

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2020

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Information Brochure is available at leading bookstores (see website) and application forms can also be downloaded from our website

मार्त सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 संख्या No.: 2-5/2020-Admn.
 केन्द्रीय अनुसंधान संस्थान,
CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE,
 कसौली, KASauli
 दिनांक Dated the 01.07.2020

Tel. No. (01792)-273189 & 273105,
 FAX No. (01792)-223377 & 272016
 Website: www.crikasauli.nic.in
 E-mail: director-crik-hp@gov.in

प्रेषक/From:
 निदेशक/DIRECTOR
 केन्द्रीय अनुसंधान संस्थान
CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE,
 डाक. कसौली अ.प.स. दिप्र.)
 P.O. KASauli, Distt. Solan (H.P.)
 पिन कोड/Pin Code: 173204

ABRIDGED NOTICE

Applications are invited for the following Engineering posts General Central Civil Services, Group 'B' Gazetted (Non-Ministerial) in the Pay Level-7 (Rs. 44900 - 142400) in Central Research Institute, Kasauli Under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The posts are required to be filled by deputation (including short term contract) from amongst the Officers under the Central Government or State Government or Union territories or autonomous organization or universities or public sector undertakings or Semi-Government or statutory organizations or recognized Research Institutions.

1. Assistant Engineer (Instrumentation) One post
 2. Assistant Engineer (Mechanical) One post
 For detailed advertisement and proforma of application, interested candidates may visit the official website of the Institute at www.crikasauli.nic.in.
 Only completed applications through proper channel should reach to the undersigned within 60 days of publication of this Notice in Employment News. CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Sd/- (Dr. Ajay Kumar Tahlan), KASauli (H.P.) — 173204. dawp 17132/11/0007/2021 DIRECTOR

NORTHERN RAILWAY**TENDER NOTICE**

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const-II, Northern Railway, Chandigarh, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work:-

1 Name of work and location	Balance work of "Construction of limited height subways in lieu of level crossing Nos. 129-C, 130-C, 132-C, C-134/A, 137-C, 138-C & 140-C and Construction of limited height subways in lieu of Level Crossing Nos. C-139, C-140/A, 142-C, 143-C & 165-C, approach roads and other allied works on Ambala-Ludhiana section.
2 Completion period of the work	09 (Nine) Months
3 Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 2189.37 lacs
4 Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	Rs. 12,44,700/-
5 Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs. on 29.08.2020 date on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs. on 18.09.2020.
6 Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender documents is available on website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . Above tenders document will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 04.09.2020 to 16.09.2020. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No.: 343-A-W/Const-II/CDG/2/2020-21 Dated: 22.08.2020 1828/2020
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TENDER NOTICE	
1. Sealed tenders are invited by CHG GOG, PESCO from the whole sale supplier and reputed dealers for supply of following items:-	
(a) All in One Portable built in Web conference Camera with Micro Phone and Speaker	Qty - 01
(i) Video Conferencing Carrier:- 1080P HD Video, frame rate - at least 30 FPS, FOV - minimum 78 degree, Zoom minimum 1.2 X, auto focus, Video pan - at least 180 degree, ZEISS lens certified.	
(ii) Speaker and Microphone:- Omni directional MIC Pickup, High quality audio clarity for business grade Video conferencing, built in duplex speaker phones and noise cancelling MICRO phones Omni directional mic pick up and echo cancelling audio, broad application compatibility, 8W MIC pick up radius, Micro phone bandwidth 200 Hz 8 KHz, max output level 8dB SPL @ 0.30 meters, Band with 220 20 KHz.	
(iii) Misc:- Portable suitable to be placed on a table top with camera at eye-level for covering 4 to 5 participants, USB power supply or AC Adapter, plug & play for Windows PC, Remote control for camera, volume, answer/hang up control, cable length at least 2.4M.	Qty 13 Nos

(b) Chair office revolving type with black nylon flexible back, hydraulic system for height adjustment, 360 degrees revolving, cushioned seat, arms rest, mounted on steel base with high quality minimum 4 Nos. wheels, colour of chair: black.

2. Technical and financial bids should be given in separate sealed envelopes duly marked, otherwise bids of the firm shall be treated as invalid.

3. Rates for each antivirus be quoted separately.

4. Tender to be dropped in the Tender Box by 2 PM on 31 Aug 2020 at Control Headquarters GOG, SCO 89-90, Ground Floor, Sector-34A, Chandigarh and shall be opened on 01 Sep 2020 at 3.30 p.m.

5. OSC, GoG reserves all, the rights to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

Guardians of Governance (GoG)
 Control Headquarters Punjab Ex-Servicemen Corporation (PESCO)
 Ground Floor, SCO: 89-90, Sector-34A, Chandigarh — 160022.
 Email ID: chqgog@gmail.com

DPR/Pb/67295

Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department
 O/o Engineer-in-Chief, Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-2**Corrigendum-II****Advertisement No: Ro. No. 2023/2020-2021**

This is with reference to Notice inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) invited by this office published in "Amar Ujala" and "The Tribune" dated: 05.08.2020. Further Corrigendum-I regarding correction of Class B in place of Class D, Sadak in place of Dadak. Now in Row No. 14 published in Amar Ujala and in Row No. 24 published in "The Tribune", the document was to be available in the website www.hptenders.gov.in and [hppwd.gov.in](http://www.hppwd.gov.in). But now this shall be available in website www.hppwd.gov.in up to 14.09.2020 till 15.00 hrs (3.00 PM) only. The EOI proposal can be submitted up to 14.09.2020 till 15.30 hrs. (3.30 PM) and shall be opened by the committee on 14.09.2020 at 16.00 hrs. (4.00 PM)

Other terms and conditions shall remain the same.

**Chief Executive, HPGSDA
 HPPWD, Nirman Bhawan
 Nigam Vihar, Shimla-2**

DPR/H/2413

PUNJAB FINANCIAL CORPORATION
 95-98, BANK SQUARE, SECTOR 17-B, CHANDIGARH — 160017**SALE NOTICE (See Rule 8(1)**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Moveable/Immovable properties hypothesized/pledged/mortgaged/charged to the Punjab Financial Corporation, the possession of which has been taken by the respective authorised Officers of the Bank, will be sold on "As is where it is" under Rule No. 8(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Rules).

The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Punjab Financial Corporation, SCO 95-98, Bank Square, Sector 17-B, Chandigarh.

Sr. No.	Name of the borrowers and owners of the property	Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of possession	Amount Outstanding as on the date of demand notice	Reserve Price (Amt. in Lacs)	EMD (10%) & Increased bid (Amt. in Lacs)
1.	1. Sh. Tejinder Pal Singh S/o Sh. Himmat Singh, H.No. 11/503, Mohalla Kasaban, Kapurthala — 144601 2. Sh. Maninder Pal Singh S/o Sh. Kuldip Singh, H.No. 11/248, Mohalla Kasaban, Kapurthala — 144601 3. Smt. Satnam Kaur W/o Sh. Tejinder Pal Singh, H.No. 11/503, Mohalla Kasaban, Kapurthala — 144601.	M/s Indra Polymers, Amritsar. (Physical Possession) E-auction of Property shop cum Residence comprising of land measuring 8 Marlas bearing Plot No. 266/9 Municipality No. B-XXXIV-20 situated in Abad Mohalla, Topkhana, Kapurthala owned and held by Smt. Satnam Kaur W/o Sh. Tejinder Pal Singh. Authorized Officer	11.06.2014	20.11.2014	Rs. 3,27,50,014/- with further interest from 01.03.2014	19.90	1.99 0.10
2.	1. Sh. Rajesh Chaddha S/o Sh. Paul Chaddha, 30-C, Model Town, Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala. 2. Smt. Chanchal Chaddha W/o Sh. Rajesh Chaddha, 30-C, Model Town Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala	M/s Madhav Engg. Works, Kapurthala (Physical Possession) i) E-auction of property in the form of industrial shed with details of property as is under:- Land measuring OK-16.5M out of land measuring 40K-18M Land measuring OK-16.5M out of land measuring 40K-18M land comprised in Khata/Khatana No. 1376/179 bearing Khasra No. 295/0(17)-295/1(12-16), 295/2(11-12), 295/4(2-3), 5867/2955(3-1), kta 6, Hardast No. 74, situated in Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar (Tibbi) Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala as entered in the jambandhi for the year 1995-96 owned and held by M/s Madhav Engg. Works, Phagwara through Sh. Rajesh Chaddha and Smt. Chanchal Chaddha. ii) Land measuring 6.5M out of land measuring 40K-18M (having 13/1636 share) comprised in Khata/Khatana No. 1376/179 bearing Khasra No. 295/0(17)-295/1(12-16), 295/2(11-12), 295/4(2-3), 5867/2955(3-1) kta 6, Hardast No. 74, situated in Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar (Tibbi) Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala owned by M/s Madhav Engg. Works, Phagwara through Sh. Rajesh Chaddha and Smt. Chanchal Chaddha.	8.6.2018	9.8.2019	Rs. 49,92,466/- in A/c-I and Rs. 14,35,483/- in A/c-II with further interest from 15.8.2014 and 15.11.2013 in A/c-I & A/c-II respectively	28.90	2.89 0.10
3.	1. Sh. Parminder Singh S/o Sh. Jaswant Singh, B-XII-97, Shishir Road, Ludhiana — 141001 2. Smt. Alka Kaur W/o Sh. Parminder Singh, B-XII-97, Shishir Road, Ludhiana — 141001. 3. Smt. Hamna Kaur D/o Late Sh. Jaswant Singh, H.No. B-XII/97, Shishir Road, Ludhiana	M/s Makkar Polymers, Ludhiana (Physical Possession) E-auction of Residential house comprising of land measuring 1441 sq.yds. comprised in Khata No. 316/806, Rec. No. 210, Killa No. 15/6(10-13%) situated in the Dira-B-A, Tehsi Sunam, District Sangrur as per the jambandhi for the year 1995-96 owned and held by Sh. Vijay Kumar S/o Sh. Jaswant Singh.	17.10.2013	18.12.2014	Rs. 6,56,89,412/- with further interest from 15.6.2013	23.59	2.36 0.10
4.	Sh. Vijay Kumar S/o Sh. Kulwanji Rai, R/o Surjan Bati, Disha, Tehsi Sunam, District Sangrur. 2. Smt. Raksha Rani W/o Sh. Surjan Bati, Disha, Tehsi Sunam, District Sangrur.	M/s Aggarwal Wires, Dirba, Tehsil Sunam, District Sangrur (Physical Possession) E-auction of Residential house on land measuring OK-13/ M.i.e. 397.22 sq.yds. comprised in Khata No. 316/806, Rec. No. 210, Killa No. 15/6(10-13%) situated in the Dira-B-A, Tehsi Sunam, District Sangrur as per the jambandhi for the year 1995-96 owned and held by Sh. Vijay Kumar S/o Sh. Kulwanji Rai.	10.3.2014	6.6.2014	Rs. 38,53,996/- & Rs. 9,32,773/- with further interest from 1.9.13 & 1.3.13	8.02	0.81 0.10
5.	Sh. Pardeep Kishore S/o Sg. Baldev Kishore, 530-R, Model Town, Jalandhar.	M/s The Educators, Jalandhar (Symbolic Possession) E-auction of Residential house comprising of land measuring OK-4M out of land measuring 63K-11M i.e. 12/3813 share comprised in Khata/Khatana No. 32/35 bearing Khasra No. 2225/1523 (2-19), 1509 (2-17), 1510 (2-12), 1511 (3-16), 1512 (3-19), 1513 (0-1), 1514 (0-2), 1515 (0-6), 1516 (0-9), 1517 (0-12), 1518 (0-8), 1519 (4-7), 1520 (4-12), 1521 (4-17), 1542 (7-16) total of 63K-1M kitta 20, H.B. No. 308 situated at Batali Shekh, Jalandhar II as per jambandhi for the year 1995-96 owned and held by Sh. Faqir Chand S/o Sh. Belli Ram & Smt. Chand Rani W/o Sh. Faqir Chand.	14.11.2014	3.11.2017	Rs. 23,98,690/- with further interest from 01.06.14.	13.09	1.31 0.10
6.	1. Sh. Satpal Singh S/o Sh. Harbhans Singh, H.No. 1632/7, Krishna Basti, Samana, Distt. Patiala. 2. Sh. Anandeep Singh S/o Sh. Anoop Singh, S/4, New Khardi Bhandar, Samana, Distt. Patiala.	M/s Paras Containers (P) Ltd., Samana, Distt. Patiala (Symbolic Possession) E-auction of land measuring 4K-0M comprised of Khewat No. 1251, Khatuna No. 1874, Khasra No. 169/1(14-0), situated in Tehsi Samana H.B. No. 87, Tehsi Samana, Distt. Patiala as entered in the jambandhi for the year 1991-92.	18.9.2013	5.5.2015	Rs. 7,64,000.00 with further interest from 15.06.2013	17.00	1.70 0.10
7.	1. Sh. Jagtar Singh S/o Sh. Balwant Singh, H.No. 942/9, Waraich Colony, Malkana Patti, Samana Distt. Patiala. 2. Sh. Naresh Kumar S/o Sh. Des Raj, Ram Bati, Samana, Distt. Patiala. 3. Sh. Avtar Singh S/o Sh. Balwant Singh, H.No. 212, Gali 5, Waraich Colony, Malkana Patti, Samana, Distt. Patiala.	M/s J.N. Plastic Inds., Samana, Distt. Patiala (Symbolic Possession) E-auction of Residential House No. 942/9, Waraich Colony at Malkana Patti, Samana, Distt. Patiala on land measuring 177.7 sq. yds. owned by Sh. Avtar Singh S/o Sh. Balwant Singh. Authorized Officer	24.2.2015	18.1.2018	Rs. 3,91,99,716/- with further interest from 15.06.14	3.74	0.38 0.10
8.	1. Sh. Sujan Singh S/o Sh. Assa Singh, P.W.D. No. 5, Nai Basti, Goranwala Mandi, (Gali Sujan Singh Wali) Bhatinda. 2. Sh. Manjeet Singh S/o Sh. Satnam Singh, R/o Guru Nanak Cloth House, Near Bus Stand, Bhatinda. 3. Sh. Sarwan Singh S/o Sh. Assa Singh, P.W.D. No. 5, Nai Basti, Goranwala Mandi, (Gali Sujan Singh Wali) Bhatinda. 4. Sh. Randhir Singh, H.No. B-II/291, Gali Sujan Singh Wali, Nai Basti, Goranwala Mandi, Bhatinda.	M/s Arsh Industries, Bhatinda. (Physical Possession) E-auction of Land measuring 8 Marlas comprised in Killa No. 618 min (0-8), Khewat No. 158, Khatuna No. 889 situated at Vill. Nahanianwala, Tehsi & District Bhatinda as per jambandhi for the year 1998-99 which is as per sale deed 18.2.1994 owned & held by Sh. Manjeet Singh S/o Sh. Satnam Singh.					



MILITARY OPTION OPEN IF
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The Tribune

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HALEY STAR SPEAKER AT
REPUBLICAN MEET WORLD

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2020

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Sonia stays Congress prez till AICC meet; Azad & co 'happy'

CWC authorises her to make necessary organisational changes

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24
Sonia Gandhi on Monday survived a second challenge to her leadership in 21 years with the Congress Working Committee (CWC) rejecting demands for a "full-time, active president" by some leaders, resolving unanimously for her to continue as party chief until the next AICC session and authorising her to effect necessary organisational changes to deal with the challenges facing the party.

Led by former PM Manmohan Singh, who moved the resolution, the CWC warned leaders against voicing dissent in public and pledged to "strengthen the hands of Sonia and Rahul Gandhi". Signalling Gandhi supremacy in the Congress, the committee went on to note, "No one can be, nor will be, permitted to undermine the Congress at this critical juncture and Sonia and Rahul Gandhi's voices are the strongest voices fighting the BJP government and the assault on democracy."

The resolution followed a fiery seven-hour CWC meeting that commenced with Sonia asking to be relieved of the post following demands for an organisational overhaul by some leaders. "The Congress is a large family," she said in her closing remarks, adding that she didn't bear ill-



THE CWC RESOLUTION...

- Unanimously requested Sonia to continue to lead the party until such time as circumstances will permit AICC session to be held.
- It said inner-party issues must be raised within the party in the 'interest of propriety and discipline'.
- It made it clear none will be allowed to undermine/weaken party and its leadership.

RAHUL GANDHI TARGETS LETTER SIGNATORIES

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, it is learnt, launched a sharp attack against the signatories, questioning their timing (when Sonia was in hospital) as well as the fact they went public with their grievances.



SIBAL HITS OUT, LATER WITHDRAWS REMARK

Kapil Sibal, one of the signatories, created a flutter when he hit out at Rahul Gandhi on Twitter for a purported remark on the BJP. Sibal, who is not a part of the CWC, withdrew his tweet later.

Issues are not discussed in media. Soniaji must stay but it can't be open-ended. Rahul Gandhi

People who signed the letter and went public must be held accountable. Ambika Soni

We wrote to strengthen party.... We had no problem with Soniaji's continuation. Ghulam Nabi Azad

Cong dissenters gather at Azad's residence after the CWC meeting, signalling they are ready for a long haul to ensure party reforms

will against anyone and had in the past too risen above hurtful remarks to ensure Congress unity. She was alluding to 1999 when Sharad Pawar, then Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, had questioned her foreign origins.

The move today was aimed at ensuring the dissenters, including CWC members Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Mukul Wasnik and Jitin Prasada, endorsed the CWC resolution.

"We are happy at Sonia

Gandhi's continuation. We are part and parcel of the CWC resolution," Azad said after the meeting where he was at the receiving end of an unprecedented attack.

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EDIT: CONGRESS MESS

No apology, take back order: Bhushan to SC

SATYAJIT PRAKASH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



'It will be contempt of my conscience'

urged the court to recall its conviction order. "There should not be any attempt to coerce the contemnor into making an apology on the basis that nothing else would be acceptable."

Dhavan said Bhushan's comments were opinion made in good faith founded

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Meet stakeholders on farm fires: SC to states

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24

The Supreme Court today asked the governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to hold meetings with all stakeholders to completely stop stubble burning that converts Delhi-NCR into a virtual gas chamber during October-November.

A Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra asked the three states to file respective reports in four weeks.

The court, which is seized of a PIL on air pollution in the NCR, sought to know from the Punjab Chief Secretary if the state could assure no stubble burning would take place this year. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati told the Bench on behalf of the Environment Ministry smog towers would be ready in Delhi in

Punjab, Haryana, UP to file report in four weeks

STUBBLE BURNED IN 2019

State	Residue	Burnt
Punjab	20	9.8
Haryana	7	1.23

(IN MILLION TONNES)

10 months. As the court wasn't satisfied with the affidavits of the Centre and Delhi Government on smog towers, it asked them to file fresh ones. The farmers' counsel said the issue was not being discussed with farmers. The SC had on August 10 asked Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and UP to spell out preventive steps. —TNS

2 detained for links with Chinese spy

SHIMLA: The police on Monday detained two persons for questioning for their alleged links with Chinese national Charlie Peng, who was involved in Rs 1,000-crore hawala racket and snooping on the Dalai Lama. INSIDE

Future Group opts out of IPL sponsorship

NEW DELHI: Retail conglomerate Future Group, which is currently going through a restructuring phase, has pulled out of BCCI's central sponsorship list for the Indian Premier League. PTI

UDF's no-trust motion defeated in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The no-confidence motion moved by the Congress-led UDF against the LDF government in Kerala was defeated by 87-40 votes on Monday. PTI

Ahead of Hry session, CM, Speaker test +ve



Cases surpass 31 lakh



stry of Health as daily infections rose by 61,408 to take the caseload to 31,06,348. —TNS

Names of Galwan martyrs at war memorial by R-Day

AJAY BANERJEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24
The names of the 20 soldiers, killed in the Galwan valley clash with the People's Liberation Army of China on June 15, will be inscribed on the National War Memorial here possibly by Republic Day next year.

The memorial located in the India Gate complex has more than 26,000 names of those who have died in line of operational duty, including wars, insurgencies and rescue operations, since 1947.

Official sources said the responsibility of adding the names to the memorial is entrusted to a committee, which is slated to meet in October 2020. The memorial

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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HOŠIARPUR: COURT ROAD • JALANDHAR: MODEL TOWN • JAMMU: WAVE MALL & GANDHI NAGAR
KARNAL: KUNJPURA ROAD • LUDHIANA: GRAND WALK MALL & MALL ROAD • MOHALI: BESTECH SQUARE MALL
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*T&C apply

Probe panel indicts SGPC officials, Takht seeks action

328 'saroops' misappropriated, not 267, reveals inquiry report

Tribune News Service

AMRITSAR, AUGUST 24

The Akal Takht-appointed probe panel has revealed that records of not 267, but 328 'saroops' of Guru Granth Sahib were misappropriated. This was disclosed by the five High Priests during a meeting, held today under leadership of Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh.

With the panel's report pointing towards gross discrepancies in the publication records of 'saroops' since 2015, the High Priests today held the SGPC officials and employees concerned accountable for the lapse and directed the committee to call up an executive body meeting and initiate stern action against the erring officials within a week.

Giani Harpreet Singh said the SGPC's investigation spoke about 267 missing 'saroops' from its records between September 18, 2015,



The Sikh high priests at a meeting in Amritsar on Monday.

SGPC'S 2016 EXECUTIVE BODY, CHIEF SECY SUMMONED

The Akal Takht has summoned the 2016 executive committee of the SGPC and its then Chief Secretary Harcharan Singh on September 18 for skipping the 'pashchatap paths' (prayers of remorse) after 'saroops' got damaged during an accidental fire in the publication branch at Gurdwara Ramsar Sahib in May 2016

BAN ON DHADRIANWALE'S EVENTS

Considering a report, which testified the alleged distortion of Sikh history by preacher Ranjit Singh Dhadianwale in his discourses, the five High Priests have put a blanket ban on his programmes, till he tenders an apology at the Akal Takht

and May 31, 2020. However, the Takht panel found misappropriation of additional 61 'saroops' after scrutinising the ledgers of 2013-2014 and 2014-15. Besides, it was feared that at least 125 'saroops' were compiled in an unauthorised manner;

out of extra printed 'angs' (pages) that were otherwise supposed to be discarded. These 'saroops' were issued to devotees without any receipt. This practice was going on since August 18, 2015, and never came to the

fore as no audit was conducted by the SGPC publication department since 2016.

Meanwhile, Canada-based Ripudaman Singh Malik and Balwant Singh Pandher were accused of violating the Akal Takht's edict, issued on May 9, 1998, by printing nearly 12 copies of Guru Granth Sahib without seeking any permission. Reports had surfaced that they had set up a printing press in British Columbia and printed the copies to test their venture. Both were directed to submit an explanation within a month with the Akal Takht Secretariat. Besides, Surrey-based Guru Nanak Sikh Gurduwara Society was directed to take into its possession the copies of Guru Granth Sahib and the printing infrastructure. The society was also directed to get the print of the 'saroop' examined from experts to find printing 'error' in verses of the holy scripture, if any, and submit the report within six months.

Takht rejects Langah's plea for clemency

AMRITSAR, AUGUST 24

Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh on Monday rejected a clemency appeal of excommunicated Sucha Singh Langah, a former Akali minister, saying the Sikh community would continue to socially boycott him.

The decision came after Langah submitted an "apology letter" with the Akal Takht Secretariat through his son Sukhjinder Singh Sonu.

Langah was excommunicated by the Takht on October 5, 2017, after an objectionable video reportedly featuring him had gone viral. Later, he was acquitted by the court as the complainant had withdrawn the charges.

Akal Takht's officiating Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh made it clear that the Takht's verdict stood till date. "No pardon was granted to him. The sangat should not have any association with him," he said.

The former Akali minister's son said it was for the fourth time when his father had approached the Takht for forgiveness. — TNS

Teachers take to streets



■ Members of the Democratic Teachers' Front in Bathinda on Monday protested against the recommendations of the committee led by economist Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

■ The protesters said if the state government implemented the committee report, it would spell doom for them.

■ Resham Singh, chief, Democratic Teachers' Front, said, "In the garb of fiscal adjustment, the committee report suggests deferment of salary and salary cuts. We oppose these recommendations."

■ He said, "To further burden the employees, the government is planning to increase the development tax." TNS

State Cong leaders stoutly with Gandhis

Tribune News Service

PARTY NEEDS THEM

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 24



Without Gandhis, there is no Congress. Sonia should remain the president.

Brahm Mohindra, Cabinet Minister

leaders Rajinder Kaur Bhatia and Manish Tewari.

In the past too, Capt Amarinder's support for the Gandhi family has been consistent, although former AICC president Rahul Gandhi is learnt to have certain issues with Rahul. In the past too, Tewari has been quite vocal for change in leadership.

During the last parliamentary elections, Rahul had opposed the candidature of Tewari from Anandpur Sahib and wanted to give the ticket to former Punjab Youth Congress leader Amarpreet Lally, before Capt Amarinder intervened and got Tewari in.

Jakhar, who also has come in support of the Gandhi family, asked those seeking change of guard to name the leader whom they wanted to be named as the party president. "What is stopping them to speak against the BJP government? Rahul has been leading the front against the Modi-led government," said Jakhar.

Sukhbir seeks ₹100 cr for medical college in Fazilka

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 24

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal today requested the Finance Commission to allocate Rs 100 crore for the establishment of a medical college and hospital in Fazilka to augment medical services in the border district.

In a letter to Chairman of the fifteenth Finance Commission NK Singh, the SAD chief said the institution could serve as a focal point for not only the Malwa region, but also the neighbouring districts of Haryana and Rajasthan. He recommended that it be attached to the district hospital in Fazilka.

Sukhbir said there was an extreme deficit of basic facilities and healthcare in the government sector in the district. He said the district had only 0.7 to 0.9 beds per thousand population and one doctor served 6,183 persons as compared to 578 persons served in Patiala.

He told the chairman that Fazilka accounted for the highest prevalence of cancer in the country. He said a train from Punjab's Malwa region to Rajasthan was infamously referred to as "Cancer Express" since it ferried only cancer patients for treatment.

Farm ordinances likely to dominate Assembly session

Speaker disallows motion moved by rebel SAD MLA

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 24

The three farm ordinances passed by the Centre in June are set to dominate the one-day proceedings of the Vidhan Sabha. This decision was taken at a meeting presided over by the Speaker.

The Speaker said Covid-19 test would be compulsory for all journalists, who would cover the session and a special camp would be held from 2 pm to 5 pm on August 25-26 at Punjab Bhawan for journalists. Only those with negative report in the test would be allowed to enter the Punjab Bhawan.

An official spokesperson for the Vidhan Sabha said only one cameraman and a journalist from each TV channel would be permitted outside the hall at Punjab Bhawan. Live streaming of the session would be provided in the hall. — TNS



GOVT MAY MOVE MOTION

With farmer organisations on the warpath and demanding that the state government reject these ordinances, the government is likely to move a motion to this effect

India's federal structure. By moving a motion on the issue, the Congress would earn a brownie point over the SAD-BJP, which have been supporting the three ordinances. It would also help the government keep a major vote bank of farmers in good humour, while creating a narrative against the Akali-BJP alliance.

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has been voicing his concerns against these three ordinances, stating these would ultimately pave the way for ending the Minimum Support Price (MSP) regime in the state. He has also taken a public stand that these ordinances are against

Singh Dhindsa, was disallowed by Vidhan Sabha Speaker Rana KP Singh today.

The Aam Aadmi Party has also realised the "political significance" of moving a motion against these ordinances, which, amongst others, pave way for private market yards to be set up outside the existing mandis. Aman Arora, AAP MLA from Sunam, has sought permission to table a motion in this regard.

"Bank details, call and revenue records of the accused are yet to be provided to the ED," Sampla said.

As per reports, the ED wrote to the Patiala SSP on June 6 and 12, Mohali SSP on June 17, Ludhiana (Rural) SSP on June 18, but did not get any reply. — TNS

Cops working overtime to shield liquor mafia: Sampla

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 24

The Punjab Police and Excise Department are working overtime to shield the liquor mafia and Congress leaders involved in the multi-crore liquor scam, said former Union Minister Vijay Sampla here today.

In a press release, Sampla said Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh should tell why copies of over 13 FIRs registered against the liquor mafia in Patiala, Mohali and Ludhiana were not being provided despite the ED's requests.

"Bank details, call and revenue records of the accused are yet to be provided to the ED," Sampla said.

As per reports, the ED wrote to the Patiala SSP on June 6 and 12, Mohali SSP on June 17, Ludhiana (Rural) SSP on June 18, but did not get any reply. — TNS

Wait for justice gets longer, litigants edgy

SAMEER SINGH

Tribune News Service

BATHINDA, AUGUST 24

Noor Begum (name changed), who got separated from her husband around one year ago, has been waiting for maintenance charges from the latter.

Reason: After a series of hearings, the lockdown imposed in the wake of Covid-19 outbreak led to adjournment of her case.

Begum's father, who used to repair bicycles to earn livelihood, has been rendered jobless due to the lockdown. "My son-in-law had an extramarital affair and married another woman without getting a divorce. Let alone paying maintenance, he came to our house and thrashed my daughter and broke her knee. With no income source, how will I run my household and bear her treatment expenses," said Rahim Iqbal, father of Begum.

There are scores of civil cases, which were not heard during and after the lockdown and deemed 'non-urgent'.

In another matrimonial dispute, a woman with two kids was granted divorce by a court against her wishes, a few days prior to imposition of the lockdown. As a result, she could not appeal in the High Court.



'NON-URGENT'

There are scores of civil cases, which were not heard during and after the lockdown and deemed 'non-urgent'.

There are numerous cases related to financial, land disputes, cheque bounce and serious crimes where hearings are not taking place. In 18 courts in Bathinda, more than 1,500 cases were heard daily, which has come down substantially post-lockdown.

Kamaljit Kuti, president, District Bar Association (Bathinda), said, "Mostly criminal or cases deemed urgent are being taken up in the courts, including those seeking bail and stay orders. Cases related to land dispute, money, matrimonial dispute or general criminal complaints are not deemed urgent. Even if such cases are taken up for hearing, courts are adjourning these cases."

A large section of lawyers who have been left with no work, have sought financial assistance from the government. "We will then gherao all Congress ministers and show them the party manifesto and ask them why they are not implementing the promises made to the people of Punjab?" he said. — TNS

Promises not met, will gherao ministers: YAD

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 24

The Youth Akali Dal (YAD) today announced to gherao Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and his Cabinet colleagues in protest against the "non-implementation" of promises made to the youth.

YAD president Parambans Singh Romana said initially, the activists would gherao the Chief Minister whenever he stepped out of his farmhouse. He said the youth would remind him of the promises made to them as well as to the people of the state.

"We will then gherao all Congress ministers and show them the party manifesto and ask them why they are not implementing the promises made to the people of Punjab?" he said. — TNS

There are scores of civil cases, which were not heard during and after the lockdown and deemed 'non-urgent'.

Peddler opens fire at ASI

TARN TARAN, AUGUST 24

An ASI, posted at Bhikhawind, was shot at by a notorious smuggler, Rachhpal Singh Daula of Bhuchar Kalan, here today.

The injured ASI, Malkiat Singh, and his associate Ranjit Singh managed to nab Rachhpal and seized his country-made revolver. His motorcycle

Singh Dhindsa, was disallowed by Vidhan Sabha Speaker Rana KP Singh today.

The Aam Aadmi Party has also realised the "political significance" of moving a motion against these ordinances, which, amongst others, pave way for private market yards to be set up outside the existing mandis. Aman Arora, AAP MLA from Sunam, has sought permission to table a motion in this regard.

"Bank details, call and revenue records of the accused are yet to be provided to the ED," Sampla said.

As per reports, the ED wrote to the Patiala SSP on June 6 and 12, Mohali SSP on June 17, Ludhiana (Rural) SSP on June 18, but did not get any reply. — TNS

was also impounded.

Rachhpal's accomplice Bhawal managed to flee.

ASI Malkiat Singh said he was on his way back from Poohla village. When he signalled the accused to stop, he opened fire at him and a bullet hit his stomach. The ASI is recuperating at a private hospital in Bhikhawind. — OC

"Their call records are being scanned and it is learnt that they had links with inter-state smugglers," he said. A case under Sections 21, 61, 85 NDPS Act has been registered. — OC

3 arrested with heroin

FEROZEPUR, AUGUST 24

The police have arrested three drug peddlers with Rs 3.50 lakh cash, 100-gm heroin and a car. Investigating officer Chand Singh said the CIA had received information that accused Gurdip Singh and his son Amarjeet Singh peddled drugs.

"Two days ago, they visited a dhaba at Pindi village in

Guruha Sahai sub-division to check the heroin sample. They were arrested last night. Their accomplice Satnam Singh was also nabbed," said the investigating officer.

"Their call records are being scanned and it is learnt that they had links with inter-state smugglers," he said. A case under Sections 21, 61, 85 NDPS Act has been registered. — OC



I have not received my salary for the past two months. Should I also apply in this job fair?

Sandeep Joshi

To evaluate online teaching, Edu Dept takes test of 16 lakh students

BALWANT GARG

Tribune News Service

FERIDKOT, AUGUST 24

In the first and largest-ever assessment survey, conducted by the School Education Department to evaluate the health of the education system in government and government-aided schools in the state, more than 16 lakh students of classes VI to XII appeared in the Google quiz on Monday.

Though the test, first step of Punjab Achievement Survey (PAS)-November, 20

State sees 43 deaths, SAS Nagar worst hit

Now, patients required to give undertaking for home isolation

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 24

The state reported 1,516 cases and 43 deaths in the last 24 hours.

The total count of Covid-19 cases has reached 43,284. The total number of casualties has reached 1,129.

SAS Nagar remained the worst-affected district with 251 cases, followed by Jalandhar (184), Gurdaspur (142), Patiala (140), Bathinda (125), Amritsar (108), Ludhiana (72) and Muktsar (60).

Apart from that, at present 414 patients are on oxygen support and 51 are critical and are on ventilator support. Ludhiana reported the most number of 11 deaths, followed by SAS Nagar (8), Jalandhar (6), Gurdaspur (4), Kapurthala, Patiala and Mansa (3 each), Amritsar, Fatehgarh Sahib, Fazilka, SBS Nagar and Sangrur (1 each).

Meanwhile, the Punjab Government has issued new guidelines regarding medical fitness for home isolation of asymptomatic/mild symptomatic patients and patients aged more than 60 or with comorbid conditions and pregnant women. All such patients will be given the opportunity to give an undertaking at the time of sampling regarding



A health official collects a swab sample at CHC Mukandpur in Nawanshahr on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MALKIAT SINGH

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS	DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Ludhiana	9,147	324	Moga	1,220	13
Jalandhar	5,365	138	Fatehgarh Sahib	932	19
Amritsar	3,390	125	Tarn Taran	678	28
Patiala	5,043	125	Kapurthala	927	34
Sangrur	1,973	71	Fazilka	702	7
SAS Nagar	2,860	55	SBS Nagar	616	16
Gurdaspur	1,523	43	Faridkot	852	6
Bathinda	1,830	17	Barnala	909	15
Hoshiarpur	1,085	29	Ropar	714	10
Ferozepur	1,465	23	Muktsar	687	6
Pathankot	953	18	Mansa	413	7
Total positive	43,284		Deaths	1,129	

the availability of home isolation facility at their residence in case they turn out Covid-positive. These guidelines

will also be applicable for asymptomatic/mild symptomatic patients.

In a statement, Health Min-

ister Balbir Singh Sidhu said instructions had been issued to all deputy commissioners and civil surgeons in this regard. He said the doctor available at the time of sampling would assess all such persons for clinical fitness for home isolation. In case patients test positive, they would continue to remain in home isolation as per protocol. He clarified that there was no need to bring them to the hospital provided they remained asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic.

Sidhu added that it was compulsory that they procure the kit which should contain a thermometer, a pulse oximeter, vitamin C and zinc tablets and regularly monitor themselves for any symptoms and report immediately to the Health Department if the symptoms appeared or worsened. The minister said private health institutions were also directed to follow the same protocol. If any home isolated patient required any medical assistance, they must call at 104 or district helpline number. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh condoled the demise of photo-journalist Jai Deep, who passed away at the age of 28, due to Covid-19 in Patiala.

CBI not sharing Multani case info, cops tell HC

SAURABH MALIK

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 24

The Punjab Police today moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court, alleging that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was intentionally not supplying the requisite documents available with it in a kidnapping and murder case against the state's former DGP Sumedh Singh Saini.

The statement of accused-turned-approver Inspector Jagir Singh on the alleged torture of "missing" CITCO employee Bawant Singh Multani, was annexed along with the application.

The plea, requesting the court to take on record the statement and other documents, is scheduled to come up for hearing on Wednesday, along with a petition filed by Saini for declaring "non-est"



Plea to come up
for hearing on
Wednesday

the probe against him.

Meanwhile, an application filed by Inspector Rajiv Kumar, SHO of Mataur police station in Mohali, stated that the CBI was intentionally not supplying the requisite documents available with it in a kidnapping and murder case against the state's former DGP Sumedh Singh Saini.

As the evidence on record disclosed commission of offence under Section 302 IPC, an application was filed before the Mohali Duty Magistrate/Judicial Magistrate seeking permission to add the offence. The requisite permission was granted vide an order dated August 21.

Son jailed for UK couple's murder

LONDON, AUGUST 24

An Indian-origin man found guilty of the double murder of his mother and stepfather has been sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum 36 years behind bars before being considered for parole by a UK court.

Anmol Chana, described as "fanatical" about knives, stabbed his mother Jasbir Kaur (52) and her husband Rupinder Singh Bassan (51) multiple times at their home in Oldbury in the West Midlands region of England earlier this year. The 26-year-old was convicted of the two murders after a nine-day trial at Birmingham Crown Court and sentenced on Friday.

The British Sikh couple were found dead at their home in February, after West Midlands Police officers forced their way into their home following concerns being raised for their welfare. — PTI

11 more of Badals' security staff test +ve

MUKTSAR, AUGUST 24

With 11 more persons, including security personnel, testing positive for Covid, the residence of former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal at Badal village has been declared a macro-containment zone.

A health official said the former CM had been advised to home-isolation due to his old age. However, both SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal and his wife Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal regularly travelled and held meetings with party workers amid the pandemic.

The number of infected persons at Badal's residence has reached 19. Test reports of a few employees are yet to come. As of now, samples of nearly 150 persons have been collected. Dr Paramdeep Sandhu, nodal officer for

the Badals, said, "I can't comment on this," said Dr HN Singh, CMO, Muktsar. — TNS

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Hospital staff thrash patient, 2 arrested

PATIALA, AUGUST 24

Two staff members of a private hospital were arrested by the district police on Monday for thrashing a patient suffering from depression. The police have booked them under Sections 323 and 342 of the IPC.

The accused have been identified as Gurdeep Singh and Mohammed Rahul, staff members of Prime Hospital.

As per reports, the patient, a resident of Devigarh town of Patiala, was admitted to the ICU ward of the hospital on August 20. He was allegedly beaten up by the hospital attendants on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. The entire incident was captured on the CCTV, a footage of which went viral subsequently.

The matter came to the fore when the patient complained of pain in stomach and narrated the incident to his relative the next morning. Consequently, the family members filed a police complaint. — TNS

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 24

Amid rising number of Covid cases in the state, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has made it clear that "irresponsible" behaviour with medical and paramedical staff was required to be deprecated "in strongest terms".

The disapproval came in a case where a group of persons allegedly locked certain members of medical and paramedical team inside a room before removing a body from a mortuary in Barnala.

and 188 of the IPC, besides the provisions of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and the Disaster Management Act.

Appearing before Justice Tejinder Singh Dhindsa, counsel for the petitioner submitted that the petitioner was not related to the person whose body was taken away from the mortuary and the FIR in the matter was against unknown and unrelated persons. Taking a note of the submissions, Justice Dhindsa, on the previous date of hearing, asked the State

younger sister was allegedly gangraped by them while the elder one tried to save her sister. She was thrashed by the trio. After reaching home, the duo narrated the incident to their parents. The accused have been booked under Sections 363, 366A, 376, 120B of the IPC and Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. SAD leader Bhupinder Singh Sahoke alleged that crime against Dalits had increased in the past three years.

when Sehaldeep offered to drop them home on his motorcycle. The mother asked his daughters to sit on the motorcycle. Instead of leaving the

girls at their home, he took them to an undisclosed location where his two friends Billa Singh and Charan Singh, accompanied him. The

deputy medical commissioner, Bathinda, who was the inquiry officer, said: "There were many complaints against Adesh institute. In one case, the institute had two treatment files of a patient. While one file showed insurance availed, the other was used to charge cash from the patient for the same treatment." Acting on the probe report, the state health agency decided to delist Adesh Institute on Saturday.

The institute was held guilty of wrongly making money

Agency delists Adesh med institute

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, AUGUST 24

Allegations of malpractices have hit the Ayushman Bharat scheme in the state. The state health agency has delisted Adesh Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, a private university in Bathinda, after conducting a probe into repeated complaints of malpractices in the welfare scheme.

The institute was held guilty of wrongly making money

from the insurance scheme. It was found charging money from patients who had duly generated cards. Moreover, on February 20, 2020, the anti-fraud unit had issued a show-cause notice to the institute and it was put on watch, but it continued its misconduct.

Dr Maninder Singh,

TNS

paper.tribuneindia.com

Father booked for rape in Sangrur

SANGRUR, AUGUST 24

On the complaint of a 14-year-old girl, the Lehrha police have registered a case against her father for allegedly raping her last night.

The police are conducting raids to arrest the accused. Lehrha SHO Surinder Bhalla said the victim told him that last night her father raped her in the bathroom of their house and she informed her relatives today. — TNS

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PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Gaurav Moudgil s/o Prem Parkash r/o # 247 B, Kendriya Vihar, Sector 48-B Chandigarh have changed my name to Gaurav Maudgil. (CL20033140)

I, Pritpal Singh s/o Amarjeet Singh r/o Village Palasaur, Tehsil Dhuri, Sangrur have changed my name to Pritpal Sharma. (CL20033149)

I, Anju Bala w/o Rajesh Kumar R/o 322 H, Railway colony Ambala Cantt, have changed my minor son's name "Rajas Mukheja" to "Rajas Kumar" Concerned note. (CL20033095)

I, Devinder Singh s/o Avtar Singh village Raipur Rajputan, P.O. Bija, Tehsil Khanna (Ludhiana) changed my name to Davinder Singh. (CL20033120)

I, Raghbir Singh s/o Kesra Ram, VPO Gobindgarh, Tehsil Abhara, District Fazilka, have changed my minor daughter name Jasran to Jannat. (CL20033122)

I, Babita w/o Shri Sanjay Gupta 252/6, Khattarwara, Tehsil Shahabad Markanda (Kurukshetra) Haryana hereby solemnly declare that now I have changed my name Babita to Babita Aggarwal for all purposes in future. Concern please note. (CL20031547)

I, Army No 329767N Ex NK Sub Rikhi Ram resident of Village Deeb and PO Rampur, Tehsil Kasauli, District Solan HP, declare that in my Army service records mistakenly my daughter's name entered as Neesha and Date of Birth 24.1.88 but her correct name is Nisha Verma and Date of Birth is 31.10.88. Concerns please note. (CL20033130)

I, Sukshan Bala w/o Service No. 2491572M L/Havildar Samar Singh 27 Punjab Vill. Jugehar PO Thehar, Tehsil Harcharanj, Distt. Kangra (HP) declare that my correct name is Sukshan Bala but in service record of my husband my name is wrongly entered as Sukshan Lata. All concerned note it. (CL20033136)

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Question Hour unlikely this time

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 24 The monsoon session of the Assembly is unlikely to have Question Hour during its proposed two-day session, which will start on August 26.

The final decision on the duration and agenda will be taken during a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee of the Assembly on the morning of August 26. —TNS

DGP for IG's suspension

Tribune News Service

PANCHKULA, AUGUST 24 Director General of Police (DGP) Manoj Yadava has recommended the suspension of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Hemant Kalson, who was arrested on August 22 for allegedly assaulting and abusing two women after trespassing into their houses in Panchkula's Pinjore.

The DGP has confirmed this. The Home Ministry has also cleared senior police officer's suspension file. It awaits Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's approval.

The 55-year-old IGP, Home Guards, posted in Panchkula, is in judicial custody.

CM Khattar's approval awaited

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Tele fax: 01952-234985

No.: GDCWB/2020/451-53 Dated: 20.08.2020

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders affixed with Rs. 4.00 revenue stamps are invited from Govt./Semi Govt./Registered dealers for supply of "A" Grade Hard Coke (Dust and Moisture free) to the College for the session 2020-21. The rates be quoted per qtl inclusive of GST/CST. The successful tenderer shall have to supply F O R College premises. The tenderers accompanied by a bank draft worth Rs 5,000.00 (Rupees Five Thousand Only), pledged to the Principal Govt. Degree College for Women, Baramulla, should reach the Office of the undersigned within ten days from the date of publication of this tender notice.

Terms/conditions:-

1. No tender without Bank Draft shall be entertained.
2. Dealership/Registration Certificate must be attached with the tender.
3. The Hard Coke to be supplied must be dust free and dry.
4. The undersigned reserves the right to reject or except any tender without assigning any reason thereof.
5. GST/CST clearness certificate must be attached with the bill.
6. The rate once quoted will be valid for the current financial year 2020-21.

Sd/-

Prof. (Dr.) Fahmida Bano
Principal

Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Office of the Deputy Director Feed & Fodder, Srinagar, Animal Husbandry Department Kashmir-Srinagar.

Email:-www.jkanimalhusbandry.net

TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu and Kashmir sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamp of Rs. 5/- are invited from interested persons/experienced parties for harvesting of Kharif fodder crop at **Feed and Fodder farm, Zakura, Srinagar** for the year 2020-21, which should reach the office of undersigned by or before 31st of August-2020 up to 3.00 P.M. The tenders received after the due date and time shall not be accepted. In case the last date of receipts of tenders happens to be a holiday the same shall be received on the next working day. The tenders shall be opened by the committee on the same day or any other date convenient to committee.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. Tenders should be addressed to the Deputy Director Feed & Fodder Animal Husbandry Department Srinagar Kashmir in sealed envelopes scribed as "Tender for Harvesting Operation of Maize Fodder Crop".
2. Tenders should be accompanied by a call deposit receipt of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) to Deputy Director Feed and Fodder Srinagar, without which tender shall be rejected.
3. The rates should be quoted inclusive of all taxes/charges viz cutting, drying, collecting, binding etc.
4. The successful tenderer will be entirely responsible for watch and ward of harvested crops till it is received by the concerned authority of the farm.
5. In case the successful tenderer fail to execute the job within the stipulated period the department shall be at liberty to execute the job through other source and the extra cost thus involved shall be recovered from him besides penalty.
6. If any other condition deemed necessary shall be kept in the work order/rate contract.
7. Payment to the successful contract/tenders shall be released only after combination fulfillment of contract/job as per terms and conditions.

Sd/-

Deputy Director
Feed & Fodder Division
Srinagar

No.- DD/FF/Sgr/Supp/174-78 DIP/K/4487

HARYANA**HC raps state for hushing up accident to protect superiors**

SAURABH MALIK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 24

Nearly five years after an assistant lineman was left with 100 per cent physical disability after receiving an electric shock, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has asserted that an attempt was apparently made to hush up the matter to protect superiors, leaving scapegoats to pay the price.

Justice Arun Monga noted that two reports in the matter — by an SDO and the police — reflected a flippant attitude. Making it clear that it was imperative to fix responsibility, Justice Monga asserted that the task of switching high-tension electric wires and transformers off and on was required to be assigned to a qualified engineer "so that such dastardly accidents do not take place in such a nonchalant and casual routine manner".

The admonition came after Justice Monga took note of the fact that a "sham" inquiry was apparently conducted by the SDO and none was stated to be at fault by the police, while the victim was removed from service.

Disposing of the petition by victim Tony Kumar against Haryana, Justice Monga directed the competent authority to objectively consider his representation for compensation and reemployment before passing a speaking order. Justice Monga set an eight-week deadline for the purpose.

As interim compensation, Justice Monga ordered that the petitioner would be

FLIPPANT ATTITUDE FINDS MENTION

Both the report by the SDO and the DDR only reflect the flippant attitude with which the entire matter has been dealt with, apparently to hush it up at the lower level to facilitate escaping of responsibility by superiors in charge of affairs at the relevant time. No wonder that the actually culpable seems to have gone scot-free, while scapegoats have paid the price.

Justice Arun Monga, PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT

have paid the price," Justice Monga observed in his detailed order.

Before parting with the order, Justice Monga noted that the court expected and would appreciate if the competent authority kept in mind the benevolent provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act and sympathetically considered the petitioner's claim to employment before taking appropriate steps to provide him alternative employment in case he was not found fit to work as a lineman anymore.

The petitioner's counsel had earlier contended that an official had negligently switched off the wrong feeder line, resulting in the accident that left the victim with permanent disability. The petitioner's right arm below the shoulder had to be amputated and the respondents had then removed him from service, leaving him and his wife and two minor children in the lurch.

10 more succumb, cases go past 55,000

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 24 With 1,074 fresh cases, the Covid tally in the state reached 55,460 today. With 10 deaths, the toll went up to 613.

Faridabad reported a maximum of 125 cases, followed by Panipat (128), Rewari (87), Ambala (80), Guru-gram (77) and Rohtak (72).

Faridabad, Panchkula and Kurukshetra reported two deaths each while one death each was reported from Panipat, Ambala, Rohtak and Fatehabad.

Vij opens new testing labs in Sirsa, Rewari

Health Minister Anil Vij inaugurated two RT-PCR testing laboratories in Sirsa and Rewari through video-conferencing. This has augmented the number of laboratories in the state to 23. He said similar laboratories for Covid testing had been set up in 14 government hospitals and medical colleges, besides nine private laboratories in the state.

Additional Chief Secretary Health Rajeev Arora said four more RT-PCR laboratories would be set up at Jind, Bhiwani, Panipat and Yamunanagar. —TNS

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Faridabad	11,850	162
Gurugram	11,062	131
Sonepat	3,828	41
Ambala	3,228	27
Rewari	3,047	16
Panipat	2,948	39
Rohtak	2,595	28
Karnal	2,157	22
Hisar	1,708	13
Panchkula	1,637	12
Mahendragarh	1,438	1
Palwal	1,412	11
Kurukshetra	1,338	26
Bhiwani	1,173	9
Yamunanagar	1,155	17
Jhajjar	1,096	15
Sirsa	988	11
Kaithal	700	5
Fatehabad	691	5
Nuh	678	13
Jind	465	8
Charkhi Dadri	266	1
Total	55,460	613

Pvt doctors didn't recommend home quarantine to patient her getting infected," the complainant said.

The next day, she visited Dr Gaurav Mahajan to get herself retested. Dr Mahajan advised her to go for the RT-PCR test again. For the test, she went to SRL Lab, where doctors did not ask about the previous test result. She tested positive in the second test as well.

"It was when she contacted the Health Department to enquire about the home quarantine guidelines that she told officials that none of the two private doctors recommended her self-isolation," Dr Ashima said in her complaint.

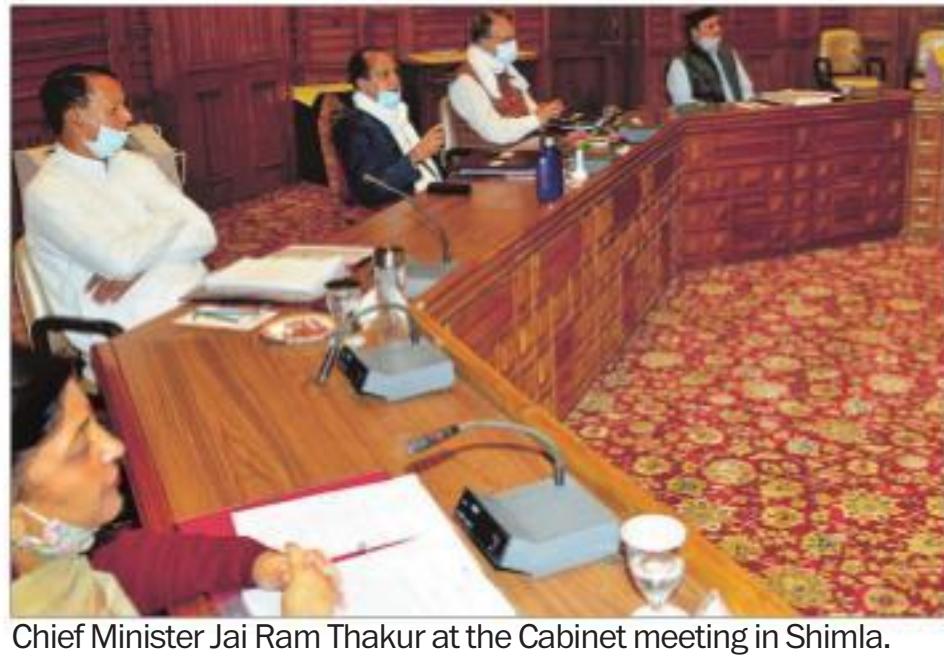
An FIR has been registered against the woman, both doctors and both labs under Sections 270 (malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 34 (common intention) of the IPC at the Sector 40 police station.

August last year, the party leadership nominated him Leader

Entry norms for tourists eased

Booking days reduced | Registration on e-Covid portal to continue

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur at the Cabinet meeting in Shimla.

NO COVID TEST FOR KIDS BELOW 10 YRS

- The mandatory Covid negative report for tourists now exempts children below 10 years and its period has been raised from 72 hours to 96 hours
- The mandatory five-day hotel booking for tourists too has been reduced to two days
- It has also been decided that if any guest tests positive in a hotel, it will not be sealed and only the room, restaurant or the area he has visited will be sealed

was essential to facilitate mapping if anyone tested positive. It felt that borders would not be allowed to open and inter-state public transport not to be resumed.

The Cabinet also discussed the opening of temples, but no decision could be taken. The hotel industry too got a relief as the mandatory Covid negative report for tourists now exempts children below 10 years and its period has been raised from 72 hours to 96 hours.

The mandatory five-day hotel booking for tourists too has been reduced to two days. It has also been decided that if any guest tests positive in a hotel, it will not be sealed and only the room, restaurant or the area he has visited will be sealed.

The mandatory five-day hotel booking for tourists too has been reduced to two days. It has also been decided that if any guest tests positive in a hotel, it will not be sealed and only the room, restaurant or the area he has visited will be sealed.

The police today detained two persons for questioning for their alleged links with Chinese national Charlie Peng, who was involved in Rs 1,000-crore hawala racket and snooping on Tibetan leader Dalai Lama.

2 detained for links with 'spy'

SHIMLA, AUGUST 24

The police today detained two persons for questioning for their alleged links with Chinese national Charlie Peng, who was involved in Rs 1,000-crore hawala racket and snooping on Tibetan leader Dalai Lama. They were Sonam Wang-

du (man) from Chuna (Mandi) and Lan Hu (woman) from Bir (Kangra) and detained following financial transactions were traced between them and SK Traders (Hawala company) of Charlie Peng, who was arrested in Delhi by the Income Tax Department. —TNS

to why even the tuition fee has not been permitted to be collected by the private schools. In case, private schools cannot authoritatively charge even the 'tuition fee' then it is beyond comprehension as to how they will pay the monthly salary to their staff. It cannot be assumed that private schools have unending supply of reserve funds with them."

The court directed the state government to revisit and re-examine all the conditions imposed by it upon private schools in its communication issued on May 27, 2020 whereby it had directed the privately managed schools not to charge any fee from students except tuition fee. It directed the government to take a fresh decision within a period of four weeks.

The court has also given liberty to the schools and other stakeholders to submit their representations on the issues involved to the Director Education within one week. It observed, "By and large wards of well off families study in the private schools. Private schools schools may have been closed temporarily but are required to maintain their already created infrastructure. These schools are not aided by the state."

HSIIDC invites Expression of Interest (EoI)

of Land Owners/registered land aggregators for development of an Integrated Industrial Complex at Tehsil Panipat & Tehsil Madlauda, District Panipat and Tehsil Gharaunda, District Karnal.

HSIIDC is pleased to inform that an area measuring approximately 1600 acres has been identified for Development of an Integrated Industrial Complex (Pocket B & C) at District Panipat and Karnal. Pocket 'B' falls under Sector 10, 10A, 9 & 7 of Development Plan 2031 AD around Indian Oil Corporation Refinery, Panipat in Village Rajapur, Tehsil Panipat, District Panipat and in Village Gudha, Tehsil Gharaunda, District Karnal. Pocket 'C' is falling between the drain number 2 and village link Road from Asandh to Village Kabri. The site is falling under Village Sithana, Tehsil Madlauda, District Panipat.

Detail of the project along with tentative location of sites on Google imageries has been uploaded on E-bhoomi web portal. For this proposed project, the interested land owners/registered land aggregators can provide their details on E-bhoomi portal. The window for providing the land details shall remain open till 31st August, 2020.

Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
A State Government Undertaking

Regd. Office: C-13 & 14 Sector 6, Panchkula, Ph. 0172-2590481-83.
Extn. Nos. 311 and 221, Tel. + 91-172-2560130, Mob. 7878798081,
E-mail: gurmeet.kaur@hsidc.org.in / Fax: 2590474, Website: hsidc.org.in

CIN: U29199HR1967SGC034545

PRDH/82115

HSIIDC invites Expression of Interest (EoI)

of Land Owners/registered land aggregators for development of an Industrial Model Townships (IMTs) at Tehsil Gohana, District Sonipat and Tehsil Ganna, District Sonipat.

HSIIDC is pleased to inform that an area measuring approximately 5600 acres in 2 pockets has been identified for Development of an Industrial Model Townships (IMTs) at District Sonipat. Pocket-I land measuring approximate 2800 acres falling in village Nagar, Sikandarpur Majra, Mahra, Barota, Rabran and Gohana Rural, Tehsil Gohana, District Sonipat. Pocket-II land measuring approximate 2800 acres in village Larsoli, Lalheri, Rajpura, Rajli and Garhi Kheri, Tehsil Ganna, District Sonipat.

Detail of the project along with tentative location of sites on Google imageries has been uploaded on E-bhoomi web portal. For this proposed project, the interested land owners/registered land aggregators can provide their details on E-bhoomi portal. The window for providing the land details shall remain open till 30th September, 2020.

Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
A State Government Undertaking

Regd. Office: C-13 & 14 Sector 6, Panchkula, Ph. 0172-2590481-83.
Extn. Nos. 311 and 221, Tel. + 91-172-2560130, Mob. 7878798081,
E-mail: gurmeet.kaur@hsidc.org.in / Fax: 2590474, Website: hsidc.org.in

CIN: U29199HR1967SGC034545

PRDH/82414

100 new Covid cases in state

Cong top brass backs Gandhis

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, AUGUST 24
The state witnessed 100 new Covid cases today, taking the number to 5,101, including 27 deaths.

Sirmaur registered 30 cases, Solan 16, Kangra 15, Chambar eight, Bilaspur six, Mandi four, Hamirpur and Kinnaur recorded three each, Shimla two and Kullu one. The number of active cases in the state stands at 1,436.

Thirty Covid cases have been detected in Sirmaur district since Sunday evening, taking the tally to 649 with 172 active cases and 456 having been cured.

The entire Congress leadership in the hill state came out strongly in favour of continuation of Sonia Gandhi as party president, terming her as a unifying force.

Six-time Chief Minister and veteran Congress leader Virbhadr Singh today said Sonia Gandhi must continue as party chief as she is the binding force which is crucial at this juncture when the party is passing through a critical stage.

Virbhadr Singh, who shared his message, pledging support to the Gandhis on his social media handles also said he fully backed Sonia to continue to hold the reins of the party. He said a decision for holding of organisational elections even if in the longer run,

SONIA A BINDING FORCE: VIRBHADRA

“Sonia must continue as party chief as she is the binding force which is crucial at this juncture when the party is passing through a critical stage.” Virbhadr Singh, FORMER CM



“The leadership of Sonia Gandhi is unmatched. Even in the face of adversity, she has demonstrated integrity and this shows her greatness. We must acknowledge her devotion to the party and stand by her.” Mukesh Agnihotri, CLP LEADER



must be done with utmost care and proper planning.

State Congress president Kuldeep Rathore, considered a staunch loyalist of Anand Sharma, who is a signatory to the letter by dissidents, also supported the Gandhi family. “The Nehru-Gandhi family has contributed to the nation and the party. We firmly stand by Sonia Gandhi in whose visionary and capable leadership Congress-led UPA government was formed for two consecutive terms,” he tweeted.

Congress Legislature Party (CLP) Leader Mukesh Agnihotri also backed Sonia and the Gandhi family at this critical juncture when dissenting voices are under despotic BJP rule.

gaining ground. “The leadership of Sonia Gandhi is unmatched. Even in the face of adversity, she has demonstrated integrity and this shows her greatness. We must acknowledge her devotion to the party and stand by her,” he tweeted.

Agnihotri yesterday sent his letter of support to Sonia. “The recent events are disheartening and appalling. The party workers derive strength from the Gandhi family and want you to continue as president,” he wrote.

He added that Sonia’s leadership was crucial not just for the Congress but also for the country which is witnessing erasure of Constitutional ethos under despotic BJP rule.

REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY, PUNJAB

Plot No. 3, Block-B, 1st Floor, Madhya Marg, Sector-18, Chandigarh—160018
Website: www.rera.punjab.gov.in E-Mail : helprera@punjab.gov.in

ATTENTION PROMOTERS OF NON-REGISTERED PROJECTS

Notice U/S 59 of the Real Estate (Regulation & Development) Act, 2016 for appearance in respect

of projects not registered with RERA, Punjab

Under section 3 of the Real Estate (Regulation & Development) Act, 2016 the promoters of ongoing projects were required to register their projects with this Authority within 3 months of the commencement of the Act i.e. by 31.07.2017. Violation of this provision is punishable u/s 59 of the Act. It has come to Authority's notice that the promoters mentioned below had violated the provisions of section 3 of the Act by not registering their ongoing projects with RERA. Accordingly, proceedings for imposition of penalty under section 59 were initiated and notices were issued to these promoters asking them to explain the reasons for non registration of their projects. However, notices sent to them at their last known address have been received back either on account of refusal to accept the notice or despite being served, refused to submit reply/appear personally. The Authority is therefore satisfied that service of notice in the ordinary manner is not possible.

In some other cases the promoters have already been ordered to be proceeded against ex parte, but in the interest of justice and since the penalty provided in section 59 is quite heavy they are being afforded another opportunity to defend themselves. Hence, through this publication the following promoters are required to appear before the Authority personally or through their authorised agent on the date specified below against each, failing which ex parte proceedings will be resorted to while deciding the matter.

BEFORE SHRI NAVNEET SINGH KANG, CHAIRPERSON

S. No.	Name and Address of the Promoters	Name and Address of Project	Date & Time of Appearance	S. No.	Name and Address of the Promoters	Name and Address of Project	Date & Time of Appearance
1.	(a) M/s. M.G. Gold Realtors Pvt. Ltd., M.G. Gold Family City Centre, Village Mugal Majra, Khanna Road, Tehsil Amloh, Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib. (b) M/s. M.G. Gold Realtors Pvt. Ltd. #345, Sector 22-B, Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab.	M.G. Gold Family City Centre-Commercial, Gobindgarh.	10.09.2020 at 2.30 PM	11.	Managing Director, Drishti Homes, Near Vaishno Devi Mandir, Landran Road, Swaraj Enclave, Kharar	Drishti Homes, Kharar	23.09.2020 at 11.00 AM
12.	Managing Director, H.No.1, Adjoining JTPL, Kharar Landran Road, Sector - 115, Mohali-140307.	H.P. Dream City	23.09.2020 at 11.00 AM	13.	Swami Enclave, MS Enclave-2, Dhakoli, Kishanpura, Punjab-160104.	Swami Enclave	23.09.2020 at 11.00 AM

The penalty for contravention of section 3 by way of non registration of Real Estate projects has been provided under section 59 of the Act. In compliance to the said provision, penalty had been imposed upon the respondents/promoters. The penalty orders issued under section 59 and sent by registered post to the Promoters mentioned below, have been received back as un-delivered. The Authority is therefore satisfied that service of penalty orders in the usual manner is not possible. Therefore, the under mentioned promoters are required to appear and deposit the amount of penalty before the learned Bench of the Authority. On the contrary recovery warrants would be issued and served through the respective District Magistrates.

BEFORE SHRI SANJIV GUPTA, MEMBER

S. No.	Name and Address of the Promoters	Name and Address of Project	Date & Time of Appearance	S. No.	Name and Address of the Promoters	Name and Address of Project	Date & Time of Appearance
14.	Chhabra Land & Housing Ltd., 90-B, B R S N a g a r , Ludhiana, Pin Code-141012.	Royal Home, Barelwali, Distr. Ludhiana.	23.09.2020 at 11.00 AM	15.	Fortune R. Buildco Developers Pvt. Ltd., Office at 12, Yusuf Sarai, 5th Floor, Flat No. 503-508, Ajeet Singh Complex, New Delhi-110049.	Sarabha Nagar, Ext.II, Village Daad & Dhandra, Distr. Ludhiana.	23.09.2020 at 11.00 AM
16.	Chhabra Land & Housing Ltd., 90-B, B R S N a g a r , Ludhiana, Pin Code-141012.	Chhabra Land & Housing Ltd., Malhar Cinema Road, Opp. Punjab National Bank, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana	23.09.2020 at 11.00 AM	17.	K. G. Colonizers, H. No.3, Dangian, Tehsil Jagraon, Dist. Ludhiana	Mullanpur Plaza, Village Raqba, Sub Tehsil Mullanpur, Tehsil Jagraon, Dist. Ludhiana.	23.09.2020 at 11.00 AM
18.	SRI Devaji Trading Company through Prop Gulshan and Pratik Satija, 353, Sector 12, Panchkula	East Moti Bagh, Village Agwar Gujran, Jagraon, Dist. Ludhiana.	23.09.2020 at 11.00 AM	19.	Ashwani Bhatia S/o Sh. Ram Krishan Bhatia, 7A, Rajguru Nagar, Extn.-1, Village Threkee, Road, Threkee, Dist. Ludhiana	Rajguru Nagar, Extn.-1, Village Threkee, Road, Threkee, Dist. Ludhiana.	23.09.2020 at 11.00 AM

Errors & Omissions excepted

Authorised Signatory

20 yrs on, govt okays site for martyr's statue

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PALAMPUR, AUGUST 24
The government today approved a site for the statue of martyr Sudheer Walia, who had sacrificed his life fighting militants in Jammu and Kashmir in 1999. Rulia Ram, father of the martyr, had been fighting for the cause for the last 20 years.

Briefing newsmen here, SDM Dharmesh Ramotra said the statue of the martyr would be installed near old Sabzi Mandi on the Palampur-Dharmasala highway. The foundation stone would be laid on August 29, the day when Major Walia sacrificed his life. He gave the credit to PM Indu Goswami.

Father of the martyr Rulia Ram Walia had given in writing that the family had decided to return the Ashok Chakra as the Centre and state government had failed to instal the statue of his son despite his repeated visits to ministers, MLAs and state officers.

The Tribune had carried a news item, highlighting the concern of the parents of the martyr.



HSIIDC



Regd. Office:

C-13 & 14 Sector 6, Panchkula, Ph. 0172-2590481-83.

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Congress mess

Party shouldn't let the drift continue

THE Congress has been a house divided for quite a while. The tussle between the old guard and the young brigade, a clueless and spineless high command, and the party's growing disconnect with the masses have led to debacles in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The Congress has also helplessly seen Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka slip out of its grasp despite having formed the government in both states. Even by the party's ever-falling standards, the 'letter bomb' hurled by over 20-odd senior leaders at Sonia Gandhi ahead of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting was a new low. These leaders demanded a 'full-time, visible' president, overhauling of the organisational structure through elections to the CWC and reconstitution of the parliamentary board. The demands, per se, are reasonable; what's unreasonable, or rather malicious, is that the letter writers went public with intra-party matters that could easily have been taken up behind closed doors at Monday's meeting.

Some of these 'pro-reform' leaders, bereft of winnability in the electoral arena, have done precious little to reinvigorate the beleaguered party. Had they really believed in 'collective leadership', they would have by now admitted their role in the party's free fall and made amends. The fact that they are still around indicates that these opportunists have their own axe to grind and won't desist from enfeebling the party.

The stormy CWC meeting further accentuated the deep fissures within the party. The allegation/insinuation that some of the dissenters were playing into the hands of the BJP can't be brushed aside, despite the damage control by the party that prompted Kapil Sibal to retract his outburst on Twitter. The BJP has been feeding on the Congress' infighting in recent years, growing more powerful partly due to lack of resistance from the main Opposition party. It's no secret that the ruling party is simply waiting for the Congress to implode. The onus is on the latter to close ranks and make a fresh start, with or without the Gandhis at the helm. It's time for the Congress to act resolutely for its own good.

Flyover collapse

Under-construction structures need frequent checks

THE collapse of a slab of the 6-km-long flyover under construction in Gurugram on Saturday puts the spotlight once again on the quality of work and material invested in public infrastructure — highways, overbridges, underpasses and road elevations. Safety norms seem to have been given short shrift as cities struggle to find ways to cope with the increasing load of population and traffic. Such accidents happen with an alarming frequency in our country, with little to show by way of accountability or deterrent penalties. The collapse of a portion of Kolkata's under-construction Vivekananda Setu, a flyover, that cost 26 lives and left many wounded is still fresh in our minds, not only for the apparently substandard work but also for the contractor's callously dismissive comment of it being 'an act of God'.

Luckily, a major tragedy was averted in the Gurugram case. Due to the Covid-induced weekend and night-time restrictions in Haryana, the traffic at the time of the crash — around 10 pm — was light on the otherwise generally busy Sohna Road of the Millennium City. Two labourers have landed in hospital with injuries. A couple of days earlier, Gurugram residents had had to bear the consequences of another shoddy piece of road work when a stretch of the busy Iffco Chowk caved in following torrential rain. No lessons seem to have been learnt from a similar incident of last August, when a part of an underpass on MG Road gave in to the monsoon fury. The authorities seem to have scant regard for commuters who frequently encounter resultant hiccups in smooth rides; and roads barricaded for indefinite periods seem to be par for the course. The Sohna Road accident is likely to be a setback for the July 2021 deadline of the flyover project.

A speedy probe and ferreting out of reasons that led to the huge concrete blocks of the flyover falling down, as also punishment to those guilty of giving safety and quality norms the go-by, are essential. Along with this, frequent checks of works under progress will go a long way in reforming the general culture of unaccountability and blatant corruption in works involving big budgets.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Leadership is based on inspiration, not domination; on cooperation, not intimidation. — William Arthur Wood

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

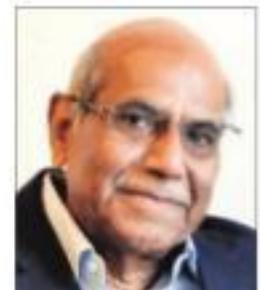
LAHORE, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1920

The "Searchlight" and Mr. Pal

In a letter to the *Englishman*, Mr. Bepin Chandra Pal writes:— The appointment of a Bengalee to be the head of the Behar Administration is bound to create resentment in Behar not only against the new Governor, but generally against the educated Bengalee community who are running wild with joy over it: one exponent of Bengalee opinion having openly declared that 'We Bengalees have a special reason to be proud as the first Indian Governor happens to be a Bengalee. It is a compliment to our race.' This being the sentiment of the Bengalees, what the corresponding sentiment in Behar is likely to be can be easily surmised, specially as Behar can point out to as qualified men among her own sons for this position as Satyendra Prasanna Sinha. Syed Ali Imam's name will occur to anyone. Mr. Hassan Imam is another. If Behar had the right of making this appointment and had preferred Sinha to the Imams, nobody would have any right to say anything. To this, the *Searchlight* gives the following conclusive reply:— 'Well, no one has more persistently raised the cry of 'Behar for Beharees' than the *Searchlight*, and we repudiate Mr. Pal's suggestion with indignation. To us, Lord Sinha is an Indian first and Bengalee next. We cannot appreciate the patriotism that would always see the dark side of our character. We do not know the association of Mr. Pal but we are sure that jobbery and favouritism need not necessarily be allied with free social intercourse between Indian and Indian. And public life is strong enough in India to keep erring men on the right path.' Now that practically every exponent of public opinion in Behar has repudiated Mr. Pal's assertions with indignation, is it too much to hope that he will let both Lord Sinha and Behar alone? The meddlesomeness of a Bengalee journalist in the affairs of Behar is open to the same criticism as the appointment of a Bengalee Governor.

What Biden may mean for India

Has expressed desire to strengthen ties, but we will have to do our bit



SHYAM SARAN

FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY AND SENIOR FELLOW, CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH



GIVE & TAKE: There is an opportunity to forge a mutually rewarding relationship.

THE Democratic Party Convention in the US is over. As expected, Joe Biden, who was Vice President to Barack Obama during 2008-16, will be the presidential candidate at elections due in November. His Vice-Presidential choice is Kamala Harris, who has both Indian and Jamaican ancestry. If the latest polls are any indication, the Biden-Harris slate should register a comfortable win. However, polls do not always translate into vote count. A low turnout and delayed postal ballots may yet hand over the presidency to Trump. But let us assume that the Democrats win the elections. What will this mean for India-US relations?

If the Modi government had a vote in the US elections, it may be cast for Trump. This preference was displayed at the 'Howdy Modi' rally at Houston in 2019, when Modi, in the presence of Trump, spoke of 'Abki baar Trump sarkar' as a slogan of candidate Trump. While this was explained away as referring to Trump's candidature in 2016, that was not how it was interpreted by the assembled crowd. Trump himself and the Democratic Party. One hopes that Indian diplomats, at various levels, are reaching out and engaging with Biden, Harris and their key advisers so that any negative fallout of Houston is minimised.

What explains the higher comfort level the Modi government appears to enjoy with Trump in the White House? Trump has shown little interest in domestic political developments in India, whether these relate to change in the status of J&K, the passage of the CAA or the general drift

towards a majoritarian agenda. Trump's more transactional approach to inter-state relations suits the Modi government which itself is adopting a generally transactional foreign policy, interpreting India's external interests in more narrow and ostensibly realistic terms. Trump's deal-making instincts parallel this realist turn in Indian foreign policy. Perhaps another congenital element is Trump's increasingly hostile approach to China. While India may stop short of seeking alliance with the US, it sees its strategic partnership with the US as an important component of its management of the China challenge. Recent developments at the India-China border have heightened the value of American support, even though it is clear that the US will not fight India's battles with China or Pakistan. There may be apprehensions that a Biden presidency could lead to amelioration of tensions with China, perhaps even a kind of modus vivendi, which may leave India out in the cold. The Chinese have given up on Trump and are root-

ing for a Biden presidency, even though their expectations of a more amenable administration in Washington may prove to be overly optimistic. The confrontation between the two major powers is now structural and unlikely to change with a change of guard at the White House.

Biden has already expressed his desire to strengthen India-US relations. What may limit his room for manoeuvre on India is the erosion of a two-decade-old bipartisan consensus in the US Congress on strengthening relations with India as a fellow democracy and enjoying shared liberal values. This bipartisan consensus on India has been quite remarkable, having been sustained despite an intensely polarised polity. The Democrats already control the House of Representatives. They may well end up controlling the Senate as well. Democrats are likely to be more focused and critical of some of the political decisions of the Modi government and this may lead to an action-reaction dynamic which vitiates the positive sentiments that cur-

Hoping it will be heaven once more

PRAMOD K CHAUDHARI

YEH Kashmir hai!' said the pony handler when I shouted at him. My wife, who was riding his pony, had slipped and started going down the mountainous region. I was on another pony. Somehow he helped her regain balance and told me politely, 'Tourist hamare liye Bhagwan hota hai' (a tourist is like God to us).

My family had reached this 'heaven' on the eve of Eid sometime ago, before the abrogation of Article 370.

We moved out of our hotel early in the morning on the day of the festival. We went towards the Nishat Bagh on the bank of the Dal Lake. Eid Mubarak! Eid Mubarak! rent the air. I saw peo-

ple wearing white clothes heading towards different mosques. There was a holy atmosphere all around.

The Eid spirit lasted for a couple of days we stayed in Kashmir. Many families planned their visit in such a manner so as to be in the Valley on that day.

Feeling fortunate that there was peace thanks to the festival, we left for Sonamarg the next day. Our van dropped us at a place from where we had to hire ponies. Anyone who has gone up to Sonamarg knows that reaching the top in order to see the snowscape is quite an uphill task. Even ponies slip, at times, and then one may meet one's Maker!

The Kashmiri warmth was present all around. At one point in Gulmarg, a group of young girls greet-

ed my wife very warmly. 'Namaste auntyji!' a couple of them said in Hindi, which warmed our heart.

We were quite happy that our long-cherished dream of seeing the heaven on earth was realised, finally. The serenity of the place was simply ethereal.

A lot of water has flowed under the Jhelum since we visited the place. It was a heaven of sorts, then. Those who did not see the Valley had not been born, as it were. 'See Kashmir and die', one could have said much in the manner of 'See Naples and die'.

However, it is a different scene now. It is a picture of chaos as we read in the newspapers every day. The Valley, including the Dal Lake and shikaras, is in a dismal state.

There are reportedly 3,000 families who depend on the shikara trade.

According to shikara-wallahs, the August 5 lockdown has snatched their livelihood. Covid-19 lockdown is worse....

Many of them have had to sell off the family gold and other valuables to survive the double trouble. They are of the opinion that even decades of unrest has not caused as much damage as the past year has. Shootouts snuff out lives of citizens, soldiers and terrorists every other day.

It may take long to improve the conditions now, but time will surely come once again when one could say, Jehangir-like: If there is heaven on earth, it's here...it's here...it's here!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

China unpredictable

Apropos of 'India rejects K-reference by China, Pak' (Aug 23), it is unfortunate that China has been playing a dubious role. It is ill-treating Uighur Muslims. Except Pakistan, many countries, including Islamic nations, have condemned China. With more than 90 per cent Han community, it has an expansionist attitude, and in the garb of communism, is spreading its wings to other places of the world. India knows how it backstabbed Nehru who was amicable to China.

SHANKAR CHATTERJEE, HYDERABAD

PSPCL in a bind

PSPCL is facing a financial crunch in serving consumers and is sometimes unable to release the salary and pension of employees and retirees. A major reason for this is that the subsidy amount toward free electricity to the agriculture sector is not being released timely by the government. Besides, heavy amount is pending towards the state department and the police, which has been brought out by *The Tribune* a number of times. Recently, PSPCL employees were thrashed while checking power theft at the Barnala police station. It is shameful (Cops 'thrash' JE, PSPCL fines station for 'power theft', Aug 23). Why does the government not provide timely funds for elec-

tricity payment to each department, including the police and water supply department that consume a vast amount of electricity for pumping?

OP GARG, PATIALA

English phobia

Refer to 'Treat English as a native language, not a colonial imposition' (Aug 23). English phobia in the current context is not good for the nation. Burdening the people of South and Eastern India with three languages is unfair and biased. The three-language formula was never implemented with conviction in the Hindi heartland. No language in history has dominated the world, and certainly in the world of science, quite like English does.

Almost 400 million people speak it as their first language; a billion more know it as a secondary language. It is an official language in at least 59 countries. English is going to remain the principal language of the Internet and technology for many years to come.

There is nothing colonial about English. Indian English and Indian authors have won the Nobel prize.

HN RAMAKRISHNA, BENGALURU

Mother tongue vital too

Knowing more languages is like crossing more bridges safely, and, not coming across barriers. English language has come to stay as a great lan-

guage of the human race, with varying degrees of working knowledge for communication. Its adaptability from other sources like French, Latin, Greek, German etc, has made it easily acceptable and popular everywhere. English has over a million words, and, the next close, Chinese, nearly half of it. All Indian languages, including Hindi, have not crossed the 2 lakh figure individually. At the same time, it is a fact that mother tongue helps create spontaneous friendships.

NEP did the right thing in promoting the local language up to class V as compulsory. SUDERSHAN WALIA, AMRITSAR

Language of opportunities

Being a global language, English should not be meted out step-motherly treatment on one excuse or the other. At a time when India wants to compete with other countries and dreams to be at the forefront of all progressive movements, neglecting English language will not do. English is not only an official language of the UN but also 53 countries. It gives an edge to students and is a passport to get admission to an educational institute of repute and choice for higher studies. English should be made compulsory at every level till the final year of graduation. Being a language of job, opportunities, Internet and media, it

deserves a prime position in NEP.

SUNIL CHOPRA, LUDHIANA

BPL criteria

Refer to 'Differently abled man not on IRDP list'; why doesn't the state government conduct an inquiry against the alleged gram panchayats? Why isn't the selection process of BPL persons transparent? If the government survey team visits the house of the people, how do rich people enter the BPL or IRDP lists? There is a need to amend the selection procedure for BPL persons, making it more and more transparent.

RITISH PANDIT, DEHRA GOPIPUR

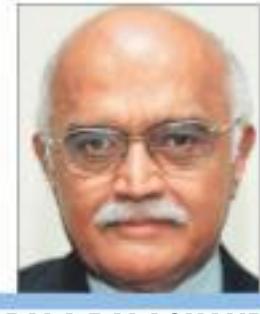
Not in sports spirit

Refer to the editorial 'Sports awards need overhaul' (Aug 24); this year's sports awards were too controversial. Despite a new selection committee being formed, the fault lies in the system. A very large number of individuals were nominated for the awards. No Arjuna Award has been given to a chess player since 2013. What is the selection committee up to? Rather than provide awards that politicise sports, the government should provide jobs and funds to sportspersons.

AMITJO KAUR, PATIALA

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

More to UAE-Israel deal than meets the eye



VAPPALA BALACHANDRAN

EX-SPECIAL SECRETARY, CABINET SECRETARIAT

PRIME Minister Indira Gandhi was the first Indian leader to bluntly tell Isi Leibler, Chairman, Governing Board of the World Jewish Congress, why her country could not have full diplomatic relations with Israel. She told him on December 21, 1981, that India was 'deeply economically dependent on petrodollars' of the Arab countries, especially the Emirates, which were pressing her to 'break all relations' with Israel, including closing down their Bombay consulate. Thirty-nine years later, the Emirates have become the third Arab country to officially recognise Israel.

Leibler also records that Mrs Gandhi told him of the 'crisis' that took place in New Delhi during PM Jawaharlal Nehru's era when Saudi monarch Ibn Saud went 'berserk' seeing legendary Jewish violinist Yehudi Menuhin at a reception in his honour as the personal guest of her father.

Mrs Gandhi's strategy was adopted by all governments, including the Janata Party coalition led by Morarji Desai, when AB Vajpayee had made his well-known 'secret visit' to Israel. Although Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao was given credit for raising diplomatic relations in January 1992, the grounds were prepared by the previous PMs.

During this period, our intelligence services were conducting all relations of

strategic importance. This relationship became much closer during the Rajiv Gandhi era (1984-89) after he met Israel's PM Shimon Peres in New York in 1985. Following this, he took a decision to invite the Israeli table tennis team for the February 1987 World Table Tennis championship in New Delhi.

However, it did not happen that way, causing a lot of embarrassment to us when we visited Tel Aviv a few days before the event in 1987. At Tel Aviv, we were told that visas for their players were not granted although they were invited. We also met Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir during our visit when he asked us to convey to our PM that even Yasser Arafat would not object if we upgraded our diplomatic relations. During this meeting, he also mentioned appreciatively King Hassan II of Morocco who would soon establish full diplomatic relations with Israel.

Strangely, even in 2020, Morocco has not established full diplomatic relations, indicating how kaleidoscopic Arab-Israel relations could be. Arab countries like Saudi Arabia, Morocco and till recently the UAE, were comfortable in maintaining good relations through secret channels while Turkey, the first Muslim country to recognise Israel in 1949, has a frosty relationship with it.

It was Egyptian President Anwar Sadat who courageously cut the Gordian knot by announcing a change in his policy towards Israel while speaking to the legendary American broadcaster Walter Cronkite on November 9, 1977. He told him that he was serious about visiting Jerusalem to talk peace to the Knesset, the Israeli parliament. The highly influential Cronkite organised this with American help on November 20, 1977.

In that process, Sadat also dismantled the 1948 Arab Coalition (Lebanon, Syria,



PROTESTS ERUPT: Trump has been criticised on the ground that the accord was his only foreign policy success before the elections.

It has been claimed that the wording of announcements from Jerusalem and Abu Dhabi was different. The UAE claimed that the accord 'immediately' stopped Israel's plan to 'annex' parts of West Bank. Trump also concurred. But Netanyahu did not want that impression in a deeply divided Israel. Hence, the word 'suspend' was used.

Iraq, Egypt and Saudi Arabia) which had invaded Israel to help the local Palestinians combat the Israeli militia following its unilateral declaration of independence on May 14, 1948, after the UN 'partition resolution' on November 29, 1947.

It was sheer domestic pressure which forced Sadat. The Egyptian economy was in a shambles with a major portion of its budget going to the army. General el-Gamasy, Defence Minister, had warned him that Egypt would not be able to withstand another Israeli attack. Above all, he was disgusted with the policy of Arab nations in fighting Israel 'to the last Egyptian'. In this, he was helped by US President Jimmy Carter who catalysed the 13-day Sadat-Menachem Begin Camp David talks with evangelical perseverance to accomplish the

Egypt-Israel treaty in September 1978. It took another 16 years for Jordan to conclude its formal peace treaty on October 26, 1994, although both countries were doing business with each other.

There are some imponderables that make it difficult to assess what benefits the Palestinians would derive from the August 13, 2020, treaty. This decision, called 'Abraham Accord', which was suddenly announced by US President Donald Trump four days before the 2020 Democratic National Convention at Milwaukee, was interpreted to showcase his only US foreign policy success before the November elections.

Our media has not mentioned an important op-ed piece by UAE ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba in Washington DC in Israeli paper *Yedioth Ahronoth* on

June 12, which might appear that this recognition could even be conditional. He said that annexation would be an unmistakable signal whether Israel desired normalisation with the Arab world: 'Normal is not annexation. Instead, annexation is a misguided provocation of another order. And continued talk of normalisation would be just mistaken hope for better relations with the Arab states.'

However, the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) said that the wording of announcements from Jerusalem and Abu Dhabi was different. The UAE claimed that the accord 'immediately' stopped Israel's plans to 'annex' parts of West Bank. It claimed that this would provide an opportunity for both to renew negotiations. Trump also concurred by saying that 'annexation' was off the table'. However, Benjamin Netanyahu did not want that impression in a deeply divided Israel. Hence, Jerusalem had used the word 'suspend' in their release.

Netanyahu, the longest serving and most unpopular PM — according to Israeli media — is a worried man. His ultra-right supporters are upset for missing 'one-in-a-century opportunity to formally bring the biblical lands of Judea and Samaria into Israel.' Despite public polls indicating that a majority of the public support the agreement, demonstrations against him — outside his residence — on for eight consecutive weeks, have not waned. The placards were 'No flights to the Gulf, jobs in Israel.' For Abu Dhabi, the worry should be Iran's warning that the UAE ruler would meet the same fate as that of Anwar Sadat, the threat that the 'Crystal Palace in Emirates' could be hit and hostile activities in the disputed islands in the Strait of Hormuz would continue.

A case of misplaced priorities for expert group

AFTER the imposition of the lockdown, Punjab appointed an expert group headed by economist Montek Singh Ahluwalia to develop a strategy for the revival of the state's economy in the post-Covid period so as to restore its normal growth rate.

The group was expected to submit its first report by July-end and the final report by December this year. It recently submitted its first report, which is under discussion. Feedback was obtained from multiple sources in the administration and built on work that was in progress.

Due to the Covid restrictions, this group did not meet various stakeholders. But the corporates were represented as members in the group itself. Their views and demands form part of the recommendations. The other interest groups such as workers and employees, farmers, small traders, owners of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), artisans, repair shop owners, dhabas and restaurant owners were neither contacted nor did their views form part of the deliberations.

The members did not consult experts in the universities and research institutes of the state who have deep knowledge of the economy and society of Punjab. The recommendations, therefore, do not reflect the ground reality but represent the perception of this group which is largely based on ideological considerations of the neo-liberal economic theory.

The group's perspective has been presented at the outset which states that the 'faster rate of growth of Punjab depends on whether Central and state governments are willing to implement reforms that improve economic efficiency and



REALITY CHECK: There is a need to understand the situation on the ground in Punjab.

enhance India's competitiveness. These reforms were important even before the pandemic but have become more urgent to revive confidence among investors and consumers.'

Further, it is stated that the new wave of technological development based on automation and artificial intelligence could disrupt labour and product markets. Charting a course is complicated by the fact that Punjab's economic prospects do not depend only on the actions of the state government. This will be heavily influenced by what happens to the Indian economy as a whole as the state's economy is integrated with it.

The specific recommendations are largely influenced by the understanding that Punjab's policy framework must fit into that of the Centre. This is reflected in sectoral policies suggested such as support for the three ordinances issued by

the Centre; promoting big private companies in the trade of agricultural produce; contract farming; and the creation of private agricultural markets beyond the control of state agricultural market committees. The group has also recommended payment of power subsidy via direct bank transfer (DBT) after the bills are collected from the beneficiaries as proposed in the Electricity Amendment Bill 2020, pending before Parliament.

It has also been suggested that the public distribution of foodgrains to the BPL families be replaced by DBT to the poor. These moves are being opposed by Punjab and its farming community as campaigning against the three ordinances and the proposed Electricity Bill. Similarly, it has been recommended to amend labour laws on the pattern of Gujarat, Haryana and UP, but Punjab has refused. There is

visible bias for corporate players. On the one hand, the group is for rationalising power subsidy to the agriculture sector and considers it as a net burden on the state exchequer and on the other, recommends cheap power to the industry, irrespective of size, at Rs 5 per unit against the high rates charged from domestic consumers.

Similarly, a recommendation is made that agro-processor buyers of wheat should not be charged fees/taxes in the grain markets beyond 2% while the rate is high for the other buyers. Several concessions suggested for the industry reflect the demands of the corporate sector, rather than the state's needs.

It is a fact that the industry did not pay migrant workers during the lockdown and they moved out and the state government paid for their rail fare. This pattern of business and industry prevailed at the all-India level, yet the expert group wants business to be handed over to corporates, but seeks social security and houses for migrant labour, to be provided by the government, ignoring the interests of local labour, while many among them might be urgently in need of such provisions.

The recommendations for crop diversification away from wheat-paddy rotation and shifting of 1 million hectares to new crops is more than three decades old, recommended by the Johl Committee-I in 1986, Johl Committee-II in 2002, and by the Kalkat Committee in 2013.

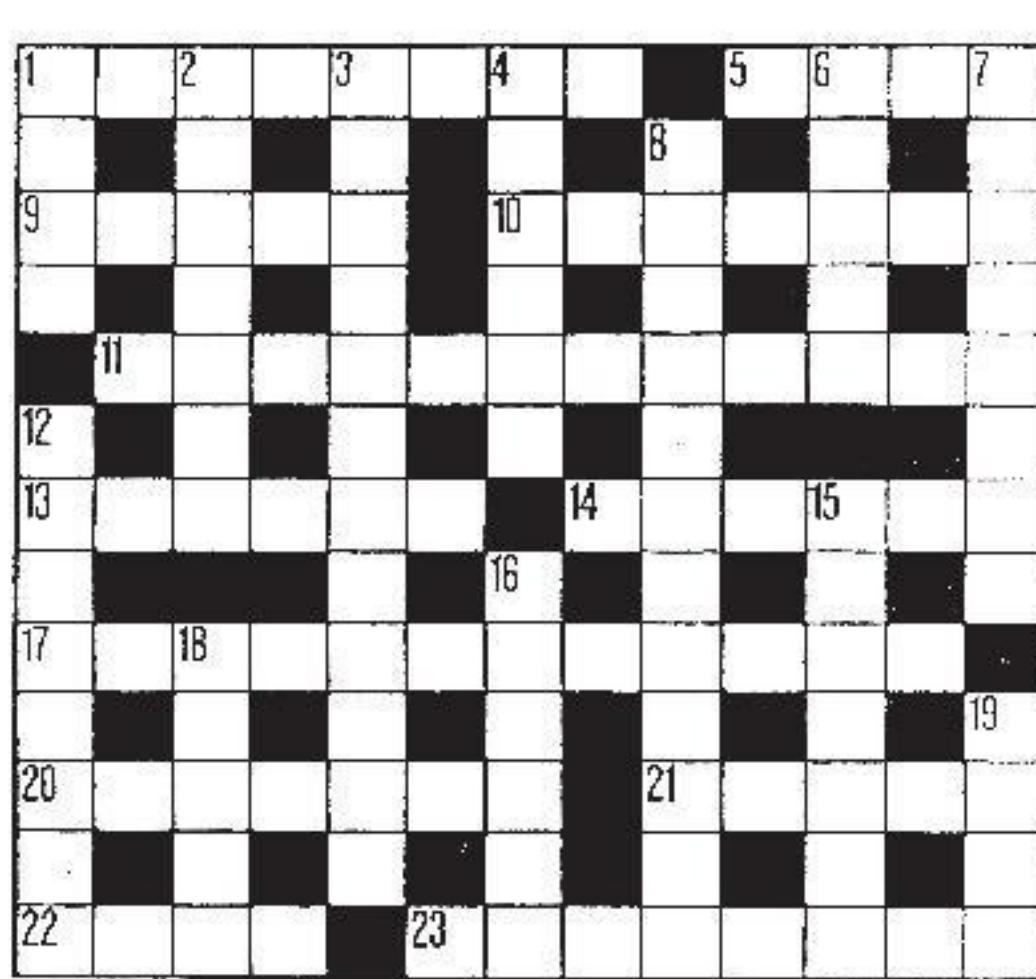
This programme has not taken off, rather the area under wheat-paddy has been growing. This is because enabling conditions could not be created in the

form of assured MSP and assured purchase. Without analysing the behaviour of corporates in not paying the announced price, it has been forcing farmers to drop those crops in the second round. This is reflected in the fact that sugar mills all over India did not pay farmers for many years for the cane supplied. Without having a firm mechanism for MSP, market clearance and timely payment, this recommendation seems to be mechanical and indicates blind faith in privatisation. This can spell disaster both for the farming community and the working class, leading to deterioration in income and working conditions.

The group has not tried to understand the failure of private extension services for Punjab's farmers when diversification was begun in 2002. The group, while recommending promotion of milk, vegetables, fruits, poultry, goat, pig and chicken meat, has not realised the associated risks. The producers of perishable agricultural goods suffered colossal losses both in Punjab and other states. Many of them have become bankrupt during this period. This is well reported in the media but the expert group missed this and did not make any recommendation towards the revival of trust in crop diversification.

Lastly, the MSME sector employs 20% of the workforce in the state. Their number is 14.65 lakh, but only 44,000 are registered. Those unregistered (14.21 lakh) are not eligible for benefits under the Centre's Rs 20 lakh crore relief scheme. The group still argues that Punjab should try to help them get benefits under the Central scheme. It is a classic case of lack of understanding.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Land of Nod, 8 End up, 9 Jollity, 10 Come to, 11 Glitch, 12 Imprison, 15 Outright, 18 Energy, 20 Active, 21 Unclear, 22 Title, 23 Worldwide.

Down: 2 Atoll, 3 Delete, 4 Fetching, 5 Detour, 6 Adverse, 7 Up-country, 11 Go to earth, 13 Paternal, 14 Statute, 16 In view, 17 Yellow, 19 Guard.

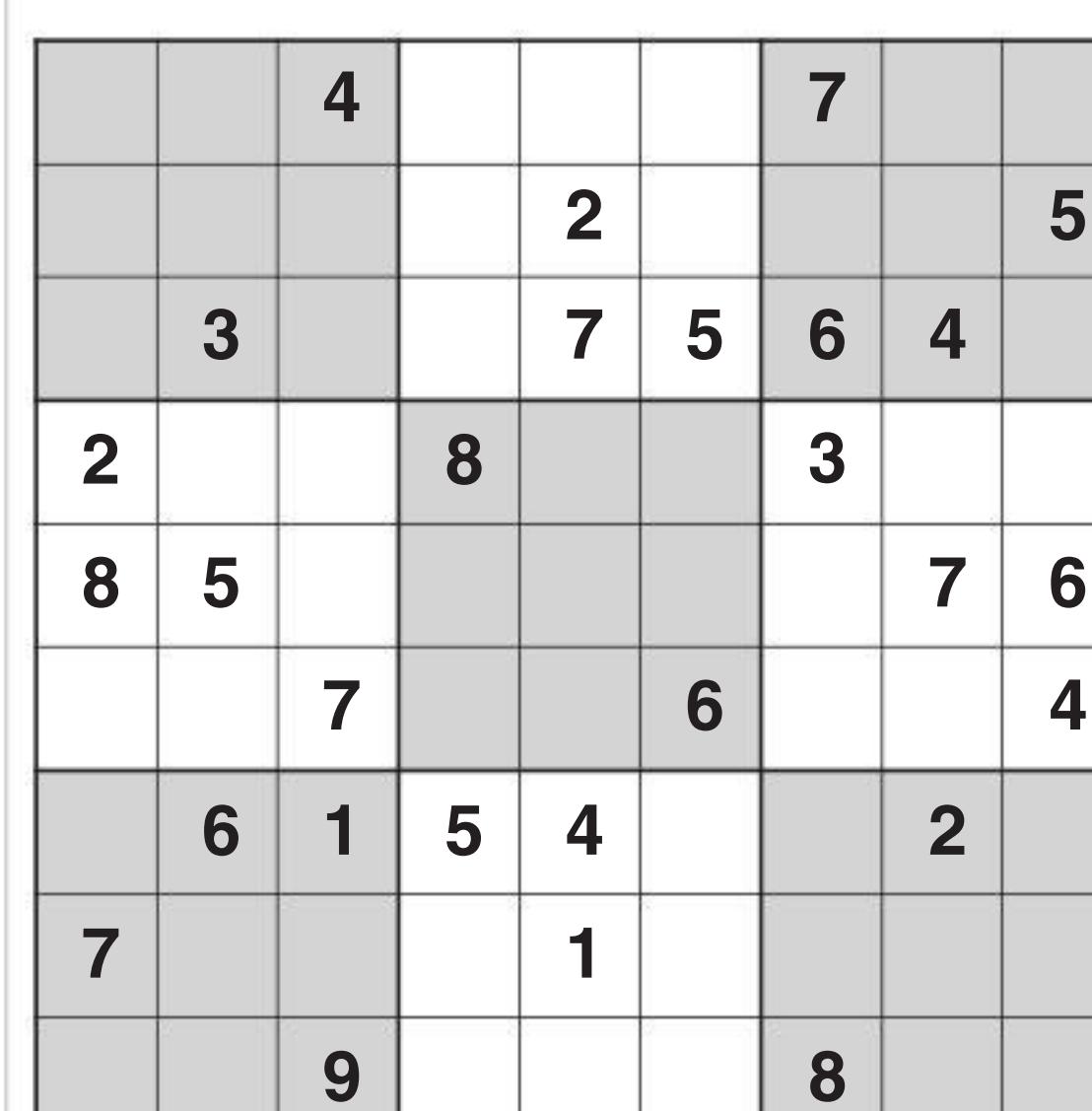
ACROSS

- 1 Ignominy (8)
- 5 Soapy froth (4)
- 9 Hurled (5)
- 10 Vehicles moving on road (7)
- 11 Politically radical (4-2-6)
- 13 At some future time (3,3)
- 14 Woodworking tool (6)
- 17 Disabled (4,2,6)
- 20 An official instruction (7)
- 21 Daring manoeuvre (5)
- 22 Uniform (4)
- 23 Very punctilious person (8)

DOWN

- 1 Adroit (4)
- 2 Crowded state (7)
- 3 Indispensable assistant (5-4,3)
- 4 Isolated (3,3)
- 6 Out of condition (5)
- 7 In private (8)
- 8 Confront critics boldly (4,3,5)
- 12 Easy good nature (8)
- 15 Marine bird (7)
- 16 Believe (6)
- 18 Area for target shooting (5)
- 19 Excite (4)

SU DO KU



EASY

CALENDAR

AUGUST 25, 2020, TUESDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat 2077

■ Shaka Samvat 1942

■ Bhadrapad Shaka 3

■ Bhadrapad Parvishtha 10

■ Hijri 1442

■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 7, up to 12:22 pm

■ Indra Yoga up to 9:49 pm

■ Vishakha Nakshatra up to 1:59 pm

■ Moon enters Scorpio sign 8:17 am

■ Shridhashhtami

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: TUESDAY 18:54 HRS

SUNRISE: WEDNESDAY 05:55 HRS

CITY MAX MIN

Chandigarh 32 26

New Delhi 35 26

Amritsar 33 27

Bathinda 33 26

Jalandhar 33 26

Ludhiana 33 26

Bhiwani 33 27

Hisar 34 27

Sirsia 34 27

Dharamsala 27 18

Manali 26 13

Shimla 25 17

Srinagar 30 20

Jammu 33 26

Kargil 25 15

Leh 32 12

Dehradun 31 23

Mussorie 22 17

TEMPERATURE IN °

CBI visits resort where Sushant spent 2 months

MUMBAI, AUGUST 24
CBI officials probing Sushant Singh Rajput's death case on Monday visited a Mumbai-based resort where the actor is said to have spent a couple of months, and also continued the questioning of the actor's friend and cook at the DRDO guest house here.

Rajput's accountant Rajat Mewati was also called for questioning at the DRDO

guest house at Kalina in Santacruz, where the CBI sleuths probing the case are staying, an official said.

A CBI team on Monday reached the Waterstone Resort in suburban Andheri, where Rajput apparently spent about two months, for questioning its staff in connection with the probe into his death, according to the official. The probing team went to the resort on



Sushant Singh Rajput

Sunday also, but left as its staff members were not there. Meanwhile, Rajput's

accountant Mewati, flatmate Siddharth Pithani and cook Neeraj Singh reached the DRDO guest house for questioning by the CBI.

The CBI questioned Pithani, Neeraj and Rajput's domestic help Deepesh Sawant on Saturday and Sunday also. These three were present in Rajput's house when the actor was found dead on June 14. — PTI

Miss my friend a lot: PM on Jaitley's death anniversary

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24
The BJP paid rich tributes to party stalwart Arun Jaitley on his first death anniversary on Monday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying he misses his friend a lot and that his late Cabinet colleague diligently served India.

The PM tweeted, "On this day last year, we lost Shri Arun Jaitley ji. I miss my friend a lot. Arun Ji diligently served India. His wit, intellect, legal acumen and warm personalty were legendary." — PTI



Sonali Jaitley, daughter of late Arun Jaitley, pays tribute to her father in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

If border talks with China fail, military option open: Rawat

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24
India's armed forces are prepared to look at any military option if the extensive talks to restore status quo ante along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) did not yield any positive result, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat has said on the prolonged border standoff with China in eastern Ladakh.

General Rawat, who has been part of the top military brass strategising on the Sino-India border issue, said a "whole of government" approach is being followed to peacefully resolve the row.

The armed forces are always prepared for military actions if all efforts to restore status quo ante along the LAC don't fructify.



'ARMED FORCES ALWAYS READY'

“The armed forces are always prepared for military actions if all efforts to restore status quo ante along the LAC don't fructify.”

Gen Bipin Rawat, CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

from December 2016 to December 2019, said the transgressions take place along the LAC because of varying perceptions about it by the two countries.

India and China have held several rounds of military and diplomatic talks in the last two-and-a-half months but no significant headway has been made for a resolution to the border standoff.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Gen Rawat and the three service chiefs are regularly meeting to review India's military preparedness in eastern Ladakh as well as to take measures in

sync with the evolving situation in the region.

At the military talks, the Indian Army has been strongly insisting that restoration of the status quo ante of April this year by China is the only way to resolve the row, according to government sources.

There is a growing view in the Army that the Chinese military is not serious about the resolution of the border conflict as it is resorting to "back and forth" negotiations while the Indian side has very clearly conveyed about its position on the matter. — PTI

SC rejects plea seeking NEET centres abroad

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24
The Supreme Court on Monday rejected a petition seeking directions to the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA) to allow examination centres abroad to hold NEET-2020 for admission to medical courses.

A Bench led by Justice LN Rao asked the Centre to arrange Vande Bharat Mission flights for such students to appear for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET).

This year's test was scheduled in May, but it was rescheduled to July 26 and then to September 13 due to Covid. It will be conducted by the NTA in pen-paper mode. The top court also refused to relax quarantine norms for them, citing public health issues. However, it allowed the petitioners to approach the state authorities to seek relaxation for candida-

EC 'illegally' shares voters' pics with cops

MUKESH RANJAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24

The Election Commission (EC) of India has made an alleged exception of its own policy and practice by sharing electoral database of northeast Delhi voters with the police for identifying the accused of the February 2020 communal violence in the city.

The allegation was levelled by a Right to Information Act (RTI) activist, Saket Gokhale, on the basis of a response he received.

Sharing on Twitter a letter from the EC, Gokhale alleged the entire voter list along with photos was handed over illegally to the Delhi Police to enable identification of the accused in violation of norms.

Responding to the allegation, the poll panel asserted in a statement that it had not violated any rule.

In the letter dated March 6, the poll panel directed the Chief Electoral Officer

Poll panel says police wanted to identify Delhi riots accused

'NO RULE VIOLATED'

“The anecdotal reports are not based on facts... the commission has not deviated in any manner from the original guidelines of 2008 and clarificatory orders of 2020. Election Commission

(CEO) of Delhi to “share the electoral roll along with images of electors of North-East parliamentary constituency” with the police.

The response came after the CEO flagged to the EC that the “electoral database of entire Assembly constituency or district should not be shared with the police as it violated the commis-

sion’s policy and practice”.

The EC, however, insisted in the letter that as the police wanted to match the photos with CCTV visuals of the violence, these be shared with the investigating officer.

Gokhale said: “The EC violated rules by making available to the police the entire voter list with photos after the Delhi violence. This is an easy way to identify the minorities living in any area.”

Responding to the charge, the poll panel said, “The anecdotal reports are not based on facts... the commission has not deviated in any manner from the original guidelines of 2008 and clarificatory orders of 2020.”

The commission noted that as far as criminal investigations by regulatory or enforcement agencies were concerned, “it was under their own extant Acts, rules and guidelines, which in any case could be challenged in court”. — PTI

SC disposes of plea on BSP MLAs' merger

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24

The Supreme Court on Monday disposed of as “infructuous” a BJP MLA's plea seeking stay on Rajasthan Speaker's decision, which allowed six BSP MLAs to merge with the Congress, in view of the High Court order.

A Bench of Justices Arun Mishra, Vineet Saran and MR Shah was informed by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Speaker, that earlier in the day the Rajasthan High Court had passed an order on the plea filed by BJP MLA Madan Dilawar. He said the HC had asked the Speaker to decide on merit the plea against the merger of six BSP MLAs with the ruling Congress.

Sibal said the HC had also asked the Speaker to decide on the matter within three months. The Bench said the plea before it was against an interim order of the HC, and has now become infructuous. On August 17, the SC had deferred the hearing on Dilawar's plea after it was informed that the Chief Justice of the High Court had reportedly tested Covid positive. — PTI

70 'trapped' in Maha building collapse



A man removes debris after a five-storey building collapsed at Raigad in Maharashtra on Monday. REUTERS

Seventeen persons were injured after a five-storeyed residential building collapsed in Maharashtra's Raigad district on Monday. Around 70 people are feared trapped in the debris, the police said.

There were around 45 flats in the building, which was around 10-year old, the official said, adding that 25 persons have been rescued and shifted to a local hospital at Mahad, which is around 170 km from Mumbai.

Teams of the National Disaster Response Force have been moved to the spot for rescue operations. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray spoke to the district officials and asked them to expedite the rescue and relief work. — PTI

FB chief asked to audit hate speech policy

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24

A Constitutional Conduct Group of former civil servants today wrote an open letter to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg asking him to make efforts to audit the implementation of the social media platform's hate speech policy in India and not undermine the secular and democratic basis of the Indian Constitution by demonising minorities.

In an official release, the group, having 54 members, including IAS Salahuddin Ahmad (retd), IPS Shafi Alam (retd) and IPS K Saleem Ali (retd), said, “We have written to him in the expectation that he will make serious efforts to audit the implementation of Facebook's hate speech policy in India and not permit business considerations to undermine the secular and democratic basis of the Indian Constitution by demonising minorities.

Noting that as a group the members have no political affiliation and believe in being committed to the Indian Constitution, in the letter they said, “We are writing to you now because certain actions (or the absence of certain actions) by Facebook in their operations in India have thrown into danger some of the fundamental rights of the people of India.”

Post Galwan, India, US to hold first high-level meet

COUNTERING CHINA

Week-long virtual conference to focus on economic and strategic spheres and countering China's communication and infrastructure building spree in the Asia Pacific

Pence, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, Commerce Minister Piyush Goel and captains of industry, including from the US defence industry, will address a week-long virtual conference on a raft of subjects in the economic

and strategic spheres at the third summit of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum.

The interaction is expected to see firm statements of intent from the newly-created US International Development Finance Corporation about countering China's communication and infrastructure building spree in the Asia Pacific.

India has gone along with the US-Japan-Australia troika's formulations on the security side in South China Sea but is keen to give a

push to the economic leg.

The latter aspect is also being deliberated in the run up to a virtual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, said sources. The possibility of Abe stepping down on health grounds is unlikely to make a difference to the dynamics of Indo-Japan ties which enjoy all-round support in Tokyo.

The Indo-US two plus two talks will follow the India-Japan summit and will be co-chaired from the Indian

side by Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark Esper from the US side.

The US and Australia recently held a similar two plus two meeting in Washington that saw Canberra pushing back at some of the US aggression on South China Sea. However, there is alignment on the fundamentals of stalling China's attempt to dominate South China Sea and become a world leader in 5G technology.

28 permanent judges approved for Allahabad HC

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24

The Supreme Court Collegium today approved the proposal for appointment of 28 additional judges of the Allahabad High Court as permanent judges.

The Collegium, headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde, also approved the proposal for appointment of five additional judges of the Calcutta High Court as permanent judges.

In the Calcutta High Court, the collegium recom-

mended names of additional judges — Justices Md Nizamuddin, Tirthankar Ghosh, Hiranmay Bhattacharya, Saugata Bhattacharya and Manojit Mandal — to be appointed as permanent judges.

The decision was uploaded on the website of the apex court.

Apart from CJI Bobde, Justices NV Ramana, Arun Mishra, RF Nariman and UU Lalit are part of the five-judge Collegium. — PTI

84-yr-old rape accused gets bail after DNA test

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24

The Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to an octogenarian man accused of raping a minor after a DNA test proved that he was not the biological father of the child born to the victim last month.

A Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, which ordered the release of the 84-year-old man, said he was free to seek compensation for being falsely implicated in a rape case.

The accused has been charged under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act for

SC says man free to seek compensation for being falsely implicated

allegedly raping the minor. He has challenged a Calcutta High Court order rejecting his bail plea.

He had submitted that he was willing to get a DNA test done to prove that he was not responsible for the pregnancy in question. The accused alleged that it was a false case foisted on him by the complainant, who was his tenant, as there was a dispute between them over non-payment of rent.

Sonia stays Cong prez

FROM PAGE 1

Manmohan called the letter “unfortunate”, AK Antony termed it cruel while Ahmed Patel questioned its leak to the media. Ambika Soni sought disciplinary action against the signatories. Rahul questioned the timing of the letter when Sonia was hospitalised and the Congress was trouble-shooting in Rajasthan. “We discuss issues in the CWC, not media,” he said with sources claiming he mentioned how the letter would help the BJP. Priyanka chose not to speak. Amid ragging tempers, Azad offered to resign only to retract his statement later, saying, “Rahul did not mention that the letter was written at BJP's behest.” Ex-minister Kapil Sibal,

another signatory to the letter, deleted a related tweet, saying Rahul had personally informed him of not having alluded to the BJP link. The CWC resolution hailed the Gandhis for their leadership through Covid, economic downturn and Chinese aggression. On the way forward, sources said Sonia said that her replacement could not be “open-ended”. AICC general secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal said AICC session would be held “as early as possible”. The party also said the CWC favoured Rahul as Sonia's successor. Rahul proposed a committee to assist Sonia – an exercise she would perhaps undertake to address some concerns raised by the dissenters in their August 7 letter.

No apology, take back order: Bhushan to SC

FROM PAGE 1

on true facts, adding similar opinions were made before as was demonstrated by Attorney General KK Venugopal, who too had urged the court not to punish Bhushan.

Dhavan sought to highlight the fact that in the present controversy, similar comments were made by Justices Lokur, Kurian Joseph and AP Shah, besides veteran journalist Arun Shourie and others in the public and reported by the media. “It would follow that they were all in contempt,” Dhavan submitted.

The top court had on August 20 granted time till August 24

Names of Galwan...

FROM PAGE 1

was opened in February 2019 and since then names have been added to the existing list just once. The names of 20 bravehearts of the Galwan clash and others who have died in operations will be inscribed in golden letters on granite tablets arranged in a circular pattern on one of the 16 walls of the memorial. The pattern symbolises the ancient Indian war formation “Chakravyuh”.

Everyday as the sun is about to set, a solemn ceremony is conducted at the memorial. The Tricolour and flags of the three armed forces are lowered amid full military regalia with the famous ‘Last Post’ playing in the background, all timed to perfection as daylight disappears behind Raisina Hill.



to Bhushan to reconsider his “defiant statement” refusing to apologise. The matter is to be heard today.

Bhushan said he believed the Supreme Court was the last bastion of hope for the protection of fundamental rights, the watchdog institutions and indeed for constitutional democracy itself. He faces simple imprisonment of up to six months or with a fine of up to Rs 2,000, or both.



A protester confronts a cop at Kenosha, Wisconsin. REUTERS

Protests in US after Black man shot at

KENOSHA, AUGUST 24

Protests erupted in the US city of Kenosha, Wisconsin, after the police allegedly shot at an unarmed Black man, prompting officials to impose a curfew.

The victim, identified by Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers as Jacob Blake, was hospitalised in a serious condition on Sunday evening after police shot him multiple times, local media reported.

Crowds gathered at the scene and threw bricks and Molotov cocktails at the police, according to reports in social media. "We stand

Victim hospitalised, curfew in Wisconsin

against excessive use of force and immediate escalation when engaging with Black Wisconsinites," governor Evers wrote in a tweet.

The shooting happened at around 5 pm local time in Kenosha as officers were responding to a "domestic incident". The victim was immediately taken to a hospital by the police, according to a statement issued by the Kenosha police department. — Reuters

Haley among Republican star speakers

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 24

Nikki Haley, Indian-American Republican politician and former US envoy to the UN, will be among the star speakers on the first day of the Republican National Convention (RNC) which begins on Monday, according to a list released by the Trump campaign.

The four-day RNC will formally nominate 74-year-old incumbent President Donald Trump as the party's candidate for the November 3 US presidential election.

Haley, 48, the two-term Gov-

Taliban delegation in Pakistan for Afghan peace dialogue

ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 24

A high-level delegation from the Taliban's political office in Doha arrived in Pakistan on Monday to discuss the way forward in the Afghan peace process with the Pakistani leadership.

The delegation, comprising Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the head of the Afghan Taliban's political office in Doha, is here to discuss the Afghan peace process with the Pakistani leadership at the invitation of the country's foreign office.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Monday said that he would meet with the delegation on Tuesday, the report said.

On Sunday, foreign office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said: "Yes, we have invited the Afghan Taliban delegation to visit Pakistan to discuss the way forward in the Afghan peace process".

The Afghan Taliban spokesperson also confirmed that a delegation led by Mullah Baradar would be visiting Islamabad and other capitals to discuss the Afghan peace efforts.

This will be the second visit of Mullah Baradar to Pakistan in the last 10 months.

He visited Islamabad in October last year when President Donald Trump abruptly called off the peace talks with the Taliban, citing the militant group's continued attacks against the US-led foreign forces in Afghanistan.

Pakistan at that time had arranged a meeting between the Taliban delegation led by Mullah Baradar and US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad.

CHINA LAUNCHES WARSHIP FOR PAK NAVY

Beijing/Islamabad: China has launched first of the four advanced naval warships it is building for Pakistan, amid deepening economic and defence ties between the two all-weather allies. The launching ceremony for the first warship was held at the Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard in Shanghai on Sunday. Pakistan-China defence ties turn a new chapter with the launch of the first ship of Type-054 class frigate. Pakistan signed a contract with

China Shipbuilding Trading Company Ltd. for the delivery of two Type-054 A/P frigates in 2017. PTI



er capitals to discuss the Afghan peace efforts.

That meeting had helped the process to be back on track, which eventually culminated in the landmark deal signed between the US and the Taliban on February 29. The deal envisages a roadmap for the US troops' withdrawal in return for the Taliban agreeing not to let Afghan soil be ever used again by any terrorist group.

The visit of the Afghan delegation comes as preparations are being made to kick start the next phase of Afghan peace process, which is the intra-Afghan talks.

The intra-Afghan dia-

logue has been delayed for months because of differences between the Afghan government and the Taliban over the release of Taliban prisoners.

Recently, the final hurdle was removed when Afghan Loya Jirga – tribal grand assembly – endorsed President Ashraf Ghani's move to free the remaining 400 Taliban prisoners.

The development has now paved the way for the much-awaited intra-Afghan dialogue, media reports said.

The first round is expected to take place in Doha, capital of Qatar. — PTI

California fire toll 7



■ The death toll from the California wildfires reached seven on Sunday

■ The authorities have ordered evacuation of 2.5 lakh people. AP

US nod for blood plasma treatment

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 24

The US health watchdog has given emergency authorisation for the use of blood plasma to treat Covid patients in the country, saying the benefits of the treatment outweighed any potential risks.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said on Sunday that over 70,000 patients in the country had been treated with convalescent plasma, which is made using the blood of people who have recovered from coronavirus infections.

President Donald Trump welcomed the move. — PTI

TRACKING COVID

NATIONS	DEATHS
US	180,621
BRAZIL	114,772
RUSSIA	16,448
UK	41,429
SPAIN	28,838

WORLDOMETER TILL AUG 24, 10 PM

In Geneva, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Monday that using convalescent plasma was still an experimental treatment. — PTI

Tests show Putin critic was poisoned: German doctors

BERLIN, AUGUST 24

The German hospital treating Russian dissident Alexei Navalny says tests indicate that he was poisoned.

The Charité hospital said in a statement on Monday that the team of doctors which has been examining Navalny since he was admitted on Saturday have found the presence of "cholinesterase inhibitors" in his system.

Cholinesterase inhibitors

are a broad range of substances that are found in several drugs, but also pesticides and nerve agents. Doctors at Charité say at the moment the specific substance Navalny was exposed to is not yet known. The hospital says "the patient is in an intensive care unit and is still in an induced coma."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said that Russia must investigate the case. — AP

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GST doubled taxpayer base, says FinMin

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24

The Finance Ministry on Monday said GST has reduced the rate at which people have to pay tax, helped increase compliance and doubled taxpayer base to 1.24 crore.

In a series of tweets, on the first death anniversary of former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, the ministry said before goods and services tax (GST), the combination of value-added tax (VAT), excise, sales tax and their cascading effect resulted in high standard rate of tax up to 31%.

"It is now widely acknowledged that GST is both consumer and taxpayer-friendly. While the high tax rates of the pre-GST era acted as a disincentive to paying tax, the lower rates under GST helped to increase tax compliance," the ministry said. The number of assessees covered by the GST at the time of its inception were about 65 lakh. — PTI

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Apple begins assembly of iPhone SE in India

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24

Apple has started assembling its affordable second-generation iPhone SE (2020) in India that will reach authorised retail stores and online channels very soon, the company said on Monday.

Targeting Android mid-segment users as well as aspirational iPhone seekers, Apple brought the new iPhone SE to India that looks like Apple iPhone 8 with the power of iPhone 11, to the India market for just Rs 42,500.

"New iPhone SE packs our most powerful chip into our most popular size at our most affordable price and we're excited to be making it in India for our local customers," Apple said in a statement.

According to Navkendar Singh, Research Director, Client Devices and IPDS, IDC India, the new iPhone SE is finding

good traction in the India market, primarily because it is a new iPhone from Apple at an attractive price point.

"Given its attractive price and expected price aggression

by brands and channels during the next few festive months, we should see the new iPhone SE to further find good traction in next few months," Singh said. — IANS

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