

SHED SUSPICION TO RESOLVE BORDER ISSUE: CHINA WORLD

HALF-BAKED POLICIES CAN BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE INFOCUS

SHAH BEGINS DOOR-TO-DOOR CAMPAIGN IN TN BACK PAGE

**Safety Tips and Precautions for Corona Prevention**

- Wear the mask and teach the children to practice it
- Follow the social distancing norms while using stairs and lift
- Clean the surface with sanitizer in gym before the workout
- Avoid being a part of any kind of crowd
- Avoid cash payment methods and pay online as much as possible

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana | www.prharyana.gov.in @Cmohry @DiprHaryana

Sh. Manohar Lal  
Chief Minister, Haryana

## IN BRIEF

Cairn wants India to honour its word

NEW DELHI: Cairn Energy on Sunday said its shareholders expected the use of the firm's "powers of enforcement" to recover \$1.4 billion from India if it didn't keep its word on arbitration tribunal's award.—PTI

'Rowdy' Indian flyer forces flight landing

LONDON: A "rowdy" Indian passenger on board an Air France flight from Ghana via Paris to New Delhi forced the plane to make an emergency landing in Bulgaria. He has been detained for 72 hours.—PTI

China to run bullet train in Tibet by July

BEIJING: China will operate bullet trains to Tibet, close to the Indian border in Arunachal Pradesh before July this year marking the opening of high-speed train services to all Chinese mainland provincial-level regions.—PTI

## On Didi's turf, PM vows 'poriborton'

Says TMC govt's game up, time for real change in WB

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 7  
Claiming Bengal was in the DNA of the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday vowed "ashol poriborton" (real change) in the state if the party was voted to power.

Addressing a massive election rally at Kolkata's iconic Brigade Ground, Modi said the Congress, from which Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee broke away to form the Trinamool Congress (TMC), was founded by a foreigner. The communists also took inspiration from Marx, Lenin and Mao. On the other hand, the BJP was founded by drawing inspiration from "the great son of Bengal Syama Prasad Mukherjee," he said.

The Prime Minister, addressing his first rally in West Bengal after the announcement of the Assembly elections, was like a "venomous cobra".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



PM Narendra Modi addresses a rally in Kolkata on Sunday. PTI  
**ACTOR MITHUN JOINS SAFFRON PARTY**  
A highlight of the rally was actor Mithun Chakraborty joining the BJP. Mithun, who was sent to the Rajya Sabha by the TMC in 2014 but resigned two years later citing health reasons, said he was like a "venomous cobra".  
**SHE CHOSE NEPHEW OVER PEOPLE: MODI**  
Bengal chose you in role of 'Didi', but you preferred being aunt to your own nephew, ignoring millions of nieces and nephews across the state. Narendra Modi, PM

That will only happen in Delhi, retorts CM Mamata

NEW DELHI, MARCH 7  
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday led a parallel rally against the BJP-ruled Centre, attacking it for the rising cost of petrol, diesel and cooking gas.

Undertaking a foot march in Siliguri, where she was accompanied by prominent women leaders of the ruling Trinamool, the CM said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was habituated to "selling dreams." She was responding to the PM, who called for "ashol poriborton (real change)" during his mega rally in Kolkata today.

"Modiji is calling for poriborton. All I want to tell him is — poriborton will happen, but only in Delhi," said the TMC chief, fiercely defending her turf amid a massive blitzkrieg by the BJP. Mamata also asked



Mamata during a rally in Siliguri. PTI

**DIDI ASKS JHARKHAND CM TO CAMPAIGN FOR HER**

the PM why he did not travel to Bengal even once during the pandemic. "At that time you did virtual events and today you are selling fake dreams here," she remarked.—TNS

Will take movement beyond Delhi: SKM

NEW DELHI, MARCH 7  
Even as the harvesting season is around the corner, farmers have made it clear that they won't be lifting their dharna from the Delhi border till their demands are met. Instead, the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), which is spearheading the protests, has decided to expand the movement to other parts of the country.



Rakesh Tikait at Ghazipur border.

**WOMEN FARMERS' DAY AT PROTEST SITES**

Thousands of women will gather at the protest sites at Singhu, Tikri and at other Delhi borders to mark "Women Farmers' Day" on Monday, as announced by the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha. Many have already arrived in special buses from Punjab. BS Rajewal, a member of the Morcha, said: "The stage will be managed by women, and the speakers too will be women." TNS

2 MORE FARMERS DIE INSIDE

last week was over Rs 6.5 lakh crore, according to Care Ratings. The rate war also comes on the back of continuous prodding by the monetary authority which has slashed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## Recovery rate dips; Pb sees 12 fatalities

NEW DELHI, MARCH 7  
India's active Covid-19 case-load rose for the 11th day today, settling at 1,84,523 even as daily new cases increased by over 18,000 for a second day in a row.

The total cases reached 1,12,10,799 and the recovery rate fell to 96.95% after sustaining beyond 97% for days.

Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu continued to report consistently high new cases and collectively accounted for 84.71% of the 18,711 new daily cases reported in the last 24 hours. India last saw 18,855 infections in a day on January 29. Maharashtra witnessed 10,187 daily new cases over the past 24 hours, followed by Kerala (2,791) and Punjab (1,159). Karnataka (580), Gujarat (571) and Tamil Nadu (562) were close behind.

So far as fatalities go, 100 deaths were reported in the past 24 hours. Six states account for 87% new deaths. Maharashtra saw the maximum casualties (47), fol-

### COVID ENDGAME

India is in the Covid endgame. It needs three steps to succeed: Keep politics out of the vax drive, trust the science and ensure our relatives get the jab on time.

Harsh Vardhan

### 23 STUDENTS TEST +VE IN KAITHAL VILLAGE

Karnal: As many as 23 students of Government Senior Secondary School, Kharka village, Kaithal, have tested positive for Covid-19. Sujan Singh, DC, said most of them were asymptomatic and in home quarantine. INSIDE

lowed by Kerala (16) and Punjab (12). The Health Ministry had yesterday sent teams to Maharashtra and Punjab and the teams have started probing the causes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## 2nd half of Budget session resumes today

NEW DELHI, MARCH 7  
The remaining half of the Budget session of Parliament will commence here on Monday with the Finance Bill listed as the top priority along with the passage of the

demand for grants for various ministries. Although the primary business through the session would be financial, the Opposition led by the Congress is gearing up to

attack the BJP-led central government for the failure to resolve the ongoing farmers' agitation, rising prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas and the LAC issue. BACK PAGE



## Home loan rates slashed to decade low

MUMBAI, MARCH 7  
Having excessive liquidity as general credit demand is still way below the desired levels, leading home loan players—State Bank of India, HDFC, ICICI Bank and Kotak

Mahindra Bank — have slashed their rates to a decadal low, leaving consumers spoilt for choices.

The interest rate war comes

as banks are sitting on huge excess liquidity which as of

last week was over Rs 6.5 lakh crore, according to Care Ratings. The rate war also comes on the back of continuous prodding by the monetary authority which has slashed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## Election year, Pb Budget to focus on poll promises

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 7  
With the Opposition turning the heat on the Congress government in Punjab over its "unfulfilled" poll promises, the party is all set to announce provisions to fulfil these in the Budget 2021-22, scheduled to be presented in the Vidhan Sabha on Monday.

Official sources say some of the promises likely to find place in the Budget include enhancement in the old-age pension and "shagun", skill training for wards of construction workers, unemployment

allowance, free housing for SC beneficiaries and farm loan waiver for landless labourers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

allowance, free housing for SC beneficiaries and farm loan waiver for landless labourers

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# Social sector spending cut 50% in past 4 years

From ₹48,270 cr in 2016-17, it came down to ₹24,896.10 cr in 2019-20, reveals RBI data



RUCHIKA M KHANNA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 7

As Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal gets ready to announce sops in an election year, he will also have to explain to the Vidhan Sabha the rather poor per capita social sector expenditure during the past four years of the Congress rule.

Punjab's per capita social sector spending is the fourth

lowest among major states, with the government spending just Rs 6,981. Comparatively, the per capita income of neighbouring Haryana is Rs 13,233. Even the national average of per capita social sector expenditure of major states is Rs 8,962.

No wonder the focus of the Finance Minister in Monday's Budget will be more on schemes for the uplift of socio-economically disadvantaged sections. On the cards is likely a scheme for assured buyback of some horticulture crops, an enhanced compensation for families of those farmers who commit suicide

## WHAT TO EXPECT FROM FM

- Major sops for agriculture sector
- Assured price for horticulture crops
- Enhanced relief in farmer suicide cases
- Rounding up crop loan waiver scheme
- Increase in social security pensions



and those who have died in the ongoing farmers' stir, self-employment schemes and enhanced social security pensions among others.

Data available with *The Tribune* from the Reserve Bank of India (State Finances: A Study of Budgets 2018-19) reveals that the

state's spending on social sector initiatives has come down by almost 50 per cent in the past four years. From Rs 48,270 crore spent on social sector initiatives in 2016-17 (though this was also an election year), the spending in 2019-20 came down to Rs 24,896.10 crore.

Other than this, the state government has not been able to perform well in its flagship welfare scheme for farmers — the Crop Loan Waiver Scheme — the attadal scheme has been reduced to just providing wheat as dal has not been provided for the past many years and sugar and tea leaves (as promised) have not been distributed.

Another RBI report, which has analysed the farm loan waiver schemes of different states, shows that Punjab has so far waived just 46 per cent of the amount announced. The total institu-

tional debt of the state is Rs 57,332 crore and the non-institutional loan is Rs 24,652.76 crore. Only the institutional loan has been waived. Comparatively, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have waived more than 70 per cent of the farmers' loans.

Dr Parmod Kumar, an economist, says the development of the state should be measured in terms of the social security net that it provides to the people. "Spending on the social sector has been reducing. This does not bode well for a welfare state," he says.

# Discuss SAD's ₹31K-cr food credit, says Jakhar

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 7  
PPCC president Sunil Jakhar has written to Speaker Rana KP Singh to initiate a discussion during the Budget session on the Rs 31,000 crore legacy on account of food credit left behind by the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD).

Jakhar also urged the Speaker to give enough time to former Finance Minister Parminder Dhindsa to explain series of deliberations detailing the role played by the SAD and BJP leadership in mortgaging the state's financial independence.

He further said Dhindsa should come clean and explain to the people of Punjab about his political compulsions which led him to mortgage the state's interests in this callous manner.

Meanwhile, coming out in support of protesting residents of 29 villages who are demanding shifting of the Hirawali liquor factory in Fazilka, Jakhar questioned SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal for his role in first issuing the licence and now doing the "drama" of supporting the protest.

Challenging him to make public the name of the person he issued the licence to, who further sold it to an industrialist, Jakhar said a group of Hirawali villagers had been



## SUKHBIR MUST CLARIFY ON LIQUOR LICENCE

Hirawali villagers in Fazilka have been protesting against a liquor unit for days. Sukhbir Singh Badal was holding the Excise Ministry when the licence for the unit was issued on August 28, 2015. He must come clean on the issue. Sunil Jakhar, PPCC CHIEF

protesting against the liquor unit for days. The PPCC chief asked Sukhbir, who was also holding the Excise Ministry when the licence for the liquor unit was issued by the SAD-BJP regime on August 28, 2015, to come clean on the issue during his visit to the village tomorrow. The licence, Jakhar said, was given by Sukhbir to one of Akali loyalists who further sold it for Rs 13 crore. — TNS

# On Int'l Women's Day, CM to launch 8 new schemes

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

## 2,407 WOMEN TO GET APPOINTMENT LETTERS

The initiatives include appointment letters for 2,407 master cadre women teachers as well as Sanja Shakti helpdesks and 181 Sanj Shakti helpline at all police stations for prompt response in cases of crime against women.

The government will collaborate with global agencies to enhance skill training, identification and enhancement of employability and capacity building for women

from crimes, protecting their rights and introducing gender sensitisation curriculum in school syllabus. The agencies with which the state is set to join hands include UN Women, UNDP (United Nations Development Fund), UN Population Fund, J-PAL (Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab) and FUEL (Friends Union for Energising Lives).

The collaboration would focus on enhancement of skill training for women, identification and enhancement of employability for them, capacity building, and elimination of the Anemia disease," said Cheema.

## Govtschools outperforming ptones:Singla

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, MARCH 7  
Education Minister Vijay Inder Singla today said government schools had been performing better than private schools as the state government provided all required infrastructure. But Leader of Opposition (LoP) Harpal Cheema said all claims were only on papers.

"Since the formation of the Congress government in Punjab, government schools have seen unprecedented development. Our govern-

## Claims only on paper: Cheema

ment schools have better infrastructure than private schools as I along with our senior officers have been keeping a strict watch over the performance of teachers," said Singla after attending the bhog of wife of former DSP Bharthari Singh here.

"We have been releasing all money sought by schools to further improve their functioning," said Singla. However, Cheema alleged that the Congress government had failed to fulfil its promises. "All claims of development of the congress government are only on papers. State residents are well aware that the government has not fulfilled any of its poll promise," said Cheema.

Since the start of the anti-farm laws protest, the rural women have not only taken up all responsibilities of daily household chores, but have also lent support to the movement when called for.

# Expect nothing from Budget: AAP

SAYS BJP, CONG & SAD HAVE BETRAYED FARMERS

Mann said in 2013, the Congress, SAD and BJP unanimously passed the Contract Farming Act, which made the farmers of Punjab bonded labour to corporate giants. He said in 2017, when Capt Amarinder Singh came to power, he did not repeal the Act.

"Moreover, he passed the

APMC (Amendment) Act, 2017, which privatised fruit and vegetable markets, and its effects are being seen now. Kinnar is being sold below the production cost in Abohar," he added.

He said the Delhi Government had provided services to the protesting farmers to make their agitation stronger.

"AAP is organising a kisan maha sammelan on March 21 to give voice to the agitating farmers," he added. — TNS

# Sangrur women leave for event at Tikri

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



Women raise slogans before leaving for the Tikri border, in Sangrur on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

# Union drums up support for March 15 rally

BATHINDA, MARCH 7

The Punjab Khet Mazdoor Union has been mobilising support for a protest rally against three farm laws wherein farm labourers from five districts in the Malwa region will converge on Bathinda on March 15.

Union president Jora Singh Nasrali said the new farm laws would spell doom for farm labourers in the state and render them jobless.

"With an end to government procurement, the public distribution system will also be affected and a few corporate houses will take control of the food sector. With pricing in the food sector controlled by corporates, farm labourers will not be able to buy it," he added.

"We demand the repeal of new farm laws. The government should also increase daily wages of MGNREGA workers to Rs 600 and provide work throughout the year," he added. — TNS

# Court orders FIR against cop for not registering rape plaint

ROPAR, MARCH 7

A court in Anandpur Sahib has ordered the registration of an FIR under Section 166-A of the IPC against a former SHO for allegedly refusing to register a rape complaint of a minor girl.

Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) Jagbir Singh Mehdiratta, while issuing the order, observed that the respondent, SHO Bharat Bhushan, had acted negligently and had abused

band who is already there. My daughter-in-law is alone at home along with my grandson. Same is the situation of many families in our village" said Mukhtiar Kaur from Gharachon village.

"A majority of women have been leaving for Delhi from our area. The March 8 function would be an eye-opener for the central government," said Jagir Kaur, an elderly woman from Bhawanigarh.

Says abused his office, delayed matter without justification

the process of his office by not promptly registering an FIR and by delaying the matter without any justification.

The girl was allegedly raped at a guest house on March 16 last year, following which her mother approached the police. However, the victim's



## ASI dies cleaning rifle, daughter alleges murder

BATALA, MARCH 7

Karnail Singh (50), an ASI working with the Kotli Surat Malhi police station in Batala, died under mysterious circumstances this morning. Dera Baba Nanak DSP Kamalpreet Singh said the officer died after a bullet hit him in the neck while he was cleaning his rifle.

Deceased's daughter Harpreet Kaur, however, alleged it was a murder. She said her father had been working in the department for the past several years and added that he was well-versed with the process of cleaning guns.

She said an inquiry should be initiated into the death. — TNS

# Police under pressure, alleges slain Youth Cong leader's father

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, MARCH 7

Two weeks after District Youth Congress president and Zila Parishad member Gurlal Singh Pehalwan was shot dead by two assailants here, Sukhchain Singh, father of the deceased, on Sunday accused the police of not conducting a proper investigation due to pressure of some influential persons.

Demanding the DGP to shift the investigation outside the district, he threatened to end life by suicide in front of the SSP office if his family was denied justice.

Threatens to kill himself



Gurlal Singh Bhullar, 34, was shot dead in Faridkot on Feb 18.

Sukhchain Singh alleged under pressure of some influential persons in Faridkot, the police had released some persons arrested earlier.

Swardeep Singh, SSP, Faridkot, denied the allegations. Promising a fair investigation into the case, the SSP said the probe was under way and five persons were already arrested. "During the process of investigation, the police are questioning many persons, but all of them are not culprits," he claimed.

The police had arrested Gurpinder Singh, a resident of Ghania Wala village of the district, in the murder case. It is believed that Gurpinder had provided fire weapons to three assailants who had killed Pehalwan on February 18 here.

## Punjab Diary



Cow dung cakes being sold at Abohar. TRIBUNE PHOTO

### Dung cakes in demand as LPG gets costlier

**Abohar:** With gas cylinders becoming dearer, the demand for cow dung cakes has increased last week. There prevails a century-old practice of preparing and pasting cow dung cakes on mud walls in rural areas as well as in the less-developed colonies in towns. However, urban women are gradually shunning this practice as the new generation doesn't approve of defacing boundary walls of houses. Gaushala president Faqir Chand Goyal and secretary Rakesh Kalani have resolved to address the problem. The management has decided to prepare such cakes and offer the same for sale at an affordable price. "We will prefer to use cow dung cakes on Holi (March 28), as timber has also become dear," said Dropati, one of the buyers. The urban populace said the price of 14.2 kg liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) refill had been increased six times from December, 2020. It now costs Rs 819, they said.

### Health scheme benefits Fatehgarh villager

**Fatehgarh Sahib:** The Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana proved to be a boon for Avtar Singh, a resident of Dhian Majra village, a needy, who had been suffering from knee pain for a long time. The doctors had advised knee replacement, which was expensive at private hospitals. An NGO took up his case with MLA Kuljit Singh Nagra and he was covered under the Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana of the state. He was admitted to the Civil Hospital, Fatehgarh Sahib, where a team of doctors, led by Dr

### 'Kisan Hut' to boost sale of organic produce



**Faridkot:** To enhance farmers' income and provide fresh fruit and vegetables to consumers, Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA), a wing of the Department of Agriculture, has started a 'ATMA Kisan Hut' at Circular Road here, where growers reached with fresh produce to sell them at a price lower than the market rate. Aman Keshav, district in charge of ATMA, said it served as a platform for producers and buyers to sell and purchase food items, two days a week.

## Don Ansari named in 6-yr-old murder case

Move seen as bid to keep him in state

**ARUN SHARMA**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**ROPAR, MARCH 7**

In what appears to be another attempt to keep gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari in Punjab, the Ropar police have named him in a six-year-old case of a labourer's murder.

Though Ropar SSP Akhil Chaudhary said Ansari was named in the case long ago on the statement of the complainant, Vidya Rani, on June 27, 2019, the latter said she didn't know anything about Mukhtar Ansari.

Vidya Rani, sister of the deceased, said her brother was a labourer and had no enmity with anyone. "What could be his relation with a big gangster or politicians?" she said. About the police claims, she said, "Neither do I know about Mukhtar Ansari nor have I recorded any statement with the police."

**STATEMENT ON RECORD: POLICE**



**VICTIM'S KIN: NOT AWARE OF SUSPECT**

Vidya Rani, sister of the deceased, said her brother was a labourer and had no enmity with anyone. "What could be his relation with a big gangster or politicians?" she said. About the police claims, she said, "Neither do I know about Mukhtar Ansari nor have I recorded any statement with the police."

Ropar SSP Akhil Chaudhary said on June 27, 2019, Vidya Rani recorded a statement apprehending that Mukhtar Ansari was behind the murder of her brother following which name of Ansari was included in the FIR. The police also tried to get his custody for questioning but the jail authorities refused to hand him over on medical grounds, he said.

About the police claims she said, "Neither I know about Mukhtar Ansari nor I recorded any such statement with the police."

No cops contacted her after death of her brother and it was only a month ago when she was called at the Morinda police station thrice to discuss the progress in the case, she claimed, adding that the cops, instead of telling her anything, were only interested to know whether she had any clue about the accused.

Later, a policeman visited her home and got her signatures on some papers on the pretext of investigation in the case, she claimed.

The Ropar SSP, however, claimed her statement regarding the involvement of Ansari was a matter of record and there were chances that she was influenced by someone in the case.

Three days ago, the Opposition had raised the issue during the Budget session in the Punjab Assembly alleging the state government was shielding Ansari.

The Ropar SSP said on June 27, 2019, Vidya Rani recorded a statement apprehending that Mukhtar Ansari was behind the murder of her brother following which the name of Ansari was included in the FIR. The Ropar police also tried to get his custody for questioning in the case but the jail authorities refused to hand him over on medical grounds, he said.

When contacted at her home in Morinda, Vidya Devi said her brother, a tempo driver at Rampur near Moradabad, came to Morinda a few years ago after the death of his wife. He was staying in an accommodation provided by his employer.

## WW-I Sikh fighter pilot's memorial to come up in UK

**LONDON, MARCH 7**

The design for a sculpture of an early 20th century Sikh fighter pilot, cricketer and golfer from Oxford University has been approved for a new memorial to be erected at Southampton (England) in memory of the Indians who fought in the world wars.

Hardit Singh Malik first arrived in the UK in 1908 as a 14-year-old to Balliol College at the University of Oxford and went on to become a member of the Royal Flying Corps during the World War-I. As the first Indian and turbaned pilot with a specialised helmet, he became famous as 'Flying Sikh'.

### 'FLYING SIKH'

- Hardit Singh Malik was the world's first Royal Flying Corps (now the Royal Air Force) Sikh fighter pilot
- As the first Indian and turbaned pilot with a specialised helmet, he became famous as 'Flying Sikh'

**EXCEPTIONAL DESIGN**

“I am overwhelmed by the striking beauty and power of the exceptional design of the memorial, which captures the spirit and endeavour of the great RAF fighter pilot.

Lord Rami Ranger, CHAIRMAN,  
BRITISH SIKH ASSOCIATION

he is best known as a fighter pilot during 1917-19. "I am truly overwhelmed by the striking beauty and power of the exceptional design of the memorial, which captures the spirit and endeavour of this great RAF fighter pilot, Hardit Singh Malik, so well. It gives me great happiness to learn that the design is approved by the community," said Lord Rami Ranger, Chairman of the British Sikh Association and Chief Patron of OCHD.

Malik also played cricket for Sussex and was also the Indian Ambassador to France after a long and distinguished career in the Indian Civil Service. But the memorial will be created by English sculptor Luke Perry. — PTI

## Gangster's murder: Two 'contract killers' arrested, pistols seized

**SANGRUR, MARCH 7**  
Two alleged contract killers involved in the 2019 murder of gangster Abdul Rashid Ghudu at Malerkotla have

been arrested by sleuths of the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA). Another person has been arrested for providing shelter to them. Six

pistols and some live cartridges have also been seized.

Sangrur SSP Vivek Sheel

and Sukhdeep Singh were arrested last night along with their accomplice Sagar Pawar near the canal bridge of Thaman Singh Wala on the

Samana-Bhawanigar road. "Jagdip and Sukhdeep were hired by a rival gang to murder Ghudu. The CIA team also seized .32 bore pis-

tols and live cartridges," Soni said. Ghudu (26) was shot dead at the wedding of his brother on November 26, 2019. — TNS



## Empowering Womanhood, Our Commitment

### Happy Women's Day

**Ms. Ashmin Kaur**  
Recipient of Smart Phone under Captain Smart Connect Scheme

**Smt. Ritu Rani**  
First time Woman Councillor under 50% reservation for women in ULBs & PRIs

**Ms. Neha Aggarwal**  
recently recruited as DSP in Punjab Police



**Smt. Sukhwinder Kaur**  
Provided Self-employment under Mini Bus Permit Scheme

**Dr. Mansimran Kaur**  
Selected for Government Job under Ghar-Ghar Rozgar Mission

**Ms. Mansi Bansal**  
Job in ICICI Bank under Ghar-Ghar Rozgar Mission



Punjab Chief Minister  
**Capt. Amarinder Singh**

along with

**Smt. Aruna Chaudhary**

Minister for Social Security,  
Women and Child Development, Punjab

*will dedicate*

**Eight Women-oriented initiatives**

on the occasion of

**International Women's Day**

8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 | Time: 2:00 to 3:00 PM

### Ghar-Ghar Rozgar

- Handing over of job letters to newly recruited lady school teachers
- Launch of the competition "TechShiksha" for identification and enhancement of employability of women
- Signing of MoU with FUEL to enhance skill training

### Safety of Women

- Inauguration of Sanjh Shakti Helpdesk and Sanjh Shakti 181 Helpline

### Healthcare for Women

- Signing of Agreement with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for eliminating anaemia in the State

### Gender Equality & Sensitization

- Signing of MoU with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of women for special initiatives for the protection of rights of women
- Launch of partnership with J-PAL for introduction of gender sensitization curriculum in the school syllabus

### Capacity Building

- Issuance of Letter of Intent to the United Nations Population Fund for capacity building of the Department of Social Security & Women & Child Development.

**Capt. Amarinder Singh**  
Chief Minister, Punjab

Department of Information & Public Relations, Punjab

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

I, Gurjat Kaur w/o Mohan Lal r/o M2B, Tej Bagh Colony, Sanur Road, Patiala, have changed my name to Gurjeet Kaur. (CL20105651)

I, Baljinder Singh r/o 31B, Defence Enclave, Zirakpur (Ph) 140603, have changed my minor son and daughter name Alakhpreet Insaan to Alakhpreet Singh and Abhineet Insaan to Abhineet Kaur respectively for all future purposes. (CL20106139)

**COURT NOTICE**

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Ms. Harimandir Kaur, Civil Judge (Junior Division), Gurdaspur.

Manohar Lal Versus Sukhbir Singh CNR No. PBGD02-001230-2019

Next Date: 25.03.2021

Publication issued to: Gurvinder Singh, Father: Surjit Singh, R/o Village Kot Bhalla, Tehsil Dinanagar, Distt. Gurdaspur.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 25.03.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to: https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district\_notice&district=gurdaspur

Dated, this day of 30.01.2021

Sd/- Additional Principal Judge Family Court, Ludhiana.

CL20100743 Ludhiana.

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(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Harreet Kaur Kaleda

Additional Principal Judge Family Court-I, Jalandhar, Camp Court at Nakodar.

Ramandeep Kaur Versus Varinder Singh

CNR No.: PBJL01-016191-2019

Next Date: 24.03.2021

Petition Under Section 13 of Hindu Marriage Act for dissolution of marriage by a decree of divorce.

Publication issued to:

Varinder Singh Father: Sukhwinder Singh r/o VPO Uddat Saide Wala, Tehsil Budhlada, District Mansa.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 24.03.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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Dated, this day of 27.01.2021.

Sd/- Additional Principal Judge Family Court-I, Jalandhar Camp Court at Nakodar.

CL20092732 Nakodar.

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(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Rajwinder Kaur

Civil Judge (Jr. Division), Nakodar.

Surdev Singh alias Swaran Singh Vs.

Jasmal Singh

CNR No.

PBLJ00-000268-2019

Next Date: 24.03.2021

Publication Issued to: 1. Jasmail Singh s/o Late Balwinder Singh, 2. Mandeep Kaur d/o Late Balwinder Singh both r/o Village Sarai Jattan, Tehsil Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 24.03.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district\_notice&district=jalandhar

Dated, this day of 15.02.2021.

Sd/- Civil Judge (Junior Division), CL20100350 Nakodar.

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Sh. Rakesh Kumar Sharma

Additional Principal Judge

Family Court, Ludhiana.

Rekha Versus

Roshan Solanki CNR No.

PBLD01-016465-2020

Next Date: 25.03.2021

Publication issued to: Roshan Solanki, Father: Paramanand Sokanki, R/o C/o Pappu Dorajma Khateek Mohalla Waddi Basti Pushkar Ajmer, Rajasthan.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 25.03.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district\_notice&district=jalandhar

Dated, this day of 24.03.2021.

General Public CNR No.:

PBLD01-032346-2019

Next Date: 24.03.2021

Publication issued to:

General Public

Ludhiana.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 24.03.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district\_notice&district=ludhiana

Dated, this day of 26.02.2021.

Sd/- Additional Principal Judge Family Court, Ludhiana.

CL20103581 Ludhiana.

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Sh. Mohit Bansal

Additional Principal Judge

Family Court, Ludhiana.

Rekha Versus

Roshan Solanki CNR No.

PBLD01-016465-2020

Next Date: 25.03.2021

Publication issued to:

General Public

Ludhiana.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 25.03.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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Dated, this day of 26.02.2021.

Sd/- Civil Judge (Junior Division), CL20105895 Ludhiana.

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Sh. Inderjeet Singh

Civil Judge, Junior Division, Chandigarh.

Maninder Singh Versus

Veena Kang CNR No.:

CHCH02-003593-2019

Next Date: 20.04.2021

Publication issued to:

1. Veena Kang wife of Manjit Singh, H.No. 669, Sector 41-A, Chandigarh.

Probate U/S 276 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 for Grant of Probate/Letters of Administration of registered last Will and Testament Dated 21.12.1992 bearing Document No. 970 of the Late Sant Amarjeet Singh c/o Cheela Baba Harnam Singh Lallypuri.

Publication issued to:

General Public

CNR No.: PBJL01-012540-2020

Next Date: 24.03.2021

Publication issued to:

General Public

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## Ajaib Singh Convent School



Dr. S.S. Brar

Principal cum Director

I would like to wish a Happy Women's Day to all on behalf of

Major Ajaib Singh Convent school, Faridkot! "So why call her bad? From her, kings are born. From woman, woman is born; Without woman, there would be no one at all." Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji outlined the importance, magnitude and value of women and shows the significant role they play in propagation of the species as well as multiple other roles through thin lines. 'Woman' is a very beautiful creation who fills the world with beautiful colours. Woman is an amalgamation of sacrifice, love, care, mystery, fun, tears, grace and beauty is called a 'Woman'. We need to appreciate women, every day and not only on Women's Day.

## Orthonova Hospital, Jalandhar

Stitch less Endoscopic Spine Surgery

Dr. Harprit Singh  
M.Ch (Ortho) Gold Medallist

Since its inception in 1999, Orthonoval Hospital with its Chief Surgeon Dr. Harprit Singh MS, MCh(Gold Medallist), has succeeded in becoming one of the top most Joint Replacement Centre's of North Region, having performed more than 52000 surgeries, with 99.8% success rate & zero infection rate. Now it has introduced the concept of Stitch less Endoscopic Spine Surgery for the first time in India and has provided relief to more than 350 patients from disc pain & spine problem. Disc pain and Sciatica is a very common problem and affects everyone once in a lifetime. It can lead to severe pain, distress & loss of mobility. Usually it is controlled by drugs, exercise & physiotherapy, but in some severe cases, surgery is required. Gone are the days when surgery was extensive and patient had to be bedridden. Now it is a stitch less surgery and the patient can walk after one hour of sur-

gery. Similarly in old people, due to degenerative disc disease or nerve compression, pain can be unbearable. Stitch less spine surgery is a boon for

them. It takes ½-1 hour for one level operation and the patient is made to walk in one hour. There may or may not be a stitch to the entry point. Patient can assume normal functions in one day's time. This technique is available only in Orthonoval Hospital, Jalandhar. This procedure requires extensive training and proper knowledge of spine anatomy & precise hand movements. Gone are the days of conventional spine operations where a big incision was given and the bone was cut & then nerves dissected, sometimes they used to get paralyzed. This is the story of past. This technique can also be used in case of previously operated cases also which had been unsuccessful. Videos: <https://youtube.com/c/OrthonovalHospitalJalandhar>, Website: [www.orthonova.in](http://www.orthonova.in), Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/orthonovahospitals>.

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# The Tribune

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## Primacy for Quad

Moving from physical to comprehensive security

**C**HINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi could not have been more mistaken when he dismissed the Quad in 2018 as a 'headline-grabbing idea that would dissipate like sea foam'. The first overseas trip by US Defence Secretary Austin Lloyd will be to Asia and not the NATO headquarters. US President Joe Biden has prioritised a Quad summit over confabulations with European leaders. The foundation was laid with a Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting initiated by the month-and-a-half-old US administration. The US President is being roasted for not being fast enough on Iran and Yemen, but he was not found wanting as far as the Quad is concerned. This is in sync with the Biden administration's first memorandum on the subject that prioritises China as the 'number one challenge'.

The renewed commitment by the Quad during Covid has been remarkable. The India-Russia summit was called off last year ostensibly due to the pandemic, but US Secretaries of State and Defence travelled to Delhi to keep the momentum going. The Quad Foreign Ministers, too, had touched base in Tokyo while the pandemic raged. Together, each country has its unique collection of strategic challenges emanating from China. What is common so far is their fear of China's aggressive territorial grabs and the gradual but inevitable militarisation of the Belt and Road Initiative. But China's ongoing National People's Congress has thrown up new imperatives that India can ignore at its peril.

Beijing is making big bets on emerging technologies and the Biden administration has recognised the formalisation of China's ambitions by resolving to escalate the battle against 'techno-autocracies'. Despite lending its military shoulder to the US-Japan-Australia troika in the South China Sea, India has found little comfort from Washington and Tokyo in its strategic journey to acquire or develop cutting-edge technologies. Now that China has also resolved to pour funds into Tibet to build an important passageway opening to South Asia, maritime security cannot be the Quad's only calling card. The forthcoming Quad summit should set the stage for partnership not just in physical but in all aspects of security, including technological.

## Nab the big fish

Punjab must get to the bottom of the illicit liquor trade

**T**HERE is more than what meets the eye in cases of bootlegging and illicit liquor trade in Punjab. That in more than 1,700 FIRs registered under the Excise Act, the accused — including the elderly — have managed to outrun the cops cannot be merely attributed to the substandard level of physical fitness of the police personnel. It lends credence to the rampant allegations of the politician-police-criminal nexus that have been doing the rounds since long. Whether it is the SAD-BJP alliance or the Congress in power, leaders of rival parties regularly trade charges of political patronage to the lucrative illicit business.

The latest spark for these allegations was the Majha hooch tragedy which claimed the lives of more than 110 persons in Tarn Taran, Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts in July-August last year. Yet, despite the Chief Minister immediately ordering a crackdown and the state police chief monitoring the investigations, it is just the small fish and not the sharks that are netted by the authorities. But soon after in September, when the probe into the liquor racket was shifted by the ED from Punjab to Delhi, AAP leaders accused the authorities adopting delaying and obstructing tactics. Even as the Opposition smells a thriving multi-crore booze scam and resultant loss of thousands of crores of rupees of the state's revenue, action on the ground leaves a lot to be desired.

The seizure of a huge quantity of illicit liquor and raw material used for its distillation during a raid on an Amritsar premises last week points to the absolute lack of fear of the law by the offenders, who may even be out of jail on bail. The well-oiled network of distillers and liquor racketeers will keep flourishing till the kingpins are brought to book. And, sadly, the spectre of another spurious liquor tragedy striking anytime — wreaking havoc on unsuspecting consumers — will continue to loom large.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform. — Diane Mariechild

## ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

# The Tribune.

LAHORE, TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1921

## An Indefensible Appointment.

WHILE the recent revival of the Chair of Philosophy in the Government College, Lahore, which was abolished some years ago, is undoubtedly a step in the right direction, we cannot help thinking that the reported appointment to this Chair of a gentleman whose subject is English is indefensible. Against the gentleman personally we have not a word to say, and we share the general feeling of all who know him that his promotion to the Indian Educational Service is fully deserved. But obviously the proper thing for the authorities to do is to give him an English chair; or, at any rate, some other job where a special knowledge of what is at present a highly technical subject is not required. The decision is all the more amazing in view of the fact that the authorities might for the mere asking have the services for this very post of a distinguished Punjabi scholar who has not only made a special study of philosophy and is the actual holder of high academic degrees, but who for years has been serving as a senior professor of philosophy at the premier College in another province. It is common knowledge that the gentleman is anxious to come back to his own Province, for the reason that the climate of the place where he is now does not suit him. Persistence in this proposal to put a round peg in a square hole, to appoint an "English" man to a Philosophy Chair could only be intelligible on the hypothesis that in the opinion of the authorities concerned the office exists for the man. Let us hasten to add that according to our information the responsibility for this appointment does not rest either with the present Director of Public Instruction or with the Indian Minister in charge of Education. If this information is correct, we do hope they will lose no time in revising the arrangement and setting things right, now that their attention is publicly drawn to the matter.

# The emerging vote bank

More and more women have begun to vote on issues that affect them directly



NEERJA CHOWDHURY

SENIOR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR

**A**NOTHER March 8 is here. This year's global theme for Women's Day is 'Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a Covid-19 world'. It underlines the need for greater women's representation in leadership roles, so as to face the new challenges that have been thrown up by the pandemic.

In India, women who helm political parties or represent people in Parliament and Assemblies are not large in numbers, but some have been making waves. Two women hogged the headlines last week — Mamata Banerjee and Sasikala.

The feisty Mamata accepted the BJP's challenge to contest only from one constituency — Nandigram — where she will face her one-time lieutenant, Suvendu Adhikari, who helped her win the battle of Nandigram which catapulted her to power in 2011. But he has now joined the BJP.

Whatever be the outcome of the battle for Bengal — and the BJP is pulling out all stops, with the PM to address 20 meetings, Amit Shah many more — it is 'Bengal's daughter' Mamata who has become the central theme of poll 2021, and the biggest symbol of the fight against the Modi-Shah politics.

The challenge for her is not just to retain power, or for Modi-Shah to wrest it from her; it is to put out a blueprint for how they are going to grapple with the unprecedented situation brought on by the pandemic. More women lost their jobs than men. Girls are being pulled out of school, subjected to sexual violence, and married early so that they are not a burden on their families, negating the gains of the last 25 years.

The International Women's Day, celebrated since the start of the UN



INFORMED: Political awareness is growing by leaps and bounds in women. TRIBUNE PHOTO

It'll be in the fitness of things if the new Parliament can commence its functioning with a law to give one-third representation to the women of India.

Women's Decade in 1975, is an occasion to honour women. But it is also

time to take stock, and this year to look again at women's abysmally low participation in politics.

Women in India have breached every ceiling, as lawyers, corporate heads, scientists, pilots, you name it they are there. But in the Lok Sabha, they are just over 14%, and 2019 showed an improvement of 3%, mainly because of the impressive strike rate (over 70%) of the women who fought on the BJP ticket. Their w innability — an argument made against giving women tickets — was more than that of male candidates. But 74 years after Independence, surely that is not good enough?

The numbers in state Assemblies are even more pathetic. This, when women are coming out in larger numbers to vote. In several states they outnumber the men. In 'Bihar 2020', women voters were 5% more than men.

Women are also slowly evolving as a vote bank. There were instances of women voting together on an issue — like Ram Mandir in UP in the '90s. The joke used to be that women in Mulayam Singh Yadav's family had voted against his party. Or after Indira Gandhi's

assassination in 1984, when more women (5%) came out to vote than men.

Of late, they have begun to vote on the issues that affect them directly, like prohibition, which reduces domestic violence and releases more money for basic necessities. Prohibition — and cycles for girls to go to school — won Nitish Kumar the loyalty of women voters. It is they who bailed him out of a sticky situation last year.

Mamata has also been assiduously cultivating the women's constituency, giving more tickets to women, and encouraging TMC women MPs to speak fearlessly. Mahua Moitra is emerging as the most strident critic of the BJP government in the Lok Sabha.

Political awareness is growing by leaps and bounds in women. The large number of protesting women from farming families who camped on Delhi borders sleeping out in the open during winter months would have been unthinkable some years ago. The powerful khaps in the Jat community that have held a conservative view about the role women should play encouraged their participation. Protesting women farmers have made it to the covers of international magazines.

It is the grandmothers who led the

grew up to be a wonderful woman. She set an example of resilience and grace for one and all. They are both long gone, but this Women's Day, I thank them for their unique contribution in my life.

Finally, my eyes browse through Google as I look for this year's theme chosen by the United Nations. It is 'Women in leadership'. There is an instant reflection — I think of Queen Elizabeth II; the Forbes list doesn't miss my eye too. I think of all the women I know or have known and conclude — no one is greater or lesser; all did their best to their abilities and circumstances; all are great leaders who have made a difference as career women or homemakers.

## To women who made a difference

### HARLEEN GURUNAY MAJITHIA

**W**Omen have always been equals. Only, their form is different. Yes, their style is different. And certainly, their language is different. It is a fact and that is that. Therefore, I often wonder the need for highlighting Women's Day. Every year, the United Nations declares a theme for it. There is a lot of activism around this date. Sometimes I feel that the more they point out that women need to be treated equally, the more they are likely to remain an underdog in the collective minds of people.

Am I being mean? Have I outright dismissed the heavy history of the struggle for women's civil and politi-

cal rights and the need to celebrate it? Should I look back? I conjure up events in my head — the horror that so many women had to endure and the social milieu of yesteryear. I get shaken. I open my eyes.

Now, I sit straight, and thank that supreme light for being born in freedom, born in good times. We have come a long way, yet we know there are still many suffering helplessly. Albeit, we should thank all the women who walked the line of fire to bring this change and to bring us to this point in time. It must not have been easy for them. When you read auto-biographies and memoirs of women, like Ruth Bader Ginsburg or even Priyanka Chopra, you realise

how much grit and effort it has taken for them to bring about a change or make their own way. These are women who dared and razed the less-travelled pathways for the younger generations of women.

My reverie takes me closer home now. I think about the two women in my family, whose stories I had heard and whose actions I had seen closely — my paternal and maternal grandmothers. These women were special in their own way. The former got married to an officer, yet chose to work and become an officer herself, breaking the glass ceiling. The latter was orphaned at a young age, in the violent Partition, but in spite of such loss in early childhood, she

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Regulate tech giants

The monopolistic attitude of technology giants has put these companies in a circle of negativity. Complaints have been filed against Facebook and Google all over the world for their way of capturing the market. One example is the way Facebook acquired WhatsApp and Instagram to snuff out competition. The government had to issue a notice to Twitter for tweets of hashtag 'farmer genocide'. WhatsApp's new privacy policy is also a matter of concern. The time has come for collaborative action against them. They have become so powerful that all nations will have to come forward to restrain them.

JASKIRAT SINGH BATRA, MUKTSAR

#### Vaccine rumours

The moment the whole nation had been eagerly waiting to deal with the deadly Covid-19 virus has arrived. But the whole nation is bound with fear and apprehension regarding the vaccine. Rumours are being spread, mainly on social media, regarding the side-effects of the vaccine. Every vaccine has some side-effects. Taking the vaccine is voluntary but one should not spread rumours to confuse others.

MANVI MALHOTRA, BY MAIL

#### Live the Army credo

The news item that JCO(s) will also be making a presentation during a conference being attended by the CDS and other senior commanders is a good thing. It augurs well for the Army as the PM will learn about the problems being faced by jawans, first hand from JCOs. However, the CDS is known to create an impression that the welfare of JCOs and ORs is more dear to him. It has the connotations that their welfare is being neglected by officers these days and he is trying to redress the situation. This is not true. Their welfare is at the heart of their immediate Officer Commanding.

Besides the pretensions of the CDS, it has dangerous ramifications — creating dangerous divisions between officers and men. Let the credo of the IMA: 'The safety, honour and welfare of...' be prominently displayed at the conference venue. Let the PM see it, read it and assimilate it well.

LT COL GS BEDI (RETD), BY MAIL

#### Pak peace offering

The agreement between Pakistan and India is much needed to avoid future tensions. However, this initiative has raised serious questions in the minds of the public. Pakistan promises to maintain peace along

the border, but breaks that trust every time. Even though the agreement is positive, India needs to be cautious and maintain strict vigil.

ISHITA KUKREJA, LUDHIANA

#### Similipal forest fire

The Bengal elections and the farmers' protests have made headlines over the past weeks. It is surprising that the forest fire raging in the Similipal Forest Reserve hasn't been reported by the mainstream media. The second largest biosphere reserve of Asia, which

is also home to the Bengal tiger, has been burning for days. The Odisha Government claims that there has been no loss of life. Don't animals and trees matter? According to reports, human activities were responsible for the wildfire. Other than the terrible loss of biodiversity, carbon dioxide emissions pose a great threat. Immediate action by the state government is needed.

DIVIJA DEWAN, MOHALI

#### Shayar-philosopher

Reference to 'The man who knew Sahrir inside out'; religious/spiritual scriptures of any faith are loaded with difficult words and phrases that are difficult to understand without a guru. But Sahrir conveyed through simple words the most difficult philosophy of life, like in the song, 'Main zindagi ka saath nibhata chala gaya, gum aur khushi mein farak na mehsoos ho jahan, main dil ko uss mahaam se pata chala gaya' (I just accompanied life, I took life to a destination where there is no difference between sorrow and happiness). Sahrir, the great shayar and philosopher! He is still alive in our hearts in the form of his immortal songs.

RAJESH JOHAR, AMRITSAR

conveyed through simple words the most difficult philosophy of life, like in the song, 'Main zindagi ka saath nibhata chala gaya, gum aur khushi mein farak na mehsoos ho jahan, main dil ko uss mahaam se pata chala gaya' (I just accompanied life, I took life to a destination where there is no difference between sorrow and happiness).

RAVINDER BHUSHAN, KURUKSHETRA

Cut taxes on fuel

The all-time high prices of petrol and diesel have pushed people into financial stress. People are already facing heat due to Covid-induced disruptions. Millions of people have yet to come out from the severe jolts they have experienced on account of breakdown of economic activities. The steep rise in fuel prices needs to be brought down by slashing taxes. Taxes on diesel require considerable reduction because all commercial sectors of the economy are hugely dependent on it. Reduction in retail prices will help revive the economy speedily. Ultimately, the demand will go up, and so will the revenue.

RAVINDER BHUSHAN, KURUKSHETRA

Letters to the Editor, typed in double space, should not exceed the 200-word limit. These should be cogently written and can be sent by e-mail to: Letters@tribunemail.com

# Strategic interests bind Pakistan, Turkey



TILAK DEVASHER

MEMBER, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

Kashmir today. It was Canakkale yesterday and Kashmir today; there is no difference between the two."

Apart from Turkey's support for Pakistan's position on Kashmir at almost every international fora, two recent reports point to a more ominous dimension of this relationship.

The first report is from the Mediterranean-Asian Investigative Journalists titled 'Turkey-Pakistan: Secret Army of Mercenary Journalists' that details how Pakistan and Turkey are creating a joint propaganda team. The key driver of this effort is Erdogan's ambitions to claim the leadership of the Muslim world and the realisation of the grand Ottoman dream. For this, he needs to be projected globally as the champion of the Ummah.

For its part, Pakistan has moved away from the Arab world, miffed at the lukewarm attitude of Saudi Arabia and the UAE towards the Kashmir issue. On the rebound, it has found favour with Turkey that, as a quid pro quo for Pakistan's support in the propaganda effort, is willing to join Pakistan's tirade against India and especially Kashmir.

According to the report, Turkish intelligence agency MIT was working with the ISI and the ISPR to build up a propaganda network centred on the TRT World and Anadolu Agency. These two Turkish media outlets have been hiring several Pakistani and Indian Kashmiri journalists, some of who would be permitted to settle in Turkey. As part of this effort, on March 14, 2019, Anadolu Agency opened its bureau in Pakistan for coordinating the movement of media professionals between both the countries and generating suitable content.

An analysis of the content generated shows that TRT World published more



than 30 negative stories when India abrogated Articles 370 and 35A related to Jammu and Kashmir. The give-away was when Pakistan's Foreign Ministry recommended 14 of them.

Additionally, in September 2019, Turkey, Pakistan, and Malaysia declared their intention to set up a new TV channel under the leadership of Turkey. The report quoted a source working in the Turkish Foreign Ministry confessing that the plan of creating a new media house by Turkey-Pakistan-Malaysia for tackling 'Islamophobia' was actually a

propaganda plan to advance the ambitions of Erdogan to edge out Saudi Arabia as the leader of the Islamic world. Quite likely, recruitment of Malaysian journalists would soon begin as soon as the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

The second report from MEMRI in January 2021 raises concerns that the Turkey-Pakistan partnership could escalate into the nuclear realm with Turkey seeking nuclear weapons technology from Pakistan. Turkey currently has two nuclear reactors-Tr-1 and Tr-2-run by the Turkish Atomic Energy

Authority. According to a transcript published by MEMRI TV, Erdogan, in 2019, expressed Turkey's intention to acquire nuclear weapons, stating: "Some countries have missiles with nuclear warheads, and not just one or two, I, however, am not supposed to have missiles with nuclear warheads. I do not accept this."

In this context, the 2019 annual report of the German State of Baden-Württemberg noted that Pakistan and North Korea were making efforts to procure dual use items for nuclear technology/weapons from Germany that

could "be routed to Pakistan and North Korea through their close ally China besides Turkey."

Much like Pakistan, Erdogan has zeroed in on nuclear weapons to enable the rise of Turkey and the revival of the Ottoman Caliphate. The only Islamic country that could provide Turkey with nuclear technology is Pakistan that has an established track record of nuclear smuggling and proliferation.

Three other elements of the relationship are important. First, the Turkish supply of drones to Azerbaijan was an important factor in its recent war with Armenia. Pakistan is buying drones from Turkey that could be deployed on the border with India. Second, Pakistan and Turkey are considering providing dual nationality to the citizens of the two countries. Third, in its bid to cosy up to Turkey, Pakistan blatantly violated the UN rules when it illegally passed confidential information to Turkey about Turks who had sought refugee status with the UNHCR in Islamabad. The UNHCR office in Islamabad passed the confidential information to the Pakistani government, which in turn handed the list over to the Turkish embassy.

It is clear that Pak-Turkey relations have been taken to the next level under the leadership of Erdogan and Imran Khan. For Turkey, taking potshots at India is well worth Pakistan's support for the ambitions of Erdogan to emerge as the leader of the Ummah, replacing Saudi Arabia. Getting nuclear technology from Pakistan would be the icing on the cake. But with Imran on a shaky domestic wicket, it remains to be seen if Pakistan can stay this dangerous course.

**CHANGING EQUATIONS:** Pakistan has moved away from the Arab world, miffed at the attitude of Saudi Arabia and UAE towards the Kashmir issue. AP/PTI

Views are personal

# Biden wants US edge in tech tussle with China



YOGESH GUPTA

FORMER AMBASSADOR

The United States is determined to deny advanced semiconductor & microchip manufacturing capabilities to China to stay ahead in the global competition. First, the US and its allies would increase their spending on R&D in these technologies and outspend China. Second, the Biden administration is considering to organise alliances to form common rules to block the export of these technologies to China.



**CRITICAL:** The US wants to regain its global technological leadership. REUTERS

designers across the international borders to adopt new techniques.

The global technological leadership of the US rested from 1940s to 1960s on its advanced nuclear weapons. In the 1970s, its lead shifted to smart weapons based on new technologies like microchips.

These chips are now used in a wide range of military equipment like advanced fighter and stealth aircraft, artificial intelligence-based (AI) weapons like drones, autonomous vehicles, radars, missiles, aircraft carriers, informationised war besides consumer electronics, robots, mobile phones and many others.

A microchip is a very small piece of silicon embedded in semiconductors, with electrical circuits, that can hold large quantities of information, perform mathematical and other logical operations. The US, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan have the world's leading semiconductor-manufacturing facilities.

Semiconductor manufacturing is highly skilled and capital-intensive. It spends 15% or more of its annual revenues on research and development (R&D); each generation of technology typically has a life span of two to four years; manufacturers work in tandem with foundries and chip

leading tech companies and 1,000 firms in upstream and downstream industrial chains. It is setting up 18 fabrication units with support from South Korean and Taiwanese experts to make a wide range of semiconductors and microchips.

While China has been successful in developing systems or solution applications of technologies, it only had limited success in mastering core technologies like semiconductors and microchips (it can make chips of 7 nanometre and more but not smaller ones which are more powerful and efficient and needed in strategic applications, like aircraft or space vehicles).

Some of the reasons for its failure include lack of protection of intellectual property, inability to build a highly skilled workforce and lack of global R&D networks. In 2020, China spent about \$300 billion, more than its defence budget, on imports of semi-

conductors and microchips from the US-led transatlantic group (purchasing about 80% of its requirement).

The US is determined to deny the advanced semiconductor and microchip manufacturing capabilities to China to stay ahead in the global competition.

President Biden is considering a dual-track approach. First, the US and its allies would increase their spending on R&D in these technologies and vastly outspend China. The US is presently spending 0.6% (of its GDP) on federal support for R&D against 1.2% under President Reagan (it went down after the end of the Cold War in 1991). China is increasing it to 2.5% of its GDP till 2025.

Second, the Biden administration is considering to organise different alliances with its allies and partners in the areas of exports control, technical standards, AI, biotechnology, 5G, and surveillance technologies to establish common strategies and rules for blocking the export of these technologies to China.

China has warned that such alliances would violate the principles of fair competition and market economy and that it would punish the countries concerned through curbs on supply of rare earths (minerals indispensable for manufacturing mobile phones, electronics and military equipment) and other measures.

China took such steps against Japan in 2010, South Korea in 2013 and Australia and India recently whenever it felt they had taken measures against its strategic interests. Whether the allies and partners of the US would join in enforcing these sanctions remains to be seen.

The semiconductor industry has asked the Biden administration to remove the sanctions applied by

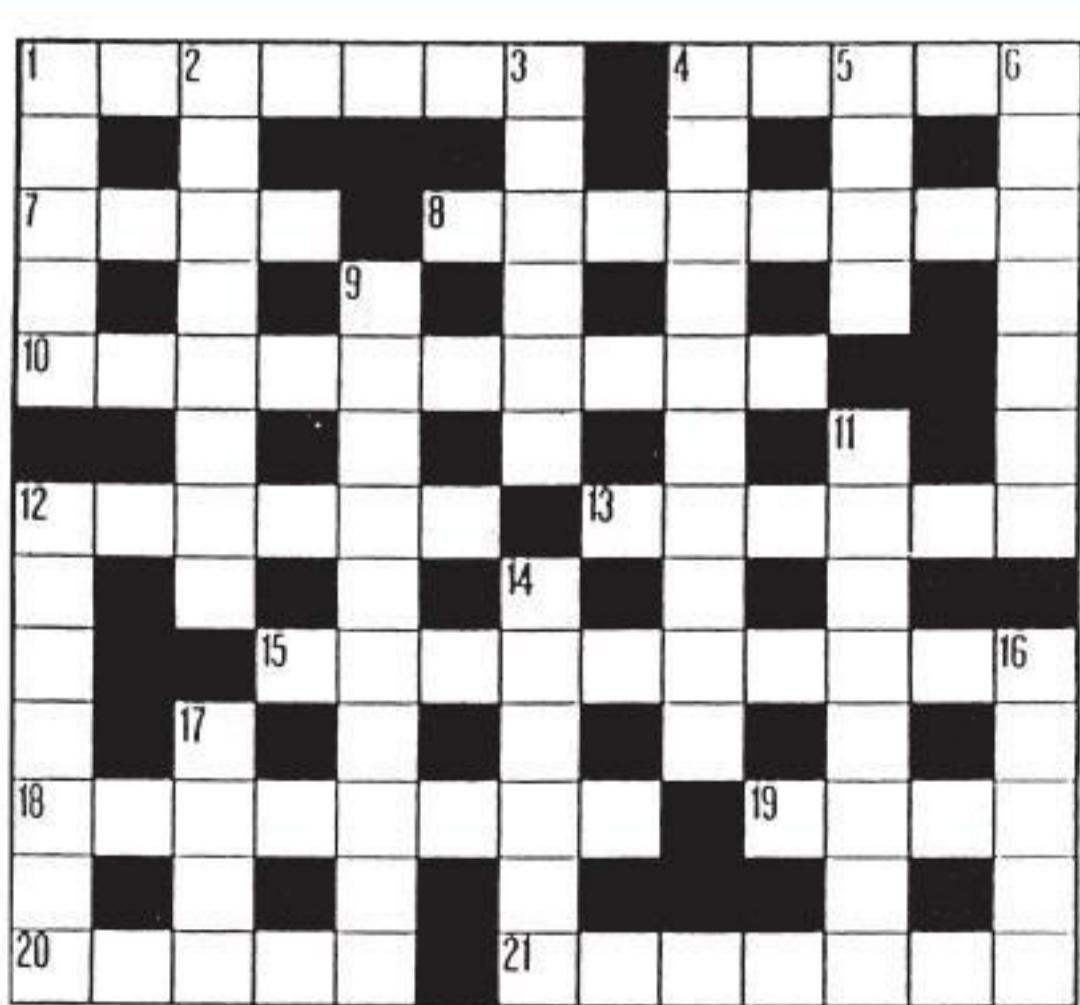
the Trump administration, except on a few critical technologies and assist their R&D efforts through more federal funds. They fear that their manufacturing may become unviable if they are denied access to the Chinese market.

Though many global semiconductor companies have their R&D centres in India, where cutting-edge research work takes place, most semiconductors and chips used in India, are presently imported from China, Taiwan and South Korea. Some attempts were made in the past to set up a wafer (semiconductor) manufacturing facility in Andhra Pradesh, but the project could not take off due to the inability to tie up funding and work out a viable business model including availability of assured demand.

India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had on December 15, 2020, invited expressions of interest from well-established Indian and foreign manufacturers of semiconductors, foundries and consortia for setting up manufacturing facilities or their acquisition from abroad. The Indian Electronics and Semiconductors Association (IESA) is setting up 1,000 startups in these technologies.

The government has recognised that an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' can't depend on imports of these vital materials on foreign countries and India has to be self-reliant in this strategic field. It will have to play a lead role in the beginning to help in arranging necessary investments, provision of essential facilities and assurance of demand to this industry like South Korea, China and other countries until it becomes self-sustaining.

## QUICK CROSSWORD



SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Double-cross, 9 Afront, 10 Ditch, 11 Sore, 12 Inaction, 14 Haste, 16 Slogan, 18 Braggart, 19 Prig, 22 Cedar, 23 Abandon, 24 Play the fool.

Down: 2 Offer, 3 Blow, 4 Extent, 5 Ridicule, 6 Sitting, 7 Pass the buck, 8 Shenanigans, 13 Beggarly, 15 Scandal, 17 Breach, 20 Radio, 21 Calf.

## SU DO KU



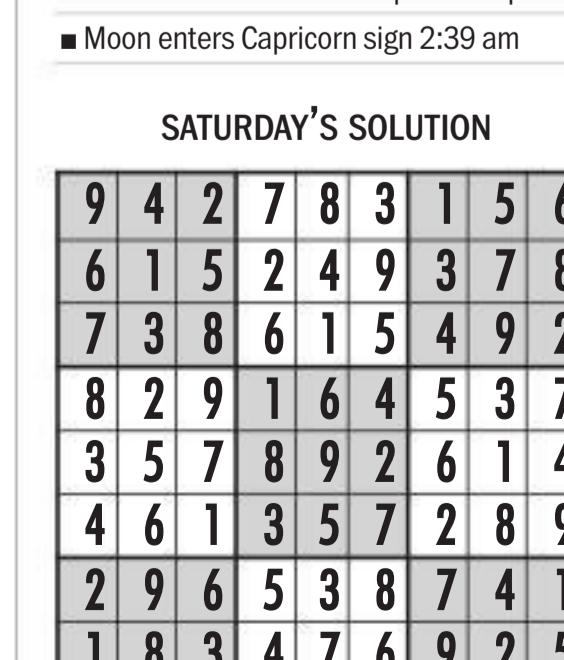
HARD

## CALENDAR

MARCH 8, 2021, MONDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Phalgun Shaka	17
■ Phalgun Parvishtha	25
■ Hijri	1442
■ Krishna Paksha Tithi 10, up to 3.45 pm	
■ Vyatapata Yoga up to 1.50 pm	
■ Purvashadha Nakshatra up to 8:40 pm	
■ Moon enters Capricorn sign 2:39 am	

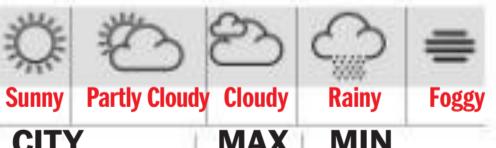
SATURDAY'S SOLUTION



## FORECAST

SUNSET: MONDAY 18:26 HRS

SUNRISE: TUESDAY 06:39 HRS



CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	30	18
New Delhi	31	16
Amritsar	29	16
Bathinda	31	18
Jalandhar	29	16
Ludhiana	28	17
Bhiwani	32	17
Hisar	32	17
Sirsra	32	18
Dharamsala	17	10
Manali	10	02
Shimla	12	06
Srinagar	14	05
Jammu	27	17
Kargil	04	-04
Leh	0	-09
Dehradun	32	12
Mussoorie	17	09

TEMPERATURE IN °C

**PUNJAB EX-SERVICEMEN CORPORATION (PESCO)**

(A Punjab Government Undertaking)

1. PESCO requires medically fit suitable Ex-Servicemen for the appointments on regular basis for posts of General Manager (PP) - 01, Financial Controller - 01, Superintendent - 01, Assistant (Accounts) - 01, PA - 02.
2. For detailed qualification & criteria refer PESCO website - [www.punjabexservicemen.org](http://www.punjabexservicemen.org). Working knowledge of Punjabi and proficiency in computers desirable.
3. Apply with bio-data, PPO and photograph on PESCO email [pesco34chd@yahoo.com](mailto:pesco34chd@yahoo.com) by 22 Mar 2021.
4. Eligible and shortlisted candidates will only be called for Interview/Test.

**Punjab Ex-Servicemen Corporation**  
SCO 89-90, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh  
Contact: 9464281959

DPR/Pb/2288

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT  
TENDER NOTICE****For Establishment & Operation of 05  
Automated Driving Test Tracks**

Request for Proposal (RFP) on Build, Own a Operate (BOO) basis for establishment and operation of 05 Automated Driving Test Tracks (ADTTs) in Punjab at Amritsar, Bathinda, Patiala, Jalandhar & SAS Nagar can be accessed from 11.00 A.M. on 08.03.2021 onwards from the website [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in/nicgep/app](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in/nicgep/app) and last date for submission of bids is 30.03.2021 till 05.00 P.M.

Bidders are required to submit necessary documents/certificates and EMD in support of their eligibility as per the eligibility criteria stated in the terms & conditions. Bidders shall be required to meet the eligibility criteria in both technical & financial eligibility. Bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria shall be shortlisted for further opening of their financial bids.

For any information please contact Nodal Officer at [trackdriving9@gmail.com](mailto:trackdriving9@gmail.com) Phone No. 0172-2771194.

Sd/- Transport Commissioner, Punjab,  
S.C.O. 177/178, Sector 17-C,  
Chandigarh.

DPR/Pb/2266

**IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, HARYANA  
(MICRO IRRIGATION & COMMAND AREA  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - MICADA)  
(UNDER-GROUND PIPELINE AND MICRO-IRRIGATION)****QUOTATIONS**

Quotations/Applications are invited online from reputed Manufacturers/Suppliers for supply of HDPE & PVC based Under-ground Pipeline (**UGPL**); HDPE & Aluminum based Sprinkler system; Mini-sprinkler and Drip irrigation systems for registration for a period of 3 years. The interested Manufacturer/ Supplier may submit the application Online on [www.cadaharyana.nic.in](http://www.cadaharyana.nic.in) website from 10.00 AM on 07.03.2021 to 5.00 PM on 21.03.2021. The applications/rate quotations received online within the prescribed date will be opened at 11.00 AM on 22.03.2021 and finalized in due course of time. The application received by post will not be entertained. The details of requisite documents, Terms & Conditions for registration can be downloaded from the Websites [www.cadaharyana.nic.in](http://www.cadaharyana.nic.in) under icon 'UGPL & MI - 2021-22'.

Administrator  
Command Area Development Authority,  
Haryana, Panchkula

PRDH/1129/113/2021/2083/314

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT  
TENDER NOTICE****For Establishment & Operation of 06  
Automotive Testing Stations (ATS)**

Tenders are invited on Build, Own & Operate (BOO) basis for establishment and operation of 06 Automotive Testing Stations (ATS) in Punjab at Batala, Patiala, Ludhiana, Faridkot, Ropar and Barnala. Tender Document can be accessed from 11.00 A.M. on 08.03.2021 onwards from the website [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in/nicgep/app](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in/nicgep/app) and last date for submission of tender is 06.04.2021 till 05.00 P.M.

Bidders are required to submit necessary documents/certificates and EMD in support of their eligibility as per the eligibility criteria stated in the terms & conditions. Bidders shall be required to meet the eligibility criteria in both technical & financial eligibility. Bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria shall be shortlisted for further opening of their financial bids.

For any information please contact Nodal Officer ATS at [nodalatspb@gmail.com](mailto:nodalatspb@gmail.com) Phone No. 0172-2771194.

Sd/- State Transport Commissioner, Punjab,  
S.C.O. 177/178, Sector 17-C, Chandigarh.

DPR/Pb/2270

**Annexure-A****E-TENDER NOTICE**

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Paonta Sahib invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work(s) through e-tendering process:-

JOB No. 1

Name of Work : Providing LWSS to 6th IRBN at Daula Kuan in Tehsil Paonta Sahib Distt. Sirmour (H.P) (SH- Drilling lowering, assembling & development of 1 No. T/well 80 Mr. Deep or Bed rock which ever is earlier.

Estimated Cost : ₹. 7,90,44/-

Earnest Money : ₹. 15,800/-

Cost of Tender : ₹. 250/-

Time of Completion : Six (6) Months.

Last date of filing/ uploading the tender through e-tendering 15.03.2021 up to 11:00 a.m.

JOB No. 2

Name of Work : Providing, installation and Maintenance of Real Time Water Quality Monitoring Section at Yamuna River under Jal Shakti Division Paonta Sahib Distt. Sirmour as per directions from Honorable NGT.

Estimated Cost : ₹. 48,35,209/-

Earnest Money : ₹. 80,100/-

Cost of Tender : ₹. 800/-

Time of Completion : Six (6) Months.

Last date of filing/ uploading the tender through e-tendering 15.03.2021 up to 11:00 a.m.

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

DPR/HP/6333 HIM SUCHANA AND JAN SAMPAK

**APPOINTMENT**

Applications are invited for the following post at **Sub Joginder Singh, PVC, ESM Canteen Nawanshahr**. Interested ESM, Dependents of ESM and Civilians may apply for the posts mentioned below. The appointment will be on contractual basis for a period of **350 days**. Preference will be given to ESM, Dependents of ESM followed by Civilians. The candidates are required to submit application along with Biodata addressed to **The Commanding Officer, 129 SATA Regt, Pin - 927129, C/o 56 APO by 31 Mar, 2021**. Only those candidates meeting the QR will be called for interview.

Post	Vacancy	Qualification
Asstt. Manager	01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 12th Class with knowledge in Commerce/Accounts and Knowledge of Computer (MS Excel is a must).</li> <li>• Residents of Jalandhar/Nawanshahr. Age-Not exceeding 55 Years.</li> </ul>
UDC (Clerk)	01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 12th Class with knowledge in Commerce/Accounts and Knowledge of Computer (MS Excel is a must).</li> <li>• Residents of Jalandhar/Nawanshahr. Age-Not exceeding 55 Years.</li> </ul>
Store Keeper	01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 12th Class with knowledge in Commerce/Accounts and Knowledge of Computer (MS Excel is a must).</li> <li>• Residents of Jalandhar/Nawanshahr. Age-Not exceeding 55 Years.</li> </ul>
Billing Clerk	04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 12th Class with knowledge in Commerce/Accounts and Knowledge of Computer (MS Excel is a must).</li> <li>• Residents of Jalandhar/Nawanshahr. Age-Not exceeding 55 Years.</li> </ul>
Care Taker	03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 8th Class.</li> <li>• Age-Not exceeding 45 Years.</li> </ul>
Helper	02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 8th Class.</li> <li>• Age-Not exceeding 45 Years.</li> </ul>

**Now, Cabinet nod not required for govt land transfer**PRADEEP SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 7

The BJP-JJP government has made the transfer of land belonging to the government, municipal bodies and panchayat for public purpose transparent and hassle-free. This will speed up development projects.

Under the "Policy for transfer of government, municipal bodies and gram panchayat lands for public purposes", there would be no need for approval from the Council of Ministers for the land transfer from one government department to another.

However, the Chief Minister's approval would be required though no prior concurrence of the Finance Department would be effected at collector rates. Similarly, the transfer of panchayat land to any department would be done at the rate prescribed in the Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Rules, 1964.

"In case, land has to be transferred to the Centre at rates less than the collector rates, a committee headed by the Chief Secretary will examine the matter and place the proposal before the Council of Ministers after the CM's approval," the notification added.

**WHY NEW POLICY**

Some difficulties have been observed in dealing with transfer of land belonging to the government, municipal bodies and panchayats. Therefore, there is need to frame a policy for transfer of land from one department to another for public purpose. **◆◆◆**

Sanjeev Kaushal, FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER REVENUE

current of the Finance and the Revenue Departments would be required by the acquiring department.

The transfer of municipal land to the government department would be effected at collector rates. Similarly, the transfer of panchayat land to any department would be done at the rate prescribed in the Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Rules, 1964.

"The note left behind by the deceased shows the extent of anguish among the protesting farmers as a result of utter insensitivity of the Modi government," said Inderjeet Singh, an SKM leader.

**Hisar farmer ends life at Tikri**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JHAJJAR, MARCH 7

A 48-year-old farmer ended his life by hanging himself from a tree at the Tikri-Bahadurgarh border on Sunday. He left a note, blaming the three contentious farm laws for the extreme step.

The deceased, who was participating in the farmers' agitation, has been identified as Rajbir of Sisay village in Hisar district. The incident came to light when fellow farmers spotted his body hanging from the tree near the Kasar village turn in the wee hours of today and informed the police.

In a suicide note, Rajbir called upon the farmers to go back home only after the three farm laws were repealed and the minimum support price (MSP) was guaranteed.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), Haryana, has expressed grief over the tragic incident.

"The note left behind by the deceased shows the extent of anguish among the protesting farmers as a result of utter insensitivity of the Modi government," said Inderjeet Singh, an SKM leader.

He claimed these sacrifices



Villagers at the cremation of Rajbir in Hisar on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

**32-YR-OLD KARNAL FARMER DIES AT SINGHU**

Karnal: A 32-year-old farmer, Harinder Singh, a resident of Thari village in the district, was found dead under mysterious circumstances at the Singhu border on Sunday morning. Harinder owned two acres agricultural land and he was participating in the farmers' protest against the three farm laws ever since the dharna was started there on November 27. **TNS**

tionaries of the government have turned a blind eye to the happenings at the Delhi borders," said Baljit Sihag, another villager.

The family owns one acre land which was the sole means of livelihood for the family. The victim's farmer has been an active participant in the protest at Tikri border.

Rajesh Singh, another villager, said despite meagre resources to support the family, Rajbir was a man of progressive thought. "He has a 24-year-old daughter Pinki, who is pursuing MSc and a 21-year-old son Manjeet," said Singh.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), Haryana, has expressed a deep sense of grief on the tragic incident.

**23 students test positive in Kaithal village**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, MARCH 7

A total of 23 students of Government Senior Secondary School, Kharka village, in Kaithal district have tested positive for Covid-19. Their samples were collected on Friday and reports came on Sunday.

Confirming the results, Sujan Singh, Deputy Commissioner, Kaithal, said 23 students tested positive and most of them were asymptomatic and in home quarantine.

"Since, almost all the students are asymptomatic and they have the space for the home quarantine at their residences, so they have been kept in home quarantine," said the DC, adding that their samples were taken in random sampling of RT-PCR.

He said Haryana would be the first state in the history of the country where the pay-

ment for the crop would reach the farmer in his own bank account or in the account of the arthiya within 48 hours of submitting the J-Form.

He said so far 7.25 lakh farmers of the state had registered themselves on the Meri Fasal Mera Byora portal for the sale of wheat. Not only this, 1,03

lakh farmers of neighbouring states had also registered themselves on the portal.

He claimed Haryana was the first state to complete the first batch of Phase-III of the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana. In this batch, 690-km length of rural roads came under Haryana at a cost of Rs 383.58 crore. Apart from this, Haryana became the first state to achieve another success under the same scheme as it got the approval for the Phase-II just two days ago on March 5, 2021. This includes getting approval for 120 roads to be built at a cost of about Rs 550 crore. He said the total length of these roads sanctioned for 14 districts of the state was 1,217 km.

He asserted that any gram sabha which did not want liquor vends to open in its village, could pass the proposal and send it to the government through its DC by March 15.

There are several problems facing the common man such as the three farm laws, inflation, deteriorating law and order situation and unemployment. **◆◆◆**

There are several problems facing the common man such as the three farm laws, inflation, deteriorating law and order situation and unemployment. **◆◆◆**

them in the private sector.

On the 'G-23' group of Congress leaders who wrote a letter to party chief Sonia Gandhi demanding organisational overhaul, he said the party was united and there was no conflict.

Hooda also criticised the state government over the sports policy and said honouring players, who brought laurels for the country on the global stage, should be the priority of every government.

"The sports policy is an indicator of a country's development. The stronger the policy, the stronger the country," he added.

**Wheat procurement from Apr 1**

400 centres to be set up | Barley to be procured on MSP

**MSP ON SIX CROPS**

Haryana is the only state in the country where six crops — wheat, mustard, pulses, gram, sunflower, and barley — are bought at MSP. **◆◆◆**

Dushyant Chautala, DEPUTY CM

who has been posed as Chief Protocol Officer, Gurugram, and Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Panipat, Jag Niwas as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jhajjar; Dr Subhita Dhaka as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Nuh, and District Municipal Commissioner, Nuh.

Bharat Bhushan goes as Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Ratia, Shikha as Managing Director, Cooperative Sugar Mills, Kaithal, Vinesh Kumar as General Manager, Haryana Roadways, Panchkula.

8  
MARCH

# Women's Day Special

The Tribune Marketing Supplement

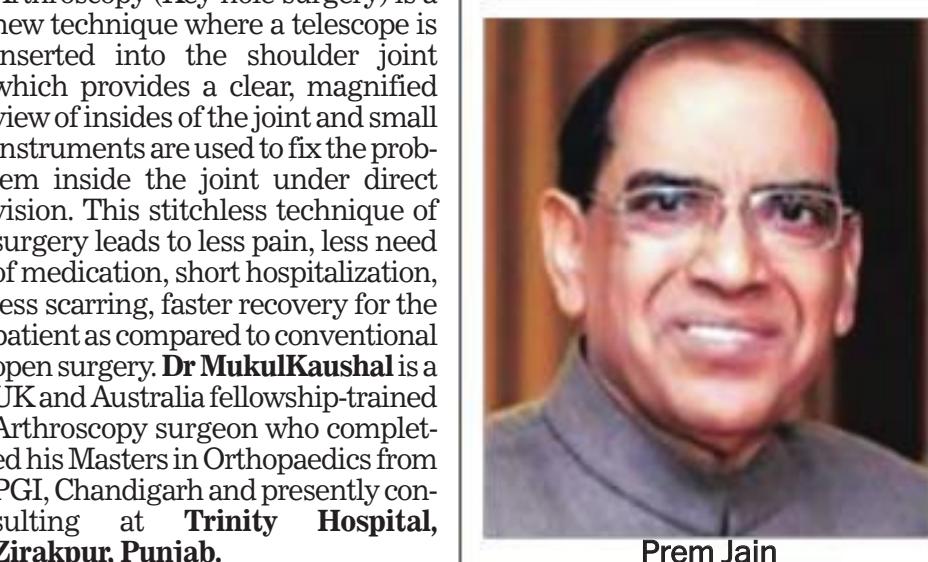


**Mohit Mohindra**  
General Secretary,  
Punjab Youth Congress

IT'S Women's Day and today we celebrate the milestones and accolades achieved by women around the world. We must celebrate the way women have championed the cause of equality and certain barriers and glass ceilings have been shattered. But today, we must also acknowledge and celebrate the struggles, big or small, of women who have pushed for gender parity in their own unique way and irrespective of the success of these

## Understanding Shoulder Pain

Shoulder Pain is one of the common issues plaguing the normal ageing population. It can lead to difficulty in using the affected extremity for overhead activities, trouble sleeping at night on affected shoulder and can make simple tasks like combing one's hair, putting on a shirt a seem like a herculean task. When it comes to shoulder pain, getting the right diagnosis and treatment can save needless suffering and, in some cases, prevent additional impairment. The rotator cuff is a group of muscles and tendons that surround the shoulder joint. They can become irritated from repeated rubbing against the shoulder bone. This is called shoulder impingement syndrome or rotator cuff tendinitis. Though impingement syndrome sometimes gets better on its own, it usually improves faster with physical therapy and anti-inflammatory medicine or a cortisone shot. Nowadays, the cuff tears are treated by advanced arthroscopic techniques. Arthroscopy (Key-hole surgery) is a new technique where a telescope is inserted into the shoulder joint which provides a clear, magnified view of the joint and small instruments are used to fix the problem inside the joint under direct vision. This stitchless technique of surgery leads to less pain, less need of medication, short hospitalization, less scarring, faster recovery for the patient as compared to conventional open surgery. Dr Mukul Kaushal is a UK and Australia fellowship-trained Arthroscopy surgeon who completed his Masters in Orthopaedics from PGI, Chandigarh and presently consulting at Trinity Hospital, Zirakpur, Punjab.



## Every Day Should be Women's Day

struggles, we should salute the thought and efforts behind that struggle. On one hand, it is historic and remarkable to see women like Kamala Harris and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw making a mark for themselves on the world map. While on the other hand, as a Punjabi, my heart is filled with immense pride when I see Punjabi women holding their own at Delhi borders and playing a significant role in the farmers' movement. As the son of a mother with farming background and a father who's politically engaged in fighting for the rights of the farmers, it's invigorating to see images of old ladies carrying flags and driving tractors. As we celebrate the cause that these women have stood up for, we must also accept the glaring loopholes in our society that have led to an unfair gender power dynamic that doesn't seem to go away, no matter how much we want it. Lot of atrocities and crimes are committed against women in our country, including domestic violence both in rural and urban areas. This is a big blot on our

society and is telling of the fact that we still have a long way to go. As a youth leader, empowerment of women, to me, means whenever she can make and exercise her own choices and has the right to live her life the way she wants. When a woman is given absolute control of her life, it is when we come closer to achieving equality. In India, the biggest contribution of women in the process of nation-building has been as home-makers and providers. The hands that nurture children are invariably responsible for shaping the future generations. There are millions of homemakers in India who clean, cook and maintain family finances, and are an essential part of the wheel that runs the country. This goes on to prove that a woman's choice, may it be a 'stay at home mom' or a 'high achiever at work place' should be respected and celebrated. Another way to achieve gender parity is to have more representation of women in the Parliament and legislative assemblies. Studies around the world have shown that women-led countries

## Advanced Clinical Skill & Simulation

### Centre at MM (DU), Mullana

The centre is spread over an extensive area of 15000sqfeet and built at an approx. cost of Rs. 20 Cr. The laboratory has the most advanced mannequins and simulators that closely simulate humans which can breathe, cry, blink, bleed and respond either automatically or manually to the physical and medical interventions. The Skill and Simulation facility also has Adult Patient Simulator, Paediatrics and Neonatal Simulator, Infant and Child mannequins in virtual Intensive Care Units (ICU), Paediatric-ICU and operation theatre modules to provide real-time experience and to teach skills for handling complex case scenario. The Centre has facilities for advanced training in laparoscopy, arthroscopy, endoscopy, colonoscopy, bronchoscopy, urological procedures, angiography and gynaecological procedures and ultrasound imaging

with the help of most advanced Simulation Trainers. All these advanced mannequins and skill trainers in the laboratory will help in building efficient medical & nursing teams to deal with real time emergency & trauma, disaster management and handling of all medical and surgical emergencies. Sh. Pokhriyal congratulated Hon'ble Chancellor M.M. (Deemed to be University), Sh. Tarsem Garg for establishing such a large laboratory and emphasised the role of skill and simulation in clinical training and added that this laboratory will make M.M. (D.U) one of the top universities in the world in terms of clinical training. Mr. Pokhriyal took keen interest in exploring and knowing more about the various simulation modules and stations. He appreciated the incorporation of the latest technologies in medical education and training at MM(DU).

### KALA MANDIR

#### Ambala Cantt

Kala Mandir is a one stop showroom for wedding shopping for brides having outstanding quality at fair prices. This is the hallmark of Kala Mandir which has developed a strong bond with customers ever since its inception in 1975. It is exclusively devoted to women for their need of sarees, lehangas, designer suits, western dresses and all kinds of dress materials. Centrally located, and fully air-conditioned, Kala Mandir offers a wide and exclusive variety of designs, styles, shades & colours to meet the high expectation of the discerning customers. The shop,

which was started by Jain Brothers has grown by leaps and bounds in the last four decades. Since Kala Mandir has no other branch, customers flock to buy all women's wear as well as men's dress material & pure shawls from Kala Mandir. Customer satisfaction is the main motto here. "Your sole visit shall enhance your capacity to purchase the best from the oldest cloth outlet of the region M/s Kala Mandir, which is equipped with modern textiles where optimum savings can be made in wedding purchases under single roof" opines Mr. Prem Jain. Mr. Kamal Jain attributes the success story of Kala Mandir to the love and affection of its customers.

## WOMAN POWER



Rajni Lawrence  
Director, Lawrence's IELTS Academy

I wish a Happy International Women's Day to all, especially the illustrious ladies for making a huge contribution to society by adding more value to many lives through their meaningful acts. Women are indeed the best home-makers and their active participation and contribution, both at the domestic front and the professional world is indeed commendable. Women are recognised for their inherent potential not only in the modern times but were also acknowledged as the backbone in ancient human societies too. The Feminine mystique is indeed unique that's why our country is known as 'Bharat Mata' and our blue-green planet as 'Mother Earth'. May the Divine Spirit of Mother Nature pervade our lives with benign blessings, health and wealth for all!!

LUDHIANA reached an important milestone in knee replacement as it became the first city in Northern India to have the world's most widely adopted US FDA approved Makro Robotic Arm-Assisted Technology. The first Makro System in Northern India has been installed at Hunjan Hospital. The launch comes as an important milestone for Hunjan Hospital and Stryker, in their endeavour to bring the most advanced technology and treatment for patients suffering from knee joint disorders. Makro Robotic Arm-Assisted Surgery System enables surgeons to deliver more predictable surgical outcomes with increased accuracy. Dr. BS Hunjan, Director and Joint Replacement Surgeon at Hunjan Hospital, while highlighting the difference between conventional and Makro Robotic Arm-Assisted Surgery explained that one of the challenges with traditional surgery is that surgical accuracy depends on the surgeon's experience and technique. Makro Robotic Arm-Assisted Surgery System allows surgeons to make precise bone cuts on the diseased joint, every single time. He stated that "First 8 patients that we operated on have shown encouraging results. With Makro, we have been able to know

more about our patients than ever before and we are able to cut less. For some patients, this can mean less soft tissue damage and for others greater bone preservation." Dr. Jaiveer Hunjan, Consultant Orthopaedics at Hunjan Hospital further added, "While conventional knee replacement surgeries have been improving life of patients effectively over last three decades, the Makro System will enhance our accuracy significantly. As suggested by the literature and our experience with initial surgeries, we have seen tremendous patient benefits such as precise planning and bone cuts, more bone and soft tissue preservation, less post-op pain, faster recovery, quicker discharge and less blood loss." Speaking on the technology, Dr. BS Hunjan said, "This technology has the potential to transform the way knee replacement surgeries are performed. I am sure a day will come when this technology will be a Standard of Care in every operating room. We are very proud to bring world class care to the doorstep of patients in Punjab." Each patient's bone anatomy is different, and arthritis further tends to alter the diseased joint. In case of a knee or hip surgery, Makro System's software helps create a 3D model of the diseased joint based on the patient's CT scan. The software then allows creating a personalized virtual surgical plan for each patient, based on their specific disease condition. And once the plan is locked, the Makro Robotic Arm-Assisted Surgery System assists the surgeon in executing the bone cuts in the operation theatre. Congratulating Hunjan Hospital on this important milestone, Ms. Meenakshi Neeravita, the Vice President and Managing Director of Stryker India, said, "We are very happy to partner with Hunjan Hospital and it is indeed a proud moment for Stryker. Our common vision of bringing newer innovations and making healthcare better makes our partnership with the hospital very special. We are truly excited about the potential impact on serving patients needing knee replacement across Northern India."

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# Congress, BJP gear up for D'sala, Palampur MC poll

LALIT MOHAN  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, MARCH 7 Both the Congress and ruling BJP are gearing up for Dharamsala and Palampur municipal corporation elections scheduled by the end of March.

The BJP has appointed Minister for Forest Rakesh Pathania as in charge for elections to Dharamsala municipal corporation and Minister for Industry and Transport Bikram Thakur in charge for Palampur municipal corporation elections.

The Congress has appointed former HPCC president Sukhwinder Sukhu as in charge for Dharamsala and former minister Kaul Singh Thakur for elections to Palampur. The elections hold great significance for both the key parties as the state Cabinet has decided to hold these on party symbol.

While the Dharamsala MC would go in for elections for the second term, for Palampur these will be the first elections. Palampur MC was notified recently by the

## UPHILL TASK FOR SAFFRON PARTY

- The BJP would be facing an uphill task in winning the Dharamsala MC where the absence of any notable development in the city in the last three years would be the key issue the ruling party will face.
- The people are finding it hard to get their regular works done in the corporation office as the body was acutely short of staff. This is one of the reasons for delay in regular works as approval of maps.

present BJP government.

In the last elections for Dharamsala MC Congress had won 16 out of 17 wards, dominating the house. The BJP would now aim to get majority in the house.

Sources here said that Rakesh Pathania has convened a meeting for the elections in Dharamsala.

The BJP would be facing an uphill task in winning the Dharamsala municipal corporation where the absence of any notable development in the city in the last three years would be the key issue the ruling party will face.

The people are finding it hard to get their regular works done in the corporation office as the body was

acutely short of staff. This is one of the reasons for delay in regular works as approval of maps.

In a large number of cases, people are waiting for completion certificates of their buildings for months together. Corruption allegations were levelled against officials of the corporation but the government has failed to transfer the accused officials.

Besides, eight villages, which were included in Dharamsala municipal corporation, are bereft of development. These villages have been kept out of the Smart City project. The people of the villages are alleging that they would lose the privileges given to rural areas while urban taxes would be levied on them.

On its part, the Congress would target the government for its failure to initiate any major development projects in the Palampur region.

vided to them. The ruling party would have to go to people with a justification and the work they have done in the last three years to win them over.

The BJP would claim all the credit saying that their government gave corporation status to Palampur city. The urban limits of the town were not increased since 1955 despite the fact that city had grown manifold in the last few decades.

The BJP is claiming that giving corporation status to Palampur was a long-pending demand of the residents of the town.

However, there were many living on the fringes of city who were against inclusion into the corporation for the fear that they would lose the privileges given to rural areas while urban taxes would be levied on them.

In response of the unsavoury Vidhan Sabha episode where Congress MLAs misbehaved with the Governor, Thakur said, "Their behaviour has besmirched the image of

# Govt ready to discuss fuel price hike, says Anurag

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, MARCH 7

Union Minister for State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur stated that the issue of fuel hike can be discussed in the ensuing meeting of the GST council if all states are willing to do so.

Interacting with mediapersons at Solan where he made a brief halt last evening, Thakur said, "The Government of India was ready to talk on the issue of fuel hike in the GST council but it depends on the state governments which are also part of this council. Representatives of various political parties like the communists, Trinamul Congress, etc., are also part of the GST council and if all are willing to bring the fuel prices under the purview of the GST, a decision can be taken in the council."

In response of the unsavoury Vidhan Sabha episode where Congress MLAs misbehaved with the Governor, Thakur said, "Their behaviour has besmirched the image of



Union Minister Anurag Thakur talks to mediapersons in Solan.

## DEPENDS ON STATE GOVTs

- The Centre is ready to talk on the issue of fuel hike in the GST council, but it depends on the state governments which are also part of this council.

Anurag Thakur, UNION MINISTER

the state as well as of the Congress before the nation.

The Opposition Congress is bereft of leadership as well as issues. They indulge in such unruly behaviour as they have been left with no issue to corner the BJP government. The Congress is unnerved by the developmental works being executed by the state and the Central governments."

Thakur, who received a rousing welcome at Parwanoo, Kumarhatti and Solan, said he was overwhelmed by the love and affection shown by the youth besides other senior leaders who had turned up in large numbers to welcome him besides other senior leaders.

"They took stock of the work on the terminal building and issued guidelines to Pawan Hans and departmental officials," he added.

"The officials took feedback on the Balh airport project. An aerial survey was also conducted. They asked officials to decide the location of the terminal buildings and prepare a DPR," said the DC. — TNS

## Thakur announces projects in Solan

SOLAN, MARCH 7

In a bid to woo public ahead of the Municipal Corporation polls, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur made a slew of announcements for developmental projects during his visit to Solan today.

Addressing the 'Abhinandan Samaroh' at Thodo Ground, he said the upgrade of the Solan Municipal Committee to a corporation would ensure proper planning and systematic development of the town.

The government has constituted 412 new gram panchayats, seven Nagar Panchayats and three Municipal Corporations to ensure participation of people at the grassroots level."

The CM announced Rs 2 crore each for Transport Nagar, three new parkings, planned development of 17 wards and said the CT Scan and Digital X-Ray plant would be established in the regional hospital. He inaugurated and laid foundation stone of projects worth Rs 34 crore in Solan Vidhan Sabha. He inaugurated the augmen-

## How did you get diabetes in Theog? PM asks Jan Aushadhi beneficiary

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, MARCH 7

Krishna Verma is unlikely to forget this Sunday for the rest of her life. As a beneficiary of the PM Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi programme, she got an opportunity to speak with Prime Minister Narendra Modi through video-conferencing in Shimla today.

"I still can't believe I spoke to the Prime Minister," the 50-year-old said while returning to her village, Sarog in Theog subdivision of Shimla district, after attending the programme. Even as she said speaking to the PM was a surreal experience, she showed no sign of any nervousness while talking to the PM. "I had rehearsed a few points, but mostly I spoke what came to my mind then and there," she said.

The PM, however, managed to surprise her when he said he had been to Theog many times during his time in Himachal



Pradesh. "I did not know he had been to Theog," she said. The Prime Minister, too, expressed surprise on learning that she was suffering from diabetes. "Theog is a place where people have to walk a lot. So, how did you get diabetes," asked Modi. The Prime Minister would be more surprised to know that the incidence of diabetes is higher than national average in the state. The shocking revelation had

come to the fore in recent all-India ICMR study — IGMC's Dr Jitender Mokta was the principal investigator of the study in Himachal. Krishna Verma, who has been taking medicines for diabetes for the last 20 years, expressed gratitude for PM's Jan Aushadhi programme. "Earlier I had to shell out nearly Rs 6,000 on medicines, but now I spend just Rs 800 to 1,000. It's a huge relief," she said.

## CM: Will give more sops under Aushadhi plan

SHIMLA, MARCH 7

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said at a function here today that Jan Aushadhi Pariyojna had become "sanjeevani for the poor". Thakur said the scheme had become popular and incentives would be given to popularise it further.

"There are 54 centres in the state of which 14 have been set up in government hospitals. The scheme is also a source of self-employment for the youth," the CM said.

CM said incentives will be given to popularise the scheme further

Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur was also present in the function. Anurag Thakur said the rates of the medicines being provided under Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Pariyojna were up to 90 per cent cheaper.

Urban Development Minister Suresh Bhardwaj, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Rajiv Saizal, and BJP state president Suresh Kashyap were also present. — TNS

## Sirmaur pvt varsity sees 20 Covid cases



59 INFECTED IN STATE

- With 59 positive cases being reported on Sunday, the tally of Covid cases reached 59,118 with no fatality in the last 24 hours
- The total number of active cases reached 614 and the fatality being at 984.
- The highest number of 22 cases were reported in Sirmaur, 11 in Una, seven in Kangra, six each in Hamirpur and Shimla and one in Kullu

around 200 nursing students and all were being tested now. Those found positive had been isolated on the campus where all safety norms were being adhered to. The university has resumed its classes, leading to an ingress of students and staff from other states. Though those coming from outside were supposed to undergo RT-PCR testing, it remains to be seen if the norm is being adhered to. — TNS

## Wishes pour in for women in khaki

### INT'L WOMEN'S DAY

SHIMLA, MARCH 7

An all-woman police parade on The Ridge ground here would mark the International Women's Day on March 8 as Himachal celebrates 50 years of statehood. It will be followed by a display of bike stunts by women police, unarmed combat, musketry and weapon drill, besides a cultural programme.

"I believe one should never doubt that a small group or committed individuals can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has," said DGP Sanjay Kundu. He said, "We want to change the notion of the women in the state — from the one who is weak and meek to the one who is strong, empowered and with her head held high."

Meanwhile, good wishes are pouring in from Bollywood celebrities for Himachal women police on the eve of the International Women's Day as the state is celebrating its 50 years of statehood. Actress Hema Malini said, "I want to congratulate the women in the Himachal Pradesh Police for 50

All-woman police parade, display of bike stunts today

- I congratulate the women in the HP Police for 50 relentless years of service and DGP Sanjay Kundu for conceptualising this event. Hema Malini, ACTOR

relentless years of service in the state and DGP Sanjay Kundu for conceptualising this event."

Actor Aamir Khan stated, "Congratulations on International Women's Day, especially to the women cadre of Himachal Pradesh. This year, Himachal is celebrating 50 years of statehood and I wish everyone all the very best."

Actor Anupam Kher said, "I have seen the working of police in Shimla but today on the eve of Women's Day, I would especially congratulate the women of Himachal Police. When a woman is empowered, the society is empowered." — TNS

**Haryana Remembers**  
The Founder of Arya Samaj and Great Social Reformer  
**Swami Dayanand Saraswati**  
on the occasion of His Birth Anniversary  
8 March, 2021

“ Swami Dayanand Saraswati Ji was one of the greatest Indian philosophers and social reformers who brought religious, economic and political developments in India. Let's take inspiration from his teachings and contribute in building an ideal society.”  
- Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

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# 'Sticky bombs' have security forces on alert

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, MARCH 7**  
With intelligence input suggesting that "Sticky bombs" have entered the Kashmir Valley, the security agencies have redrawn their standard operating procedures (SOPs) and advised the general public to avoid leaving their vehicles unattended.

Officials in the security establishment said, following the recovery an arms consignment consisting of a improvised explosive device (IED) with an in-built magnet by the Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Police, intelligence sources confirmed that terror outfits had managed to push into the union territory consignments of "sticky bombs", which could be placed under any vehicle and exploded with the help of a timer or a remote.

Soon after the J&K Police recovered such explosive devices, a video originated from across the border on social media, which gave step by step instructions about its usage and triggering mechanism. The video issued in the name of People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF), believed to be a shadow outfit of the banned Lashker-e-Taiba terror group, explained about magnetic bombs and its damage capabilities, intelligence sources said.

This alarmed the security

Agencies redraw SOPs, ask public not to leave vehicles unattended

#### RECOVERED IN SAMBA DISTRICT ON FEB 14

- The 'sticky bombs', dropped by terrorists sitting across the border in Pakistan using drones, were recovered in Samba sector of Jammu region along the International Border on February 14.
- The Jammu and Kashmir Police recovered an arms consignment consisting of an improvised explosive device (IED) with an in-built magnet which could be placed on any vehicle and exploded with the help of a timer or a remote.
- In India, "sticky bombs" were used by suspected Iranian terrorists in February 2012 to injure the wife of an Israeli diplomat.

#### TALIBAN, IS USE MAGNETIC IEDs

The magnetic IEDs, known as 'sticky bombs', have found their maximum use in war-ravaged Afghanistan where Taliban used them against US-led allied forces and in Iraq and Syria where IS terrorists have triggered them against the government forces.

agencies to redraw their standard operating procedures (SoP) for their movement, the security officials said, adding that in case of movement of forces both the Army and paramilitary, it has been decided "not to allow any vehicular movement along the scheduled convoys".

The security agencies, since the recovery of the "sticky bombs", have also instructed their formations and the public at large not to leave their vehicles unattended at any point in time, the officials said.

The development comes two years after a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist carried

out a sensational attack when he rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into a bus carrying security forces that left 40 CRPF personnel dead.

In India, "sticky bombs" were used by suspected Iranian terrorists in February 2012 to injure the wife of an Israeli diplomat.

The "sticky bombs" have found their maximum use in war-ravaged Afghanistan where Taliban used them against US-led allied forces and in Iraq and Syria where ISIS operatives have triggered them against the government forces.

(With PTI inputs)

FROM PAGE 1

## On Didi's turf, PM vows...

countering TMC propaganda that the BJP was a "party of outsiders".

Hitting out at the TMC supremo, the PM said "her remote control is somewhere else", adding she was not doing justice to the ideals of Bengali icons such as Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Swami Vivekananda, Tagore and Netaji.

"Bengali thinking is at the core of BJP's ideology. The party is indebted to Bengal. That debt can never be repaid, but we can try to set

it on the course of development," said Modi.

Taking Mamata to task for coining the expression "khela hobe" (we will play the game) to describe electoral contests, Modi said the TMC leaders were indeed "experienced players".

"They know how to play games and have played so much that not much is left. There have been so many scams in Bengal. Even relief sent for people hit by Cyclone Amphan was misappropriated," said Modi.

## Recovery rate dips...

behind the surge although preliminary data suggests the reasons are inappropriate Covid behaviour - marriages, elections, super-spreading events and greater dependence on the antigen test rather than the standard RTPCR test.

Antigen tests are prone to showing false negative reports and the Centre has mandated a negative antigen test report to be cross-checked with an RTPCR

test. "That is not happening in many cases and there is a lack of fear of the disease seeing the infections decline. But this can prove costly," a ministry official said. As the share of active cases in total cases rose to 1.65% today, the Centre said 8 states were displaying an upward trajectory in daily new cases. These include Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, MP, Haryana, Delhi, Karnataka and Gujarat. —TNS

## Home loan rates...

the repo rates by a whopping 200 bps since March 2020 to 4 per cent to help revive the economy ravaged by the pandemic.

According to the RBI data, home loan growth decelerated in FY21 due to the pandemic, though the decline in fact began in March 2020. From 17.5 per cent in January 2020, home loan growth halved to 7.7 per cent in January 2021. For banks, housing loans are safe bet in the

current scenario as the risk of default is minimal with a gross NPA of just 0.67 per cent for the SBI and for HDFC it is under 1 per cent. Banks are hoping that the nascent economic recovery will lead to more home purchases. Consumers too have advantages — attractive property prices due to the pandemic and the resultant reduction in stamp duty by many states due to the outbreak. —PTI

## Punjab poll promises...

waiver for landless labourers.

Cm Capt Amarinder Singh on Sunday directed all ministries and departments to proactively push for the realisation of the seven-point "Agenda 2022" unveiled by him in the Vidhan Sabha on Friday. "The agenda comprises improvisation in the announcements made in 2017

and the way forward," said a senior party leader.

Countering the Opposition, the government claimed that 84 percent of the promises had been fulfilled. Of 546 promises made in the 2017 manifesto, the Congress has fulfilled 455 and the remaining will be met in its remaining term, the sources claim. —TNS

# 168 Rohingya illegals sent to jail: Officials

JAMMU, MARCH 7

Authorities here have sent 168 Rohingya Muslims to jail after they were found living illegally in the city, officials said on Sunday.

The Jammu and Kashmir Administration on Saturday had begun a drive to collect biometric and other details of the Rohingya staying here. The drive is part of an exercise to trace foreigners living in the city without valid documents. "At least 168 illegal immigrant Rohingya have been sent to Hirnagar jail," a senior police officer told the media here.

The verification process of Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar was carried out at the MAM Stadium here amid



Rohingya Muslims leave their settlement for a centre following a police verification drive in Jammu. PTI

high security, the officials said, adding further verification of the foreigners is going on, they added. Under the drive on Saturday, biometric and other details, such as place of stay, of the Rohingya were collected,

the officials said. The Rohingya are a Bengali-dialect speaking Muslim minority in Myanmar. Following persecution in their country, many of them entered India illegally through Bangladesh and took shelter in Jammu and other parts of India. Many political parties and social organisations in Jammu had urged the Centre to take immediate steps for the deportation of the Rohingya. —PTI

#### Admn orders closure of 3 schools

SRINAGAR, MARCH 7

Authorities in Budgam district on Sunday ordered closure of three schools for at least three days, following detection of Covid cases in these institutions. In a letter to the three schools, the Nodal Officer for Covid mitigation advised the institutions to close the school premises for at least three days in view of the cases during random testing. The official also advised the primary and secondary contacts of persons who tested positive at these schools to self-isolate till the authorities conduct Covid test on them. —PTI

#### SAINIK SCHOOL SUJANPUR TIRA DISTT. HAMIRPUR (HP) — 176110

#### NOTICE

#### CANCELLATION OF THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE POSTS OF 01 OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT AND 02 LOWER DIVISION CLERKS

- Reference is made to the advertisement published in this newspaper on 27 Nov 20 inviting applications for the posts of 01 OS and 02 LDCs in Sainik School Sujanpur Tira (HP).
- Due to administrative reasons, the complete selection process is cancelled and fresh advertisement for the said posts will be published shortly.

File: SSST/108/4/Adm

Date: 06 Mar 21

DI-22132

Principal

Sainik School  
Sujanpur Tira (HP)



सन्देश

जय राम ठाकुर  
मुख्य मंत्री  
हिमाचल प्रदेश

मुझे यह जानकर हार्दिक प्रसन्नता हो रही है कि प्रतिवर्ष 8 मार्च अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के रूप में मनाया जाता है। विश्व भर में नारीत्व को समर्पित इस पावन अवसर पर मैं प्रदेश की समस्त महिलाओं को बधाई देता हूँ।

महिलाओं ने अपने जीवन की हर भूमिका को सफलतापूर्वक निभाने के अतिरिक्त एक उन्नत समाज के निर्माण में भी महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है, जिससे समाज के आधारभूत मूल्यों में निरन्तर दृढ़ता आई है।

हमारी सरकार महिलाओं को सम्मान तथा सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए वचनबद्ध है। प्रदेश सरकार ने सत्ता में आते ही महिलाओं की सुरक्षा के स्थलों पर हिंसा से प्रभावित महिलाओं को एक स्थान पर एकीकृत समर्थन और सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए प्रदेश के सभी जिला मुख्यालयों पर 'वन स्टॉप सेंटर' स्थापित किए हैं। समाज में महिलाओं की समान सहभागिता हो व एक सशक्त वर्ग के रूप में पहचान हो, यह हमारी सरकार का संकल्प एवं प्रतिबद्धता है।

मैं, एक बार पुनः प्रदेश की समस्त महिलाओं को इस अवसर पर बधाई देता हूँ।

जय राम ठाकुर

FILM FESTIVAL on BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

PUNJAB STATE COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

In collaboration with CMS VATAVARAN

Cordially invite you @ Online Film Festival

March 9-10, 2021 | 10:30 am onwards

Film Screenings Followed by Interaction with Filmmakers

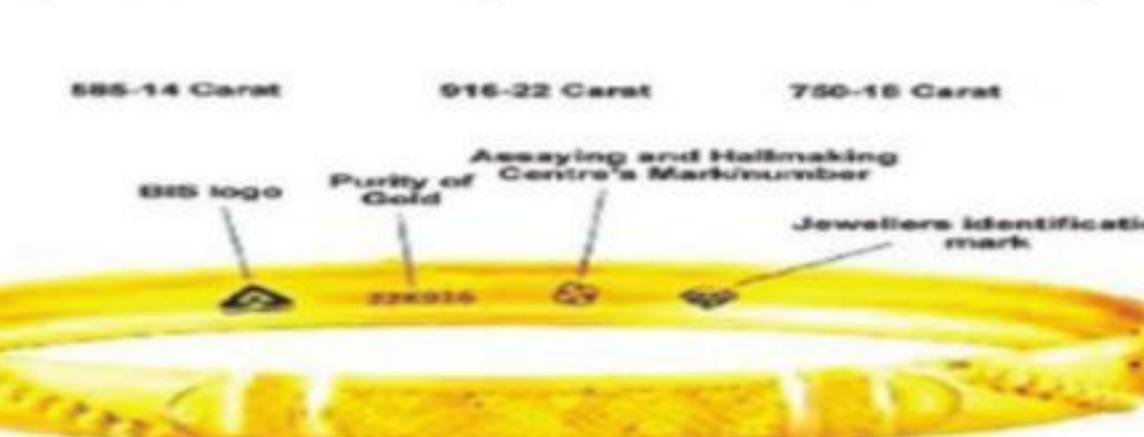
Green Filmmaking Workshop

for more information [www.pscst.punjab.gov.in](http://www.pscst.punjab.gov.in) | [www.cmsvatavaran.org](http://www.cmsvatavaran.org)

## अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस

### की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

हॉलमार्क है तो सोना है



शुद्धता की पहचान, हॉलमार्क के चार निशान

हॉलमार्क आभूषण पर ये निशान अवश्य देखें :



हॉलमार्क केन्द्र का निशान

व्यापार रखें : 1. हॉलमार्क चिह्नित आभूषणों पर ये चारों निशान अनिवार्य हैं।

इन्हें आभूषण विक्रेता के पास उपलब्ध लैंस की सहायता से देखा जा सकता है।

2. केवल व्यूहों द्वारा पंजीकृत आभूषण विक्रेता ही हॉलमार्क चिह्नित आभूषण व्येष्य सकता है।

व्यापार खरीदें : केवल हॉलमार्क चिह्नित आभूषण इससे आभूषण पर अकिञ्च शुद्धता का आश्वासन मिलता है।

व्यापार जानें : व्यापारी जारी की आभूषण की रसीद (हॉलमार्क शुल्क सहित),

जो किसी भी प्रकार की शिकायत के निपटारे के लिए भी आवश्यक है।

22K916  
22 कैरेट  
आभूषणों के लिए

आभूषण विक्रेता का निशान

Bureau of Indian Standards  
(Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India)  
The National Standards Body of India  
For further information & queries related to Certification, Hallmarking & Consumer Grievances  
• log on to our website [www.bis.gov.in](http://www.bis.gov.in)  
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## US wants Indian role in Afghan peace

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

US Secretary of State Tony Blinken has suggested the involvement of India in a UN-convened conference to discuss a unified approach to

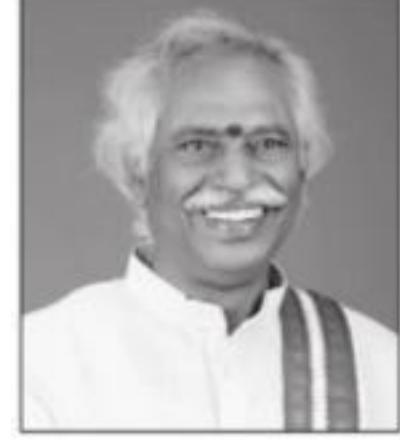
supporting peace in Afghanistan, the Afghan media has reported.

Blinken, in a letter to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation Abdullah

Abdullah, has made several suggestions to accelerate the peace process.

On top of the list is a UN-convened meeting of foreign ministers from Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, India and the US on Afghan peace.

**बंडारू दत्तात्रेय**  
राज्यपाल  
हिमाचल प्रदेश



**सन्देश**

अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के अवसर पर प्रदेश की महिला वर्ग को हार्दिक बधाई। यह दिवस विश्वभर में मनाया जाता है, जो नारी के मातृत्व, स्नेह, करुणामय, प्रेम, त्याग व समर्पण के रूप को तो दर्शाता ही है, साथ ही समाज में उनके महत्वपूर्ण योगदान व सशक्त भूमिका का भी परिचायक है।

महिलाओं में अपरिमित शक्ति और क्षमताएं विद्यमान हैं। आधुनिक समाज की महिला ने स्वयं की शक्ति को पहचाना है और अपने अद्भुत साहस, अथक परिश्रम तथा बुद्धिमता से विश्व पटल पर अपने को स्थापित किया है। भारत वर्ष में आदिकाल से ही नारी को समाज में विशेष स्थान हासिल है और अनेक धार्मिक ग्रंथों में इसका उल्लेख मिलता है।

महिलाएं विकास के हर क्षेत्र में अपना महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दे रही हैं। इसलिए ज़रूरी है कि महिलाओं को और सशक्त किया जाए, जिसके लिए उनमें शिक्षा का व्यापक प्रसार हो, क्योंकि महिला सशक्तीकरण से ही देश व प्रदेश सुदृढ़ बनेगा।

मैं सभी महिलाओं का आहवान करता हूँ कि वे सुशिक्षित व संगठित होकर, एक सशक्त तथा समृद्ध राष्ट्र के निर्माण में अपना बहुमूल्य योगदान दें।

जय हिन्द, जय हिमाचल!

*राज्यपाल  
हिमाचल प्रदेश*

# India's Covid vaccine rollout rescued world: US scientist

HOUSTON, MARCH 7

The rollout of Covid vaccines by India in collaboration with leading global institutions has "rescued the world" from the deadly virus and the contributions by the country must not be underestimated, a top American scientist has said.

India is called the pharmacy of the world during the Covid pandemic with its vast experience and deep knowledge in medicine. The country is one of the world's biggest drug-makers and an increasing number of countries have already approached it for procuring vaccines.

Dr Peter Hotez, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) in Houston, during a recent webinar, said the two mRNA vaccines might not impact the world's low and middle income countries, but India's vaccines, made in collaboration with universities across the world such as the BCM and Oxford University, have "rescued the world" and its contributions must not be underestimated.



People wait to receive vaccine at a health centre in New York. REUTERS

NATIONS	DEATHS
US	5,37,249
BRAZIL	2,64,446
MEXICO	1,90,357
UK	1,24,419
ITALY	99,785

Over 73 mn vaccine doses have been administered in US

## NEW DELHI GLOBAL PHARMACY OF THE WORLD

- India has already provided 56 lakh doses of Covid vaccine to Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles
- US expert says the contribution of India

to the global fight against virus must not be underestimated

■ India is known as the pharmacy of the world and several countries have approached it for supply of vaccines

During the webinar themed 'COVID-19: Vaccination and Potential Return to Normalcy - If and When', Dr Hotez, an internationally recognised physician-scientist in neglected tropical diseases and vaccine development, said

the vaccine rollout was India's gift to the world in combating the virus. The webinar was organised by Indo American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH). Consul General of India in

Houston, Aseem Mahajan, was among the distinguished panel of doctors at the webinar. "In keeping with our tradition of sharing with the world, India has exported vaccines to many countries," he said. — PTI

## Suu Kyi's party leader dies in custody

Tribune News Service

NAYPYITAW, MARCH 7

An official from the party of deposed Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi died overnight in police custody, associates said, while protests were held in at least half a dozen cities in some of the most widespread action against the coup last month.

The cause of Khin Maung Latt's death was not known, but a photograph showed the body's head wrapped with bloodstained cloth. — Reuters

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## Shed suspicion to resolve border issues: China



## ENHANCE COOPERATION

It is important that the two sides expand and enhance cooperation to create enabling conditions for settlement of the border issues. Wang Yi, CHINA FOREIGN MINISTER

development and rejuvenation together," he said in response to one of the 27 questions asked at the press conference.

For the most, Wang dwelt on China's expectations from the

US, a reiteration of its friendship with Russia, no compromise on One China principle, the need for closer ties with Europe and Africa, faith in multilateralism and a defence of its positions on Hong Kong and the Uyghur community.

Wang said the factors of instability and security risks in South China Sea came mainly from outside the region.

At the same time, he warned "China's sovereignty is not to be infringed upon and the dignity of the Chinese nation is not to be trifled with."

## INFOCUS AGRICULTURE

## FARM LAWS

# Half-baked policies can be counterproductive

MILKHA SINGH AULAKH

THE three farm laws enacted by the Union Government last year could have an enormous impact on the livelihoods of various sections of society as well as food security of our highly populated country. Policy-makers often cite the examples of developed countries to justify the need for such reforms in India to liberalise and open up the farm sector to private players. However, when we compare the social security net, insurance cover and market options available to farmers in India and developed countries, the disparity is striking.

Farmers and farm labourers constitute a smaller proportion of the population in developed countries (2-5 per cent) as compared to India (60-70 per cent). In the US, 897 million acres of agricultural land is cultivated by 2 million farmers; in India, only 350 million acres are cultivated by 145 million farming families. A majority of the farmers in developed countries have large-sized farms. The average farm size in the US is 448 acres, way above India (2.5 acres). Their farmers have the capacity and capability to store their products for long periods after each harvest; they also own transportation facilities. Their farmers are usually involved in decision-making policies that could impact their livelihood. In addition to a much larger cash and commodity support than in India, the government provides them social security, including old-age pension, health services and education to their wards (schoolbuses pick up and drop

## AGRICULTURAL LAND (AREA)

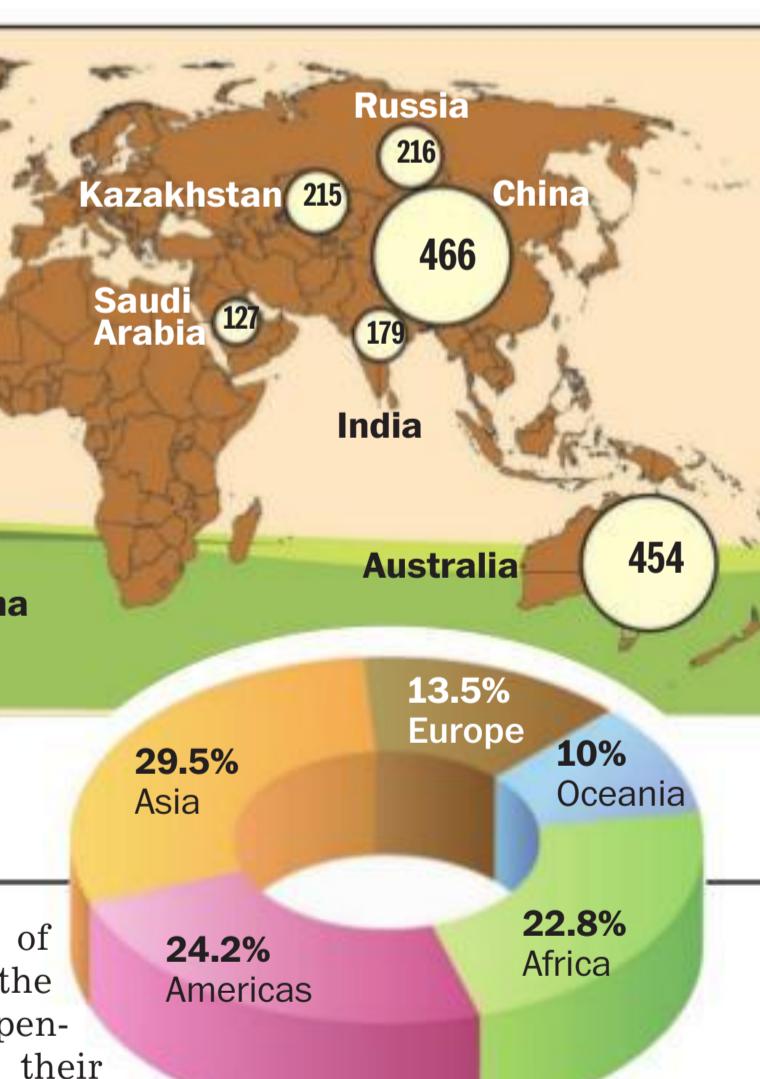
Million hectares

Average (1961-2018)

SOURCE: FAOSTAT

## CONTINENT-WISE AGRICULTURAL LAND

AVERAGE (1961- 2018)



their wards at their on-farm residences). For example, the farmers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta provinces in Canada have farms varying from 500 to 2,000 acres, along with modern machinery and infrastructure. They produce mainly wheat, barley, pulses and edible oils that are exported to other countries. After each harvest, farmers often store grains in on-farm silos and transport them only when they get good prices.

## Farmers on board

The Canadian Wheat Board was constituted in 1935 with representatives of the government and the farmers. Its functions include identification of markets, negotiations for best prices and delivery of agri products. Accordingly, the farmers grow those crops and transport their produce to allocated railway yards to upload it in containers for onward transport to seaports for export. If and when some fields are left fallow due

to lesser demand of agri products, the government compensates farmers for their fallow acreage.

Contract farming under India's new agri laws would lead to the establishment of large farms and the development of state-of-the-art infrastructure by clubbing landholdings of small, marginal and poor farmers, who have less than five acres and constitute 86 per cent of the farmers. However, such large farms would render rural people unemployed, who account for 60-70 per cent of our population. Keeping in view the joblessness of a significant proportion of the urban population, the movement of people in large numbers from rural areas to cities would aggravate unemployment. In order to avoid unnecessary glut of one agri product or the other and maintain equilibrium between their production and requirements, the state governments and

farmers' cooperatives could be allowed to export their agri products, including fresh vegetables and fruits, directly to other countries.

## Insurance schemes

In India, several crop insurance schemes have been formulated, implemented and withdrawn from time to time. In 1999-2000, the government introduced Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana. In recent years, four insurance schemes were launched: Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Weather-based Crop Insurance Scheme, Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme and the Pilot Unified Package Insurance Scheme. However, none of these schemes has become popular among farmers because their premium rates are quite high, and they have several inbuilt bylaws for

calamities and other factors that are mostly unfavourable to the farmers. For example, while more than 11 lakh policies were purchased by farmers in 2017, only 3.08 lakh were indemnified. Other reasons for their non-acceptance are the complicated procedures involved, lack of education and awareness among farmers, and most importantly, the incapability and affordability of poor farmers to pay the annual premium in advance.

In contrast, the farmers of developed countries are in a better position in several ways and capable of paying premium. A variety of insurance policies are available at competitive rates, which cover personal liability of farmers and their co-workers, their farmhouses and possessions, machinery and livestock, and stored-on-farm agri products, besides the insurance for crops that witness a loss in yield, whether it is due to an insurable cause of loss in the quality or quantity of the insured crop. Governments co-pay substantial premiums; for instance, in British Columbia province of Canada, the government pays up to 45 per cent of the crop insurance premium. Moreover, the system is transparent and farmers use insurance policies to cover the risk and make a profit.

## MSP shield

The Union Government introduced the MSP (minimum support price) regime to guarantee a minimum profit for the farmer for his harvest if the open market offers a lesser price than the cost incurred. Although the MSP is announced for 23 farm-produced crops, the Centre does not

assure that all these agri products are purchased at or above the MSP. The Centre purchases mainly paddy (unmilled rice), wheat and a few pulses through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state government agencies for their distribution among poor people through the Public Distribution System (PDS). This leaves the farmers at the mercy of corporates (including private buyers), who may purchase all remaining agri products at whatever price they offer, and farmers have no option but to sell their produce.

As the MSP holds the key to farmers' security and the nation's self-sufficiency, the provision of its legal status is a necessity so that no one can swindle, fleece or force poor farmers, who are already in a pitiable condition, to sell their agri products at much lower than economically viable rates. This would also encourage crop diversification so as to avoid a glut of wheat and rice, and reduce imports of pulses and edible oils.

In a nutshell, we should either adopt reforms of developed countries in totality, including liberalisation in agriculture and agri-marketing, social security and crop insurance, as selective actions can distort our well-established system and prove counterproductive, or try to frame our own viable and dynamic agricultural policies that will provide economic and ecological sustainability and protect the interests of various sections of the population.

The author is former Dean, College of Agriculture, PAU, and founder V-C, Banda University of Agriculture and Technology, UP



## GLOBE TROT

## Pope calls on Christians to forgive 'oppressors'

QARAQOSH (IRAQ): Pope Francis urged Iraq's Christians on Sunday to forgive the injustices committed against them by Muslim extremists and to rebuild. He visited the wrecked shells of churches and met ecstatic crowds in the community's historic heartland, which was nearly erased by the Islamic State group's horrific reign. Bells rang out in the town of Qaraqosh as the pope arrived. Forgiveness is a key word for Christians, he said. AGENCIES

## Spy case: British-Iranian completes 5-yr jail term

TEHRAN: A British-Iranian woman, held in an Iranian prison for five years on widely refuted spying charges ended her sentence on Sunday, her lawyer said, although she faces a new trial and cannot yet return home. Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe has been under house arrest at her parent's home in the capital of Tehran. AGENCIES

# Vinesh wins gold, becomes No. 1

Bajrang enters final of Rome event



Vinesh beat Canada's Diana Mary Helen Weicker 4-0. FILE

**ROME, MARCH 7**  
Star Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat grabbed the women's 53kg gold medal along with world No. 1 rank while Bajrang Punia booked his spot in the final of the men's 65kg event at the Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series event.

The 26-year-old Vinesh beat Canada's Diana Mary Helen Weicker 4-0 to claim her second gold medal in as many weeks. The Indian had entered the event as world No. 3 but gained 14 points to be back at No. 1. Vinesh did

not concede a single point in the tournament, winning two of her three bouts by pinning her rivals while getting injury walkouts in the other two.

Bajrang faced stiff competition from America's Joseph Christopher Mc Kenna but prevailed 6-3 in the semifinal. He will now face Mongolia's Tulga Tumur Ochir, who defeated India's Rohit 4-0 in the other semifinal. In 74kg, Narsingh Pancham Yadav lost to Jordan Ernest Buuroughs in the semifinals. — PTI

## Final after 18 months

Playing a tournament final after 18 months, Sindhu, ranked world No. 7, entered the match with a 5-8 head-to-head record against Marin. Sindhu, who didn't drop a game in her previous four matches this week, failed to summon her A game under pressure. — TNS, agencies

BASEL, MARCH 7

World champion PV Sindhu was comprehensively beaten by Carolina Marin of Spain in a lopsided women's singles title match here today. Marin, the Olympics champion, routed Sindhu 21-12 21-5 as the Indian could not match the speed and accuracy of the Spaniard in a match that lasted only 35 minutes.

The 25-year-old Indian, who had won the World Championship gold here in 2019, suffered her third successive loss to Marin, who had won two Super 1000 events and finished second at the World Tour Finals in recent times.

## Sealed tenders are invited from registered and sound financial firms who are registered on GeM/ defence procurement portal and have experience in dealing with MES/ Station Headquarters/Govt departments for outsourcing of conservancy services with regard to providing of conservancy manpower lifting, collection and disposal of garbage and sullage water which shall require providing of manpower, tipper vehicles and sullage water tankers alongwith associated staff from firm awarded the contract for providing of conservancy manpower, lifting and disposal of garbage and sullage water by transporting and dumping them in Govt notified ground owned/hired by the firm. The details of tender and critical dates are as given below:-

Ser. No.	Tender No./ ID No.	Name of the service	Period of Contract	Estimated Cost/value (in ₹)	EMD in Rs*	Cost of tender documents (in ₹) (Non Refundable)	Sale of Tender Documents	Date & Time for submission of tender documents	Date & Time for opening of tenders
1	2021_ARMY_426723_1 2500/74/A Dated 01 Mar 2021	Conservancy manpower, Collection, Removal & Disposal of garbage and sullage water.	01 Apr 2021 to 31 Mar 2022	₹ 2,45,26,454/-	@5% of contract value	A SBI demand draft of ₹ 500/-	From 01 Mar 2021, 1730 hrs upto 20 Mar 2021, 1800 hrs	From 01 Mar 2021, 1730 hrs upto 20 Mar 2021, 1800 hrs	21 Mar 2021, 1200 hrs

\* EMD will be in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to Station Commander, Station Headquarter Old Air Field Srinagar, J&K. CDR/FDR in original be submitted at the time of opening of technical bid

For further details and updates, please visit website <http://www.defprocportal.gov.in>  
Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd-x-x-x-x  
(DS Khangarot)  
Col  
Adm Comdt  
For Station Commander

# Shastri takes dig at ICC for changing WTC rule

**AHMEDABAD, MARCH 7**

Indian cricket team head coach Ravi Shastri today criticised the ICC for changing the qualification criteria for the World Test Championship (WTC) final, saying the governing body needs to stop "shifting goalposts".

India reached the final after beating England 3-1 in the just-concluded series. However, Shastri wasn't happy that midway through the event, ICC changed the qualification criteria from maximum points earned to maximum percentage points earned — this took India from the top of the points table to No. 3.

"Fine, that's because of countries not wanting to travel, countries that are in the red zone. All acceptable and fine," he added. "I want to understand the logic because now it's like 'what's the way forward for me?' Sitting 60 to 70 points ahead, I am told now you have to go to Australia and what you have to do? You have to beat Australia!"

"Now how many teams in last 10 years have beaten Australia?" he asked. "If you don't beat Australia, you come back home and you have to then beat England 4-0 and get close to 500 points and you still don't qualify? So we have had to dig deep and go down every hole and we have earned our stripes to be in the biggest of the them all — the World Test Championship final." — PTI

## Women suffer heavy loss on return

**LUCKNOW:** Lizelle Lee and Laura Wolvaardt shared the highest opening wicket stand against an unprepared India to give South Africa an eight-wicket win in the first ODI of the five match series. Asked to bat, India could only manage 177/9. Skipper Mithali Raj scored 50 off 85, while her deputy Harmanpreet Kaur scored 40 off 41 balls. In reply, Lee (83 not out off 122) and Wolvaardt (80 off 110) helped South Africa chase down the target in 40.1 overs with a record 169-run stand. It was India's first outing in 12 months. Meanwhile, Harmanpreet became the fifth Indian woman cricketer to have played 100 ODIs.

Brief scores: India: 177/9 (Mithali 50, Harmanpreet 40; Ismail 3/28); SA 178/2 (Lee 83\*, Wolvaardt 80; Goswami 2/38)

## Opener Guptill leads New Zealand to series win

**WELLINGTON:** Martin Guptill hit 71 runs as New Zealand cruised to a seven-wicket victory over Australia to win the T20I and secure a 3-2 series win. AGENCIES

India had slipped from No. 1 to 3 due to the change

## Covid hits Indian boxers in Spain

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian men's boxing team's campaign at the 35th Boxam International Tournament in Castellon, Spain, was derailed by a positive Covid-19 case in the side, resulting in three withdrawals from the final clashes. Olympics-bound Ashish Kumar (75kg) tested positive for the virus. As a result of being his roommates, Mohammed Hussamuddin (57kg) and Sunit Sangwan (81kg) were forced to withdraw from the finals on Saturday night.

All three of them ended with silver medals. Manish Kaushik (63kg) ended up being the sole gold medal winner for the side. Among the women, Simranjit Kaur (60kg), who is also bound for the Olympics, was forced out of her final after her semifinal opponent tested positive for the virus. Simranjit, however, tested negative. Vikas Krishan (69kg), Pooja Rani (75kg) and Jasmine (57kg) signed off with silver medals. India's campaign ended with one gold, eight silver and one bronze. PTI

## Liverpool suffer sixth straight Anfield loss

**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool slumped to a sixth consecutive home Premier League defeat as they lost 1-0 to relegation-threatened Fulham after a first-half goal by Mario Lemina at Anfield today.

## Messi grabs two assists as Barcelona march on

**PAMPLONA:** Barcelona continued their rampant run of domestic form to beat Osasuna 2-0 away from home on Saturday and move to within two points of La Liga leaders Atletico Madrid, with Lionel Messi setting up goals scored by Jordi Alba and teenager Ilaix Moriba. REUTERS

"Fine, that's because of countries not wanting to travel, countries that are in the red zone. All acceptable and fine," he added. "I want to understand the logic because now it's like 'what's the way forward for me?' Sitting 60 to 70 points ahead, I am told now you have to go to Australia and what you have to do? You have to beat Australia!"

"Now how many teams in last 10 years have beaten Australia?" he asked. "If you don't beat Australia, you come back home and you have to then beat England 4-0 and get close to 500 points and you still don't qualify? So we have had to dig deep and go down every hole and we have earned our stripes to be in the biggest of the them all — the World Test Championship final." — PTI

# Heartiest Greetings on International Women's Day

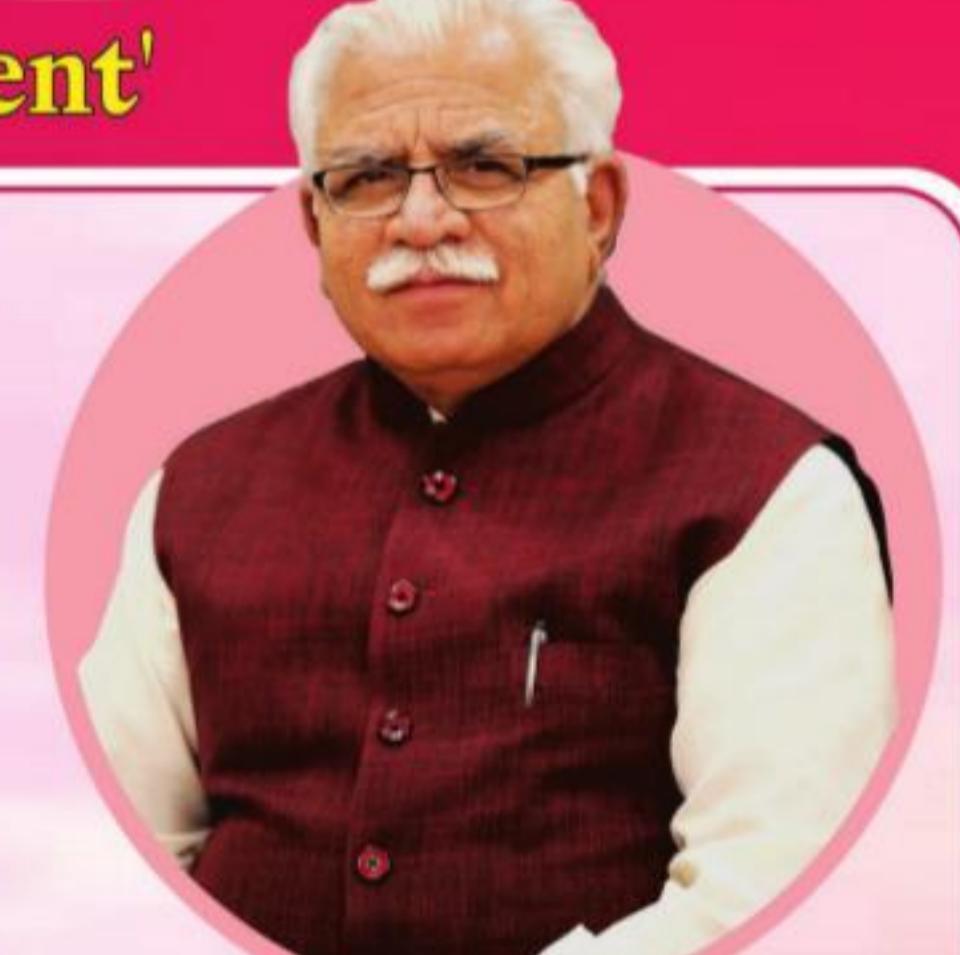
## 'Woman Security & Empowerment is our Commitment'

यत्र नारीस्तु पूज्यन्ते, रमन्ते तत्र देवता।

(Where women are honoured, Divinity blossoms there)

"We cannot imagine a prosperous society without the contribution of women. We all are aware of the women's sacrifice for Family, Society and Country. Let us contribute in providing security to women and make them **Atmanirbhar.**"

- Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana



## State Level Function

Date: 8 March, 2021  
Venue: Chief Minister Residence Haryana, Sector-3, Chandigarh

Chief Guest

Sh. Manohar Lal  
Chief Minister, Haryana

Guest of Honour  
Smt. Kamlesh Dhanda  
Minister of State, Women & Child Development, Haryana

<https://youtu.be/mbZuFEskS40>

Connect to the Function through above YouTube link

Time : 10:30 AM

Women Safety Helpline 181

Women and Child Development Department, Haryana, Bays no.15-20, Sector 4, Panchkula

Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana [www.prharyana.gov.in](http://www.prharyana.gov.in) | @cmohry @DiprHaryana

# Budget session resumes today, farmers' agitation to resonate

May be truncated as parties urge officers to consider poll schedule

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

The remaining half of the Budget session of Parliament will commence here on Monday with the finance bill listed as the top priority along with the passage of the demand for grants for various ministries.

Although the primary business through the session would be financial, the Opposition led by Congress is gearing up to attack the BJP-led Centre for the failure to resolve the ongoing farmers' agitation, rising prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas and the LAC issue.

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on Sunday chaired a strategy meeting with parliament leaders, including Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, and asked party MPs to continue to back the cause of farmers.

The meeting was held on a day when AICC general secretary Priyanka Vadra attended another farmers' mahapanchayat at Meerut.

Sonia had earlier written to



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi rides a tractor to attend a kisan mahapanchayat in Meerut on Sunday. PTI

Will stand with farmers till my last breath Priyanka Gandhi

PM Narendra Modi asking the government to pass on the benefits of lowering global crude oil prices to consumers.

She reiterated in the meeting that the government was profiteering from common people by refusing to lower taxes on petrol and diesels.

The Congress is also expected to continue its attack on the farmers' issue as the farmers' protests have com-

pleted 100 days and the unions have pledged intensification of the agitation across India over the coming days.

The government has said they are willing to suspend the laws for 18 months and discuss the irritants with the stakeholders. "The offer stands," Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar said.

Among important bills listed for consideration in the cur-

rent session are the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Amendment Bill, 2021, and the Cryptocurrency Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said this week that the government was in dialogue with the RBI on the issue of digital currency after the apex court left the matter to the executive.

Meanwhile with the elections already declared in West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, several political parties have urged the presiding officers of both Houses to consider cutting the session short as they would be required to canvass in the respective areas.

It is learnt that nearly all MPs and parliament staffers returning negative RTPCR reports, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu could discuss the possibility of resuming the normal functioning of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, which are sitting separately in two time slots during the day.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while launching the door-to-door campaign, in Kanyakumari on Sunday. PTI

## In TN, Shah kick-starts door-to-door campaign

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the AIADMK-led NDA alliance would win the April 6 Tamil Nadu elections as also the Kanyakumari Lok Sabha bypoll.

In Kanyakumari, Shah launched a door-to-door campaign to canvass for union minister Pon Radhakrishnan, BJP candidate for the parliamentary byelection scheduled on April 6 along with state polls.

"Elections are taking place because of the demise of Congress MP H Vasanth Kumar due to Covid-19 last year. The bypoll will see the Congress and BJP pitted against each other.

## ASSEMBLY POLLS 2021

ing the campaign as he claimed an AIADMK-BJP-PMK win in the state Assembly elections.

As part of the seat-sharing plan, the BJP and PMK will contest 20 and 23 segments, respectively, with the ruling AIADMK set to fight in the remaining constituencies.

The LS bypoll is taking place because of the demise of Congress MP H Vasanth Kumar due to Covid-19 last year. The bypoll will see the Congress and BJP pitted against each other.

## DMK prevails as Cong to contest 25 seats

ADITI TANDON  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

In a major downgrade for the Congress since the last Tamil Nadu elections, the DMK on Sunday allotted 25 seats to the Grand Old Party, which had contested 41 Assembly segments in 2016 and won eight.

The DMK will contest on 180 seats out of 234 in the state Assembly and has allotted six seats to smaller partners MDMK, VCK and CPI, three to the Indian Union Muslim League and two to the Manithanaya Makkal Katchi.

The MK Stalin-led DMK is said to have cited low strike rate of the Congress in the last elections to make the final offer which the Congress accepted today though its state unit had sought at least 30 seats.

The settlement reflects Congress' lost bargaining power after the Bihar deba-

ble where it was blamed for pulling down the RJD-led "mahagathbandhan". The recent loss of government in Puducherry is another factor that weighed against the Congress in talks with the DMK.

As part of the deal, the DMK has also given the Kanyakumari Lok Sabha segment to the Congress to contest.

TN Congress incharge Dinesh Gundu Rao said the DMK-led alliance would "win big" and unseat the AIADMK.

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Editor: Rajesh Ramachandran\*

\*Editor for purpose of PRB Act, 1867

## Working to build one medical college for every 3 LS seats: PM

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the government was working to build one medical college for every three Lok Sabha segments after accomplishing the task of expanding undergraduate and postgraduate medical seats to boost the national health human resource pool.

Addressing the Jan Aushadhi Divas event in virtual mode today, the PM said India was stressing generic medicines for affordable and quality healthcare and the network of Jan Aushadhi centres, which provide low-cost quality generic drugs, had been expanded to 7,500 stores. The 7,500th store was opened in Shillong today.

After interacting with the beneficiaries of the government's generic medicine push through the Jan Aushadhi kendras, the PM noted the stores had helped the poor and middle-class families save Rs 3,600 crore per year so far, on account of providing low-cost drugs.



To promote the scheme, the incentive under it has been increased from Rs 2 lakh to 5 lakh with additional incentive of Rs 2 lakh for Dalit, tribal women and people of the northeast," he said after scheme beneficiaries and people related to running the stores shared experiences about helping people access inexpensive generic drugs.

Beneficiaries called the kendras "Modi ki dukaa."

The PM lauded how Indian traditional medicines and Covid vaccines had acquired worldwide reputation.

"There was a time people thought millets and whole grains were the foods for the poor, but that is changing."

The UN has decided to declare 2023 the International Year of Millets," the PM said.

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