co-citizens, it has a moral obligation to be inclusive. And let in those unknowingly excluded

RHYME & REASON



PHOTOS: THE TRIBUNE & PTI

KANWAR GREWAL IS AMONG A HOST OF YOUNG PUNJABI SINGERS WHO HAVE CAPTURED THE IMAGINATION OF PROTESTERS SEEKING REPEAL OF FARM LAWS OUTSIDE DELHI BORDERS.



Diljit Dosanjh (L) became the face of the Punjabi entertainment industry's endorsement and support to the farmers protesting outside Delhi.



Harbhajan Mann, like Dosanjh, not only extended support, but also ensured his presence at the protest site.



For all the criticism he attracts over the lyrics and tone of his numbers, Sidhu Moosewala is a huge star in the Punjabi music firmament.



Mankirt Aulakh, too, has been in crosshairs of law over violence and gun culture in his songs.

Singer Rabbi Shergill reflects on Punjabi music — the hits, the flops, what it represents, what it could & should

PUNJAB has been a difficult place for me. I don't live in it but feel it lives in me. Sometimes like a warm memory, at others a dreadful one. Despite being born and bred in Delhi, living smack in the middle of the nation's capital, in my mind for the longest time I lived on the fringes of Punjab, in some forlorn outpost. Despite living 8 km away from Ghalib's *haveli*, I idolised Shiv Batalvi and Bulle Shah. I mourned the wilting of the Punjabi Delhi under the UP-Bihar onslaught. I consciously spoke Punjabi with my friends, secretly condescended to the Punjabis who had forgotten 'real' Punjabi values, almost never pausing to ponder over my debt to the city that hosted us. Such was the seduction and glamour of 'Punjabi' culture. Which mostly was just a code for Jat culture. Punjabis may have been refugees here once, but were now its lords. There was no sign of their once-miserable existence here anymore. The slums that once housed us at Kingsway Camp or Old Rajinder Nagar had given way to stacks of builder floors spilling onto roads and endless squiggles of car-lines. People living in the new shanty-hells weren't 'us'.

And even within this rabble of privilege, there were private perceptions of hierarchy. "Sandhu-Sidhu ikk baraabar, Gill zaraa ucheraa" — my grandmother took great relish in delivering the punchline to a folk tale that proclaimed our clan superior to its two nearest rivals for pre-eminence.

Self-congratulation infused our language, public posture, verily all outward communication. Self-critique was a private shame only to be indulged in away from public view. Despite living in a tapestry of castes, languages and communities, our referencing was almost always to the self. A very limited self.

Later, same patterns of behaviour glared me in the face at the societal level as well. We were incapable of taking a

backward step. Realpolitik was cowardice. Only wilful annihilation honourable. And then there was the history. Entire realms staked for moral gains two generations later; promptly squandered in a single generation; holocausts, internecine warfare, bickering, monumental gallantry, unfathomable pettiness, 18 raids of Delhi but no plan to actually rule it. If there was a plan, it wasn't always clear to me. But maybe I was looking through the wrong glasses. Maybe the objective was never to create

Is it the right time to be critical? My counter-question would be: How many more religion-invoking, caste-invoking, war-mongering pop songs can we afford in a multi-ethnic, multi-faith, nationwide, delicate mass movement where a trigger-happy State is begging the cosmos for a mistake?

an external *raj*, but a kingdom of God within, like Jesus said.

But through it all, there was the poetry. And music. A current of denunciation runs through almost all classical Punjabi poetry, from Baba Farid to Bulle Shah. So much so that it doesn't seem like a separate category at all; just a ready-at-hand idiom.

But along with sky-high aesthetics, social insights, one of its biggest achievements was the examination of

self. It went a long way in pushing it deep into our collective consciousness and congeal into the bedrock of suggestions that formed our historical character.

It's the lack of those attributes that grate the most in today's protest music. It may be hewn from the familiar rock of Guru Nanak and Sultan Bahu, yet feels weird to touch. It's strange to note that non-Jat Punjabi music rarely, if ever, references any limited clan-self and through that becomes a tool for inclusion and maybe even social cohesion. Whereas the reference to Jats in music, especially contemporary music, is almost always a call for othering.

Jats are no more the subaltern and therefore the self-hyping that once shored them up psychologically in an ancient paradigm, transforms into overreach in the modern one. Why do we still do it? Because it feels good. But not everything that feels good is indeed good for us. Or others. Clichés serve a purpose after all.

A focused sampling of today's protest music reveals an assembly-line template: mid-tempo guitar/piano/synth riffs, set to hip-hop beats with the occasional *dhol/dholaki* and *algoza/tumbi* accompanying almost the same melody. But actually, it's the sameness in lyrical content that's mind-numbing. The call to violence, love for owning land masked as love for land, simplistic invocations of Sikh history, Jat identity... If Bulla is an ocean, today's protest music can sometimes feel like a puddle.

But it is of its own choosing. It's not as if the singers don't feel the text or the voices lack pathos, or even that lyrics don't aspire to poetry. It ticks all of those boxes; it's in other tracts of its own onto-

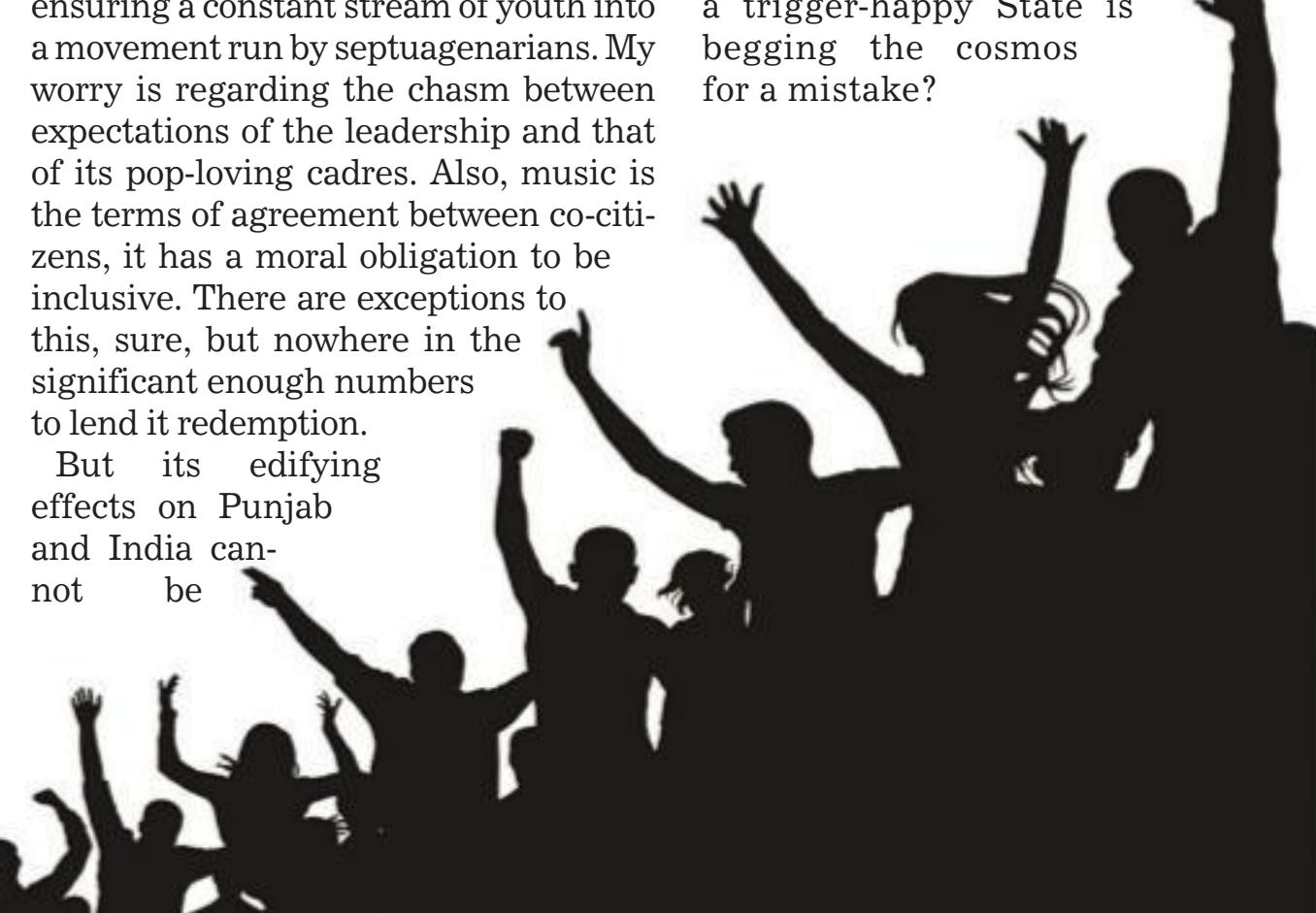
logical being and an intellectual laziness that the 'problem' lies.

Punjab is not its arable land, *Punjabiyat* is not its Jat subculture, Punjabi history is not just the last 350 years. It's more than that. It's in recognising, respecting and reflecting the vast body of Punjabi thought, that perhaps Punjabi music — protest and otherwise — can do justice to its legacy. Where's the critical eye for own role in the ongoing denouement? That 1 kg of Basmati rice sucks up 5,500 litres of water has been known for decades, but where's the anthem to bell that cat? Criticism is dangerous business, but it is the essence of art. Without that, our noble musical intentions run the danger of becoming slogan-flakes.

But the flip side is, it is tremendously popular, notching up millions of views in double time, galvanising youngsters, ensuring a constant stream of youth into a movement run by septuagenarians. My worry is regarding the chasm between expectations of the leadership and that of its pop-loving cadres. Also, music is the terms of agreement between co-citizens, it has a moral obligation to be inclusive. There are exceptions to this, sure, but nowhere in the significant enough numbers to lend it redemption.

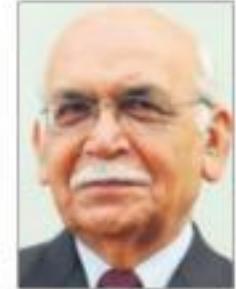
But its edifying effects on Punjab and India cannot be denied. Punjabi musicians have come out and taken a stance. Contrast it with the deafening silence elsewhere in India and it's clear that its heart is in the right place, it's just got to expand that and let those it has unknowingly excluded — in. Every movement needs its songs; I suspect they may play a crucial, even decisive, role in its ultimate fate. It is an enormous responsibility. I urge my artist-friends to approach the studio like the sanctum sanctorum of our shared democracy's high temple. Punjab is at its shining best when it is at the vanguard, fighting for more than itself.

Is it the right time to be critical? To this, my counter-question would be: how many more religion-invoking, caste-invoking, war-mongering pop songs can we afford in a multi-ethnic, multi-faith, nationwide, delicate mass movement where a trigger-happy State is begging the cosmos for a mistake?



The courtesan and the Memsahib

Sophia Plowden, in the late 18th century, collected Persian and Hindustani songs of nautch performers



ART & SOUL

BN GOSWAMY

Among the British Library's extraordinary collection of materials relating to the history of Indian music in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries lie dozens of European accounts of the nautch — intimate musical parties at which troupes of high-status North Indian courtesans would sing, dance, recite poetry, and match wits with the assembled company, often to mark special occasions.

— Note on a performance at the British Library (2018)

HAVING read, and sometimes written on, many accounts of Europeans, including Englishmen, who came and lived in India in the 18th century, I was often struck by how little interest, serious interest I mean, they took in Indian music. This, despite some visual evidence that has survived showing men like the British General, Sir David Ochterlony, and the Swiss engineer/adventurer, Antoine Polier, seated more or less Indian fashion on the floor, watching dancing girls performing for them. The general feeling one got is that whenever musicians — playing by themselves or accompanying dancing girls for the nautch — were called in by their Indian patrons for entertaining foreign guests, the visitors began to wilt as the night advanced and the music went on: 'endlessly' from their point of view. Everything was unfamiliar to them: the language, the cultural context, the music, all the movements and gestures, or their meanings.

It is against this background that I was taken by surprise when I came upon a delightful account of a performance in the British Library — which, as we know, is a real cultural institution, very different from the libraries that we know from our own land — that brought to life Indian music of the 18th century through a performance. This was two years, or thereabouts, ago and was the work of a scholar



dedicated to the history of Indian music of the past: Katherine Butler Schofield. She had, other things apart, made a serious study of the surprisingly detailed work of an Englishwoman — Sophia Plowden, whom I confess I had never heard of till now — who, married to an officer of the East India Company, was a resident in India from 1777 to 1790, and spent valuable time in Lucknow when it was ruled by Nawab Asifuddaula.

It is not easy to visualise Sophia as a serious researcher — she is described as 'a middle-aged matron of 10 children' — who returned to London and settled down

in Harley Street. But, as the note on her says, in her younger days she spent her time 'collecting and performing the Persian and Hindustani songs of nautch performers at the Lucknow court'. Among those performers was one in particular who caught her attention: Khanum Jan, a courtesan of Kashmiri origin. It is she who figures in the title of one of Katherine's presentations: "The Courtesan and the Memsahib", she being the 'courtesan' and Sophia Plowden being the 'memsahib'. Sophia, one learns, got very close to Khanum Jan — the tall young woman performing for Col Polier in an



A nautch troupe. From the Skinner album in the British Library, London.



Portrait of Sophia Plowden. British Library, London.

<< A Lucknow courtesan. Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

words, and then got calligraphers to write them down. What stands out in all this effort is the fact that Sophia herself wrote down Khanum's songs in European notation: something that seems hardly ever to have been done. These notations led to these songs being turned into 'harmonised arrangements for the harpsichord'. As Katherine notes, they "were published to great acclaim by William Hamilton Bird in Calcutta in 1789". And then they were played — these European style salon pieces which came to be called 'Hindustani Airs' — becoming 'all the rage in drawing rooms across the British Empire from Inverness to Singapore'. At the presentation in the British Library in 2018, "The Courtesan and the Memsahib", some of them were performed by Katherine with the celebrated harpsichordist, Jane Chapman. Other voices were featured too, but outstanding is the fact that in the singing, the recordings of great vocalists like Kesarbai Kerkar and Gangubai Hangal, were also played for completing the experience of the listeners. One can imagine that it must have been quite an experience.

There is still more in the experience, however. For when Sophia Plowden returned from India to her home in London, she took back with her several loose leaf folios that featured whole poems — some in Persian, others in Urdu — calligraphed in a fine hand. There were captions at the top and — a poetic bonus, so to speak — a painting in the top left corner, illustrating or feeding the verse: women singing together, all seated on a floor, jostling one another; a *saqi* — 'wine bearer': what else can one call her?; a *nayika*, for instance. These folios were once, as Katherine says, treated simply as 'miniatures', but that they related to music, and to the lyrics sung at that time, was not quite realised till late. They are now in the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, just as the music notations are in the British Library. A fragment of India; 'a journey to the underworld of the Indian musical past', as Katherine calls it: whatever. What these objects evoke are images and sounds: certainly an image like that of the seductive Khanum Jan dancing and singing those simple but movingly lyrical words of Mirza Sada: *Maine tumko dil diya/tune mujhe ruswa kiya// Maine tumse kya kiya/aur tune mujhe kya kiya*.

Star from our cultural sky

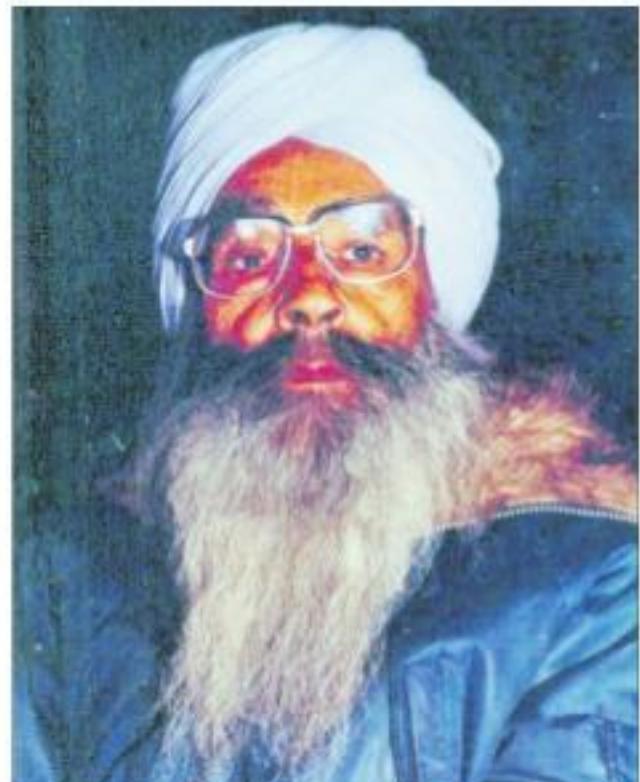
Remembering Tera Singh Chan, who brought IPTA to Punjab

SARIKA SHARMA

INDIA was at war with China in 1962 and, along with several other Leftist leaders, Tera Singh Chan was jailed over the suspicion that his sympathies lay with the Communist neighbour. At the same time, ironically enough, inspiring the masses on radio was his song "Eh pyaari Bharat maa". Punjab newspapers took note of the dichotomy and the government was forced to release Chan. As we celebrate the poet-playwright's birth centenary this year, his writings are still inspiring — like his poem "Desh de kisaan, aa gaye vich maidan" reverberating at the Delhi borders that are witnessing an unprecedented farmers' movement.

Born at Campbellpur (now Attock) in west Punjab on January 6, 1921, Chan is credited with taking Punjabi theatre to the masses with the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) and starting the literary organisation, Kendri Punjabi Lekhak Sabha.

IPTA was formed across various parts of India in 1943, but a committee wasn't formed in the culturally strong state until 1952 when Chan organised its Punjab chapter along with a host of like-minded people. Playwright Atamjit says, "Since IPTA was formed with the basic idea of



Poet and playwright Tera Singh Chan.

people's theatre, it connected masses with theatre in Punjab."

Atamjit says Chan wasn't primarily a director. "In those days, there were no theatre directors. It was always an actor or writer who had to don the mantle of director. Being a poet and prose writer, he brought strong scripts to theatre, closely working with Jagdish Fariyadi and Joginder Singh Baharla."

The most famous of his works is the

opera (geet naat) 'Lakadd di Latt', a poignant story of an Armyman who comes back from World War II with a wooden leg. His other important plays included 'Phoolan da Saneha', 'Sanjha Veda' and 'Saazish'.

Thespian Sanjeevan, who heads IPTA Punjab, says that while Gursharan Singh is remembered for taking his plays to rural areas of Punjab, he was actually contributing to what IPTA had begun under Chan. The major names who worked with him included singer Surinder Kaur, Niranjan Singh Mann, Preet Maan, Gurcharan Bopari and Kanwaljit Suri.

Punjabi critic Raghbir Singh Sirjana, who is also Chan's son-in-law, says he was the first one to hold ticketed theatre shows at Preetnagar in Amritsar. He also took Punjabi plays to Hyderabad, Calcutta and Patna. However, Chan didn't write much towards the later part of his life, nor did he direct theatre plays, says Sirjana. "He was more into organisational stuff, first as secretary of Kendri Punjabi Lekhak Sabha and then as its general secretary." He remained general secretary of IPTA till 2003.

Atamjit still remembers how Chan kept the literary and theatre scene in Chandigarh abuzz in his organisational role. "Once, he was to be hospitalised on a day that he had organised an event in the city. So, before getting admitted, he arrived at Tagore Theatre, checked the arrangements and only then headed for the hospital. Such was his dedication," he shares.

Sirjana says Chan's own life was an ideal example of secularism. "He sported a beard but lived and died an atheist. His family was truly cosmopolitan — I was a son-in-law from another caste, a daughter-in-law is Muslim, another is Jat. The sons and daughters married into different castes and different regions of Punjab and India."

This progressive nature was typical to his work too. A song from 'Kaag Samaya da Boleya', his anthology of poems, says the times are changing and the widow is once again wearing her jewellery. It was a radical idea, and his works were brimming with them.

oft-reproduced painting — and records in the diary she wrote while in India how, and how often, she used to meet Khanum. The lissome courtesan was evidently at home both in Persian and Urdu and would sing compositions ranging from those of great Persian poets like Hafiz and Khushro, to those of Urdu — then called *rekhita* — poets like Mirza Muhammad Rafi "Sauda", famous for his paenigrycs and *ghazals*.

Whether Sophia learnt the languages of those songs herself one does not know, but certainly she heard them with care and passion, got the import if not the exact



Theatre in your living room

Rajat Kapoor on adapting his play for home viewing

NEHA KIRPAL

BY its very nature, theatre is live. But as coronavirus turned the world upside down, the rules changed for everything under the sun. In theatre, the interaction between actors and audience is irreplaceable, but social distancing forbade that and theatre too has been forced to don a digital avatar.

Actor, writer, screenwriter and director Rajat Kapoor staged his play 'I Don't Like It, As You Like It' as part of this year's digital edition of the Aditya Birla Group's theatre initiative, Aadyam.

Performed by clowns, the laughter of the audience during Kapoor's play is what usually drives its actors to another plane. "Having performed more than 40 live shows over the past four years, the actors know the joke has landed," says Kapoor. But this time, there was no applause after the punch line, a strange experience for the cast.

Kapoor says the aim was to keep it a theatrical experience, ensuring that what one watches does not pretend to be anything other than what it is — 'rendition of a play'. His particular challenge was trying to find a way through the camera. While during a

play the audience chooses which part of the stage it wants to watch, in the digital format, the crew had to decide that for the audience.

Needless to say, the community has faced massive losses due to the pandemic. "Even now, with some theatres opening up, it is very difficult for a producer to break even at a 50 per cent capacity, and that too with no guarantee that people will congregate in enclosed spaces," says Aadyam's artistic director Shernaz Patel. For those whose only livelihood is the stage, times have been particularly hard, with numerous stories of professional make-up men being compelled to wash cars and light

suppliers working as electricians.

Something good that digital performances have done, however, is breaking geographical borders. "It is now possible to watch plays from so many different countries, which we would never have been able to do before," says Patel. She feels that, in future, auditoriums will equip themselves with cameras and offer theatre companies the option of shooting plays. "The pandemic made collaborations possible with companies from other countries too," adds Patel, who is involved with two projects with companies based in San Francisco and Ireland.



Scripting history over the North Pole

Four women pilots of Air India did the country proud as they undertook one of the world's longest direct commercial flights

SEEMA SACHDEVA

CAPT ZOYA AGARWAL, commander of AI 176, crossed out the word 'impossible' from her dictionary one more time when she landed the nearly 17-hour direct flight from San Francisco via the North Pole at the Bengaluru international airport on January 11. As an eight-year-old, Zoya Sapra, now Agarwal, enjoyed star-gazing. "I would look at the stars all night and be fascinated by the trail that flying planes left. By the time I was 12, I had my own telescope. But when I told my parents that I wanted to pursue flying as a career, my mother had tears in her eyes," she says. This is impossible, insisted her conservative Punjabi family, which had settled in Delhi after Partition. But Zoya was determined. Her parents finally gave in to the wishes of their only child. There's been no looking back since she first started flying 17 years ago. This mother of two — a nine-year-old daughter and an 11-month-old son — has a flying experience of more than 8,000 hours.

"Every simple reality starts with a dream. Work hard, remain focused and impossible will become possible," says Delhi-based Capt Agarwal. So when her daughter, a mathematics wizard, says that she wants to become the President of India, why not!

From 1956 when Capt Durba Banerjee became India's first woman commercial pilot to world's first all-women crew flight in 1985 to now, we have come a long way. The all-women cockpit crew of Capt Zoya Agarwal, Capt Thanmai Papagari, Capt Akanksha Sonaware and Capt Shivani Manhas created history when they flew Boeing 777-200LR connecting San Francisco with Bengaluru. Covering a distance of nearly 16,000 km, the direct flight between the two tech cities on diametrically opposite sides of the world would save both time and fuel. This feat has made it the longest commercial flight to be operated by an Indian airline. Piloting the flight over the North Pole was quite an experience for these women, but their personal journeys have been equally interesting.

"Why don't you make your son a pilot instead of your daughter?" The parents of Capt Shivani Manhas from Jammu often had to hear this 'advice' from friends and relatives. So it was a moment of immense pride for the family when their little girl went on to create history. The small-town girl was in for a surprise when she was selected for a coveted place in the team.

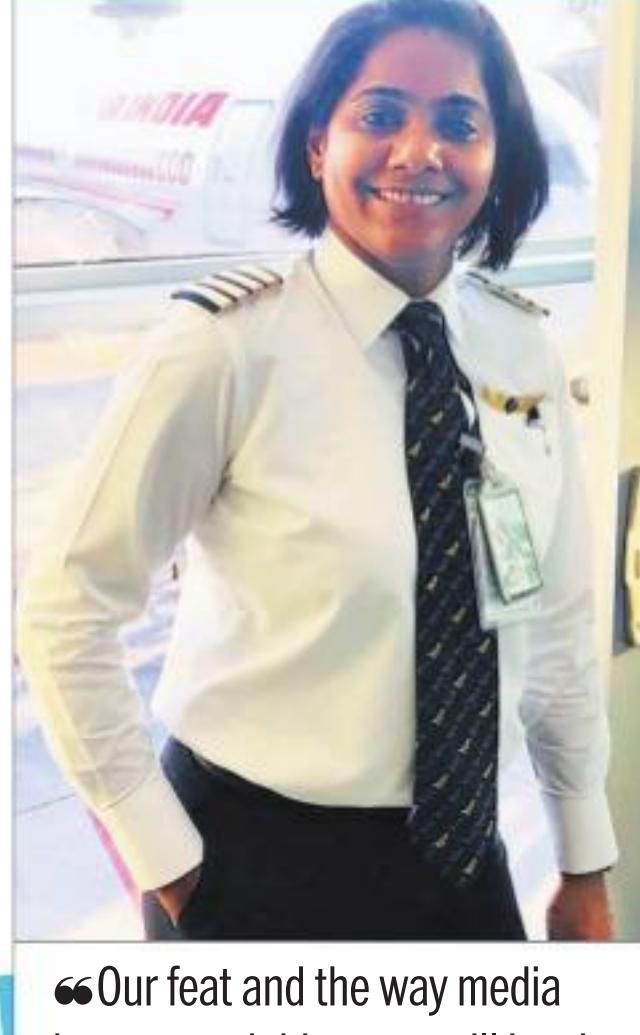
"At the Pole, it was pitch dark. The sky was clear and one could see millions of stars. The atmosphere in the plane was electrifying," says Capt Shivani.

The 29-year-old is getting married some-



“Every simple reality starts with a dream. Work hard, remain focused and impossible will become possible.”

CAPT ZOYA AGARWAL



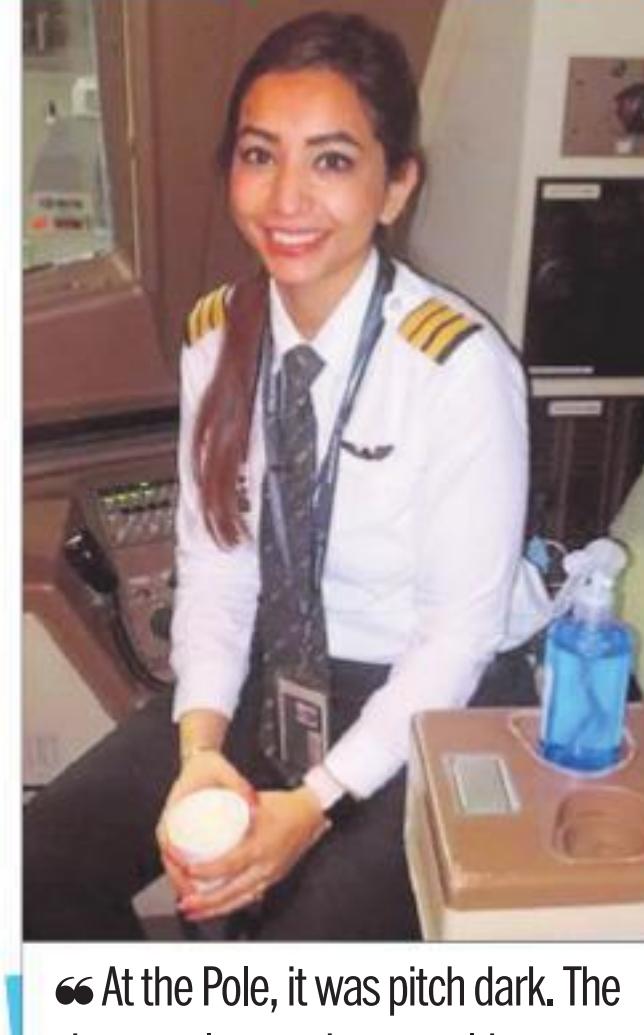
“Our feat and the way media has covered this event will inspire and pave the way for many who want to join this profession.”

CAPT THANMAI PAPAGARI



“We didn't have any precedent for this route. We were briefed on flying over the area of magnetic unreliability over the North Pole.”

CAPT AKANKSHA SONASURE



“At the Pole, it was pitch dark. The sky was clear and one could see millions of stars. The atmosphere in the plane was electrifying.”

CAPT SHIVANI MANHAS

way to join a flying club in Madhya Pradesh, where her father's friend was the chief flying officer. Once she started flying, she knew it was there that her calling lay. Interestingly, she got her licence to fly before she got her driver's licence. Whenever traffic cops would stop her, she would wriggle out by flashing her flying licence, she reveals.

At 5'2", Mumbai-based Capt Thanmai Papagari was often asked, "How will you fly a plane? You are so tiny." To this, she would calmly reply, "I don't have to push it. I just need to pilot it." For this mother of two daughters, seven-year and 15-month-old, flying was something she had set her heart on quite early in life while her family was living near a flying club in Hyderabad. "I would keep looking at the two-seater Cessna 152 which would fly over my house." Her family was initially sceptical about her decision but supported her.

Compared to when she joined flying in 1998, she says a lot of women are entering

this field. "Our feat and the way media has covered this event will pave the way for many who want to join this profession," says Capt Papagari, who alternates shifts with her pilot husband so that one of them is at home to take care of the kids, "Else, mom is just a call away" she adds.

According to Mumbai-based Capt Akanksha Sonaware, "We didn't have any precedent before us for this route so a lot of preparation went into it. This included briefings on polar routing and preparing for challenges like crossing over the area of magnetic unreliability over the North Pole. We were also trained in landing diversion in case communication and navigation systems got affected due to the magnetic field". Capt Sonaware joined flying in 2010 inspired by her sister who is a commander on the Air India Dreamliner Boeing 787.

Capt Nivedita Bhasin, executive director (Flight Safety), also travelled on this flight. She has the distinction of being the youngest woman pilot in the world to fly a Boeing 737.

For the cockpit crew of this historic flight, the experience they got on this inaugural flight, including witnessing the beautiful aurora borealis or the Northern Lights, is something they'll cherish forever. The cherry on top was when the plane landed, and applause from the passengers and the air traffic control staff resonated through the plane. "They have done India proud."

From darkness to light with Ved Mehta

BINOO K JOHN

VED MEHTA, who died last week at the age of 84, was India's first celebrity journalist and a memoirist who explained India to the West in his columns in *New Yorker* over 30 years. He wrote an amazing 12 volumes of autobiography in which he recollects everything he saw or heard from the time he was three, when he went blind due to meningitis.

An acute memory and sensory abilities are characteristic of people who are visually challenged (the brain learns to compensate), and Mehta was a classic example. How did he tell us so many things about life, his country and its politics without seeing anything unfurl in front of him? Did he imagine everything? Did he recreate everything from what he heard? Did he have a sixth sense?

Actually, all he had was memory and as he recounts in 'Mummyji', he answered some questions which his mother asked him by simply relying on external sounds. For instance, to check whether his sight was improving, his mother kept asking him whether it was light or dark, or whether the bulb was on or off. He answered every question correctly by keeping count of the number of times his mother switched the bulb off and on.

Maybe he was having fun or maybe he was making fun of himself and others with his writing. "I once described someone this way," Mehta wrote in 2001: "A Player's cigarette hung from his lower lip and threatened to fall off at any moment." I knew the brand of his cigarette from his chance remark. The hanging bit I picked up from the way he spoke."

There is pathos, courage and ambition in the way Mehta lived. Never for once did he shed tears thinking of his blindness



There is pathos, courage and ambition in the way Mehta lived. Never for once did he shed tears thinking of his blindness

His mother, who had no option but to agree to all what her educated husband suggested.

Mehta's description of his first train journey as a four-year-old who was to be deposited in a blind school and orphanage in Bombay breaks your heart. Neither of his parents accompanied him. That sadness and a yearning to know everything drove his writing and ambition. From the moment he starts narrating this journey, in his first book, through the thousands of words that he used to teach us how and what to see, we marvel at his audacity and determination. Through all that, he was a perfectionist getting even the colours of spring all spot-on, making us, the uselessly sighted, wonder at how he saw all this. "At the close of winter, Basant-Panchami — a festival honouring the god of work — arrives, and everyone celebrates it by wearing yellow clothes, flying yellow kites and eating yellow sweetmeats," he wrote in 'Daddyji'.

His father, a doctor in government service, and his mother were pole opposites. For two years after Ved became blind due to a delay in getting his fever treated (his father never forgave himself for this negligence), his mother used 'surma' on his eyes on the advice of quacks. When his father saw this, he blew his top and from that day decided that Ved had to be taken away from

The family life in Lahore and Karnal, especially daily dinners with his sisters, are so touchingly recreated that we feel that our lives are wasted.

Here and there during his long career, he wonders about his destiny. In 'Face to Face', he writes: "If my age and the length of sickness deprived me of the treasured memories of sight, they also reduced things which are valued so much in the sighted world to nothing more than mere words, empty of meaning. I started living in a universe where it was not the flood of sunshine streaming through the nursery window of the colours of the rainbow, a sunset or a full moon that mattered, but the feel of the sun against the skin, the slow drizzling sound of the spattering rain, the feel of the air just before the coming of the quiet night. It was a universe where at first — but only at first — I made my way fumbling and flattered."

Mehta interpreted India to the West for many years, but after him many followed, enabled and strengthened.

How do we place his journalism? *New Yorker*'s William Shawn, who hired Mehta in 1961 and groomed him, said in 1982: "He writes about serious matters without solemnity, about scholarly matters without pedantry, about abstruse matters without obscurity."

Though he never got any detail wrong, Mehta was as detached in his journalism as he was in his fiction. No anger or comment passed his lips as he dictated his copy. Aloof from the ground, he gathered details with patience, but sarcasm passed him by. He made up in various ways. He even quoted from 'letters to the editor' in *Statesman* and described the Safdarjung airport from where Sanjay Gandhi took his doomed flight as if he was there.

That way, Mehta gave journalism a new definition: re-collecting events in tranquility. Such journalism may not pass muster now, and he seldom quoted anyone whom he met, nor did he have the type of access needed to write on statecraft or the mire of Indian politics. But second-hand sources sufficed for him. Let's say that Mehta had his say.

In the rich and varied lineup of post-Independence Indian writing in English, Mehta has a place, though not very high up. As a pioneer in English writing, he was a man who despised self-pity, who told us that there is always a way. For that, we must be grateful to this man who never saw, but wrote.

CAPTION CONTEST 1288



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

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

Selected entries for Caption Contest 1287

January 10 issue (see photo)

- Framing the stars — Dr Suruchi Aditya, Panchkula
- Cine polish — Rakesh Singh, Chandigarh
- Box office collection — Jai Bhagwan Galav, Kurukshetra
- At a later stage — Mahesh Kumar, Chandigarh
- Screensavers — Jaskaran Preet Kaur, Chandigarh



The royal rebel without a pause

VIKRAMDEEP JOHAL

FOR long a mere footnote in the history of Punjab, Maharani Jind Kaur or Rani Jindan has gained much-deserved prominence in recent years through books, plays and films. Kavi Raz's 2017 movie 'The Black Prince' featured veteran actor Shabana Azmi as Maharaja Ranjit Singh's youngest wife, a feisty woman who fought hard — but in vain — to save the Sikh Empire (1799-1849) from being wiped out by the rampaging, scheming British. The Queen and her beloved son, Maharaja Dalip (or Duleep) Singh, also figured in 'Kohinoor: The Story of the World's Most Infamous Diamond' (2018), authored by William Dalrymple and Anita Anand, and Navtej Sarna's 'The Exile' (2016). Now comes 'The Last Queen', a fictionalised first-person account by Rani Jindan herself.

Through her eyes, we see the decline and fall of the grand empire founded by Maharaja Ranjit Singh that had Lahore as its capital and extended from the Khyber Pass to parts of Tibet and Kashmir. Unfolding as an elegiac memoir with an air of tragic inevitability, the narrative brings out the diverse shades of the Queen's personality. Known for her striking beauty, this daughter of the royal kennels' overseer was barely 18 when she got married to the Maharaja, who was then in his mid-fifties.



Rani Jindan entered Maharaja Ranjit Singh's life in his sunset years, but managed to find a pride of place in his heart and subtly came to wield influence over him.

Her mischievous, ironic sense of humour manifests itself when she takes a close look at the Wazir's younger brother: "Tall, muscular, dressed in a red kurta, Suchet Singh burns with rage like the sun. The Maharaja, though not particularly handsome himself, likes having good-looking men around him. I admire the confidence that enables him to do that."

Having entered Ranjit Singh's life in his sunset years, Rani Jindan not only manages to find a pride of place in the heart of the powerful but ageing emperor, but also subtly wields influence over him.

She has the audacity to replace the Sarkar's wine with juice or water with the noble intention of making him cut down on drinking. No wonder the Queen feels triumphant when he willy-nilly relents.

Her fairy-tale world is turned upside down when the Sher-e-Punjab breathes his last, exposing the glaring cracks in the empire's imposing facade. With the British sensing an opportunity to go for the kill, Rani Jindan comes out of Ranjit Singh's huge shadow and demonstrates her toughness and resilience. As the power struggle within the palace claims

one life after another, it becomes increasingly challenging for her to protect her little son and prevent the empire from collapsing. After a couple of wars, the British seize control of Punjab and cruelly separate Dalip from his mother. The Queen is exiled and incarcerated at the Chunar Fort in Benares but, true to form, she makes a daring escape after swapping clothes with her attendant. While leaving the fort, she doesn't forget to cock a snook at the warden with this note: "You put me in a cage and locked me up. You surrounded me with sentries. You thought you could keep Rani Jindan imprisoned. But look, I got out by magic from under your nose!"

It's again her steely determination that helps her reach the kingdom of Nepal, where she gets asylum and stays for a decade or so. The climax, as if scripted by a divine hand, is her touching reunion with her son and her fateful trip with him to England, where she breathes her last.

The author, whose previous novel, 'The Forest of Enchantments', was a retelling of Ramayana from Sita's perspective, has done justice to the fascinatingly complex figure of Rani Jindan. 'The Last Queen' is an exploration of the protagonist's inner world beyond the confines of her identity as a king's wife and a prince's mother. It's heartening that this woman of substance, who was a worthy contemporary of the legendary Rani of Jhansi and no less big a thorn in the British flesh, is finally getting her due.

Understanding Ghalib and his play of languages

HASAN ABDULLAH

GHALIB: A Wilderness at My Doorstep — A Critical Biography' by Mehr Afshan Farooqi is a well-referenced work (over 150 references, 580 notes and three appendices) comprising Timeline, Introduction, and his entire life and work divided into nine chapters. These include his early life, background stories of the discovery of discarded Urdu verses, journey to Calcutta, transition from Urdu to Persian, reasons for his Urdu *divan*'s popularity and its comparison with his Persian *divan*, analysis of their forewords and afterwards, passionate engagement with Persian, and eventual return to Urdu.

Acknowledging that posterity has finally declared Ghalib "as the greatest Urdu poet of all time", Farooqi has attempted to map 'Ghalib's textual history' in order to "help us interpret his decision to lean more towards Persian when Urdu was in its golden age." She says: "Perhaps Ghalib was thinking in Persian and writing in Urdu... or did he find Urdu inadequate when it came to expressing his thoughts..." However, her subsequent elucidation of Ghalib's Urdu poetry in the same paragraph, great acclaim for his Urdu — and not Persian — poetry, his composing a large body of poetry in Urdu before writing Persian poetry, and returning to Urdu in old age, do not seem to square up with her own analysis of his 'thinking in Persian and writing in Urdu'.

"In fact, he often laments inadequacy of language to express his own thoughts," she writes. Probably, being the established language of literature, Ghalib attached more importance to Persian, made great efforts to master it, and shifted to Persian from Urdu — and, towards the end, returned to Urdu, because, it being his mother tongue, he could write with greater felicity. Quoting a Persian couplet, Farooqi claims: "Ghalib gave more importance to his Persian compositions than Urdu". Ghalib, however, balances the quoted couplet by flaunting his poetic skills in Urdu in an Urdu verse: "To those who ask, 'Can

Persian look at Urdu enviously?' Just recite a verse of Ghalib, telling them, like this."

Citing the contrast between the style of Urdu and Persian letters, Farooqi concludes: "Urdu readership was Ghalib's immediate domain. Persian was a testament to his connection with the deep classical tradition of poetry." This seems contrary to what Farooqi claims, because Ghalib took Persian — and not Urdu — letter writing as a literary activity, and that is why, initially, he was also against the publication of his Urdu letters.

Farooqi suggests "changed literary culture [as] not the least important" reason for "finally placing him [Ghalib] on a pedestal as the greatest Urdu poet of all time". The universality and timelessness of his Urdu poetry — as the most important reasons for his recognition as the greatest Urdu poet — perhaps go without saying. She opines that "one reason why Ghalib dominates over his contemporaries, as well as the famous poets of 18th century, could be the power of publishing". However, though Kalidas, Kabir and Amir Khusro — precursors to Ghalib — dominate the poetry scene, they wrote and died prior to the advent of printing press in India.

During his journey to Calcutta, Ghalib "kept pouring his heart out in letters", informs Farooqi. Importantly enough, during this journey, he also 'kept pouring his heart out' in Urdu poetry, and unravelled the fundamental secrets of all-encompassing Nature. Look how beautifully he expresses dialectical unity between life and death: "Lust is engaged in many a different delightful task/ If there had been no death, life would have held no joy."

Farooqi has provided us with an invaluable wealth of information regarding Ghalib's history, but seems to be missing the wood for the trees. Ghalib has become 'the greatest Urdu poet of all time' — probably because his couplets are expressed in the most exquisite language using devices such as wordplay, hyperbole, irony and paradox, reflecting diverse situations, depicting a range of human emotions and providing deep insights into man's life and his relationship with Nature.

Because short stories never go out of print

CHANDNI S CHANDEL

SHORT stories are a welcome change, a whiff of fresh air vis-à-vis novels and other forms of writing. This compilation from Indira Chandrasekhar's online short fiction portal, Out of Print, has a lot of variety — ranging from mythology to reality and satire, segregated under different heads. Commemorating 10 years of the portal, the book widens the scope of thought, imagination and realism, starting with the 'dogma that literature is a reflection of reality'.

Stories in the mythology section, like 'The Three Princesses of Kashi', force you to re-examine the set narrative about the forced wedlock of Amba, Ambika and Ambalika in the epic of Mahabharata. A spoof on democracy, Altaf Tyrewala's 'Mischief in Neta Nagar' gives an insight into the bitter truth about what democracy could mean to different people. All the stories — short, crisp, interesting — are worth a read.

The writings open vistas of perspective on incidents that you can relate to in your day-to-day life as a teenager, a woman, a retiree or a middle-aged person. They give the readers a licence to make their own interpretations rather than just go by the author's thoughts. Since it is a collection of stories from different writers from diverse lands, the book keeps you engrossed. The tales nag your conscience to the core and lend an opportunity to the readers to enjoy the written word on a hard copy, rather than scroll on the laptop or mobile. Probably a pioneering work in online format started 10

years ago, and now in the form of a book, 'Out of Print' could well usher in a revival of short fiction.

An interesting combination of science and fiction, Chandrasekhar's works are published in literary fora across the globe. Her editing of the book is flawless, and renowned authors' comments preceding each section nudge us towards contemplation. Subtleties like the difference between 'hitting and beating' and how 'mythology' and 'history' can be used interchangeably as terms become clear.

The seriousness of Chandrasekhar's plunge to compile short stories from different languages can be gauged from the fact that Gauri Lankesh's father, Kannada author P Lankesh, finds a place in this collection, as also Marathi, Kannada, Hindi, Urdu, Malayalam, Gujarati writers. She seems to have succeeded in culling the right works from such a wide range.

Easily slipping into the characters, the readers are sure to feel happy reading works of award-winning writers. Moreover, Chandrasekhar's website outofprintmagazine.co.in is an appropriate forum for authors of short fiction to get recognition.

Last year's most inspiring story

RENU SUD SINHA

THE lad from Moga finally found his ultimate calling in Mumbai on April 15, 2020, having landed in the tinsel town some 20 years earlier and carving out a hard-fought/won career in the film industry in between.

Till the pandemic struck, Sonu Sood, our homegrown superstar, thought his destiny was written only on the silver screen. The qualified engineer had already once indulged in the 'lunacy' of wanting to be an actor after spending four years acquiring a professional degree.

In a new book 'I Am No Messiah', co-authored by Meenu K Iyer, the star, however, confesses that stardom was not what fate ultimately had in store for him. "I found my karma on the streets of Mumbai during the lockdown after the Covid-19 pandemic, when I went to distribute food packets to migrants."

Two weeks into the lockdown, he had already heard his conscience's clarion call and handed over a six-storey building, he owns, to the authorities for the use of health workers. But the man of action that he is, wanted to do more. So, on a mid-April morning, he set out to do just that, comforting himself with "doing the soul-cleansing service of distributing food among the migrants, who were meant to walk".

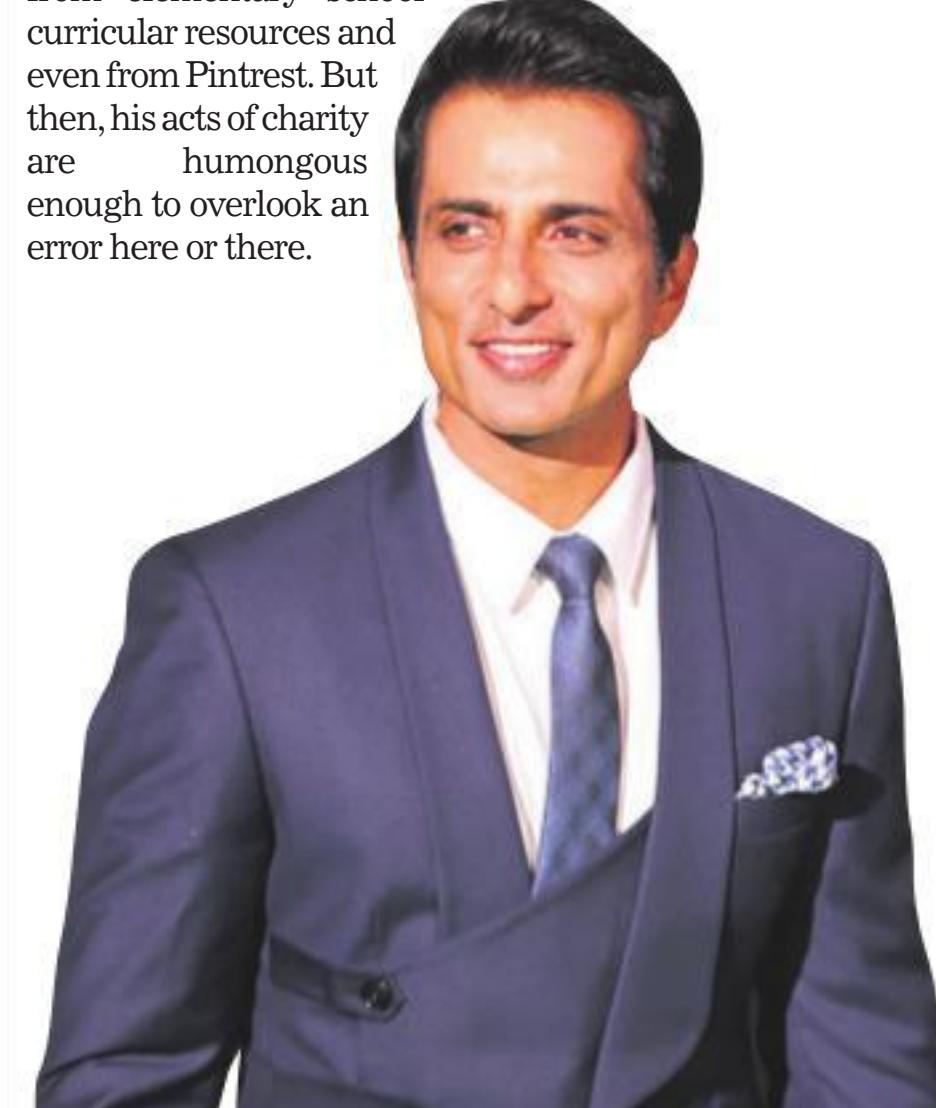
But the sea of despairing humanity that gathered at Kalwa Chowk, Thane, threw him off-balance. Their stoic acceptance made him question himself whether a food packet was any substitute or compensation for a weary tread back home.

The book is an account of what started as a one-off food distribution gesture but triggered a chain of events that has now become a life-long commitment. From an initial bus ride for 350 migrants to Karnataka to arranging international flights for Indians stranded across various continents, Sood has sent home over 1.5 lakh people.

Barely sleeping three hours daily, Sood and his dedicated Ghar Bhejo team responded to almost every message received on Twitter, Instagram, FB, mail, texts, and even through word of mouth. There were hundreds who arrived at his doorstep seeking help. And not all messages were for a ride home — from seeking medical help to tuition fee, Sood and his volunteers have worked tirelessly to provide help.

And he hasn't abandoned his extended family after providing them a safe passage home. Sood has set up a charity foundation and launched various websites and apps such as pravasiroygar.com and Ilaaj India to provide education, skills, jobs, medical care to this family which is growing by the day. Tying up with over 50,000 doctors and a large number of hospitals all across India, his foundation has got done over 600 pro bono surgeries.

Benefactors of his unwavering generosity may have named their babies and businesses after Sonu Sood, but there are many others who have mocked the title and questioned the timing of this hurriedly written book. There are other jarring notes as well. The narrative is full of homilies and the 'quotable' quotes are innumerable, some taken from elementary school curricular resources and even from Pinterest. But then, his acts of charity are humongous enough to overlook an error here or there.



OUR relationships with friends, family, co-workers, neighbours and collaborators are our greatest asset. Yet, most people leave them to chance. In her book 'Social Chemistry', author Marissa King, Professor of Organisational Behaviour at the Yale School of Management, gives examples of the likes of fashion editor Anna Wintour and American business executive and civil rights activist Vernon Jordan to illustrate how each of them is made by the social network around them. King beckons readers to harness their personal and professional networks to create a better world.

SOCIAL CHEMISTRY: DECODING THE PATTERNS OF HUMAN CONNECTION
by Marissa King.
Hachette.
Pages 368. ₹799

epaper.tribuneindia.com

FROM discussing their rights and livelihoods in 2007-11, the people of Bengal are talking about religious and social polarisation in the run-up to the elections. Why has a state that was the citadel of left politics for decades turned right, is what journalist Samit Pal tries to explain. What the changing political winds mean for governments fighting the might of the BJP nationwide, how Mamata Banerjee's governance set the ground for the combined force of the BJP and the RSS to construct a political narrative in Bengal — the book explores several facets.

THE BENGAL CONUNDRUM: THE RISE OF THE BJP AND THE FUTURE OF THE TMC
by Samit Pal.
Bloomsbury.
Pages 286. ₹799

THE desire to awaken our best self is a natural one, but, how does one do that? Swami Mukundananda offers solutions by way of '7 Divine Laws to Awaken Your Best'. These laws — of infinite potential, incremental growth, belief, happiness, sublimation, love and mentorship — have been gleaned from our scriptures. The author uses anecdotes — from mythology to present-day India — to explain these. He exhorts readers to realise their potential, conquer their impulses, give out love, but expect nothing in return and connect with the guru to complete spiritual evolution of the soul.

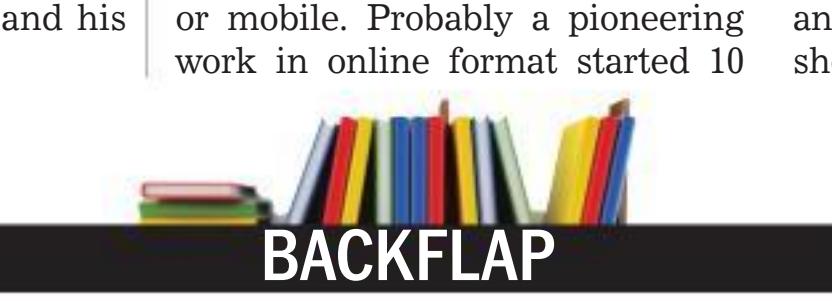
7 DIVINE LAWS TO AWAKEN YOUR BEST
by Swami Mukundananda.
HarperCollins.
Pages 182. ₹299

IWON'T die of Corona. Before that I will die of hunger — three days into the lockdown, several people had told this to author Harsh Mander. Through 'Locking Down the Poor', he shows us how grave this crisis was and continues to be, and why it is the direct consequence of public policy choices that the government made. He brings us voices of out-of-work daily-wage and informal workers, the homeless and the destitute. Combining ground reports with hard data, he argues that India is in the middle of a humanitarian catastrophe, the effects of which will be felt for decades.

LOCKING DOWN THE POOR
by Harsh Mander.
Speaking Tiger.
Pages 234. ₹399

AMID all the good things being said and written about start-ups, tech experts Vivek Wadhwa and Ismail Amla say "big equals slow and stodgy" is a myth. Speaking from decades of experience, they say legacy companies have to create new markets, supercharge growth and remake their businesses by combining the mindset and tool belt of start-ups with the benefits of incumbency: boatloads of customer data, brand equity, robust distribution channels, enormous financial assets, and more. Anecdote-rich, this book promises to rethink modern innovation.

FROM INCREMENTAL TO EXPONENTIAL
by Vivek Wadhwa & Ismail Amla.
HarperCollins.
Pages 216. ₹499



BACKFLAP

Tracing the origins of Pashmina



THE ITINERANT

NECHAL SANDHU

THE travails endured by the people that nurture, tend and protect the mountain goats that yield this wool Pashmina products emanating from Kashmir have held their own against fine vicuna harvested from llamas in South America, deservedly attracting the attention of the affluent in tony stores in the West. What the Changpas recover for their Pashmina wool is minuscule and bears no relationship with price labels on these hand-fashioned wonders abroad. But that does not cause the Changpa inhabitants ensconced in the highlands to regret what they do for a living and they keep at it without demur.

Come winter, vendors selling carpets and shawls, using all manner of transport ranging from cars to cycles, flow through the streets of northern India. While the carpets offered trace their origins to production centres in the extended tract between Jammu and Kashmir and the eastern borders of Uttar Pradesh, the shawls are mostly said to be from Kashmir. With manufacturers of woollen products in Amritsar and Ludhiana producing high quality fabrics for the winter, unscrupulous traders make bids, often successful, to palm off such materials as the output of Kashmiri artisans, and even as Pashmina. Kashmiri vendors are not insulated from such foibles and attempt to carry conviction by variously claiming long-standing sources of supply of this fine fibre in Ladakh and processing facilities in Srinagar town employing the finest of craftsmen. And many succeed by making patently deceitful assertions with a straight face.

The women who wear fine Pashmina shawls and the men who use that fabric to remain snug during winters are seldom aware of the origins of Pashmina, or the travails endured by the people that nurture, tend and protect the mountain goats that yield this wool. I was similarly placed until about four decades ago when I was afforded opportunities to visit high-



The Pashmina goats, which are reared by the Changpas for their wool. iSTOCK

land Changthang (meaning northern plain), home to the Changpas who rear the Pashmina goat. About 170 km from Leh upstream along the Indus, the narrow valley cradling it gave up its constrictive embrace and allowed river waters the latitude that a wide and outspread bed affords. Meanwhile, our track had mutated from a macadamised one into an unmetalled one, and gradually narrowed until it disappeared. With that came the freedom to drive cross-country on any part of the widened valley in the southern segment of Changthang, with the surface occasionally marred by ruts left behind by vehicles loaded with supplies.

The contrasts between clear cerulean skies with scanty mottled clouds, mountain slopes presenting a variety of shades ranging from sandy brown to dark brown or even black, and the pure blue of the languorous waters of the Indus was striking. Grass, sedge, artemisia and the odd juniper bush, all low in profile, growing on the slopes rising gradually from the river towards the mountains a few kilometres away, did little to take away from the majestic panoramic vastness. And the sense of being alone and a non-entity in the grand scheme of things took charge, humbling one.

Southern Changthang in Ladakh can be visualised as three parallel enclaves, oriented roughly north west-south east, separated by mountainous continuums 5,000-6,000 feet

above the valley floor. The Indus flows through the eastern-most limb, the smaller Hanle river in the central one, and the Tso Moriri, Kar Tso and Kyagar Tso, all very beautiful lakes, adorn the western one. Matching the adjacent Tibetan plateau in altitude and natural features, it is mostly arid, wind-swept, cold and exposed to high levels of ultra-violet radiation. Sparsely populated, including by people of Tibetan stock who had migrated here in the 8th century and then following the uprising against the Chinese in Tibet in 1959, this region plays host to a few villages and nomads living in small groups along the Indus. The latter migrate twice annually from summer grazing grounds to winter grazing grounds, traditionally assigned to each group, within Changthang.

Geographically isolated, the Changpas, numbering but a few thousand in that vast swath, spoke Byangskat, a Bodish language quite distinct from Ladakhi. Sanguine about maintaining their ethnic identity, the Changpas practised polyandry. In the absence of telephones and electricity, they remained cut off from modern ways. With feeble administrative presence overlaid with apathy, no development was visible and education and health facilities were virtually nonexistent. With little scope for agriculture, livestock rearing was the main occupation and means of sustenance. Changra goats (*Capra Hircus*

Laniger, locally called Rama) for Pashmina, other goats and sheep for wool, yaks as beasts of burden and horses for travel constituted the usual holdings. Yaks and goats yielded milk, often turned into cheese, and yak hair was woven for creating roofs of rebos, yurt-like tents except that these had walls made of unhewn stone. And yaks, goats and sheep provided meat. The animals were corralled, traps set up, and sturdy youth would sleep out in the open with Tibetan Mastiffs for thwarting predation by wolves (shankus) and snow leopards.

With the advent of summer in June after an eight-month-long winter, the Changpas took to collection of Pashmina, which brought cash to sustain them for the rest of the year. Men pinned down one Pashmina goat at a time, upturned it, and ran a specially fabricated long-toothed comb, sometimes made of steel, over the undercoat harvesting some Pashmina wool with each stroke. Nearly 300-400 grams of this precious fibre was collected from each goat. Usually no more than 3 inches long and 14 odd microns in diameter, the fibre had been traditionally sold by weight to traders from Leh. The latter degreased, scoured, carded and spun the fibre for local production of shawls, while the Kashmirs took the unprocessed fibres, preferring to refine and spin fine yarn in the Valley for conversion into high quality cashmere fabric.

Pashmina products emanating from Kashmir have held their own against fine vicuna harvested from llamas in South America, deservedly attracting the attention of the affluent in tony stores in the West. What the Changpas recover for their Pashmina wool is minuscule and bears no relationship with price labels on these hand-fashioned wonders abroad. But that does not cause the Changpa inhabitants ensconced in the highlands to regret what they do for a living and they keep at it without demur.

The unmoored liberal & others

MUSINGS & MALEDICTIONS
KEKI DARUWALA

der. Here is a man who avoided the Draft, has half a dozen bankruptcies on his record, had even his allies on tenterhooks about how he would react to any situation. He has one of the worst records on climatology, withdrew from the Paris Accord, a worldwide agreement to face global warming. The American press goes in detail about him being parsimonious with the truth. He initially said that coronavirus was not a serious worry, America believed him and now the US leads the world in deaths. He is being called the worst President America has had. Arnold Schwarzenegger compared the mob at Capitol Hill with Nazi mobs.

How did our Prime Minister, during the 'Howdy Modi' celebration, amid our mostly Gujarati NRIs, turn a deaf ear to the cry of 'Abki bar Trump sarkar'? On such trips, doesn't the Prime Minister have a complement of MEA senior officers to advise him? India gave Trump quite a reception. Some rightists wanted Trump to carry back a good impression of India, and so wanted peaceful protesters out of the way. That triggered some MLAs into action and we got the Delhi riots. About 50 people died, and the police hunted down victims and threw them in jail, including a pregnant scholar.

Then we invited the President of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, to grace our Republic Day parade last year. He is outrageously into climate change denial for decades, and fires rage in the Amazon. The National Institute for Space noticed 39,194 fires in 2020 in the Amazon region, the largest rainforest in the world, providing 20 per cent of the planet's oxygen. Any threat to the region's ecology is a threat to the planet. São Paulo, the biggest city, was plunged into total darkness because of the smoke from the fires. Bolsonaro and his Environment Minister, Ricardo Salles, have retrograde views and are known for stubborn climate denialism. There is global outrage against their policies and views. According to reports, Bolsonaro told an Opposition lawmaker, "I wouldn't rape you because you are not worthy of it." He graced our Republic Day. Did our Ministry of External Affairs sit quietly when the PMO invited him? Or was the MEA overruled? Are we now an accredited member of the rightist club? Is bashing up the leftists, as we did in JNU with the help of masked goons, now the official policy?

We started with the poor liberal, now orphaned. If the left and the right have let him down, what about the centrists? We have had centrists for over half a century. And they can tilt every which way, remember opening of locks in Ayodhya and later Shah Bano? And the scams. I have written a jingle on the subject.

Reporter: Sir, why did you make money hand over fist?

UPA II: Simply because we couldn't resist.

Up against issues of racism Down Under

GOOD SPORT
ROHIT MAHAJAN

FROM January 1, Australia sings a slightly tweaked national anthem—in the second line, "young" has been removed, substituted with "one", so now it goes: "For we are one and free."

With this change, Australians have officially recognised that their nation is not "young"; that it didn't come into existence only when it was discovered or colonised — that the Australian nation predates the waves of immigration over the centuries.

The change, minor in semantics but deep in symbolism, was not welcomed by all. Yet, it is a sign of modern Australians coming to terms with the past, which was cruel and bloody, as colonisation projects always are; it was racist, too, as colonisation projects always are. The beaten people, always, are deemed inferior, and everything is bad about them—their clothing, food, language, their morality. Conquerors make efforts to turn the enslaved people into an image of themselves — speaking their language, worshipping their god, wearing their clothes.

Right until the 1970s, mixed-race children of aboriginal women were being 'removed'—stolen—through government policy. The White Australia policy was officially ended only in the 1970s. This was not so long back — thus, it's a miracle that in such a



Police evict spectators in Brisbane after a complaint by Indian cricketers. AP/PTI

short period of time, Australia has achieved a rich diversity of culture and people, and legal equality for all. This is enlightenment at work.

But mixing people isn't without problems. Scientists explain that caution and suspicion are built into our DNA because extreme caution gave human beings a better chance of survival. Outgroup suspicion and prejudice are universal and after millions of years of their existence, only now, over the last few decades, have human beings decided it's unjust to be suspicious of a group of people just because they're different.

Australia is grappling with its racism problem and dealing with it through legislation, and by actions and words

from role models.

For equality and respect

A few years ago, walking back to our rented apartment close to the Melbourne Cricket Ground after a day/night match ended late, I and a friend saw a taxi suddenly screech to a stop not far from us. From the back doors two young women emerged—they were very drunk, and they were shouting at the driver, who too came out and angrily banged his door close and shouted back at them. He was a tall, turbaned young Sikh. The two women walked away and disappeared into an apartment building, laughing and taunting the driver. We wanted to hear his story—he said the women,

having reached their destination, said they had no money to pay him. "This happens often," he said. "They get drunk, hire a cab and don't pay. It gets ugly and they shout abuse, and it is often racist."

Other immigrants and visitors in that country have told this writer over the years that in even cosmopolitan cities such as Sydney or Melbourne, you might be called a black something or the other by a white person across an isolated street, and it can be much worse in small towns. The perpetrators are mostly young and drunk—and constitute a small minority. From personal experience, one can say this is true. As Ravichandran Ashwin said the other day, Indian cricketers have suffered much abuse in Australia, sometimes racist. Australian cricketers, tough as nails, would sledge their own grandmother in a sporting contest—being tough in sport is central to the Australian identity. But abusive sledging is not in tune with the modern notion of equality and respect for all people.

Mohammed Siraj suffered abuse, a lot of it allegedly racist, in Sydney and Brisbane. The perpetrators were young and drunk. They need better models of behaviour—Australian cricketers, especially, must set better examples of non-abusive behaviour their fans could follow.

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And that's where I find mock fights useful in my own marriage. After nearly two decades of knowing each other, my husband and I are now in danger of knowing each other too well. We often find ourselves getting angrier with each other than a situation warrants, because we are inadvertently carrying what is popularly referred to as 'baggage'.

We need safe spaces to let off steam. We need to mock ourselves a little and reset our systems. When our daughter interrupted what I thought was light banter between her parents, it gave me reason to pause. I had frozen my husband in time and would not have recognised his vulnerability had it not been for our child's intervention. Her words reminded me to look at ourselves afresh, with tenderness. Change comes slowly but it comes with its own needs. Unmet needs are the original source of all conflict.

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True love accelerates the onset of wisdom. Approach it with caution. Stay humble. Celebrate love with abandon and a healthy dose of self-effacement. Do not cage it and perhaps it will set you free.

The writer is an author and filmmaker

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Why we need to mock ourselves a little, reset our systems



IMMORTAL FOR A MOMENT
NATALIA BADHWAR

True love accelerates the onset of wisdom. Approach it with caution. Stay humble. Celebrate love with abandon and a healthy dose of self-effacement

MAMMA, Papa is having abandonment issues, that's all there is to it," our youngest child said to us, as she intervened in a mock fight between my husband and me.

First, let me clarify what I mean by mock fight. To the growing disapproval of our three children, my husband and I seem to be arguing more and more about seemingly needless things. Of course, I blame the long drawn out pandemic year, but I will also admit that we are somewhat hooked to bickering with each other like juveniles masquerading as adults. It reminds us of being young and carefree — of the years when we were not responsible and important people and had time to waste on each other. We are grateful for having grown up together, but we also enjoy growing down in the safety of our home.

Second, let me go back to our pre-teen's diagnosis of what seemed to be her

father's attention-seeking behaviour I was startled by the sudden realisation that she knows how to speak in psychobabble, but I was also struck by what she said. For years, I have nursed my own abandonment anxiety secretly and the last thing I expected to hear was this phrase in the context of my husband. I associate him with security and myself with anxiety. Suddenly I looked at us differently.

And that is the point of this column today. Change. Vulnerability. Flexibility. Growing up and staying in love. Slowing down for the sake of our intimate relationships.

There has been a spike in public conversation around inter-faith marriages recently and as someone who has written about her own inter-faith family in her books and essays, I have found myself participating in various debates and webinars on the subject in recent weeks. I have often wanted to enter the discussion with the warning that

all marriages are difficult. On the whole, I do not recommend marrying anyone under any circumstances unless one is looking for trouble. And ready for a lifetime of conflict.

When couples in love seek my counsel on how to negotiate family and other socio-political barriers, I want to tell them to distract themselves and take their time before committing to marriage. As a decently socialised person, I do not say this because I realise that my role in the conversation is to defend the right to love. Not to escalate conflict, but to reassure.

So I brought myself here to engage in nuance. Love means taking off one's rose-tinted glasses and accepting each other — with warts, chinks, burps and other unattractive but essential features. Love means watching each other change. Love means getting used to being taken for granted, ignored and sidelined as other passions visit and consume your partner.

Love is supposed to be a safe place, but it isn't love if it doesn't challenge you. It teaches you to embrace uncertainty. And we aren't always good learners.

To grow in love means to become spacious. To create space for the other. To demand, steal and protect one's own space. Love needs to take time off and shoot the breeze often. It mustn't be relentless, lest it becomes oppressive.

Love means chipping away at the boundaries and lessons of patriarchy together. It means calling out each other's biases, prejudices and entitlements. Love can make us uncomfortable.

And that's where I find mock fights useful in my own marriage. After nearly two decades of knowing each other, my husband and I are now in danger of knowing each other too well. We often find ourselves getting angrier with each other than a situation warrants, because we are

inadvertently carrying what is popularly referred to as 'baggage'.

We need safe spaces to let off steam. We need to mock ourselves a little and reset our systems. When our daughter interrupted what I thought was light banter between her parents, it gave me reason to pause. I had frozen my husband in time and would not have recognised his vulnerability had it not been for our child's intervention. Her words reminded me to look at ourselves afresh, with tenderness. Change comes slowly but it comes with its own needs. Unmet needs are the original source of all conflict.

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The writer is an author and filmmaker

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Will not accept interference in internal politics: Nepal FM

Says have excellent ties with India, China | Leaves without meeting PM

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

Nepal Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali returned to Kathmandu without meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi against the backdrop of differing readouts from the two countries about the Joint Commission meeting chaired by the Foreign Ministers on Friday.

Gyawali, however, assuaged concerns about enlarged Chinese footprints on domestic politics and reposed his faith in dialogue to resolve with India the boundary issue and revisions to the Friendship Treaty of 1950.

The Nepalese Foreign Office had said both issues were raised at the meeting, while the MEA's readout about the Joint Commission meeting focused on developmental issues.

"We never accept interference in our domestic poli-



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh greets Nepal Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

BORDER SECURITY IMPORTANT FOR COOPERATION'

“The sanctity and security of the border is extremely important for expanding the overall developmental cooperation. Pradeep Gyawali, NEPAL FOREIGN MINISTER

tics. We are able to settle our own problems," Gyawali said when asked about a Chinese delegation landing

in Kathmandu recently to sort out differences between two factions of the Nepal Communist Party.

"As a close neighbour, there may be some concerns or questions but we never accept interference," he added, describing Nepal's relations with both India and China as excellent.

Though Gyawali could not meet PM Modi, who was stated to be busy with the all-India launch of the Covid vaccine, he called on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

There was no firm commitment on the supply of vaccines despite hopes in Kathmandu when he began his three-day visit to India. The Foreign Minister said affordability, availability and promptness in supply as well as compatible infrastructure to store the vaccines in Nepal would determine their procurement.

On the boundary issue, he said the sanctity and security of the border was extremely important for expanding the overall developmental cooperation.

Traders' body moves SC against privacy policy of WhatsApp

SATYA PRAKASH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

Amid demands for the roll-back of WhatsApp's new privacy policy, a PIL was filed in the Supreme Court on Saturday seeking protection of citizens' right to privacy.

The petitioner, Confederation of All-India Traders (CAIT), sought a direction to the government to restrain WhatsApp and Facebook from storing and utilising the works transmitted through the messaging service for any purpose.

It also urged the top court to direct the two companies to allow the Centre to carry out technical audits of their centres where the data of Indian users are stored, so as to retrieve and delete it.

The petitioner demanded that WhatsApp should be directed to withdraw its controversial privacy policy and frame guidelines to govern its data sharing with Facebook, says the plea

DEMANDS TECHNICAL AUDITS

- The PIL has demanded technical audits of WhatsApp and Facebook centres, so as to retrieve users' data and delete it
- WhatsApp should be directed to withdraw its controversial privacy policy and frame guidelines to govern its data sharing with Facebook, says the plea



data sharing with Facebook. Due to this updated policy, the users will now have to compulsorily share all information that WhatsApp collects, which includes information about the user's activity on their services, like service-related, diagnostic, and performance information, it pointed out.

WhatsApp has already announced delaying by three months the implementation of its new privacy policy that has caused concern among millions of users, many of whom started to move to its rivals, such as Signal and Telegram. It was originally scheduled to come into effect on February 8.

The petitioner accused the Centre of failing to discharge its constitutional duty of protecting the privacy of citizens.

"The Centre has failed to impose necessary and restrictive conditions in the case. On the proposed policy of WhatsApp, European Union's Antitrust Authority had imposed serious restrictions and fines of 110 million euros in 2017," read the CAIT petition.

In 2016, Germany, England and the entire European Union had prohibited similar action of Facebook, which was also asked to delete all data relating to WhatsApp users, it said.

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The CBI also recommended the Department of Personnel and Training to initiate administrative action against Deputy Superintendents of Police RK Rishi and RK Sangwan.

According to the FIR, inspector Dhankad received bribe from Sangwan and Rishi, who were soliciting favours for Shree Shyam Pulp and Board Mills, accused in Rs 700-crore bank fraud case, and Frost International, accused in Rs 3,600-crore bank fraud case. —TNS

India rookies restrict Oz to 369, batsmen must fire now

BRISBANE, JANUARY 16

India's rookie bowling attack dismissed Australia for 369 on the rain-hit second day of the fourth Test today, but the visitors then lost two wickets and still have a mountain to climb.

Rohit Sharma played an indiscreet shot in the air to be dismissed for 44, and the visitors were 62 for two when heavy thundershowers washed out play in the third session. Cheteshwar Pujara (8) and Ajinkya Rahane (2) were the unbeaten batsmen.

Sharma was elegant as ever in his 44 off 74 balls before Nathan Lyon enticed him out of the crease and beat him in flight, and Rohit could only sky a catch to Mitchell Starc.

Other opener, Shubman Gill (7), had fallen

early when he edged Pat Cummins to Steve Smith at second slip. Sharma struck six boundaries, and he did well by not jabbing at balls outside the off stump even as Cummins and Josh Hazlewood tested him under overcast conditions. Sharma added 49 runs for the second wicket with Pujara.

Sharma looked comfortable until his dismissal, never troubled by the four-pronged attack, but just before the tea break, he went for a lofted shot off Lyon. The situation demanded sedate play, and the Mumbai star later said he did not regret playing that shot. But throwing his wicket away after getting a start can't be



India's Rohit Sharma in action during the fourth cricket test between India and Australia in Brisbane on Saturday. PTI

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA 1st innings

D Warner c Sharma b Siraj	1
M Harris c Sundar b Thakur	5
M Lchaghe c Pant b Natarajan	108
S Smith c Sharma b Sundar	36
M Wade c Thakur b Natarajan	45
C Green b Sundar	47
T Paine c Sharma b Thakur	50
P Cummins lbw b Thakur	2
M Starc not out	20
N Lyon b Sundar	24
J Hazlewood b Natarajan	11
Extras: (B 4, LB 5, NB 6, W 5)	20
Total: (All out, 115.2 overs)	369
FOW: (14, 217, 3-87, 4-200, 5-213, 6-311, 7-313, 8-315, 9-354)	

O M R W

Mohammed Siraj	28	10	77	1
Thangarasu Natarajan	24.2	3	78	3
Shardul Thakur	24	6	94	3
Navdeep Saini	7.5	2	21	0
Washington Sundar	31	6	89	3
Rohit Sharma	0.1	0	1	0

Bowling

Rohit Sharma	28	10	77	1
Thangarasu Natarajan	24.2	3	78	3
Shardul Thakur	24	6	94	3
Navdeep Saini	7.5	2	21	0
Washington Sundar	31	6	89	3
Rohit Sharma	0.1	0	1	0

INDIA 1st innings

R Sharma c Stark b Lyon	44
S Gill c Smith b Cummins	7
Cheteshwar Pujara not out	8
A Rahane not out	2
Extras: (NB 1)	1
Total: (2 wickets, 26 overs)	62
FOW: 11.1, 2-60	

O M R W

Mitchell Starc	3	1	8	0
Josh Hazlewood	8	4	11	0
Pat Cummins	6	1	22	1
Cameron Green	3	0	11	0
Nathan Lyon	6	2	10	1

Indian fan in Sydney complains of racism

allowed to become a habit. In the Sydney Test, too, he got starts (26 and 52), but was dismissed with careless shots.

Lion-hearted effort

In the first session, India's rookie bowling line-up put up a lion-hearted effort, getting their stand to 98 before the home team had a mini-collapse. —TNS & agencies

debutants Washington Sundar (3/89) and Thangarasu Natarajan (3/78) were the main wicket-takers, while Siraj picked up one for 77. Resuming at 274/5, Tim Paine and Cameron Green extended their stand to 98 before the home team had a mini-collapse. —TNS & agencies

Sports, Rlys Ministries at loggerheads over train fare concession to players

Kiren Rijiju wants financial assistance restored

RAVI DHALIWAL

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURDASPUR, JANUARY 16

The Ministries of Railways and Sports are at loggerheads over the withdrawal of concession in passenger fares for sportspersons taking part in state and national competitions even as sports administrators have reminded the Minister of Railways that "the Railways is a public service and not a profit-generating enterprise".

A senior administrator claimed that the Minister of Railways had cited Covid-19 as the reason for the decision, but at the same time maintained that the prime motive was the proposed privatisation of the department.

Sources say sports activity is likely to take a massive hit as a majority of players belong to the middle and lower-middle strata of society and will not be willing to bear the burden.

Minister of Railways

<p