

# The Sunday Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2021



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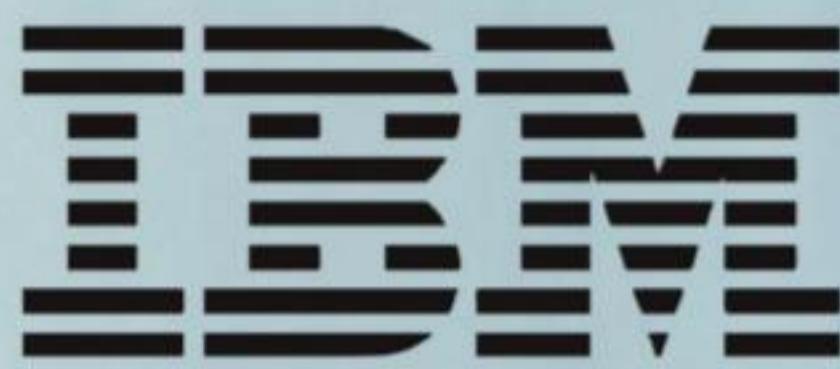
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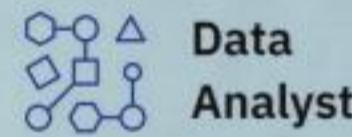
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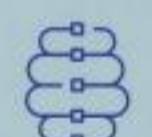
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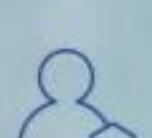
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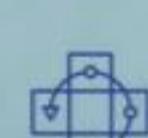
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# The Sunday Tribune

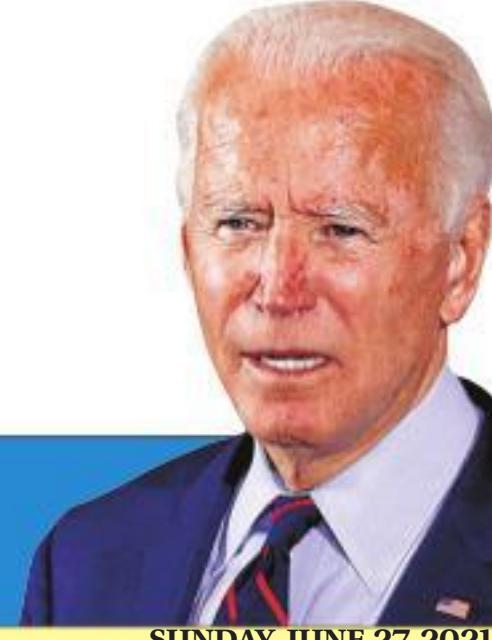
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CM TAKES UP NH PROJECTS  
WITH GADKARI HARYANA

NOTES ON GRIEF: FAMILIES OF COVID VICTIMS  
STRUGGLE TO COPE WITH LOSS SPECTRUM

INDIA INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT  
PARTNER, SAYS US BACK PAGE



SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2021

## End stir, resume talks, appeals Tomar as SKM holds protests in several states

Pb, Hry farmers face water cannons, enter Chd

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

### SEVEN MONTHS OF AGITATION

#### LUDHIANA MAN DIES AT TIKRI BORDER

As protesting farmers on Saturday tried to march to Raj Bhavans in several states on the completion of seven months of their agitation, the Centre appealed to the farm unions to end their stir and come forward for talks on any provision of the agricultural reform laws they deemed unfair.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar said the government was ready to listen to the unions about any objections they might have to specific provisions of the legislations, and even resolve them. He, however, ruled out repeal of the laws, as demanded by the protesters. "I want to appeal to the unions to end their agitation. The government has already

al reform laws are going to change the standard of their living," he said.

Tomar said a large section of the country was supporting the laws but if the unions had any objection to any provision, the government was ready to "discuss and find a solution to their concerns".

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body of 40 unions protesting at various Delhi border points, claimed the farmers were detained in states like Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana during the protests. The farmers were to submit memorandum of demands to the President through Governors.

Terming Tomar's recent statements as "perplexing and contradictory", the SKM

#### BJP MEET DISRUPTED, 15 BOOKED IN HISAR

The police have booked 15 farmers on the charges of mischief causing damage, rioting and unlawful assembly outside the BJP office in Hisar when the district unit was holding a meeting on June 24.

conducted 11 rounds of talks with the farmers. Agricultur-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Farmers leave Nada Sahib for Chandigarh. TRIBUNE PHOTO: NITIN MITTAL

## Back in J&K, Farooq flags trust deficit, wants statehood first

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 26 Back in Srinagar after the crucial meeting with PM Narendra Modi, National Conference leaders Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah again raised their demand for statehood before polls were conducted in J&K.

Noting that the proposed timeline of delimitation, elections, statehood was not acceptable to them, Omar said, "We want delimitation, statehood and then election. We have conveyed if you (the Centre) want to hold elections, you will have to restore statehood first."

NC president Farooq said it was for the Centre to address the prevailing mistrust between Delhi and J&K. He said the next step on the outcome and the way forward after the PM's meet would be decided after deliberations within the party and mem-



### PROMISES NOT KEPT

Before the 1996 poll, then PM Narasimha Rao had promised autonomy to J&K. Where is that?

Farooq Abdullah, NC PRESIDENT

### Retired IPS officers laud J&K initiatives

NEW DELHI: Lauding the government's efforts in making attempts to resolve the "complex Kashmir issue", a group of retired IPS officers on Saturday wrote an open letter to the PM, expressing hope the promise of bringing economic development to J&K would be fulfilled. Backing the decision to scrap Article 370 and divide J&K into two UTs, the group contended even Pak had started calling for reinstatement of statehood, "which amounts to accepting J&K is an integral part of Union of India". —TNS

bers of the People's Alliance of Gupkar Declaration (PAGD). Both the NC leaders ruled out any chasm within the PAGD and said the alliance and its purpose were intact and relevant.

Omar said the party had

authorised Farooq Abdullah to decide on participation in the next meeting of the Delimitation Commission in which J&K Lok Sabha MPs were associate members. The NC MPs had boycotted the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## Wait for final report: AIIMS chief on 'inflated' oxygen demand

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

#### 3RD WAVE WON'T BE AS SEVERE AS 2ND: STUDY

India's first modelling study designed to predict the scale and ferocity of a probable future wave of Covid-19 has concluded that a third wave, even if it struck, is unlikely to be as severe as the second.

#### 48,698 FRESH CASES

TOTAL DEATHS 3,94,493 ACTIVE CASES 5,95,565 1,183 DEATHS IN 24 HOURS

Delhi Government inflated its oxygen demand four-fold during the peak of the second

#### MILESTONE: 40 CR COVID TESTS, 18 CR/DAY IN JUNE

India has achieved the milestone of conducting 40 crore tests, with the average of 18 lakh tests/day in June only, ICMR has said

#### LET'S WORK TOGETHER

If BJP is done squabbling over oxygen, let us work together. Arvind Kejriwal, DELHI CM

Covid wave, Guleria said, "I do not think you can say that."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## India, Greece recognise threat posed by cross-border terrorism

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

#### NEW DELHI, JUNE 26

India and Greece demonstrated a commonality of positions on a number of issues, including terrorism and freedom of navigation, during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's interaction with his counterpart Nikos Dendias in Athens. The similarity of views on a number of issues led the two sides to agree to work together to establish a strategic partnership.

Jaishankar is visiting Greece on his way to Italy to attend the G-20 meeting of



Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias signs an agreement as his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar looks on, in Athens on Saturday. AP/PTI

foreign ministers.

In particular, the two countries recognised the threat posed by extremists, including

## Fix poor connectivity in rural areas: CJI to Prasad

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

#### NEW DELHI, JUNE 26

As Covid-19 exposes the digital divide in legal profession, Chief Justice of India NV Ramana has requested the Centre to ask telecom companies to provide uninterrupted Internet facility to lawyers in remote areas to enable them address courts, which have been functioning in virtual mode since March last year.

The CJI said he had written to IT and Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad to address the problem. He highlighted that poor Internet connectivity



BRIDGE DIGITAL DIVIDE

A whole generation of lawyers is being pushed out of system due to technological inequality. NV Ramana, CJI

in rural, tribal, remote and hilly areas was adversely impacting the pace of justice delivery.

### IN BRIEF

Sidhana gets interim protection from arrest

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Saturday granted interim protection from arrest to gangster-turned-activist Lakha Sidhana in connection with his "role" in R-Day violence. —PTI

Rajdhani derails, all passengers safe

MUMBAI: Goa-bound Rajdhani Express, with 309 passengers on board, derailed inside a tunnel in Ratnagiri of Maharashtra on Saturday, but nobody was injured in the incident. —PTI

Satyen Vaidya sworn in as HC Addl Judge

SHIMLA: Satyen Vaidya was sworn in as Additional Judge of the HP High Court on Saturday. —TNS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## Kotkapura SIT questions Sukhbir for over 4 hours

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE



SAD chief Sukhbir Badal in Chandigarh on Saturday.

### Ex-cop gets 22-yr jail for murder of George Floyd

#### MINNEAPOLIS, JUNE 26

Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who knelt on George Floyd's neck until he died, was on Friday sentenced to 22 and a half years in prison.

The punishment, which came after Chauvin broke his yearlong silence to offer condolences to Floyd family, is one of the longest prison terms ever imposed on a US police officer for killing a black person.

Floyd family and others, however, were disappointed. The sentence fell short of the 30 years prosecutors had sought. With good behaviour, Chauvin could get out on parole after serving two-thirds of his sentence. —AP

do so in self-defence. The SIT also wanted to know the role of the Home Minister in police postings/transfers shortly before the sacrifice incident in Bargarh on October 12, 2015, and the Kotkapura/Behbal Kalan police firing two days later.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## Captain for national policy on drugs

DGP says big fish caught | What about Majithia, asks Sidhu

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE



What is the action taken on the big fish mentioned in the STF report sent by the High Court to the govt?

Navjot Singh Sidhu, CONG LEADER

#### NOT AN ACCUSED IN ANY CASE: MAJITHIA INSIDE

recounted police successes in confiscating 2,100 kg of heroin. He said more than 420 big

fish (recovery of over 2 kg heroin) had been caught in the past four years. The Punjab Police had nabbed "most wanted" narco smuggler Ranjit Cheeta and the STF had busted a narcotic unit in Sultanwind area of Amritsar and seized over 190 kg heroin.

Responding to the DGP tweets, former minister and CM critic Navjot Singh Sidhu asked: "What have you done about Majithia? About those who gave political facilitation & protection to set up a chemical drug factory in Punjab? What is the action taken on the big fish mentioned in the STF report sent by the High Court to the government?"

He said four police personnel had been suspended and an inquiry ordered. —TNS

### Prez visit: Stuck in traffic, woman dies; UP cops apologise

#### NEW DELHI, JUNE 26

The head of the women's wing of the Kanpur chapter of the Indian Industries Association (IIA) today died on way to hospital owing to the "traffic arrangements" made for President Ram Nath Kovind's visit.

Kanpur Commissioner of Police Aseem Arun apologised for the incident. "The Kanpur city police and I apologise for the death of IIA president Vandana Mishra. This is a lesson for us in future," he tweeted.

He said four police personnel had been suspended and an inquiry ordered. —TNS

### Youth found dead, family blames kin of girlfriend

#### PANIPAT, JUNE 26

Another case of suspected honour killing was reported after the body of 25-year-old Rocky of Amupur village in Karnal was found in Rohna minor in the Kharkhoda area of Sonepat.

His family members alleged that he was murdered by the relatives of a girl with whom he had an affair.

SHO Vivek Malik said the hands and legs of the deceased were tied with a rope and there was an injury mark on his head. A case under Sections 302 and 201 IPC has been filed. —TNS

## Sonepat man fears for dead son's teen widow

Says can't accept her, may face social boycott

I can't keep her in my house because villagers will take an offence. She has nowhere to go. Once she is out of hospital, only misery awaits her. Om Prakash, DECEASED'S FATHER

her. If she succumbs to her bullet wounds, I worry who will cremate her. I can't do that because her family members tracked them down to Amberai village in New Delhi's Dwarka and opened fire for marrying despite being from the same village and gotra.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

AMBICA SHARMA

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, JUNE 26 The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has slammed the HP State Pollution Control Board for "inaction" against industrial units polluting water bodies in the state. The observation was made in a case pertaining to pollution in Balad river on account of leakage from a common effluent treatment plant.

#### JOINT PANEL TOLD TO FILE STATUS REPORT

The NGT expressed serious concern over four textile units of Baddi releasing effluents beyond permissible limit. A four-member joint panel has been directed to file a status report after inspecting the erring units

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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# Stir to continue until agri laws repealed: BKU

Tribune News Service

**BATHINDA, JUNE 26**  
On a call given by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, scores of farmers under the banner of BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) carried out a protest march in Bathinda to mark the completion of seven months of farmers' agitation against the three agricultural laws at Delhi borders.

Protesters, including a number of women, on tractors, motorcycles, cars and other vehicles took out a march and raised slogans against the Centre.

Shingara Singh Mann, state secretary, BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) said: "On June 26, the farmers' agitation completed seven months. To mark the occasion, we have carried out a protest march in the city. This day also holds historical significance as on June 26, 1975, the Emergency was imposed by the govern-



ment of the day. However, today there is an unannounced emergency."

"Anti-people laws are being made and then forcibly imposed on us. When people protest, they are booked and sent to jails to stifle the voice

of dissent. Even intellectuals and activists, who speak for the protection of basic rights, are being labelled as anti-nationals and booked under serious laws such as UAPA.

Now the government is hell-bent on giving the reins of

the agriculture sector to big corporate houses. We will not let that happen."

"We are firm in our resolve and will continue our fight until the laws are repealed," said Mann. Members of the Theka Mulazam Sangrash

## WON'T LET PRIVATE PLAYERS DOMINATE

Anti-people laws are being made and then forcibly implemented. The central government is hell-bent on giving the reins of the agriculture sector to big corporate houses. But we will not let that happen.

Shingara Singh Mann, BKU STATE SECRETARY  
<< BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) members protest in Bathinda on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Morcha also extended support to today's protest. Gurvinder Singh, a Morcha leader said: "We are against the privitisation of government sector enterprises and will stand united with farmers in their just cause."

# Docs to strike work tomorrow

Tribune News Service

**CHANDIGARH, JUNE 26**  
After their successful protest on Friday, the government doctors have decided to observe strike on Monday also against the 6th Pay Commission's recommendations and implementation.

Besides, the doctors, who are protesting the de-linking of non-practicing allowance from the basic pay, will stop medico-legal work. The strike call has been given by the Joint Punjab Government Doctors Coordination Committee, which has members, including Punjab Civil Medical Services Association, Punjab State Veterinary Officers Association, Punjab Medical Teachers Association, Rural Medical Officers Association, Punjab Dental Medical Officers Association and Punjab Ayurveda Officers Association.



**WILL STEP UP PROTEST IF DEMANDS NOT MET**

The state government must accept the genuine demands of doctors in public interest otherwise the agitation will be intensified.

Dr Deepinder Bhasin, president, Rural Medical Officers Association

Dr Deepinder Bhasin, president, Rural Medical Officers Association said the government must accept the genuine demands of doctors in public interest otherwise the agitation would be intensified.

## SSA staff hold protest over regularisation

SANGRUR, JUNE 26

Contractual employees working under the Sarv Sikhs Abhiyan today organised a state-level protest in Sangrur for the regularisation of their services. They have announced to intensify their agitation in coming days.

"The Punjab Government has decided to regularise

Relent after promise of meeting with minister



Farmers transplant paddy in a field at a village near Banga in Nawanshahr. PHOTO: MALKIAT SINGH

## Capt failed on promised power: AAP

BATHINDA, JUNE 26

Notwithstanding tall claims of surplus electricity, the state government has failed miserably in providing uninterrupted eight-hour supply to farmers amid the ongoing paddy sowing season, claimed AAP kisan wing state president Kultar Singh Sandhu here today.

Lashing out at the government, Sandhu accused Capt Amarinder Singh of harassing farmers over electricity "at the behest of Prime

Says ₹500 cr for PSPCL too little, too late

Minister Narendra Modi".

Sandhu said: "Under a conspiracy, the farmers were being provided only four hours of power, instead of promised eight hours, for agriculture. Even canal water supply is being cut off. Attempts to appease Modi by embarrassing farmers sitting at the Delhi borders, fighting

against the agricultural laws, have been exposed."

"The CM is now releasing Rs 500 crore for management of power out of fear of farmers' wrath. If the intention was clear, the government should have made arrangements for power procurement and eight-hour uninterrupted supply in May," he added. He condemned the police crackdown on farmers who were going to submit a memorandum against the farm laws to the Governor today. — TNS

## Ex-CE's death mourned

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 26

The Ranjit Sagar Dam and Shahpur Kandi Dam Project Engineers today mourned the death of former Chief Engineer Avtar Singh, who played a key role in the construction of the two dams.

Avtar died at the age of 83 on Friday in Mohali. A virtual condolence meeting, in which several retired engineers participated, was held to pay homage to the departed soul. — TNS

## PSPCL, govt ignored alert on electricity crisis: Engineers

Tribune News Service

PATIALA, JUNE 26

The PSEB Engineers' Association has criticised the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) management and the state government for going against the interest of the common man.

Engineers said they had been informing the PSPCL and government of the looming crisis and that the wrong decisions being taken by the power authority

## BEING MANHANDLED, CAN'T WORK

Engineers are being manhandled by people for the failures of the PSPCL management. It has become impossible for us to ensure quality supply to consumers. Jasvir Singh Dhiman, PRESIDENT, PSPCL ENGINEERS' ASSOCIATION

would lead to unreliable supply and higher electricity tariffs, but to no avail.

Jasvir Singh Dhiman, president of the association, said going against the Central Electricity Authority guide-

lines and ignoring the warnings of power shortage, the state government shut down the recently renovated and healthy thermal plant at Bathinda and two units at the Ropar plant without any

her appeal being turned down.

According to some retired officers, a widow's rights, including pensionary benefits, do not get curtailed on remarriage and the same have been upheld by the courts. They have pointed out that if other benefits continue, why should one allowance be stopped?

While pensionary benefits to armed forces personnel and their dependents are paid by the Centre, certain allowances and benefits to gallantry awardees or some other categories of soldiers are paid by the state government.

The matter has been taken up at the highest level with the government, with the chief minister also being apprised of the issue. Resumption of annuity due to her financial circumstances, but present rules resulted in

alternate arrangement.

With more than 50 per cent posts vacant, the PSPCL was facing an acute staff shortage, he said. "Engineers are being manhandled by people for the failures of the PSPCL management. Yesterday, protesting farmer unions gheraoed the Barnala Superintending Engineer of the power authority. Under such conditions, it has become impossible for us to ensure quality supply to consumers," said an association member.

"It is ironic that healthy thermal units are not being revived even when the state is in the middle of a major power crisis," he said.

## Preserve Bluestar bullet marks, SGPC urged

Tribune News Service

AMRITSAR, JUNE 26

The Sikh Youth Power of Punjab has appealed to the SGPC to preserve the bullet and shelling marks and mention the names of people at the particular spots in the Golden Temple where they had laid down their lives while defending the sanctity of the holiest Sikh shrine during the 1984 Operation Bluestar.

A delegation of the Sikh Youth Power of Punjab handed over a memorandum to the SGPC at its office on Saturday appealing it to preserve those buildings and marks sustained during the infamous Army assault.

The memorandum expressed its resentment at the SGPC for not maintaining the original bullet and shelling marks over the holy structure of Akal Takht and



Bullet marks on the wall of Teja Singh Samundri Hall.

Golden Temple complex.

Delegates Pardeep Singh Khalsa, Paramjit Singh Akali, Pritpal Singh, Iqbal Singh and Palwinder Singh said the marks should have been maintained for posterity.

## Lambi village achieves 100% vaccination target

MUKTSAR, JUNE 26

Pakki Tibbi village in the Lambi Assembly segment has achieved the target of getting all its adult population vaccinated against Covid-19.

Dr Iqbal Singh, Nodal Officer (Vaccination), Community Health Centre, Alamwala, said: "In the age group of 18-44, as many as 890 people have been vaccinated. Similarly, 748 persons above 45 years of age have been vaccinated. As per our lists, all village residents above the age of 18 have been vaccinated."

Meanwhile, sources in the district administration said after verification, the village panchayat would be honoured. Notably, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has announced Rs 10 lakh special grant to each fully vaccinated village.

Earlier, the panchayat of Dhulkot village in Gidderbaha

Assembly segment here was honoured by the district

COVID METER		
Cases	308	
Critical	120	
Active	4,376	
Deaths	15	
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Bathinda	37	0
Ludhiana	32	1
Hoshiarpur	24	0
Jalandhar	21	1
Amritsar	20	1
Total	5,94,586	15,979

administration for 98 per cent vaccination. Meanwhile, MLA Malout-cum-Deputy Speaker Ajai Singh Bhatti today announced that if any village or municipal ward in the Malout Assembly segment would achieve the target of 100 per cent vaccination in next seven days, he would give a grant of Rs 5 lakh to the panchayat from his discretionary funds. — TNS

## Moga man held with fake fertiliser

MOGA, JUNE 26

The police have arrested a man for allegedly selling fake fertiliser in the district.

Agriculture Development Officer Gurloveen Singh said he got a complaint from Gurhej Singh and Rashpal Singh, both residents of Mundi Jamaal village, that Harjinder Singh, a resident of Fatehgarh Panchtoor village, had supplied them with fake fertiliser under brand name "Fertis".

The agriculture officials said 1,32 quintal fake fertiliser had been recovered from the suspect, who was selling it in villages without a valid licence or permission from the state government.

The police have registered an FIR under Sections 420 of the IPC and 7 of the Essential Commodities Act at the Fatehgarh Panchtoor police station and arrested the suspect. — TNS

## State rule denies annuity to gallantry awardee's widow

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 26

A Punjab Government rule is denying resumption of monthly annuity paid to a widow of a Kirti Chakra recipient who had subsequently remarried. The annuity, under rules, can continue to be paid to the widow only if she remains single or remarries the brother of her deceased husband.

In 1999, an officer from 11th Sikh Regiment, Maj Raman Dada, had been awarded the Kirti Chakra posthumously after he died in an encounter in Assam in which 10 terrorists, including three by the major, were killed by his unit.

His widow had initially received the annuity paid by the Punjab Government, which was stopped after she remarried in 2005. In 2011, she got divorced. Now residing in Dehradun, she had taken up the case with the government for resumption of annuity due to her financial circumstances, but present rules resulted in

CM apprised of issue, may need policy change

her appeal being turned down.

According to some retired officers, a widow's rights, including pensionary benefits, do not get curtailed on remarriage and the same have been upheld by the courts. They have pointed out that if other benefits continue, why should one allowance be stopped?

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The matter has been taken up at the highest level with the government, with the chief minister also being apprised of the issue. Resumption of annuity due to her financial circumstances, but present rules resulted in

## Nab sacrilege mastermind: Sikh bodies

SANGRUR, JUNE 26

Demanding the arrest of the mastermind involved in the alleged sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib in Johlian village on Friday, various Sikh organisations on Saturday conducted a meeting at a gurdwara and called a meeting on July 4 to announce the future course of action. They also formed a five-member committee.

"Though the police have arrested the woman who set the Guru Granth Sahib on fire, we are sure that she is not the main culprit. We have conveyed to the police that they must find the mastermind, otherwise we will be compelled to launch an agitation," said Bachitar Singh from the Sikh Sadbhawna Dal.

However, some residents expressed satisfaction over the probe and requested the members to let the police investigate the matter thoroughly. — TNS

# Need more synergy among forces, agencies to curb smuggling: CM

Launches week-long awareness drive on Int'l Day against Drug Abuse

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 26

Reiterating his demand for a National Drug Policy to tackle the scourge, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday underlined the need for more synergy between the special task force (STF), police and intelligence wing to eliminate drugs from the state.

Calling for the support of all stakeholders to fight the menace, which he termed a global problem, the Chief Minister said while the neighbouring states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi had agreed to put in place an effective mechanism for tackling drug smuggling, no significant



Capt Amarinder Singh addresses citizens on Saturday. PHOTO: TWITTER

progress had been made.

Asserting his government's zero tolerance to drugs, the Chief Minister attributed the problem to the strong nexus between smugglers, gangsters and terrorists to promote narcotics and terrorism in the state, as well as Pakistan.

Interacting with the people

on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Chief Minister said most of the drugs, especially heroin, were smuggled into Punjab from Afghanistan via Pakistan bordering states like Haryana, J&K, Rajasthan, Delhi and even Nepal. He termed it a Pak conspiracy

to weaken Punjab's youth and weaning them from armed forces. He also launched a week-long statewide awareness drive by the School and Higher Education Departments.

Earlier, Health and Family Welfare Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu said the state government had made considerable progress in tackling drug abuse. He said medicines worth Rs 70 crore were being given every year to the persons undergoing treatment for drug de-addiction. The number of persons undergoing treatment had increased from 2,67,000 to 6,72,000, with the state government having spent Rs 70 crore to provide free medicines to patients.

## Nine booked for arson, looting ₹3L in Sangrur

SANGRUR, JUNE 26

Some youngsters allegedly set two vehicles on fire and looted Rs 3 lakh from a vend following a dispute over a liquor bottle on the Badrukhan road last night.

The police have registered a case against nine persons and started further investigations.

Liquor contractor's employees claimed the youngsters first purchased a bottle from their vend but came back after some time to return the bottle, alleging its seal was tampered with. When the staff insisted the seal was intact at the time of purchase,

Suspects burn two vehicles of vend staff over liquor bottle

the youngsters got angry and called up some friends.

"They attacked us, set our vehicles on fire and looted Rs 3 lakh before fleeing," claimed a contractor's employee.

ASI Sukhdev Singh from the Badrukhan police post said they had registered a case against Manjot Singh, Bhagwant Singh and seven others under Sections 379, 323 and 506 of the IPC. —TNS

## Three jailers suspended over hookah party

Inquiry report questions role of Ludhiana prison officials

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LUDHIANA, JUNE 26

After a month-long probe by the Department of Jails into a hookah party by gangster Nikka Jatana and his aides in the Central Jail here, three prison officials have been placed under suspension.

The suspended officials are Assistant Jail Superintendent Abdul Hamid, Warden Rupinder Singh and Head Warden Harpal Singh. Block in charge Assistant Superintendent Tarsem Pal has been transferred.

Jail Superintendent Balkar Singh Bhullar said



after receiving orders from senior officials, the three jail officials were immediately placed under suspension for negligence.

"When inmates were holding a hookah party inside their cell, the officials displayed negligence on duty as

### STAFF NEGLIGENT

When inmates were holding a hookah party inside the cell, the officials displayed negligence on duty and failed to act.

Balkar Singh Bhullar, JAIL SUPERINTENDENT

they failed to act. The gangsters made a video and posted it on social media. They even enjoyed Punjabi songs on an LED TV in their barracks," added Bhullar.

The probe report questioned the presence of banned substances, including hookah,

inside the jail and the role of officials on duty.

After the matter came to light on May 16, Jails Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa had marked a probe to ADGP (Prisons) Parveen Kumar Sinha. The probe was conducted by DIG (Prisons) Surinder Saini, who submitted the report to the ADGP.

The jail had recently witnessed a major controversy after Punjabi singer Karan Aujla entered the premises with police escort on April 7. He spent considerable time with then Jail Superintendent Rajiv Arora, who was later placed under suspension.

## Covid hits lone de-addiction project for women

APARNA BANERJI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, JUNE 26

State's flagship de-addiction project for women, touted as a success story until six months ago, is now faced with staff shortage and dwindling numbers in the middle of the Covid pandemic.

The project has witnessed a drop in the number of women receiving de-addiction services at Kapurthala — from 241 receiving services initially to 45 now. Mobilised and funded by NGO HIV/AIDS Alliance for two years, the project witnessed success as women began turning up for de-addiction treatment in large numbers as a result of direct

No. of drug users seeking help falls to 45 from 241

### WILL GIVE MORE STAFF

We have already assured the centre of providing more staff. We were caught up due to Covid engagements. The numbers will rise as curbs are eased. Dr Hussan Lal, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, HEALTH

outreach by former drug dependents and staff.

But with six members — including one counsellor, staff nurse, manager each and three outreach workers — leaving after the project ended in December, women are now shying away from turning up.

After the NGO left, the state government has failed to pro-

vide additional workers to sustain the project. The Outreach Programme for Women Drug Users — a project run under the HIV/AIDS Alliance at the Navkiran Kendra in Kapurthala — was started in February 2019 and ended on December 31, 2020. The project provided nine

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice persons interested in the following acquired land mentioned in the Schedule to the Govt. of India, Gazette Notification vide S.O. No. 1510(E) dated 08/04/2021 was published on 15/04/2021 in Newspaper "The Tribune (English) and Jagban (Punjabi) under section 3-D of the National Highway Act 1956 for the Public purpose of 4/6 laning of NH-205-A (It City Chowk to Kurali Chandigarh Road) from Km. 0.000 to Km. 31.230 in the District of SAS Nagar to appear in persons or by an agent or by a legal practitioner and State the nature of interest in such land and claims to compensation etc. of this acquired land by 02/07/2021 in the office of CALA cum DRO SAS Nagar between (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon), District Administration Complex SAS Nagar, Mohali. The Detail of Villages are as under:-

Tehsil Kharar:- Bajheri (70), Jhanjeri, Kanauran (109), Mammupur (381), Pir Sohana (72), Sahauran (95) and Shekhpuja.

This notice is issued u/s 3G(3)/(4) of National Highway Act, 1956.

-SD-

CALA cum DRO, SAS Nagar, Mohali

## For 5 yrs, no NDPS case in 97 Sangrur villages

PARVESH SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, JUNE 26

In 97 villages of the Sangrur district, which shares a 42-km-long border with Haryana and where smuggling had always been a big headache for the police, no resident had been booked in drug case for the past five years.

After receiving resolutions from the panchayats of these villages, the Sangrur police have declared them drug-free after verifying the records for the past five years.

"Our village has not seen a single case under the NDPS Act for the past five years. With police support, our residents have been maintaining a strict vigil to prevent drug smuggling," said Jaswinder Kaur, sarpanch, Changaliwala village.

Other villages include Sherpur Sodian, Jati Majra, Balangar, Ruldu Singh Wala, Burj Gohra, Deh Kalan, Rasalda Chhana, Nanakpura, Santokh Pura, Harkishanpura, Sanjuma, Adakwas, Balad Kothi,



### HUGE SEIZURE

From January 1 to May 31, 2021, the police seized 860-kg poppy husk, 15-kg opium and 2.72-kg heroin, Sangrur SSP Vivek Sheel Soni said

Sakraudi, Sangatpura and Gehla Matran among others.

"We have decided to take a strict action against any resident found smuggling drugs," said Ranjit Kaur, sarpanch, Gag village. Sangrur SSP Vivek Sheel Soni said they had been trying to motivate maximum villagers against drugs.

From January 1, till May 31, 2021, the police have registered 285 NDPS cases, arrested 413 accused and seized 860-kg poppy husk, 15-kg opium, 2.72-kg heroin, 184-kg ganja and 1,91,224 habit-forming tablets.



Last date of receipt of application forms: 05 July, 2021

Entrance Examination: 11 July, 2021

Apply as per instructions on application form available on the website:

[gurukashiuiversity.in](http://gurukashiuiversity.in) | E-mail : [info@gku.ac.in](mailto:info@gku.ac.in)

For Query: +91-8280-02223, 98880-46264

Registrar

## Sidhu targets govt, SAD on drugs

JUPINDERJIT SINGH  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 26

On a day when the Punjab CM sought a national policy to curb the menace of drugs, his former Cabinet colleague Navjot Singh Sidhu took a dig at the government's claims on success against drugs, asking if they had caught any 'big fish'. Sidhu in the same breath took former Akali minister Bikram Singh Majithia to task on the smuggling issue.

Sidhu took to Twitter in response to tweets by DGP Dinkar Gupta, who listed success against drug smugglers under the guidance of the CM.

Sidhu also targeted SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal over his "failure" to ensure justice in sacrilege cases and named senior Akali leaders for alleged role in drugs smuggling.

"6 years since sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib, no justice in 2 years of your rule. No

### WHAT OF BIG FISH?

What have you (DGP) done about Majithia? About those who gave political facilitation to set up chemical drug factory in Punjab? What is the action taken on big fish mentioned in STF report?

Navjot Singh Sidhu, CONGRESS MLA

### YOU PREPARED REPORT?

Sidhu is referring to an STF report which was supposed to have been submitted to the HC in a sealed cover. Was he the one who prepared it for political gains? I am not an accused in any case.

Bikram Singh Majithia, EX-SAD MINISTER



Bikram Singh Majithia, EX-SAD MINISTER

## Police destroy contraband worth ₹1,318 cr

AMRITSAR, JUNE 26

To mark 'International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking', the Punjab Police today destroyed heroin worth over Rs 1,318 crore in the international drug market at a state-level programme here today.

Police Commissioner Dr Sukhchain Singh Gill said 659 kg heroin besides 3,000 kg poppy husk, 5.8 crore sedative pills and capsules, 166 kg ganja and 5 kg charas and other intoxicants brought from different districts of the state were destroyed at a paper mill incinerator here.

The Police Commissioner said the drug disposal committee from different districts destroyed the drugs seized in their respective areas. He said earlier Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh digitally launched the programme. Strict protocol was followed by taking permission from courts for the destruction of case property. —TNS

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**maSti**  
DAHI  
Helps in improving immunity, gut health and bone strength

\*MSP (incl. of all taxes). Conditions apply.

**प्राकृतिक खेती खुशहाल किसान योजना**  
कृषि विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश

**महामारी के इस संकट काल में सही पोषणयुक्त भोजन स्वस्थ रहने का मूल मंत्र है**

**अपनी प्रतिरोधक क्षमता बढ़ाएं तथा खाएं:**

**प्राकृतिक खेती के स्थानीय उत्पाद**

**प्रदेश में 1,18,504 किसान-बागवान कर रहे प्राकृतिक खेती**

**ये किसान उपलब्ध हैं आपके ही आस - पास**

अधिक जानकारी के लिए अपने जिला के परियोजना निदेशक (PD, ATMA) से संपर्क करें :

1. शिमला	डॉ. हरीश कुमार ठाकुर	94180-82842, 0177-2831667
2. हरीनगर	डॉ. नीति साही	94181-56107, 01972-225587
3. कांगड़ा	डॉ. शशि पाल अत्री	70184-31069, 01894-230039
4. विलासपुर	डॉ. प्राची	94181-15404, 01978-222379
5. कुल्लू	डॉ. सुरेंद्र ठाकुर	94180-79861, 01902-226825
6. मंडी	डॉ. व्रद्धि दास जसवाल	94180-58364, 01905-235182
7. झज्जर	डॉ. राजेश्वर कवर	94184-51322, 01975-223211
8. चंबा	डॉ. दिनेश ठाकुर	94181-45096, 01899-224140
9. सिरमौर	डॉ. साहब सिंह	94184-77990, 01702-223746
10. सोलन	डॉ. रविंद्र सिंह जसरोटिया	94187-85407, 01792-230009
11. किन्नौर	डॉ. सोमराज नेही	98160-40679, 01786-222915
12. लाहौल व स्पीति	डॉ. शंकर शर्मा	94180-92011, 01900-202808

आरोपी: राज्य परियोजना कार्यालय इकाई  
प्राकृतिक

**GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH  
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT  
"Notice Inviting e-Tender"**

The Executive Engineer JSV Division Thural invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible Contractors for the following work(s) through e-tendering process:-

**Work No. 1:** Providing LWSS to PC habitation Sakoh & Liunda etc. in Tehsil Jaisinghpur, Distt. Kangra HP under JMM (SH)- C/O Pump House-cum-Attendant Room, Main Storage Tank 15000 Litres Capacity & Collection tank 20000. **Estimated Cost Rs. 1060140/-, Earnest Money Rs. 21202/-, Time Limits: 12 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 400/-.**

1. Last date of filling/uploading the tender through e-tendering:- **02.07.2021 up to 5.00 P.M.** The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website <http://htenders.gov.in>

**Executive Engineer,  
JSV Division,  
Thural.**

DPR/HP/1882

**EMPLOYEE'S PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION  
(Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt. of India)**

Regional Office, S.C.O. 4-7, Sector-17-D, Chandigarh-160017 Tel.: 2701190, 2701158, 2701355, Fax: 2710453 Website: [www.epfindia.gov.in](http://www.epfindia.gov.in), [www.epfindia.nic.in](http://www.epfindia.nic.in)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**

Sealed quotations are invited from the Govt./Semi-Govt. agencies for Annual Maintenance Contract in respect to Civil & Electrical Work of Office Building and Staff Quarters of Employees Provident Fund Organization, Regional Office, Chandigarh for the period **01.08.2021 to 31.07.2022**. The terms and conditions can be downloaded from our website i.e., [www.epfindia.com](http://www.epfindia.com) under the link Tenders/Auctions. The last date of receipt of applications is **21.07.2021 by 11:00 AM at O/o EPFO, SCO-4-7, Sector -17-D, Chandigarh super scribbling "Annual Maintenance Contract in respect to Civil & Electrical Work of Office Building and Staff Quarters".**

**Sd/-  
Regional P.F. Commissioner-I**

**Photograph & Description Un-Identified Dead Body**

Sr. No.	Brief facts of case	Description of deceased	FIR/DDR No., Date & PS	Photograph of deceased
One unidentified dead body of male person has been kept in mortuary of PGI Chandigarh for identification.	Age- About 35 Years. Height- 5'-6" Complexion- Wheatish Face- Oval Built- Strong Wearing- Blue Shirt & Trouser	47/21 Dated 20.06.2021 U/S 279,337 IPC PS Parwanoo		

If any clue leading to the identification of above mentioned unknown deceased came to notice or matched with description of any missing person, the information may please be given to SHO P.S Sadar Solan (HP) on Telephone Number: 01792-233124 E-mail [police.parwanoo-hp@nic.in](mailto:police.parwanoo-hp@nic.in) as well as this office Telephone No. = 01792-223836 E-mail = [\(S.P. Office Solan\).](mailto:sp-sol-hp@nic.in)

DPR/HP/196

**No.7-87/2021-EXN-  
Department of State Taxes & Excise,  
Himachal Pradesh.**

Dated: Shimla 26th June, 2021

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

AUCTION-CUM-TENDER OF LEASE TO COLLECT TOLL AT SPECIFIED BARRIERS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE H.P. TOLLS ACT, 1975 FOR THE PERIOD OF NINE MONTHS WITH EFFECT FROM 1.7.2021 TO 31.3.2022.

The Himachal Pradesh Government has approved to grant lease of the right to collect Toll by Auction-cum-Tender process in respect of specified barriers under the H.P. Tolls Act, 1975. The date, time and place of Auction-cum-Tender in respect of barriers falling in a particular district are mentioned below:-

Sr. No.	District	Date & Time	Venue
1.	Sirmour	29.06.2021 at 10.00 AM	O/o DCSTE Sirmour at GST Bhawan, Gunnughat, Nahan, Distr. Sirmour, H.P.
2.	Bilaspur	29.06.2021 at 10.00 AM	Zila Parishad Hall, Bilaspur, Distr. Bilaspur, H.P.
3.	Una	29.06.2021 at 10.00 AM	Bachat Bhawan, Una, Distr. Una, H.P.
4.	Solan	29.06.2021 at 10.00 AM	O/o DCSTE Solan, Saproon, Distr. Solan H.P.
5.	R.D. Nurpur	29.06.2021 at 10.00 AM	O/o DCSTE Nurpur at Jach, Distr. Kangra, H.P.
6.	Shimla	29.06.2021 at 10.00 AM	O/o DCSTE Shimla, SDA Complex Block No. 5, Distr. Shimla, H.P.
7.	R.D. BBN Baddi	29.06.2021 at 10.00 AM	BBNI Hall, Jharmajri Barotwala, Baddi, Distr. Solan, H.P.

1. The grant of lease of right to collect toll shall be governed by the provisions of the H.P. Toll Policy 2021-22 and such terms and conditions as have been notified by the Commissioner of State Taxes & Excise.

2. The detailed terms and conditions of grant of lease of right to collect toll shall be available in the offices of the concerned Dy. Commissioners of State Taxes & Excise of the Districts. All intending bidders are advised to go through the same thoroughly before submitting the bids.

3. All details regarding (a) barriers or group of barriers, (b) reserve price (c) the rates of toll applicable for the lease period and (d) other connected details can be consulted or obtained personally by the persons from the DCSTEs mentioned above. The detailed terms and conditions are also available on H.P. Government official website i.e. [www.hptax.gov.in](http://www.hptax.gov.in).

4. The Auction-cum-Tender process will be subject to approval by the Commissioner of State Taxes & Excise who reserves the right to reject the same without assigning any reason.

5. The dates and venues are liable to be changed at the sole discretion of the Commissioner of State Taxes & Excise, Himachal Pradesh.

**Sd/- (Yunus) IAS**

Commissioner of State Taxes & Excise,  
Himachal Pradesh.

Endst. No. 7-87/2021-EXN-17336-71 Dated 26.06.2021 DPR/HP/194

**STATE BANK OF INDIA Jalalabad (West) Branch - 01756  
Distt. Fazilka - 152024**

Ph. - 01638-250246, Fax - 01638-250544 Email: [sbi.1756@sbi.co.in](mailto:sbi.1756@sbi.co.in)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officers of the State Bank of India, Main Branch, Jalalabad West under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, [54 of 2002] and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice(s) to borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) on the date(s) mentioned hereunder calling upon the borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) to repay the amount(s) mentioned in the respective demand notice(s) with in 60 days of the date of notice. The borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount(s), notice is hereby given to the respective borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and the public in general that Authorized Officer has taken Symbolic Possession of the property/properties described herein below, in exercise of powers conferred in him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8&9 of the said rules, on the dates mentioned against each account. The borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) in particulars and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/properties, and any dealings with the property/properties will be subjected to the charge of the State Bank of India, Main Branch, Jalalabad West for the amount(s) mentioned herein below besides interest and other charges/expenses against each account. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section(8) of the section 13 of the Act in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of The Account	Description of Property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice	Amount Outstanding
1. Rajinder Singh S/o Sunder Singh, Royal Enclave Manne Wala Road, Jalalabad (West) 2nd Address Rajinder Singh S/o Sunder Singh, H.No. 542, St.No.8, Ward No.8, Ganchok Nagal, Jalalabad (West) 3rd Address Rajinder Singh S/o Sunder Singh, New Bharat Model School, 18/06/06, Doshmesh Nagar, Jalalabad (West) 2nd Address Malik Singh S/o Indu Singh, Chak Maane Wala, Manne Wala Road, Jalalabad (West).	All that part & parcel i.e. equitable mortgage of Resi. House measuring 20'x58'3" i.e. 1165sqft.	03-02-2021	21-06-2021	Rs 10,66,143.00 +interest thereon
2. Rakesh Nagpal & Rajesh Kumar Nagpal Sons of Chanan Singh & Gurjeet Singh, Colony No. 1, Ward No. 8, Ganchok Nagal, Jalalabad (West) 2nd Address Rakesh Nagpal & Rajesh Kumar Nagpal Sons of Chanan Singh & Gurjeet Singh, Colony No. 1, Ward No. 8, Ganchok Nagal, Jalalabad (West) 3rd Address Rakesh Nagpal & Rajesh Kumar Nagpal Sons of Chanan Singh & Gurjeet Singh, Colony No. 1, Ward No. 8, Ganchok Nagal, Jalalabad (West) 4th Address Ashok Kumar Chugh S/o Ashok Kumar Chugh S/o Dinesh Raj, Vee Kay Autos, Old Bus Stand Jalalabad (West), 5th Address Ashok Kumar Chugh S/o Dinesh Raj, Vee Kay Autos, Old Bus Stand Jalalabad (West), 6th Address Ashok Kumar Chugh S/o Dinesh Raj, Vee Kay Autos, Old Bus Stand Jalalabad (West), 7th Address Ashok Kumar Chugh S/o Dinesh Raj, Vee Kay Autos, Old Bus Stand Jalalabad (West), 8th Address Ashok Kumar Chugh S/o Dinesh Raj, Vee Kay Autos, Old Bus Stand Jalalabad (West), 9th Address Ashok Kumar Chugh S/o Dinesh Raj, Vee Kay Autos, Old Bus Stand Jalalabad (West), 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# Don't get misguided by halo of power, says DGP

Tribune News Service

Issues advisory to all IPS and HAS officers



Power is always attached to a position and not to a person, so you should always be mindful of the gospel.

Sanjay Kundu, DGP

the gospel," he added. The advisory has been prepared on the basis of a brainstorming session of the top brass of the state police.

He said that the entire police force must strive hard as a cohesive team to re-establish its image and prevent the recurrence of such ugly incidents. Policemen have been asked to

identify their blind spots or deficiencies in their personalities and address them. "All officers need to learn to apply tact and not be unduly technical about guidelines," the advisory says though it is not exactly known what made the situation ugly that Kullu SP Gaurav Singh slapped Additional SP (CM Security) Brijesh Sood.

It has also been recommended that Police Training College must include in its curriculum training for officers for temperance and poise when under duress. It has also been recommended that the thrust should be on maintaining interpersonal relations and collaboration, especially during functions, VIP movement and law and order situations.

Kundu has no qualms in admitting that the incident has not only become viral on social media but also has elicited a negative and highly uncharitable public response.

## DIG submits inquiry report on Kullu scuffle

Tribune News Service

SHIMLA, JUNE 26

DIG, Central Range, Madhusudan today submitted the inquiry report on the scuffle involving the former Kullu SP, Additional SP (Chief Minister's security) and the personal security officer (PSO) of the Chief Minister outside the Bhuntar airport a few days ago to DGP Sanjay Kundu.

He submitted the preliminary fact-finding report with regard to the incident that occurred in Kullu during the visit of Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on June 23.

"It is after studying the preliminary fact-finding report, the yellow book (Guidelines on security protocol of highly vulnerable persons) and other evidence on record that the police headquarters will send a report to the state government," said Kundu.

The government has already suspended former Kullu SP Gaurav Singh and Chief Minister's PSO Bal-



SLAPGATE

Kullu SP Gaurav Singh had reportedly slapped Brijesh Sood, Additional SP (CM Security), after a heated argument on June 23. The Chief Minister's PSO also retaliated by kicking the SP

want, but the inquiry report will indicate the reason for the scuffle and who was at fault. The scuffle has brought a bad name to the Himachal Police.

Additional SP Brijesh Sood, who was slapped by the SP outside the Bhuntar airport, was sent on compulsory leave. Sood, in a video on social media, is seen engaged in an argument with the SP and later slapped by him. Sood, however, did not retaliate but the Chief Minister's PSO kicked the SP, who ran to save himself.

## To win voters' trust, BJP to train workers

DHARAMSALA, JUNE 26

The two-day extended core group meeting of the BJP concluded at Dharamsala today. State BJP spokesperson Randhir Sharma, while addressing mediapersons, said that the assembled leaders decided to organise mass training programmes for the party workers across Himachal Pradesh.

He said that the party would organise training programmes from October at the district, sub-divisional and block levels and these would continue in 2022. Later, trained party workers would conduct a mass contact programme and approach voters to make them aware about the achievements of the BJP governments at the Centre and in the state, Sharma said.



BJP state president Suresh Kashyap with other senior leaders at the working committee meeting at Dharamsala on Saturday.

He added that it was decided at the meeting that the party workers at the panchayat level would be trained to carry forward the information campaign of the BJP.

Sharma said that 30 top leaders of the party attended the meeting. They gave suggestions on increasing the party base in Himachal. The party workers would be motivated and galvanised in view of Mission Repeat 2022 for the Assembly elections. He said that party committees had been formed to take feedback regarding the constituencies where the byelections are due. Once the Election Commission announces the dates for the bypolls, the BJP would announce the candidates. — TNS

### NOTICE FOR OFFLINE TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Rampur invited tenders on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works(s) through offline process.

Job No.	Name of Work	Estd. Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Form	Time
1.	Providing Household connection to individuals in GP Thailly Chakti, Shoh Kaleda Majheot under Jal Shakti Section Thailly Chakti in Tehsil Nankhari Distt. Shimla (HP) (SH-LJ & testing of GMS Tube light grde 15mm dia at Node No. 14-15-13-17-21-22-26-27, 26-28, 25-29, 31-33, & 34-36 to provide FHTC to household) phase-Ist Job-1.	Rs. 369870/-	Rs. 7397/-	Rs. 250/-	Three Months
2.	Providing WSS to Balance FHTCs in GP Kashaphar Tehsil Rampur Distt. Shimla (HP) (SH- Laying and Jointing of GI pipe of various dia in different Node).	Rs. 498200/-	Rs. 9964/-	Rs. 250/-	Three Months
3.	Providing 'Household' connection to individuals in GP Thailly Chakti, Shoh Kaleda Majheot under Jal Shakti Section Thailly Chakti in Tehsil Nankhari Distt. Shimla (HP) (SH-LJ & testing of GMS Tube light grde 15mm dia at Node No. 55-56-58-60-57-61-66-67 & 69-71 provide FHTC to household) Phase-Ist Job-1.	Rs. 357864/-	Rs. 7157/-	Rs. 250/-	Three Months
4.	A/R & M/O to GWSS Theda Chikhi in GP Taklech Tehsil Rampur Distt. Shimla (HP) (SH- C/O No RCC S/Tank 10,000 ltr Cat at Node No 5 al Chikhi).	Rs. 130796/-	Rs. 2616/-	Rs. 250/-	Three Months
5.	Repair & Maintenance of various hand pumps under Jal Shakti Sections Thailly Chakti & Kungali Balti under Jal Shakti Sub-Division Nankhari Tehsil Nankhari Distt. Shimla (HP) (SH- Repair of 10 Nos-functional Hand Pumps at different Location).	Rs. 135179/-	Rs. 2865/-	Rs. 250/-	Two Months
6.	Energisation of Hand pump at durga Mata Temple at Talai in GP Duttnagar in Tehsil Rampur (SH- Providing, Errection & testing of submersible pump set of 1.50 HP in borewell and Prov. & fixing of Riser pipe of HDPE 32 mm dia = 70 Rmt.)	Rs. 175379/-	Rs. 3508/-	Rs. 250/-	One Month
7.	A/R & R & M/O LVSS Kharahan Khad to Jahoo, Junji, Bani Basa, Khunni Palri, Kifferdhara in GP Jahoo Tehsil Nankhat Distt. Shimla (HP) (SH- Repair and rewinding of 2 Nos 20 BHP capacity submersible motors).	Rs. 115725/-	Rs. 2315/-	Rs. 250/-	Three Months
8.	Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance under NRWDP programme under Distt. Shimla HP (SH- Providing and Supplying of chemical reagent and CRM for Jal Shakti Sub-Division Rampur).	Rs. 299649/-	Rs. 6593/-	Rs. 250/-	One Month
9.	R/R Damages to WSS Bahl Khanewali in GP Bahl in Tehsil Rampur Distt. Shimla (HP) (SH- C/O R/Wall from RD 0/8010 to 8021 to protect the main pipe line at Dalog).	Rs. 499930/-	Rs. 9999/-	Rs. 250/-	Two Months
10.	Tapping Additional Source to WSS Nogidhar in GP Dansa in Tehsil Rampur Distt. Shimla (HP) (SH- C/O RCC Nalla Intake Chamber 1 No. & LJ of GI Pipe 20mm dia = 1400 Rmt. at different Node).	Rs. 141867/-	Rs. 2837/-	Rs. 250/-	Three Months

Last date of submission of tender 30.06.2021 up to 11:00 a.m. and will be opened on same day on 11:30 a.m.

Last date of sale of tender from Divisional Office 29.06.2021 up to 4:00 p.m. The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from the website [www.ipb.org.in](http://www.ipb.org.in) or from office of above Executive Engineer up to date specified above.

(Er. R.S. Negi)  
Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti Division Rampur,  
Ph. No. 01782-233125.

DPR/HP/1832

### KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA NO. 1 AFS PATHANKOT (PUNJAB) - 145001

Phone : 0186-2340244, Email: kvfpathankot@gmail.com, Website : <https://no1pathankot.kvs.ac.in>

#### WALK IN INTERVIEW

All eligible candidates are invited with requisite documents to participate in walk in interview of Contractual / Part- Time Teachers for the session 2021-22 as per following details.

Sr. No	Interview Date & Time	Post
1.	15.07.2021, (09:00 AM)	PGT - (English, Hindi, Math, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Economics, Commerce, History, Geography, Computer Science, Political Science)
2.		TGT - (English, Hindi, Math, Science, Social Science, Sanskrit, Punjabi, Physical & Health Education, Art Education, W.E.T. Librarian)
3.		Primary Teacher, Music Teacher, Nurse, Games Coach, Counsellor, Yoga Teacher, Data Entry Operator, Doctor

Eligibility and Qualification will be applicable as per the KVS and visit the KVS Website : <https://kvssangathan.nic.in> for the same. Sd/- Principal

### H.P. STATE FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Govt. of Himachal Pradesh Undertaking)

Regd. Office: Van Nigam Bhawan SDA Commercial Complex, Block No. 1, Kasumti,

Shimla-171009, Phone Exchange No. : 0177-2622452, 53, 54, Fax : 0177-2621183

CIN: U02001HP1974SGC003413, Website : [hpfco.in](http://hpfco.in)

### TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders/ off line tenders are invited from registered Labour Supply Mates (LSMs) for felling of trees, conversion into timber, pulpwood, fuel wood etc. its carriage up to Road Side Depots (through different mode of carriage) and further transportation to Himkashth Sale Depots as well as transportation of fuel wood to Sale Depots of Tribal areas etc. (where ever required). The requisite document along with Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be submitted in the office of Divisional Managers, FWD concerned on or before the date(s) mentioned as under :

Name of FWD	July 2021	August 2021	September 2021	October 2021	November 2021	December 2021
Chamba	02 & 08	02, 10 & 20	03,13 & 20	05,12 & 19	02,11 & 18	02, 09 & 17
Dharamshala	05 & 19	03, 11 & 21	04,15 & 25	06,14 & 21	03,12 & 20	03, 10 & 18
Hamirpur	06,15 & 19	04, 12 & 25	06,17 & 27	07,12 & 18	08,16 & 25	04, 13 & 20
Mandi	07,15 & 26	09,16 & 26	07,14 & 27	06,14 & 26	08,16 & 25	07, 15 & 27
Kullu	08,16 & 27	10,17 & 27	08,15 & 28	07,16 & 27	09,17 & 26	08,16 & 28
Sundernagar	09,17 & 28	11,18 & 28	09,16 & 29	08,18 & 28	10,18 & 27	09,17 & 29
Shimla	08 & 19	03 & 18	02 & 20	04 & 18	02 & 18	01 & 15
Solan	09 & 20	04 & 20	03 & 21	05 & 19	03 & 20	02 & 16
Nahan	12 & 22	05 & 23	04 & 22	06 & 21	08 & 22	03 & 17
Rampur	13 & 23	06 & 24	06 & 23	07 & 22	09 & 23	04 & 18
Chopal	14 & 24	07 & 25	07 & 24	08 & 23	10 & 25	06 & 20
Sawra	15 & 26	09 & 27	08 & 25	11 & 25	11 & 26	07 & 21

LSMs may also offer tenders up to the value of Rs. 5.00 Lakh contract value as per tender list through offline or on lines as per their convenience). E-Tenders/ off line should reach in the office of DM, FWD concerned on or before the stipulated date up to 2.00 PM which will be opened on the same day at 2.30 PM in presence of the tenderers who may wish to be present. The tender should be accompanied by required amount of EMD, cost of Tender Form (12% GST will be extra). Terms and conditions, EMD, Cost of tender Forms etc. can be had from the office of DM, FWD concerned on any working.

Note: If a holiday falls on any of the above date(s), tender will be held on the next working day

Sd/- Executive Director

**INVITATION FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
Request for proposals for the below mentioned works are invited from the eligible contractors as per eligibility criteria through an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract.

Name of the Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of RFP Document
Widening of existing shopping street road from Phase VII (Light point) to Phase XI (Light point)	₹ 3912.91 Lac	₹ 44.20 Lac	₹ 20,000/-
including construction of one number high level bridge & rehabilitation of existing bridge and development of balance roads of Sector 62, S.A.S Nagar in State of Punjab on EPC mode including five years of maintenance. (Civil, Public Health, Electrical & Horticulture works)			
Tender Processing Fee (Appx.): ₹ 5900/-			
Period of Completion : 12 months			

Online availability of tender for bidding      Last date & time of opening of tenders in O/o S.E. (C-I), GMADA, Room No. 445,

# MATRIMONIALS

## BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

## JAT SIKH

**Usbased Jatt Sikh match for 1992**  
born 5'-5" beautiful girl. B.Tech (GoldMedalist), MS from USA. Software Engineer in California +91-8284952186 or mtusa@gmail.com (CL21022260)

**Officer match for extremely**  
beautiful 5'-7", 30. Master Technology, MBA, decent job. Belongs educated landlord family. Tricity preferred. 97799-70100. (CL21025594)

**MD/ MBBS match for beautiful,**  
Jatt Sikh 1990/ 5'-6". MBBS girl. Contact: 92177-69396 WhatsApp 70098-60490. (CL21020562)

**Jatt Sikh Sidhu family seeks**  
professionally qualified Jatt Sikh, clean shaven match for their beautiful, 5'-6". July 88 born, MBA daughter. Currently working with an IT Company in Mohali. Contact: 085888-15109. sidhukarwan81@gmail.com (CL21022533)

**Seeking Jatt Sikh, professionally**  
settled match for 5'-8", beautiful Jatt Sikh make up artist, August 1989 born, brought up in the US, genuine queries only, kukar161@gmail.com (CL21023144)

**SM for beautiful Jatt Sikh US citizen**  
31, 5'-5" B.Sc. Medical, pursuing Clinical SAS Programmer. WhatsApp 1253326983. (CL21023446)

**Professionally qualified well settled**  
match for Jatt Sikh girl, 87, 5'-4", B.Tech., M.Tech. ECE, Software Developer in MNC Noida. Father Govt. Officer, brother Software Engineer. Contact jattsikh.gill.asr@gmail.com, 98730-7996. (CL21025253)

**Well established Jatt Sikh parents**  
seek professionally qualified cleanshaven match (Doctor preferred) for their slim, beautiful Doctor (MD) daughter, 30/ 5'-7", done Internal Medicine Residency and doing Fellowship in Canada. weddo5@gmail.com (CL21025377)

**Suitable match for beautiful, slim**  
girl October 91, 5'-5", Ph.D. in Food processing working as Senior Research fellow in PAU. Parents Govt. employee. Preference Canada or Malwi region. 98764-67580. preetinderchahal@gmail.com (CL21025425)

**Match for Jatt Sikh, slim, beautiful,**  
1983/ 5'-5", working as corporate lawyer in reputed company (Gurgaon). Good package. Well connected family. 98720-45640. (CL21025428)

**Turbanned match for Jat-Sikh**  
beautiful girl, August1993, 5'-4", M.Sc. Govt. Science Mistress. Requirement Khandani Sardar Jat Sikh family (more than 20 acre). Doctor/ Lawyer/ CA/ Gazetted Officer Govt. Job preferred. Marriage bureaus excuse. 9041816636. (CL21026759)

**Suitable match for Oct. 89 born**  
Bajwa Jat Sikh girl 5'-4", M.Sc., B.Ed., MBA (Global business), M.Lib. Sci. Librarian/ Assst. Professor under Grant in Aid Scheme in Aided College. Contact: Email: gallantsikh@gmail.com Mobile/ WhatsApp 79738-14615. (CL21025482)

**Professionally qualified match for**  
beautiful, tall, slim, Jat Sikh girl MDS (Endodontics) 88 born, 5'-7" from well educated family. Preference Doctor, Civil Services, Engg. and well established businessman from India/Canada. WhatsApp: 98155-96048. (CL21025489)

**Jatt Sikh Virk family seeks tall**  
qualified well settled Jatt Sikh match from Tricity/Abroad for their beautiful 5'-5", 28 years, M.Com. daughter working as Finance Assistant Mohali. Contact: 76965-02000. Email: coljsww@gmail.com (CL21025367)

**Seeking Jatt Sikh Engineer/ Doctor/**  
Executive match from decent family, sensible, mature and willing to settle abroad for Jatt Sikh (Dhother) fair, beautiful, charming, sober, MBBS, Medical Officer girl, recently moved to Canada as Permanent resident, decent & educated family, 991/ 5' from Patria. ydshtohar1966@gmail.com, 98898-01966, 94171-52992. (CL21025608)

**SM4 well settled, qualified Jat Sikh**  
girl, 1992, 5'-6", M.Sc. Nursing, working in private institute. Pref. Govt. employee. If private job, min. 8-10 acre land, salary 25000 per month. 86990-84821. (CL21026942)

**Match for Jatt Sikh girl, born 1988/**  
5'-4", M.A. English. Wanted NRI or agrable boy with job. Call/ WhatsApp: 80545-30502. (CL21027596)

**Jatt Sikh girl 29/ M.Tech. working**  
Chandigarh, 6.3 LPA. Parents Pathankot, seeks Jatt Sikh working or Canada PR boy. Mob: 98146-72996. (CL21027598)

**Suitable match for Jatt Sikh girl,**  
5'-2", 05.09.1990, M.Sc. (Nursing), working in private institute. Pref. Govt. employee. If private job, min. 8-10 acre land, salary 25000 per month. 86990-84821. (CL21026942)

**Jatt Sikh girl, 1991/ 5'-3", M.Sc.**  
Convent Educated MA (Eco). B.Ed., C(TET), PS (TET) qualified Mohali. 96465-92130. 96467-40053 (WhatsApp). (CL21025498)

**POM for convent educated, B.Com,**  
PGDCA. Jatt Sikhs Canada PR girl, born Dec. 1993, 5'-2" working in top Supply Chain Company in Canada. Looking for well educated, Jat Sikh boy from US/Canada (Preferred). Send biodata, photographs. E-mail: zsingh0419@gmail.com Cell: +91-7508018842. (CL21025545)

**Seeking Jatt Sikh Engineer/ Doctor/**  
Executive match from decent family, sensible, mature and willing to settle abroad for Jatt Sikh (Dhother) fair, beautiful, charming, sober, MBBS, Medical Officer girl, recently moved to Canada as Permanent resident, decent & educated family, 991/ 5' from Patria. ydshtohar1966@gmail.com, 98898-01966, 94171-52992. (CL21025608)

**Jatt Sikh girl 1982, 5'-6", MA,**  
B.Ed., private job, Ludhiana, good salary, wanted settled boy, upper caste welcome. WhatsApp +1(602) 736-6259 USA. (CL21025688)

**1987/ 5'-3", B.A., B.Ed., MA, M.Ed.,**  
Assistant Professor, belonging to landlord family seeks equally qualified working match. Tricity Patiala, Ludhiana preferred. 98789-14109. (CL21025729)

**Mohali based affluent businessman**  
family seeking suitable match from equally status businessman family having urban rural property for slim, beautiful Jat Sikh girl, 29, 5'-5", M.Tech. Tricity preferred. Contact: 98887-76765. (CL21025778)

**Match for Chohan Jat Sikh March**  
1991, 5'-4", Convent educated Graduate Delhi University PSU Bank Manager scale 2 transferable part. 70177-71021, WhatsApp: 94120-0646. (CL21025879)

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

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**paper.tribuneindia.com**

**Suitable match for Jatt Sikh girl**  
1987/ 5'-6", M.Sc. Maths, B.Ed., M.Ed. 88160-68004. (CL21027701)

**Highly placed officer/landlord**  
match for Jat Sikh well qualified girl, 5'-3" feet, 34 yrs, property in Tricity, match from Tricity preferred. Parents Ex-Senior Officers. Email: jsb4663@gmail.com Mob: 98729-40244. (CL21027776)

**Professionally qualified match**  
for Jat Sikh slim, beautiful girl, BDS, Nov. 91, 5'-4". 98144-63156. (CL21027780)

**Wanted suitable match for 1983**  
girl Jat Sikh, 5'-4", Doctor girl, widow, having a 6 year old son. Contact: WhatsApp 98151-72009. Marriage bureaus kindly excuse. (CL21027819)

**Jat Sikh, 1985 born, 5'-6", beautiful,**  
family oriented, and religious girl with a very successful career in healthcare. Very brief marriage, annulled. Grew up in Amritsar, Canadian Citizenship, and USA Green Card. Lives in Sacramento and not planning to relocate out of California. Email: calimatri20@gmail.com (CL21027822)

**Jatt Sikh girl (Single child) 1989,**  
5'-7", Masters, M.Phil. seeks, cleanshaven match send details latest picture at 98782-20654, upper caste no bar, dowry seekers excuse. (CL21027853)

**Jat Sikh match for their slim,**  
beautiful daughter 28/ 5'-4", LL.M., European citizen. Mobile: 99882-19366. (CL21027898)

**PQM for Jatsikh Feb 1992/5'-4"**  
girl finished 2nd masters Economics John's Hopkins University. WhatsApp: 88104-86017. (CL21027925)

**Seeking professionally qualified Jatt**  
Sikh match, located in US, for our beautiful masters educated daughter, Nov. 88, 5'-7", US citizen, grew up in India. Working as a healthcare Chief Operating Officer, send biodata with pictures to bsusa34@gmail.com or WhatsApp: +9198769-06792. (CL21027935)

**Seeking well settled professionally**  
qualified Engineer Accountant (NRI) match for Canadian PR Feb. 1990, 5'-9", Jat Sikh (RN) girl, Toronto area preferred. 98883-05181. (CL21027941)

**Jatt Sikh, 26, 5'-3", BBA, successful**  
surgery of heart hole, girl want suitable boy (Malwa prefer). 78890-88146. (CL21026474)

**PQM for JatiKsh Convenient educated**  
girl 1995, 5'-4", B.Tech (CSC), MBA working in reputed MNC as lead. Father mother Govt. employee. Brother doing MBBS. Gursikh family. Trimmer excuse. WhatsApp 97801-2348. (CL21026723)

**Jat Sikh (Sidhu) very beautiful only**  
daughter, innocent divorcee (short time) issueless, 5'-6", Born 1994, schooling YPSL, LL.B. Requirement Khandani Sardar Jat Sikh family (more than 20 acre). Doctor/ Lawyer/ CA/ Gazetted Officer Govt. Job preferred. Marriage bureaus excuse. (CL21027991)

**SIKH LOBANA**  
Amritdhari Lubana Sikh BDS girl 1990, 5'-5", doing Private job as Dentist Chandigarh. 98768-02156. (CL21027697)

**SIKH**  
Brahmin Sikh girl, 5'-3", 04.12.1980. M.Com, fair complexion, Govt. job, prefer service class in Tricity, dowry seeker/divorcee excuse. Contact: 81466-80086. (CL21025482)

**Canada citizen girl 1990, 5'-5",**  
BBA, MBA, Banking. Professional upper caste allowed. 7899-45723, 88151-01801. (CL21025508)

**Match for beautiful Sikh divorcee**  
girl 5'-4", MA, B.Ed., 44, Government teacher. Panchkula 98160-8347. (CL21025586)

**Suitable match for Ramdasia Sikh**  
girl, 22.02.1984, 5'-4", Matri. Preferred. Punjab. 98724-36264. (CL21027689)

**SM4 Gursikh Weave girl 1990/**  
5'-5", Assistant Manager in Govt. Bank. Prefer Govt. employee and Jalandhar, Doaba. Contact: 94663-59138. (CL21026232)

**Match for Jatt Sikh girl, born 1988/**  
5'-4", M.A. English. Wanted NRI or agrable boy with job. Call/ WhatsApp: 80545-30502. (CL21027596)

**Jatt Sikh girl 29/ M.Tech. working**  
Chandigarh, 6.3 LPA. Parents Pathankot, seeks Jatt Sikh working or Canada PR boy. Mob: 98146-72996. (CL21027598)

**Suitable match for Jatt Sikh girl,**  
5'-2", 05.09.1990, M.Sc. (Nursing), working in private institute. Pref. Govt. employee. If private job, min. 8-10 acre land, salary 25000 per month. 86990-84821. (CL21026942)

**Match for Jatt Sikh girl, born 1988/**  
5'-4", M.Sc. Nursing, working in a Public Sector Bank as a clerk. WhatsApp: 94636-72541, 98724-56146. (CL21027234)

**SM for Jatt Sikh 90 born, 5'-5",**  
Software Engineer likely to move to Canada in October PR under process only Tricity preferred. 98727-68514. (CL21027396)

**Suitable match for Jatt Sikh M.Sc. girl,**  
further studied in Canada, born 1994, height 5'-3", now on work permit. Father Class-1, mother Principal, Toronto based boy preferred. Contact: WhatsApp: 97270-07999. (CL21027642)

**Seeking professionally qualified**  
match for good family background for Jat Sikh convent educated homely Dentist girl. 1992 born, 5'-4", Jalandhar based family. Call/WhatsApp: 98151-70493. (CL21027664)

**Jatt Sikh Gill Chandigarh based**  
family seeks professionally qualified, teetotaller match with substantial rural and urban property for their beautiful Doctor girl, 5'-4", 1990, MBBS, pursuing MD. Anesthesia. 8289-84419. (CL21027670)

**QFM for MD Doctor girl 5'-4",**  
November 82, Ramdasiya Sikhs, divorcee, issueless, approach Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, SAS Nagar & Kapurthala District only. 98779-92262. (CL21027815)

**1985, Sikh Parjapat, Govt. Medical**  
Officer (AMO) regular, Punjab. Gazette post, 85000 monthly. Urban property. Mohali based good family. Upper caste no bar. 70870-72063. (CL21027764)

**Match for Jatt Sikh M.Sc. girl,**  
further studied in Canada, born 1994, height 5'-3", now on work permit. Father Class-1, mother Principal, Toronto based boy preferred. Contact: WhatsApp: 97270-07999. (CL21027642)

**Match for Canada PR applied**  
Nai Sikh girl, Nov. 1989, 5'-4", B.Com, CA (Inter), appearing CA final. Preferred PR/well placed match. Upper castes welcome. WhatsApp only: 98778-18274. (CL21027855)

**SIKH KHATRI**

**Kukhruan Khatri Gursikh Army/**  
Civil Officer non-trimmer match for 5'-4"/ 1990, Doctor (BDS) Patiala girl. Brother PCMS-I Doctor. Father Retd. Commandant. Send biodata 9463940586. Dowry Seekers excuse. (CL21027588)

**Professionally qualified match**  
preferably from Tricity for convent educated Jat/ Khati Sikh girl, 1988/ 5'-3", Ph.D., MBA, working as Training Manager in a renowned Hospital in Mohali. Clean-shaven/ Hindu no bar. WhatsApp: 97795-82475. (CL21026386)

**Match for Sikhi Walia girl 1992,**  
5'-1", Ambala, B.Tech, working MNC Pune. Father Gazetteed Officer. Retd. Preferred. Cutsidr boy, working MNC Pune. 94160-89063. (CL21026529)

**Ambala based Sikh Khatri girl 36/**  
5'-3", Haryana Govt. PGT Lecturer, M.Phil. B.Ed., NET Ph.D. Preferred well established boy from Haryana. 9964-84221. (CL21026553)

**Match for Sikhi Walia girl 1992,**  
5'-1", Ambala, B.Tech, working MNC Pune. Father Gazetteed Officer. Retd. Preferred. Cutsidr boy, working MNC Pune. 94160-89063. (CL21026553)

## CLASSIFIEDS

**Khatri Manglik girl** 3.5.1990, 5'-3", 2:15 pm, Ambala, B.Tech., Software Engineer Chandigarh. WhatsApp: 98013-39099. (CL21026541)

**Hindu Waria girl**, Ludhiana, Oct. 87 born, MBA, 5'-3", Deputy Manager in Govt. Bank. 94789-49005, 78141-13620. (CL2102631)

**Suitable match for Punjabi Khatri girl**, 20.10.1990, 9.26 am, Sangrur, 5'-1", M.Sc. Physics, B.Ed., pursuing M.Ed., IELTS 6.5 overall bands. Radhaswami family. Preferred NRI. Interested to go abroad. Malwa area. 94649-17132. (CL21026805)

**Suitable match for Manglik beautiful Hindu Khatri girl**, 5 Jan. 1992, Jalandhar, 5'-5", M.Com, C.S. Inter. Call/whatsapp: 9872586154.

**PQM for Hindu Saini beautiful girl**, 4-11', 4.8.1994, M.Tech, from IT, working in MNC Noida. Pkg. 17.5 Lacs/Anum. 94669-53488. (CL21026443)

**Officer Saini girl**, 1989, MBA, 5'-2", Chandigarh Required Govt. Officer, Industrialist Businessman. 86991-50414, 86993-72414. (CL21027341)

**Match for slim Saini Sikh beautiful girl**, 17.10.1987/ 5'-3/2", M.Pharma. Working in Pharma Company. Brother settled in Australia. Contact: 98724-50137. WhatsApp: 94637-00331. (CL21027646)

**Professionally qualified IT match for beautiful girl**, B.Tech DATE, 5'-1", 08.07.1995 (23:21 pm), Chandigarh. Working in MNC transferable (package 8 lacs). Parents Bank Manager. 98727-16996, 94160-68301. (CL21026911)

**Suitable match for Non- Manglik Hindu** 88 born, beautiful girl, 5'-4", MCA, regular job, Amritsar/Jalandhar preferred. Upper caste no bar. Mobile: 78378-51718. (CL21027524)

**Suitable match for Khatri girl**, 20.07.1987, 5:30 am, Amritsar, 5'-4", B.Ed., M.Ed. and Ph.D., Assistant Professor in College. Preferred nearby Amritsar. Marriage bureau excuse. Contact: 98880-02427, 84270-00780. (CL21027592)

**Ludhiana based Punjabi Khatri family invites suitable match for beautiful, charming, fair, slim girl**, 20.7.1993, 12:30 pm (Bhatinda), 5'-5", M.Com, B.Ed., MBA, pursuing Ph.D., Working as Assistant Professor with reputed girls college at Ludhiana, running own academy/ coaching classes also. Contact/ WhatsApp: 99155-37975. (CL21027599)

**Hindu Khatri Anshik Manglik girl**, B.Tech, 5'-2", 13.8.1990, 10:30 am, Chandigarh send biodata/ photograph WhatsApp: 98762-26098. (CL21027606)

**Suitable match for smart girl** (Manglik/Non-Manglik) 5'-4", 18 March 1989, 11.20 pm, Chandigarh, M.Tech, Computer Science & Engineering from Chandigarh. Assistant Professor. Contact after matching kundi, Tricity preferred, upper caste welcome. 98889-19768. (CL21027636)

**Beautiful Khatri girl** 1992/ 5'-5", B.E.Tech, IT, 22.5 LPA, Software Professional Microsoft India, Cast no bar. WhatsApp: 98726-22048.

**Match for Khatri girl**, 5'-3", 12.11.1996, 4.57 pm, B.Sc Non-Med, ETT Goraya. Contact: 95928-06555. (CL21027683)

**Match for fair, slim Khatri Manglik girl**, B.Tech., Software Engineer, 06.02.1993, 5:40 pm, Chandigarh, 5'-3", working MNC, package 9.5. Contact 70870-41802. (CL21027687)

**High status professional match for extremely beautiful fair slim educated girl** 5'-5", July 1990, Chandigarh based elite family high status family contact only. 98724-4454. (CL21027714)

**Hindu Khatri beautiful girl**, 20.8.1994, 8:30 pm, 6', Air Hostess. Required 6+, Canada PR boy. 98552-11070, 98142-01180. (CL21027719)

**Match for Khatri girl March 1988, 5'-4", doing Ph.D. CSE. Parents retd. officer. 98720-11170, 94171-73999. (CL21027722)**

**Suitable match for Punjabi Khatri well educated beautiful girl** having own coaching centre 5'-6", 2 July 92, 9.18 a.m., Delhi. 97188-56789. (CL21027730)

**Only for Manglik fair, slim veg. Khatri girl**, 5'-5", 86. Graduate with Computer Diploma PRF Chd/ Del/ NCR, Caste no bar. WhatsApp: 85274-12712, 88001-47641. (CL21027845)

**Manglik Hindu Khatri girl** 5'-4", 25.5.94, fair complexion, ETT, permanent teacher. Contact: 98777-01177. (CL21027874)

**Match for 26/ 5'-7", Hindu Khatri girl** B.Tech., (CSE), working in MNC Bangalore. Contact: 90418-80810. (CL21027894)

**High status Delhi based Pbi** Brahmin business man family having multiple business (hospital, colonizer, hoteliers) seeks alliance for their slim, beautiful, educated daughter Nov. 87 born, 5'-5", looking for tall, smart, educated boy from businessman and industrialist family. Khatri families are also welcome. Delhi NCR, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Jalandhar preferred. 99155-00818, 98100-93144. (CL21027927)

**Suitable match for convent educated smart Khatri B.Tech., Software Engineer** working MNC pane package 10 LPA, 21 March 1988, 2.07 am, Chandigarh, 5'-6", girl currently Panchkula. Tricity family preferred. 97791-01149. (CL21027936)

**Match for MBA girl**, 24.03.1986, 9:50 pm, Delhi, 5'-3", job Delhi, 7.0 lakhs annum. WhatsApp 98681-34767. sudsud2011@gmail.com (CL21027943)

**Khatri girl 11 Nov. 1985, Kurukshetra, 5'-5", M.Com,** B.Ed. Commerce teacher. 98880-68878. (CL21028010)

**Match for Chandigarh based Hindu Khatri** 26.6.1991 7:14 pm, 5'-3", B.Tech. homey girl. Send particulars & pic on Mob: 98780-40018, 98768-77173. (CL21028028)

**MUSLIM**

**Wanted match for girl** 27/ 5'-3", Airhostess IGI Delhi, preferably Delhi settled Punjab/ Himachali, Haryana. 99445-57382. (CL21025297)

**Suitable match for Sunni-Ansari girl** 29 years 5'-3", M.Sc. Medical Physics, PGIMER Chandigarh, Bonafide Radiological Safety Officer, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. Working as same in super specialist hospital. Father is UT Govt. employee. Preferred Tricity. 98881-174786. (CL21026633)

**Khatri girl 11 Nov. 1985, Kurukshetra, 5'-5", M.Com,** B.Ed. Commerce teacher. 98880-68878. (CL21028010)

**Match for Chandigarh based Hindu Khatri** 26.6.1991 7:14 pm, 5'-3", B.Tech. homey girl. Send particulars & pic on Mob: 98780-40018, 98768-77173. (CL21028028)

**Sunni Muslim beautiful girl**, 4'2", 10". Salary in 5 figures. WhatsApp 98141-78630. (CL21027409)

**Sunni Muslim girl** 5'-5", 1990, BA, Diploma O.T. Well settled short term divorce. 98696-08892. (CL21027765)

**Wanted match for girl** 27/ 5'-3", Airhostess IGI Delhi, preferably Delhi settled Punjab/ Himachali, Haryana. 99445-57382. (CL21025297)

**Suitable match for Sunni-Ansari girl** 29 years 5'-3", M.Sc. Medical Physics, PGIMER Chandigarh, Bonafide Radiological Safety Officer, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. Working as same in super specialist hospital. Father is UT Govt. employee. Preferred Tricity. 98881-174786. (CL21026633)

**Prajapati/ Ghumari family, Officer PNB**, 09.10.1990, 5'-4", required well-educated and Govt. employee boy. 70378-67575. (CL21027877)

**Qualified match for Himachali Rajput** girl, 15 July 1992, 5'-4", family settled in Amritsar. Preferred well settled boy. 95929-41994, 94172-85521. (CL21027678)

**Prajapati/ Ghumari family, Officer PNB**, 09.10.1990, 5'-4", required well-educated and Govt. employee boy. 70378-67575. (CL21027877)

**Qualified match for Himachali Rajput** girl, 15 July 1992, 5'-4", M.Sc, B.Ed, 1992 born, working PGT in convent school, Himachal, Punjab preferred. 97814-38927. (CL21027798)

**Qualified match for Himachali Rajput** girl, 15 July 1992, 5'-4", M.Sc, B.Ed, 1992 born, working PGT in convent school, Himachal, Punjab preferred. 97814-38927. (CL21027798)

**Qualified match for Himachali Rajput** girl, 15 July 1992, 5'-4", M.Sc, B.Ed, 1992 born, working PGT in convent school, Himachal, Punjab preferred. 97814-38927. (CL21027798)

**Qualified match for Himachali Rajput** girl, 15 July 1992, 5'-4", M.Sc, B.Ed, 1992 born, working PGT in convent school, Himachal, Punjab preferred. 97814-38927. (CL21027798)

**Qualified match for Himachali Rajput** girl, 15 July 1992, 5'-4", M.Sc, B.Ed, 1992 born, working PGT in convent school, Himachal, Punjab preferred. 97814-38927. (CL21027798)

**Qualified match for Himachali Rajput** girl, 15 July 1992, 5'-4", M.Sc, B.Ed, 1992 born, working PGT in convent school, Himachal, Punjab preferred. 97814-38927. (CL21027798)

**Qualified match for Himachali Rajput** girl, 15 July 1992, 5'-4", M.Sc, B.Ed, 1992 born, working PGT in convent school, Himachal, Punjab preferred. 97814-38927. (CL21027798)

**Qualified match for Himachali Rajput** girl, 15 July 1992, 5'-4", M.Sc, B.Ed, 1992 born, working PGT in convent school, Himachal, Punjab preferred. 97814-38927. (CL21027798)

## SAINI

**Status match for Sikh Wing Commander permanent** January 1983, 5'-4", MBA, M.Sc. Father Retd. Group Captain. WhatsApp: 97809-18176, 8588 - 81596. (CL21023865)

**PQM for Hindu Saini beautiful girl**, 4-11', 4.8.1994, M.Tech, from IT, working in MNC Noida. Pkg. 17.5 Lacs/Anum. 94669-53488. (CL21026443)

**Officer Saini girl**, 1989, MBA, 5'-2", Chandigarh Required Govt. Officer, Industrialist Businessman. 86991-50414, 86993-72414. (CL21027341)

**Match for slim Saini Sikh beautiful girl**, 17.10.1987/ 5'-3/2", M.Pharma. Working in Pharma Company. Brother settled in Australia. Contact: 98724-50137. WhatsApp: 94637-00331. (CL21027646)

**Professionally qualified Canada PR match for very beautiful Saini Sikh Canada PR Software Engineer girl**, November 1991, 5'-3", B.Tech. PG

**match for Govt. job Garhwali Rajput girl**, Nov. 1981, 5'-4", MA, Chandigarh. 98880-62206. (CL21027647)

**Required Hindu Saini** beautiful girl, 1988, M.Tech, from IT, working in MNC Noida. Pkg. 17.5 Lacs/Anum. 94669-53488. (CL21026443)

**Match for slim Saini Sikh beautiful girl**, 17.10.1987/ 5'-3/2", M.Pharma. Working in Pharma Company. Brother settled in Australia. Contact: 98724-50137. WhatsApp: 94637-00331. (CL21027646)

**Professionally qualified Canada PR match for very beautiful Saini Sikh Canada PR Software Engineer girl**, November 1991, 5'-3", B.Tech. PG

**match for Govt. job Garhwali Rajput girl**, Nov. 1981, 5'-4", MA, Chandigarh. 98880-62206. (CL21027647)

**Required Hindu Saini** beautiful girl, 1988, M.Tech, from IT, working in MNC Noida. Pkg. 17.5 Lacs/Anum. 94669-53488. (CL21026443)

**Match for slim Saini Sikh beautiful girl**, 17.10.1987/ 5'-3/2", M.Pharma. Working in Pharma Company. Brother settled in Australia. Contact: 98724-50137. WhatsApp: 94637-00331. (CL21027646)

**Professionally qualified Canada PR match for very beautiful Saini Sikh Canada PR Software Engineer girl**, November 1991, 5'-3", B.Tech. PG

**match for Govt. job Garhwali Rajput girl**, Nov. 1981, 5'-4", MA, Chandigarh. 98880-62206. (CL21027647)

**Required Hindu Saini** beautiful girl, 1988, M.Tech, from IT, working in MNC Noida. Pkg. 17.5 Lacs/Anum. 94669-53488. (CL21026443)

**Match for slim Saini Sikh beautiful girl**, 17.10.1987/ 5'-3/2", M.Pharma. Working in Pharma Company. Brother settled in Australia. Contact: 98724-50137. WhatsApp: 94637-00331. (CL21027646)

**Professionally qualified Canada PR match for very beautiful Saini Sikh Canada PR Software Engineer girl**, November 1991, 5'-3", B.Tech. PG

**match for Govt. job Garhwali Rajput girl**, Nov. 1981, 5'-4", MA, Chandigarh. 98880-62206. (CL21027647)

**Required Hindu Saini** beautiful girl, 1988, M.Tech, from IT, working in MNC Noida. Pkg. 17.5 Lacs/Anum. 94669-53488. (CL21026443)

**Match for slim Saini Sikh beautiful girl**, 17.10.1987/ 5'-3/2", M.Pharma. Working in Pharma Company. Brother settled in Australia. Contact: 98724-50137. WhatsApp: 94637-00331. (CL21027646)

**Professionally qualified Canada PR match for very beautiful Saini Sikh Canada PR Software Engineer girl**, November 1991, 5'-3", B.Tech. PG

**match for Govt. job Garhwali Rajput girl**, Nov. 1981, 5'-4", MA, Chandigarh. 98880-62206. (CL21027647)

**Required Hindu Saini** beautiful girl, 1988, M.Tech, from IT, working in MNC Noida. Pkg. 17.5 Lacs/Anum. 94669-53488. (CL21026443)

**Match for slim Saini Sikh beautiful girl**, 17.10.1987/ 5'-3/2", M.Pharma. Working in Pharma Company. Brother settled in Australia. Contact: 98724-50137. WhatsApp: 94637-00331. (CL21027646)

**BRAHMIN**

**Brahmin, B.Tech., 5'-5", 30.90, 90, 10.05 am.** Ambala, Scale-I officer, Central Government. Upper caste no bar. 94661-57029. (CL2102828)

**Suitable well settled match for beautiful Brahmin girl (25 yrs., 5'-4")** hails from Anandpur Sahib, completed her masters currently employed in a permanent Govt. job. (Preferably Una to Chandigarh). Contact - 60056-10979, 63990-32144. (CL2102337)

**Saraswat Brahmin beautiful girl, 13.2.97, 12.05 p.m.** Kurukshetra, 5'-3", M.Sc. Chemistry, pursuing B.Ed., school teacher. Zirakpur. Tricity preferred. 97296-30556. (CL2102549)

**Match for Issueless Divorcee 32/ 5'-3", extremely beautiful, BA, LLM (PU), Senior Military Officer, Vashisth family (Panchkula).** Upper caste welcome. 62847-76065. (CL2102536)

**Unmarried and qualified match for Saraswat Brahmin, 1975, 5'-7", BAMS Doctor girl.** Prefer NRI. Whatapp: 9815087722. (CL2102538)

**Brahmin Manglik girl CA 5'-6", Ludhiana 22.4.1991, 10:35 pm Kundli must. 82788-56023, 94631-26336.** (CL2102542)

**SM4 beautiful Brahmin girl, Oct. 1984 born (looking 26), 5'-3", M.Sc. Psychology, PG Diploma in Counselling. B.Ed., Govt. Counsellor (contract). Vegetarian family. Kundli first.** 905068994. (CL2102553)

**Saraswat Brahmin girl, 11.04.1987, Ludhiana, 5'-4", Post Graduate, Diploma Hospitality and aviation, IELTS 7 bands seek Australian PR, 98151-88492. (CL2102556)**

**Required suitable well qualified match for beautiful Brahmin Doctor girl BAMS Presently working as community Health Officer Department Health 5'-5", 13.12.1993, 1:22 AM. Amritsar well settled pure veg family. Father Govt. Job, Brother, Sister Law doing MD. Preference Doctor background family. 98158-56456. (CL21025567)**

**QM4 Gaur Brahmin, 5'-2", Sept. 30, 1992 at 9.15 am. Karmal born, M.Sc. B.Ed College Lect. Contract basis CEPLIP cleared for Canada PR, problem right eye, fair colour only North Haryana Chd. Pkl Gaur 94660-69933. (CL21025636)**

**Suitable match for Punjabi girl from November 29, 1998, 5.38 am, 5'-4". Non- Manglik MBA (HR), born & working in Mukerian in education field girl. WhatApp latest snap & biodata. 98158-49900. (CL21025749)**

**Suitable match for Punjabi Sarasvati Brahmin girl, born March 1994, Chandigarh, Ht. 5'-4", B.Tech. CSE, working in repated MNC Bangalore, presently in UK on Cooprey Project. Contact 98154-09057, 98154-91489.** (CL21025896)

**Himachali Saraswat Brahmin fair girl 29, 5'-6", Computer Engineer, excellent salary package. Father retired Army Officer. 93573-88588, 99530-94881. (CL21027425)**

**Brahmin girl 1987 born, Ambala, B.Tech. Ht. 5'-7", marriage bouple pls excuse. Ph: 99968-11174.** (CL21027602)

**Himachali 26 yrs, 5'-5", M.Sc. Maths, B.Ed., HPITPT CTET qualified. 74606-45666/ 93111-06666.** (CL21027620)

**US settled Engineer match for a smart Engineer Brahmin girl 30 years, 5'-1", going to pursue her MS in one of the prestigious Universities. 98888-95206. (CL21027623)**

**Suitable match for Punjabi Brahmin girl MBA, BBA, 28 years, working as Manager in reputed company, 5'-5". Contact: 98968-70604. (CL21027623)**

**Suitable match for Punjabi Brahmin girl 30 years, 5'-1", going to pursue her MS in one of the prestigious Universities. 98888-95206. (CL21027623)**

**Suitable match for Punjabi Brahmin girl 30 years, 5'-1", going to pursue her MS in one of the prestigious Universities. 98888-95206. (CL21027623)**

**Match for Punjabi Brahmin girl 5'-5", 1985, Class-1, Gazetted Officer in Himachal. Preferred Class-1 Gazetted Officer in HP Govt. Upper caste no bar. 96633-58173.** (CL21025916)

**Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin girl, 93 born, 5'-4", B.Sc. Microbial & Food Technology PG in Dietics. Tricity/ NCR preferred. Contact 97798-78545. (CL21025920)**

**Match for Saraswat Brahmin girl 22.7.93, 11.15 pm, Khanna, 5'-2", M.Sc. Maths, B.Ed. 98776-27728.** (CL21025996)

**Gaur Brahmin PR Canada Manglik girl 28/5'-5", Mohali. M.Com. Chandigarh, International Business Accounting (Canada). Preferred Canada PR vegetarian boy. Kundli must. WhatApp/Call: 98154-98145.** (CL21026047)

**Chandigarh Mohali Kharar educated employed match for beautiful Vashishtha girl, 01.01.1988, 5'-3", Pathankot, B.Ed., Tech, CSE, working in Noida. 941-78532, 62840-06880. (CL21026111)**

**Saraswat Brahmin girl 05.04.1992, 5.25 pm Kapurthala, 5'-3", M.Sc. IT MCA job Mohali, 76967-51832.** (CL21026245)

**Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin girl MBBS, 5'-3", Born 1994, Medical Officer in Himachal Govt. Parents Govt. job. Only Brahmin, preference Una HP, Ropar, Chandigarh. Mobile: 89863-27858, 94175-57249. (CL21026276)**

**Match for Mohali based Saraswat Brahmin girl 9.9.85, 9.30 am, Nangal Dam, IT Project Coordinator, Father Retd. Army brother. Manager E: kmbhanot23@gmail.com. M: 93188-03976, WhatApp: 95824-34780. (CL21027760)**

**Suitable match for Punjabi Brahmin girl 5'-3", 1993, 33 yrs., BA, B.Ed., Pathankot, 5'-5", Graduate, Computer Coordinator (reputed Hospital Mohali). 94187-85002 (Himachal). (CL21026095)**

**PQM for Mohali based Saraswat Brahmin girl 9.9.85, 9.30 am, Nangal Dam, IT Project Coordinator, Father Retd. Army brother. Manager E: kmbhanot23@gmail.com. M: 93188-03976, WhatApp: 95824-34780. (CL21027760)**

**Suitable match for Punjabi Sarasvati Brahmin girl, born March 1994, Chandigarh, Ht. 5'-4", B.Tech. CSE, working in repated MNC Bangalore, presently in UK on Cooprey Project. Contact 98154-09057, 98154-91489.** (CL21025896)

**Match for Saraswat Brahmin girl 5'-5", 00.30 am, Chd. Officer in Nationalized Bank. Simple, Middle Class vegetarian family. No dowry. 82830-60508, 98720-70397.** (CL21026323)

**Saraswat Brahmin girl 5'-4", 1984, Corporate Officer, working corporate Sector Delhi, 35 lakh. 94666-35987, 94663-3134. (CL21026516)**

**Match for Saraswat Brahmin girl 5'-5", Manglik girl 5'-5", B.Ed., M.Sc. & pursuing MA Psychology. Job in NGO Mohali. Mobile: 98728-13602.** (CL21026629)

**Brahmin family Chandigarh settled looking match for daughter 14.05.1991, 5'-6", B.Tech., MBA, Canada PR Divorcee. Boy should be 30-35 years vegetarian, Non-smoker, teetotaller settled in Canada, USA. Contact 93736-63963. (CL21026646)**

**Suitable match for Yamunagar based Punjab Saraswat Brahmin fair girl July 1996 born, 5'-6", Software Engineer MNC, status family. 94166-68409. (CL21026686)**

**Wanted suitable match for Manglik Brahmin girl 1995, 5'-5", M.Sc. B.Ed., Govt. job (Adhoc), Ludhiana preferred. 98156-03034.** (CL21026902)

**Beautiful Saraswat Brahmin girl 1981/ 5'-4", (Manglik)/ Non- Manglik, B.Com, BA, B.Ed, Ludhiana. 90239-3633. (CL21027609)**

**Match for Saraswat Brahmin girl, 6.3.90, 11.55 am. Patiala, 5'-6", M.Com., B.Ed. Brother, Father Govt. employees. Mob: 9417162102.** (CL21027009)

**Professional qualified Manglik match for Punjabi Saraswat Brahmin girl 5'-5", 17 June 1992 at 2.30 p.m. Muktsar, 17 June. From India, Two year study in Canada working in Canada on Technical job. Permanent resident file in process. Boy studying/working in Canada of Malwa region preferred. Send particulars. WhatApp: 96461-24738, 62399-50374. (CL21027889)**

**Suitable match for Himachali smart and beautiful M.Sc. Ph.D Brahmin girl, serving as Asstt. Prof. in reputed College of P.U. Chandigarh, 29.06.1981, Palampur, 7:30 am, 5'-3". Himachali boy preferred. Contact after matching kundli. 98168-47155.** (CL21027884)

**Suitable match for himachali for beautiful Brahma girl 5'-3", 1996 born from status family doing M.S. in Canadian University. WhatApp only. 98141-32625, 94174-08525. (CL21027893)**

**Suitable match for very fair pretty girl, PR & working in MNC Canada, 24.02.1987, 5'-3", 1:30 am, Rajpura. Coming soon in India. Canada based matches preferred. 98886-75886.** (CL21027844)

**Suitable match for himachali smart and beautiful M.Sc. Ph.D Brahmin girl, serving as Asstt. Prof. in reputed College of P.U. Chandigarh, 29.06.1981, Palampur, 7:30 am, 5'-3".**

**Himachali boy preferred. Contact after matching kundli. 98168-47155.** (CL21027884)

**Match for himachali smart and beautiful M.Sc. Ph.D Brahmin girl, Nov. 86 preferred educated well settle boy. Upper caste welcome. 62303-11368. (CL21027841)**

**Suitable match for very fair pretty girl, PR & working in MNC Canada, 24.02.1987, 5'-3", 1:30 am, Rajpura. Coming soon in India. Canada based matches preferred. 98886-75886.** (CL21027844)

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**Match for himachali smart and beautiful M.Sc. Ph.D Brahmin girl, Nov.**

## CLASSIFIEDS

1 kanal well maintained house premium locality Sector- 17, another duplex (5 Cr). 98767-82699, 82888-7839. (CL21027976)

**Sector 17, kanal, good liveable, second floor, three bedrooms, drawing, dining. Dealer excuse. Singla 99888-84428. (CL21026007)**

**Basement for sale near Anupam Sweets, SCO 83, Sector 5, Swastik Vihar, Mansadevi Panchkula. 96468-95088. (CL21025371)**

**290 gaj well builtup triple kothi Sector 12, 10 marla floorwise facing park newly built still parking Sector 17, Panchkula. Anand Estates: 92168-32687. (CL21025788)**

**Fourteen marla facing park fully furnished elegant duplex bungalow Sector 4 MDC. Sankalp Estate: 98888-85570. (CL21025793)**

**Fourteen marla facing East 50% built-up plot Sector 4 MDC. Best for builder floors. Sankalp Estate: 98888-85570. (CL21025795)**

**Panchkula: Floors available park facing/ corner Sector 6 MDC. Corner luxury floors available on pre book Sector 7. 99883-61191. (CL21025799)**

**Panchkula: 1 kanal available B-Road Sector 8 & 6, 1 kanal plot Sector 25 reasonable. 1 kanal corner liveable Sector 17. Kitty Estates: 99883-61191. (CL21025800)**

**Panchkula: SCO available full/ floorwise inner market Sector 9, Rented SCO available main road Sector 11. Kitty Estates: 99883-61191. (CL21025801)**

**Panchkula: Pre-rented big showroom main road Sector 11 another 3 storey showroom vacant Sector 5. Sethi Estates: 98140-30249. (CL21026263)**

**7 marla stilt+ 3 storey house, 939A23, Sector 12A, Panchkula (booked) 94173-50856. (CL21026311)**

**Panchkula- Two kanal plot main road Sector 4, MDC, North facing. 1 kanal old home North facing Sector 6. Sethi Estates: 98140-30249. (CL21026330)**

**Panchkula - Two adjoining shops 20'x50' in Grain Market Sector 20 another built-up SCO Sector-3. Sethi Estates 98140-30249. (CL21026334)**

**2.5 kanal/5 kanal/ one acre industrial shed Phase I & II, Panchkula. Rajan Real Estate: 98147-02255, 98153-16616. (CL21026356)**

**Panchkula 8 marla Plot 877, Sector 17, Contact: 98140-27529. (CL21026703)**

**Purisons Property 94170 - 33899, 98888 - 86519, 99887 - 72007. Panchkula: Fourteen marla liveable duplex 2½ storey Sector 21, 10 marla single storey main road Sector 12A. 10 marla triple storey B-Road Sector 16. Ten marla duplex Sector 4. Ten marla facing park old Sector 9. (CL21026858)**

**Panchkula Mansa Devi Complex, near IT Park, 14 marla four storey full/ floorwise, facing East/ park, extraordinary built, lift, Italian, teak, stilt parking. 85282-00580. (CL21026865)**

**Panchkula one kanal duplex bungalow, good location, Sector 7, going very reasonable. Sampark Estates: 98142-11400, 0172-4627889. (CL21026908)**

**Available for sale builtup booth with basement and first floor Sector 6, 10, 20. Panchkula. Call: personally Mb. 94171-41512, 94635-90070. (CL21026931)**

**Urgent need, interested to hire services of retired/ fresher from Horticulture Department for looking our lands situated in 20-25 kms radius of Chandigarh/ Panchkula. Knowledge of Computer, Driving four wheeler necessary. Location Panchkula. Suitable candidate may apply. Send your CV at suresh.jain@icloud.com or call 97999-47529. (CL21026948)**

**Flat available 3 BHK and with servant room in HEWO Society Sector-6, MDC. Contact: 98140-27529. (CL21026949)**

**1 kanal plot good location Sector-27 and 1 kanal plot facing park Sector-6 MDC. 14 marla & 10M plots also available in Sector-6 MDC. Contact: 98140-27529. (CL21026950)**

**Panchkula: 10 marla builder floors with stilt parking and lift available in Sector 4, 7, 8, 9, 16. Contact: Avin Properties 98766-26322. (CL21027295)**

**14 marla duplex well built maintained, 215/21, B-road East facing contact- Shirdi Properties: 98884-76525. (CL21027629)**

**15 marla old house, 14 marla triple storey both Sector 9, 14 marla nicely built good sector genuine buyer. Call: 94635-90070, 94171-41512. (CL21027638)**

**9 marla 2293/28, 14 marla 451/27, 6, 10 marla 25, 26, 27, 28. Arya Real Estates: 98769-37605, 89685-88648. (CL21027641)**

**Booth with basement for sale in Sector 8, Panchkula, RR Estate: 98761-32233. (CL21027649)**

**6.5 marla double storey renovated beautiful house in Sector-21, Panchkula. Parveen Goel: 98721-35050. (CL21027694)**

**10 marla East facing and facing park old house in Sector 9, 7, 8 Panchkula RR Estate: 98761-32233. (CL21027741)**

**One kanal corner east facing plot in Sector 23, Panchkula. 98761-32233 also joda available in same Sector. (CL21027744)**

**14 marla North East facing single storey old house in Sector 6, Panchkula, RR Estate: 98761-32233. (CL21027745)**

**One kanal duplex well South East facing B-road well maintained house in Sector 7, Panchkula RR Estate: 98761-32233. (CL21027749)**

**Purisons 94170-33899, Mansadevi Swastik Vihar showroom basement 60,000/-, rent 26,000/- ground floor 1,50,000/- (CL21027755)**

**One kanal liveable house facing park/ East No. 152, Sector 8, Panchkula. J.P. Builder 98140-30083, 62832-96969. (CL21027850)**

**Ten marla mable liveable house Sector 2, Panchkula. Keys with us. J.P. Builder: 98140-30083, 62832-96969. (CL21027852)**

**8 marla duplex house, another brand new double storey house both in Sector 26, Panchkula. Panno Properties: 99884-72111. (CL21027863)**

**One kanal B-Road, corner old house Sector 6, corner old duplex Sector 17, Panchkula. Panno Properties: 99884-72111. (CL21027865)**

**1 kanal & 14 marla new duplex available in Panchkula prime Sectors. Kitty Estates: 99881-01191. (CL21027918)**

**Single bay showroom for sale in Sector 5, MDC. Satya Estates: 99157-86900. (CL21027921)**

**One kanal brand new ultra luxury builder floors with lift & stilt in MDC 4/6 & other Sectors Panchkula. Satya Estates: 99157-86900. (CL21027928)**

**High end ready to move one kanal furnished duplex house with lift & servant room in 7 Panchkula. Satya Estates: 99157-86900. (CL21027930)**

**Star Estate: 97809-77891, for sale 2 kanal house A-road location in Sector 7, Panchkula. (CL21027974)**

**Star Estate: 97809-77891, for sale 10 marla triple storey house in Sector, Panchkula. (CL21027975)**

**MOHALI**

**8 Marla 2.5 Storey house B-road South West facing Sector-64 (Ample Parking), Orbit Estates- 8968799143, 9915534500. (CL21027571)**

**10 Marla Corner Phase-3B2, Facing Park B-road Phase-3B1 & Corner B-road Sector-70. Orbit Estates- 8968799143, 9915534500. (CL21027572)**

**10½ Marla single well maintained kothi 3 bedrooms, drawing dining attached washrooms. Phas-4. 99143-2641. (CL21027977)**

**Mohali sixteen marla corner double storey Sector 71, ten marla corner three storey Phase 7, eight marla three storey Phas-3B1, six marla three storey Sector 78. Marwaha 204, Phase 3B1, Mohali. Phone: 98140-10193, 98145-03193. (CL21026701)**

**16 marla triple storey with basement single lane Sector 79, 10 marla single storey, Sector 90-91. 98142-11143. (CL21026301)**

**4 marla kothi triple storey 606/7, 4 marla single storey 413/7. Mohali. 98142-11143. (CL21026307)**

**8 marla corner single storey 215/97, 6 marla new ground floor and first floor 742/80. 4 marla new duplex 115/78. 4 marla plot 3401, 325/89. 20 gaj booth 8' & 58 Sector 95B. Booth 17 ground floor Sector 78. Gujral & Sons 98150-17238. (CL21026319)**

**Newly built 112.5 sq. yards and 6 marla houses sector 80, 79, 1, kanal excellent construction, Sector 91. Mohali. Manik-81467-2615. (CL21026628)**

**Plot six marla B-road 2266 and 129 yds corner 89 Sector 79, 97, Mohali. Rajesh Estates: 98140-12730, 98148-22730. (CL21026706)**

**Buildup booth with basement prime location registry case, Phase 7, Mohali. 85679-00077. (CL21027988)**

**PROPERTY WANTED**

**Wanted on/ two kanal kothies any good Sector Chandigarh (maximum price) payment ready. 98149-67149. (CL21025959)**

**Wanted/available all types of residential, commercial, industrial property in any Phase/Sector Mohali. Immediate settlement. Contact Sandeep Properties 98141-31657.**

**Wanted plots available in Sector 5, Emaar Mohali Puncchuk. New Chandigarh. Balaji 98150-17200. (CL21026648)**

**Buy/ Sell plots in Emaar Mohali Hills 300, 400, 500 sq. yards. Call: 62833-66140. (CL21026685)**

**10 & 12 marla plots available in Sector 99, 104, 106, 108 & 109. Emaar Call: 81968-97777. (CL21025603)**

**1 KANAL plots available in Sector 105. Emaar Call: 81968-97777. (CL21026697)**

**Aero city 150 gaz, 250 gaz and 500 gaz plots are available. Contact- 84272-71313. (CL21026756)**

**One kanal plot facing park, facing east, direct entry from A-Road, near commercial in IT-City Mohali. Owner: 98158-48100. (CL21026937)**

**Mohali plots available in Sector 105. Emaar Call: 81968-97777. (CL21026697)**

**10 marla kothi prime location B-Road big corner huge ramp space 25% buildup luxury Phase 7. 98140-74655. (CL21027202)**

**Wanted 14 marla and one kanal old house in Panchkula. Only direct seller. 99884-72111. (CL21027866)**

**Wanted 10 marla old house in any Sector of Panchkula. Direct seller preferred. 84277-69211. (CL21027858)**

**Wanted 14 marla and one kanal old house in Panchkula. Only direct seller. 99884-72111. (CL21027858)**

**Mohali JPL Sector 80, industrial one kanal B-Road 295, 1749 transfer case. Luthra 98140-74655. (CL21027207)**

**Plot 4 marla 741 facing park Sector 66 IT City registry case immediate sale. Contact. Karamjit Singh 98140-10288. (CL21027421)**

**300 sq. yard AP 416, 500 sq. yard AP 84, Sector 109, 14 marla B-road, Sector 89, Mohali. 96465-28601. (CL21027262)**

**150 sq. yard (size 22.5x 60), Plot No. 8579, Block-B, Aerocity, (GMADA) Mohali. CD case 91699-00003. (CL21027630)**

**New EMAR wanted/ available all sizes of residential plots in Sector 104, 105, 108, 109 at reasonable prices. 98111-63770, 98994-03635, 66665. (CL21027989)**

**EMAR wanted/ available all sizes of residential plots in Sector 104, 105, 108, 109 at reasonable prices. 98111-63770, 98994-03635, 66665. (CL21027989)**

**Wanted 10 marla kothi 5 bedrooms drawing dining facing park, Sector 89, 10 marla duplex. Royal Castle 98767-60000, 98787-15782. (CL21027513)**

**Mohali Industrial: 2 kanal facing North-East/Acre plots, Phase-7. Royal Castle 98767-60000, 98787-80000. (CL21027513)**

**Mohali Industrial: 4330 yard B-road newly built shed. 4.25 Lakh rent coming from 60%, rest with owner. Phase-7. Royal Castle 98767-11143. (CL21027162)**

**AeroCity 12 marla (306 sq. yds.) plot corner + side 150 ft. wide road North East facing suitable for commercial purpose like Doctor's, Advocate's, institute's. Smart Move Realty 87250-15782. (CL21027517)**

**Mohali 10 marla double storey facing park 6 BHk brand new house North West facing reasonable price. Smart Move Realty 87250-15782. (CL21027283)**

**AeroCity 500 sq. yds. plot North facing good location rare availability reasonable price Block-E. Smart Move Realty 87250-15782. (CL21027285)**

**Mohali: IT City: 1 kanal Sector-82A, North East facing. Excellent location and approach. Royal Castle 98767-60000, 9**





Curd can be turned into so many dishes ideal for this weather, though some preparations suit all seasons. A lowdown on some favourites

VARIETY page 12



Maj BS Mankotia's 'C' company of 9 Punjab foiled attacks on Ranian, while L/Nk Shangara Singh of 2 Sikhs paved way for his platoon to drag the enemy out of bunkers in Pulkanjri

TRIBUTE page 13



Through monuments and ruins, Namit Arora takes one on a journey in time, stretching up to a few thousand years, to provide a view of what India looked like then

BOOKS page 14

RENU SUD SINHA

**H**ER voice sounds as blank as her life. Only the wavering notes betray the anguish that has permeated her being. Kerrein Sharma (28), a Panchkula-based lawyer, lost both her parents to Covid-19 last month in a span of four days between May 11 and 14. Her father, Dr Ajay Sharma, had come out of retirement in April to tend to patients at the government's call and had contracted the virus in May while on duty. Soon, the family of three was infected. And her parents succumbed in quick succession. The world, as Kerrein knew it, had ceased to exist. Like every youngster, her mobile was once an extension of herself. "Now I don't look at my phone for days as I know mom and dad are never going to call. I wish I had died with them. For 10 days after their death when I was struggling with severe Covid symptoms, I would pop a couple of sleeping pills at night so that if some complication happens, at least I would die withouth a struggle," says the tearful youngster.

Unfortunately, Kerrein is not alone in her misfortune, as Covid-19 has hardly left anyone untouched by grief of loss. All across India, the virus and death have been all-pervasive, particularly in the second wave. People are mourning the loss of children, parents, sons, daughters, husbands, wives, sisters, brothers, friends, neighbours, acquaintances...

Delhi-based Archana Datta, former Doordarshan Director-General, lost two anchors of her life in a matter of a few hours. Her husband of 40 years, AR Dutta (68), who retired as director of the Ministry of Defence's training institute, and her mother Bani Mukherjee (88) succumbed to Covid in the absence of oxygen and hospital beds on April 27-28. These couple of months have not been easy, as she, like many others, tries to rearrange the shattered pieces of her life into a semblance of normalcy.

Mitesh Jiwan Salunke (37) of Jalandhar can never have the comfort of any elderly presence ever in his life. In the past year, he has lost eight members of his family, including his mother, three maternal aunts, three maternal uncles and his young brother-in-law. His father had died five years back. With his business shut down and an ongoing struggle with severe post-Covid complications, his will to live has taken a severe beating. "I don't have anyone to turn to for any advice," says a sombre Salunke.

However, it's Faridabad-based Vishwas (16) who has to bear the unkindest cut of destiny. An orphaned child with special needs, Vishwas was adopted 10 years ago by a childless couple, Jagpal and Bhagwant. Both succumbed to Covid-19 in May, leaving Vishwas orphaned yet again. The child, mentally challenged and visually impaired, is currently lodged in Deep Ashram, Gurugram. "No one from the couple's extended family is ready to keep him or pay for his care," says an official of the social welfare department. "It has been nearly a month, Vishwas hasn't uttered a word. Neither is he sleeping nor eating properly," says his caretaker at the ashram.

Mohali-based Vaishali (29) has taken to sleeping on her mother's side of bed, whom she lost to Covid-19 last month.

## Notes on grief

Infected herself, Vaishali couldn't perform her last rites. "When the hospital returned her personal articles, I'd keep touching her phone to my face, wanting to feel her presence, as I was not able to say goodbye." Before she could process her grief, her brother Rahul (28), unable to cope with his mom's death, disappeared earlier this month. With the help of police and her friends and family, Vaishali found him 10 days later in a state of utter fear and anxiety. The age difference between them may be just a year but this loss has forced her to grow up overnight.

As the second wave claimed a large number of lives of those in their thirties and forties, many children and teenagers have been either left to fend for themselves or forced to take on responsibilities too heavy for their young shoulders. There have been many instances of the loss of not just one parent but both.

### GROWING UP OVERNIGHT

Jashanpreet (18) of Tarn Taran hasn't had any time to grieve his father Jaswinder Singh's death last year. He may now have to drop college. Why? "Because the business is in a shambles. Our savings are exhausted. There's no money to pay the labour. My mother is not educated. My sister is in Class XII and my grandparents are now dependent on me," mumbles the teenager slowly, perhaps realising the enormity of his responsibilities.

Far away in a Kangra village, Class XI student Ashok (17) faces the same misery. Even though his paternal uncle is supporting him and his sister (7), Ashok wants to opt for a vocational course after Class XII. He wants to take up a job as soon as possible to take care of his sister, shelving his engineering dreams permanently.

Ranjit Singh (14) of a village near Ludhiana has been at the receiving end of life's bitter realities for the past five years. An orphaned child with special needs, Vishwas was adopted 10 years ago by a childless couple, Jagpal and Bhagwant. Both succumbed to Covid-19 in May, leaving Vishwas orphaned yet again. The child, mentally challenged and visually impaired, is currently lodged in Deep Ashram, Gurugram. "No one from the couple's extended family is ready to keep him or pay for his care," says an official of the social welfare department. "It has been nearly a month, Vishwas hasn't uttered a word. Neither is he sleeping nor eating properly," says his caretaker at the ashram.

Gurdaspur's Anshuman Rampal (20) and his brother Arun (16) are facing a similar plight. Their father died a decade back. They lost their mother, Babita, an ASHA worker,

to Covid-19 earlier this month. "She wanted us to be successful businessmen." But with survival at stake, the duo has been knocking at the district authorities' doors either for compensation or a job without much hope of getting any. According to rules, if a 'frontline warrior' dies due to Covid, he/she is entitled to compensation. However, in Babita's case, no compensation was given as doctors claimed she died of a heart attack. An official, not wanting to be named, does admit that the heart attack could have been due to post-Covid complications but says a job or any aid is unlikely. To complicate matters further, her death is not covered under any insurance scheme.

Una's Aman and his younger sister, too, are staring at an uncertain future. As their father died three years back, the 16-year-old had to perform the last rites of his Covid-positive mother in May this year. "My father was a *naan-chana* vendor. We couldn't pay our shop's rent of ₹4,000 last month and now it has been handed over to a helper." The boy, who had dreams of joining the Army, says his priority now would be to educate and marry off his sister but is clueless about how to fulfil this huge responsibility that seems much beyond his years.

### OLD HANDS LIGHTING YOUNG PYRES

While these youngsters at least have the strength of youth to wade through their misery, on the other side of life's pendulum are many elderly persons who have lost their middle-aged sons, daughters or daughters-in-law. This cruel twist of fate has forced them to take on the care of their young grandchildren.

Phillaur-based Pirthipal Singh (66) lost his only son to Covid last year, leaving his three grandkids, aged between seven and nine years, to his and his wife's care. The kids' mother had died five years earlier. Pirthipal and his wife have moved in with their eldest daughter based in a Jalandhar village, not able to take proper care of such small kids. There are financial constraints as well. "We do not have any savings. My daughter couldn't pay her kid's school fee so she could buy clothes for these kids. I did get a call from the government that my orphaned grandchildren are entitled to pension, transferable to their account. But the bank won't open their account. The bank people are asking for court documents to prove I'm their guardian. What am I supposed to do?"

Bimla Devi (55) of Gurana village near Hisar could not save her son Rajesh (35), as the family was too poor to afford his treatment when he contracted Covid in May this year. Now his

three kids, aged 7, 9 and 12, are in the care of their grandmother. Many villagers and social organisations have since provided financial help and free education for the kids.

### ANOTHER PANDEMIC IN MAKING

With nearly four lakh Covid-19 deaths till now, mental health experts are warning of a different kind of epidemic, as psychologists and psychiatrists have been inundated with a large number of mental health cases due to unresolved trauma.

Ludhiana-based psychiatrist Dr Rajeev Gupta has been getting 13-14 such cases every month. "Families who have lost their breadwinners (aged 30-45) are going through the toughest time. The number of young widows coming for counselling is more, as most of them don't have any emotional, financial and social support. In many instances, not only the in-laws but their own families have also abandoned them in the absence of resources," he adds.

As affected people struggle in isolation with unprocessed grief, experts are predicting an alarming increase in the number of psychosomatic cases. They have dubbed this emerging syndrome as 'post-Covid stress disorder'.

"Indian customs have always been community oriented, whether celebrations or mourning. All religions/communities usually have a 13-17 day mourning period that helps the affected family to grieve in the presence of relatives and friends and find some sort of closure. The Covid-19 protocols have put a stop to all this," says Chandigarh-based psychiatrist Dr Simmi Waraich. "A nuclear setup, sudden loss of a seemingly healthy person, absence of family at cremations — these are bound to leave emotional scars. Zoom funerals aren't helping either. The images remain etched in their mind, the digital ritual reinforcing the physical isolation," she adds.

The absence or delay in rituals like '*asthi visarjan*' or '*tehravi*' has only added to the helplessness of many affected families, as many of these rituals may help in acceptance of reality.

### COPING MECHANISMS

Among those who couldn't deal with it at all was Reshma Trenchil (44), a former journalist, who jumped to death last week from her 12th floor flat in Mumbai, along with her seven-year-old son. She had been under severe depression after losing her husband Sarat Mulukutla (49) due to Covid-19 on May 23.

However, most survivors have developed some sort of a coping mechanism

The pain and sorrow at the loss of loved ones to Covid-19 has left countless families confronting a sense of utter hopelessness. Most have no support system, and even some of those who do are struggling to cope

to deal with their loss.

Unable to face the loneliness of an empty home, Kerrein, still struggling with post-Covid complications, has gone to stay with a friend in Patiala, who lives in a joint family. "Whenever memories overwhelm me, I try to get busy in some work or go and talk to some family member." However, a temporary stay there may keep her mind away from her grief but it is also a poignant reminder of what she has lost. She plans to have a houseguest, a colleague, or even a pet when she gets back to live through the next few months, till the normalcy of a routine life is able to dull the sharp ache in her heart.

A stoic Archana, on the other hand, has pushed her grief to the back of her mind and has decided to be a father to her children. "My kids have suffered enough. My daughter is yet to come out of shock. My niece is still struggling with post-Covid complications. And my son, who bore the entire trauma by himself — from rushing to the hospital to cremating his father and grandmother, needs an elder in his life."

Chandigarh-based Harsharan Kaur (42), who lost her husband to Covid in September last year, found some solace in her spiritual beliefs and the karmic theory that the soul is indestructible. Some traditional rituals helped her and her two children in accepting their loss. "At the end of the 13th day, I wrote a letter to my husband about the things left unsaid, bidding goodbye to his soul," she adds.

Salunke hasn't considered counselling but is trying to find some peace by performing *pooja* at home. "That is the only way to cope," he mumbles.

So what's the way forward to heal collectively? There is a need to reach out to others as a community, say most mental health experts. They recommend just showing up and being around the affected persons.

However, they strictly advise to avoid inanities like "time heals" or "you should move on" or "put it behind you". A silent support is the best option.

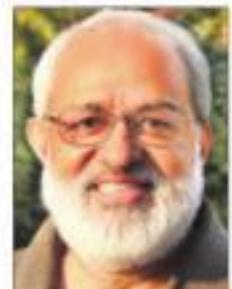
This is exactly what we need to do as a society — "listen without judging."

— With inputs from Amit Bathla, Aparna Banerji, Deepender Deswal, Gurbaxpuri, Lalit Mohan, Manav Mander, Neha Saini, Parveen Arora, Rajesh Sharma, Ravi Dhaliwal, Ravinder Saini and Sumedha Sharma.  
(Some names have been changed to protect identity)



# The wonder that is *dahi*

Curd can be turned into so many dishes ideal for this weather, though some preparations suit all seasons



**FOOD TALK**

PUSHPESH PANT

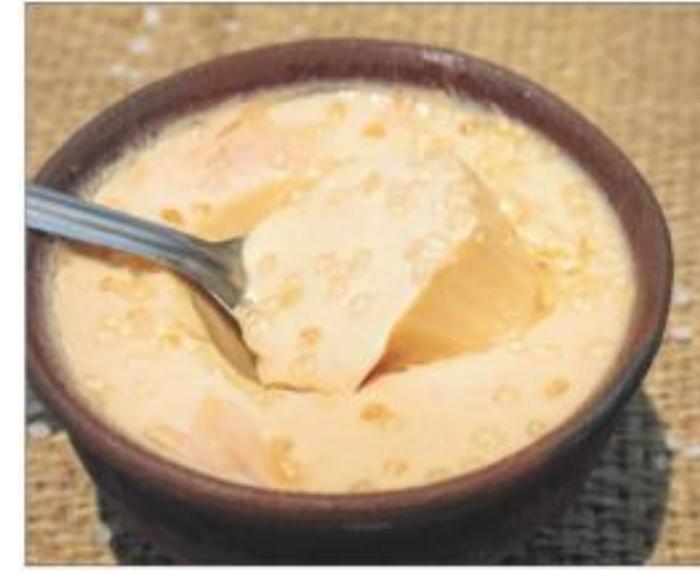
**D**AHI, derived from the original Sanskrit word 'dadhī', has been an integral part of India's identity. It was described as the land where rivers of milk and curd (that's what *dahi* is called in English; it's also known as yogurt, though experts insist there are subtle differences) flowed, indicating extraordinary prosperity. Our pastoral ancestors, the Vedic Aryans, valued it as a nourishing food — easy to digest and pure. It was used in *madrupark*, a flavourful beverage prepared from milk, curd and honey, diluted with a little water; it has come down to us as *panchamrit*, ritually offered in temples. Countless verses of Hindi poetry refer to prankster Krishna tormenting the milkmaids of Vrindavan by breaking their pitchers of *dahi*. Kathak dancers pirouette to compositions like 'Dadhi ki matki jhatki, patki khai ke dahi bikhra diyo'. Other dairy products obtained from *dahi* are freshly churned butter or *makkhan* and the *chaachh*, aka buttermilk or whey. These too were favourites of Krishna and are associated with his *leela*, the celestial play. Surdas and Raskhan have sung of his weakness for these beverages from the *dahi* family.

Different regions of India have their own signature delicacies fashioned out of curd. In Bengal, you can relish *bhapa doi* or *mishti doi*. *Bhapa doi* is baked in steam and can beat the much-hyped cheesecake any day, while *mishti doi*, which is set in clay pots, absorbs the seductive fragrance and flavour of the earthen vessel. In Maharashtra and Gujarat, it is *shrikhand* prepared from hung curd that steals the show. Redolent with green cardamom and saffron, with just a hint of sweetness, it is a light dessert that needs no adornments. In South India, no meal is complete without *tair sadam* or curd rice. A glass of *moru*-tempered buttermilk is used to wash down the spicy repast. According to ayurveda, one should avoid drinking water while eating. Instead, it suggests *takra* (curd churned along with four times water) as substitute as it helps digestion.

In Purvanchal in eastern UP and Bihar, *dahi choora* is considered the best breakfast. In Punjab, it's considered sacrilegious to serve *parantha* without a bowl of *dahi*. We have also savoured a *tadka dahi* that is treated like *subzi* — curd drained of all water is tempered with red chillies, curry leaves, *methi dana* and mustard seeds and garnished with fresh ginger, green chillies and coriander leaves. And, how can one forget *lassi* in Amritsar, Patiala and Varanasi?



(Clockwise from right)  
Otherwise ubiquitous, *dahi* is a healthy accompaniment to *parantha*. It becomes the base for curd rice, turns into kebabs and *mishti doi* as also a dip to go with crackers.



Across India, *raita* and *pachadi* are popular accompaniments to meals, more so in the summers for their time-tested coolant property. The variety of *raitas* is mind-boggling. The commonest is cucumber or *boondi*. Other quick-fixes include *aloo ka raita* and *pake kele ka raita*. Some prefer a fruity *pyaaz-kishmish* or pineapple. *Khajur ka raita* is another attractive option. *Bathua ka raita* is rarely encountered nowadays, but is abundant in health benefits. In the royal kitchens of yore, a non-vegetarian *kaleji ka raita* wowed the guests. Our favourite is the *nimbu mul sana* from Uttarakhand that blends the pungency of radish and the tang of *pahari* lemons, with the sweetness of *dadam*, local pomegranate seeds, and sugar with *dahi* as the drapé. The spicing is interesting — hemp seeds ground with rock salt, shredded red chillies paired with chopped green chillies. Sheer bliss! In the hills, it is enjoyed as an afternoon treat in winters. To our mind, it is perfect to beat the heat too.

Though the wasabi-like hard-hitting mustard-laced *raita* is more common in the hills, this one falls in another league altogether.

## DAHI NIMU MUL SANA

### INGREDIENTS

Curd 1 cup  
Lemon (large, galga-like) 1  
Radish 2  
Pomegranate seeds 1 cup  
Hemp seeds 1 tbsp  
Cumin seeds (optional) 1 tsp  
Turmeric powder (optional) A pinch  
Garlic cloves (optional) 2  
Dry red chilli (shredded) 1  
Green chillies (chopped fine) 2  
Honey 1 tbsp or to taste  
Salt to taste

### METHOD

Peel the lemon and deseed. Wash and scrape the radish, cut into small batons.

Whisk the curd. Dry roast the seeds and grind with garlic and chillies. Blend all the ingredients in a bowl and stir in the honey. You may use sugar or jaggery to taste. Slurp!

## BHAPA DOI

### INGREDIENTS

Hung curd 1 cup  
Condensed milk 1/2 cup  
Raisins and nuts (chopped and slivered) 1/4 cup  
Saffron (soaked in lukewarm milk) A few strands  
Cardamom powder 1/4 tsp  
Sugar to taste

### METHOD

Whisk the curd. Add to it condensed milk and whisk further to blend. Stir in the raisins and nuts along with saffron. Add cardamom powder. Pour into small earthenware or glass bowls. Cover with aluminium foil and steam for 7-8 minutes. When cool, transfer to the fridge to chill.

## DAHI KE KEBAB

### INGREDIENTS

Curd (hung to drain all water) 1 cup  
Suij/rice flour 1/2 cup  
Green chillies (deseeded and chopped fine) 1  
Raisins 1 tsp  
Figs/apricots (soaked in rosewater for a few hours, then chopped) 1-2  
Salt to taste  
Oil (to pan grill) 1-2 tbsp

### METHOD

Add salt to the hung curd and shape it into a ball. Divide into small portions and flatten into patties. Create a hollow in the middle and pack the filling prepared from raisins, figs/apricots and chillies, remould into balls and then flatten into kebabs. Spread sui/rice flour on a platter and coat the kebabs with this. Place a thick or non-stick pan on flame. Line it with a thin film of oil. Pan grill the dahi kebab on medium low flame, turning once carefully to make the exterior crisp. Serve with mint chutney.

# Wedding cancelled? Seek refund



**CONSUMERS BEWARE!**

PUSHPA GIRIMAJI

My parents had booked a hall for the wedding of my sister in December last year and paid ₹3.5 lakh towards it. However, because of the restrictions imposed on account of Covid-19 by the government, we were forced to cancel the hall booking. Since then we have been asking the hall owner to return our money, but he is not complying. My parents are very distressed. What can we do?

I have received a number of letters such as yours in the last several months where parents have been fighting for refund of the money paid towards booking marriage ven-

ues. In some of these cases, the hall owners themselves have informed the parents that as per government orders vis-à-vis containment of Covid-19, the hall is closed on the date of their booking. Yet, they are refusing to return the money saying they could not render the promised service on account of circumstances beyond their control (force majeure).

Even in cases like yours, where the parents have cancelled the booking on account of Covid, the hall owners are declining to refund the amount, citing unfair, one-sided terms and conditions. What is most unfortunate in these cases is that what is called the 'booking amount' is not a fraction of the total charge for the venue, but the entire amount, running into lakhs of rupees.

In many cases, the parents would have paid the amount with great difficulty, sometimes even after taking a loan and the refusal of the venue owners to return the money puts them under great financial stress and mental anguish. So much so that in many cities, the civic authorities are issuing directions to hall/banquet owners to pay back the full amount. Where there is no such help, consumers have no other option but to seek the assistance of consumer courts and I expect that in the coming months, and even years, there would be a number of such complaints before these quasi-judicial bodies.

Having said that, I must point out that consumer courts in different parts of the country have in the past dealt with complaints of hall owners turning down requests of refund and directed them to not only return the entire amount, but also pay compensation and costs. In a couple of cases, consumer courts have allowed the owners to retain a certain percentage as administrative charges and reimburse the rest.

So, keep the receipts of payments safe. In AS Rajasekaran Vs Sri Mak and Co, the District Commission (January 31, 2019) ordered a refund of ₹4,60,000 for which the consumer had a receipt, but not the remaining ₹1,80,000 that was paid through cash, on the ground that there was neither a receipt nor any other documentary evidence of payment. However, the Commission awarded compensation of ₹1,50,000 and costs of ₹10,000.

**Can you quote some other similar cases on the issue?**

In Sri Sadashiva Rao Vs Dr Janardhan, proprietor, M/R Rajalakshmi Enterprises (complaint no. 2803 of 2010, order dated July 15, 2011), the District Commission held that withholding the booking amount following cancellation of booking amounted to 'unlawful gain'. Dismissing the plea of the marriage hall owner that the hall remained vacant on those two days following cancellation, the Forum pointed out that the hall cannot possibly be booked for all 365 days.

In Gurinder Singh Vs Rajiv Gupta, proprietor, GK Resorts (CC No. 785 of 2017, decided on September 24, 2018), where the booking had to be cancelled 32 hours before the function on account of a death in the family, the District Commission said the terms and conditions of the resort on forfeiture of deposit following cancellation did not cover 'Act of God' or unforeseen circumstances and this was one such case. The consumer was therefore entitled to full refund of ₹1,50,000 and compensation of ₹5,000 and costs of ₹5,000.

In Ram Mangal Sanskrutik Bhawan Vs Anand Dattatray Koli (FA No. A/16/3013, decided on August 21, 2018), the Maharashtra State Commission ordered the hall owner to refund 85 per cent of the deposited amount, along with interest at the rate of 9 per cent from the date of deposit till realisation.

Of late, people have had to cancel wedding hall bookings on account of Covid. Returning the advance is but natural, and not just in these times



## CAPTION CONTEST 1311



Entries are invited to suggest a caption for the above photograph. The caption should only be in English, witty and not exceeding 10 words, and reach Spectrum, The Tribune, Chandigarh, 160030, by Thursday. The best five captions will be published and

awarded ₹300, ₹250, ₹200, ₹150 and ₹100, respectively. Each caption must be accompanied by a clipping of the caption contest and its number. Photocopies of the caption photo will not be accepted. Please mention the pin code in your address.

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

### Selected entries for Caption Contest 1310

June 20 issue (see photo)

- **Dare-weather friends** — Kapil Sharma, Kaithal
- **Lock, stock and baggage** — Narinder Sharma, Panchkula
- **Up-load** — Aditya Kalia, Saharanpur
- **Bustronaut** — Abhinav Sharma, Chandigarh
- **Bus top** — Sahib Singh, Chandigarh



# Maha Virs of Ranian, Pulkanjri

Lt Col Dilbag Singh Dabas (RETD)

**L**AHORE is about 15 miles from the Attari border. With Ichhogil canal running almost parallel to the border and being a formidable water obstacle, during Operation 'Cactus Lily', the Indian Army chose to remain on the defensive in this sector. Accordingly, in defence of the Amritsar Sector, 54 Infantry Brigade of 15 Infantry Division was given the responsibility of not allowing enemy ingress along the border from Pulkanjri Border Out Post (BOP) to the BOP ahead of Ranian defended locality. The brigade linked up with 96 Infantry Brigade in the north and 38 Infantry Brigade in the south of the GT road.

On December 3, 1971, just before last light, the PAF simultaneously attacked forward Indian airfields. At last light, all BOPs on the divisional front were shelled and later subjected to simultaneous attacks. The BOPs ahead of the ditch-cum-bund fortifications along the Attari drain were also attacked. Many BOPs, including Rattan Khurd, Mulakot and Pulkanjri on the Indian side of the border, were run over. Only the one at Ranian could not be pushed back.



The Indian Enclave at Ranian, south-east of Ravi-International Border (IB) confluence, provided depth to Amritsar and was designated as the vital ground to be held at all costs. During the 1971 war, the Pakistan army was desperate to capture Ranian as it dominated the western and northern areas. Its capture could facilitate the advance to Amritsar. Pakistani troops could cross the Ravi river with armour and make a dash for Amritsar, unhindered. Such was the importance of holding on to Ranian. As per 54 Infantry Brigade Operation Order, 9 Punjab battalion, supported by a squadron of tanks, was tasked to deny Pakistan ingress into Ranian.

Right from December 3 to the ceasefire on the 17th, the Ranian enclave was the scene of determined attacks and counter-attacks. During the 15-day war, 'C' Company of 9 Punjab, under the command of Major Basdev Singh Mankotia, not only blunted repeated attacks onto Ranian but also captured a sizeable chunk of Pakistan territory before declaration of ceasefire.

Basdev Singh, a Himachali Dogra from Sidhpurgarh village in present-day Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh, was commissioned into 9 Punjab, also known as the 'Fighting Ninth', on December 11, 1962; two months earlier, on October 10, Major Mahender Singh Chowdhary from the same battalion, with a meager strength of a Company minus protective patrol, had foiled three successive Chinese attacks in overwhelming strength north of Nam Ka Chu river in NEFA and most deservedly earned the Maha Vir Chakra, the first during the 1962 India-China war.

Nine years later, Basdev, now a Major, successfully emulated his senior.

## BATTLE OF RANIAN

While occupying a screen position between Ranian and the IB, 'C' Company under Major Mankotia took on the might of an

Maj BS Mankotia's 'C' company of 9 Punjab foiled the repeated attacks on Ranian, while L/Nk Shangara Singh of 2 Sikh paved way for his platoon to drag the enemy out of bunkers in Pulkanjri. Both were awarded the Maha Vir Chakra



Surjita Kaur receives the medal on behalf of her late husband Lance Naik Shangara Singh from President VV Giri and (right) Maj BS Mankotia being awarded the Maha Vir Chakra.



infantry battalion (Pakistan's 18 Frontier Force) and foiled repeated attacks on Ranian. During one of the hard slogging battles fought and won, Major Mankotia, for his conspicuous act of gallantry, was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra. The battle account reads:

*"Major Basdev Singh Mankotia of the 9th Punjab Battalion was holding a screen position with his company between Ranian and the International Border with Pakistan. Between 4th and 5th December, Pakistan's 18 Frontier Force attacked his position seven times, all the time supported by the armour. With Major Mankotia in the forefront inspiring his men to hold firm, all the attacks were repulsed with heavy casualties on the attackers. When a portion of the screen position was over-run by the enemy, Major Mankotia hastily organised his men and led a determined counter-attack from the left flank on the cry 'Durge Mata ki Jai' and regained the lost ground, although at a cost."*

*During the successful counter-attack, he was seriously wounded in both the shoulders but seeing the importance of regaining the ground, he refused to get evacuated and continued inspiring and leading his men till the enemy was completely driven out of the screen position."*

Along with Major Mankotia, Second Lieutenant Joginder Singh Jaswal, the Company Second-in-Command, and Havildar Des Raj, the platoon Havildar, too, went beyond the call of duty in foiling the repeated attacks by the enemy. Both were awarded the Vir Chakra.

## PULKANJRI BATTLE

The legendary village on a high ground close to the GT road and the International Border was held by the BSF Company Headquarters before the start of the war. On December 3, when Pakistan launched surprise attacks all along the western border, the BSF elements from Pulkanjri BOP were withdrawn overnight since the feature was not considered defensible by the BSF. Absence of Indian troops made Pulkanjri a low-hanging fruit. Militarily, Pakistan needed it and on the night of December 4, Pakistan's 15th Punjab battalion simply plucked it, sat on and slowly developed it into a formidable, all-defying, defended locality.

Pulkanjri was located within the territorial jurisdiction of 2 Sikh and the battalion decided to recapture it at the earliest. 2 Sikh was defending a frontage of almost 9 km and without denuding a portion of it, could not muster enough men to attack and recapture Pulkanjri. Also, on December 9, Pakistan had unsuccessfully attempted the capture of Dhanoya Kalan high ground held by 2 Sikh and such a threat in future could not be overlooked.

However, the recapture buzzword kept doing the rounds among all ranks, along with planning and bold execution.

Finally, a lightning commando raid was planned by a platoon strength of the fittest men to be led by Captain PS Toor. The Commando Platoon thoroughly rehearsed approach to the objective, crossing of mine fields and obstacles and bunker-bursting drills and waited for the word 'go'. But despite repeated assurances by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel SC Puri, about the success of the operation, the clearance did not come from the controlling headquarters. Although it took some days but the word spread among the jawans that

defending Pulkanjri was 2 Sikh's responsibility; however, when the war began, 'dushman' captured it and is sitting on it. No Khalsa of 2 Sikh could digest this humiliation. A silent anger was simmering.

Sensing that the war may not drag for long, and after getting frustrated having waited for long, Subedar Major (SM) Kartar Singh, a veteran of 1947-48, 1962 and 1965 wars, walked up to the CO's bunker and spoke his heart out: "Sahab bahadar, Pulkanjri painda tan 2 Sikh de ilage wih han par kabza karin baitha dushman. Beshak uthhan BSF daud gayi si par aum wali naslan eh zaroor kehan geean ki 2 Sikh de sardar ki kar rahe si?" The CO's reply, having not received orders for the recapture, further agitated the SM, who continued, "Sahab ji, aadar mangvao, sarjan companion hamla bolan layi valanteer hain. Paltan di izzat da saual haina. Ceasefire de baad kuchh nahion hona."

The much-awaited order to recapture Pulkanjri came at 5.45 pm on December 17 with just 2 hours and 15 minutes remaining for the unilateral ceasefire to be effective. With time at utmost premium, a quick counter-attack plan was made and artillery fire plan coordinated. 'C' Company, under the command of Major Narain Singh Koak, was given the task (recapture of Pulkanjri) to be completed before first light the next day.

After half-an-hour bombardment by the divisional artillery, the attack by the 'C' Company began at 1900 hours on the *jaikara* (battle cry) "Bole So Nihal — Sat Sri Akal". But the *jaikara* was answered by the enemy by opening up all the automatic weapons on the attacking troops.

Due to a preponderance of artillery fire from both sides and the enemy also firing star shells, the battleground was fully illuminated, enabling the defenders to engage the attackers with aimed fire. The attackers out in open, despite all possible odds, kept charging under covering fire by the guns of 175

Field Regiment and battalion's 3-inch mortars under Capt Toor. Just when the men were 200 yards short of the objective, and guns and mortars had stopped firing to cater to the safety of attacking troops, two medium machine guns of the enemy opened up with devastating fire, causing unimaginable dead and wounded.

At that critical juncture, to stop any more casualties and also to help maintain the momentum of the attack, Lance Naik Shangara Singh, in a rare display of courage, albeit at the highest cost, silenced both the machine guns, paving the way for his platoon to charge and drag the enemy out from the bunkers.

Shangara Singh belonged to Chola Sahib in Amritsar district, a village that still has at least one, some even two, *faujis*, mostly in Sikh Regiment, in most of the houses. Shangara was enrolled in 2 Sikh in January 1964.

2 Sikh, one of the oldest Indian battalions, was originally raised as 15 Loodiana Sikhs in 1846 and was commended for the role it played during the First World War. It was given the name 2 Sikh in 1922 when the Indian regiments were numbered. During the Second World War, 2 Sikh fought in North Africa, Greece and Italy and won battle honours Mersa Matruh, Coriano, SAN Mariano, Poggio San Giovanni and Greece; a very rare for a battalion to have earned so many honours.

Shangara Singh, however, was destined to serve the battle-hardened battalion only for seven years; nonetheless, his short innings ended gloriously for he earned the Maha Vir Chakra for the battalion. He was most ably joined by Havildar Gurdev Singh, the platoon Havildar who earned the Vir Chakra for his bravery of a high order.

*"On December 17, 1971, Lance Naik Shangara Singh of 2nd Sikh Battalion was Second-in-Command of a section in the forward platoon during the attack on Pulkanjri village. While closing onto the objective, the platoon in which he was serving came under heavy enemy fire, particularly from two machine guns on the east flank. Many jawans fell and the attack could not proceed further."*

To save the life of his comrades as also to maintain the momentum of the attack, Shangara, with utter disregard for personal safety, made a dash through the minefield to the first machine gun post and hurled a grenade inside the bunker, successfully silencing the machine gun. Then he charged toward the second machine gun post, leapt over the loophole and succeeded in physically snatching the gun. In doing so, he received a burst of fire in his abdomen, but undeterred,

he continued to hold the machine gun. The enemy was completely unnerved and the firing crew fled from the bunker, leaving the machine gun barrel in Shangara's hands.

Elimination of these two machine guns enabled the platoon to dash forward and take on the enemy in fierce hand-to-hand combat. The hard slogging match continued for over an hour after which the enemy withdrew leaving behind its dead and wounded. Immediately, Shangara was pulled back for evacuation; however, due to excessive loss of blood he succumbed to his injuries."

The battle to recapture Pulkanjri was among the fiercest fought and decisively won on the western front. The success cost 2 Sikh dearly but the grit and determination of its officers and men was suitably acknowledged; the battalion was awarded one MVC, one Vir Chakra and four Sena Medals (gallantry), including the one to Major Narain Singh Koak.

Along with Lance Naik Shangara Singh and Havildar Gurdev Singh, many diehard Khalsas of 2 Sikh went beyond the call of duty, some even offering the supreme sacrifice and unknowingly replaying the part the battalion played six years earlier; in the 1965 war, it captured the most formidable, all-defying, 'Raja Post' in Poonch sector. The Commanding Officer, Lt Col NN Khanna, was killed in action while leading the assault. And the iconic phrase coined by 2 Sikh, 'Raja (CO) ditta par Raja (objective) litta,' speaks volumes. In 1971, 2 Sikh repeated the feat by recapturing yet again the all-defying Pulkanjri against all possible odds, and at the shortest possible notice. This time the fallen Raja was a Lance Naik, Second-in-Command of a section of 10 men.

And the brave men of XV Ludhiana Sikhs, the Raja Battalion, lived up to the prayer of their 10th Guru and the regimental motto 'Nischaya kar apni jeet karoon'.

Although not during the battle of Pulkanjri, but five months later, when Operation 'Cactus Lily' was still on, Naib Subedar Gian Singh of 2 Sikh posthumously earned the Vir Chakra when in May 1972 he led a fighting patrol and thwarted another attempt by the Pakistani army to wrest Pulkanjri from the Indian Army's firm grip.

Pulkanjri, with the Unesco heritage tag, does have a readable history behind it although the tales and legends woven around do not match the exalted status of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

It would be worthwhile for Capt Amarinder Singh, an ex-officer from 2 Sikh and also having served with the battalion during the 1965 war, to consider changing the name to Pul Shangara to honour the Sardar who sacrificed his life to ensure that the heritage site remains with India.

# At the PoW camp with Khaliq, who lost to Milkha

Lt Col AK Ahlawat

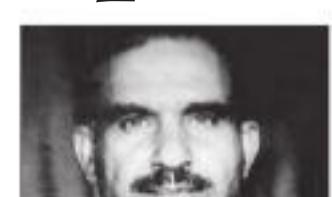
IT was December 20, 1971, and the war had ended a few days ago. Ajay was a pre-medical student in DAV College, Chandigarh. He reached the Chandigarh bus stand to catch the first bus to Jammu. The morning was cool and winter's haze hung on the roofs of the lined-up buses. A few minutes before 7, the Sikh driver in khaki climbed behind the wheel. By evening, Ajay was with his father, Col Krishan Lal Wahi, posted at Udhampur where the Army's 15 Corps was headquartered. The family was grieving. On December 6, they had lost Flight Lieutenant Vijay Kumar Wahi in aerial battles over Chhamb-Akhnoor. He was flying a Sukhoi 7 with the IAF's 101 Fighter Squadron. The mood of the family was sombre and quiet. Vijay Wahi was the hero brother, the fighter pilot brother whom Ajay hero-worshipped.

Then one day his father said, "Ajay, I have to visit the Prisoner of War here in Udhampur. Would you like to come along?"

So they drove in an Army Jonga, turned left from the nullah before the Base Hospital and reached the barbed wire cage of the PoW camp. The elderly time-scale



Lt Col Ajay Wahi



Subedar Abdul Khalique

Recalling the chance meeting of Col Krishan Lal Wahi with the legendary Pak athlete, his request for medical aid for a fellow soldier and how the Col's son offered to donate blood

Sikh Colonel who was the camp commandant took them to his hut and gave them tea and biscuits.

"Anyone from Khooshab Sargodha area in the camp?" asked Colonel Wahi.

"I think there might be a few," he

said, pressing the office bell. An orderly appeared.

"Go call the Pakistani senior JCO."

A man in khaki came in, saluted and disclosed his name, number, rank and unit.

"How did you get caught as PoW, JCOs are at gun position in the rear?" asked Col Wahi.

"Janab, there is a lot of difference in our armies. In the Indian Army, officers do Artillery Observation Post duty. In our army, officers remain behind at gun positions and JCOs are at Forward Observation Posts to direct artillery fire. My observation post got over-run by the Indian infantry and I was taken prisoner."

Colonel Wahi was silent for a few moments trying to recollect something. "Isn't there a Pakistani athlete of your name who had competed against Milkha Singh in races?" he asked.

The Pakistani came to stiff attention and said, "Janab, I am the same man."

Subedar Abdul Khalique of 8 Medium Regiment was an ace sprinter whom Pandit Nehru had called the "The Flying Bird of Asia". When Milkha Singh won against him, Pakistan President Gen Ayub Khan reached the legendary athlete, who passed away recently, the "Flying Sikh".

Colonel Wahi and Subedar Khalique exchanged notes about their native province for some time and then the JCO asked, "Gustakhi mauf howey tan janab ek arz karan (Sir, if you permit, I have an appeal)."

"Bilkul dasso (sure, go ahead)."

"Janab eik munda hai, ohh nu bayonet lagya hai. Doctor saab roz aande ne, oh nu dekhdey ney, parr ohh thik nahi ho rayaa (Sir, there is a soldier of ours who has a bayonet wound, the doctor comes every day to attend to him but his condition is not improving)."

"Badala tezz bukhaar hai mundey nuu aur saadey paasey daa he haa (The lad has high fever and he is from our province itself)."

He asked if a surgeon could have a look at him as he was slipping away fast and maybe his life could be saved.

The senior surgery adviser at the Base Hospital was a white-bearded Sikh who also came from Khooshab. He was Colonel Wahi's tennis partner. They gave him a call and related the case. The surgeon, Colonel Baldev Singh, asked for the PoW to be sent to the Base Hospital and sent an ambulance.

In the evening, the surgeon met Col Wahi at the tennis court. The young schoolboy also accompanied his father.

"Thank God you sent him just in time. The bayonet has gone deep inside and he has peritonitis. Very serious infection has developed inside and he will have to be operated upon. We need some blood for him. I have told the staff that I will operate after I play tennis and in the meantime they are to look for some donor of the same blood group."

Ajay Wahi, who was overhearing the conversation, asked, "Sir, what blood group is he?"

"He is B Positive."

"I am also B Positive."

The surgeon looked at Ajay, "You will donate blood for this Pakistani soldier?"

"Yes I will."

"Are you sure?"

"Of course I will."

"Come son, then let's go to the hospital." They reached the hospital and the senior surgeon said, "Here is the voluntary donor, I will just change and operate."

Then the father and son came back. The father said, "Son, I thought that you were still a kid, but I have realised today that my son is no longer a boy, he is a man." Lt Col Ajay Wahi, a pathologist, had donated blood 130 times till he reached the age of 65.

# Opening the many windows to India's past

SALIL MISRA

INDIANS are a people obsessed with history. This obsession has generally created two different impulses, of unfulfilled curiosity and politically motivated history. The book under review clearly caters to the first impulse. All those with great curiosity but little information about Indian history must turn to this book to whet their appetite. It is like taking a conducted tour to India's long past, a journey in time. The tour takes two routes, by looking at the monuments and ruins of today which had a great past. The author visits these monuments and then takes the readers on a journey in time, stretching up to a few thousand years, to provide a view of what India looked like then.

The second route to India's past is through the writings and observations of travellers who came to India from places as far off as Greece, Persia, Morocco, Italy, China and France and left rich records of their impressions. Sometimes a society understands itself better by focusing on how outsiders have looked at it. Both



Ruins of Nalanda. The author says a search for the essentials of the Buddhist doctrine brought many Chinese travellers to India during the first millennium of the Christian era. iStock

the routes converge at a point which illuminates the enchanting history of India, without invoking false pride about it.

The book maintains a constant dialogue of the past with the present. General History books often present the past as something distant and resting somewhere on

the horizon. 'Indians' tries to cull out those facets of the past that are still with us. After establishing this connectivity in time, it attempts to unravel India's past. This exercise has been made more interesting by telling the history of this 'discovery' also. Different facets of India's

history were unearthed at different points; the 5,000-year-old Indus Valley Civilisation was discovered as late as in the 1920s!

While describing the Indus Valley civilisation and comparing it with the Vedic Age, the author has made an extremely important point, which has generally gone unnoticed: The Vedic Age represented a high, doctrinal and scripturalist version of Hinduism, whereas the Indus Valley, predating the Vedic times by a few centuries, is a fine example of folk and ritualistic form of Hinduism. This idealistic discovery should correct the misleading picture of eternal Hinduism, frozen in time and space, by highlighting the great diversity within the faith.

The parts dealing with Buddhism (chapters 4 and 5) and the records of Chinese travellers (Faxian, Xuanzang and Yigand, between the 4th and the 7th centuries) are particularly fascinating. Buddhism, India's gift to the world, may be considered as "Hinduism for export". It went to China from India in the first century of the Christian era with traders and missionaries. In China, it grew very differently from India, based not so much on scriptures, but on derivative texts and local rituals. This is testified by the images of the laughing

Buddha in China as against the image of a quiet, serene and meditative Buddha in India. It is possible that a search for the essentials of the original Buddhist doctrine may have brought so many Chinese travellers to India during the first millennium of the Christian era. They visited different Buddhist sites and institutions and left elaborate records on what they observed. As it happened, Buddhism in India began to decline since the 9th century and was virtually extinct by the 13th century. The records of the Chinese travellers played an important role in reviving interest in Buddhism in India around the 19th century when their writings were discovered and translated by European Indologists.

Faxian, the pioneer Chinese traveller, had come to India with four other pilgrims. They arrived in India through the land route and spent the whole of six years by the time they reached Bihar. Readers can get some idea of what travelling was all about in pre-modern times.

The book admirably demonstrates that a pride in one's past can be invoked quite effectively by making it intelligible and binging it alive, without having to needlessly glorify it.

## Communicating with the tree nearest to you

VIBHA SHARMA

'THE Heartbeat of Trees' by forester Peter Wohlleben is aimed at strengthening the bond between us humans and nature, trees and forests in particular. While negotiating the book, you might even be tempted to rush to the nearest tree, hug it and feel all the emotions that the author is prompting you to explore while fine-tuning your senses to connect with trees in a way you would with a friend.

The book follows Wohlleben's earlier book 'The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate', besides other works, to unravel the mysteries of nature at a time when ancient trees and forests continue to weather threats induced by climate change, droughts, fire, insects and market forces. With time, global warming and deforestation are only expected to result in increased temperatures and altered rain patterns, affecting forests, water availability, biodiversity, agriculture, human health... As we all already know, the vicious climate change circle is spinning.

It is in times like these that exploring the consciousness of trees—in their language, through their hidden interactions—may encourage some to re-establish and rekindle our age-old sacred relationship with trees and forests.

In the chapter 'Electric Trees', Wohlleben says that to establish any kind of communication with a tree, you might be tempted to go out into the woods and hug a trunk to see if you feel something. But because both you and the tree are grounded to the earth, there is absolutely no difference in the charges you both carry, and so you may feel nothing. When you hug a tree, nothing electric happens because the voltages are the same. Yet, it is theoretically possible to experience the electric field surrounding the tree.

So, can people communicate with trees?

To know the answer you will need to take a closer look at what communication is, says the author, as he guides the readers to hone their senses in order to do that. "Our perceptions are as strong as they ever were" and "our senses are not inferior to those of animals, they simply are—as with all species—perfectly adapted to our needs", he says. However, trees are "awfully slow". Therefore, one will have to be extremely patient, and sensitive.

Trees have roots as brain, a heartbeat, can hear and respond to touch/music and feel pain. Plants grow slowly after being touched, but are healthier because when stimulated by touch, they produce more jasmone acid, which not only regulates height and triggers the growth of thicker stem, but also makes them more stable and resistant to pests.

They may not have hearts per se, but they do have something that performs a similar function or the most important processes in their bodies would not work. What blood is to people, water is to trees. Their heartbeat is so slow, it is almost impossible to experience. They sleep (in winters after drastically reducing the water content in the parts of their bodies above the ground) and are also "followers of fashion". An example of a fashionable tree is the grand fir!

Interestingly, trees also migrate. They may not be able to do that quickly enough as they need hundreds, if not thousands, of years to migrate, time that neither they nor we have. After all, the hotter the climate is, the harder it becomes for a tree to suck water from the soil. And the harder it sucks, the greater is the risk



The author wants readers to re-discover and re-establish ancient bonds with forests.

of rupturing some vascular tissue.

By and by, as you get to the last page, you might have a whole new perspective about your neighbourhood tree.

The author tells you to "sit under these giants, run your hands over their barks and feel secure", and experience "compounds" that calm and sharpen your senses. Apart from the usual benefits of healthy calorie burning while walking through forests, Wohlleben says that the compounds that beeches, oaks and many other trees release into the air to communicate amongst themselves affect our circulatory system and our sub-consciousness.

While prompting the readers to re-discover and re-establish ancient bonds with trees/forests, Wohlleben uses scientific research with logic, reasoning and a sprinkling of philosophy. However, there are some issues as well. Though the language is simple, it may not come as an easy read for those looking for quick-fix answers. At times, it tends to be slow, at times, meandering.

An issue many Indian readers may face can be a lack of connect. While the tagline of the book says "Embracing our ancient bonds with forests and nature" and there is an entire chapter, 'The Sacred Tree', where he writes about age-old forms of tree worship in countries like Germany and Italy, there is no reference to India or her Vedic culture. For someone in India, a country with thousands of years of established cultural/religious bonds with the biome and nature, where trees are believed to have consciousness like humans, where they are worshipped and are part of our rituals and ceremonies, the book fails to impress.

But there are many interesting nuggets and revelations that make up for that. Like, how on family outings parents caution their children to be quiet so as to not disturb animals while they should be telling them the opposite. "This is completely unnecessary. When animals hear people making noise, instead of getting stressed they relax because they realise right away that noisy people have no intention of hunting them. Hunters, after all, are silent when stalking their prey... So, yell as loudly as you can when in a forest," says Wohlleben.

Then there is this story about Old Tjikko, considered the oldest living tree on Earth, and that the concept of modern forestry with single-species plantations and cycles does not make a forest in true sense. There is no way we can use forest or nature in general without destroying something, he says.

Therefore, do visit a forest, or at least engage/communicate with your nearest tree, re-establish that ancient bond and rediscover the key to our survival as a human race, before it is too late.

## Abiding appeal of 142-year-old verse

AMITABHA BHATTACHARYA

HERE is a book on a book—a biography of Edwin Arnold's portrayal, in verse, of Siddhartha Gautama's evolution as the enlightened Buddha—authored by one of India's more sensible public figures. How 'The Light of Asia' (1879) played a seminal role in popularising the Buddha and his teachings, mainly in the West, and to different countries including India, makes for a compelling narrative. Moreover, Arnold's work influenced many notable personalities—scientists and litterateurs, politicians and theosophists—all over the globe and continues to evoke interest even today.

Jairam Ramesh has woven the story around the history of Arnold's book, showing how individuals, cultures and institutions interact with each other. Divided into four sections and subdivided into 25 chapters, this biography follows a chronological sequence, revealing in the process the interesting life of Arnold, the inherent contradictions in 'The Light', and contextualising its impact in an emerging age of reason and humanism. The Buddha preached no God, didn't believe in 'permanent, unchanging self', was against animal sacrifice and suggested the path to ameliorate human condition.

Arnold's association with India started in 1857 when he took over and served for a few years as the principal of Poona College (renamed as Deccan College later). Though an apologist for the Empire, his fascination with India and its thought systems would continue till the end. His work 'The Book of Good Counsels: From the Sanskrit of the Hitopadesa' (1861), translation of Jayadeva's 'Gita

Govinda' (1875) and that of the 'Bhagvada Gita', titled 'The Song Celestial' (1885), were all well received, but none could match the appeal of 'The Light', not even 'The Light of the World' (1891)—a panegyric to Jesus Christ.

What were the reasons behind its phenomenal success? Is it because Arnold explained concepts like Nirvana in more positive terms that seemed acceptable to a wider readership? How could it influence men as different as Rudyard Kipling and Mahatma Gandhi, TS Eliot and Dharmananda Kosambi, Jawaharlal Nehru and BR Ambedkar? There have been more serious scholars on Buddhism, greater Orientalists, better poets and writers than Arnold ever was. Yet, the legacy of 'The Light', through literature, cinema, drama and painting, endures. Inspired by it, 'Buddhadeb Charit' was written and presented on the stage by Sri Ramakrishna's famous disciple Girish Chandra Ghosh (1885). The play mesmerised Calcutta, with Arnold among the viewers! Why would Arnold be reckoned so seriously across diverse cultures? The book under review, through extensive research and literature survey, seeks to fathom the underlying causes.

The reverence that Rabindranath Tagore and Swami Vivekananda had for Buddhadeb is well recorded. Ramesh quotes Vivekananda: "Arnold's book ... represents more of Vedantism than Buddhism." According to Ramesh, "It is clear that to him Arnold's poem was invaluable not so much as a tract on Buddhism but as a moving description of Buddha's life." The impress of Buddha's life of compassion and piety was profound on Tagore. However, Ramesh's contention that Arnold's book influenced Tagore's poem 'Bidayé' remains contestable.

The episode about transfer of ownership of the Bodh Gaya temple in 1953, in pursuance of the movement started by Arnold, Dharmapala and others, is an interesting lesson for everyone. Ashoka had built the temple which was rebuilt after 500 years. Centuries later, the legal possession of the village went to a Saivite Hindu mahant. That the dispute ended amicably, following a legislation of the Bihar Assembly, speaks volumes about the sagacity of our leaders.

This book is replete with interesting insights. For instance, should government assistance be provided for translation of religious books? In the context of a request from Mahadevi Verma, Nehru had noted, "But books like the 'Buddha Charita' or the 'Rig Veda' are classics of ancient India and can hardly be considered just religious books."

Ramesh captures the spirit and shares the flavour of Sir Arnold's poem, and tells the story in a language that is free flowing, bereft of jargon and imbued with empathy. A definitive work that would be cherished by every reader.



## BACKFLAP

MENTAL ILLNESS is devastating—for both the patients and those around them. Naheed Piroze Patel's 'A Mirror Made of Rain' is an intense and poignant novel about the wounds of inherited trauma, a blistering and unflinching commentary on family, love, pain, addiction and destruction". A graduate from Columbia University, Patel's debut novel tells the story of Noomi Wadia, a bright, quick-tempered young woman with a penchant for getting into trouble and who struggles with the fraught relationship she has with her mother. She grows from a lonely, wild-hearted teenager to a troubled adult who finds love but not happiness. Soon, Noomi realises she is trapped in the same cycle of self-destructiveness as her mother. She must battle her impulses or risk losing everything. It portrays with empathy the darkness that addiction and mental illness cast over a family.



A MIRROR MADE OF RAIN  
by Naheed Piroze Patel.  
HarperCollins.  
Pages 296. ₹499

THE year 2018 saw ace crime fiction writer S Hussain Zaidi's 'Golden Pen and Westland partner to promote crime fiction writing in India. The latest book under this endeavour is 'Mortuary Tales' by Kashif Mashaikh that dives into Mumbai's unsettling underbelly and resurfaces with uncanny stories that cast the city in a seductive, horror-tinged glow. For the past three decades, Jeevanram has worked the night shift at the mortuary of a Mumbai hospital. At the sunset of his career, he is joined by a young apprentice who is clearly uncomfortable when confronted by death and disease. The apprentice is afraid to face his fears; but through the nine dark tales Jeevanram tells him, the young man begins to understand the purpose of life, death, love, loss, guilt and everything in between. Drawing from the narrative patterns of 'Vikram-Betaal' and the 'Arabian Nights', 'Mortuary Tales' is filled with stories of real fear, and the many ghosts that the mind can conjure.

MORTUARY TALES  
by Kashif Mashaikh.  
Westland.  
Pages 216. ₹399

OVER the centuries, Kashmir has undergone cataclysmic social, cultural and religious changes, often tumultuous and violent. This book by Khem Lata Wakhlu, a writer, politician and activist who divides her time between Srinagar and Pune, endeavours to offer a rare glimpse into the lives of Kashmiris—Hindus and Muslims alike—and the ways in which their lives revolved around the simple pleasures of life, even amid all the upheaval. The stories, which Wakhlu has been witness to, provide a glimpse of the Kashmir that her generation and her grandparents and parents grew up in. The all-encompassing view of Kashmiri ethos and culture brings a fresh outlook that is much needed in our times when the churn in Kashmir is going on in full swing. A bilingual writer, Wakhlu was conferred the Jammu and Kashmir Sahitya Akademi award for her book 'Kashmir Ki Dharti'.



A KASHMIRI CENTURY  
by Khem Lata Wakhlu.  
HarperCollins.  
Pages 366. ₹599

# 'Go West, young man'



THE INWARD EYE

GURBACHAN JAGAT

The first trickle began from Doaba in the Fifties and consisted mainly of illiterate or semi-literate youth. It is sad and haunting to still hear this mantra of 'Go West, young man', where your ancestors have dug new roots. If only Punjab had some visionaries with the burning desire to serve the state, they had only to reach out to the diaspora. Even today, govt's abroad and private industries look upon Punjabis as an excellent human resource. And they are leaving for good in hordes.

THE story is not new, but it is one that has fascinated me for a very long time—the story of the Punjabi diaspora in the West: UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and to a smaller extent, Greece, Italy, etc. I am limiting myself to the Punjabis because I know more about them than the Keralees, the Tamils who have also done wonders wherever they have gone.

Throughout human history, man has always moved in search of mainly better economic prospects and quality of life. We have today a large number of students going abroad for higher studies and employment thereafter. However, I wish to dwell on the pioneers who left Punjab for foreign shores in the early Fifties of the last century. The first trickle began from the Doaba region of Punjab and consisted mainly of illiterate or semi-literate youth, some of whom belonged to families uprooted from west Punjab and who had not been properly rehabilitated. They went to the UK in search of work and with the objective of helping their families through remittances. The only work which paid well was in the open steel furnaces and in the mines — very tough work and the salary though meagre by British standards suited the migrant's objective. I wonder at them — not knowing the language, the people, the culture, living in their cocoons. I have heard of them leaving chalk marks on their residences (many of them stayed together) and counted the stations on the underground because they could not read— hence 10th, 15th station, etc.

Occasionally, they would get lost but they had been advised to go to the nearest Bobby and inform him. In the first few years, the Bobby would have them dropped at their homes. Soon, the police understood that they were literally being taken for a ride and put a stop to this practice. Meanwhile, they kept on saving money and sending it home. This created an almost parallel economy because people started sending money through unofficial channels. I remember at one stage, the official value of the pound was ₹18, whereas it was ₹30 in the black market. Travel agents, government officials were involved in this and a whole crop of

carriers came up who went to the villages to deliver the money in rupees. In the absence of phones, inland letters were used, and a coded message would be sent regarding the amount. Some of these travel agents and others became millionaires and some went on to become ministers.

The whole of the Punjab economy was shaken up positively and farmers in new clothes and on two-wheelers, carrying transistors, were visible more and more. The prices of land shot up as the NRI money was used to buy land. This led to an increased flow of youth to these countries, and with the next generation came a change both in the lifestyles in the UK and in Punjab. The second generation, unlike the first one, was undecided about coming back but by the time of the third generation, which was brought up and educated abroad, a shift took place and they refused to come back. They adapted to the local systems and also branched out into businesses, industries and professional jobs. The flow of money to Punjab also decreased, as also the craze for land. Punjab's troubles in the '80s and '90s finally put paid to any desire to come back — even the pioneers decided to stay on. The Punjab skyline, which had increasingly been dotted with huge mansions and marriage palaces, began to stall and the reverse trend of selling off assets had started.

In the meantime, a strong nexus had developed between the travel agents, NRIs, government officials and politicians of all hues. The NRI became a very valuable source of election funds. If the politicians had gone beyond themselves and thought of the state, Punjab would have been a different and better place today. Governments of all kinds held NRI conferences, created special cells to harness the NRI money and expertise to industrialise Punjab, but these turned out to be just "melas" with no results. To the best of my knowledge, not a single major industry has been set up with the help of these people. Initially they showed keen interest to invest and kept on waiting for government response, but they all went back empty-handed. I think all those sammelans and cells came to nought and have been wound up or are defunct. With a little initiative and less red tape, Punjab could've been industri-

alised and our youth could have got employment here. Not only industry, the NRIs could have helped in the field of higher education by setting up institutes of global standards and brought in their expertise. Another field which could have benefited immensely is healthcare. State-of-the-art hospitals could have been set up. NRI doctors of international repute would have come and helped. Medical education and research could have made a quantum leap. Our bureaucracy, our political parties, our governments are not facilitators but rather are roadblocks in the path of progress. If political power cannot be used for the betterment of people, but rather only for the purposes of self-aggrandisement, then what is the purpose of such power?

I have only talked of the human resource which we could have used for transforming Punjab. We could have produced a better, compassionate, healthy and educated human being. We could have become a destination for others and not a springboard for immigration. Punjab's unique resource was its human material. It is now no longer so. Unemployment and poor education and healthcare have led to this.

To strengthen my argument for the Punjabis, just look at their business acumen and the tremendous success they have achieved overseas. Not only this, they have also entered the political and social spheres where they have excelled. Today, we have MPs in the UK and Scotland, members in Congress in the USA and lawmakers in Canada and Australia. We have a large contingent of ministers in Canada, some in the UK and we have public servants in the USA who are Senate approved. We have captains of industry in the best of multinationals, and we have scholars and researchers of repute in many fields.

On the social front, I will give only one example which has caught the imagination of people in the West — the Sikh concept of 'langar': free food given to all visitors to the gurdwaras; more than that in time of emergency, be it the airplane crash in Belgium, rail mishaps elsewhere, famines, earthquakes, floods and now Covid. These Sikh organisations, like Khalsa Aid,

etc. are like first responders. After joining the search and rescue mission, they set up 'langars' for one and all — healthy, simple, ample food. This is the kind of social service, 'sewa', which our young men render in foreign lands — their adopted lands to whom they owe their allegiance. Now if we had facilitated them to enter different sectors in Punjab, imagine the contribution they could have made. If only Punjab had some visionaries with the burning desire to serve Punjab, they had only to reach out to the diaspora.

Even today, the governments abroad and private industries look upon Punjabis as an excellent human resource which can adapt and become a major contributor to society. Hence, it is still "Go West, young man" and of course do not come back. Our children are leaving the country after Plus Two for higher education and most will get employment over there or become entrepreneurs as excellence is rewarded in their meritocracy. Today, our villages are being emptied out of youth, our cities and towns are full of old couples whose next two generations have gone out. They look with dimmed eyes to those foreign shores where their loved ones are making lives for themselves. Of course, the gentlemen who have run this country for decades — their children don't have to go out to seek employment, they have set up huge 'benami' sources of income. They don't have to bear the pangs of separation and loneliness which others have to. They are the rulers, and we are the subjects, and our meeting point comes once in five years when we anoint them again.

To conclude, a final salute to those doughty young men who left for foreign lands without knowing what lay in store for them — the furnaces and the mines, pigeonholes for dwelling, cut off from local society. Their initiative and sacrifice led to the well-being of their children and grandkids. Hundreds of thousands of them spread all over the globe with Punjab still in their hearts. It is sad and haunting to still hear the mantra — "Go West, young man", where your ancestors have dug new roots.

**The writer is ex-chairman of UPSC, former Manipur Governor and served as J&K DGP**

## The change within



TOUCHSTONES

IRA PANDE

ACH year the monsoon teases us — just as you think the rains will come and wash away the oppressive heat of summer, it decides to stay on elsewhere and take its own sweet time. This year, the Met office raised our hopes by declaring that the monsoon was actually coming almost three weeks before it was due. This, they declared, had not happened in over two decades. We were elated and tracked the clouds as they entered the plains of central India. And look what has happened! It is nowhere near our region and heaven knows when it will deign to arrive.

I have also discovered several forgotten friends, and learnt to be more tolerant of those who think differently from me. This includes even those who are closest to me: my husband, siblings and cousins. Their political views and lifestyles would have irritated me once but today, if I find my husband napping in the morning when he should be doing something better, or sneaking a drink in the afternoon (something I would have screeched about earlier), I turn a blind eye. If the children don't call or ask us how we are, I have taught myself to overlook their indifference. Instead, I call them up. Believe me, it took a lot to achieve this large-heartedness but it made me free of attachments in a way I did not think possible.

I have also made time for those books I promised I would read one day and yes, even deal with solitude and loneliness. To watch the world from inside is an altogether different experience from going outside and being part of a moving crowd. Often, meeting and spending time with people you don't really need in your lives brings in levels of anxiety and anger that one can do without. As Wallis Simpson, the Duchess of Windsor and the woman who made her husband give up the crown of England, once said: 'One can never be rich enough or thin enough.' So why envy those who are still trapped in their desire to look forever young and behave as if they are still 30 years younger than they are? I am proud to have grey hair and a sagging skin. After all, those who like me see me as I was when they knew me 30 years ago: we have weathered these years together.

Let me tell you what I have been made aware of: first among these epiphanies is that I can do with much less than I thought was possible. Whether this means clothes and assets, or whether it means cutting down on unnecessary social engagements — the long incarceration has opened my eyes to the monumental vanity of collecting and hoarding possessions. It has also given me an opportunity to examine my priorities and let some attachments go. At 70, I don't need so much and the pleasure of giving away far exceeds the joy of buying stuff for oneself.

Giving away precious possessions comes with some heartache, no doubt, but the happiness that it gives eventually is worth the pain. Also, if one can give it to those who will never be able to buy it themselves, the joy is even greater. So

my sarees are going to young students or to my maids who love possessing those bright and shining textiles that I know I can never wear. The same goes for handbags, shoes and some jewellery. The heirloom pieces will go to my granddaughters so that they stay in the family; the rest to those friends who have liked some pieces. Money, too, will be given to charity: not temples or well-endowed missions but to those who help the poor and girls who wish to study. There are some excellent NGOs that I have in mind.

I have also discovered several forgotten friends, and learnt to be more tolerant of those who think differently from me. This includes even those who are closest to me: my husband, siblings and cousins. Their political views and lifestyles would have irritated me once but today, if I find my husband napping in the morning when he should be doing something better, or sneaking a drink in the afternoon (something I would have screeched about earlier), I turn a blind eye. If the children don't call or ask us how we are, I have taught myself to overlook their indifference. Instead, I call them up. Believe me, it took a lot to achieve this large-heartedness but it made me free of attachments in a way I did not think possible.

I have also made time for those books I promised I would read one day and yes, even deal with solitude and loneliness. To watch the world from inside is an altogether different experience from going outside and being part of a moving crowd. Often, meeting and spending time with people you don't really need in your lives brings in levels of anxiety and anger that one can do without. As Wallis Simpson, the Duchess of Windsor and the woman who made her husband give up the crown of England, once said: 'One can never be rich enough or thin enough.' So why envy those who are still trapped in their desire to look forever young and behave as if they are still 30 years younger than they are? I am proud to have grey hair and a sagging skin. After all, those who like me see me as I was when they knew me 30 years ago: we have weathered these years together.

I am not aiming for sainthood but want to spend the years that I have left with dignity. That, dear reader, comes only when one can confront one's foibles and make a conscious effort to smoothen the angularities of bias and arrogance. I am learning to accept those people and those facts that cannot or will not change by changing myself. I may not always succeed but becoming aware of the need to change is surely a step in the right direction.

Try it, it will give you something to aim for when you enter the world that awaits us.

## Golden jubilee of 'Born to Battle' batch



MILITARY MATTERS

LT GEN RAJ SUJLANA (RETD)

This month marks 50 years of our 1971 IMA batch. The pandemic ensured there was no physical meet, but how could we not look back with pride.

It was on June 13, 1971, that we stood on the drill square facing the historic Chetwode building; the façade seemed to beckon our excite-

ment. The Almighty too blessed us, the heavens opened with a heavy shower; fully drenched, the cottons stuck to our skin, the hackles swayed on the headgear, but sentinel-like, we were unshakeable. The parade followed, it was just the best foot forward. With the heels dug in, the rows moved meticulously to the appreciation of all those present, especially the reviewing officer. He praised our immaculate smartness, perfect drill and rare gusto despite the weather. The haunting tune of 'Auld Lang Syne' filled the air; we slow-marched on the final journey towards the hallowed doors of the Chetwode. We stepped on the 'Antim Pag' to cross the Rubicon, from Gentlemen Cadets we became Gentlemen Officers of the Indian Army. Our pride was boundless, the one star on our shoulders outshone everything.

A short leave followed, and by the first week of July, we bid farewell to

our families. Their unspoken words were clear, 'Soldier going to war — will you take my heart with you, so that I may share a little in the famous things you do?' We reported to our units already on the battle stations. We were determined, ready to fight or die. Some of us never returned from the bloody battles, killed but with honour; it was sad that many of us died young and headed early for Valhalla, but the enemy learnt that 'Veerta ki jaan hain (hum)/Bharat ki shaan hain/Tere hi kachha mein/Tujhe hi hila diya'. No wonder, we are called 'Born to Battle'!

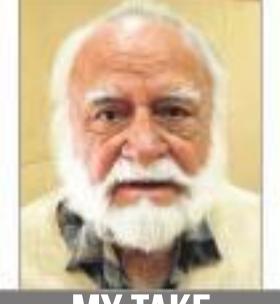
Among us was Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal, honoured with the Param Vir Chakra, posthumously, for his valour, even acknowledged by the enemy. In the years to follow, many more would leave us, bravery remained their forte; there can be no better example than Col NJC Nair, Ashok Chakra (posthumous),

Kirti Chakra — decorated with the two highest awards for gallantry during peacetime soldiering.

We were all set to return to our alma mater, the IMA, in June this year, but the pandemic gave no leeway so the new norm of a webinar was the only option. Our meet started with a remembrance for our stars in the firmament, the Last Post sounded, their spirits joined us. It reminded me of the words from 'For the Fallen', 'They shall not grow old, as we that are left; age shall not weary them nor the years condemn, at the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them always.'

The open session followed, verbal backslapping, joking, a pandemonium of cross-talk, we felt our oneness; Babusas, Bongs, Kanchas, Mizos, Punjies, Sirdies, Tants, Tambis, close-knit as ever. Like all good things, this also ended, with a hope and prayer to meet in the near future.

## Why we cut such a sorry figure in international sport



MY TAKE

RAHUL SINGH

A prime reason why India has done so poorly is that most of our sports bodies have been headed by politicians and civil servants.

**A**GREED, Milkha Singh was the best athlete India has produced. His 400 m national record was not broken for almost four decades. What gave him added stature was his background: He came from a poor family and lost both his parents in the trauma and bloodshed of Partition. From a refugee camp he managed to get into the Army, though only in his fourth attempt. From such humble and deprived beginnings, to become one of the best runners in the world in the 200m and 400 m displays extraordinary grit and determination that can only be hugely admired.

But the sad reality is that he only came fourth when it really mattered internationally, in the 400 m in the 1960 Rome Olympics, not even getting a bronze medal, though he had won gold in the Commonwealth and Asian Games. I got to know him a little when living in Chandigarh in the 1980s. He also built a house on the outskirts of Kasauli, in Himachal, where I have a family home. We managed to get him to address a session at the 2013 Khushwant Singh Lit-

fest at Kasauli Club. On the dais was also Rakeesh Omprakash Mehra, the maker of that marvellous film 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag', in my view the best biopic ever made on an Indian sportsperson. The session was packed. Milkha had everybody spellbound as he talked about his life in colloquial Hindi, with some Punjabi thrown in. Modest to a fault, he self-deprecatingly confessed to being "unpadh" (without formal education). He won over everybody.

I have always wondered why, as the second most populous nation in the world, we cut such a sorry figure in sports. In the Olympics, we have won just one solitary individual gold medal, that of Abhinav Bindra in shooting. The total number of individual Olympic medals won by India can be counted on the fingers of one hand. In hockey, after being dominant in the years before and after Independence, we have been nowhere since 1980. The only Olympic sports where India has shown some promise are badminton, boxing, wrestling, shooting and archery.

Let's now turn to the country we con-

sider our main rival in more ways than one — China. It has won a humongous 546 Olympic medals, 224 of them gold. We like to claim that India scores in "soft" power. Well, sports is very much a "soft" power where China is streets ahead. Apart from Bindra, India has had few world champions: Viswanathan Anand in chess (though some would not consider it a "sport"), Wilson Jones and Pankaj Advani in billiards, Mirabai Chanu in weightlifting, PV Sindhu, Prakash Padukone and Pullela Gopichand in badminton (the last two won the All England Championship, considered the world's prime badminton tournament). In tennis, Sania Mirza, the best women's player India has produced, has won six doubles Grand Slams. Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi have done even better. But the trouble is that nobody really considers doubles in the same league as singles, and in singles, no Indian has even reached a Grand Slam final. In the sport that is gaining increasing popularity, golf, there was actually an ethnic Indian who became the world number

one, Vijay Singh, but he was a Fijian and hence does not count.

A prime reason why India has done so poorly in sport is that most of our sports bodies have been headed by politicians and civil servants. Their main interest was in getting publicity and patronage for themselves, and being able to go abroad with their respective teams (while enjoying a generous per diem allowance), not in furthering the interest of the sport they were in charge of. When India did produce world-beaters, as in badminton, with the likes of Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu and Srikanth Kidambi, it was mainly because Padukone and Gopichand, had set up coaching academies, thereby sidelining the government. Even Ramanathan Krishnan, who was a semi-finalist in Wimbledon twice, owed his prowess to his father coaching him on a private court, not to official assistance. The same goes for Bindra, whose father, too, was the main influencer and financer of his son's success. You would have noticed that I have made no mention of cricket. For good reason.

Though we may not like it, since it has become a national passion, akin to religion, it is not in my view an international sport. It is played seriously by exactly 10 countries, all from the Commonwealth. Outside them, even avid sports fans know little or nothing about cricket. When Russian tennis superstar Maria Sharapova was once asked about Sachin Tendulkar, she looked blank and confessed she had no idea who he was! Other icons like Sunil Gavaskar, Rahul Dravid and Kapil Dev, even Virat Kohli, household names here, are virtually unknown outside the cricketing world. On the other hand, Usain Bolt, Muhammad Ali, Tiger Woods, Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Lewis Hamilton are international stars who have excelled in sports played, or followed, by millions in virtually every country. Cricket has strangled Indian sport by cornering finances and focusing too much attention, especially of the young, on it. Until that focus, along with the money that goes with it, shifts elsewhere, there is no hope of India becoming a sporting power.

**The writer is a veteran journalist**

# Ayodhya to manifest finest traditions: PM

NEW DELHI, JUNE 26

Ayodhya should manifest the finest of Indian traditions and the best of the nation's developmental transformation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday as he chaired a meeting to review the progress of the Ram Temple and ongoing projects in the city.

Terming Ayodhya city by and for every Indian, the PM said the human ethos of Ayodhya must be matched by futuristic infrastructure, which is beneficial for everyone and future generations should feel the urge to visit Ayodhya.

He was speaking at a virtual meeting with Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, where state government officials made a presentation on various aspects of Ayodhya's development.

The plan envisages the development of the city as a spiritual centre, a global tourism hub and a sustainable smart city.

Officials informed the PM about the upcoming projects to improve connectivity of the country with Ayodhya. The meeting came close on the heels of the SPAP and the Congress

'Future generations should feel the urge to visit the holy city'



## 3.77 CR DOSES IN 6 DAYS, 32 CR IN ALL

- As India crossed the milestone of delivering 32 crore Covid vaccine doses, PM Narendra Modi lauded 3.77 crore dose administration in the last six days alone, "more than the entire population of Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Canada".
- Officials apprised PM Modi of vaccine supply and efforts being made to increase production.

alleging scams in the purchase of land in Ayodhya by Shri Ram Teerth Kshetra Trust, which has denied all charges. — TNS

# India 'incredibly important' partner to US: White House

WASHINGTON, JUNE 26

India is an "incredibly important" partner to the US in the region and globally, the White House has said, underlining that America is working with the country on wide-ranging issues like economic, strategic and security.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said the US took a range of steps to help India to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. "India is an incredibly important partner to the United States in the region and globally. We work with India on a range of issues, as you well know—economic, strategic, security," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference.

"The United States certainly took a range of steps as India was at the early stages of dealing with a rise in the pandemic to help provide a range of assistance, and we will continue to do that moving forward," Psaki said in response to a question. In April and May, India struggled with the second

## SIGNIFICANT RECIPIENT OF US VACCINES

- The US-India Chambers of Commerce Foundation has raised more than \$1.2 million for Covid-related efforts in India.
- The foundation has shipped nearly 120 ventilators and over 1,000 oxygen concentrators, a release said.
- Also, India will be a significant recipient of the US vaccines after Joe Biden announced details of his administration's decision to send 25 million shots to countries across the globe.

## PAK SEEKS 'CIVILISED' TIES WITH US

Pakistan is seeking a "civilised" and "even-handed" relationship with Washington like the one that exists between the US and the UK or with India "right now", Prime Minister Imran Khan has said. He underlined the role Islamabad could play in the region, including in Afghanistan after America leaves the war-torn country. PTI

wave of the Covid-19 pandemic with more than 3,00,000 daily new cases. Hospitals were reeling under a shortage of medical oxygen and beds. In mid-May, new cases in India hit a record daily high with 4,12,262 new infections. In May, President Joe Biden announced \$100 million worth of Covid assistance to India. The US-India Chambers of Commerce Foundation has



raised more than \$1.2 million for Covid-related efforts in India. With a record-breaking fundraising, the foundation has shipped or en route nearly 120 ventilators and over 1,000 oxygen concentrators, a release said. On June 4, Vice-President Kamala Harris called PM Narendra Modi to inform him about the administration's decision to send life-saving vaccines to India. — PTI

## No digital divide in vax drive: Centre

NEW DELHI, JUNE 26

Amid concerns over digital divide playing a spoilsport in Covid-19 vaccination drive, the Centre has assured the Supreme Court (SC) that it would not be an impediment as people not having access to Internet or digital devices or those unwilling to self-register could visit the nearest vaccination centre to get registered at CoWIN. "Walk-in (on-site registration) vaccination is permissible to all and digital divide is not a constraint for access to vaccination," the Centre said in an affidavit filed in the suo motu case on Covid management initiated by the SC.

The Centre said, "In any public health programme, be it vaccination or otherwise, involvement of private hospitals is always desirable." — TNS

## BRIEFLY



**BRISTOL**  
Shafali set for ODI debut  
Teen sensation Shafali Verma is set to make her eagerly-anticipated ODI debut as the Indian women's team takes on world champions England in the first game of the three-match series here on Sunday.

## SPIELBERG (AUSTRIA)

### Verstappen takes pole in Austria

Red Bull's Formula One Championship leader Max Verstappen seized pole position for the team's home Styrian Grand Prix in Austria today. Mercedes' seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton will join his title rival on the front row after qualifying third and behind teammate Valteri Bottas, who has a three place grid penalty.

## OSIJEK (CROATIA)

### Manu, Saurabh win silver in mixed event

Continuing their impressive run, the Indian duo of Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker clinched the silver in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the ISSF Shooting World Cup here. The Indian duo was on par with Russia's Vitalina Batsarashkina and Artem Chernousov at 12-12 before losing the last two shooting series to go down 12-12.

## ROME

### Sajan makes history with direct Oly qualification

Sajan Prakash achieved the automatic qualifying standard for the Tokyo Olympics at the Sette Colli Trophy here, becoming the first-ever Indian swimmer to automatically qualify for the Olympics. He clocked 1 minute 56.38 seconds in the 200m butterfly event. — TNS/Agencies

## NEW DELHI

### Wrestler Bajrang suffers knee injury

Freestyle wrestler Bajrang Punia will take a week off to recover from a knee injury sustained on Friday during the Ali Aliyev wrestling competition in the Russian city of Kaspiysk. His coach Shako Bentiniidis said Punia will be "off from mat training for nearly a week".

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## Deshmukh skips ED summons

## WB: Probe sought into fake vax camps

NEW DELHI, JUNE 26

Former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh today failed to appear before the ED for questioning and sought a fresh date for appearance.

The ED probe under the PMLA relates to an alleged multi-crore bribery-cum-extortion racket that led to his resignation in April. A team of Deshmukh's lawyers visited the office and sought a fresh date for appearance. Meanwhile, the ED arrested his personal secretary Sanjeev Palande and personal assistant Kundan Shinde. — TNS

## Environmental crime FATF's focus now

NEW DELHI, JUNE 26

Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari has sought a probe by central agencies into fake vaccination drive in the city conducted by a man impersonating as an IAS officer having "influence in the ruling party". The BJP leader made the demand for a central probe in a letter to Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan.

Adhikari alleged that the man, who was arrested after his drive was busted by the police, had "influence in the ruling party". — PTI

Generates \$110-280 bn every year

## REPORT EXPECTED NEXT MONTH

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has called on all countries to assess their money laundering risks related to the illegal wildlife trade and to ensure that there is a robust legal framework to go after the finances of wildlife traffickers, and to pursue financial investigations.
- FATF's report on environmental crime is expected to be published next month.

ensure that there is a robust legal framework to go after the finances of wildlife traffickers, and to pursue financial investigations. These activities can have far-reaching implications for the environment, economy, and public health and safety. The FATF is focusing on the link between environmental crime and money laundering. — TNS

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