

# The Tribune

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UN CALLS FOR \$35 BILLION MORE TO COMBAT PANDEMIC WORLD

RIL'S MARKET VALUATION CROSSES \$200-BN MARK BUSINESS

PM'S MULTI-CRORE BONANZA FOR BIHAR BACK PAGE

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

## India, Japan pact on using each other's military bases

Tribune News Service



MODI CALLS UP ABE

- PM Modi rang up Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, hailing signing of the pact
- The leaders said it would ensure peace, security in Indo-Pacific
- Supplies will include fuel, spares and services like food and water

emerging alliance of India, US, Japan and Australia.

India and Japan signed an agreement on 'reciprocal provision of supplies and services between forces of both countries', said the statement.

tries', a statement of the Indian Ministry of Defence said. The agreement was signed in New Delhi on Wednesday by Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Japanese Ambassador Satoshi Suzuki.

The pact establishes a framework for cooperation between the armed forces of India and Japan in reciprocal provision of supplies and services while engaged in bilateral training activities, UN peacekeeping operations and international relief.

The pact will also enhance the interoperability between the armed forces of India and Japan, thereby further increasing the bilateral defence engagements under the 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership' between the two countries, said the statement.

After a lull following the Galwan valley incident on June 15, troops from both sides have come dangerously close to confrontation on two occasions in the last fortnight.

## Jaishankar, Yi meet over LAC row

2-hr talks on SCO sidelines after rounds of diplomatic & military-level interaction

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday talked for over two hours with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Moscow to resolve the worsening situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

After a lull following the Galwan valley incident on June 15, troops from both sides have come dangerously close to confrontation on two occasions in the last fortnight.

Jaishankar's interaction follows another one held last week between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart, also in Moscow, where both ministers set out their respective positions on restoring normalcy on the LAC.



Jaishankar and Wang were holding talks after three rounds of virtual meetings of the working mechanism on the border and several army commander-level meetings failed

to stem a series of aggressive actions that culminated in shots being fired at the LAC for the first time in 45 years. At the time of the going to the press, there was no official word on

the meeting between the two. Earlier in the day, Jaishankar and Wang sat together at two multilateral interactions in which bilateral disputes were not discussed. The main show

### TRILATERAL HELD

- Foreign Ministers of Russia, India and China held trilateral talks on the sidelines of SCO
- "Attended the RIC Foreign Ministers Meeting hosted by FM (Sergey) Lavrov in Moscow. Thank him for his warm hospitality. India takes on the Chair of the RIC process," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar tweeted

(From left) India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov & China's State Councillor Wang Yi at a meeting in Moscow. REUTERS

for which Jaishankar had gone to Moscow — the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation — was held in the morning.

## Army issues alert after Pak drone spotted near Loc

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 10

After the use of a quadcopter by Pakistan's ISI in J&K, the Army has issued an alert along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Valley as it believes the drones could be used for dropping weapons for terrorists.

Lt Gen BS Raju, General Officer-in-Command of XV Corps, said after an incident in the Jammu region, "we have alerted all formations to keep a check on any flying object seen along the LoC". He said the terrorists in the Valley were facing shortage of arms and ammunition and they were desperately looking for some help from across the border. — PTI



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Minister of Armed Forces of France Florence Parly at the induction ceremony of Rafale in Ambala on Thursday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: PRADEEP TEWARI

## Rafale induction stern signal to adversaries, says Rajnath

VIJAY MOHAN  
Tribune News Service

AMBALA, SEPTEMBER 10

Terming the Rafale fighter a game changer for India's security, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the induction of the aircraft has sent a strong message to the world, especially to those who challenge the country's sovereignty.

Speaking at the formal induction ceremony for the first batch of five Rafales with No.17 Squadron at the Ambala Air Force Station today, Rajnath said the induction was significant in the light of the present situation that has been created on the borders.

Reiterating the resolve to not compromise India's sovereignty under any circumstances, he said: "Strengthening our defence is aimed at achieving international peace and stability and we do not want to take any step that can endanger international peace. We have the same expectation from our neighbours and other countries of the world."

Complimenting the IAF for its swift and decisive action during the current standoff in Ladakh, he said the speed with which the IAF deployed its

### ALL-WEATHER FIGHTER

- Rafale literally means 'gust of wind' or 'burst of fire'
- Five fighter aircraft arrived on July 29 from France
- India signed a pact for 36 jets at a cost of ₹ 59,000 cr
- Combat aircraft is N-capable

### INDIA TO HAVE EDGE'

In strategic terms, it (Rafale induction) means India will have an edge over the entire region to protect its people.... France has always stood beside India in good times and bad.

Florence Parly, FRENCH DEFENCE MINISTER

### TO WORK CLOSELY IN INDIAN OCEAN REGION

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his French counterpart Florence Parly held extensive talks during which they vowed to step up cooperation in the Indian Ocean, a region which is witnessing rising Chinese military posturing.

9,500 KG  
PAYLOAD CAN BE CARRIED



RAFALE AIRCRAFT BEING ACCORDED WATER SALUTE IN AMBALA. PTI

IAF needed to look into new challenges related to artificial

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

EDIT: WELCOME, RAFALE

## For Golden Temple 'langar', overseas funds allowed

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

With the government granting Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration to an Amritsar association to receive overseas funds to serve "langar" to devotees at the Golden Temple, Union Home Minister Amit Shah today said, "PM Narendra Modi is blessed that 'Waheguru ji' has taken 'seva' from him."

Set up in 1925, the organisation so far has been taking donations within the country. It can now take foreign contributions.

## NEET aspirants with symptoms to take test in separate rooms

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

The candidates detected with above normal temperatures at the exam centres for the September 13 National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-UG will be placed in isolation rooms and allowed to take exams there.

The Health Ministry today issued standard operating procedures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 while conducting the upcoming NEET-UG, UPSC and NDA tests.

Candidates will have to



suffer losses as they had to pay interest to depositors

interest on interest on deferred EMIs during the moratorium. "On the interest issue, we are yet to take a decision. But on the aspect of interest on inter-

est, we are inclined to pass an order that it may not be debited," the Bench said, but chose not to issue such a direction.

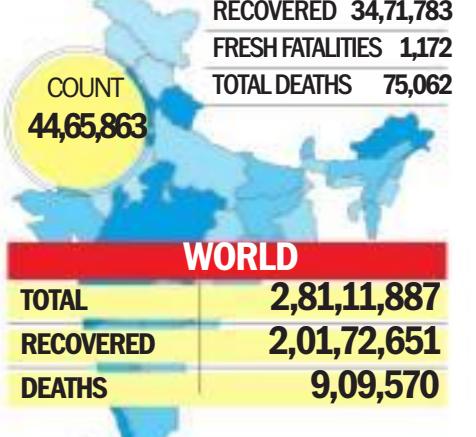
The Bench, however, made

it clear that its interim order with regard to NPAs shall continue. It also wanted the Centre and the RBI to place on record all decisions taken by them on this.

The top court posted the matter for further hearing on September 28 after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said an expert committee had been set up to take decisions on the issue of moratorium extension, interest on interest during moratorium and other related issues. — TNS

Centre issues exam SOPs, Serum institute halts Oxford vaccine trial

### COVID-19 CASES INDIA



ing the exam. In case of NEET-UG, the National Testing Agency advisory said, candidates would be checked with thermal guns at the entrance to registration rooms. "Those with above normal temperature will be allowed to take the exam

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

## Punjab prepares to check stubble burning

AMAN SOOD  
Tribune News Service

PATIALA, SEPTEMBER 10

With less than a week left for harvesting to begin in Majha where paddy was sown early, Punjab has appointed nodal officers at the village level to check stubble burning. They will report farm fires and take action on the spot.

These officials will have a mobile app that will send live reports for on-the-spot action.

### Farm fires could aggravate Covid-19 situation in the state

INCIDENTS (SEPT-NOV)	YEAR
53,000	2019
51,751	2018
50,841	2017

1,700 FIRS FILED IN 2019

The deputy commissioners of Sangrur, Barnala, Bathinda, Patiala, Tarn Taran, Muktsar and Ferozepur have been

briefed in this regard, says Punjab Pollution Control Board member-secretary Karunesh Garg.

Experts warn that farm fires may begin by mid-September, aggravating the Covid-19 situation. Sources say a penalty of Rs 6 crore is yet to be realised from erring farmers. Backed by unions, they refuse to deposit the fine. The government had last year announced an incentive of Rs 2,500 per acre for not burning stubble. The scheme was dropped after several panchayats reported it was being misused.'

## Stopped from reaching rally, farmers clash with cops

Tribune News Service

KURUKSHETRA, SEPTEMBER 10

A high-voltage drama was witnessed here today as farmers clashed with the police after being denied entry to Pipri grain market to participate in a state-level 'Kisan Bachao-Mandi Bachao' rally, organised to demand withdrawal of the Centre's farm ordinances.

The face-off saw the farmers

### 'PB VILLAGES WON'T ALLOW MP'S BACKING ORDINANCES'

Ludhiana: The Bharti Kisan Union (Lakhawal) announced on Thursday that MPs backing the Centre's farm ordinances would not be allowed to enter Punjab villages. Its general secretary HS Lakhawal claimed that the NDA government wanted to hand over cultivable land to corporate houses. "We will hold a dharna outside Parliament House on the day Bills to replace the ordinances are tabled in Parliament," he added.

ceen towards the rally venue. The commuters, meanwhile, were a harried lot.

Farmer unions and commission agents have threat-

to sell at MSP' a law were not met by September 19.

The unions have also decided to start dharnas at district headquarters across Haryana from September 15 if the Centre or the state government failed to invite them for talks on their demands by September 14. Deputy Commissioner Sharandeep Kaur said the farmers had been denied permission for the rally due to the Covid pandemic.



Farmers block the National Highway in Kurukshetra on Thursday.

**Centre urged to block 45 social media links**

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 10 Intensifying crackdown against people spreading misinformation on Covid on social media, the state police today approached the Centre with a request to block access to 45 links after the social media authorities concerned failed to act against rumour-mongers within the mandated 36 hours after notices were issued to them by the state.

With 13 more accounts/links blocked by the various platforms, the total number of URLs/links blocked in the state for spreading false propaganda on Covid has gone up to 121.

So far, Facebook has blocked 47 accounts/links, Twitter (52), YouTube (21) and Instagram (1). In addition, 292 more such accounts/links carrying malicious content were reported to the authorities of respective social media platforms, said the DGP.

# Health employees not joining Covid duties to face action

State sees highest single-day spike of 2,464 cases in 24 hours

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 10 Alleged indiscipline by Health Department staff seems to have emerged as a new challenge for the authorities amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Acting tough against doctors and other employees who are not joining Covid duties, the Health Department has ordered action against them under the Epidemic Act, 1897.

In a communication sent to all civil surgeons, the Director, Health Services, has said that medical and paramedical employees deployed for level-2 Covid duties should be asked to join work by Saturday.

She said the list of employees not joining duties by Saturday should be compiled and sent to the Director by Monday morning. "So that action can be taken against them under the Epidemic Act, 1897," she said.



COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS	DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Ludhiana	12,847	546	Moga	1,744	46
Jalandhar	8,783	230	Fatehgarh Sahib	1,312	50
Amritsar	5,840	228	Tarn Taran	1,103	39
Patiala	7,729	222	Kapurthala	1,780	86
Sangrur	2,600	105	Fazilka	1,277	20
SAS Nagar	5,546	132	SBS Nagar	902	28
Gurdaspur	3,598	75	Faridkot	1,175	29
Bathinda	3,630	58	Barnala	1,396	26
Hoshiarpur	2,519	72	Ropar	1,183	36
Ferozepur	2,225	59	Muktsar	1,484	17
Pathankot	1,970	30	Mansa	900	15
Total positive	72,143		Deaths	2,149	

## Exit class exams underway in Bathinda universities

Tribune News Service

BATHINDA, SEPTEMBER 10 The examination of exit classes is underway in most of the universities in Bathinda district. While Akal University has already conducted exit exams for all online courses, Adesh University is conducting physical exams by ensuring all precautionary measures in the wake of Covid-19. The Central University of Punjab Bathinda (CUPB) has already conducted exit exams through online mode from July 22 to August 2 and exams at Guru Kashi University (GKU) are on which will end on September 27.

Kulwant Singh, deputy registrar, Adesh University, said, "The exit classes' exams started at the university on August 14 and likely to be complete by September 15. Since the exams were conducted at physical examination centres on the university campus, we

### IKGPTU MAY GO FOR 30-MARK ONLINE PAPER

Jalandhar: Even as the Department of Higher Education, Punjab, has issued a notification directing 20 universities under it to conduct examination for the exit classes by October 15, the two technical universities are still awaiting for a formal notification from the Technical Education Department. Expecting a notification on the same lines, IKGPTU has plans to conduct 30-mark online assessment of its students. TNS

### LUDHIANA COLLEGES GEAR UP FOR EXAMS

Ludhiana: Colleges in the district are all geared up to conduct online examination of exit semester class starting from September 17. "We are trying to streamline the process. We are posting all exam-related information to students. Moreover, they have been asked to rely only on the official information received from the college," said Dr Inderjeet Kaur, Principal, Ramgarhia Girls College, Ludhiana. TNS

have made elaborate arrangements in the wake of Covid. Wearing of masks, sanitisation of the examination centres and placing of sanitisers at the entrance of the centre among other precautionary measures were duly followed."

Harjinder Singh Rose, Vice-Chancellor, GKU, said, "We are conducting exit exams via

online mode. We have managed to successfully conduct exams till now, but for some students hailing from remote locations, internet connectivity issues had cropped up. However, we have managed to conduct their exams later. The exams will be complete by September 27 and results are likely to be declared by September 30." TNS

get three months more than the usual time. Thereafter, the term will be from December to December in future elections.

The announcement was made by Karanjit Singh, chairman of the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana. With this, the Bar Council has reverted to its tradition of holding annual elections in December, before the

winter vacations. The elections to all Bar Associations of Haryana will be held on October 1. In all, elections will be held for around 140 Bar Associations in both states involving over 50,000 lawyers.

The notification issued in this regard states that the aspiring candidates may file nomination on September 16.

As per a letter issued in

Chandigarh, the Director did not respond to calls.

In report on serious irregularities in disbursal of SC post-matric scholarship funds submitted to Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan, Deputy Director Parminder Gill, Deputy Controller Finance and Audit Charanjit Singh, section officer Mukesh Bhatia, senior assistants Rakesh Arora and Baldev Singh are suspected to be involved in the scam.

The minister has written for staying the transfer order of Arora, who was transferred out from Ambedkar Institute, Mohali, to Fazilka, on August 31 by the Director, Social Welfare, Devinder Singh. The minister issued orders cancelling the transfer on September 4. However,

To further smoothen its functioning and make it more transparent, the School Education Department has simplified the procedure for issuance of accreditation/registration certificates to private schools and institutions.

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The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) will take up the issue of restoration of Punjabi as an official language in Jammu and Kashmir with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, besides highlighting the issue in Parliament.

A decision to this effect was taken at a party meeting presided over by SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal. It was decided that the party would seek a change in the draft legislation seeking to make Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi and English official languages of J&K by seeking inclusion of Punjabi in the list.

Badal said there was widespread resentment among Sikhs and Punjabis living in J&K and elsewhere over the J&K administration's move. TNS

Amidst the Covid-induced lockdown, many lost their jobs and others reached a point where they could have taken the extreme step, but for some it was an opportunity to present an exemplary spirit of courage.

During these testing times, many women from the city have broken into male bastions for survival. From running an ice-cream cart to delivering online orders and working at petrol pump, these women are doing it all with elan.

Maninder Kaur, a graduate in bachelor of computer applications and resident of Sunet village, has bought an ice-cream cart to make the both ends meet. "All job options were closed when the pandemic struck. I wanted to earn something and support my family. So after much thinking, I bought

## Director transfers official, minister stays order

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 10 Even as Social Welfare Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot has disassociated himself from the alleged anomalies in the disbursal of the SC post-matric scholarship scam, he "continues to give patronage" to a senior assistant in the department, Rakesh Arora, one of the suspects in the scam.

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Maninder Kaur, a graduate

# Local Govt Dept's online approvals caught in red-tape

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

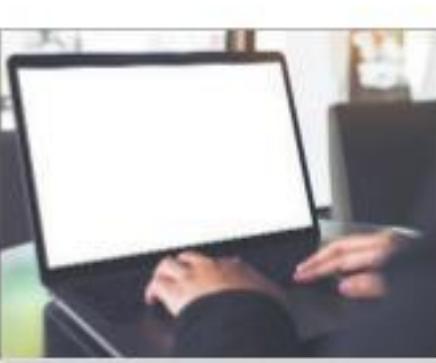
**CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 10**  
In a classic case of red-tape, the Director, Department of Local Government, has created another level of clearance in granting online approval for change of land use and cases of regularisation of illegal colonies.

Bhupinder Singh, Director, who hasn't been well for the past one week, said there was no anomaly in the orders. The work of giving online approvals had been divided among senior town planners.

In orders issued yesterday, Singh has designated three senior town planners at the departmental headquarters as competent authority for all categories of approvals for building plans, change of land use and regularisation of illegal colonies.

"There was no need to create another level of clearance as the cases were already coming to Senior Town Planner Kamaljeet Kaur, who was officiating as Chief Town Planner (CTP)," pointed out a senior functionary in the department.

Quoting April 2013 and



Senior town planners to see files multiple times as another level of clearance added

June 2013 orders, the Director, in his orders, has stated that as per the government instructions, the senior town planners have to give approval for the technical advice in all cases. Three STPs — Gautam Kumar, Tejpreet Singh and Kamaljeet Kaur — have been allocated the urban local bodies divided into three zones.

If one goes by the order, STP Kamaljeet Kaur would deal with same files twice, one in capacity of STP and then in the capacity of CTP. Same is the case with Gautam and Tejpreet, who have been looking after the charge of other urban local bodies.

# PSPCL detects ₹18.40-cr loss

Power theft, meter-tampering, unauthorised use eat into revenue

KULDIP BHATIA

LUDHIANA, SEPTEMBER 10

In its ongoing drive against power theft and other irregularities, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has unearthed a revenue loss of Rs 18.40 crore arising out of 1,24,535 connections from August 11 to September 4. Of the amount, Rs 5.09 crore has already been recovered as penalty from the erring consumers.

PSPCL Director (Distribution) Daljit Inder Pal Singh Grewal said as many as 10,412 cases of revenue loss through power theft, tampering with meters, illegal use of electricity, unauthorised load and faulty meters in five distribution zones — border,



'₹151-CR ARREARS RECOVERED IN AUGUST'

Arrears to the tune of ₹129 crore have been recovered from private consumers and ₹22 crore from government departments in August alone.

Daljit Inder Pal Singh Grewal, PSPCL DIRECTOR (DISTRIBUTION)

central, north, south and west — had been detected.

Grewal said the highest number of connections was checked in the border zone (37,234), followed by north (25,759), west (22,405),

south (20,036) and central (19,101) zones. The border zone also topped the list of defaulters with 2,813 cases, followed by west (2,321), south (2,016), north (2,000) and central (1,262) zones.

## IG seeks pardon for Behbal 'approver'

FARIDKOT, SEPTEMBER 10

Inspector General of Police Kunwar Vijay Pratap today appeared in the court of District and Sessions Judge, Faridkot, to seek pardon for Inspector Pardeep Singh, a prime accused in the Behbal Kalan firing case, to make him an approver.

The move reportedly aims at strengthening the prosecution case against the main culprits. So, neither Resham

Resham Singh, brother of one of the deceased in the firing, and former SSP Charanjit Singh Sharma, one of the key accused, are opposing the SIT move. The SIT claimed in the court that allowing an accused turn approver in a criminal case was a decision to be taken by the investigating agency, prosecution and the court so as to strengthen the case.

Pardeep has named a DGP-rank officer and a senior Akali leader who allegedly played role in the police firing at Kotkapura and Behbal Kalan on October 14, 2015. — TNS

In terms of penalty imposed on defaulting consumers, the west zone led with Rs 480.68 lakh, followed by the border zone with Rs 446.46 lakh, south zone Rs 372.72 lakh, central zone Rs 289.25 lakh and north zone Rs 251.81 lakh.

Grewal said the west zone was also ahead in recovery of penalty with Rs 135.91 lakh, while the lowest amount recovered was in north zone at Rs 53.63 lakh. In south zone, the recovery was Rs 135.40 lakh, border zone Rs 117.76 lakh and central zone Rs 66.76 lakh.

He lauded the efforts made by the staff towards recovery of arrears to the tune of Rs 129 crore from non-government consumers and Rs 22 crore from government departments in August alone.

## Two Pak intruders' bodies given burial

ABOHAL/SRIGANGANAGAR, SEPT 10

Two suspected Pakistani smugglers, who had intruded into the Indian territory in Sriganganagar on Wednesday and were subsequently killed by the Border Security Force, were given burial today after Pakistan Rangers refused to accept their bodies contesting their nationality. — TNS

## ₹1.92-crore ex gratia for Galwan martyrs

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 10

Recognising the supreme sacrifice made by martyrs of the Galwan valley, the Punjab Government on Thursday released an amount of Rs 1.92 crore as ex gratia, additional relief to parents and cash in lieu of plots for payment to the next of kin. Naib Subedar Mandeep Singh, Naib Subedar Satnam Singh, Sepoy Gurinder Singh, and Sepoy Gurtej Singh, were among the 20 soldiers, who had attained martyrdom during a confrontation between Indian and Chinese soldiers at the Line of Actual Control on June 15 in the Galwan valley. — TNS

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### ADMISSION NOTICE

Applications are invited for admission to the 114, 20-Week Postgraduate Certificate in the Teaching of English (PGCTE), a Teacher-Training Course which commences on 05th Oct, 2020 and concludes on 21 Feb, 2021. Due to COVID-19, the 114th course will be conducted online from the place of residence/work. The applicant will enrol themselves through the Google Form link given on RIE Website i.e. [www.rieni.org](http://www.rieni.org). The form needs to be duly filled and sent by 30.09.2020 respectively.

Link on Website : 114 PGCTE Admission Form

Email Address : [drie32chd@gmail.com](mailto:drie32chd@gmail.com)

Eligibility : Applicant with M.A. (English) or B.Ed. (With Teaching of English)

Age : Below 55 years for In-service teachers and below 45 years for Teachers-to-be

Note For Teachers-to-be:  

- Application forms for "Teachers-to-be" are available at the office counter for Rs. 120/- from 09.00 A.M. to 04.00 P.M. (Mon to Fri). The applicant may also pay the application fee online (Bank particulars given below)

• Fee: Rs. 2000/- (only for teachers-to-be)

• The above amount is to be deposited in RIE Bank Account No. 556901010050482 using any online procedure and proof of payment must be conveyed to this office via email. WhatsApp No. 8580430463 or Post.

Sd/- Director,  
Regional Institute of English,  
Chandigarh Administration.

## Why case pending against politician for 36 yrs, asks SC

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10**  
Shocked over a criminal case against a Punjab politician pending for 36 years, the Supreme Court today asked the state to explain why it had been hanging fire for such a long time.

"Why is a case regarding life imprisonment pending for 36 years?" asked a three-judge Bench led by Justice NV Ramana during hearing of a PIL against criminalisation of politics.

As the Bench took up an affidavit filed by senior advocate and Amicus Curiae Vijay Hansaria, Justice Ramana asked which was the oldest

pending case. "The oldest case is from 1983... It's from Punjab," Hansaria said. "This is shocking! Who is the counsel for the state of Punjab?... No one is visible," the Bench said.

As an advocate appeared on the screen, the Bench sought to know why a case involving life imprisonment was pending for 36 years. "Are you not responsible for prosecuting criminal cases?" Justice Ramana asked.

Thirty-five sitting and former MPs and MLAs in Punjab are facing criminal cases, Hansaria said in an affidavit filed in the court. "There are 35 cases (in Punjab), out of which in 21 cases sitting MPs/MLAs are accused," he said.

## Water supply dept axes trees, locals lodge DDR

SANGRUR, SEPTEMBER 10

In an alleged contempt of the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) order, the Water Supply and Sanitation Department today axed fully grown trees, including the ones more than 150 years old, on its land here.

"On the petition of area residents last week, the NGT had passed the order that no tree along the Telephone Exchange road should be axed. However, five trees have been axed in contempt of the NGT's order. We have got a DDR registered," said Jasinder Sekhon, an area resident, who had moved the NGT.

The department has axed the trees to construct the office of district executive engineer. Superintending Engineer

Sangrur SDM launches probe

Sukhmander Singh Pandher said he was not in his office when the incident happened, adding that he was oblivious to the axing of trees.

"I have joined work here recently, and I am not aware about the NGT's order. All paperwork to construct the office was completed by my predecessor. I will look into the matter and take appropriate action," said executive engineer Jaspreet Kaur Mann. "We are conducting an inquiry into the matter," said SDM Babbardeep Walia. — TNS

## सुभाष पालेकर प्राकृतिक खेती प्राकृतिक खेती खुशहाल किसान योजना

कृषि विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश

## किसान आय दोगुनी करने हेतु हिमाचल सरकार का ईमानदार प्रयास



### प्राकृतिक राज्य की ओर हिमाचल

किसान	पंचायतें	भूमि
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Office-In-Charge  
Office of Military Literature Festival Association,  
SCO-183-184, Sector 8-C, Chandigarh.  
M - 94631-88660, 78371-73075. DPR/Pb/75360



**GOV'T. OF PUNJAB**  
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE  
(ONE TIME AMNESTY SCHEME FOR REGULARIZATION OF BOILERS BEING OPERATED WITHOUT REGISTRATION/RENEWAL)

This is in continuation to the public notice published in The Tribune, The Punjab Kesari, The Jagban and The Yug Marg vide which boiler users were asked to submit their online request, for boiler regularization, by 31.8.2020. The last date for submitting online request, for boiler regularization under One Time Amnesty Scheme is now extended to 15.10.2020. This is the last opportunity and there will be no further extension.

Sd/- DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE,  
PUNJAB.

Advt. No. CAP/September/2020/101  
Invites Applications from Women candidate for a regular post of Asstt. Professor in Commerce under Grant-in Aid Post, within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement on the Prescribed Proforma, obtainable from its Office and the concerned College on payment of Rs.250/- in cash or by bank draft in favour of "Secretary, DAV College Managing Committee, New Delhi", or by post with a self addressed Rs.25/- stamped envelope. It can also be downloaded from the College Website [www.mcm davcw-chd.edu](http://www.mcm davcw-chd.edu), and be submitted alongwith a bank draft of Rs.250/- per form to Managing Committee Office.

**Eligibility:-** Candidates with the qualifications/conditions laid down by the UGC/State Govt./Panjab University, may send their application through Registered post/Speed- post or in person and a copy of the application be also sent to the Dean, College Development Council, Panjab University, Chandigarh.

Reservation for SC/ST Candidates and persons with disabilities will be followed as per the rules of Pb. Uni./Pb.Govt./U.T.Admn./Govt. of India, as the case may be.

**Submission of Application Forms:-** Application attached with (i) copies of the testimonials/degrees (ii) "No Objection Certificate", from the present employer and API Score with all relevant documents, will alone be entertained on or before the due date. Vacancies may increase or decrease due to an unforeseen accidence. The recommendation of the Selection Committee will not be confirmed an automatic right of the appointment. P.D.Gandhi will be preferred.

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For Circulation and Advertisement booking and other related queries please call at following numbers from Monday to Saturday between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.

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**E-mail at** advt@tribunemail.com

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

I, Sanjiv Kumar s/o Ramesh Kumar, VPO Kalwan (Ropar) have changed my name to Sanjiv Kumar Singh. (CL20038425)

I, Gurmit Singh s/o Sant Singh # 1235, Village Faidhan, Chandigarh, have changed my name Gurmit Singh Gurmeh Singh. (CL20038455)

I, Asmi d/o Amit Uppal resident 610/22, Kailash Colony, Rohtak-124001 have changed my name to Asmi Uppal. (CL20038468)

I, Payal w/o Amit Uppal resident 610/22, Kailash Colony, Rohtak-124001, have changed my name to Payal Uppal. (CL20038559)

Rajni Gaur w/o Rajeev Sharma v/o H.No. 141/4, Durga Colony, Paonta Sahib, HP. I have changed my name to Rajni Sharma for all future purposes. (CL20038588)

I, Rajesh Kumar s/o Sant Singh Mittal & Bapi Pathana, Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib have changed my name from Rajesh Kumar to Rajesh Kumar Mittal now. (CL20038316)

I, Payal w/o Amit Uppal resident 610/22, Kailash Colony, Rohtak-124001, have changed my name to Payal Uppal. (CL20038559)

Rajni Gaur w/o Rajeev Sharma v/o H.No. 141/4, Durga Colony, Paonta Sahib, HP. I have changed my name to Rajni Sharma for all future purposes. (CL20038588)

I, Rajesh Kumar s/o Baldev Raj Mittal & Bapi Pathana, Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib have changed my name from Rajesh Kumar to Rajesh Kumar Mittal now. (CL20038316)

I, Ranjeet Kaur d/o Jatinder Singh v/o Ward No. 16, Vikas Nagar Near Baba Vishwamitra School, Fatehgarh, Punjab-147301, have changed my name to Rubalpreet Kaur for all purposes. (CL20038217)

I, Vijay Kumari w/o Inderjeet Chand Singla v/o # 9-G Model Town, Patiala, Punjab, India have changed my name from Vijay Kumari to Vijay Singla. Concern kindly note. (CL20038312)

I, Lovely Dhwani d/o Santokh Pal Verma, Village Kot Badal Khan, Tehsil Phialaur, (Jalandhar), have changed my name to Lovely Verma. (CL20038368)

I, Army No. 13769322X TS NK Suresh Kumar v/o Vill. Kangos PO Solding Teh. Nichar, Distt. Kinnaur H.P., have changed my son's name from Shaksham Negi to Saksham Negi, vide Affidavit No. 06AA 860722 dated 09.09.2020 before Executive Magistrate Bhabanagar, Distt. Kannauj. (CL20038355)

I, Parkash Bains W/o Keshmiri Lal Bains R/o House No.803, Block-H, AWHO Harbhajan Singh, Sector-114, Landran, S.A.S. Nagar (Punjab) have changed my name to Parkash Devi for all intents & purposes. (CL20038367)

I, Major Gulati s/o Buta Ram r/o # 716, Sec. 48-A Chandigarh declare that my son Amrit Gulati and his wife Parminder Kaur are out of my control. I disown them from all my moveable/immovable property. I shall not be responsible for any of their acts and anybody dealing with them shall do so at their own risk. (CL20038371)

I, notified for the information that my original qualifying examination certificate of main/ secondary examination of year 2016 and Roll No. 231274 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Hartaj Singh, # 148/46-A, Chandigarh. 79731-62164. (CL20038389)

I, Nisha w/o Army No. 13769322X TS NK Suresh Kumar v/o Vill. Kangos, PO Solding, Teh. Nichar, Distt. Kinnaur, H.P. have changed my DOB from 06.07.1986 to 07.06.1986, vide Affidavit No. 06AA 860724 dated 09.09.2020 before Executive Magistrate Bhabanagar Distt. Kinnaur. (CL20038466)

I, Anoop Singh s/o Bharat Singh resident H.No. 1000/ 31, Chhutu Ram Colony, Rohtak, declare that my son Anirudh is out of my control. I disown him from all properties. Anybody deals with him at his own risk. (CL20038480)

I, Jagvir Kaur w/o Late Shri Surinder Singh v/o # 2073-74, Sector 19C, Chandigarh, declare that my son Amrik Singh & his wife Kulwinder Kaur both are out of my control. I disown them from my moveable and immovable property. Anybody dealing with her at his/her own risk. (CL20038496)

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"The Tribune Trust does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting thereupon."

epaper.tribuneindia.com

## Dairy owner robbed of ₹4.5 lakh, jewellery

GURUGRAM, SEPTEMBER 10

Armed men allegedly robbed a milk dairy owner of Rs 4.5 lakh, jewellery worth Rs 10 lakh and a mobile phone after breaking into her home situated in the district's Tajnagar village on Wednesday. A case of robbery has been registered.

In her police complaint, dairy owner Saroj Yadav said around 2 am on Wednesday, she went to the dairy to call her workers. On not getting a reply, she entered the workers' room only to find them

in captivity of armed men, who had their faces covered.

"They pointed a gun towards me and led me to my home. They forcibly took the almirah keys and decamped with Rs 4.5 lakh, gold jewellery worth Rs 10 lakh, a mobile phone and car keys," Yadav said in her complaint.

The police have formed a special team to arrest the accused. The CCTV footage is being scanned to get clues about the robbers," said Preet Pal Singh Sangwan, ACP, Crime. — OC

### PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bathinda has received an application for reconstitution of Retail Outlet (Petrol Pump) dealership of M/s Chiranji Lal Kewal Krishan, Juniper, Distt. Mansa in favour of surviving partner Shri Kewal Krishan, House No. 233, Ward No. 8, Narotam Nagar, Khanna, Ludhiana and two legal heirs of deceased partner (late Shri Chiranji Lal)- Sh. Prem Kumar, Ward No. 3, Sardulgarh, Mansa and Sh. Jagdish Rai, Ward No. 10, Sardulgarh, Mansa. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd hereby invites claims, response or objections to the reconstitution of the dealership from the heir/s or other claimant/s or objector/s to the reconstitution of the Retail Outlet dealership within a period of 30 days from the publication of this notice, with the copies of relevant proofs to support the claim/objection. If no claims/objections are received within the period prescribed above, the Corporation shall be at liberty to process the proposal as per Corporations policy. In case of any claims/objections kindly contact Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bathinda Divisional Office, Mansa Road, Phoos Mandi, Bathinda – 151001.

### AUCTION NOTICE

The Auction of Unserviceable Computer Hardware Items vide letter No. Per (Trg.) G (2)-1 /2017-L dt. 24th July, 2020 will take place on 30th September, 2020 at 11.00 A.M. in the premises of H.P. Institute of Public Administration, Fairlawns Shimla – 12.

These items can be inspected at any time on any working day from (10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.). The interested parties/persons can contact Sh. Sandeep Kumar, A.P. I.T. of this Institute on office phone No.- 0177-2734700 for inspection. A copy of terms and conditions before & after taking part in the auction can also be had from the said officer and is also available on the HIPA website at <http://hipashimla.nic.in>.

(Chander Parkash Verma), IAS,  
Director,  
H.P. Institute of Public Administration,  
Fairlawns, Shimla – 171012.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to all concerned right holders through this Public Notice that for four laning of Baddi-Nalagarh, Km 17.930 to Km 35.312 section of NH-21A, Distt. Solan, the notification under section 3D of National Highway Act, 1956 has been published in Chandigarh edition of Tribune newspaper on 10.09.2020 to acquire land for public purpose for following villages:-

Name of Tehsil/Taluka	Name of Village	Area in Hectare
Baddi	1) Baddi Sheetal Pur (204)	0.2182
	2) Belli Khol (162)	0.0190
	3) Bhud (188)	0.5718
	4) Billan wali Gujran (198)	0.1633
	5) Chak Jangri (203)	0.0789
	6) Daso Majra (185)	0.4516
	7) Dhana (159)	0.1470
	8) Har Raipur (183)	0.2294
	9) Haripuri Sandauli (206)	0.0437
	10) Juddi Khurd (209)	0.1339
	11) Kainduwal (200)	0.0939
	12) Kalyan Pur (201)	0.0624
	13) Kohl (186)	0.5152
	14) Kishan Pura (163)	0.4865
	15) Malku Majra (184)	0.3420
	16) Malpur (189)	0.1869
	17) Manpura (164)	0.3932
	18) Nalka (158)	0.3739
	19) Sandauli (199)	0.0935
	20) Sanedh (161)	0.1405
	21) Saraj Mazra Gujra (208)	0.0157
	22) Saraj Mazra Labana (205)	0.3196
	23) Tahi Wala (160)	0.2632
	24) Dadi Kanya (147)	0.4856
	25) Bele Dyoth (153)	0.0918
	26) Dadi Bholia (146)	0.0283
	27) Khera Chak (152)	0.1402
	28) Khera Upalara (149)	0.0606
	29) Khera Neel (150)	0.3125
	30) Kilarup (143)	0.0239
	31) Mini Secretariat (139/3)	2.1071
	32) Rakhrum Singh (141)	0.0584
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8.6517</b>

In pursuance of article 3G (3) of National Highway Act, 1956 it is hereby informed to all concerned right holders that claim for compensation in respect to schedule published under section 3D of NH Act, 1956 in Chandigarh edition of Tribune newspaper on 10.09.2020 should be submitted to Competent Authority of Land Acquisition (CALA) Cum- Sub Divisional Officer (C) Nalagarh, Mini Secretariat, Nalagarh, District Solan (HP) up to 03.10.2020.

Objection will not be entertained after stipulated date. The compensation related to objection submitted will be under validity and the responsibility to produce valid witness of concerned claimant.

Competent Authority of Land Acquisition (CALA) cum-Sub Divisional Officer (C), Nalagarh, Distt. Solan, H.P.

IN: 24388776P RANK: RANK: RANK: RANK:  
SINGH, SID SOHAN SINGH, SID VILLAGE:  
KANTE, PO: BHAUDI, TEHSIL: HAROLI DISTT:  
UNA STATE: H.P. UNIT: 170 MC/MF Det: CIO 56  
APO: DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT MY WIFE:  
(JASWINDER KAUR) DOB: HAS BEEN  
WRONGLY WRITTEN IN MY ARMY SERVICE  
RECORDS AS 05.03.1987 INSTEAD OF HER  
ACTUAL DOB AS 01.07.1982. I AM REQUESTING YOU  
TO APPLY FOR THE CORRECTION IN MY  
ARMY SERVICE RECORDS AS PER HER SCHOOL  
RECORD & ADDHAR CARD. OBJECTION, IF  
ANY, MAY BE CONVEYED TO CONCERNED  
AUTHORITIES WITHIN SEVEN DAYS.

From 30 tests per day in March, testing now 30K

STATE-LEVEL PROTEST NH at Pipli blocked in protest against new farm ordinances

## JJP flays lathicharge, seeks investigation

Tribune News Service

HISAR, SEPTEMBER 10

Senior leaders of the Janayak Janta Party (JJP), which is in power in alliance with the BJP in Haryana, have criticised the lathicharge on protesting farmers at Pipli town of Kurukshetra today.

JJP leader Digvijay Singh Chautala, founder member of the JJP along with his elder brother Dushyant Chautala who is the Deputy Chief Minister, tweeted that the lathicharge is condemnable. Stating that they realise the pain of farmers, Digvijay demanded a probe into the incident. "It is painful and should not have happened."

Naina Chautala, legislator from Badhra, during her visit to her Assembly segment stated that it is wrong if farmers have been lathicharged. "I will get to know about the incident after watching the news," she said.

Meanwhile, Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) mentioned in his tweet.

**PROTECT MANDI, MSP SYSTEM: HOODA**

Kurukshetra: Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Thursday said the voice of the people in a democracy cannot be suppressed by the use of force. "No ordinance can be in the interest of the farmers unless it guarantees MSP. If the government wants to make any changes in the system, it will have to guarantee the protection of the mandi and the MSP system," Hooda said. TNS

leader and legislator from Ellenabad Assembly segment in Sirsa Abhay Singh Chautala condemned the incident.

"It is unfortunate that the government is unleashing lathis on farmers instead of talking to them on the three ordinances. We will fight the battle for the farmers rising above politics," he mentioned in his tweet.

## More rallies on Sept 14

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 10

The BJP government has exposed its anti-farmer face by indiscriminately lathicharging farmers at Kurukshetra, alleged Jagmohan Singh Patiala, general sec-

etary, BKU (Dakonda).

"The All-India Farmers Struggle Coordinating Committee will hold rallies in front of Parliament and at five places in Punjab on September 14," he added. — TNS

# Punjab dents illegal booze dens

## Police, excise crack whip; recoveries, arrests go up

To safeguard a crop, the weed has to be pulled out from its roots. That's what the steely resolve shown by the Punjab government under a 'fauji' command has been able to achieve in the last couple of months - uprooting and destroying the criminal network and infrastructure of illicit liquor trade and smuggling, which caused the recent horrific hooch tragedy in three border areas at a time when the state was overwhelming preoccupied in containing the devastating Covid-19 pandemic.

Apart from the massive crackdown ordered by Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh to

weed out the criminals involved in the hooch tragedy and ensure that they are handed out exemplary punishment by the courts, the state government also applied a balm on the wounds of the hooch-stricken families by providing immediate ex-gratia compensation of Rs 2,00,000 for each dead member and free treatment to those hospitalised.

Officials of the Punjab police and excise Department who were found delinquent in the discharge of their duties were also not spared. The Chief Minister immediately ordered suspension of, and inquiry against, seven Excise



inspectors, besides two DSP rank officers and four SHOs of Punjab Police.

He also ordered a time-bound magisterial inquiry by a Divisional Commissioner into the entire episode.

In a statewide drive launched following Lockdown 1.0 in late March, and later massively scaled up under 'Operation Red Rose' in mid-May following the hooch tragedy, the state police, in close coordination with the excise department, succeeded in unearthing and smashing the entire network and dismantling the infrastructure for the illegal trade.

As part of this mam-

Singh, those found directly involved in the hooch tragedy have been booked for murder under Section 302 of IPC.

Massive seizures have been effected in the process, including nearly 2,00,000 litres of illicit liquor, 5,00,000 litres of licit liquor, more than 21,00,000 kgs of lahan, 1,84,000-plus litres of English wine, 750 kg of rum, over 20,000 litres of beer and nearly 50,000 litres of spirit.

The chart (below) of recoveries made during the anti-smuggling drive shows a clearly increasing trend as the lockdown progressed

### RECOVERED LIQUOR

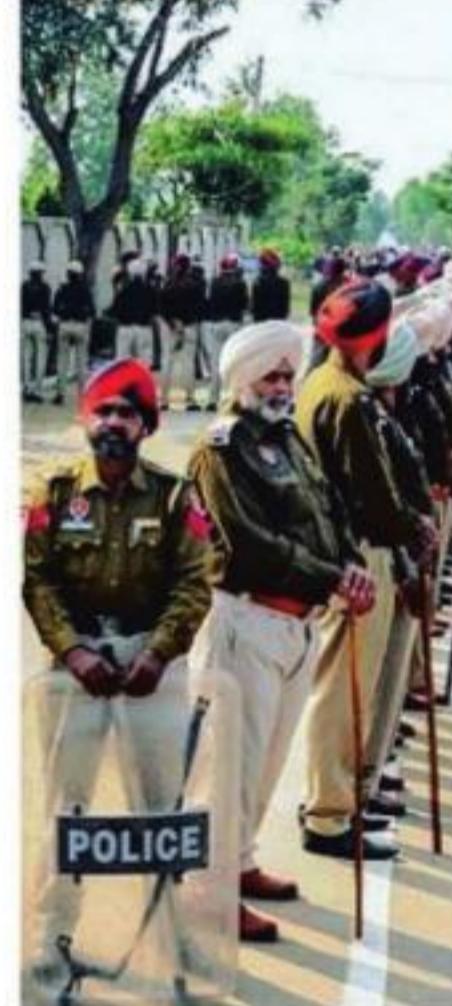
- 2,00,000 litres of illicit liquor
- 5,00,000 litres of licit liquor
- More than 21,00,000 kgs of lahan
- 1,84,000-plus litres of English wine
- 750 kg of rum
- Over 20,000 litres of beer
- Nearly 50,000 litres of spirit.

This (hooch tragedy) is sheer murder and the killers will not be allowed to get away. No politician, or public servant, found complicit in the racket of illicit liquor, will be spared.

### MONTH-WISE RECOVERIES

	Cases Registered	Persons Arrested	Illicit Liquor (In litres)	Licit Liquor (In litres)	Lahan (in kgs)	Working Stills
April	420	424	4180	42015	65924	23
May	1663	1168	26135	43950	142274	68
June	2326	2104	25430	33053	406150	99
July	1305	1253	24764	20589	205624	58
August	2853	1982	37078	28721	732248	116
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8567</b>	<b>6931</b>	<b>117587</b>	<b>168328</b>	<b>1552220</b>	<b>364</b>

## Finish Off Liquor Mafia Once For All: Capt Amarinder Singh



Pained over the hooch tragedy in the state, which had impacted the poorest of the poor, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has set a clear goal before his government - to finish off the liquor mafia once for all. Not resting at just dismantling the network and infrastructure which was breeding liquor smuggling and illicit distillation, and arresting hundreds of accused involved, the determined Army veteran has put in motion a process for further strengthening the legal framework to obviate

the possibility of revival of such criminal activities in the future as well. A sub-committee headed by cabinet minister Brahm Mohindra has been asked to examine the provision of stricter laws like PCOCA (Punjab Control of Organised Crime Act), as suggested by Advocate General Atul Nanda, so that such a law can be framed to combat organised rackets of illicit liquor and liquor smuggling.

Following his clear directions to the administrative and police top brass that hooch deaths are to be treated as mur-

der, and none of the killers, and politicians, or public servants, found complicit in this tragedy, are to be spared, those found directly involved have been booked for murder and

more than a dozen excise and police officials have been suspended, and inquiries instituted against them.

The Chief Minister has also appealed to the Opposition in the state to rise above petty political interests and fight for justice to the victims because criminals and mafias do not have any political affiliations. These tragedies have happened in other states as well in the past when these were ruled by other parties, and three such tragedies happened in 2019 in BJP ruled Assam, Uttar Pradesh and

Uttarakhand.

Apart from providing immediate compensation to the bereaved families and free treatment to those recuperating in hospital, on Capt Amarinder Singh's instructions officials in affected border areas have also roped in Child Welfare Committees along with NGOs to counsel the children of the affected families. Awareness drives have also been launched in the affected areas against illicit liquor consumption and people advised to destroy any stocks of illicit liquor they might have.

## All accused in hooch tragedy arrested

With the arrest of 66 people and massive recoveries, the Punjab Police have put an end to the entire network of manufacturers and distributors of illicit liquor and the supply chain of methanol (methyl alcohol) which was responsible for the recent hooch tragedy in the border areas of the state - Amritsar (Rural), Tarn Taran and Batala police districts.

Special Investigation

teams (SITs) have been formed to further identify forward and backward linkages of the network to see if more people are involved and professionally investigate the cases further to take them to their logical conclusion.

The fountain head of one module was owner of a paint shop in Ludhiana who supplied methanol to a couple of people in Moga, who further sold it to a man in

Tarn Taran, whose family supplied the illicit liquor made from this methanol to a dozen distributors in the three affected areas. Nearly all the people in this network have been arrested. Another module with roots in Rajpura area of Patiala district was neutralised by Taran Taran police. The kingpin of this racket used to siphon off methyl alcohol from tankers near Dera 2019.

According to police methanol or methyl alcohol poisoning has been responsible for most hooch tragedies in India, including the recent major ones in Assam (168 deaths), Uttar Pradesh (97 deaths), and Uttarakhand (30 deaths), all in February

## State considering death penalty or life imprisonment



The Capt Amarinder Singh led government in Punjab is taking stringent steps to future-proof the state against possibility of such a hooch tragedy repeating itself.

The state government is working on amendments to the Punjab Excise Act, proposing to introduce death penalty or life imprisonment for those causing death by illegal mixing of noxious drugs or substances in liquor.

An amendment is also being proposed in Section 63 of the Punjab Excise Act to increase the imprisonment for alteration of denatured spirit to three years and

a fine not less than Rs 10,000.

CCTV cameras are to be installed in the bottling section of all distilleries and bottling plants in the state. The state Excise Department is also exploring measures to introduce an independent logistics partner for transportation of liquor from distilleries to retail vends. Expression of Interest (EOI) for this has already been issued.

For effective monitoring of the movement of liquor from manufacturer to retailer, a Track & Trace programme is also being introduced. At the distillery/bottling plant level, all the dispatches are being done

from the boom barrier/gate after approval by a departmental inspector through biometrics.

In order to verify the authenticity of the pass, system generated QR codes are being printed on the passes for dispatch of extra neutral alcohol (ENA) and liquor from the distilleries. These QR codes can simply be scanned to ascertain their genuineness. The state Excise Department has also launched a centralised complaint number (9875961126) to receive complaints regarding illicit liquor.

'Dhabas' involved in pilferage sealed, owners/managers held



'Dhabas' located along National Highway No. 1, near Rajpura, came under special attention of the Punjab Police during investigations into the hooch tragedy.

Massive search and cordon operations were launched around these 'dhabas' in the first week of August, and tanker drivers and 'dhaba' owners found indulging in pilferage of extra neutral alcohol (ENA) and spirits from tankers which halt near these 'dhabas' were arrested.

Special police teams were formed to conduct the raids near Rajpura after it emerged that large quantities of chemicals used in the manufacture of spurious liquor, which killed scores of people in the border areas of Amritsar (rural), Tarn Taran and Batala, were sourced from 'dhabas' along the National highway.

The 'dhaba' owners in connivance with the truck drivers routinely pilfered the chemicals from trucks, headed for delivery to distilleries across the state, during their regular stopover at 'dhabas'. In the garb of having meals the drivers provided ample opportunity to the 'dhaba' owners to steal the chemicals, which were then sold off to manufacturers of illicit liquor at a neat profit. Large quantities of pilfered chemicals were recovered from the premises of some of these 'dhabas'. A few 'dhaba' owners/managers were arrested and the 'dhabas' sealed.

## Foreign fakes served at marriage palaces



An extensive racket in illegal refilling of cheap local-made liquor in bottles of expensive foreign liquor brands has been dismantled by the Punjab police in close coordination with the state Excise Department, which was causing a huge revenue loss to the state exchequer. Two illegal rebottling plants were unearthed in villages falling in Khanna and Ludhiana areas, leading to recoveries on a huge scale of filled and empty bottles, labels, caps, ingredients like spirits used in manufacture of cheap liquor, machinery, vehicles,

cash, etc. Thirteen people were also arrested, including owners of these illegal rebottling plants. One of them was a prominent liquor contractor, who also runs a popular amusement park.

Investigations had revealed that cheap liquor, mainly '999' and 'Jubilee', was being smuggled from Chandigarh and Haryana and filled in empty bottles of premium brands like Black Label, Chivas Regal and Grey Goose. These were then being sold through liquor contractors to marriage palaces.

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# The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

## Welcome, Rafale

Boost for military capability as challenges mount

THE formal induction of the first batch of five Rafale multirole fighter jets into the 17 Squadron at Ambala air base marks a new chapter for the Indian Air Force — the first imported fighter to be operationalised since the Russian Sukhoi-30s in the late 1990s. The jets had landed in the country in July-end, nearly four years after the signing of an inter-governmental agreement with France to buy 36 jets for Rs 59,000 crore. The entire fleet is expected to be in India by 2021-end, going some way toward filling the country's larger requirement of 126 such jets. It has taken almost 19 years to acquire the new generation fighter jets, a pointer to the painfully slow defence procurement and planning processes.

Amid the unprecedented border faceoff with China, the arrival of the fighters does provide a boost for military capability, but is it enough to alter the balance of power or signal a clear strategic shift in India's favour? For the IAF, the depleting strength of fighter jets remains a huge challenge, and any possible collusion between the Pakistani and Chinese air forces only adds to the concerns. The Ministry of Defence recently approved the purchase of 21 Russian MiG-29 and 12 Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft as replacements. However, against an authorisation of 42 squadrons, the IAF is expected to have only 29 in 2023.

At the ceremony, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described the acquisition as a game-changer, while his French counterpart said in military terms, Rafale — which literally means a 'gust of wind' or a 'burst of fire' — lends India a world class capability and its Air Force an incredible sovereign tool. India's military prowess and commitment is unquestioned. While a loud and unabashed reminder to the enemy of the price to pay for any misadventure is normal in these times, a toned-down grandstanding is not a sign of weakness. To the contrary, a country that sees itself as a major player in global politics should practise sobriety by saying less and doing more.

## Vaccine trial paused

It is vital to address safety concerns

WHEN a couple of days ago, AstraZeneca put on hold the trial of its leading vaccine, being developed along with Oxford University, over safety concerns following a participant in the UK suffering an unexplained illness, it had a ripple effect, including one in India. This pause to vaccine trials is important as, in accordance with standard norms, it allows the developers to conduct a review of safety data and see if the illness is linked to the vaccine. Even as such setbacks are routine during the making of any new shot, the Covid-weary world hopes that it will not delay the final outcome. However, only time and tests will tell whether this optimism is misplaced or not.

India is keenly observing the developments as it stands to be directly affected. Oxford has partnered with the Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) for making the vaccine, Covishield. The institute is enrolling around 1,600 healthy volunteers for the phase 3 trial of Covishield across 17 sites as its efficacy on the local populace too needs to be ascertained. The PGI, Chandigarh, is one of the chosen sites. Coincidentally, the PGI too has pressed the pause button on the recruitment of candidates to be administered the vaccine as it awaits safety approvals for the first 100 participants from the Data Safety and Monitoring Board. This rigorous check and balance is among the country's strict drug regulation guidelines designed to enable a periodic review and evaluation of accumulated study data for the participants' safety and progress.

With such a thorough and meticulous system in place, the vaccine may be delayed a bit, but there would be no compromise on its safety before it is declared fit for mass consumption. The SII has assured the Drug Controller General of India that it would not go ahead till all concerns are addressed. It effectively puts to rest the controversy raised by the earlier show-cause notice received by the SII from the DCGI in this context. Meanwhile, the world waits eagerly, and with bated breath, for the final verdict on Covishield, as also the nearly two dozen other vaccines at various stages of trials.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

We mistook violence for passion, indolence for leisure, and thought recklessness was freedom. — Toni Morrison

## ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

# The Tribune.

LAHORE, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1920

### Mr. GANDHI'S VICTORY.

SO far, the one thing that is indisputably clear is that Mr. Gandhi has won in the open Congress as he did in the subjects committee. The victory cannot be said to be a victory for the Khilafat, for there were none among the opponents of Mr. Gandhi who differed from him either as regards the gravity of the Khilafat wrong or as regards the supreme necessity of doing everything in our power to ensure the redress of that wrong. It was not a victory for the Punjab, for on the Punjab question, all parties were absolutely unanimous. It was not a victory for the cause of full and complete self-government, for there were many among those that strenuously opposed Mr. Gandhi's resolution who were as ardent believers in full and complete self-government as an immediately practicable ideal as himself, and some of whom this very occasion gave full and frank expression to their belief. Nor lastly was it a victory for non-co-operation as such, for some of the speakers on the other side were not only convinced non-co-operators but were prepared to go a long way with Mr. Gandhi's programme being generally of one of two opinions, either that it was not practicable, or that it would not lead to the end so ardently desired by Mr. Gandhi. And it cannot surely be said that on this aspect of the matter, the bulk of the delegates, whether on one side or on the other, were as good judges as the experienced and veteran leaders on either side or that the vote which these delegates gave the result of a conviction as deeply seated and as clearly reasoned out as that of Mr. Gandhi and Pandit Motilal Nehru on one side or of Pandit Malviya, Messrs. B.C. Pal, C.R. Das, Joseph Baptista and a host of others on the other. Nor is it possible to maintain that Mr. Gandhi carried the audience with him by the sheer weight of the arguments he advanced. Mr. Gandhi is never slow to reason.

# Epidemic of bad behaviour

'Compliance fatigue' is set to worsen the surge in numbers



DINESH C SHARMA

SCIENCE COMMENTATOR



SLACK: We need to study the phenomenon and take steps for mid-course correction.

The television narrative shapes ideas that a vaccine is the panacea and round the corner. Such 'feel good' communication by government agencies will abet laxity.

change fatigue' or compliance fatigue. Simply put, behaviour change fatigue means getting tired of a new set of rules. After remaining indoors, and in most cases without work or means of livelihood, for a long time during the lockdown, and adopting new norms like wearing masks and hand washing, people are getting tired. After all, covering one's face while going out or not shaking hands with friends does not come naturally to us. It was a new kind of behaviour and had to be imposed through a set of regulations. Such imposed changes can't be permanent. Hence, we see people going back to old ways. Another reason for compliance fatigue is the uncertainty surrounding the change. The uncertainty is at two levels — one is about how long this will go on, which has to do with uncertainty surrounding the pandemic itself. The other is about effectiveness of measures like face covering or hand washing, which is largely fuelled by misinformation and fake news.

Human behaviour — and change in it — is driven by perception of a particular subject, in this case the pandemic. And perceptions are shaped by information people get from various sources — government, media, peer networks and so on. If people feel that the novel coronavirus is a tolerable risk, they will go back to old behaviour. If someone is not wearing a mask in a public place, it means the person does not believe that he or she is at risk or can risk others. This perception may be based on certain information inputs — television news, WhatsApp messages, newspaper stories or YouTube videos or a combination of such sources. That's why communication of authentic information and news related to Covid-19, precautions, treatment options, prevention, etc, is critical. Based on such information, people calculate their own risk of contracting the infection and mould their behaviour accordingly.

That's where the problem lies. Health communication from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Indian Council of Medical Research and other official agencies is constantly playing down the real extent of the pandemic, with undue focus on certain 'feel good' statistics. This is happening constantly. In its press conference held this week, for example, the min-

istry stressed on the following: 'more than 5 crore tests conducted so far; 33 lakh patients have recovered; case fatality rate (CFR) is continuously declining, (1.7% compared to global average of 3.28%)'. This was on a day when India became the second worst-hit country, and the number of new infections continued to rise dramatically. The ministry also highlighted that 'the number of deaths per million population in India is only 53 as compared to the world average of 115 deaths per million,' and that the figure of '3,102 cases per million population is one of the lowest in the world.' In addition, 14 Indian states and UTs have less than 5,000 active cases.

Since the ministry's press conferences are shown live on TV channels and social media, the message reaches the people directly. Audiences may not understand jargon like CFR or the significance of per capita comparisons. They, however, get a broad message — India is doing much better than the other countries, without realising that the risk at individual level remains same or is even higher than it was at the beginning of the pandemic.

Along with transmission of 'feel good' data about recovery rate, the number of tests and mortality figures, is the messaging in the media around the possibility of a vaccine soon. Every little development about any of the 200-odd vaccines under development globally is projected as a 'breakthrough' without any discussion on issues relating to vaccine development, clinical testing, commercial manufacturing, distribution, administration and follow-up. The television narrative projects vaccine as the only panacea to the pandemic. This shapes ideas among people that a vaccine is round the corner. Such erroneous perception and 'feel good' health communication by government agencies will only abet a new epidemic of bad behaviour or compliance fatigue. We need to study this phenomenon and take urgent steps for mid-course correction in Covid-19 communication strategies and messaging. It can save lives.

## Mother's touch & surmedaani

### ANOOP KAUR BABRA

**A**T the invitation of my brother, I visited my family home in Amritsar. I hugged *bhabhi* again and again. Brother and I talked and laughed a little, reminiscing childhood. I showered my nephew with kisses. *Bhabhi* pulled him away, 'Take bua's luggage to the guest room.' It seems like a flip of a storybook page and I took it as a norm when all of a sudden, a daughter becomes a guest in her parental home after marriage. I had come back to my parental home after several years, and a lot had changed. I noticed that none of my growing up memorabilia was to be found. A strange fragrance of stability and permanence in this new atmosphere stormed my mind. My favourite books that adorned a corner of the family

room were replaced with some expensive antiques. A proud moment captured in a black-and-white picture hanging in the drawing room, when I topped in high school, had disappeared. It seemed like that moment had never taken place.

*Flip of a page/ carved antiques block away/ insignificant memorabilia...*

After our mother's untimely demise, my father stepped into the dual role of both mother and father. I have few memories of her. She died at the age of 32, and left me a toddler in my father's arms. My father raised us single-handedly, my two older brothers and myself.

*Sickle moon/papa comforts little ones/mama rests in peace...*

My curious eyes searched for something that breathed the essence of my long-departed mother. My spirits brightened up when I ran into mom's

hand-embroidered and faded shawl, a brass *paraat*, a rolling pin that had lost its varnish and her brass *surmedaani!* These treasures were all stack-piled in an open cardboard box collecting dust. I pulled the shawl out of the box, kissed and felt its warmth against my chest.

*Withering flowers/the essence of mother/ outlives her shawl...*

My hesitation that was as wide and wavering as an ocean was put to rest when I asked *bhabhi* if I could take my mother's evocative and loving belongings with me. Deep down, I knew that this household had no use for them anymore. *Bhabhi* agreed.

The *surmedaani* adorned her dressing table. I remember smearing my eyes with *surma* many times, and dancing in a circle to the rhythm of mom's favourite song...*Main vi kaali, mera maahi vi kala/Asin kaale lok*

*sadeende/Koh kaaf da surma vi kaala/Loki akhiyan vich paweede...*

Had mother been alive, she would have performed many rituals upon my arrival at her threshold, and done the same for my safe journey back. She would have kissed my forehead. Carrying my mother's belongings in my suitcase, and a flood of emotions in my heart, I was headed to the airport.

I couldn't wait to use the *paraat* and rolling pin in my kitchen once I was back at Brampton. I felt her gentle hand on my shoulder. The hurt that I carried from home started to soothe.

Flying at 40,000 feet, I looked intensely to have a glimpse of her somewhere in the sky. Everything seemed blurry. I turned my head, closed my eyes. There she was, wiping my tears!

*Overcast skies/fine stretch of surma/ connects daughter with mother.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Chinese game plan

Refer to the editorial 'Offensive edge' (Sept 10); China seems to be more adamant on altering the LAC to suit its designs for the BRI. Its earlier tactics not to use firearms but spears and machetes backfired because this time our Army was well prepared to tackle a wily China. China's other purpose is to engage India in unproductive military pursuits to divert its attention from economic and industrial initiatives which could make India an alternative to the world for supply chain requirements. It is a well-thought-out strategy and if India remains the underdog in this game, China may continue to arm-twist nations who want to shift to India. India will have to up its ante to beat China at its game. With such a long and porous border, the perils of safety can never be compromised, whatever cost it may entail.

ASHOK GOSWAMI, BY MAIL

### Tactical advantage

Refer to 'Offensive edge' (Sept 10); it was a matter of 'national pride' when our soldiers sacrificed their lives in the defence of the nation. The words 'managed to' were inappropriate for the well-executed, tactical manoeuvres undertaken by the armed forces in accordance with their plan to preempt PLA's move. The present tactical advantage on the ground provides

improved defensive positions to our forces. Reassessing our settled view on Tibet at this juncture is ill-advised as it would nullify our years of effort. The solution lies in following a spirit of accommodation and ramping up the talks to the level of a political summit, as is being articulated by the External Affairs Minister.

LT COL GS BEDI (RETD), MOHALI

### Why no potable water?

Apropos of '73 years on, Dehra villagers without potable water', why isn't the local administration working for the uplift of backward areas? Why aren't politicians bothered about remote villages? Why aren't they able to provide basic facilities to the citizens? It is sad that in this time and age, not everyone is getting potable water. This shows lack of professionalism in the local administration of the area. The leaders of this region come only to beg for votes and go underground after winning and enjoy their salary, power and prestige.

RITISH PANDIT, DEHRA GOPIPUR

### Dirty politics, again

Apropos of the editorial 'A tragic farce' (Sept 10), since the BJP does not have any agenda, it is playing dirty politics in the forthcoming Bihar elections by putting up posters

of the Sushant case. The BJP is diverting the attention of the people to cover its failures to rule the state. The people of Bihar have woken up and are waiting for an opportunity to overthrow them along with the JD(U) for making a mess in every sector. The BJP must prepare for serious political consequences.

BHAGWAN THADANI, MUMBAI

### Politics at its worst

Refer to 'A tragic farce'; our probing agencies have lost the trust of the people. Their findings, in politically sensitive/rewarding cases, are believed to be the diktats of their political bosses. In settling scores with the Shiv Sena, and securing some electoral gains in the coming Bihar elections, some innocents could be proved guilty and vice versa. Politicians, blinded by even their small electoral gains, fail to see the colossal damage that their kind of politics does to our institutions. The Maharashtra Police is being made to look incompetent; Shiv Sena, a trusted ally of the BJP for decades, has been projected as a bunch of terrorists from whom an actor can be protected only by giving Y+ security. Don't make people lose their trust in law and order, justice delivery system and democratic processes. The consequences could be disastrous. Perform to win elections.

HL SHARMA, AMRITSAR

### Homage to doctors

Doctors are in the line of fire of Covid throughout India. Till September 4, over 570 doctors have made the supreme sacrifice to defend the citizens of India. These doctors belonged to different social sections, age groups, specialities, caste and religion. Do we have any platform to pay homage to them? Does anyone know their name? What happens to the widows and the families of doctors who spent 30 years in learning and training themselves and died because they stood between you and the disease? The country is losing medical professionals who are selected through perhaps the toughest course in any field.

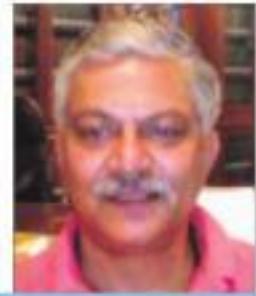
SURENDRA KAUSHIK, BY MAIL

### Abuse of state machinery

The action taken by the BMC against actor Kangana Ranaut by bulldozing her office is an example of the ruling party's goondaism. There may be thousands of illegal constructions, but the way the BMC has reacted shows the involvement of the government machinery. A senior Shiv Sena leader abusing her publicly shows their scant respect towards women. Criticism is healthy, but abusing state machinery for selfish means and intimidation cannot be justified.

ANSHUMALI SHUKLA, PATIALA

# Courts should learn to shrug off tweets



RAKESH DWIVEDI

SENIOR ADVOCATE, SUPREME COURT

In life, we ignore many provocations, especially the foolish and the trivial ones. We let the outswinging ball go into the gloves of the keeper. This has become more important with the emergence of the social media and the internet. This media is flooded with abuses and trifling few lines, which are casually and irresponsibly shared, often without thought and for fun or even habit.

This is the non-creative side of free speech. Such speech is generally unchewed and not very popular. Readers do not attach much weight to them. Often, the counters blunt them and they lie buried in the web dust. But if the institutions engage with them, they become notoriously popular and attract greater attention and discussion, often warped in high sounding legalese. The judiciary will have to develop this art of figuring in the new context, two tweets of Prashant Bhushan — one pertaining to the CJI checking out a Harley Davidson and the second alleging corruption against the last four CJI's and asserting failure on the part of the apex court to check executive assault against democracy.

The Ayodhya verdict too was castigated. Tweets had made hardly any impact on society or even the netizens. In fact, the first tweet had been countered by me as 'stupid' and 'absurd'. These tweets of a politico-lawyer fade into insignificance when compared with the garden media conference of four sitting

judges of the Supreme Court where serious allegations had been levelled against the then CJI Deepak Misra. The four judges rose from courtroom abruptly, under prior understanding, and addressed the media. A letter given to the CJI was released. They launched a serious charge alleging bias in the listing of important cases before a bench of preference in exercise of the powers of the Master of Roster. They said democracy was in danger and they had to speak out as part of duty to the nation. This became international news. It was covered by the entire print and electronic media. The meet was unprecedented. It led to an impeachment motion against the CJI. The motion was discussed in the media over days and rejected by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

The garden meet shook the judiciary as a whole. What the judges said pertained to the administration of justice in the Supreme Court. Their statement, if untrue, was clearly obstruction in the course of administration of justice. It was gross contempt. And it is settled that a judge can commit contempt of court. Justice Karnan, judge, Calcutta High Court, had been convicted not long ago. But the Supreme Court ignored it and rested content with reiterating the powers of the Master of Roster and it being unquestionable.

Perhaps it was more urgent to stabilise the rocking boat. The tweets of Bhushan are not as serious, nor were as widely covered, nor had an equivalent, nor even had half as much impact. It too should have been ignored. However, the court in its wisdom, chose to pick it up for suo moto contempt proceedings.

In the process, the Supreme Court, unwittingly, made the dead tweets alive and popularised them. It provided an opportunity to the contemner to interlace them with free speech question.

The conviction and Re 1 sentence



COURTING CONTROVERSY: Bhushan's tweets were turned valuable by the judicial error of noticing them for suo moto action.

made Bhushan a hero. Many compared him with Gandhi and Mandela — another stupidity. In the process, his tweets were read and reread and widely commented upon, largely in his favour, and in the context of bona fide belief and free speech. Tweets of zero value, which no one bothered about, were turned valuable by the judicial error of noticing them for suo moto action.

The free speech question! Many writers and the contemner pitted free speech against the power of contempt and asserted that contempt law was obsolete and must give way to the fundamental right. Bhushan flagged his long service to jurisprudence and his loyalty in always being in the forefront to protect the sterling record of the court in guarding fundamental rights

and democracy. The contention seems to be that even qua contempt law, the width of free speech is very wide and bona fide opinions as regards judges' rectitude and conduct cannot amount to contempt.

No doubt, free speech is the brightest of the seven lamps in Article 19 of the Constitution, and has a wide scope for criticism of the judiciary. But wide though it is, it is not absolute. No fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution is absolute (9JJ Aadhaar judgment in Puttaswamy case). And here, we have the important power of contempt existing in the panoply of court's power. The court's power of contempt inheres by virtue of Article 129. It should not be confused with the power of Parliament to make a law with refer-

ence to Article 19 (2) as a reasonable restriction. Law only regulates the power. The power is plenary. It is essential, so was put in the Constitution as a plenary power. This power is intrinsic and the core element of the independence of judiciary, which is a basic feature. Both free speech and the independence of judiciary are basic features and sometimes may appear to be in conflict.

The pantheon of basic features is not always in harmony. The pantheon has mutually warring godheads (Justice SN Dwivedi in Kesavanand case). Balancing and harmonising the two is important. Neither can claim absolute superiority over the other. Without a strong judiciary, the fundamental rights would be reduced to paper safeguards, and without criticism, the judi-

cacy will lose popular correctives.

Judges are human and are therefore fallible. Jurists and commentators play an important role. The judiciary has to welcome the popular gaze and scrutiny in order to be strong and enjoy the faith of the people. The faith is earned and not demanded or commanded. Strong criticisms do not weaken the judiciary, they strengthen it. A baseless criticism can always be shrugged off. There should be no attempt on the part of the judiciary to snuff out fair and strong criticism made bona fide by using the contempt power as a bludgeon.

At the same time, critics must always be conscious of the limits of fair criticism. Strong criticism does not confer a right to slander judges or court when verdicts are not to the liking or do not fit into their worldview or constitutional conceptions. When we move from criticising the judgments to criticising the judges and levelling charges of corruption, and we bypass the internal machinery, then only can truth be our defence. Bona fide opinion is no answer. Bona fide may be relevant for sentence or non-punishment; bona fide is not the same thing as truth.

The fallacy in Bhushan's defence was in pitching his case on bona fide opinion. Truth demands material and evidence of corruption. This is important as the judges are not there to defend themselves. The judgment in Prashant Bhushan's case correctly highlights this aspect. Bona fide tweet opinion as regards corruption in a few lines is hardly the way to level a charge of corruption. It is an irresponsible act. Criticism of a judge is an exercise to be undertaken with responsibility. It is not a tweet hit and hides behind bona fide opinion exercise. This is not an exercise of freedom of speech. It is slander, but something which the Supreme Court should have been well advised to let it pass.

## Sushant saga to make or mar NDA prospects



SABA NAQVI

SENIOR JOURNALIST

In the midst of the greatest despair is being offered the greatest distraction. There are many plots to the forthcoming Bihar assembly polls, the principal one being three-term chief minister Nitish Kumar, fighting for a fourth term in the face of growing anti-incumbency. Were he to win, that would make him the longest serving elected chief minister in the Hindi belt. Meanwhile, he also faces moves within the NDA to circumscribe his powers, but that's not really engaging people too much.

In one of the nation's most politically engaged states, it's the story of Sushant Singh Rajput, the actor found dead in his Mumbai residence on June 14 that has entered the political realm. It's not clear how exactly this helps or harms the either side, but the NDA partners believe it works for them. It's the narrative of a Bihar youth going under in 'Big Bad Bollywood', opines a strategist of the LJP, one of the NDA parties, that claims to have been the first to demand a CBI probe into the death.

In this season of the ridiculous, a BJP insider takes a long-term view and jokes: now it is Sushant, but once Bihar is over and we face the next big battle in Bengal, we will begin rehabilitating Rhea Chakraborty (the Bengali girlfriend of the late actor). It's all pretty puerile, but what is worth noting is that the political class believes it is happening.

No party understands distraction the way the BJP does and promotes it with enthusiasm. So in Bihar, stickers and masks bearing photos of Sushant Singh Rajput can be seen in various places.



POLL NARRATIVE: Sushant's case, NDA partners believe, will work for them in Bihar polls.

The BJP's cultural cell, the Kala Sanskriti Manch, has released 30,000 stickers and an equal number of face masks with the photo of the actor. The election notification is expected later this month, by which time more face masks will no doubt be distributed. In addition, a video on Sushant's life and 'struggle' is soon to be released by the party's hyper active IT cell. The slogan attached to all the material about Sushant is 'Na bhole hain, na bhulne denge' (we have not forgotten, nor will we let anyone forget).

That pitch is understandable as there are many things that the ruling NDA would want voters to divert their attention: floods, misery, reverse migration, joblessness, rise in crime, missing health infrastructure in the face of spreading coronavirus and so on. Overwhelmed by crises, two of which (Covid and floods) could per-

haps be described as 'acts of God', the regime of Nitish Kumar is not evoking any enthusiasm. The CM has unleashed a host of promises but would be relying on BJP resources plus structures, the arithmetic of coalition and the apparent weakness of the Opposition, to see him through.

But he is also facing ploys by the BJP to encircle him. The national party is making moves to push Nitish and his JD (U) into parting with more seats in the eventual distribution that will take place. Although the national leadership of the BJP has categorically stated that Nitish remains the CM face, sections of the Bihar BJP are not happy with that and believe this election they could have risked going on their own. The BJP also believes that the anti-incumbency is against Nitish and not the entire NDA.

In the BJP's game of chess, the LJP,

now led by Chirag Paswan, has come in handy. Chirag, incidentally, also tried his hand in Bollywood and actually acted in a 2011 film titled, *Miley Naa Miley Hum* (Maybe you get me, maybe not) with no less than the 2020 newsmaker Kangana Ranaut. He would survive that flop and return to play a bigger role as inheritor of his father Ram Vilas Paswan's party. While Paswan senior is currently in poor health, Chirag has kept up a constant critique of Nitish Kumar, even threatening to put up candidates in seats allotted to the JD (U) while he has continually praised the BJP. He is therefore doing the job of attacking his own coalition's CM face and would presumably be rewarded by the BJP for his efforts (given their track record, the Paswans are unlikely to leave a financially solvent front that is in power at the Centre).

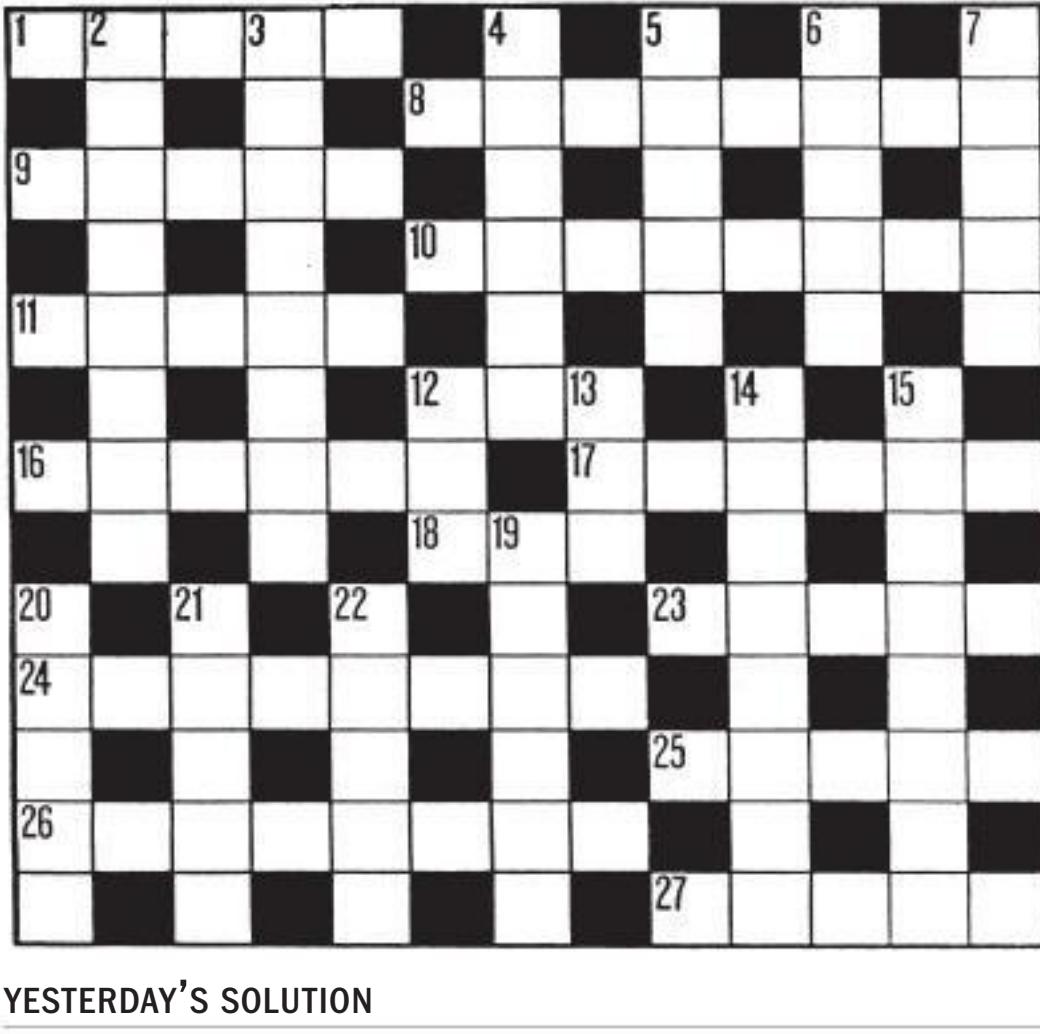
The RJD-led Opposition front is likely to include Congress, CPI and even the CPI (ML) that have stated they are in talks for seat sharing. They cannot match the BJP-RSS in terms of resources, but would be relying on disengagement that is certainly growing with every passing day in Bihar. The RJD's incarcerated president Lalu Prasad Yadav will determine the ticket distribution and would have a firm grip on the caste realities that lie at the fundamentals of Bihar politics. One of the most talented ground campaigners in contemporary political history, even those on the other side of the fence in Bihar, admit that a free Lalu may have been able to harness the growing misery of the poor to be a game-changer in 2020.

It remains to be seen whether his 30-year-old son Tejasvi Yadav can channelise that mood, particularly as there will be curbs on ground campaigns. It must, however, be noted that he has been in the field (unlike the 69-year-old CM who has begun with a virtual campaign) and is energetically issuing statements and taking positions. On September 9 for instance, Tejasvi urged people to come out and light a candle, lamp or lantern for nine minutes as a protest against unemployment and privatisation of government establishments. The lantern, incidentally, is the RJD's election symbol.

This election is taking place in the backdrop of other realities. The only party with unlimited resources and manpower to bring voters to the booth after a terrible year could be the BJP. Even Nitish's JD(U) would depend on candidates to ferry and motivate voters as would the RJD, both parties with deeper roots in Bihar politics. Unless an extraordinary event unfolds, there is also likely to be voter apathy and therefore, it will be the capacity of parties and candidates to ensure the last mile connectivity that could determine outcomes.

It will certainly be interesting to see how many vote in 2020 in a state where elections of the past consisted of crowds rushing around the helicopters of politicians landing in a cloud of dust. With human contact circumscribed, we would be having the first virtual election campaign in India. As this will happen in one of the country's poorest states, the question is will the two worlds be able to meet in any meaningful way?

### QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Deficiency, 6 Idea, 10 Sheer, 11 Corrosion, 12 Shoehorn, 13 Ranch, 15 Propane, 17 Codicil, 19 Observe, 21 Harvest, 22 Grieg, 24 Abstract, 27 Attentive, 28 Banjo, 29 Sewn, 30 On one's toes.

Down: 1 Dash, 2 Fleshpots, 3 Curse, 4 Enclose, 5 Chronic, 7 Deign, 8 Annihilate, 9 Corridor, 14 Up for grabs, 16 Arrogant, 18 Crescendo, 20 Evasion, 21 Has-been, 23 In tow, 25 Ribes, 26 Toss.

### SU DO KU



V. HARD

### CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 11, 2020, FRIDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Bhadrabudha Shaka	20
■ Bhadrabudha Parvishtha	27
■ Hijri	1442
■ Krishna Paksha Tithi 9, up to 4:20 am	
■ Siddhi Yoga up to 6:24 pm	
■ Mrighshikha Nakshatra up to 3:25 pm	
■ Moon in Gemini sign	

### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

### FORECAST

SUNSET: FRIDAY 18:33 HRS

SUNRISE: SATURDAY 06:05 HRS

Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Rainy	Foggy
CITY	MAX	MIN		
Chandigarh	35	25		
New Delhi	35	25		
Amritsar	36	25		
Bathinda	37	26		
Jalandhar	36	25		
Ludhiana	35	25		
Bhiwani	37	26		
Hisar	37	26		
Sirsia	37	26		
Dharamsala	26	17		
Manali	27	11		
Shimla	25	15		
Srinagar	31	13		
Jammu	35	24		
Kargil	21	11		
Leh	28	9		

## 319 cases, three deaths in state

Tribune News Service

**SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 10**  
 As many as 319 Covid cases were reported in the state today, taking the total tally to 8,466. Three deaths were also reported. The highest number of 99 cases were reported in Solan, 57 in Kangra, 66 in Mandi, 35 in Shimla, 21 in Una, 13 in Sirmaur, 12 in Kinnaur, nine in Bilaspur, four in Kullu and three in Chamba. Two deaths took place in Shimla, and one in Una district.

### 99 cases in Solan

Solan district registered the highest one-day spike of 99 cases on Thursday. Three policemen in Nalagarh, three SBI employees in Solan and two in Parwanoo, and an employee of the Assistant Commissioner's Office at Parwanoo were among those who tested positive. As many as 49 persons, including eight workers of Sidhartha Super Spinning Mills, were found infected in the BBN area.

### 57 catch virus in Kangra

As many as 57 new infections were reported in Kangra district. The people who tested positive include people from Dharamsala, Kangra, patients in Tanda medical college and other parts of the district.

#### STATE TRACKER

	+VE	DEATHS
Una	707	6
Solan	1,938	15
Kangra	1,289	11
Chamba	602	5
Himachal	708	5
Sirmaur	1,123	4
Mandi	624	8
Bilaspur	449	-
Shimla	516	10
Kullu	375	-
Kinnaur	116	-
Lahaul & Spiti	19	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,466</b>	<b>64</b>

#### 13 test +ve in Sirmaur

Thirteen persons, including a policeman, tested positive in Sirmaur district today. DC RK Pruthi said there were seven cases from Nahan, who are the contacts of earlier cases, and five from Sarahan, who had influenza-like infection. A policeman from Paonta Sahib also tested positive. As many as 860 persons had cured in the district.

#### Himachal prof dies at PGI

As many as 23 persons, including nine police person-

## Panchayat poll on time, says Thakur

Tribune News Service

**SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 10**  
 Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur today said the process for creation of 325 new panchayats had been initiated and the panchayati raj elections will be held on time later this year.

Intervening during Question Hour today, the Chief Minister said no new panchayats had been created in the state for the last 15 years.

"It was in 2005 that the process for the creation of new panchayats was initiated but due to Census operation, it could not be done," he said. He admitted that some relaxation in norms had been given in case of remote and backward panchayats.

Earlier, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Minister Virender Kanwar, while replying to a joint query by Hira Lal, Inder Dutt Lakhanpal and Vinay Kumar, said that 206 panchayats were created in 2005. The MLAs had sought the details of the number and the criteria adopted for the creation of panchayats.

He said the process for the creation of 325 panchayats had been initiated.

#### 42 of Mandi firm infected

In a biggest single-day spike, 66 new cases of Covid-19 infection were reported in Mandi district today. According to official sources, 42 employees of one private company were found positive. Apart from this, cases were reported from Sarkaghat, Balh and few other parts of district. The District Health authority has shifted majority of patients to the nearby Covid care centers for medical treatment.

#### 3 of family positive in Una

Twenty-one persons tested positive for coronavirus in Una district. Those found infected included a 28-year-old policewoman in Amb, and three of a family.

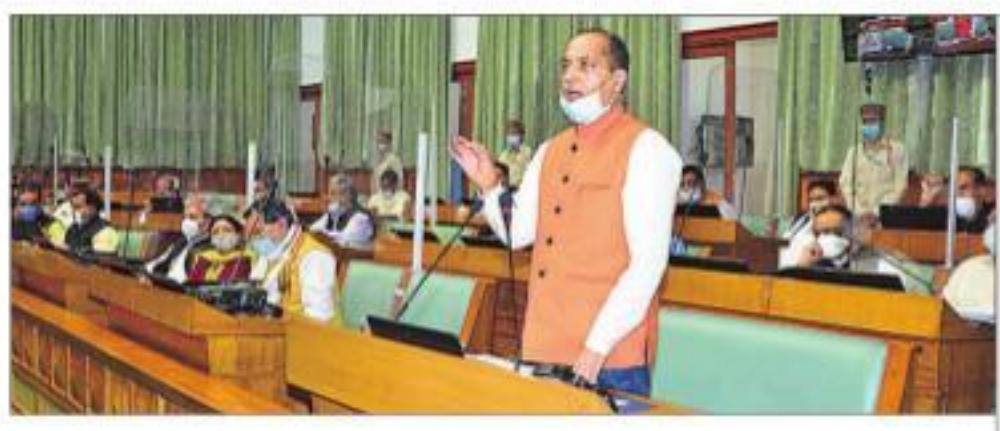
## State in initial stage of Covid community spread: Saizal

Tribune News Service

**SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 10**  
 Health Minister Rajiv Saizal today said sudden spike in Covid cases and the spurt in fatality clearly indicated that Himachal has entered the initial stage of community spread.

Interacting with media persons here today, he said the situation is very much under control but the analysis of the increase in cases was indicating that the state has moved to the initial community transmission stage. "The positive cases have crossed 8,000 and 61 deaths and this is a certainly a cause of worry," he said.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur also admitted that there has been a sharp increase in cases and community spread is being defined different. "Coronavirus, I feel, is moving towards its climax. So, I



Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur speaks during the Vidhan Sabha session in Shimla on Thursday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

#### Need to be more vigilant: Thakur

"Coronavirus, I feel, is moving towards its climax. So, I urge everyone to be far more vigilant as people are becoming casual. There is casualness when we need to be more careful." ■

Jai Ram Thakur, CHIEF MINISTER

urge everyone to be far more vigilant as people are becoming casual and there is casualness when we need to keep our guards up," he said. He added that no doubt the situation was getting challenging, but the government was fully capable and equipped to handle any exigency.

Saizal said people, by and large, were abiding by the norms but now some laxity in maintaining social distancing was visible, which is worrisome.

He added that there was need to lay thrust on education and spreading aware-

ness among masses.

"It is only by wearing masks and observing social distancing, besides disinfecting our clothes and properly washing hands that we can protect ourselves," said Saizal.

The minister said with the opening up of the economy as was the case across the country, strict adherence to norms was required. The vulnerable population must be protected and 2.30 lakh coronavirus tests had already been done.

## Temples reopen but poor footfall

Tribune News Service

**SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 10**  
 The reopening of temples after 170 days has failed to attract devotees who were cautious about their safety.

Senior citizens, who form a large chunk of devotees and children, are barred from entering the temples and other places of worship while normal activities like offering prasad and performing rituals like "havans" are prohibited, restricting the number of devotees.

The devotees turned up in Shiv Temple in Middle Bazar, Ram Mandir and Krishan Temple in Gaj, Sankat Mochan and Jakhoon but the rush was much less



Devotees visit the Tara Devi Temple in Shimla on Thursday.

as compared to other days while the Kali Bari Temple was not opened as a person in the vicinity was found positive.

There were hardly any

devotees in the temples on the outskirts and the famous Mau Nag Temple had only six devotees. The vendors selling prasad and other articles used in 'puja'

were missing but a few beggars were seen sitting outside the temples.

"Neither we expected, nor wanted rush of devotees as the threat of the Covid spread is far from over," said a priest of a temple on the periphery of the town. The number of devotees would increase during the Navratras, he added.

The income of the temples has reduced to "zero" as there is no offering and temple managements are banking on the festival season in October.

The police are deployed at the temples to ensure that social distancing is maintained and devotees wear masks.

#### राजस्त्र का राजपत्र

#### The Gazette of India

REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99



राजस्त्र का राजपत्र

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#### असाधारण

#### EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खंड 3—उप-खंड (ii)

PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

#### प्रधिकार से प्रकाशित

#### PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 2708]

No. 2708]

नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, सितम्बर 8, 2020/मात्र 17, 1942

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020/BHADRA 17, 1942

#### MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

#### NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 8th September, 2020

**S.O. 3040(E).**—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, S.O. No. 1916.(E) Dated 17.06.2020, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for construction of Toll Plaza Maintenance, management and operation of NH72B on the stretch of land from Km. 89.5 to Km. 97 (Court Road SDM Complex Chopal) in the district of SHIMLA in the State of HIMACHAL PRADESH.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in Hindi "Divya Himachal" and English "The Tribune" both dated 23.06.2020; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas objections have been received and the same have been considered and disallowed by the competent authority;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

#### SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the NH72B in the stretch of land from Km. 89.5 to 97 Km. (Court Road SDM Complex Chopal) in the district of SHIMLA in the State of HIMACHAL PRADESH.

State: HIMACHAL PRADESH		District: SHIMLA			
Sr. No.	Survey Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectare	Name of the Land Owner/Interested Person Part Survey No.
1	378	Government	Charaghah	0.0952	Government of Himachal Pradesh (378/2)
2	387	Government	Charaghah	0.103	Government of Himachal Pradesh (387/2/1)
3	397	Government	Charaghah	0.0623	Government of Himachal Pradesh (397/1)
4	401	Government	Charaghah	0.011	Government of Himachal Pradesh (401/1)
5	405/1	Government	Charaghah	0.087	Government of Himachal Pradesh (405/1/1)
6	446/396	Private	Banjar Kadim	0.006	Jai Lal, Keval Ram S/o Karam Das Resident Village Baranu (Shilla) 446/396/1
7	451/396	Private	Banjar Kadim	0.0033	Raju, Shivanand, Kundan S/o Sahiram S/o Khyalu equal share resident village Nawana Sub tehsil Ronhat 451/396/1
8	453/396	Private	Banjar Kadim	0.0102	Total Shares(4) Narayan Singh s/o Misru Ram s/o Sania (1) Share resident R. Pargana Piuntra Shiv Pal s/o Lachhi Ram s/o Paramanand (2) Shares local resident Aninder Singh s/o Satwant Singh s/o Gyan Singh (1) Share resident ward no. 5 Shamsherpur, Paonta. 453/396/1
9	453/396	Private	Banjar Kadim	0.0012	Total Shares(4) Narayan Singh s/o Misru Ram s/o Sania (1) Share resident R. Pargana Piuntra Shiv Pal s/o Lachhi Ram s/o Paramanand (2) Shares local resident Aninder Singh s/o Satwant Singh s/o Gyan Singh (1) Share resident ward no. 5 Shamsherpur, Paonta. 453/396/2
10	453/396	Private	Banjar Kadim	0.0017	Total Shares(4) Narayan Singh s/o Misru Ram s/o Sania (1) Share resident R. Pargana Piuntra Shiv Pal s/o Lachhi Ram s/o Paramanand (2) Shares local resident Aninder Singh s/o Satwant Singh s/o Gyan Singh (1) Share resident ward no. 5 Shamsherpur, Paonta. 453/396/3
		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>0.3809</b>	

[F. No. RW/NH-12013/20/2010/SP(C/5)/P-9/3D]

RAJESH GUPTA, Dy. Secy.

#### H.P. FOREST DEPARTMENT

#### TENDER NOTICE

#### e-Procurement Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)  
 The Divisional Forest Officer Nagan, District Mandi, HP on behalf of Governor of HP invites the online bids in electronic tendering system from the eligible contractors registered with HPDF/CPWD having Class D for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Starting Date for download- ing Bid	Earliest money @ %	Deadline for submission of Bid

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# With 1,592 new cases, count nears 50K mark

Tribune News Service

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 10 With 1,592 new cases, 770 from the Jammu division and 822 from the Kashmir valley, during the past 24 hours, the Covid count in J&K reached 49,134.

Meanwhile, J&K on Thursday reported 13 deaths, eight from Jammu and five from the Kashmir division, during the same period, taking the death toll to 845.

Moreover, 344 more patients recovered and were discharged from various hospitals, 71 from the Jammu division and 273 from the Valley.

According to the official bulletin issued on Thursday evening, out of the 49,134 positive cases, 14,074 were active positive, 34,215 had recovered and 845 died, 131 in the Jammu division and 714 in Kashmir.

The bulletin further said that out of the 11,52,563 test results available, 11,03,429 samples had tested negative.

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC



### UT TRACKER

Total persons under surveillance 5,05,236

Persons completing surveillance 3,94,169

Samples tested 11,52,563

Negative results 11,03,429

**Positive cases 49,134**

Patients cured 34,215

Total deaths 845

### COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Bandipora	2,558	27
Srinagar	10,980	246
Anantnag	2,762	53
Baramulla	3,274	110
Shopian	1,797	29
Kupwara	2,609	56
Budgam	3,278	68
Jammu	7,282	75
Udhampur	1,194	04
Ganderbal	1,933	25
Kulgam	2,041	40
Pulwama	3,035	60
Samba	935	07
Rajouri	1,217	14
Kishtwar	445	01
Kathua	1,205	11
Ramban	736	01
Reasi	535	03
Poonch	679	06
Doda	639	09
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,134</b>	<b>845</b>

Giving details about the 15-day targeted sampling and testing exercise conducted in Jammu district, Deputy Commissioner

Jammu, Sushma Chouhan, said a total of 42,286 tests were conducted during this campaign, out of which 2,728 were positive.

## SOPs violated, case registered

Tribune News Service

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 10

The Jammu and Kashmir Police have registered a first information report (FIR) for the violation of Covid standard operating procedures (SOPs) during a wedding in Srinagar.

On Wednesday evening, huge banging sounds were heard from the Solina Payeen area which cre-

ated panic in the vicinity. At this, people of the area called the Sherigar police station for curbing the nuisance.

Preliminary inquiry revealed that the banging sounds in the Solina area that created panic were due to the bursting of fire-crackers at the marriage in the house of Ghulam Nabi Bhat, a resident of Solina Payeen. The owner

A case has been registered and probe into the matter initiated.

of the house has violated the orders of the District Magistrate, Srinagar, and had also called a large number of invitees to his house which was a clear violation of Covid standard operating procedures, thereby endangering the lives of others," the spokesman said.

Financial Commissioner Health and Medical Education Atal Dulloo dismissed the situation being alarming

as he claimed that the situation was "under control".

"We had already anticipated the rise in the number of cases in the Jammu division," he told The Tribune in response to questions on the situation in J&K. He credited the detection of the cases to the 100 per cent rapid antigen test in a phased manner.

"We are fully prepared to deal with the cases as the number of isolation beds in the Covid Healthcare Institu-

tion has been increased and the lab testing facility in J&K has also been increased."

Dulloo said an apex panel was formed to help the government in controlling the disease, refuting the charge that only bureaucrats were calling the shots. "A few complaints were received and those were looked into. The testing was 100 per cent at the health centres managed by the Health and Medical Education Department."

Tribune News Service

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 10 Security forces have made a second major recovery of arms, including M-16 rifles, in Kashmir since Tuesday evening.

The latest recovery was made at Dulanja village along the Line of Control in the Uri sector of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

A senior police officer said the recovery of arms at Dulanja village in Uri was made following a specific input that arms and ammunition were dumped in the area to "fuel violence in the Valley".

Following an input, a joint operation was launched by the police and Army on Wednesday. The search continued through the day, culminating in the recovery of arms and ammunition. The recoveries included two M-16 Rifles, its four magazines, two pistols and four magazines, a senior police officer said.



### 'IED' DEFUSED, 2 JAISH MILITANTS ARRESTED

- Security forces on Thursday detected and defused a suspected improvised explosive device (IED) in north Kashmir's Sopore sub-district.
- The suspected explosive device, officials said, was detected along the Baramulla-Hanwara highway.
- Two Jaish-e-Mohammed militants were arrested in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.
- The two were identified by the police as Waseem Irshad Gabroo of Arampura, Sopore and Mehraraj Ud Din Wani of Badshah Masjid, Sopore.

25,000 apply for KU entrance examinations

Tribune News Service

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 10 The entrance examinations for 48 post-graduate (PG) programmes offered by Kashmir University (KU) started here on Wednesday.

A KU spokesman said the university received more than 25,182 applications for admission to various post-graduate courses for the year 2020 against a vacancy of 4,149 seats.

The KU authorities, including the entire administrative machinery, has been geared up to conduct the examinations which, as per a notification issued by the Directorate of Admissions and Competitive Examination, commenced on September 9 and shall culminate on September 27.

## JU's dual approach on exams draws flak

Tribune News Service

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 10 The University of Jammu's dual approach for conducting online exams for various undergraduate (UG) and post-graduate (PG) courses at its main and offsite campuses and offline exams in degree colleges has irked college teachers and students who alleged that it was not only discriminatory but would also expose them to risk in the prevailing Covid situation.

In two separate notifications, the university has decided to hold online terminal semester exams for various UG and PG courses at its main and all offsite campuses, while students of 54 degree colleges, affiliated with the university, will undertake undergraduate sixth semester exams in

offline (written) mode at their respective colleges.

"This is sheer double standard of the university while conducting terminal (final) exams for the UG and PG courses. The strength of students in degree colleges is quite large and it will expose them and teachers to great risk in the wake of the sudden spurt in Covid cases," said a college professor.

Another college professor asked, "Who will be responsible in case of any untoward situation? The positive cases are increasing at an alarming rate. The university needs to review its decision." The university authorities, however, claimed that the exams were being conducted as per the directions of the Supreme Court and the UGC. — TNS

## Situation cataclysmic in UT

But administration claims all is under control

ARUN JOSHI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 10 The alarming rise in Covid cases in Jammu and Kashmir, with more than 49,000 cases and nearly 850 deaths, has infused fear among people as they find that the healthcare facilities are far short of the official claim that there is full preparedness in this regard.

Officials maintain that the situation is "under control".

For the past few days, J&K has recorded more than 1,000 cases, with deaths in double digits. This has sent alarm bells ringing all across as hospitals are overflowing with patients and many being turned away because of the absence of beds, and shortage of the requisite medical care.

There is an alleged bureaucratic stranglehold over the whole system with health experts having been relegated to the background. Health experts say the situation is "alarming" and they are unsure as to how it would be tackled with the number of cases piling up beyond their imagination.

The hospitals are having no beds for patients. Oxygen cylinders and ventilators are in short supply. A senior official, who tested positive undergoing treatment at a hospital, commented on the nature of the no hand-holding attitude of the authorities and treatment as a "theatre of the absurd".

There is a grumble that bureaucrats are just producing the figures and claims that have lost all the power to evoke credibility. Financial Commissioner Health and Medical Education Atal Dulloo dismissed the situation being alarming



People ignore social distancing guidelines at the wholesale vegetable and fruit market at Narwal in Jammu on Thursday. PTI

### 608 VENTILATORS INSTALLED

Hundred ventilators have been procured by UT government and 908 ventilators have been sanctioned by the MoHFW, GoI, to J&K, out of which 872 have reached different sites in both divisions and 608 have been installed. However, at present not even 1% of ventilators are being utilised for treatment of the patients.

### EXPENDITURE FIGURES

Since the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has provided machinery, equipment, lab-testing kits, PPE kits and other logistics free of cost in the UT and various arrangements for the treatment of virus patients have been made at different levels, it will not be possible to give the exact figures of the expenditure.

As he claimed that the situation was "under control". "We had already anticipated the rise in the number of cases in the Jammu division," he told The Tribune in response to questions on the situation in J&K. He credited the detection of the cases to the 100 per cent rapid antigen test in a phased manner.

"We are fully prepared to deal with the cases as the number of isolation beds in the Covid Healthcare Institution has been increased and the lab testing facility in J&K has also been increased."

Dulloo said an apex panel was formed to help the government in controlling the disease, refuting the charge that only bureaucrats were calling the shots. "A few complaints were received and those were looked into. The testing was 100 per cent at the health centres managed by the Health and Medical Education Department."

## Health employee booked for fraud

Tribune News Service

Achabal, who is neighbour of the accused, prepared a bogus ration card in his name in the relief organisation Jammu for the cash assistance category under the migrant quota.

The accused fixed his own photograph on 'D.Form' and impersonated himself as Ali Mohd Padder and also opened a bank account in Jammu. He has drawn lakhs from the bank, besides ration card by submitting fake and forged documents of the complainant and caused wrongful gain for himself and loss to the government exchequer.

According to the crime branch spokesperson, the accused, identified as Mukhtiyar Ahmed Sheikh, of Achabal in Anantnag district, who is an employee in the department at Mattan, Anantnag, was involved in withdrawing relief and ration worth lakhs of rupees under the migrant quota by resorting to impersonation, forgery after hatching criminal conspiracy with officials of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, Jammu.

The crime branch, acted on a written complaint, lodged by BJP leader Gani Maqbool who claimed that a complainant, Ali Mohd Padder of

An FIR has been registered against him.

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, HIMACHAL PRADESH

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### SHORT NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (NIT)

E-Tenders are invited from the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) (in case of indigenous equipments) or their authorized distributors or Principal National Distributors in India or their authorized distributors (in case of imported equipments) for the procurement of Medical Equipments in view of COVID-19 on F.O.R. door delivery basis to various H.P. Govt. Health Institutions. The detailed tender document can be viewed and downloaded from website: <https://www.hptenders.gov.in> from 07.09.2020 to 21.09.2020 up to 1:00 P.M. The last date and time for submission of cost of Tender document, Earnest Money Deposit is 21.09.2020 up to 1:00 P.M. & uploading of filled in tender documents is 21.09.2020 upto 1:00 P.M. The Tender will be opened on 21.09.2020 at 2:30 P.M. All subsequent corrigendum, modifications and clarifications in respect of this tender will be published only on aforesaid websites only. The bidders are advised to visit the aforesaid website regularly.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tender offers without assigning any reason.

DIRECTOR HEALTH SERVICES, HIMACHAL PRADESH,

DPR/HP/2881

### COFMOW (INDIAN RAILWAYS)

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 07, DATED: 11.09.2020

PCMM / COFMOW's Office invites e-Bids for the following STORES Tenders:

Tender No.	Brief Description	Closing Date
06206009	Hydraulic Plate Bending Machine.	05.10.2020
06206010	CNC Axle Turning Lathe surface finish = 0.8 Micron.	06.10.2020
06206011	Dissolve Gas Analyser.	07.10.2020

Bidders may visit the website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) to download the tender document and submit their e-Bids. No manual offers shall be accepted.

### CORRIGENDUM, DATED: 11.09.2020

Following corrigenda have been issued to e-Tenders already uploaded on the website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in):

Tender No.	Corrigendum No.	Closing Date

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Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut arrives at her office at Pali Hill in Mumbai on Thursday. PTI

## Plaint against Kangana over CM remark

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 10

A complaint has been filed against actor Kangana Ranaut for allegedly using foul language against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, an official said on Thursday.

Based on the complaint filed by a city-based advocate, a non-cognisable offence was registered against Ranaut at the Vikhroli police station on Wednesday, the official said.

"In his complaint to the police, advocate Nitin Mane said the

actress used foul languages against the chief minister and uploaded that video on her Facebook account," he added.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Zone VII, Prashant Kadam said, "After registering an NC, we asked the complainant to approach court. No FIR was registered."

Mane said he plans to move a court to lodge a defamation case against her for "insulting" the CM. Meanwhile, Ranaut on Thursday again took on the Maharashtra Government by

castigating Thackeray for "misusing power" and declaring that her voice won't be suppressed.

"The ideology on which Shri Bala Saheb Thackeray built Shiv Sena today they have sold the ideology for power; becoming Sonia Sena from Shiv Sena. The goons who broke my house behind my back do not call them a civic body. Don't insult the constitution," she added.

Several organisations supported by the BJP held demonstrations in Shimla to show solidarity with Ranaut. —PTI

# Ahead of poll, PM's bonanza for Bihar

TRENT NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

Ahead of the Bihar elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched the ₹20,050-crore PM Matsya Sampada Yojana, e-Gopala app and several other initiatives in the fisheries and animal husbandry sectors in Bihar.

Workers, who returned to their native villages due to the Covid pandemic, are taking to animal husbandry and availing benefits of the schemes launched by the Central and state governments, the Prime Minister said.

The schemes aim at empowering villagers and making India self-reliant (Aatmanirbhar Bharat) in the 21st century. The Matsya Sampada Yojana will help develop the fisheries sector.

Launched in 21 states of the country with an investment of Rs 20,050 crore, which will be spent in the next four to five years, projects worth Rs 1,700 crore were initiated today.

Facilities were also inaugurated in Patna, Purnia, Sita-

### ₹20K-CR SCHEME TO BOOST FISHERIES SECTOR

■ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched the ₹20,050-cr Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana in 21 states, including Bihar.

■ The scheme aims at helping

double fisheries exports, creating more employment opportunities and boosting income of farmers.

■ He also launched e-Gopala app and several initiatives linked to research in fisheries production, dairy and animal husbandry.

### RJD VP QUIT, LALU REJECTS RESIGNATION

**Patna:** In a setback to Bihar's main opposition RJD ahead of the state Assembly elections, its national vice-president and former Union Minister Raghuvansh Prasad

Singh resigned from the party on Thursday, sources close to him said, but party supremo Lalu Prasad rejected it, insisting he was not going "anywhere". —PTI

marhi, Madhepura, Kishanganj and Samastipur under the scheme.

The Prime Minister said the scheme provided for new infrastructure, modern equipment and access to new markets to fish producers along with increased opportunities through farming as well as other means.

To tap the potential of the fisheries sector, Modi said a

new ministry had been formed, while other schemes like Mission Clean Ganga and Mission Dolphin would also benefit the fisheries sector.

He lauded the work done by the government of Bihar in providing safe drinking water supply to every household,

adding that more than 70 per cent households in Bihar were connected with the supply of potable water.

# HC asks Arnab to show restraint in Pushkar death case

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

The Delhi High Court on Thursday questioned Arnab Goswami for running a parallel investigation and trial in the Congress leader Shashi Tharoor's wife Sunanda Pushkar's death case and directed the journalist to be bound by his undertaking on showing restraint and bringing down the rhetoric while covering the matter.

Justice Mukta Gupta said the court was not saying that anyone would gag the media, but at the same time, sanctity of investigation must be maintained. "Please show restraint. Once the police investigation is going on in the criminal case, there cannot be a parallel investigation by the media," the judge said and remarked that people must take a course in criminal trial and then get into journalism.

The High Court referred to December 1, 2017, order in which it was stated that "Press cannot convict anyone or insinuate that he/she is guilty or make any other unsubstantiated claims. Press has



■ New Delhi: A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking initiation of criminal contempt proceedings against prominent journalist Rajdeep Sardesai for allegedly scandalising the judiciary by his tweets against the court and its judges.

■ Petitioner Astha Khurana has sent an application to Attorney General KK Venugopal seeking consent for the initiation of contempt proceedings against Sardesai for allegedly disrespecting the SC. —PTI

to exercise care and caution while reporting about matters under investigation or pending trial."

It has been noted in the 2017 order that the counsel for the journalist and the counsel has assured the court that in future they would exercise restraint. —PTI

## Swamy disputes JEE figures by Pokhriyal

**New Delhi:** BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy's fight with the Modi government over JEE-NET exams appears to be intensifying each passing day. Swamy on Thursday disputed the JEE attendance figures put out by Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal. He said according to the Ministry of Education's statement to the SC, the number of candidates registered was 9,53,473. "The minister's tweet for me to see his 'facts' was 8.58 lakh," Swamy said. —PTI

## Oz to import Indian pomegranates

**New Delhi:** Indian pomegranates will soon appear on Australian shelves for the first time, according to Australia's High Commissioner to India Barry O'Farrell. This follows the completion of an import protocol. "India is well placed as one of the world's largest pomegranate producers to meet the shortfall in the Australian market," O'Farrell said. —PTI

## Poll spending cap may go up

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

The Ministry of Law and Justice has received a recommendation from the Election Commission (EC) to hike poll expenses by around 10 per cent in view of the situation arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sources in the Law Ministry said the poll panel had sent a proposal to amend Rule 90 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, to enable candidates to spend 10 per cent more in view of the Bihar elections. —TNS

**Jha is joint Oppn candidate for RS Dy Chief poll**

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

The Congress-led Opposition today decided to field RJD leader Manoj Jha as their joint candidate for the September 14 election to the Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman's post.

A former academician, Jha (53) will contest against NDA's nominee Harivansh of the JD-U. Harivansh was former RS Deputy Chairman. The expiry of his term in the RS recently led to the vacancy of the post.

The Opposition chose Jha after the DMK declined the offer made by the Congress to contest and a majority of non-NDA parties seemed little enthused about fighting a lost battle. The ruling NDA has a comfortable majority in the RS to get Harivansh elected. —TNS

## Ready to tie up with LF in WB: Adhir

KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 10

### CLAMOUR FOR RAHUL AS LS LEADER

**New Delhi:** A day after Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury was named president of the West Bengal Congress unit, voices in the party demanded that Rahul Gandhi be made leader of the party in the Lok Sabha, a position Chowdhury currently holds. Party leader Ajay Sharma said, "Rahul should assume the Congress reins in the Lok Sabha. He is the only party leader questioning PM Narendra Modi on unemployment, declining economy and China." —TNS



with the Left parties, wants to put up a spirited battle against the misrule of the TMC," he said at a press meet. —PTI

## Relaxation sought for permanent role in Army

TRENT NEWS SERVICE

### RECRUITMENT PROCESS RAISES NEW QUESTIONS

The physical parameters for the women SSC officers, who have completed 14 years of service and those with 10-year service, are same. Concerns are being raised as younger officers, competing for same posts, are expectedly more fit.

will clear a selection board, including medical fitness parameters alongside men and women officers, who have completed 10 years of service.

In other words, these women SSC officers will be

competing for same posts with colleagues who are younger and would be expectedly more fit. They have appealed against the decision highlighting what they call as unjust testing parameters and

sought some relaxations to bring them at par with their younger counterparts.

In due course, this selection board, called SB-5 in military parlance, and its associated physical parameters include those who completed 10 years of service. However, since there was no provision for grant of permanent commission to women SSC officers, they were never made part of such a selection process.

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