

The Tribune

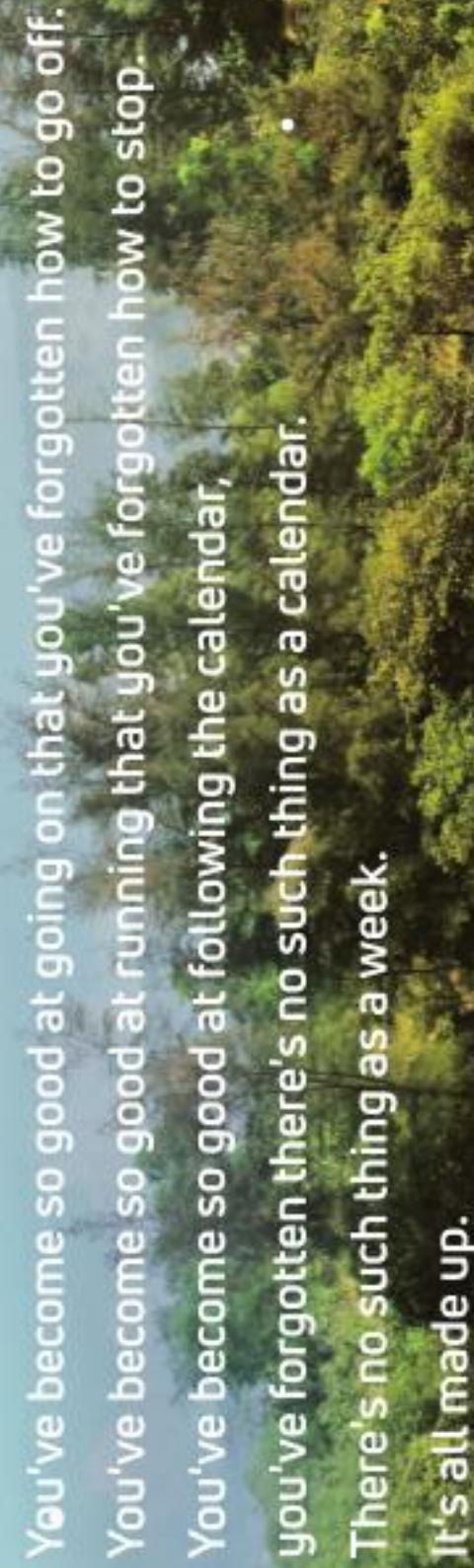
VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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TUESDAY | 9 MARCH 2021





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you've forgotten there's no such thing as a calendar.
There's no such thing as a week.
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INTERVIEW

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Connecting Aspirations

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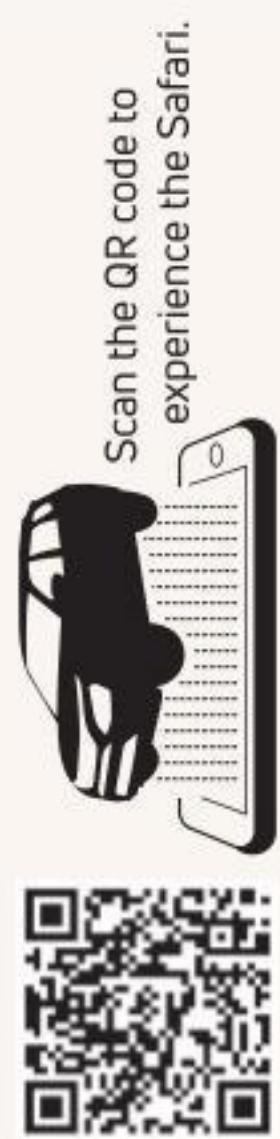
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MYANMAR PROTESTERS SHOT, FACTORIES SHUT WORLD

CAIRN A STEP CLOSER TO SEIZING ASSETS IF INDIA DOESN'T PAY UP BUSINESS

TIME TO SALUTE UNSUNG HEROES: PM BACK PAGE

Habits to Maintain - During Corona Strain



Sanitize items and clean the house with disinfectants regularly



Wash fruits, vegetables and milk packets etc. before use



Do not share personal items with others



Avoid unhygienic food & consume nutritious food to maintain immunity

Be Alert, Be Safe

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



Debt waiver, jobs: Please-all Punjab Budget in poll year

Free travel for women in govt buses | 48,989 vacancies to be filled

RUCHIKA M KHANNA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 8
In the run-up to the Assembly elections expected early next year, Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal today presented a please-all budget but deficit Budget with an outlay of Rs 1,38,015 crore and focus on welfare schemes. No new taxes were announced.

The state will incur an additional debt of Rs 20,823 crore in the 2021-22 fiscal on account of the populist schemes, including Rs 9,000 crore for implementing the Sixth Pay Commission recommendations, filling 48,989 vacancies and free transportation for women and college students in government buses. There is a provision for assured buy-back of potato and kinnar, doubling of social security pensions and Rs 11,000 crore for free

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
EDIT: POLL-YEAR POPULISM

SOCIAL SECTOR	AGRI & ALLIED	HEALTH	OTHERS
₹19,640.82 CR	₹4,777.79 CR	₹7,856 CR	
TWO-FOLD HIKE IN ELDERLY PENSION	LOAN WAIVER FOR FARMERS	NEW MED COLLEGES TO BE OPENED	
Pension for elderly, destitute kids, widows to be doubled to ₹1,500/month Aashirwad Scheme aid to go up from ₹2,000 to ₹5,000	₹1,186 cr loan of 1.13 lakh farmers, ₹526 or of landless labourers to be waived Assured buy-back of potato, kinnar at specific rates	New colleges at Kapurthala and Hoshiarpur 8 new maternal and child-care centres at sub-divisional hospitals to come up	₹9,000 crore for implementing sixth pay panel recommendations Pension for freedom fighters, kin to be hiked from ₹7,500 to ₹9,400 Seven hostels to come up for working women
DEBT DOUBLE THAN OUTLAY	BUDGET OUTLAY ₹1,38,015 CR	OUTSTANDING DEBT ₹2,73,702.88 CR	Rural development ₹22,05.22 cr
	REVENUE RECEIPTS ₹95,257.60 CR	REVENUE DEFICIT ₹8,622.31 CR	Transport ₹1,731.94 cr
	REVENUE EXPENDITURE ₹1,03,879.91 CR	SERVICING OF DEBT ₹38,828.43 CR	Irrigation and flood control ₹1,603.20 cr
			General economic services ₹557.57 cr
DEDICATED TO FARMERS			
As they (farmers) lit bonfires in winter nights (at Delhi border), one cannot but admire their tenacity, resilience. Manpreet Badal			
OLD PROMISES REPACKAGED: OPPOSITION	"State people need a Budget made by Punjabis, not Prashant Kishor" — HARPAL SINGH CHEEMA, LOP	"Budget has repackaged old schemes, for which funds were never released" — SUKHBIR BADAL, SAD	Punjab BUDGET Social services get lion's share 250 schools to be upgraded REPORTS INSIDE

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
EDIT: POLL-YEAR POPULISM

UK to raise concerns on farm stir with Modi govt

SANDEEP DIKSHIT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 8
The UK Government said it would directly raise "serious and specific concerns" over human rights and freedom to peaceful protests with the Indian Government, especially when Prime Minister Boris Johnson meets PM Narendra Modi on several occasions during the year.

Responding to a discussion in parliament on issues relating to Press freedom and

CAR-BORNE YOUTHS FIRE SHOTS AT SINGHU

Four youths in a car bearing Chandigarh number allegedly fired shots into the air after a brawl at langar over water at Singhu on Sunday night. No one was injured.

safety of protesters in India in which all dozen speakers, barring one, criticised New Delhi for its handling of farmers' protests, the UK

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

DIDN'T ORDER TO MARRY

We (had) asked, are you (accused) going to marry? We didn't order (him to) marry. CJL-led Bench

has sought permission to abort her 26-week-old foetus. The observations made dur-

Batla House case: IM man guilty of killing inspector

NEW DELHI, MARCH 8

A court here today convicted Ariz Khan, allegedly associated with the Indian Mujahideen (IM), for the murder of Delhi Police Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma in a case related to 2008 Batla House encounter, which was questioned by certain political parties and leaders.

Additional Sessions Judge Sandeep Yadav said, "The evidence produced by the prosecution duly proved the case." Ariz Khan now faces death

penalty or life term. — PTI

'Misquoted' in rape case, says SC

NEW DELHI, MARCH 8

Maintaining that it has the highest respect for women, the Supreme Court today blamed the media for misreporting its pose to a rape accused from Maharashtra last week.

"We (had) asked, are you (accused) going to marry? We didn't order (him to) marry," a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India SA Bobde said while hearing a case of a 14-year-old rape survivor who

SC TO EXAMINE NEED TO REVISIT MANDAL VERDICT

Almost three decades after a nine-judge Bench put a 50% ceiling on reservation in government jobs and education, the SC on Monday decided to examine if its 1992 verdict in the Mandal case needed to be examined afresh. BACK PAGE

ing the hearing of a rape case last week were "completely

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Meghan alleges racism, reveals suicidal thoughts

LOS ANGELES/LONDON, MARCH 8

Meghan Markle struggled as a new member of Britain's royal family after her marriage to Prince Harry to such a degree that she even contemplated suicide, she revealed in an explosive tell-all interview with American chat show host Oprah Winfrey.

The two-hour special, aired on ITV in the UK on Monday night, saw Prince Harry joining his wife half-way through

CHARLES DIDN'T TAKE CALLS

I had 3 conversations with my grandmother (Queen Elizabeth II) and two with my father (Charles), before he stopped taking my calls. Prince Harry in an interview

as the couple also spoke about concerns of racism within the royal ranks after being asked

about their son Archie's expected skin colour when mixed-race Meghan was pregnant with their first child.

"I just didn't want to be alive anymore," Meghan said, adding that when she "went to the institution for help" she was told it would not be forthcoming as it "wouldn't be good for the institution". The 39-year-old former American

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



on ITV in the UK on Monday night, saw Prince Harry joining his wife half-way through

Repeated disruptions as Oppn corners govt over fuel price hike

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MARCH 8

The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha saw repeated disruptions by the Opposition over rising fuel prices on Monday.

While mentioning that he had received notices for adjournment to discuss the issue, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said the matter was important but it could be raised during the discussions on the Finance Bill. However, Opposition members, including those of the Congress, started raising slogans even as the Speaker repeatedly mentioned that the House should discuss women empowerment to mark International Women's Day.

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury urged the government to pass a resolution on the Women's Reservation



Congress MP Mallikarjun Kharge speaks in the Rajya Sabha. PTI

TMC WANTS PARL ADJOURNED, CITES POLLS

We urge the RS Chairman to consider the adjournment of the session because of the polls in five states. Derek O'Brien, TMC

TAX COLLECTION ON PETROL, DIESEL JUMPS 459%

Price of LPG doubled to ₹819 in the last seven years while the increase in taxes on petrol and diesel had swelled revenue collections by over 459 per cent. Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said in LS BACK PAGE

Bill and raised the issue of petrol prices. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi asked the Opposition to allow the House to run. Taking on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Ruckus in Hry Assembly over farmers' stir

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 8

Noisy scenes were witnessed in the Haryana Assembly during a discussion on the Governor's Address on Monday as Opposition members led by Gita Bhukkal of the Congress attacked the government on the farmers' protest and BJP MLAs, including ministers Kanwar Pal Gujjar and JP Dalal, accused the Congress of misguiding farmers.

Cong attacks govt over handling of protest

Today was the first day of the discussion on the Governor's Address. The motion of thanks on the Address was moved by Seema Trikha and seconded by Naina Chautala. Ruckus ensued when Bhukkal started attacking the government over the handling of the farmers' agitation. INSIDE

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PUNJAB BUDGET 2021-22

2



LEADERS' TAKE

A PRO-PeOPLE DOCUMENT

It is a pro-people document, giving a new direction to social and economic development of all sections of state. Punjab has shown the way to manage financial resources prudently to safeguard interest of each section of society

— SUNIL JAKHAR, PPCC PRESIDENT

PITTANCE FOR FARM LOAN WAIVER

The Budget has repackaged old promises and schemes for which outlays had been allocated, but never released. It has allocated a pittance of ₹1,712 crore for farm loan waiver and landless labourers, which is a cruel joke on them

— SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL, SAD PRESIDENT

LACKS VISION FOR DEVELOPMENT

The government has tried to paint a better picture, but the fact is the economic condition of Punjab has deteriorated drastically in the last few years. It's a repetitive Budget with manipulated figures, which doesn't talk about Punjab's development

— PARMINDER SINGH DHINDSA, EX-FINANCE MINISTER

FARMERS ALWAYS A PRIORITY

The farmer fraternity is always a priority for the Capt Amarinder Singh government... the launch of 'Kamyab Kisan, Khushal Punjab' scheme with a total outlay of ₹3,206 crore will help in making agriculture lucrative occupation for Punjab farmers

— PRENEET KAUR, PATIALA MP



EXPERTSPEAK

NO FOCUS ON RAISING REVENUE

The Budget is based on assumptions and hasn't focused on inventing any new sources of raising revenue. It projects a higher rate of growth of income than underestimates the revenue and fiscal deficit figures.

— DR LAKHWINDER SINGH, EX-HEAD (ECONOMICS), PBI UNIVERSITY

NOTHING FOR SERVING & RETD STAFF

No announcement has been made regarding the grant of monthly honorarium on the pattern of Haryana to retired teachers of government-aided colleges in the state. This Budget has brought disappointment amongst serving and retired employees.

PROF NK GOSAIN, EDUCATIONIST

ON THE SIDELINES

DISAPPOINTED, UNIONS GIVE THUMBS DOWN
Members of different unions have given the thumbs down to the Budget. The Association for Democratic Rights said taxes on fuel hadn't been reduced. The agreements of buying electricity on higher rates from private thermal plants have also not been cancelled, it said. Prices of fertilisers, pesticides and other farm items have also not been lowered. Anganwadi workers' Union, Punjab, said no announcement was made on the increased amount of honorarium to them. TNS

SUSPENSION OF SAD MLAs REVOKED

Three days after SAD members were suspended for the remaining Budget session for disrupting the House proceedings, Speaker Rana KP Singh revoked their suspension. The Akali MLAs would now be able to participate in the debate on the Budget starting on Tuesday. The Speaker said the members were of the opinion that the suspension should be revoked. The Akalis had protested outside the House during Budget presentation



GROWTH-ORIENTED, PEOPLE'S BUDGET

The growth-oriented Budget has been designed to ensure the welfare of all sections of society and speed up the development of infrastructure. It is a people's Budget and yet another step in the fulfilment of our government's promises to the people of the state.

Capt Amarinder Singh, Chief Minister

Social services get lion's share

RAJMEET SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 8

With the state elections slated next year, the Capt Amarinder Singh-led Congress government in its last Budget presented on Monday tried to address concerns of the economically weaker sections, including marginal farmers, landless farm labourers and the Scheduled Caste population, by allocating Rs 19,640 crore — 62 per cent of the allocation for the social services sector.

The Congress government has tried to address the aspirations of the farming community and Scheduled Caste population, which stands at nearly 35 per cent.

"By announcing the sops for SC population, the government has tried to counter the negative narrative that had built up after the alleged scam in the disbursal of the scholarship funds," a senior party leader pointed out.

Targeting the SC vote bank, the government has announced Dr BR Ambedkar memorial on 25 acres at Kapurthala at a cost of Rs 100 crore. For the 25.55 lakh beneficiaries of social security pension, including 13 lakh belonging to the Scheduled Caste, the government has allocated Rs 4,000 crore by doubling the monthly pension from Rs 750 to Rs 1,500 from July 1. In 2019-2020, the total pension amount was Rs 2,089 crore.

In a similar manner, the go-



FOR SCs

VILLAGE UPGRADE

In order to provide further impetus to existing grants in villages having Scheduled Caste population greater than or equal to 50 per cent of the total population, a special allocation of ₹10 crore has been proposed

SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

For the pre-matric scholarship scheme, ₹60 crore allocated to provide support to the parents of SC students up to Class X. Under the post-matric scheme, ₹750 crore has been given for scholarship

ECONOMIC SERVICES

₹557.57*
2%

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

₹420.44
1%

TRANSPORT ENERGY

₹1,731.94 ₹197.25
5% 1%

IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL

₹1,603.2
5%

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

₹2,205.22
7%

AGRICULTURE

₹4,777.79
15%

GENERAL SERVICES

₹308.07
2%

SECTORAL PLAN ALLOCATIONS

*IN CRORE

SOCIAL SERVICES

₹19,640.82
62%

ernment has allocated Rs 250 crore for the Ashirwad Scheme to hike financial aid from ₹21,000 to ₹51,000

■ ₹4,000 crore has been kept for doubling the monthly pension from ₹750 to ₹1,500 from July 1

2021, the government had provided Rs 165 crore to 78,570 such beneficiaries.

For welfare schemes for educational, socio-economic and other development pro-

grammes concerning the SC population, an allocation of Rs 1,372 crore has been made

during 2021-22, an increase of 52 per cent over 2020-21 Bud-

get estimates of Rs 901 crore.

250 elementary schools to be upgraded

SANJEEV SINGH BARIANA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 8
Finance Minister Manpreet Badal has announced to upgrade 250 elementary schools as high and senior secondary schools this year.

An amount of Rs 100 crore has been allocated for providing smartphones to Class XII students in the session 2021-2022. The Finance Minister said the government would issue an advertisement to recruit 8,184 teachers.

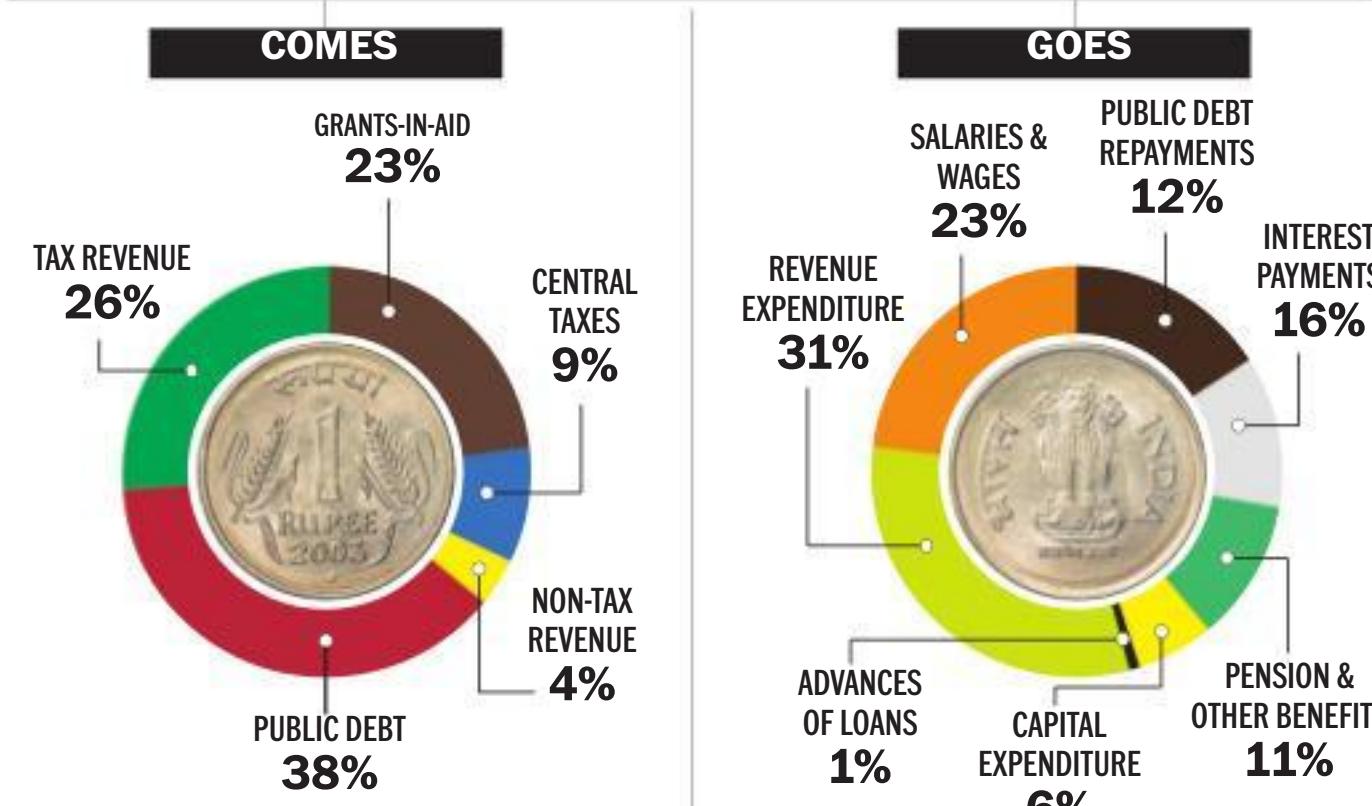
Ad to recruit 8,184 teachers soon

The government has already notified a teacher transfer policy and plans to introduce a teacher transfer Act for making the policy a permanent arrangement. The government will enact 'The Punjab Education (Recruitment of Teachers in Disadvantaged Areas) Act.'

For the higher education sector, Rs 100 crore has been allocated for completing the construction of government colleges and universities.

He said the monthly pension of elderly writers would be increased from Rs 5,000 per month to Rs 15,000.

HOW EVERY RUPEE IS SPENT



Sops for startups, not much for ailing units

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 8

With state's economy hit by the pandemic, Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal preferred to announce policies and measures to attract and facilitate new and existing industry instead of giving direct sops to the ailing existing industry. Claiming that the state attracted around Rs 71,262 crore of the investment during the last four years, Manpreet said the measures would give a fillip to rapid industrialisation in the state.

Among the major announcements, the state proposed to extend the GST incentives as promised in the Industrial and Business Development Policy, 2017, by October 17, 2022.

The state intends to set up facilitation offices for investors at district level — District Bureau of Industry & Investment Promotion (DBI-IP) offices in each district. In the first phase, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, SAS Nagar, Patiala and Bathinda are proposed to be covered.

To give impetus to the startup ecosystem, the state gov-



RELIEF ON RECOVERY

The government proposes to extend "Amnesty Scheme" to the defaulting plot holders where they could discharge their principal liability along with simple interest at the rate of 15% per annum from the deadline of June 30, 2021, to March 31, 2022.

ernment proposed to set up Punjab Innovation Fund of Rs 150 crore to invest in early-stage startups. Government's participation in this fund will be a maximum of 10 per cent of the corpus i.e. Rs 15 crore. A provision of Rs 10 crore is proposed in 2021-22 for this purpose under the "Financial assistance to startups".

The government proposed to continue subsidised power to industry and allocated Rs 1,928 crore during 2021-22 for providing industrial power subsidy. Also, a provision of Rs 50 crore is proposed for disbursement of sanctioned capital subsidy.

To give impetus to the startup ecosystem, the state gov-

Outlay for health up by 32 pc

VISHAV BHARTI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 8

With the allocation of Rs 7,856 crore, the healthcare sector gets an increase of 32 per cent as compared to 2020-21. The focus will remain on mother and child care. The government has proposed to open eight maternal and child care centres at a cost of Rs 57 crore.

Besides, child health wings in various districts will get Rs 55 crore for providing additional beds at the existing centres.

The government has allocated Rs 1,060 crore for the health mission. The government has proposed to set up Sri Guru Nanak Dev State Institute of Medical Sciences at Kapurthala, and Shaheed Udham Singh State Institute of Medical Sciences at Hoshiarpur with a total expenditure of Rs 650 crore.

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To give impetus to the startup ecosystem, the state gov-

BOOSTER SHOT

- ₹100 crore for repair of all distt hospitals, CHCs
- ₹189 cr for setting up govt medical college in Mohali
- ₹80 cr for setting up new medical colleges at Kapurthala and Hoshiarpur

Farmers on mind, FM lines up welfare schemes

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 8

Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal has dedicated his Budget to the farmers, pointing out the "rigidity of the Union Government in passing three farm laws".

He went full throttle in announcing a plethora of schemes for uplifting agriculture sector, which is the mainstay of Punjab's economy.

A sum of Rs 17,051 crore has been set aside for the welfare of farmers, which includes money for free power to farmers (Rs 7,180 crore); crop loan waiver of farmers and landless labourers (Rs 1,712 crore); upgrade of link canals and repair and maintenance of other canals (Rs 1,039 crore), crop diversification (Rs 200 crore), crop residue management (Rs 40 crore), et al.

The most important feature of the Budget is a scheme of fixing base price for potato and kinnar and deficiency price to be paid as compensation to mitigate the loss of producers. "This will help in our crop diversification plan as the producers will feel economically assured," said Badal. A sum of Rs 200 crore has been set aside for crop diversification.

The government has allocated Rs 1,060 crore for the health mission. The government has proposed to set up Sri Guru Nanak Dev State Institute of Medical Sciences at Kapurthala, and Shaheed Udham Singh State Institute of Medical Sciences at Hoshiarpur with a total expenditure of Rs 650 crore.

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To give impetus to the startup ecosystem, the state gov-

ALLOCATION FOR FARM SECTOR

FREE POWER

₹7,180 CRORE

LOAN WAIVER

₹1,712 CRORE

LINK CANAL UPGRADE

₹1,039 CRORE

CROP DIVERSIFICATION

₹200 CRORE

CROP RESIDUE MGMT



PUNJAB BUDGET 2021-22

3

The Tribune INTERVIEW: MANPREET SINGH BADAL, FM

'Welfare of all primary focus'

DEDICATING the Budget to farmers, Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal says he has ensured the benefit of all welfare policies reaches out to the lowest strata of society. In an interaction with *The Tribune*, he gives insight into Budget proposals and other pressing issues. Here are some excerpts:

■ What was the main focus area of the Budget for an election year?

It was the people's welfare that remained my primary focus while planning the Budget proposals. The maximum allocations have been made for social security and agriculture sectors, urban planning, water resources' upgrade, besides enhanced allotment for

health and education sectors. We have allocated additional 12 per cent funds for the education sector. The Budget for skill development of youth has been increased by five times.

■ You have hiked the Budget size substantially. Where will money come from?

We have received a revenue deficit grant of Rs 9,000 crore from the 15th Finance Commission. Other than this, the increase in devolution of central taxes will get us an additional revenue of Rs 1,500 crore

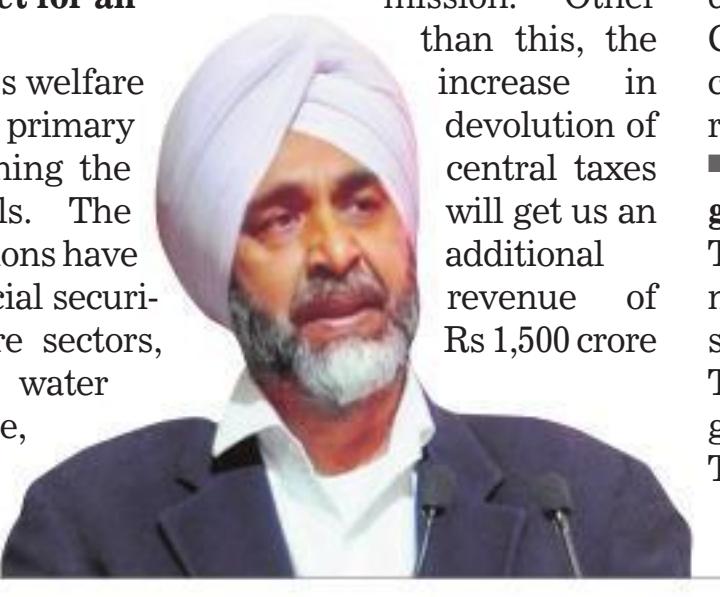
this year. The GST compensation is expected to go up as will the share of central taxes by over Rs 2,100 crore. We are expecting an increase in state's own tax and non-tax revenue by Rs 10,000 crore.

■ Is Punjab's debt becoming unsustainable?

The debt is definitely going up. But we have to look at it from the perspective of the growth in state's gross domestic product. As the GSDP increases, the debt can also increase, though its ratio has to be manageable.

■ When will the employees get the new pay scales?

The report of the Pay Commission is expected to be submitted before March 31. The new pay scales will be given from July 1 onwards. The arrears will be released in instalments. —TNS



Proposal to double target of 2 preparatory institutes

VIJAY MOHAN

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 8 Affecting a modest hike of about 6 per cent in the outlay for defence services welfare, the government has proposed to double the training targets of the two armed forces preparatory institutes in the state that prepares students

₹64 CR FOR GUARDIANS OF GOVERNANCE SCHEME

■ ₹64 crore has been allocated for Guardians of Governance scheme for 2021-22 against ₹60 crore in 2020-21.

■ The scheme emploees 4,300 ex-servicemen to ensure efficacious execution of welfare schemes & citizen-centric services

to join the services as commissioned officers.

Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal proposed an

outlay of Rs 135 crore for 2021-22 in his Budget speech.

To increase the intake of officer from the state, the state

Captain rejects Centre's direct payment plan

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 8 Terming the Centre's proposal on direct payment to farmers, bypassing arthiyas, as another provocation for growers, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Monday said the 'apathetic' attitude of the Centre would not help resolve the crisis.

The matter had to be resolved by the Centre and growers with the state having no role to play as the farmers' associations had categorically rejected any political interference, said the Chief Minister, while speaking to mediapersons on the state Budget, which he described as pro-farmer and pro-poor.

He said instead of amicably resolving the farmers' issue, the Centre was fuelling further angst among them. —TNS

Farm sector to outpace manufacturing: Survey

Rabi harvest, kharif sowing largely unaffected by lockdown

VIJAY C ROY

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 8

Agriculture is set to cushion the shock of the pandemic on the state's economy in 2020-21 with a growth rate of 6.30 per cent. It is the only sector that has contributed positively to the overall Gross State Value Added (GSVA), according to the state's economic survey. This indicates that agricultural activities for rabi harvesting and kharif sowing were largely unaffected by the lockdown, states the survey.

Gross value added (GVA) is the measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy.

On the contrary, the manufacturing sector was hit hard, but has picked up though mining still remains impacted.

The construction and services sector in the state continues to contribute a large share in the state's overall value added, exceeding the share of the industry. In



SHARE IN GVA (2019-20)

Sector	Punjab	India
Agriculture & Allied Activities	28.68%	18.38%
Industry	24.11%	26.68%
Services	47.18%	54.96%

tion. Punjab though sheltered by the relatively resilient agriculture sector is expected to contribute informal labour shocks in the services sector.

Like national economy, the services sector has contributed the largest share in state's gross value added. Over the past five years (2015-16 to 2019-20), the services sector in Punjab has contributed an average share of 46.5 per cent annually. Quick esti-

mates for 2019-20 indicate an increase in the share of services sector in Punjab's GSVA to 47.18 per cent in 2019-20.

The survey points out that since 2013-14 growth rate in the state was slower than the national average, Punjab's GSDP grew at 3.98 per cent in 2019-20 (quick estimates) as compared to 5.76 per cent in 2018-19 (provisional). However in 2019-20 (quick estimates), the growth rate at all-India level and Punjab was more or less same at 4 per cent.

Despite the moderation in growth rates of the Centre over the past few years, Punjab's economy is expected to contract in 2020-21.

However, the estimates for 2020-21 indicate a shift in this trend. The advance estimates for 2020-21 indicate that the contraction in the GSDP of Punjab is 1.3 per cent less as compared at all-India level. Punjab GSDP will witness a negative growth of 6.41 per cent compared to 7.75 per cent negative growth at national level.

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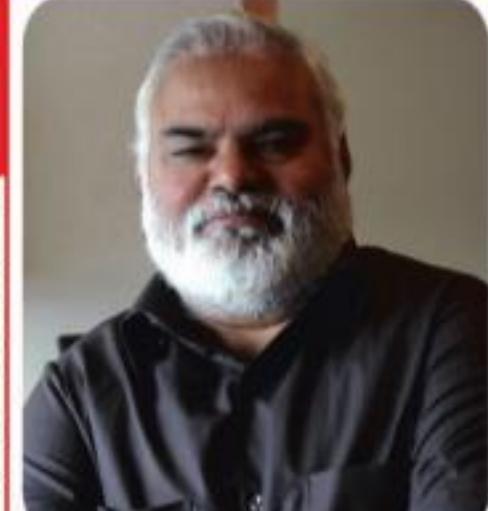
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BD DAV Public School, Dharamshala. Applications are invited for the appointment on Contractual basis. Experienced & qualified candidates (from recognized Universities) with minimum 50% marks can apply. PGT: English, Physics, TGT: Social Science (CTET/TET). PRT: All subjects (D.El.Ed./Bridge Course/JBT & TET). Music, Art & Craft, PET, Administrative Staff: LDC, Lab. Attendant, Peon, Driver-cum-Peon, Aya, Sweeper, Chowkidar. (Through outsource agency). Candidates with excellent spoken English, Basic IT & MS Office skills will be preferred. Applications form can be downloaded from school website. Last date of submission is 20th March, 2021. www.davdharamsala.com Chairman. (CL20106454)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Usha Rani alias Billu Rani w/o Vinod Kumar r/o Fatehpur, P.O. Wazidpur, Patiala, have changed my name to Usha Rani. (CL20106024)

I, Ranjeet Singh w/o Devinder Singh r/o Sirkhand (Fatehgarh Sahib), have changed name of my minor son Parvansh Singh to Parvansh Singh Shergill. (CL20106401)

I, Service No. 10545128X, Rank Hav. Ajay Kumar son of Bishambher Dass, Village Kangri, PO Dholia, Tehsil Indora, District Kangra (HP) declare that my son's name in my Army record has wrongly entered as Nakesh whereas his correct name is Nakesh. Concerned note. (CL20106379)

DISCLAIMER
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."

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Anita Arora W/o Sh. Sham Behari Sachdev Resident of 103, Talwara, Bhakra Road, Nangal, Tehsil Nangal, Distt. Rupnagar (Punjab), have changed my name from Anita Arora to Anita Sachdev. (CL20106423)

I, Bhushan Mehra w/o Late Sh. Gian Chand r/o Flat No. 303, C-Block, Balaji Towers, Kishanpura, Zirakpur, Distt. SAS Nagar (Mohali) have changed my name to Bhushan Kumar. (CL20106436)

I, Manju Mehra w/o Bhushan Kumar r/o Flat No. 303, C-Block, Balaji Towers, Kishanpura, Zirakpur, Distt. SAS Nagar (Mohali) have changed my name to Manju Bala. (CL20106437)

I, Sonia w/o Yash Pal Singh r/o Lower Arniha, Distr. Una (HP) declare that I have changed my name from Sonia to Sona Saini. Concerned note. (CL20106444)

I, No. 106658F, EX PORT (TEL), Surjit Singh Verma r/o Verma Tailoring House, Depot Bazar, PO & Tehsil Dharmanagar, Distt. Kangra (HP), declare that my wife's name and DOB in my naval record wrongly entered as Lalita Verma, 13.10.1965. Whereas her correct name and DOB is Lalita Devi, 18.04.1968. Concerned note it. (CL20106445)

I, Vidya Devi W/o Late Hon. Nb/Sub Sarدار Lal No. 13729671Y, Village Mangiyan (Lahol), PO Chhattar, Tehsil Nurpur, Distt. Kangra, HP declare that my son Raman Kumar date of birth in my husband Army record has wrongly entered as 26.05.1989 whereas his correct date of birth is 20.12.1988. Concerned note. (CL20106449)

It is notified for the information that my original Qualifying Examination Certificate of main Secondary Examination of Year 2013 and Roll No. 2278504 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Vikas Thakur, Ph. No. 91980-32505. (CL20106404)

I, Ramesh Singh s/o Arjun Singh (NKK122176 Arjan Singh) r/o Village Shahpur, PO Sirsi, Teh. District Karnal, Haryana publicly inform that my real younger brother's name and DOB entered wrongly in my father's Army record as Suresh Singh s/o Arjan Singh, DOB 15.07.1975. He is really ill. His correct name is Suresh Kumar and DOB is 08.07.1975. In future my brother may be known as Suresh Kumar and same may kindly be corrected in our father's Army record. (CL20106432)

For Selection 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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COURT NOTICES**(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)**

In the Court of Ms. Raminder Kaur Civil Judge (Jr. Division), Sangrur.

Satnam Singh Vs.

Sukhdev Singh CNR No.

PBSG02-000992-2020

Next Date: 26.03.2021

Publication issued to: Sukhdev Singh Father: Gurbachan Singh, Chehal Colony, Gali No. 3, near Nankiana Chowk Patiala Bye Pass Road, Sangrur.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 26.03.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to: https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=sangrur

Dated, this day of 28.01.2021.

Sd/-

Civil Judge (Junior Division),

Sangrur.

CL20091918

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Sh. Gagandeep Singh, Civil Judge (Junior Division), Ludhiana.

Punjab National Bank Versus

Charanjit Kaur CNR No.:

PBLD02-002473-2019

Next Date: 25.03.2021

Publication issued to: Kulwant Singh, R/o Village and Post Office Chamdina, Tehsil Ludhiana.

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

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

Dated, this day of 10.02.2021.

Sd/-

Civil Judge (Junior Division),

Ludhiana.

CL20095589

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of

Harsimranjit Kaur Civil Judge (Junior Division), Payal (Ludhiana).

Inderpal Singh Vs.

Bhagwant Singh CNR No.:

PBLDD0-000116-2020

Next Date: 07.07.2021

Publication issued to: Def. 1 Bhagwant Singh s/o Nahar Singh r/o # 08, Luchen Gardens, High Streets, Brampton, Ontario, Canada.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 07.07.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to: https://www.hightechchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=mohali

Dated, this day of 03.03.2021.

Sd/-

Civil Judge (Junior Division),

Payal.

CL20106384

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of

Papneet Civil Judge (Junior Division)-5,

S.A.S. Nagar.

CNR No.:

PBSA02-001561-2020

Next Date:- 26.03.2021

Publication issued to: Dilbaro Kaur Versus General Public

Notice to: General Public

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 26.03.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to: https://www.hightechchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=mohali

Dated, this day of 03.03.2021.

Sd/-

Civil Judge (Junior Division)-5,

S.A.S. Nagar.

CL20106410

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of

Harjeet Kaur Kaleka Additional Principal Judge, Family Court-1, Jalandhar.

Shashi Bala aged about 40 years wife of Sh. Harsh Vardhan Patial d/o Sh. Kuldeep Singh Chand, r/o H.No. 225, New Dashmesh Nagar, Rama Mandi, Hoshiarpur Road, Jalandhar.

Harsh Vardhan Patial s/o Late Sh. Bikramjit Singh r/o H.No. 108, Block-E, Shivalik Vihar, Nayagaon, Post Office Nada, Backside Century, Tehsil Kharar, District Mohali, presently at 47, Gossamer Ave Miriabur WA 6061 Australia.

CNR No.: PBBL01-007242-2019 Next Date: 24.03.2021 Publication issued to:

2. Satvir Singh @ Laddi son of Harbhajan Singh son of Bahadur Singh, resident of Village Takhtupura, Tehsil Nihal Singh Wala, District Mohga.

3. Jagmeet Singh @ Tempo @ Gurmeet Singh s/o Harbhajan Singh s/o Bahadur Singh, R/o Village Takhtupura, Tehsil Nihal Singh Wala, District Mohga.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 08.04.20

No martyr status for farmers who died in stir

BHARTESH SINGH THAKUR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 8
Home Minister Anil Vij today told the Haryana Assembly that there was no proposal under the consideration to give the martyr status to farmers who died during the agitation against three farm laws.

Also, no proposal was there to provide government jobs and financial assistance to the families of farmers hailing from the state, he said.

Earlier, the Congress had demanded that the status of martyr to deceased farmers and financial assistance to their families on the pattern of Punjab should be given.

In a reply to a question from the Congress MLAs Aftab Ahmed and Indu Raj Narwal, Vij said 68 farmers had died till February 18 at the borders. Of these, 21 belonged to Haryana and 47 were Punjab residents.

Vij says 68 died during protest—21 from Haryana, 47 Punjab

Cong, BJP spar over farmer stir

Oppn seeks apology from Agriculture Minister for 'insensitive' remark



SUSHIL MANAV
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

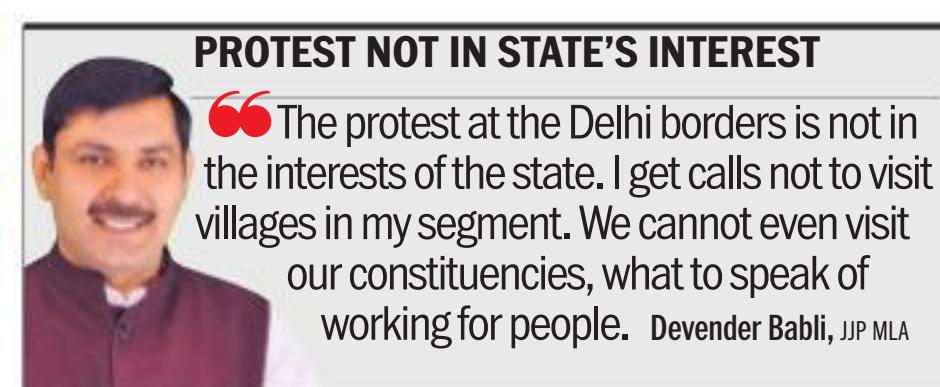
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 8

Noisy scenes were witnessed in the Assembly during a discussion on the Governor's Address on Monday as Opposition members led by Gita Bhukkal of the Congress attacked the government on the farmers' protest and BJP MLAs, including ministers Kanwar Pal Gujjar and JP Dalal, accused the Congress of misguiding farmers.

Today was the first day of the discussion on the Governor's Address. The motion on thanks on the Governor's Address was moved by Seema Trikha and seconded by Naina Chautala. Ruckus ensued when Gujjar accused the Congress of misleading farmers and held it responsible for the death of farmers.

Dalal retorted when Bhukkal referred to his comments on the deaths. She wanted him to apologise for his "insensitive" comments.

Carrying pictures of farmers who had died during the agitation, she said it was ironical



PROTEST NOT IN STATE'S INTEREST

“The protest at the Delhi borders is not in the interests of the state. I get calls not to visit villages in my segment. We cannot even visit our constituencies, what to speak of working for people. Devender Babli, JJP MLA

TERTIARY CANCER CARE CENTRE SOON

Chandigarh: Health Minister Anil Vij on Monday said the process of setting up a tertiary cancer care centre in Fatehabad was in progress. He said work on a tertiary cancer care centre in Ambala would be started soon. Responding to a question, he said a proposal to set up a cath lab at the Civil Hospital in Sonepat was under consideration. TNS

that they were celebrating International Women's Day even as hundreds of women had lost their husbands, sons and brothers because of the attitude of the government.

A nation moves forward when its women become achievers. How will the country progress when its women are forced to protest on the roads?" she said. Terming the farm laws as "black laws", she alleged the government was insensitive to farmers.

Bhukkal was interrupted by Gujjar, who said before terming the laws as "black", the Congress MLA should clarify what was black about the three laws. Ruckus ensued when Gujjar accused the Congress of misleading farmers and held it responsible for the death of farmers.

Dalal retorted when Bhukkal referred to his comments on the deaths. She wanted him to apologise for his "insensitive" comments.

Some other members from the treasury benches came in

support of the ministers. Kiran Choudhry, who was in the chair when Bhukkal started her speech, had a tough time managing BJP members.

The moment Trikha replaced Choudhry in the chair, she asked Bhukkal to take her seat as her time was over. This prompted Bhukkal to come to the Well of the House, demanding more time.

Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda intervened, saying time wasted by BJP members must not be counted. Trikha gave one more minute to Bhukkal to finish her speech.

Devender Babli of the JJP surprised everyone by targeting his government. He said happenings on the Delhi borders were not in the interests of the state.

"I get calls not to visit villages in my segment. We cannot even visit our constituencies, what to speak of working for them," he said.

The television relay in the media gallery at Haryana Niwas went off when he was speaking. It was later clarified that it was a technical glitch.



Congress MLA Geeta Bhukkal presides over the Assembly session on International Women's Day.

House bonhomie on women's day

PRADEEP SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 8

In the male-dominated Assembly, women legislators hogged the limelight on the International Women's Day today.

Be it presiding over sessions of the House or participating in the discussion on the Governor's Address, women had more than their share of allocated time. And for a change, male legislators did not mind women holding the centrestage.

As soon as the Question Hour was over, Assembly Speaker Gian Chand Gupta stepped aside and invited senior Congress member Kiran Choudhry to preside over the session while two



SKY IS THE LIMIT

“Nari bhi choo sakti hai akash, bas usse hai mauke ki talash
(Women can also touch the sky, all she needs is an opportunity).

Naina Chautala, JJP MLA

time BJP MLA Seema Trikha was given the privilege of opening the debate on the Governor's Address. Later,

Trikha, Geeta Bhukkal (Congress) and Naina Chautala (JJP) held the fort by being the presiding officers.

Trikha and Bhukkal did their best to toe their party line while speaking on the Governor's Address, but the acrimony was short-lived and bonhomie prevailed in the House.

Ambala City MLA Aseem Goel tried his hand at poetry on the theme of the International Women's Day, while his party colleague Subhash Sudha and Kuldeep Vats (Congress) wore pink jackets.

Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala responding to a slew of demands from his mother announced that 33 per cent ration depots would be allotted to women.

Best MLA Award for Yadav, Chaudhary

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 8

Nangal Chaudhary MLA Abhe Singh Yadav and Mullan MLA Varun Chaudhary will be awarded the Best Legislator Award for 2020-21 for overall outstanding contribution to the Assembly.

The selection criteria include attendance in House, behaviour on floor of the House, contribution in carrying out development works for constituency and contribution to various House committees. —TNS

Congress MLAs pull tractor to protest rising fuel prices

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 8

Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Monday led a march of Congress MLAs to the Assembly against inflation while sitting on a tractor, pulled by party MLAs with ropes.

MLA Shakuntla Khatai pushed an auto-rickshaw alone while MLA Neeraj Sharma drove a Honda Activa to protest against fuel price hike.

When they were stopped at

a check post before the Assembly gate and told that they couldn't take a tractor inside, the Congress MLAs

blocked the road and raised slogans against the government. The jam on the road started lengthening.

Hooda said the common man was facing all-round inflation due to the policies of the government. "While incomes of families are decreasing due to the economic slowdown, household expenses are increasing due

to inflation and this is hurting



Congress MLAs protest in Chandigarh on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: PRADEEP TEWARI



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The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Poll-year populism

Amid fiscal mess, Punjab Budget takes familiar route

THE Congress government's last Budget before the 2022 Punjab Assembly elections is, as expected, populist to the core. With the state's farmers spearheading a protracted agitation against three farm laws enacted by the Centre, the Capt Amarinder Singh dispensation has intensified its focus on the agriculture sector in a bid to woo this all-important vote bank. The FM has announced to waive Rs 1,186 crore owed by 1.13 lakh farmers, while the landless ones won't have to repay loans to the tune of Rs 526 crore. It was on the back of poll promises such as the crop loan waiver scheme that the Congress had wrested power from the Akali-BJP alliance in 2017. Though loan waiver is at best a short-term palliative measure that doesn't address the problems plaguing Punjab's agriculture — depleting water table, shrinking landholdings, wheat-paddy fixation — the Congress is staying the course due to political compulsions.

Even as the state's debt has risen to Rs 2,73,730 crore — it was around Rs 1,53,773 crore in 2016-17 — the government has allocated Rs 7,180 crore to provide free electricity to farmers. For obvious reasons, power subsidy has remained sacrosanct for successive governments in Punjab, even though the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) has repeatedly red-flagged this largesse as a key contributor to the state's abysmal economic condition. The FM has also announced schemes to promote horticulture and crop diversification, but it would require wholehearted efforts to make such ventures viable and sustainable for growers.

The Budget has something in store for virtually every section of society, be it government employees, old-age pensioners, students or industrialists. It seems the cash-strapped government will yet again be living beyond its means. Mobilising resources and enforcing fiscal discipline to ensure that there is no paucity of funds for the social sector, which has for long suffered neglect in Punjab, continue to be a tall order. Curbing the menace of tax evasion, which has been eating into the state's revenue, is another challenge. Rationalising of subsidies can help to reduce the financial burden, provided there is strong political will to look beyond electoral gains in the state's interests.

Electoral battle in Bengal

Test of political acumen for Mamata

WITH the eight-phase elections for the West Bengal Assembly slated to begin on March 27, campaigning has reached fever pitch, with both the BJP and the TMC reaching out to voters and blaming each other's policies for the state lagging behind in terms of development. The BJP, which already has its Chief Ministers in Tripura and Assam, now wants to expand its footprint in West Bengal. Its foray into the eastern state has met with stiff resistance, with attacks taking place on its leaders and the levelling of charges of it being a party of outsiders. To deflect this, the BJP has inducted leaders from other parties, taking the battle to the enemy camp, TMC chief Mamata Banerjee has decided she would contest only from Nandigram from where the BJP has fielded her former aide Suvenu Adhikari.

The choice of Nandigram, the hub of a farmers' movement against the Left Front government, symbolises best the dilemma of development in West Bengal. The flight of Tatas from Singur only accentuated this. With work on the dedicated eastern freight corridor nearing completion and plans afoot to connect Bengal with both the west and east coasts with similar rail corridors, the BJP has been trying to pitch itself as a party that favours development even as the TMC faces charges of involvement in scams. The allegations against the West Bengal CM's kin have a ring of the Bihar elections where the BJP used the 'Jungle Raj Ka Yuva' slogan to target RJD's Tejashwi Yadav.

With Union Home Minister Amit Shah reiterating that CAA will be implemented after Covid vaccination ends, including the granting of Indian citizenship to refugees from Bangladesh, it will be interesting to see how the issue plays out. As PM Modi is scheduled to visit Bangladesh to attend the birth centenary celebrations of Mujibur Rahman on election eve, India will have to allay Dhaka's apprehensions on CAA. With the Congress and Left Front joining hands, and the BJP pulling no punches, Mamata will find little room for complacency.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

No need to hurry, no need to sparkle, no need to be anything but oneself. — Virginia Woolf

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1921

The Question of Sacrifice.

BUT while for the reasons we have stated we are pleased that the Council rejected the motion of appointments and salary, we must join issue with Sir John Maynard as regards one or two of the grounds on which he opposed the proposal. "The ministers," he said "had already made pecuniary sacrifices in accepting the appointments." Now, this we consider an irrelevant consideration. Whether Lala Harkishen Lal, for instance, needs to get ten thousand rupees per month or twenty thousand is altogether beside the point in determining what salary should be paid by the Council to the ministers. That question is a general one, and should be determined solely with regard to three general considerations: first, what salary the Council thinks will attract suitable men; secondly, what salary the Council considers adequate for the work which the ministers have to do; and thirdly, what salary it is in its power to pay for that work. When the question has been decided on this basis, it will be for Lala Harkishen Lal or any other individual to decide for himself whether he should accept the office or not. If the acceptance of the office does involve a sacrifice for him, and if he is either unwilling or unable to make that sacrifice, he will naturally make room for someone else, to whom either it is no sacrifice or who is both willing and able to make it. On that basis the salary will have to vary from year to year or perhaps twice or thrice every year, according to the resources or the position in life of the individual who may, for the time being, enjoy the confidence of the Council. Is Sir John Maynard unaware, by the way, of the heavy sacrifice which distinguished public men in his own country have made again and again by abandoning lucrative careers elsewhere and accepting office under the Crown? Why should anyone think that things in India are going to be different?

Dissecting toxic masculinity

Flowering of 'self' possible only through the union of the masculine & feminine



AVIJIT PATHAK

SOCIOLOGIST



DRIVERS OF CHANGE: It is wrong to assume that men are 'masters'; and women are meant to be 'subjugated'. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Patriarchy is about division and fragmentation. It robs men of the healing touch of nature, and deprives them of the ability to care and surrender.

ate themselves from the egotistic burden of a terribly pathological notion of being 'saviors' of women. It is in this context that the anatomy of the mindset implicit in the court's pronouncement needs to be explored.

To begin with, let us reflect on the discourse of power. Quite often, a hyper-masculine culture equates power with some sort of instrumental reasoning—the power to dominate and control, or the power to objectify and establish one's superiority over others. In other words, the attributes like aggression, possessiveness and mob are seen as necessary 'virtues' to be internalised for existing like 'real' men. In a way, be it the Baconian dictum that knowledge is power, or the Cartesian duality of 'reason' vs. 'emotion', or the celebration of militarism and aggressive hyper-competitive sports carnivals: we see the manifestations of environmental, cultural and psychic violence. In fact, patriarchy is about division and fragmentation; it separates the masculine from the feminine; it robs men of the healing touch of nature; and it

deprives men of the ability to care and surrender. No wonder, bravery is equated with aggression—a visible demonstration of 'manliness'. And patriarchal men become incapable of relating to women as thoughtful and autonomous subjects. Women, they think, have to be possessed, conquered or protected. And men as warriors (or militant nationalists) will decide how to preserve the 'honour' of women—our 'virtuous' mothers, daughters and sisters. Moreover, women are objects of desire. The violent male gaze consumes 'femininity' and sexuality in diverse ways—from what the 'Me Too' phenomenon has revealed so clearly to the market-driven spectacle called the 'beauty contest'.

Is it, therefore, surprising that it becomes difficult for men to love—the way poets and mystics see love as the death of ego, or the joy of ultimate surrender, or the ecstasy of the confluence of the material and the spiritual—body and soul? How is love possible if women are seen as weak, submissive and passive? How is love

possible if women are led to think that marriage, for them, is nothing but compulsion—a passport to 'economic security'? And how is love possible if men continue to see women as obedient servants or attractive dolls? A hyper-masculine culture is the negation of love. In fact, what goes on in the name of love is lust or possession or a purely economic contract. Only in a society of this kind can we think of marital rape. And only in a society of this kind can the Chief Justice suggest a rapist to marry the victim.

At this juncture, we need to ask a pertinent question: How do we educate and socialise our boys as they grow up? Yes, society around them is terribly sexist and violent. Gandhi's ahimsa is laughed at; Jesus's 'Sermon on the Mount' has no value; Buddha's contemplative eyes are hardly seen. Instead, they grow up amid toy guns and violent video games, reckless speed and instinctive thrill, and hyper-competitiveness and selfishness. They find themselves amid a culture industry that tends to normalise the pornographic mindset, and activates the desire to win, consume and possess. Is it possible for the parents and teachers to sensitise them, and tell them a different story?

Let them learn that to be humane is to cultivate the ethics of care. Let them learn that the real courage is the courage to be tender and affectionate. Let them learn that to love is not to dominate, but to elevate oneself to a higher stage of consciousness. Let them sharpen the aesthetic sensibility to appreciate an amazing sunset rather than a suspense thriller. And let them realise that the flowering of the 'self' is possible only through the union of the masculine and the feminine. And let them see the destructiveness implicit in the dominant notion of masculinity—a toxic mind that is spiritually impoverished, psychologically insecure and neurotically restless. Believe it, it is not the Supreme Court, but you and I, as parents and teachers, have to make it possible.

Trolley suitcase, what a blessing!

MR ANAND

THE one thing I used to dread those days prior to the advent of trolley suitcases was harassment at the hands of railway porters. Every time I smoothly cruise along railway platforms, drawing effortlessly behind me my trolley suitcase that follows me like my pet on leash, I thank the person behind its invention which almost put an end to the menace of overcharging porters. You can put an elephant calf in a trolley suitcase and pull it along railway platforms!

There was a time when a porter demanded Rs 100 to carry luggage from my coach to the auto stand at Chennai Central when I arrived from Cochin on a ticket costing just Rs

180. Whatever the porters demanded, you had to shell out without a word of protest. If you tried to argue with them or bargain, they would give you a dressing down. Porters those days earned not less than Rs 1,000 a day, tax-free. Even Governors were not paid that much. But their families never benefited from their earnings. They hardly gave a fraction of their collection to their wives for running the household, which remained as poor as they ever were. What they milked from poor passengers ended up in liquor shops. There were porters who won't allow you to carry your own luggage. They would tease and torment you by making sarcastic and insulting comments about how shamefully stingy you

were in not engaging them.

At certain stations in Kerala in the '90s, porters went to the extent of stopping passengers from carrying their own luggage. Suitcases used to be snatched from their hands. Hiring porters was made mandatory. Carrying one's own luggage was an offence. Only passengers carrying briefcases were exempted. Having suffered at their hands so much during my frequent travels to the state, I used to pray for something to happen to put an end to their atrocities. It was when passengers were resigned to overcharging porters that they dropped this trolley suitcase, like manna from heaven. Blessed be the person who is behind its invention. Of course, necessity is the mother of invention.

The advent of the trolley suitcase put an abrupt end to the sufferings of travellers at the hands of red shirts and made the journey tension-free. Even a child or an elderly person can take care of his own luggage. Exploitation cannot go on forever. The other day, when I arrived at Chennai Central with more luggage than I could manage, I looked for a porter to engage in vain. Those days, Central used to be swarming with porters, but now one hardly sees one.

Of course, it is a sad thing that suitcases with wheels rendered many jobless, but who necessitated its invention? Greedy porters who overcharged over a long period! If we indulge in overdoing anything, it ends up in our own undoing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Quite an example

Three cheers for the woman traffic constable, Priyanka, who was spotted on duty with her five-month-old baby in her arms! Some may criticise her for carrying a baby while on duty, but I feel that such a conscientious constable should be awarded a police medal for not remaining absent from duty. Carrying the child to work was not an every-day affair. It was an emergency when she couldn't have left the baby anywhere. Instead of resting under a tree and sitting in a chair, like many cops do, she preferred performing her duty which deserves praise.

S CHAUDHARY, MOHALI

Discuss women's issues

One can think of a world without men but we can't think of a world without women. International Women's Day must be a day for reflection and action because women are not just an observer of change, they are the change maker. For a woman, the world is full of struggle. Rather than discussing their problems, we should discuss their achievements and contributions towards society. For a better tomorrow, let us talk about their protection, freedom and equality.

DEVINA BADHWAR, ROHTAK

Equal opportunities

The BJP claims to be nationalist. It should not have pandered to nativism, even if it was an election promise of its most important ally that helped to form the government.

SK SINGH, AMRITSAR

The 'Flying Sikh'

'WW-I Sikh fighter pilot's memorial to come up in UK' makes every Indian feel a sense of pride. Hardit Singh Malik entered the UK at the age of 14 and went on to become a member of the Royal Flying Corps. He became famous as the 'Flying Sikh'. Though late, a befitting memorial is being erected in Southampton in the memory of this great fighter pilot. We are proud of him.

FAQIR SINGH, DASUYA

India connect

Sikh fighter pilot Hardit Singh Malik later joined the ICS and served a full term in the British, and after 1947, in the Indian services. Thereafter, he was appointed ambassador to France. He had also taken part in negotiations when Akali leader Tara Singh went on hunger strike for some days.

BALDEV SINGH, MELBOURNE

Splendid performance

Kudos to Virat Kohli's men for clinching a 3-1 Test series triumph over Eng-

land. India's innings and 25-run victory in the fourth Test, concluded a series that was largely one-sided, barring England's win in the opening encounter at Chennai. Like it did in Australia, India shrugged aside the early loss and turned around its fortunes in a riveting fashion. The excellence of youth and the terrific form of Ashwin and Rohit Sharma, papered over the modest returns from Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane and Shubman Gill. India has topped the ICC Test rankings but in June, on a grassy English pitch and against crafty New Zealand seamers, a tougher competition awaits.

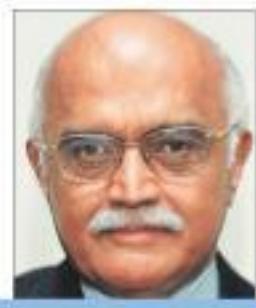
SANJAY CHOPRA, MOHALI

Not enough teachers

Apropos of Patiala's Girls Multipurpose School adjudged 'best' in state, it is good to rank schools on the basis of technology, but not even a single school from the border belt has figured on the list. Punjab schools recorded 15 per cent increase in enrolment due to the hard work of school heads. The government has still to provide teachers in rural and border schools. There are no science teachers in many schools or only one lecturer which is not justified. Also, senior teachers, lecturers and headmasters are awaiting promotions. Senior principals are awaiting promotions through a departmental promotion committee.

DEVINDER SAHNI, BY MAIL

Fears of penetration in a democracy



VAPPALA BALACHANDRAN

EX-SPECIAL SECRETARY, CABINET SECRETARIAT

On March 7, a leading Indian columnist quoted KGB defector Vasili Mitrokhin's 'Archives' (1999-2005) to say that India is the most 'penetrated' country since the days of Indira Gandhi. He was making this reference while ridiculing the NDA government's paranoia over the alleged anti-India 'conspiracy' by three young women and Indian farmers.

Yet, he said, our government is unable to detect clear signs on what constitutes the real national danger, such as China's hacking of our power plants. While agreeing with his conclusion, I am doubtful whether we should consider Mitrokhin's version as true since his chief Leonid Shebarshin, who was handling India-Pakistan during 1964-77, had denied it. In December 2001, he told *Vlast*, a Russian weekly, that while Indira Gandhi valued the Soviet Union's friendship, she was "not a friend" as she took her own decisions.

Also, 'defector literature', especially from the erstwhile Soviet Union, cannot be counted as authentic as they were the best experts in forgery well before the computer was invented. A defector like Mitrokhin had to please

his hosts to stay useful for his settlement in a foreign country. Otherwise, he would have met the same fate as RAW defector Rabinder Singh — of being abandoned soon after his 'exfiltration' in 2004 and dying in penury in the country of refuge.

Mitrokhin had additional problems as his papers in Russia were retrieved by some, including MI-6 officer Richard Tomlinson who was later jailed for betrayal.

The only way defector literature could become authentic history is either by being minutely scrutinised by veteran intelligence historians like Christopher Andrew or subjecting the story to be compared with genuine foreign intelligence archives or foreign agencies on its end result.

In India, we have never developed the habit of studying intelligence as part of serious history. As a result, books written even by former intelligence officers cater more for stimulating public weakness for pulp fiction.

The possibility of a joint study is rare as even the friendliest countries do not permit that type of intelligence cooperation for fear of penetration. In December 1943, William Donovan, father of modern American intelligence visited Moscow, then a close US ally in World War-II, to propose further intelligence cooperation. The NKGB gleefully agreed, although it already had their spy Duncan Chaplin Lee in Donovan's personal office since 1941.

Also, such joint service-to-service scrutiny, even subsequent, has happened only once when a landmark joint US-Russian project was launched during the Yeltsin bonhomie years



COLD WAR: A defector like Mitrokhin had to please his hosts to stay useful for his settlement in a foreign country. iSTOCK

(1991-99) to study how both the rivals had performed during the secret 'Berlin Tunnel' project. The result was Yale University's *Battle Ground Berlin* (1997), jointly written by former CIA and KGB intelligence officers who had actually conducted the operations, moderated by American journalist George Bailey.

How do mature democracies deal with such fears of penetration? Do they lock down their countries, banning all foreign contacts, even through internet, and making conditions for climate activists and human rights NGOs difficult, as our government is doing?

Here, a story recounted by former CIA director Allen Dulles in 1963 would be relevant: Pawel Monat was the Polish military attaché in Washington DC from 1955. According to

Dulles, he was actually working for the KGB and was found to be very 'successful'. In 1959, he defected to the US. In 1962, he published a sensational book *Spy in the US* jointly with John Dille, the then military editor of *Life* magazine.

This was at the height of the Cold War when the US was in the grip of deep paranoia about intrusive Soviet intelligence. The federal government was being subjected to "loyalty" tests initiated by President Truman in 1947 and continued by President Eisenhower in 1953. Senator Joseph McCarthy was carrying on his "witch hunt" on the "red scare" until the Senate stopped it in 1954. A book like this rekindled American fears on how easy it was to penetrate a free society like America.

On June 13, 1960, the 'US Senate

Sub-Committee to Investigate the Administration of the Internal Security Act & Other Security Laws', under the Judiciary Committee, summoned Monat to understand how the Soviet intelligence was operating in the US.

Monat frankly told them that "America is a delightful country in which to carry out espionage". One of their weakest links in the nation's security was "the yearning friendliness of her people". He was able to find "one American after another who seemed impelled — after a drink or two — to tell me things he might never have told his own wife."

He also told them that magazines like the *Aviation Weekly* and the *Misiles and Rockets* carried so much of classified information that "would

have taken months of work and thousands of dollars to agents to ferret out the facts one by one."

The ease with which the Soviet intelligence was able to operate in America alarmed everybody. On March 7, 1963, a 'highly respected' Congressman, George Mahon, then Chairman of the House Defence Appropriations Sub-Committee, exhorted all, including the media, for "halting the erosion of our national intelligence effort" by open official statements made by individuals and the media on US defence planning.

Still, this did not provoke US lawmakers to invoke draconian laws like our colonial Official Secrets Act or the indiscriminate use of sedition by their agencies, as is happening now in India. Instead, the later decades saw more transparency and accountability even in their secret services.

The US still follows what President Harry Truman had said in his 'State of the Union address' on January 7, 1948, after successfully terminating World War II. He said that religious freedom, free speech, human rights and freedom of thought were the cherished American values.

To a great extent, Canada, Australia and the Great Britain also do not expect their free societies to abandon their chosen forms of government and social traditions. This is because they are confident in the capability of their own security agencies in a free society even when facing 'penetrations' here and there by foreign countries or agencies.

The moral is that we also should also have more confidence in our security services.

Public sector is the lifeline of the marginalised



KS CHALAM

ECONOMIST AND FORMER UPSC MEMBER

A group of economists has developed theories to sustain public sector as a part of the economic development strategy. They believe that it provides the much-needed shock absorber in an economy that might experience turbulences like inflation, depression, unemployment and other temporary disturbances in a market economy. They are of the view that the public sector provides the gear to the state to steer through.

Off late, the Congress party is realising the folly of departing from the fundamentals of secularism, socialism and democracy. It appears that the party has committed hara-kiri by sidestepping the Nehru-Fabian ideology of giving commanding heights of the economy to the public sector.

It started when PV Narasimha Rao, Manmohan Singh and a chosen few from the World Bank carried forward the ideology of the Washington consensus which allowed the private sector to rise. The scams that were considered as a conduit to transfer public and common properties to the government's cronies became public policies during the UPA and NDA regimes.

It was during this period that the late PS Krishnan, a committed civil servant, described how the UPA cared less for the Special Component Plan (SCP) of Dalits and even imposed an embargo on a Bill approved by the National Advisory Council headed by Sonia Gandhi.

I have published one of the first papers and, later, books on the impact of the new economic policy on the marginalised groups. It was pointed out that the investments made in the public sector were the legitimate share of the marginalised poor. There is a direct relationship between the unspent amounts of the SCP and the investments made by the government.

The existence of the public sector is not an innovative idea but a legacy that we have inherited. India boasts of the presence of the public sector at least from the time of Chanakya who has mentioned about the prevalence of



SHIFT: Privatisation took off when Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh were at the helm. PTI

superintendents like the *sutradhyaksha* who supervised state manufacturing textile units in his *Arthashastra*.

The role of the state in economic activities was not seen just in India. It was also a phenomenon in Oriental societies. Marxist dissenter Wittfogel wrote on the hydraulic societies in Asia as those that relied heavily on state-supported irrigation and public works.

Adam Smith, father of economics, argued for public works and judiciary to be kept with the state, though he was a libertarian. The Fabian society, democratic socialists and Marxists throughout the world have been arguing for the need for the public sector in modern economies.

There is a group of economists who has developed theories to sustain the public sector as a part of the economic development strategy. They believe that it provides the much-needed

shock absorber in an economy that might experience turbulences like inflation, depression, unemployment and other temporary disturbances in a market economy. They are of the view that the public sector provides the gear to the state to steer through.

We have seen during the Covid pandemic that societies that are heavily relied on the private sector have failed while the few that have public sector healthcare and enterprises have sustained. Studies provide data that the public sector in India, including its R&D establishments, was responsible for the sustained growth of the economy, contributing as much as Rs 1,74,587 crore as profit in 2019.

However, a group of paid intellectuals and cronies of corporate interests, with publications on the 'invisible foot of the public sector', has come up with theories that the public sector

promotes inefficiency and corruption. They have recommended privatisation or abolition of the licence-permit raj with less governmental role and more margins.

Interestingly, this trend has promoted contractor raj in the name of PPP (public-private partnership). The so-called libertarians are silent when NPAs worth lakhs of crores of rupees are written off as markers of inefficiency of the private sector. They have all gone into the accounts of the 'dwijas'. None from the marginalised sections has the opportunity to receive contracts, not even from Gujarat.

The constitutional provisions for the public sector and access to this sector given under Articles 15(4) and 16(4), popularly known as caste-based reservations, were made infructuous and useless. The role of the public sector in mitigating economic exploitation in the private sector and in keeping the savings of the people as investments for posterity was considered by Nehru and Ambedkar, like some of their contemporaries in the UK and Europe, who advocated different models of development through planning. They considered the public sector as the panacea to getting access to organised employment for the Dalits and Bahujans, who had been denied opportunities so far. Articles 38 and 39 have fortified these provisions.

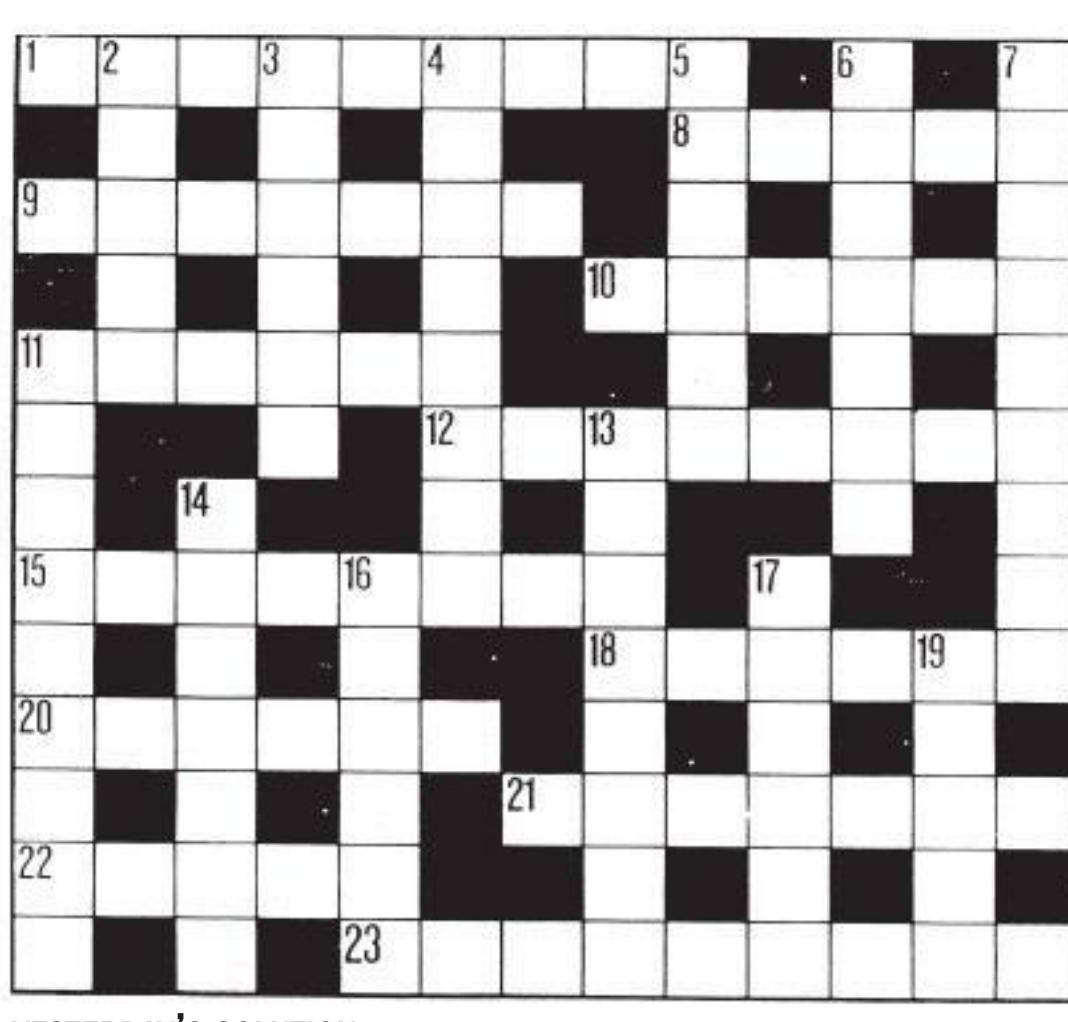
The present shift to arguing for reservations in the private sector is a supplementary argument when the role of the public sector has dwindled intentionally to reduce access to jobs for the reserved groups. Privatisation has helped generate super-rich corporates who are alleged to have bought/appropriated public properties at discounted rates. This has further widened the gap between the rich and the poor, leading to just 1 per cent of the Indians holding 58 per cent of the national wealth.

The founding fathers of our nation, including Ambedkar, Nehru and Lohia, have provided arguments for the continuation of the public sector in our society that has inherited several inequities and diversities. India cannot ape a settlers' country like the US or tiny capitalist countries.

But the self-seeking cronies have not bothered to read the works of the founding fathers. They misinterpret and abuse the esteem bestowed on intellectuals by writing reports and stories against the profit-making public sector units so as to ultimately to benefit the corporates. It was during 1990-2016 — the golden age of privatisation — that the number of government companies increased from 1,166 to 65,245 and private registered companies from two lakh to 10.23 lakh.

Interestingly, the investment of the private sector was Rs 17,193 crore in 1989 and it has increased to Rs 16.74 lakh crore, while public investment was more than double the size in 1989 at Rs 47,051 crore and now is at Rs 32.87 lakh crore, mostly utilising internal resources. But, public employment started dwindling from 190.57 lakh to 176 lakh during the period, indicating the downsizing of opportunities for the reservation groups, including 10 per cent EBC who claim that it is the public sector that provides them the lifeline to sustain in the globalised world.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Hapless, 4 Ripen, 5 Vent, 8 Flagrant, 10 Coat of arms, 12 Ballad, 13 Efface, 15 Altruistic, 18 Smash hit, 19 Ooze, 20 Meant, 21 Ecuador.

Down: 1 Havoc, 2 Pinnacle, 3 Sultan, 4 Ragamuffin, 5 Pear, 6 Notable, 9 For all that, 11 Last word, 12 Blossom, 14 Ermine, 16 Clear, 17 Saga.

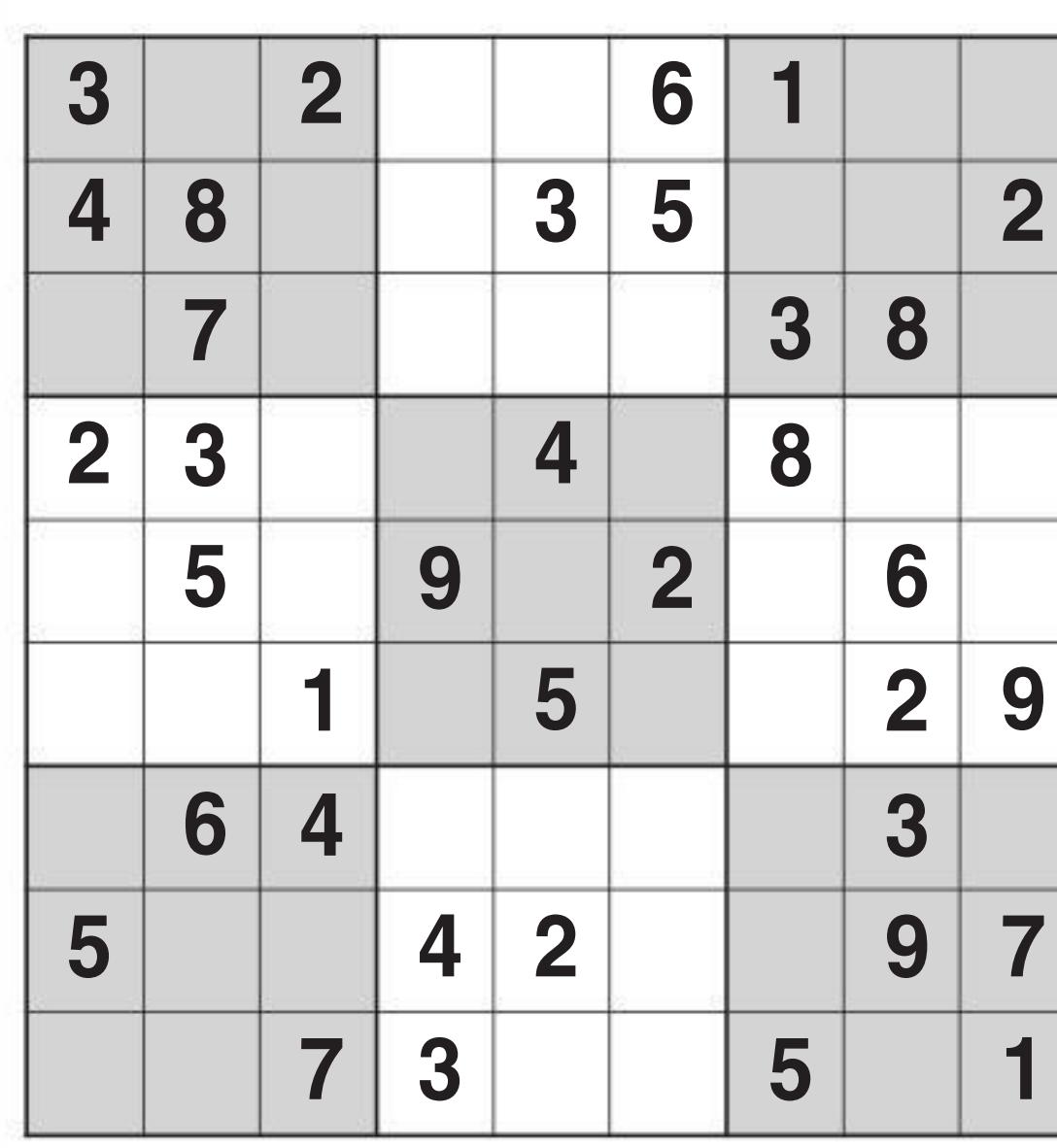
ACROSS

- 1 Leisure (5,4)
- 8 Incantation (5)
- 9 Biased (7)
- 10 Woven material (6)
- 11 Lax (6)
- 12 Notable (8)
- 15 Undying (8)
- 18 Destructive swarming insect (6)
- 20 Flag flown by ship (6)
- 21 Long-serving old soldier (7)
- 22 Stretched tight (5)
- 23 On the wane (9)

DOWN

- 2 Stage in development (5)
- 3 Keep possession of (6)
- 4 Part of cruciform church (8)
- 5 Get free of (6)
- 6 Forbear (7)
- 7 Register of defaulters (5,4)
- 11 First principles of subject (9)
- 13 In confused haste (4-4)
- 14 Humorous (7)
- 16 Robust (6)
- 17 Protect from observation (6)
- 19 Taint of guilt (5)

SU DO KU



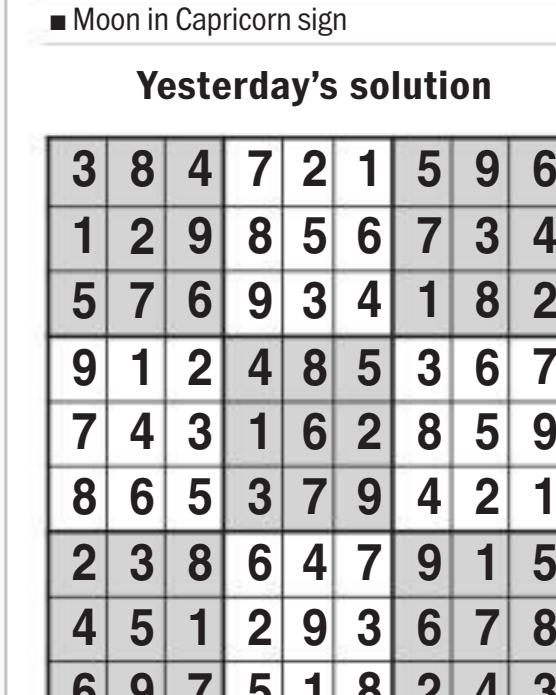
V.EASY

CALENDAR

MARCH 9, 2021, TUESDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Phalgun Shaka	18
■ Phalgun Parvishtha	26
■ Hijri	1442
■ Krishna Paksha Tithi 11, up to 3.03 pm	
■ Variyan Yoga up to 12.05 pm	
■ Uttrashadha Nakshatra up to 8:41 pm	
■ Moon in Capricorn sign	

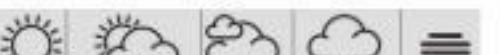
Yesterday's solution



FORECAST

SUNSET: TUESDAY 18:27 HRS

SUNRISE: WEDNESDAY 06:38 HRS



CITY MAX MIN

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	30	18
New Delhi	32	17
Amritsar	29	13
Bathinda	30	16
Jalandhar	28	13
Ludhiana	28	16
Bhiwani	33	17
Hisar	33	17
Sirsra	32	18
Dharamsala	17	10
Manali	15	05
Shimla	12	06
Srinagar	14	05
Jammu	28	15
Kargil	04	-03
Leh	0	-09
Dehradun	30	15
Mussorie	19	05

TEMPERATURE IN °C

E-TENDERING No. 12 of 2020-21

<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

On behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, Pb. W/S & Sew. Board, Chandigarh, Executive Engineer, Pb. W/S & Sew. Division, Gurdaspur invites bids from eligible bidders for the work detailed below:-

Sr. No.	Description of Work	Earnest Money	Cost of document/Tender Fee (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Approx. Value of the Work
1	DNIT for Operation and Maintenance of Sewerage Scheme of Dina Nagar Town for the year 2021-2022 w.e.f. 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022 (12 Months)	@ 2% of DNIT Cost Rs. 34740/-	Rs. 100/- As applicable on website	12 months	Rs. Lum Sump
2	DNIT for Operation and Maintenance of Sewerage Scheme of Dera Baba Nanak Sir the year 2021-2022 w.e.f. 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022 (12 Months)	@ 2% of DNIT Cost Rs. 43600/-	Rs. 100/- As applicable on website	12 months	Rs. Lum Sump
3	DNIT for Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply Scheme of Dina Nagar Town for the year 2021-2022 (01.04.2021 to 31.03.2020) (12 Months)	@ 2% of DNIT Cost Rs. 43480/-	Rs. 100/- As applicable on website	12 months	Rs. Lum Sump
4	DNIT for Operation and Maintenance of Sewerage Scheme of Gurdaspur Town for the year 2021-2022 w.e.f. 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022 (12 Months)	@ 2% of DNIT Cost Rs. 114360/-	Rs. 100/- As applicable on website	12 months	Rs. Lum Sump

Important dates are as under:

Period of availability of tender online shall be : 09.03.2021 from 5:00 p.m.
Last Date and Time for online submission of bid shall be : 29.03.2021 up to 5:00 p.m.
Date and Time of opening of Technical Bid : 30.03.2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Note:- i) The detailed terms and conditions refer to website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

ii) Corrigendum/addendum, if any, will be issued on website only.

DPR/Pb/2348

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Punjab W/S & Sew. Division, Gurdaspur.

08

HP

Government of Punjab

Tender/RFP Reference No.

107/WSSD/MALERKOTLA/EE/2020-21

The Department of Water Supply and Sanitation Department Punjab invites online bids for the work of REPAIR OF MACHINERY, PUMP CHAMBER, OHSR & WATER WORKS, NEW DISINFECTION UNIT, AUTOMATED WATER CONTROLLER, IMPROVEMENT IN EXISTING WATER CONNECTIONS, NEW WATER CONNECTIONS, P&L PIPELINE & SIGN BOARD PAINTING ETC. AT VILLAGE DHANDRA, BLOCK DHURI, DISTRICT SANGRUR UNDER SUB-COMPONENT 2A(I) & JMM.

Closing date & time : 18.03.2021 at 17:00 Hours

Technical Bids Opening date & time : 19.03.2021 at 12:00 Hours

For details log on to : www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

Note: Any corrigendum to the Tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
W/S & Sanitation Division,
Malerkotla.

DPR/Pb/2350

TENDER NOTICE

WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

Dated: 08.03.2021

Executive Engineer WSS Division, Sri Anandpur Sahib invites bids from eligible bidders enlisted with Department of Water Supply & Sanitation, Punjab for the following works.

Sr. No.	Brief Description of the Works	App. Cost (In Rs.)	Bid Security (In Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs.)	Comp. Period	Last Date & Time for Submission of Bids	Date & Time of Technical Opening
1.	Providing & Installing 200mm i/d Straight Tubewell With Direct Rotary Rig In Place of Failed Tubewell For Existing Water Supply Scheme Daasgran (2 Nos. Group Of Village), Block Sri Anandpur Sahib, District Rupnagar Under Head 4215-01-102-99-53 And 4215-01-789-13-99-53.	2111334/-	42250/-	1000/-	3 MONTHS	25.03.2021 01:00 p.m.	25.03.2021 01:30 p.m.
2.	Providing Instalating 250mm x 200mm i/D Tubewell In Place of Failed Tubewell With Direct Rotary Rig For Existing Water Supply Scheme Jindwan (3 Nos. Group Of Village), Block Sh. Anandpur Sahib, District Rupnagar (Under Head 4215-01-102-36-99-53 & 4215-01-789-13-99-53).	2677443/-	53550/-	1000/-	3 MONTHS	25.03.2021 01:00 p.m.	25.03.2021 02:00 p.m.
3.	Providing & Installing 200mm i/d Straight Tubewell In Place of Failed Tubewell For Existing Water Supply Scheme Simbal Meira, Copalpur And Bilpur (3 Nos. Village), Block Nurpur Bedi, District Rupnagar (Tubewell Based) Under Head 4215-01-102-36-99-53 And 4215-01-789-13-99-53).	1854512/-	37100/-	1000/-	3 MONTHS	25.03.2021 01:00 p.m.	25.03.2021 02:30 p.m.
4.	Providing & Installing 200mm i/d Straight Tubewell In Place of Failed Tubewell For Existing Water Supply Scheme Kangar (1 No. Village), - Block Nurpur Bedi, District Rupnagar (Tubewell Based) Under Head 4215/Jm.	2137035/-	42750/-	1000/-	3 MONTHS	25.03.2021 01:00 p.m.	25.03.2021 03:00 p.m.
5.	Providing & Instalating 200mm i/d Straight Tubewell In Place of Failed Tubewell For Existing Water Supply Scheme Ajipuri Dabkhera (3 Nos. Village), Block Sri Anandpur Sahib, District Rupnagar (Tubewell Based) Under Head 4215/Jm.	2282249/-	45700/-	1000/-	3 MONTHS	25.03.2021 01:00 p.m.	25.03.2021 03:30 p.m.

Date & Time of Start of Sale of Bid Documents: 10.03.2021 at 02:00 p.m.

Bids Processing Fee: As per Website.

For details visit website: <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Note:- 1. All Corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.
2. Pre-bid meeting will be held on Dated 18.03.2021 at 11:00 a.m. in the office of Superintending Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation Circle, Chandigarh. Proceedings/clarifications will be hosted on website on Dated 19.03.2021.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
W/S & Sanitation Division,
Sri Anandpur Sahib.

Ph:- 01887-297170

E-mail: xen_ropar@yahoo.com

DPR/Pb/2379

DIRECTOR GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION HARYANA, PANCHKULA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Order No. 8/235-2017 PS (2) Dated: 05.03.2021

In pursuance of Rule 158 of the Haryana School Education Rules 2003, as amended from time to time, all the private recognized schools (affiliated to BOSE or any other Board) in the State of Haryana are directed to submit Form-VI online upto 31.03.2021 into their login provided to them for online student admission on MIS Portal i.e., hyredumis.gov.in, or through a link available to this effect on the official website www.schooleducationharyana.gov.in. After login account go to link "Online Form-VII" fill in the information and "Save as lock" and make final submission. In case, "save as lock" is not done, Form-VI will be treated as incomplete & will not be accepted.

For any technical support helpdesk can be contacted at 0172-5049801 between 09.00 AM to 05.00 PM during all working days. It is made clear that Form VI submitted at DEO/DEEO will not be considered as submission.

In the event of non-submission of Form-VI online by the school to the Directorate, appropriate departmental action under relevant rules would be initiated and the fee structure as provided in Form-VI for 2019-20 would remain in force. All the schools are further directed not to charge any fees/funds from the students in excess which are not permissible under Haryana School Education Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder.

Sd/- Director Secondary Education Haryana, Panchkula.

PRDH/1032/114/2021/2092/31/4

TENDER NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

TENDER NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

TENDER NOTICE

Farooq flays BJP for delay in Parliament quota for women

JAMMU, MARCH 8

National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah slammed the BJP on Monday over the delay in passage of the women's reservation Bill in Parliament despite enjoying a majority. Abdullah said the passage of the women reservation's Bill would be the "biggest service" to the women in the country.

Addressing an event to mark the International Women's Day at party headquarters in Jammu, Abdullah said men could talk about empowering women, but they do not want it to happen. "The BJP is enjoying majority in the Parliament, and had passed farm bills and that of revocation of Article 370 even as the people were not in their favour. Why are they not passing this Bill when the



NC leader Farooq Abdullah at an International Women's Day event in Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu, on Monday. PTI

entire country wants it?" Abdullah asked.

The bill was first introduced by the United Front government in 1996 and then the Vajpayee government tabled it in the Rajya Sabha in 2010 and managed to get it passed

could never be passed in any of the two Houses on all these occasions. The prospects of its passage brightened when the UPA government tabled it in the Rajya Sabha in 2010 and managed to get it passed

BRUSHES ASIDE BJP'S RESOLVE TO FORM GOVT

- A day after the BJP's J&K unit adopted a resolution to form the next government in the UT, Farooq Abdullah pooh-poohed the resolve and said "I will see how it is going to happen"
- He also criticised the BJP for allegedly dubbing him and other leaders as "Pakistani" during election time and urged the people to stay away from the politics of religion and hatred

'Misquoted'...

FROM PAGE 1

misreported", the CJI said. According to a provision of the Evidence Act, the court said its query was posed in the context of the judicial records but the issue was "completely misreported" by the media.

The query was based on judicial records that contained an undertaking from the man that he would marry the minor after she turned 18, the court said on International Women's Day. Rights activists, some politicians and intellectuals had criticised the top court. —TNS

Repeated...

FROM PAGE 1

both the Congress and the Centre, SAD leader Harsimrat Badal said it was Women's Day but rising gas, petrol and diesel prices were creating problems for them. There should also be a discussion on how to bring down the prices, she said. From tomorrow the House will start functioning from 11 am.

Similar scenes were witnessed in the Rajya Sabha. The House saw four adjournments as Congress MPs refused to budge from their demand for a discussion over the rise in fuel prices.

Punjab Budget...

FROM PAGE 1

pension for all elderly, destitute children and widows has been doubled from Rs 750 to Rs 1,500 per month. Under the Aashirwad Scheme, the assistance has been increased from Rs 21,000 to Rs 51,000, requiring an outlay of Rs 250 crore. Both the measures had been announced by the Congress in its poll manifesto in 2017 and the government had repeatedly drawn flak over these promises not being met.

Even as the two Akali Dal MLAs walked out over the inability of the government to enhance compensation for families of farmers who had died by suicide, and later by AAP MLAs over Punjab's rising debt, the Finance Minister continued to rain sops like enhancement of pension for freedom fighters and their kin from Rs 7,500 to Rs 9,400, among others.

Emphasis has also been on upgrading school and higher education infrastructure; besides seven hostels for working women; additional grants to universities, including Punjabi University to see it come out of the red; urban infrastructure; repair and maintenance of water resources; upgrading roads in rural areas; among other sops. No direct sops have been announced for trade and industry hit hard by the pandemic, though some new policies have been announced.

UK to raise concerns...

FROM PAGE 1

Government's Minister of State for Asia Nigel Adams said London had also asked New Delhi to permit Amnesty International to function since it has an important role in a democracy. The UK Government conceded that India's handling of the protests had caused alarm. At

the same time, it said agriculture policy is a domestic matter for the Indian Government. MPs Khalid Mehmood, Teresa Villiers, Virendra Sharma, Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, Naz Shah, Layla Moran, Seema Malhotra, John McDonnell and Brendon O'Hara were among those who sought accountability.

Meghan alleges racism, reveals suicidal thoughts

FROM PAGE 1

actress, who is pregnant with her second child, revealed that how the palace decided that their first-born, Archie, could not be a prince and would therefore have no security. She alluded to "concerns and conversations about how dark his skin might be when he's born". "Who is hav-

ing that conversation?" asked Meghan replied: "That was relayed to me from Harry."

Indian actress-TV host Simi Garewal was trolled for her tweet on the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. "#OprahMeghanHarry I don't believe a word Meghan says. Not a word. She is lying to make herself a victim. She is using the race card to gain sympathy. Evil," Simi had tweeted earlier on Monday. PTI

Jawan found dead near LoC

SRINAGAR, MARCH 8

A soldier was found dead near the LoC in Keran sector of Kupwara district, an Army official said on Monday.

The official said Gunner Trived Prakash, posted at Kachhal, was found dead due

to fire from his service weapon, at sentry post on March 7.

"The circumstances and the reason behind his death are being investigated," the official said, adding that it was not a result of any ceasefire violation. —PTI

Harry, who is still sixth in line to the British throne, also spoke of his hurt at his father Prince Charles not taking his calls after the couple decided to step back as frontline royals last year.

They have since moved to California after formally stepping down from royal duties in March 2020. —PTI

PUNJAB STATE DEAR MAHASHIVRATRI BUMPER 2021

TICKET ₹ 500

DRAW ON 12-03-2021 3.00 P.M. ONWARDS

First Prize ₹ 5 Crores

LIVE STREAMING

Total 2nd Prizes 1.10 CRORES (₹ 11 Lakhs x 10 Prizes)

Total 3rd Prizes 1.80 CRORES (₹ 9000 x 2000 Prizes)

MANY OTHER ATTRACTIVE PRIZES WORTH CRORES OF RUPEES

1ST PRIZE WILL BE DRAWN OUT OF SOLD TICKETS ONLY

PRIZE AMOUNT FOR WINNERS

RANK	No. of Prizes	Prize Amount (In ₹)	Total Amount (In ₹)
1st	1	5,25,00,000	5,25,00,000
2nd	10	12,50,000	1,25,00,000
3rd	2,000	9,000	1,80,00,000
4th	2,000	7,000	1,40,00,000
5th	2,000	5,000	1,00,00,000
6th	50,000	1,000	50,00,000
TOTAL	56,011		15,70,00,000

Contact Nearby Stockists for Tickets

♦ Amritsar : P.N.Sharma Lottery Agency Ph : 98142 60060 ♦ Bhatinda : Bhagwati Enterprises Ph : 98728 70805 ; Rattan Lottery Agency Ph : 91507 91506 ♦ Hoshiarpur : Alka Lottery Agency Ph : 95014 20125 ♦ Jalandhar : Lucky Lottery (TTS Showroom) Ph : 70092 15251 ; Luthra Lottery Agency Ph : 98140 60575 ; Shree Ganesh Agency Ph : 98726 36794 ; Vijay Lottery Agency Ph : 89680 89786 ♦ Ludhiana : Bhanot Enterprises Ph : 78887 27176 ; Gandhi Brothers Lott Ph : 96465 28984 ; M and C Retail Ph : 1800 266 7300 ; Pooja Lottery Agency Ph : 9988400006 ; R.P Agency Ph : 98151 42727 ; Sanjay Agency Ph : 91666 32200, 0161-4662976 ; Sunny Associates Ph : 98156 62774 ; The Trikun Ph : 81460 73809 ♦ Mohali : Baweja Lottery Agency Ph : 98151 67722 ; Tanmay Enterprises Ph : 98782 45543 ♦ Muktsar : Rajesh Lottery Agency Ph : 81465 00943 ♦ Nabha : Pawan Kumar Lottery Ph : 96532 21518 ♦ Pathankot : Ashok Bawa Lottery Agency Ph : 98154 38360 ♦ Patiala : J.M.D. Agency Ph : 88378 90286 ; Karan Enterprises Ph : 98140 41007 ; Punjab Trading Co. Ph : 98143 21975 ♦ Rajpura : Sandeep Lottery Ph : 99884 66584 ♦ Ropar : J.P. Enterprises Ph : 98558 68068 ♦ Zirakpur : Anshu Lottery Agency Ph : 99150 83333 ; Lucky Lottery Agency Ph : 98157 88878 ; Rattan Lottery Ph : 98557 33571

VISHESH DISTRIBUTORS, LUDHIANA. Ph : 97808 00202, 80591 12345

Toll Free : 1800 266 7300 | www.mandcretail.com

Tickets are Available at all Lottery Counters & in Markets & Bus stands in cities of Punjab

PUNJAB STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

SITE NO. 126, SECTOR 69, SAS NAGAR (MOHALI)

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

No./PULSA/22 Dated 08.03.2021

Applications along with resume are invited for 09 posts of Chairman, Permanent Lok Adalat, Public Utility Services, from the candidates who have held the post of District Judge or Additional District Judge or Judicial Officer higher in rank than that of a District Judge. Applicant should be below 65 years of age. Last date for submissions of application is 15.04.2021. For details please visit www.pulsa.gov.in

Number of posts can be increased or decreased as per the requirement DPR/Pb/2359 Sd/- Additional Member Secretary

PUNJAB PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Baradari Gardens, Patiala — 147001

Website: <http://ppsc.gov.in> Fax: 0175-5014831

CORIGENDUM

RECRUITMENT TO 81 POSTS OF JUNIOR ENGINEERS (CIVIL) AND 04 POSTS OF JUNIOR ENGINEER (MECHANICAL/ELECTRICAL) IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION, GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB.

1. It is for the information of the candidates with reference to Advertisement No. 11 dated 26.11.2020 for recruitment of Junior Engineers (Civil/Mechanical/Electrical) in the Department of Water Supply and Sanitation that as per Note 3 of the Detailed Advertisement, Reservation of Women will be implemented as given below as informed by the Department of Water Supply and Sanitation vide its letter No. WSSD-BR20174/2020-5BR2/6 dated 14/01/2021:-

(i) Junior Engineer (Civil)

Category Code	Name of Category	No. of Posts	Posts reserved for Women Out of Total Posts
71	General	17	05
72/73	ESM/LDESM Punjab	18	08
74	Freedom Fighters, Punjab	03	01
75	Sports Persons, Punjab	06	03
76	Persons with Disability, Punjab	06	02
	Deaf & Hard of Hearing (76-B)	06	02
	Locomotive Disability (76-C) (One Leg/ One Arm disability only)	02	01
77	Scheduled Castes Others, Punjab	02	01
78/79	Scheduled Castes ESM/LDESM, Punjab	01	00
80	Scheduled Castes Sports Persons Punjab	02	00
81	Balmiki/Mazbhi Sikhs, Punjab	02	01
82/83	Balmiki/Mazbhi Sikhs, ESM/LDESM Punjab	02	00
84	Balmiki/Mazbhi Sikh Sports Persons Punjab	02	00
85	Backward Classes, Punjab	02	01
86/87	Backward Classes ESM/LDESM, Punjab	04	00
92	Economically Weaker Sections, Punjab	08	02
	Total	81	26

(ii) Junior Engineer (Mechanical/Electrical)

Category Code	Name of Category	No. of Posts	Posts reserved for Women Out of Total Posts
72/73	ESM/LDESM Punjab	01	00
76	Persons with Disability, Punjab	01	01
77	Scheduled Castes Others, Punjab	01	00
81	Balmiki/Mazbhi Sikhs, Punjab	01	01
	Total	04	02

2. It is also informed that the point No. 7(a) & (b) of the General Information for the candidates dated 26.11.2020 stands withdrawn and the revised General Information regarding the clause of negative marking has been uploaded.

3. It is also informed that those candidates who are willing to apply for the ibid posts can only apply by filling online application form which is available on the website of Punjab Public Service Commission <http://ppsc.gov.in>

Last Date for filling Online Application Form: 18.03.2021
Last Date for depositing Online Application Fee: 25.03.2021

Date: 08.03.2021 Sd/- Navreet Kaur Sekhon, PCS Secretary (Examinations).

e-paper@tribuneindia.com

PRDH/1118/11/10/2021/2091/31/4

Expression of Interest for Empanelment of singers for various Cultural events of the Department

Punjab Heritage Tourism Promotion Board (PHTPB) invites Expression of Interest from reputed professional Singers/Artists for empanelment for a period of one year. Last date for submission of applications is 22nd March 2021. For detailed terms & conditions, please visit www.punjabtourism.punjab.gov.in. For further information contact: 0172-5042953.

Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Heritage Tourism Promotion Board, Plot No. 3, Punjab Archives Bhawan, Sector 38 A, Chandigarh

D/P/Pb/2346

**20 killed, 600 hurt in Equatorial Guinea blasts**

OUAGADOUGOU (BURKINA FASO), MARCH 8

A series of explosions at military barracks in Equatorial Guinea killed at least 20 persons and wounded more than 600 others, the authorities said.

President Teodoro Obiang Nguema said the explosion at 4 pm local time was due to the "negligent handling of dynamite" in the military barracks located in the neighbourhood of Mondong Nkuantoma in Bata.

"The explosion caused damage in almost all houses and buildings in Bata," the President said. The Defence Ministry released a statement late Sunday saying that a fire at a weapons depot in the barracks caused the explosion of high-calibre ammunition. It said the cause of the explosions would be investigated. — AP

YANGON, MARCH 8

Two demonstrators were killed in Myanmar on Monday, witnesses said, while shops, factories and banks were closed in Yangon as part of the protests against the country's military rulers. Security forces were also deployed at hospitals and universities as part of efforts to enforce the law, state media said.

It was not immediately clear who fired on the protesters in the northern town of Myitkyina, although both police and the military were at the scene, the witnesses said.

Photos posted on Facebook showed the bodies of two men lying on the street. Witnesses said they were taking part in a protest against the coup when the police fired stun grenades and tear gas. Several people were then hit by gunfire from nearby buildings. One witness, who said he helped move the bodies, told Reuters two persons were shot in the head and died on the spot. Three persons were wounded. "How inhumane to kill unarmed civilians," said the



Demonstrators run for cover in Yangon, Myanmar. REUTERS

OVER 50 KILLED BY SECURITY FORCES SO FAR: UN

- On Monday, demonstrators gathered in Yangon and Mandalay, according to videos.
- Protesters in Dawei, a coastal town in the south, were protected by the Karen National

witness, a 20-year-old man. "We must have our right to protest peacefully." The police and military have killed more

than 50 persons to quell the daily demonstrations and strikes against the coup, according to the United

Nations. A military spokesman did not respond to calls asking for comment on the latest incidents. — Reuters

**GLOBE TROT**

A protester seeks end to violence against women in Paris. REUTERS

Flower protest in Paris for Iranian no-headscarf activist

PARIS: Activists laid flowers near the Iranian Embassy in Paris on Monday to show support to a women's rights campaigner sentenced to prison after handing out flowers to women on the Tehran metro while not wearing a headscarf. AP

Jill Biden helps honour women from 15 countries

WASHINGTON: First lady Jill Biden says nearly two dozen women will be honoured for their courage. The 21 women being recognised with the State Department's International Women of Courage Award include seven from Afghanistan who are receiving posthumous honours. AP

TRACKING VIRUS**NATIONS**

NATIONS	DEATHS
US	53,854
BRAZIL	2,65,500
MEXICO	1,90,604
UK	1,24,501
ITALY	99,785



Singapore to start vaccinating migrant workers

UK students back to school after two months

Students at Harris Academy Sutton, south London, Britain. REUTERS

LONDON, MARCH 8 Millions of English children and teenagers headed back to school on Monday for the first time in two months, having endured their second extended stretch of home learning because of a strict national lockdown to slow the spread of Covid-19.

The reopening of English schools to all pupils is the first step in a four-stage government plan to ease the lockdown while trying to prevent a new surge in infections after a devastating winter wave that

severely strained hospitals.

Since the start of the pandemic, Britain has recorded

124,500 deaths within 28 days of a positive Covid-19 test, the fifth highest official

death toll in the world and the worst in Europe.

For adults in England, the

lockdown remains in force, with social contact severely restricted, people under orders to stay home, except for essential reasons, most shops closed, and cafes and restaurants able to offer only takeaway or delivery.

"Getting all schools back has been our priority and the first step of our roadmap back to normality," PM Boris Johnson said on Twitter. The reopening of schools is a huge relief to millions of parents who have spent months juggling work and full-time childcare. — Reuters

BUSINESS

USD \$	Euro €	Pound £	JPY ¥	Yuan ₠	CAD \$	AUD \$	SGD \$	HKD \$	BSE 50	NSE 50	Gold ₹	Silver ₹
₹73.25	₹86.87	₹101.31	₹0.67	₹11.24	₹57.90	₹55.99	₹54.31	₹9.44	35.75 50,441.07	18.10 14,956.20	₹44,680 (MCX)	₹66,500 (MCX)

PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD GOVT. OF PUNJAB**NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS**

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 16 OF 2021/PWSSD, ABH DATE: 05/03/2021

<http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

On behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Chandigarh, Executive Engineer, Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Division, Abohar invites bids from the eligible bidders for the works detailed below:-

Sr. No.	Description of Work	Earnest Money	Cost of Document/ Tender processing Fee Rs.	Period of Comp- lection	Approx. Value of the work
1.	"Regarding Vetting Rough DNIT for Augmentation and Rehabilitation of Water Supply Abohar, District Fazilka, Punjab. "Providing/Installing of LT Panel, Cables, Control Panel, Instrumentation, Shunt Capacitor, Cable Tray, Pipes and all other works/material/accessory essential for commissioning of LT Panel/ Pump Set and all other contingent thereto"	Rs. 39500/-	Rs. 100/- Rs. 1000/- + Taxes as applicable	02 months	L.S.

Important dates are as under:-

- i) Period of availability of tender online : 09.03.2021 at 09:00 a.m.
- ii) Last Date & Time for online submission of bid shall be : 29.03.2021 at 03:00 p.m.
- iii) Closing Date & Time for tender : 29.03.2021 at 03:00 p.m.
- iv) Date & time of opening of Technical Bid : 30.03.2021 at 12:00 Noon

For detailed terms and conditions refer to website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Note:- Any corrigendum(s) to the tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Pb W/S & Sew. Divn., Abohar.

DPR/Pb/2331

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB DEPARTMENT OF W/S & SANITATION NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS

No. e-tender/WSSD/BTI-1/EE/2020-21 DATE: 08.03.2021

For and on behalf of Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer, W/S & Sanitation Div. 1, Bathinda invites bids from eligible bidders for the work detailed in the following table. The bidder may submit bids for any or all of the following Project/Work:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Value of work (in lacs)	Bid Security (in lacs)	Tender Processing fee (Rs.)	Period of completion
1	Providing Separate Water Supply Scheme Ganga bifurcated from existing Water Supply Scheme Nathupura Block Nathana Distt. Bathinda. (Under NABARD XXIII Project)	172.70	3.54	As per Online	15 Months + 3 Months O&M period
2	Providing Separate Water Supply Scheme Killi Nihal Singh bifurcated from existing Water Supply Scheme Bhisiyan Block Bathinda Distt. Bathinda. (Under NABARD XXIII Project)	173.06	3.46	As per Online	15 Months + 3 Months O&M period

Important Date/Time

- a) Sale of Bid document :- 10.03.2021 at 10:00 Hrs. to 12.04.2021 up to 17:00 Hrs.
- b) Time & Date of Pre-Bid Meeting :- 26.03.2021 at 11:00 Hrs. at W/S & Sanitation Circle, Bathinda.
- c) Date & Time for submission of Bid :- 10.04.2021 at 12:00 Hrs.
- d) Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid :- 15.04.2021 at 12:00 Hrs.

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1. If there is any Amendment/corrigendum in future that will be update on www.eproc.punjab.gov.in.

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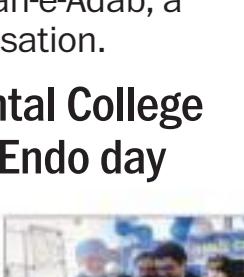
For & on behalf of Governor of Punjab Sd/- Executive Engineer, W/S & Sanitation Division No. 1, Bathinda, (Room No. 432, Secretariat Bathinda).

DPR/Pb/2352

Maha Governor honours LIC for work done during pandemic

The Tribune CORPORATE BROADBAND

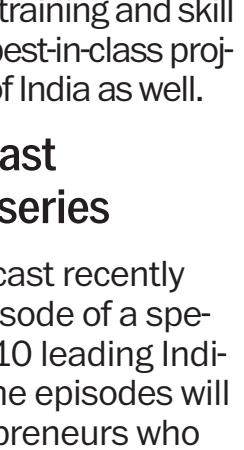
Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari recently felicitated LIC of India for the commendable work done by the corporation during the Covid pandemic. Vipin Anand, MD, received the honour at a function organised by Pasbaan-e-Adab, a socio-cultural organisation.

Desh Bhagat Dental College celebrates Cons-Endo day

Desh Bhagat Dental College and Hospital, Mandi Gobindgarh, recently celebrated Cons-Endo day in the Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics. The event was presided over by Dr Zora Singh, chancellor, Desh Bhagat University.

Egis Group opens int'l design centre in India

Egis Group – a major international group in the construction engineering and mobility services sectors – has opened an international design centre in Gurgaon. The India design centre will get the opportunity to work for global projects and to get the best of training and skill development on the best-in-class projects located outside of India as well.

Melting Pot Podcast releases special series

The Melting Pot Podcast recently released the first episode of a special series featuring 10 leading Indian entrepreneurs. The episodes will feature Indian entrepreneurs who started their ventures at a young age and today stand as an inspiration for people from all over the world.

Caterpillar celebrates 50 years of manufacturing in India

Caterpillar – the world's largest manufacturer of construction and mining equipment – has entered the 50th year of manufacturing in India.

Meditrina Hospital extends cardiac care facility to Haryana

Meditrina Hospital has brought in its expertise in angioplasties and other cardiac surgical procedures under 'Speciality in Hospital' to Haryana. Under this model, the Meditrina cath labs offer angioplast-

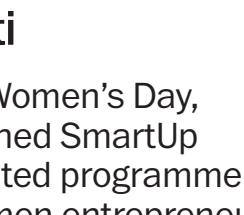
ty absolutely free to Ayushman card patients of Haryana.

LG launches new OLED 48CX TV for ₹1.99 lakh

LG India has launched a dream screen for gaming enthusiasts – OLED 48CX TV – a new and innovative product offering in television range that promises an incredibly seamless and immersive gaming experience with blazing fast gameplay and immersive visuals. The product will be available at a price of Rs 1,99,990 in India.

Elante Mall celebrates 'Rangon wali Khushiyan'

Elante Mall has dedicated the month of March to woman power with 'Rangon wali Khushiyan'. The management is committed to spread the various colours of happiness with the patrons in the month, which celebrates Women's Day and the festival of Holi.

HDFC Bank launches SmartUp Unnati

On International Women's Day, HDFC Bank launched SmartUp Unnati – a dedicated programme for mentoring women entrepreneurs by women leaders at the bank. As a part of the programme, over the next one year, senior women leaders from HDFC Bank with expertise spanning domains will mentor women entrepreneurs in helping them achieve their goals.

Pokhriyal inaugurates

IN PARLIAMENT



Demand for homage to farmers turned down
New Delhi: Congress Rajya Sabha member from Haryana Deepender Hooda on Monday once again pitched for naming the farmers, who died in the 102-day-long agitation against the Centre's three farm laws, in an obituary reference as homage to them. However, the Congress MP's demand was turned down by Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu. PTI

Rajya Sabha to resume normal working hrs
New Delhi: The Rajya Sabha will go back to its normal working hours — 11am to 6pm — from Tuesday. The members — who now sit in both Houses of Parliament to maintain social distancing — will sit only in the Rajya Sabha chamber and gallery from Tuesday. PTI



(L-R) BJP MPs Kesari Devi, Bharati Pawar and Niranjan Jyoti click a selfie at Parliament in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

Tax collection on fuel up 459%

NEW DELHI, MARCH 8
Price of domestic cooking gas, LPG has doubled to Rs 819 per cylinder in the last seven years, while the increase in taxes on petrol and diesel has swelled collections by over 459 per cent, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Monday.

In written replies to a spate of questions on rising fuel prices in the Lok Sabha, Pradhan



han said the retail selling price of domestic gas was Rs 410.5 per 14.2-kg cylinder on March 1, 2014. This month, the same cylinder costs Rs 819.

Small price hikes over the past couple of years have eliminated subsidy on cooking gas

as well as PDS kerosene.

Pradhan said the price of domestic subsidised LPG has been raised during the last few months. It cost Rs 594 per cylinder in December 2020 and now is priced at Rs 819.

Similarly, kerosene sold to the poor through the public distribution system has risen from Rs 14.96 per litre in March 2014 to Rs 35.35 this month, he said. — PTI

Low health budget irks Parl panel

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 8

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health on Monday questioned the government for hyping up sector allocations and said only 32 per cent of the well-being budget was actually meant for the Health Department.

In a report today, the committee said government expenditure on health research, includ-

Only 32% of budget actually meant for Health Ministry

ing for ICMR, was a meagre 0.02 per cent of the GDP, which was grossly insufficient for a department leading research in Covid times.

The panel added that the 137 per cent increase in the health outlay from Rs 94,452 crore in

2020-21 to Rs 2,23,846 crore in 2021-22 did not compensate the inadequate funds allocated to both Departments of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of AYUSH.

"The budgetary allocation for health is just 32 per cent of the much hyped Rs 2,23,846 crore funds," said the panel.

It expressed "serious displeasure" over health budget allocations remaining consistently low.

Don't patronise us: FM's Women's Day message

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 8

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday delivered a powerful message on the occasion of International Women's Day saying men must stop patronising women and terms of engagement between genders should not vary just because someone wears a saree and another suits and pants.

Addressing an event chaired by LS Speaker Om Birla to mark the day today, Sitharaman called upon everyone to discourage the use of disparaging anti-women references in various Indian languages.

"It is necessary for us to organise ourselves and stand up for the use of the right language for both formal and informal engagement," said the FM. As someone who breached a male bastion to lead the Finance Ministry, Sitharaman said the terms of engagement for men and women leaders should not vary.

"I don't want anyone to be more accommodative of me

MPs LAY STRESS ON EMPOWERMENT

Women members in the RS highlighted the need for women empowerment. Crimes against women and prevalence of socio-economic barriers against women also featured in their speeches. On women's reservation in Parliament, Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said a 33% quota should be raised to 50%. PTI

because I am a woman. I am an MP you are an MP. Let us all be MPs. Similarly talk to me like you would talk to male ministers," said the minister.

Speaker Om Birla later said the percentage of women voters had constantly risen from the first General Election in 1952 until today. The government today said it had sanctioned Rs 200 crore to states and union territories to set up women help desks in police stations and to strengthen anti-human trafficking units in all districts of the country.

"I don't want anyone to be more accommodative of me



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman being greeted by Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

IN BRIEF

NCP leader held in bank fraud case

NEW DELHI: The ED on Monday said it had arrested an NCP politician and three of his associates under the PMLA in connection with its probe linked to an alleged fraud of over Rs 71 crore in a Pune-based cooperative bank promoted by them. The accused include Anil Shivaji Bhosale, Suryaji Pandurang Jadhav, chief executive officer Tanaji Dattu Padwal and a person identified as Shailesh Bhosale. PTI

Puri flags off first all-women flight

NEW DELHI: Under the government's Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri today flagged off the first flight from Delhi to the newly upgraded Bareilly Airport in Uttar Pradesh. The Delhi-Bareilly flight, which began its operations on the International Women's Day, had all women crew members. Now, people can fly at ease by opting for a flight of 60 minutes from Delhi to Bareilly. PTI

SC to examine if Mandal verdict needs a re-look

NEW DELHI, MARCH 8
Almost three decades after a nine-judge Bench put a 50 per cent ceiling on reservation in government jobs and education, the Supreme Court on Monday decided to examine if its 1992 verdict in the Mandal case (Sawhney versus Union of India) needed to be examined afresh.

"Whether judgment in case of Indra Sawhney versus Union of India needs to be referred to a larger Bench or require a re-look in the light of subsequent Constitutional Amendments, judgments and changed social dynamics of the society etc.?" read one of

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Trinamool faces fresh defections

Five sitting MLAs, other leaders join saffron party

KOLKATA, MARCH 8
The Trinamool Congress on Monday lost five more sitting MLAs and the control of the Malda Zilla Parishad to the BJP as defections continued to rock West Bengal's ruling party ahead of the Assembly elections.

Four-time MLAs Sonali Guha, a close associate of TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee for decades, and 80-year-old Rabindranath Bhattacharya, a prominent face of the Singur movement, joined

the saffron party after they were denied the poll ticket.

Another four-time legislator, Jati Lahiri (85), and former footballer Dipendu Biswas, a first-time MLA, also switched sides after their names did not feature in the TMC's candidate list released on March 5.

They were handed over party flags by BJP state

president Dilip Ghosh in presence of other leaders such as Suvenu Adhikari and Mukul Roy.

One more TMC MLA, Sital Sardar, also joined the saffron party later. Hours after being replaced due to "ill health", Sarala Murmu, the TMC candidate of the Habibpur constituency in Malda district, too switched sides. There was speculation earlier that she might join the BJP as she did not get the seat she had desired. — PTI

Addressing the first meeting of the 259-member National Committee on the Celebrations of the 75th Year of India's Independence virtually today, the PM said nations did not become big by negating the contributions of some people.

Time to salute heroes of freedom struggle: Modi

NEW DELHI, MARCH 8

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the "India at 75" event would serve as an apt occasion to salute the freedom fighters who did not receive their rightful place in history.

Addressing the first meeting of the 259-member National Committee on the Celebrations of the 75th Year of India's Independence virtually today, the PM said nations did not become big by negating the contributions of some people.

"We will celebrate the freedom fighters we know but also those who did not get their due in history. Their stories must also be told," said the PM.

The PM added that broadly five pillars had been identified for the celebration of 75 years of freedom. "These are Freedom Struggle, Ideas at 75, Achievements at 75, Actions at 75 and Resolve at 75. All these should include the ideas and feelings of 130 crore Indians," he noted. — TNS

Covid cases above 18,000 for third day

NEW DELHI, MARCH 8

Daily new cases remained above 18,000 for the third day and active cases rose for the 12th straight day with 24-hour recoveries falling short of 24-hour new infections.

Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat and TN reported a surge in daily cases, accounting for 86.25 per cent of all new cases in 24 hours. In all, 18,599 new cases were registered on the last day. Till Monday, 2,26,85,598 vaccine doses were administered. — TNS

NIA to probe Ambani bomb scare case

NEW DELHI, MARCH 8
The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the investigation into the case related to the recovery of explosives from a car parked near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's house in Mumbai and also the circumstances leading to the death Thane resident Hiren Mansukh, vehicle owner. — TNS

Celebrating 100 yrs of legendary poet Sahir Ludhianvi

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 8
"Yun to Humne lakh haseen dekhe hain" is one of the many songs forever etched in listeners' hearts that came from Sahir Ludhianvi's pen.

On his birth centenary, it was not just his hometown Ludhiana that remembered its gem, but his fans spread across the world who took out time to revisit his nazms and ghazals and pay a befitting tribute.

"Dastaan-e-Sahir" is one of the 108 books penned by octogenarian author Kewal Dheer. "I gave a keynote to a three-day online Sahir event on Sunday, addressed two more in Pakistan — one organised by Lahore Art Council and another by Karachi Art Council and what hearty discussions and performances to celebrate a hundred years of the legendary poet," he said.

the questions framed by a five-judge Bench led by Justice Ashok Bhushan for its consideration. While upholding the reservation for OBCs, a nine-judge Constitution Bench had put a 50 per cent ceiling on quota in government jobs and declared reservations unconstitutional. Fixing March 15 for commencement of hearing, it asked the states to file their submissions. — TNS

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