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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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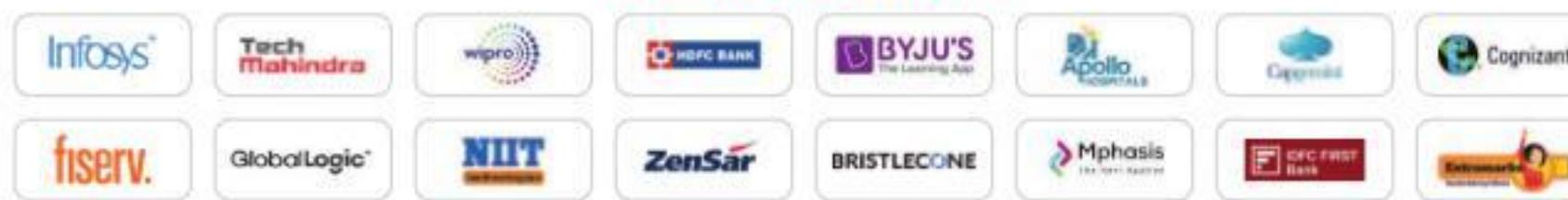
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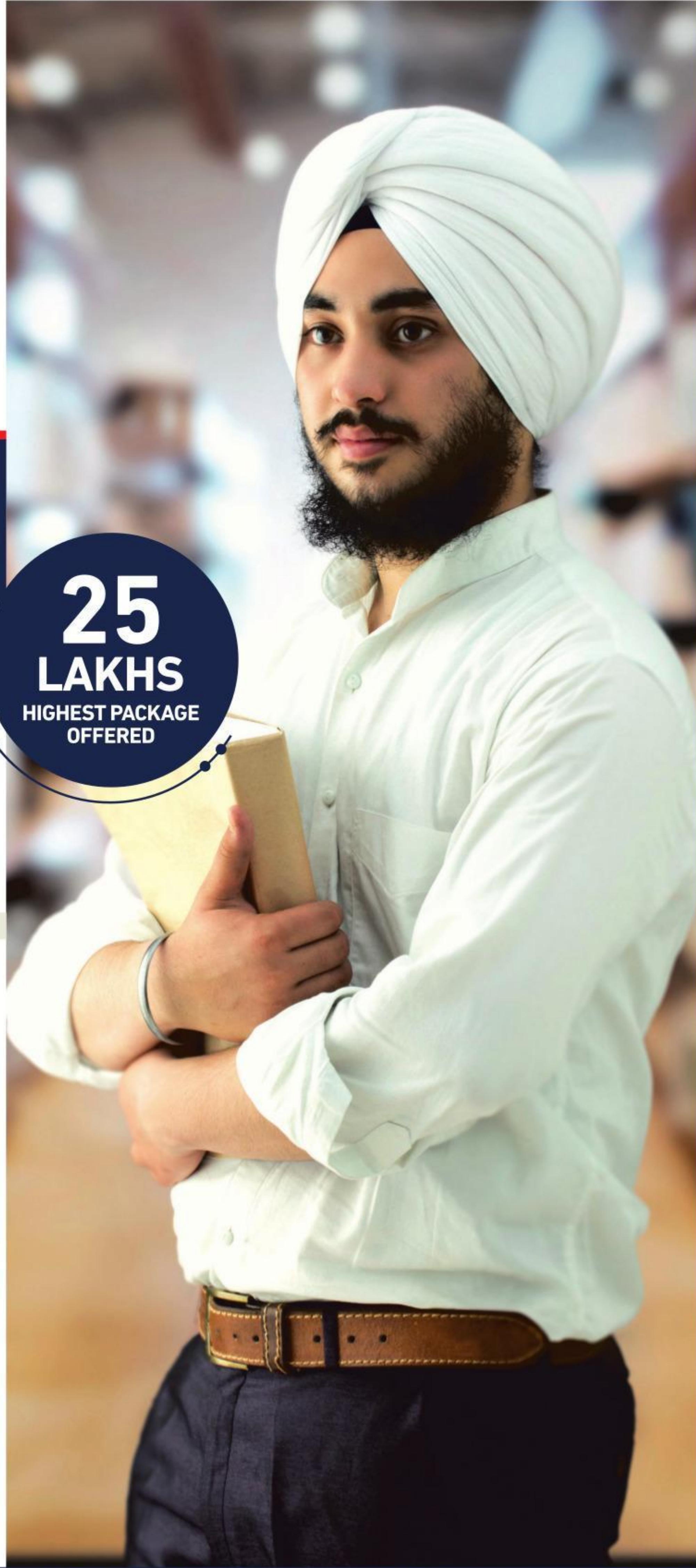
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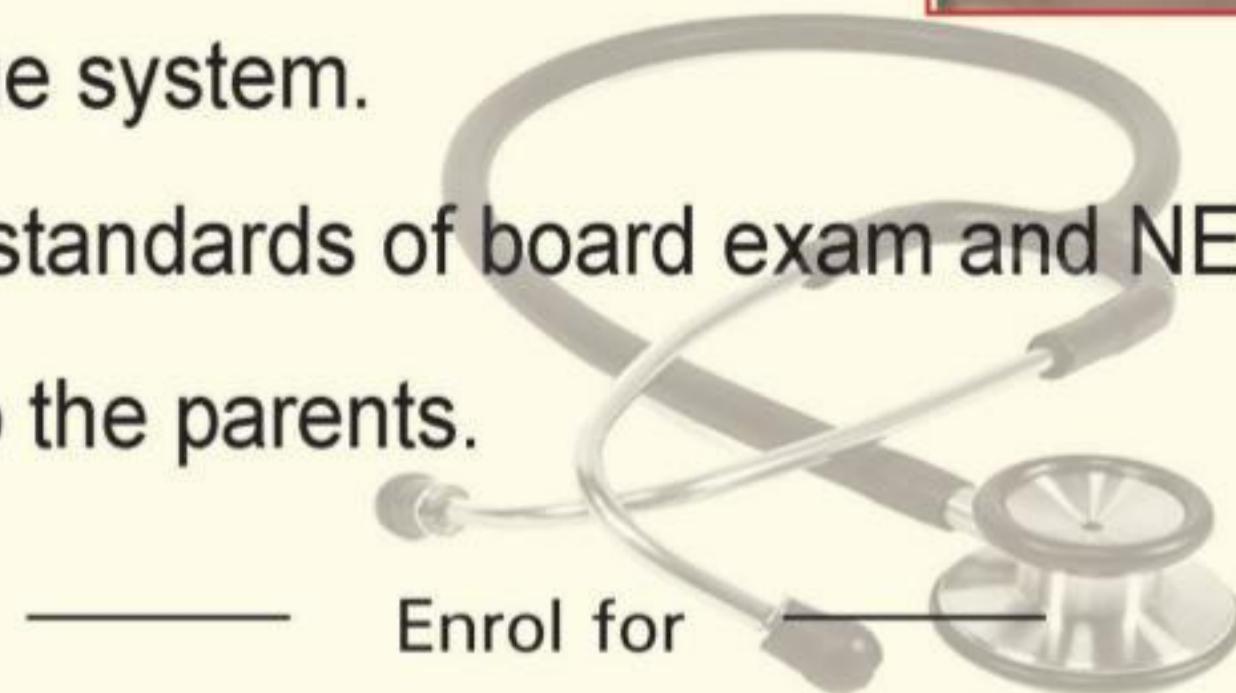
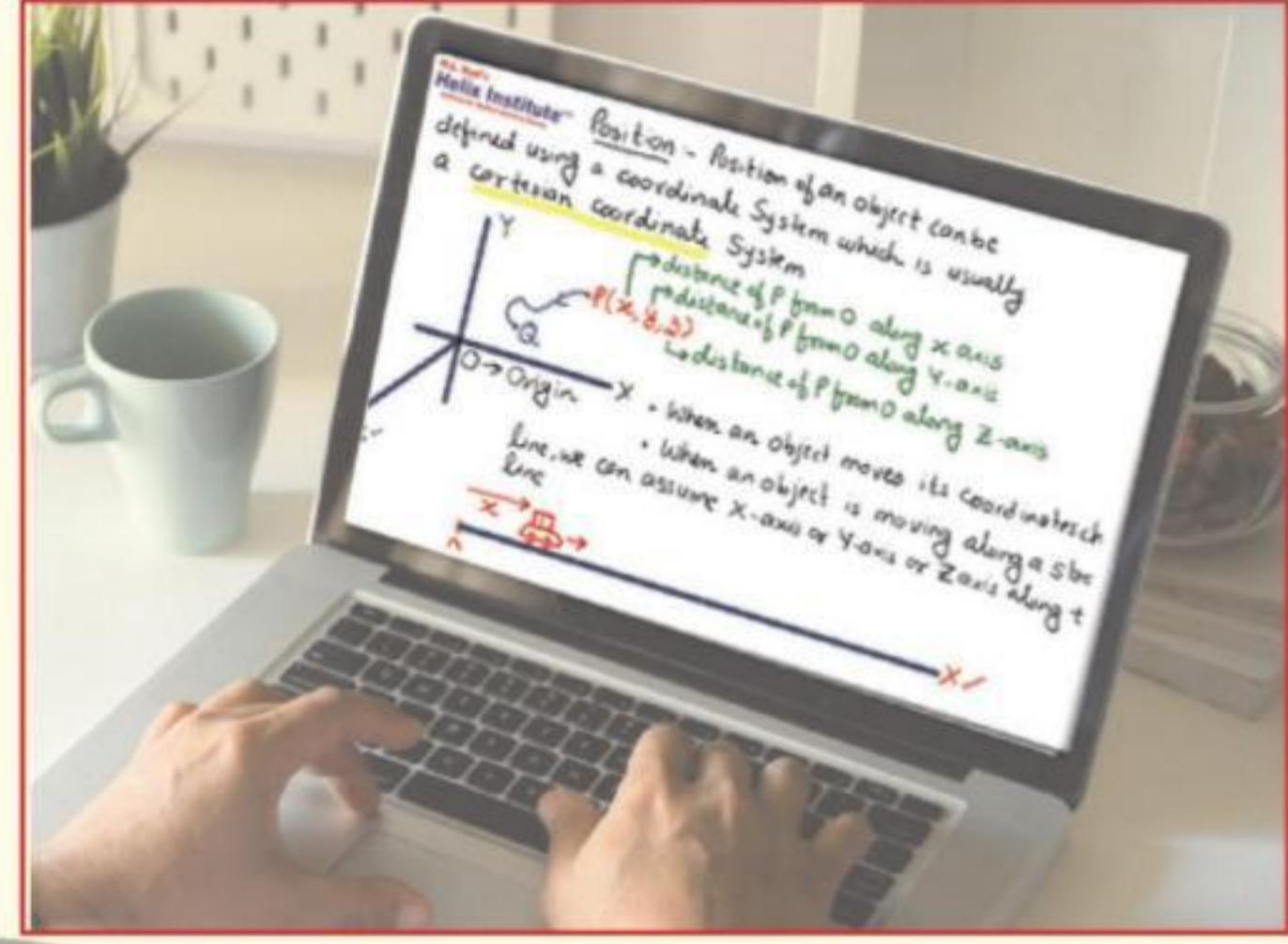
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JAPAN'S SUGA SET TO
REPLACE ABE WORLD

INDIAN ECONOMY TO CONTRACT BY
9% IN CURRENT FISCAL: S&P BUSINESS

DOMINIC THIEM BREAKS
GRAND SLAM BARRIER SPORT

Govt tables farm Bills, Oppn calls it direct attack on federal structure

Allaying fears, Tomar says MSP to stay, proposed laws to enable barrier-free trade

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14
The first day of the monsoon session today saw the Opposition taking on the government in Parliament over the introduction of the three agriculture-related legislations to replace the ordinances promulgated amid the Covid lockdown in June.

Responding to the accusations that the government was planning to do away with the minimum support price (MSP), Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar assured that the support price would stay "now and forever".

On the day farmers' organisations registered protests and also wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to withdraw the three "anti-farmer" ordinances, the Agriculture



THREE BILLS INTRODUCED TO REPLACE ORDINANCES

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion And Facilitation) Bill
The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill
The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

Amid LAC tension, addl ₹1.2K cr for border roads

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

With India and China locked in an intense military stand-off along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the government today sought Rs 1,200-crore increase in the budget for strategic roads in the border areas all along the LAC.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman sought Parliament's nod for additional spending on border roads, as part of the overall supplementary grants for the ongoing fiscal, ending March 31, 2021.

In the Union Budget in February, a sum of Rs 3,050 crore

STANDING BY SOLDIERS

Hope all MPs will send out a message in one voice that the country stands behind our soldiers posted at the border. PM



was earmarked for roads in border areas. The addition of Rs 1,200 crore makes it a 39 per cent jump over the original allocation. — TNS

Question Hour dropped, Opposition cries foul

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

Amid accusations by the Opposition that the government was "stifling" democracy, both Houses of Parliament adopted a motion to do away with Question Hour and private members' business during the session.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, who moved the motion in both Houses, said the government was "not running away, and will reply all questions".

He said Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had spoken

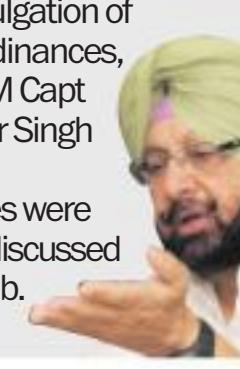
TO EMPOWER FARMERS

It (agri trade Bill) will actually empower farmers to decide the price of their produce. It doesn't infringe powers of Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act.

N S Tomar,
MINISTER

NOT TAKEN ON BOARD

Categorically rejecting the Centre's claim that Punjab was taken on board before the promulgation of farmer ordinances, Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh said the ordinances were not once discussed with Punjab.



25 PARLIAMENTARIANS TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID

FM SEEKS MPS' NOD FOR ADDL SPENDING OF ₹2.35L CR

Bengal, AP and Kerala, have run sessions for a day or two and passed several Bills. We have decided to run Parliament for 18 days and hold discussions on Bills. — TNS



Farmers in New Delhi hold a sit-in against the farm Bills introduced in Parliament. MUKESH AGGARWAL

Reconsider, Akalis urge ally BJP

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUSTERING SUPPORT

SAD president Sukhbir Badal will be meeting BJP chief JP Nadda regarding farmers' concerns over the Bills

■ Senior party leader Prof Prem Singh Chandumajra met leaders of the JJP and farm organisations from Uttar Pradesh to seek their support on the matter

■ Akali leader Prof PS Chan-

coition partners in Haryana. The JJP is reportedly unhappy over the lack of clarity on the Bills. Chandumajra has also met farm leaders of Uttar Pradesh.

Nearly 200 farmer groups that are part of the All-India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee held protests across the country today.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-affiliated Bharatiya Kisan Sangh and the All-India Kisan Sabha are against the Bills too.

demajra has already met leaders of Haryana's Janayak Janta Party.

The BJP and the JJP are



Activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan shows ₹1 bank draft in New Delhi on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MUKESH AGGARWAL

SC to hear Saini's bail plea today

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court will on Tuesday take up an anticipatory bail plea filed by former Punjab Director General of Police Sumedh Singh Saini — an accused in the 1991 Balwant Singh Multani murder case. Saini's petition is listed for hearing before a three-judge Bench of Justice Ashok Bhushan, Justice R Subhash Reddy and Justice MR Shah as item number 27. — TNS

Harivansh RS Dy Chief again

NEW DELHI: The Rajya Sabha on Monday re-elected Janata Dal (United) parliamentarian Harivansh Narayan Singh as the Deputy Chairman of the Upper House by voice vote. His name was proposed by BJP president and party MP Jagat Prakash Nadda. Leader of the House Thavarchand Gehlot seconded it. The Opposition had fielded Manoj Jha, an RJD member. BACK PAGE

SEDITION VS FREE SPEECH

Sedition is being used as a sort of iron hand to curb free speech. Suddenly you have a lot of cases charging people with sedition.

Justice MB Lokur,
EX-SJUDGE

UMAR KHALID IN POLICE CUSTODY BACK PAGE

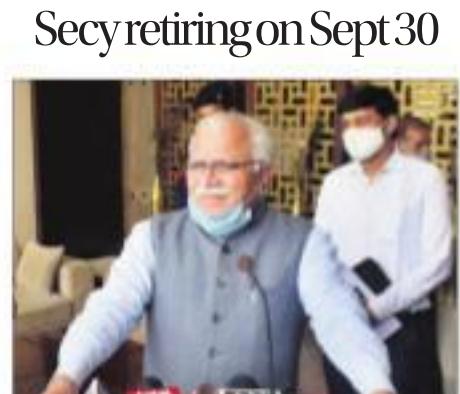
Several activists, including former SC Judge MB Lokur and senior journalist N Ram, held a webinar in which they talked about "shrinking space for free speech". Justice Lokur said, "State is using sedition as an iron hand to curb free speech. A citizen who says something is charged with sedition. Already, 70 sedition cases have been filed this year." — TNS

Pb BJP chief booked for flouting norms

PATANKOT: An FIR has been filed against Punjab BJP president Ashwani Sharma and his four party colleagues for allegedly flouting social distancing norms at a meeting held here on Sunday night. The state BJP leadership was quick to allege that the police authorities were acting at the behest of some Congress leaders. — TNS

Hry gears up to fill top 2 posts in bureaucracy

PSCM Khullar is WB Executive Director, Chief Secy retiring on Sept 30



ML Khattar, CM, addresses the media in Gurugram on Monday.

Meanwhile, CM Manohar Lal Khattar, after recovering from Covid-19 in Gurugram, returned to Chandigarh after three weeks today. — TNS

40L people under surveillance to break virus chain: Vardhan

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan today told the Lok Sabha that the war against Covid-19 was far from over, with the country witnessing a record surge in cases and the count nearing 4.9 million.

He said to break the chain of transmission, at least 40 lakh people were under surveillance nationwide.

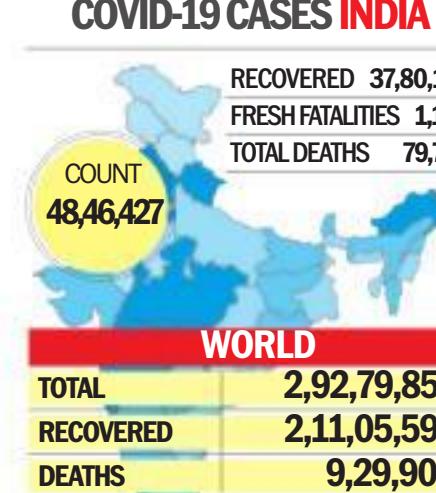
The minister, whose statement was cut short by Speaker Om Birla, mentioned Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Assam, Kerala and Gujarat

Meanwhile, CM Manohar Lal Khattar, after recovering from Covid-19 in Gurugram, returned to Chandigarh after three weeks today. — TNS

INDIA OVERTAKES BRAZIL IN RECOVERIES

India now has the highest number of recoveries in the world, surpassing Brazil, as per Johns Hopkins data

COVID-19 CASES INDIA



as the main disease-bearing states, with each having over one lakh cases.

On the positive side, Vardhan said nearly 92 per cent infections in the country were mild, while 5.8 per cent needed oxygen support and 1.7 per cent needed ICU care.

The minister hailed lockdown, saying it prevented 14-29 lakh cases and 37,000-78,000 deaths.

On the vaccine front, he said globally, there were 145 candidates in preclinical evaluation and 35 in clinical trials and in India, over 30 vaccines were in different stages of development and three in advanced stages of human trials.

1,200 illegal structures razed in Aravalli belt

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MAJOR EVICTION DRIVE

■ 5,000 people were residing in the illegal colony

■ 1,500 police personnel were deployed for security

■ 85 were arrested in a pre-drive swoop on Sunday night

■ 30 acres of MC land was under illegal occupation

85 persons in a pre-drive swoop last night to evade any trouble or protest. Around 1,500 police personnel were deployed even as more than

said notices had been issued to the encroachers, but they failed to vacate the land. Atkan claimed the land belonged to the corporation and constructions weren't allowed in the region as it was covered under the PLPA (Forest) Act, 1900.

The action came in response to a Supreme Court judgment that allowed the MC to clear its land of encroachments, he said. The drive that began around 6 am led to panic among the 5,000 odd residents of the locality. The authorities had detained

a dozen JCB machines brought down the structures. Working People Charter, an NGO associated with human rights, meanwhile, has condemned the drive. "It's unfortunate that the administration has rendered over 5,000 poor people homeless amid Covid. Over 150 protesters, including women, have been rounded up. The state government has breached its own policy of rehabilitation... Most of the houses had water and power connections," NGO member Nirmal Gorana said.

77 Patiala cops transferred

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BOOZE SCAM

Officials claim they had links with smugglers

in the discharge of their duties." Senior officers, however, claim that many cops were hand in glove with smugglers and were allowing them to manufacture and sell illicit liquor.





Members of farm organisations hold a 'Lalkar Rally' against the agricultural ordinances in Barnala; and protesters block a road in Amritsar on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Farmers unite to oppose ordinances

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BARNALA, SEPTEMBER 14
Ten farm organisations of Punjab organised a 'Lalkar Rally' at the Barnala grain market against the farm ordinances and the proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The protest was held under the aegis of the All-India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee.

The organisations included the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKA)-Ekta (Dakaunda), Punjab Kisan Union, Kirti Kisan Union, All-India Kisan Sabha, Jamhoori Kisan Sabha, and others.

Addressing the rally, leaders of various organisations alleged the Central Government had issued three anti-farm ordinances, namely The Farming Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, on June 5.

These anti-farm ordinances have been issued during the Covid pandemic when people were compelled to confine themselves to their homes as the government imposed a lockdown. Under such conditions, the rulers of the country took it as an opportunity to sell various public sector undertakings and hand over the agricultural sector — the backbone of the Indian economy — to corporate houses," said Buta Singh Burjgill, president, BKA



MLA Kuljit Singh Nagra addresses a rally in Fatehgarh Sahib.

CONG MLA LEADS RALLY IN FATEHGHAR SAHIB
Fatehgarh Sahib: Hundreds of farmers, labourers and Congress workers led by MLA Kuljit Singh Nagra organised a rally at the new grain market in Sirdhind town to protest against three farm ordinances and the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which have been promulgated by the Centre. OC

(Ekta), Dakaunda.

Ruldu Singh from the Punjab Kisan Union alleged various governments had not kept their promises made with farmers since Independence.

The speakers demanded immediate withdrawal of the ordinances and also announced intensifying their agitation after the September 16 meeting of 10 organisations, to be held at Ishru Bhawan, Ludhiana.

Meanwhile, farmers under the banner of the All-India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee, blocked a bridge over the Beas, halting the traffic between Amritsar and Jalandhar.

Addressing the gathering, farmer leader Darshan Pal said the government had not left any option for them other

than taking to streets and protesting against the ordinances.

A massive rally of farmers, organised under the banner of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, blocked a bridge over the Beas, halting the traffic between Amritsar and Jalandhar.

Meanwhile, addressing meetings at Latala, Chappar, Dhulkot and Jartauli villages in Ludhiana, activists of various units of the All-India Kisan Sabha, Khet Mazdoor Union and Centre of Indian Trade Unions, led by Baldev Singh Latala and Sikandar Jartauli, alleged the Centre had been taking hasty decisions which were affecting all sections of society, including farmers, labourers and traders.

Unions: Won't allow monopoly of corporates

FEROZEPUR, SEPTEMBER 14

Farmers of various outfits led by the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Morcha today staged a dharna at 'Bengali Bridge' near the Harike headworks, blocking the highway for hours.

More than 4,000 farmers, including women, blocked the Ferozepur-Amritsar highway due to which traffic came to a standstill and commuters had to bear the brunt.

The leaders said the ordinances were an attempt to hand over farming to the corporate sector. "The Union Government will procure only the required quantity of wheat and rice under the Food Security Act on MSP and the rest will be left to private companies. The land of farmers will go to the corporates and the poor will become their slaves," he added. The protest, which started around 10 am, continued till the filing of the story. — OC



Congress Rajya Sabha MPs Shamsher Singh Dullo and Partap Singh Bajwa protest outside the Rajya Sabha in Delhi.

Inside Parliament, MPs up ante against Centre

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 14

Rajya Sabha MPs Partap Singh Bajwa and Shamsher Singh Dullo today held a protest against the three ordinances on farming reforms outside the Rajya Sabha.

Holding banners that read, "Protect the farmers of India. Revoke the anti-farmer ordinances," both MPs said farm unions across the country were protesting against the ordinances promulgated by the Union Government.

Bajwa said, "The government's intention was not to strengthen the rights of the farmers, but to remove the MSP system." The MP said the ordinances were an attempt to enact the reforms suggested by the Shanta Kumar Committee, which were rejected by farmers across India in 2015. — TNS

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Reacting to the statement made in Parliament today

LISTEN TO FARMERS

● I urge the PM not to disappoint the farmers of Punjab. He must consider their plea and not go ahead with the ordinances.

Capt Amarinder Singh,
CHIEF MINISTER

MANN ATTACKS SAD

● Sukhbir and Harsimrat were absent in Parliament, which is undoubtedly a step in favour of the ordinances and against the

interests of the farming community.

Bhagwant Mann,
AAP MP

by Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Raosaheb Patil Danve that the high-powered committee on agriculture had decided on the ordinances after due consideration by all member states, Capt Amarinder termed the remark irresponsible since Punjab never supported any such move, nor was it consulted before the promulgation of the ordinances.

Meanwhile, asserting that his government had been consistently opposing the so-called reforms brought in by the ordinances, the Chief Minister said in a statement that at no point did Punjab endorse any such move, contrary to what was being projected by the Central Government. The ordinances were not discussed even once at the sole meeting of the high-powered committee held after Punjab was made a member, he added.

Reacting to the statement made in Parliament today

listed again on Tuesday before the regular Bench.

The Bench was hearing an application filed in an ongoing petition by Mohit Kapoor against the State of Punjab and other respondents. It was filed in light of widespread protests by farmers on the opening date of Parliament's session.

Enforce ban on gatherings, says HC

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 14

The Punjab and Haryana High Court today directed the state and its authorities to implement 'Unlock 4.0' guidelines issued by the Department of Home Affairs and Justice in relation to the ban on gatherings.

The direction by the Bench of Justices S Muralidhar and Justice Avneesh Jhingan came after senior advocate Punet Bail referred to the guidelines on the unlock measures, to be implemented between September 1 and 30.

The guidelines, among

other things, make it clear that Section 144 of the CrPC was to be invoked and orders be issued to prohibit all social, political, religious gatherings, protests and demonstrations throughout the state.

For monitoring the progress of implementation of the court's directions, the matter was directed to be

listed again on Tuesday before the regular Bench.

The Bench was hearing an application filed in an ongoing petition by Mohit Kapoor against the State of Punjab and other respondents. It was filed in light of widespread protests by farmers on the opening date of Parliament's session.

Make inquiry report public, Dhindsa group tells Longowal

SANGRUR, SEPTEMBER 14

A congregation organised by SAD (Democratic) leaders and other organisations posed tough questions to SGPC chief Gobind Singh Longowal at his residence about the missing 'saroops' and his alleged inaction. Longowal tried to pacify them with his detailed replies. However, the absence of the 'Panj Pyaras' from the meeting kicked off another controversy as both sides blamed each other.

Since SAD (Democratic) president Sukhdev Singh has tested Covid-positive, he did not attend the meeting. Other party leaders, members of social organisations

and area residents first converged on Gurdwara Mastana Sahib. After the 'ardas', they went to Longowal's home of the district to meet the SGPC chief at his residence.

Sewa Singh Sekhwan, a party leader, said during the meeting, they asked the SGPC chief the whereabouts of the missing 'saroops', why the probe panel report had not been made public and why criminal cases were not filed against persons responsible for the disappearance of 'saroops'.

Meanwhile, Longowal denied all allegations and said he remained present at his house to reply to all questions. — TNS



Meeting between SGPC, Sikh bodies remains inconclusive

AMRITSAR, SEPTEMBER 14

A meeting between representatives of the SGPC and the protesting Sikh bodies did not reach any conclusion today.

SGPC officials claimed that the "unreasonably adamant attitude" of the protesting bodies was responsible for the chaotic situation. From SGPC's side, senior vice-president Rajinder Singh Mehta, personal secretary to president Mahinder Singh Ahluwalia and additional secretary Sukhdev Singh Bhurakona were present in the meeting.

Mehta said: "We took the first step of initiating talks with them. We almost agreed on the nine demands they had raised, subject to the condition that they lift the dharna instantly. But they did not agree to it. Their dharna is hindering the movement of devotees visiting the gurdwara and their aim is to defame the SGPC," he said.

On the other hand, Harpreet Singh Makhu and Sukhjeet Singh Khosa from the Satkar Committee and other Sikh organisations held an indefinite sit-in outside the main entrance of the SGPC headquarters. — TNS



Gobind Singh Longowal with SAD (Democratic) leaders in Sangrur.

To include sportsmen quota, PPSC set to advertise posts again

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Civil services aspirants will have to apply again for exam

was likely to delay the examination as the PPSC would have to re-advertise the posts and give sufficient time to all new applicants, including sportsmen, to apply. The Punjab Government had notified the new rules for sportsmen in July 2020, a month after the posts were put up for being filled by the PPSC.

According to the PPSC website, the last date for filling the online application form was June, 20, 2020, while the Preliminary Combined Examination-2020 was tentatively scheduled for September. "However, the exact date for the preliminary examination is to be intimated later depending upon the public health safety situation," it said. PPSC Secretary (Examination) Jasleen Kaur Sandhu said the chairman had received the letter. "The government has sought our comments only and the chairman is looking into the matter," she said.

Most Cong MPs attend LS on Day 1

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14
Most MPs from Punjab attended Lok Sabha proceedings today with Amritsar's Gurjat Ajula and Khadoor Saheb's Jasbir Singh Gill seated in visitors' galleries as their house chamber seats were unavailable.

Also present was Anandpur Sahib MP Manish Tewari who made two interventions on the first day. Tewari opposed the revocation of Question Hour by the government. Participating in the Zero Hour, he demanded the inclusion of Punjabi among official languages of J&K alongside Urdu, Hindi and Dogri.

Tewari said several people who settled in J&K post Partition spoke Punjabi and Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1822 personally oversaw the coronation of Maharaja Ghalib Singh. Also present was Ludhiana MP Ravneet Bittu, the newly appointed Congress whip in the Lok Sabha, who sat in the Rajya Sabha for some part along with party chief whip K Suresh. Jalandhar MP Santokh Choudhary and Fatehgarh Sahib MP Amar Singh were also there as was AAP MP Bhagwant Mann of Sangrur.

MISSING 'SAROOPS' CONTROVERSY



justify their negligence and failure. On the whereabouts of 'saroops', they said the details were being collected. "Similarly, our other demands were also not met. So, we have decided to continue the dharna," Makhu said. Meanwhile, the situation got tense on the Golden Temple complex as hundreds of activists of the Satkar Committee and other Sikh organisations held an indefinite sit-in outside the main entrance of the SGPC headquarters. — TNS

SC to hear Saini's bail plea today



he will have to surrender.

Multani was allegedly picked up by the police in December 1991 after a terror attack on Saini that left three policemen dead. Saini was injured in the attack. Saini's troubles started in May when he was booked at a Mohali police station along with six others for the alleged kidnapping of Multani in 1991.

Murder charge was added in August after two of the accused policemen spilled the beans.

Saini has challenged the Punjab and Haryana High Court's September 7 order dismissing his anticipatory bail plea in the case.

The Punjab Police have also filed a caveat to pre-empt Saini from getting any ex parte relief from the top court. If he doesn't get relief from the top court,

mission (UGC) has been requested to allow them to conduct the exams.

Tribune News Service

BATHINDA, SEPTEMBER 14 Punjab's Technical Education Department has directed two technical universities and the Punjab State Board of Technical Education and Industrial Training to conduct exams of exit classes by October 15.

The Directorate of Technical Education and Industrial Training, Punjab has shot a letter to the IK Gujral Punjab Technical University, Kapurthala, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University, Bathinda, and Secretary, Punjab State Board of Technical Education and Industrial Training.

In the letter, Joint Director Gurpreet Singh Thind has asked universities and the board to complete the examination process of all exit classes on their campuses as well in the colleges affiliated to them tentatively by October 15. The University Grants Com-



36,129 TO GIVE PAPERS

16,200 students from Punjab State Board of Technical Education and Industrial Training
12,229 from IK Gujral Punjab Technical University, Kapurthala
7,700 from Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University, Bathinda

sanitisation, temperature monitoring of all students and staff, and social distancing will be strictly adhered to, as per instructions/SoPs issued by the health department of state or union government.

The universities have also been asked to ensure that the students are informed through all possible means about the date sheet well in time. Moreover, universities or board will also ensure timely declaration of results.

It is also stated that UGC wide letter dated July 6, 2020, issued guidelines to conduct the final exams by September 30, 2020. Further, Supreme Court while disposing of the bunch of writ petitions dated August 28, 2020, has also upheld the decision of UGC to conduct exit class examinations before September 30.

CUP bags 12th rank among central varsities

BATHINDA, SEPTEMBER 14

The Central University of Punjab, Bathinda, (CUPB) has been ranked at 12th position among all central universities.

Outlook India-Icare Survey 2020 had also recently placed CUPB on the 73rd position among the top Indian universities in the overall category.

Professor Tiwari said, "Our university has also secured place in the list of top 100 universities of India in NIRF 2020 rankings as well. All this signifies that CUPB is marching ahead towards excellence in the field of education and research, but we should strive to perform better for higher ranks in national and international levels." —TNS

Directorate of Town & Country Planning, Haryana

Plot No. 3, Nagar Yojna Bhawan, A-wing, Madhya Marg, Sector 18, Chandigarh, Website: tchpharyana.gov.in

Phone: 0172-2548475, 2707175; Email: tchpharyana7@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT OF LICENCE UNDER DEEN DAYAL JAN AWAS YOJNA - AFFORDABLE PLOTTED HOUSING POLICY 2016 IN THE RESIDENTIAL SECTORS OF FINAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF VATSAL VALLEY (GUAL PAHARI) - 2021AD.

1. General public is hereby informed that the Government of Haryana has extended Deen Dayal Jan Awas Yojna-Affordable Plotted Housing Policy 2016 to the Final Development Plan of Vatsal Valley (Gual Pahari) 2021AD. Now the applications are invited for grant of licences in this Development Plan under the provisions of Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Area Act 1975 and Rules framed thereunder within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this public notice.

2. The interested companies/parties/individuals may submit the application for seeking licence for Affordable Plotted Housing Colony under the DDJAY Scheme - 2016 to Director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, through online portal <https://ofa.tchpharyana.gov.in> on any working day within 30 days from the publication of this notice. The hard copies of the applications alongwith supportive documents must be submitted within the validity of this public notice in the office of Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Nagar Yojna Bhawan, Plot No. 3, Sector-18-A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh. For any query, Senior Town Planner, Gurugram (0124-2305872); District Town Planner, Gurugram (0124-2320573) or District Town Planner (HQ) (0172-2724201) may be contacted during working hours.

Dated: 14.09.2020
Place: Chandigarh
Sd/- Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh.
PRDH/82782

Mid-day meal staff to get maternity leave benefits

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 14 Providing a major relief to mid-day meal (MDM) workers and other staff, the Punjab Government has given its nod to extend them maternity leave benefits, in accordance with the Maternity Benefit Act.

A government spokesperson said mid-day meal was a purely government-funded scheme and all women employees under this scheme were eligible to avail the benefits of maternity leave.

The Education Department had also been taking new initiatives to uplift the standard of education and provide all basic amenities to the students on the school premises. More than 6,000 government schools had been turned into smart schools and apart from modern learning techniques, other infrastructure had also been upgraded.

Amidst the outbreak of Covid-19, the government school teachers were regularly taking online classes of students with the help of the internet, he added.

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Transportation Solutions

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Time-tabled Freight Trains

One major initiative being planned by Northern Railway in this regard is the running of time-tabled freight trains for less than full train load consignments.

Name of Officer

Office

Contact Number

Chief Freight Transportation Manager, NR

Northern Railway, Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi

011-23387643, 9717630903

Senior Divisional Operations Manager, New Delhi

Delhi Division DRM Office, New Delhi

011-23743352, 9717631900

Senior Divisional Operations Manager, Lucknow

Lucknow Division DRM Office, Lucknow

0522-2234520, 9794833900

Senior Divisional Operations Manager, Moradabad

Moradabad Division DRM Office, Moradabad

0591-2412012, 9760534900

Senior Divisional Operations Manager, Ambala

Ambala Division, DRM Office, Ambala

0171-2610553, 9729539900

Senior Divisional Operations Manager, Firozpur

Firozpur Division, DRM Office, Firozpur

01632-244488, 9779232900

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'Multani case has reopened wounds'

RUCHIKA M KHANNA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



Ranjit Singh (L) recounts 'fake encounter' of his brother, Gurmeet Singh, in 1991 at Saini's behest'

Federation and came in the limelight after he organised an 'akhanda path' in the memory of certain other youths who were killed in police encounters. Since he was the vice-president of the federation, he came under the police radar. It was after one of his friends was killed that Gurmeet became active in protests against the police. He was picked up by the Patiala Police and booked.

"On his release he decided to stay away from the family so that we would not be troubled by the police. My father had passed away and I lived with my mother and two sisters," he said.

Ranjit said it was a month

after their mother passed away that he heard the news of Gurmeet having been killed in a "staged encounter" at a dairy in Sector 45, Chandigarh. "We learnt that Gurmeet was called to the dairy to meet the then SSP of Chandigarh, Sumedh Singh Saini, by an Akali leader. When he reached there along with his friend Baldev Singh of Bhakhu Majra village, the police party led by Saini came there and instead of arresting them shot them dead. Later, it was declared as an encounter with armed militants," he said.

He added that the family's ordeal did not end there. In

Jailbreak accused moves HC, 'fears' fake encounter

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 14

Claiming to have been implicated in multiple criminal cases by the Punjab Police following "vendetta nurtured by certain individuals and high-ups", Kulpreet Singh aka Neeta Deol has moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court expressing apprehensions of "elimination in a fake encounter or staged managed incident". Deol was an accused in Nabha jailbreak case.

In his petition against the state of Punjab and other respondents through counsel R. Kartikeya for protection of life and liberty from attempts made by the "jail authorities and other police officials to eliminate" him. Kartikeya submitted on the petitioner's behalf that DSP Jaskirat Singh of the organised crime control unit of the Punjab Police visited the Nabha jail. The petitioner was then asked to appear in Deputy Superintendent of Jail Inderjeet Kahlon's office and was threatened to be implicated in criminal cases.

The same day, a team of Punjab Police officials accompanied by Kahlon proceeded towards his barrack and recklessly assaulted the petitioner. Despite request, he was deprived of basic medical aid, Kartikeya submitted. Another officer visited the barrack the same night and suggested projecting the entire incident as an attempt made by the petitioner to kill himself and to register an FIR alleging attempt to suicide, the counsel said. —TNS

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

SR. NO.	LETTER/ MEMO. NO. & DATE	NAME OF DEPT/ BOARD/ CORP/AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/ NITT/TENDER NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE DEPT/BOARD CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	Letter No. 1271 dated 11.09.2020	Development and Panchayat Department (XEN PR FATHABAD)	LETTER NO. 988 DATED 25.08.2020	L&C Societies and Contractors to be considered instead of L&C Societies only. Also Date extended up to 25.09.2020 for both L&C Society & Contractors.	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	Sh. Kulvir Singh Karwal Contact. 01667-230855 Email: prexeng.ftb@hry.nic.in

PRDH/82770

HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION
Bays No. 67-70, Sector 2, Panchkula — 134151
(www.hssc.gov.in)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice to candidates for interview for the post of Staff Nurse For Health Services, Haryana Against Advt. No. 1/2015, Cat No. 01 with Corrigendum Dated 25.10.2016

Chief Secretary to Government of Haryana vide memo No. 22/149/2015-1 GS-III dated 5th March, 2019, has informed that the State Government has decided that in respect of all advertisements where result of SBC has been put on hold due to Court Orders, the Haryana Staff Selection Commission shall treat the SBC posts to be under the Unreserved/General Category.

Therefore now, the Commission in continuation of earlier notice dated 11.08.2017 and 21.05.2020 calling the candidates for interview on the basis of scrutiny of documents already held hereby calls the following candidates bearing following Roll Numbers for interview/viva voce provisionally and further subject to fulfillment of their eligibility conditions as per advertisement and service rules for consideration against the 91 posts belonging to General Category (earlier SBC Category). The marks secured by the last shortlisted candidate are given in bracket.

Advt No. 01/2015, STAFF NURSE, Cat. No. 01
GENERAL (229 General + 91 SBC Posts earlier = 320 Posts)

15100291 15100306 15100547 15100840 15100920 15101265 15101428
 15101761 15101770 15101803 15101876 15101908 15101934 15101956
 15102104 15102193 15102335 15102406 15102468 15102537 15102591
 15102656 15102682 15102802 15102833 15102876 15102984 15102987
 15103095 15103240 15103482 15103545 15103603 15103708 15103829
 15103846 15103913 15103915 15104068 15104142 15104186 15104272
 15104275 15104515 15104547 15104552 15104703 15104805 15105000
 15105068 15105097 15105099 15105238 15105242 15105249 15105281
 15105383 15105421 15105498 15105528 15105568 15105697 15106278
 15106351 15106378 15106711 15106855 15106865 15106769 15107103
 15107520 15107707 15108114 15108221 15108507 15108687 15108911
 15108941 15109323 15109438 15109491 15109545 15109592 15109693
 15109724 15109743 15109765 15109877 15110117 15110297 15110920
 15110994 15111112 15111200 15111205 15111698 15111703 15111779
 15111783 15111812 15111920 15112031 15112058 15112456
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 15113369 15113420 15113489 15113739 15

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Guru Tebh Bhadur College, Bhawanigarh invites applications for the post of Assistant Professor in English and Political Science (Adhoc Basis) for the Session 2020-21. Interested candidates have to send their resume attached with documents to the Principal within 7 days through registered post or by hand. For further information contact: 70098-48950. President/Principal. (CL20039810)

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Applications (College counterfeiting) are invited on or before 22 Sept. 2020, till 5PM for the following posts Assoc. Prof. 3, Asst. Prof. 6, Demonstrator 4, Jr. Physiotherapist - 8, Accountant 1, Comp. Intr. 1, Peon 2, Driver cum Peon 1 & Safai Karamchari - 1.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Sarbjit d/o Balwinder Singh r/o H No. 2307, St. No. 0, Dawar Wali Gali, New Vishnu Puri, Ludhiana, have changed my name to Sarbjit Kaur. (CL20039793)

It is notified for the information that my original Qualifying Examination Certificate of main Secondary Examination of Year 2012-14 and Roll No. 225624 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Parminder Kaur d/o Mehar Singh Bhura, Karimpura, Tarn Taran, Khemkaran (Punjab)-143419. (CL20039812)

I, Amarjeet Singh S/o Shri Baldev Singh R/o H. No. 4107, Sector 68, Mohali, have changed my name to Amarjeet Singh Sidhu. (CL20039814)

I, Sumi Devi W/o Late Jagat Singh Rawat R/o # 2314, Singha Devi, Naya Gaon, Distt. Mohali declare that my son Sunil Singh Rawat and his wife Sobha Rawat are out of my control, I debar them from all my moveable/immovable property. Anybody dealing with them do so at his own risk. (CL20039822)

I, Sвари Devi W/o Kunwar Tama R/o # 634-B, Sector 32-A, Chandigarh have changed my name to Sвари Devi. (CL20039823)

I, Rajni Devi Spouse of No. 13772797M, L/NK, Sanjeev Kumar r/o Village Jagrann (Balla), PO Kardiyana, Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra HP, declare that my name in my son's Army record wrongly entered as Vidya Devi. Whereas, my correct name is Vidya Devi. Concerned note. (CL20039860)

I, Vidya Devi Mother of No. 2494262M Hav. Surjeet Singh r/o Village Moch, PO Sunet, Tehsil Fatehpur, Distt. Kangra (HP), declare that my name in my son's Army record wrongly entered as Vidya Devi. Whereas, my correct name is Anjali to Anjali Bhardwaj. Concerned note. (CL20039862)

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State tally crosses 82K mark

2,424 fresh cases, 70 more succumb to virus in past 24 hrs

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE



COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS	DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Ludhiana	13,806	588	Moga	1,883	50
Jalandhar	9,943	259	Fatehgarh Sahib	1,460	56
Amritsar	6,755	259	Tarn Taran	1,202	45
Patiala	9,035	249	Kapurthala	2,107	98
Sangrur	2,827	115	Fazilka	1,476	23
SAS Nagar	6,983	139	SBS Nagar	1,004	30
Gurdaspur	4,157	91	Faridkot	1,992	32
Bathinda	4,079	74	Barnala	1,482	31
Hoshiarpur	2,957	92	Ropar	1,401	43
Ferozepur	2,452	74	Muktsar	1,748	22
Pathankot	2,280	37	Mansa	1,084	17
Total positive	82,113		Deaths	2,424	

MC EX-CHIEF SUCCUMBS

Bathinda: Municipal Council former president Bhupinder Singh Bhullar (65) died due to Covid-19 at a private hospital here on Monday. He was critical for the last six days and was undergoing treatment at Nivaran Hospital. He had served as president of Bathinda MC in 1998-2003. In the second death, Gagandeep (35), a boxer, also died of Covid-19.

LIQUOR BARON DODA +VE

Abhatar: Liquor baron Shiv Lal Doda, who had on Saturday surrendered before the court of Judicial Magistrate (First Class) in connection with the two fraud cases has tested Covid positive. Besides, 26 others have also tested positive in the district. The court ordered the accused should be kept in the sub-jail in Fazilka in judicial custody till September 28.

Villagers hold protest over police 'inaction'

ABOHAL, SEPTEMBER 14

Hundreds of men and women today staged a dharna outside the police station in Khuiyiansarwer village demanding action on the complaint of Santosh Kumar.

Santosh Kumar of Haripura village, a Dalit, alleged that an influential farmer had abducted his wife and two children sometime back. When he protested and approached the family of the culprit, the latter's henchmen allegedly detained him, and tortured him.

Complainant Santosh has named six persons, but the police have not arrested any of them so far, as the latter have political connections.

SHO said action would be taken against whoever was found guilty. — OC

Walk-in interview fails to attract specialist doctors

Only 15 show up for 40 vacancies in medicine

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

EXTENSION GRANTED

Some doctors have sought permission to extend their joining date. We have granted it under the rules.

Hussan Lal, PRINCIPAL SECY, HEALTH

walk-in interview.

The government advertised 140 posts of six clinical specialities, including internal medicine, pulmonary medicine, gynaecology, anaesthesia, general surgery and paediatrics. Against these, only 50 doctors joined till Thursday, while 20 spe-

cialists sought extension in their joining period.

Government hospitals are in acute shortage of medicine specialists due to a surge in Covid-19 cases. The post, however, got the poorest response.

Hussan Lal, Principal Secretary, Health, said the government would try to fill the vacancies. "Some doctors have sought permission to extend their joining period. We have granted it under the rules."

A number of doctors have been infected with the virus, with a senior government doctor in Amritsar even succumbing to the disease last month.

Pvt ambulances 'fleecing' Covid patients

SAMEER SINGH

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE



A Covid patient claimed he had to shell out ₹15,000 to a private ambulance service provider. TRIBUNE PHOTO: Pawan Sharma

ambulance service, many private ambulance service providers are charging anywhere between Rs 150 and Rs 180 per km. On a reality check conducted by this correspondent, private ambulance service providers at the Civil Hospital and those operating in the city demanded Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 to ferry a Covid patient to Faridkot.

On being asked as to why they are charging exorbitantly, a majority of them said they had to wear PPE kits (from own pockets), their ambulances had oxygen cylinders and they fully sanitise the vehicle.

Deputy Commissioner B Srinivasan said, "The matter is not in my knowledge. I will get it checked and take necessary action accordingly. I will talk to the Civil Surgeon."

Since Gurnam's condition was critical, his family members were coerced to shell out Rs 15,000 albeit taking credit of Rs 10,000 from a relative. Citing sanitisation of vehicle and vulnerability to the virus transmission, many private ambulance service providers have been minting money at the

expense of Covid-19 patients. Taking a serious note of the issue, Supreme Court has recently directed all the states to fix reasonable charges for providing ambulance services to Covid patients.

Surprisingly, as against a rate of Rs 10 per km being charged by government-run

ambulance service providers, many private ambulance service providers are charging anywhere between Rs 150 and Rs 180 per km. On a reality check conducted by this correspondent, private ambulance service providers at the Civil Hospital and those operating in the city demanded Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 to ferry a Covid patient to Faridkot.

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Surprisingly, as against a rate

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Chinese surveillance

India needs to be wary of cyber threat

INDIA can no longer afford to gloat over its 'surgical strike' on apps with Chinese links. An international exposé by several newspapers has revealed how insidiously China is taking the cyber route to keep prominent Indian citizens under surveillance. According to a news report, Zhenhua Data Information Technology Co Limited, a firm associated with the Chinese Communist Party, has been using artificial intelligence and big data-crunching techniques to track the digital footprint of thousands of Indians, including politicians, defence experts and leading scientists. The Overseas Key Information Database developed by the company records as well as monitors the online activity of individuals across various social media platforms. In short, this hi-tech avatar of the Orwellian Big Brother is closely watching the who's who of India.

It's obvious that merely a keen interest in Indian affairs is not propelling this humongous exercise. Offering 'threat intelligence services', Zhenhua is busy building a 'relational database' which records and describes associations between individuals, institutions etc. The interpretation and analysis of data undoubtedly serve strategic purposes.

In a technology-driven world, information is ammunition. And China can't have enough of it, especially when the data pertains to a formidable neighbour that is capable of protecting its territory from intruders. The large-scale data mining, which reeks of snooping, is a wake-up call for India, which needs to look beyond military, diplomatic and economic options to counter the Chinese threat. Citing concerns over citizens' privacy and national security, the Indian government has banned over 200 apps in less than three months. But that is merely a drop in the ocean when we look at the larger picture. Chinese companies call the shots in India's smartphone sector and the scenario is not going to change anytime soon. What India can do urgently is to incorporate stringent provisions in the Information Technology Act to curb third-party collection and misuse of data. 'Know thy enemy,' said Chinese military strategist and philosopher Sun Tzu. It's time India does the needful to preempt China's nefarious moves on the ground and in cyberspace.

Naomi's masked statement

Tennis star wins US Open and hearts

NAOMI OSAKA has shown that good girls win, too. You don't necessarily have to be an egocentric, madly-driven, tunnel-eyed super-athlete to win a tennis Grand Slam tournament, which Naomi did for the third time on Saturday night. Naomi came back from a set down against Victoria Azarenka to win 1-6 6-3 6-3 for her second US Open title. She had won the first two years ago at the same venue — which was then filled with a crowd whose boos drowned her joy because their favourite, Serena Williams, had been penalised by the umpire. This time around, there was nothing to mar Naomi's happiness. There were no spectators at the venue but, if you believe in such things, Naomi was, surely, accompanied by the blessings from families of at least six men and one woman, all black, killed by police or racists for, mainly, being black.

In times when celebrities endorse expensive branded masks, Naomi's simple black masks with names of black victims of hate crime — the youngest was Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old carrying a plastic toy gun, killed by police in a playground — touched hearts and lent a powerful voice to the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement. Statistics drown the individuality of victims of crime; by naming the victims — even if only seven among thousands — Naomi humanised them. She reminded people that institutionalised racism and bigotry are deeply entrenched in every country, every society — one only needs to become honest to see and acknowledge them.

It's not very original to be an idealist at 22, as Naomi is. But she's not an accidental activist — daughter of a black American from Haiti and a woman from Japan, Naomi is acutely aware of what being the 'other' feels like. She has lived in Japan and the US and has travelled the world. She has seen the bigotry of people, whether they are American, Japanese or from anywhere else. Even before she became a superstar, she had acquired a following among sports writers for her idiosyncratic and intelligent sense of humour and her sensitive and profound comments on social issues. Her dignified and deep commitment to the BLM movement is completely in character and a lesson to all of us.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

It is not only what we do, but also what we do not, for which we are accountable. — Moliere

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1920

TWO GREAT QUESTIONS.

WHILE to the advocate of Mr. Gandhi's programme the most important question is the question of the steps to be taken to enforce that programme, to the rest of political India the outstanding questions are: (1) how this programme can be enforced without causing a further division in the national camp, and without serious detriment to the country's vital interests; and (2) whether the time has not come for reconstituting the Congress. The first of these questions is comparatively simple. In the first place, as Mr. Gandhi himself, judging from the remark he is reported by a Calcutta contemporary to have made, seems to think the advisory character of the resolution should be strictly adhered to. In other words, the resolution should be regarded as only giving the imprimatur of the Congress non-violent non-co-operation originally resolved upon without reference to the Congress, and not as a mandate given by the Congress itself to all Congressmen, no matter what their private views may be. Secondly, although the resolution as a whole has been passed in the teeth of opposition from the large majority of the most influential political leaders at the several centres, it should be in its actual working, be modified at least in respect of those parts about which the bulk of weighty and influential opinion is seriously doubtful. The most important of the items belonging to this category is, of course, the proposed boycott of schools and colleges. Next to it is the question of the proposed boycott of courts and here the obvious self-interest of the people, if nothing else, will suggest cautious advance. The abandonment of practice by a few leading lawyers here and there or by the great bulk of the briefless variety would undoubtedly be a good thing, if the experience and the talent thus set free can be properly utilised for the purpose of national work in one or other of its important departments.

Politicisation of administration

The interplay of corrupt, unlawful practices has eroded capacity and credibility



NN VOHRA

FORMER JAMMU & KASHMIR GOVERNOR



ACCOUNTABILITY: The executive must function independently and constitutionally.

For positive change, it is of vital importance that the senior echelons of all services remain apolitical.

work in the departments under his control, becomes accountable. However, barring a very small percentage, most of the elected persons who become ministers have no earlier experience in administration, much less of formulating and implementing policies. Also, sadly, most of them do not have the urge, and perhaps not even the capacity, to put in the required effort to adequately understand the working of the departments placed under their charge, identify problems which require solution, take sound decisions and ensure the timely achievement of the targeted goals.

The unfettered interplay of corrupt and unlawful practices has severely eroded both the capacity and the credibility of the governmental machinery. It is regrettable that even the management of the day-to-day public dealing offices and agencies has been invariably entrusted, not to functionaries of proven merit and integrity, but to those generally selected on considerations of caste, community or proximity to the political masters. Continuing deficiencies in the delivery of important public services has led to enormous dissatisfaction among the people.

Accountability is the foundation of the rule of law and constitutional governance. The working of the governmental apparatus shall become efficient only when the functioning of every minister, and of all officials who

Due to the politicisation of the administrative system, a certain percentage of officials, of various services, have climbed the political bandwagon and unashamedly flaunt their loyalties to powerful elected leaders. Honest officials are invariably sidelined and the functioning of many others is severely constrained by the threats which emanate from the 'criminal nexus' which conveys directions how certain important matters should be decided.

The existing punishment and appeal systems relating to the cadres of the various services in the country do not deter dishonest functionaries. A speedier and perhaps more punitive approach is required to deal with corruption among government employees. However, the public services shall start mending only when the political executive starts functioning constitutionally and every minister starts enforcing accountability, answerability and timely achievement of the departmental goals and targets in all the organisations which work under his charge.

For improving the functioning of the administrative apparatus, it is necessary to create an environment in which every public servant functions fearlessly, discharges his duties with efficiency and is enabled to gain advancements in service on the basis of his

proven performance and integrity.

Towards this objective it would be beneficial if the senior echelons of all services — generalists, specialists, scientists, technologists, military leaders and all others who assist and work with Cabinet ministers — are allowed to work with total independence, without being constrained by fear or pressure from any quarter. For rendering sound and objective advice, it is of vital importance that the functioning of the seniormost public servants remains conspicuously apolitical.

Many serious problems facing us today, including worrying internal security challenges, arise from corruption, mismanagement and unaccountability. It is, therefore, of prime importance that the executive functions constitutionally and ensures that welfare programmes are efficiently implemented to alleviate the lot of every poverty-stricken family, special attention being given to ensure that the problems of the tribal and other communities who live in remote areas are handled with care and sensitivity.

Naxalism, which at one time was labelled by the Union Home Ministry as the most serious threat to the Indian State, was born and took root in several parts of the country where the tribal and other local communities had faced neglect and severe economic deprivation for long. Having been denied access to resources, even to the natural produce of forests in which they lived, they rose against the established system.

There is no time to lose in putting our house in order. The millions of our oppressed and poverty-stricken people may not wait endlessly for their sufferings to end. Their anger and despair may lead them to the path of confrontation. And if such an unfortunate consequence emerges, it may not be possible to control the arising disorder merely through the application of force — an approach which has been unsuccessfully followed for decades now.

— Excerpted from the centenary year Sir Syed memorial lecture delivered online on Sept 9. To be continued. For the full text, go to <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/opinion/comments>

The original deliverer of message

VISHAVJEET CHAUDHARY

INDIA POST has a history as illustrious as that of the subcontinent. In fact, India is lucky enough to have one of the most widespread networks of post offices in the world. The humble postman has been the protagonist of a number of stories, novels and films, Tagore's *Postmaster* being among the most famous ones. His role is intricately woven into the story's fabric: conveying messages dispassionately, bringing news — good and bad — and sometimes playing the villain. All this (and more!) while handing over the letters.

The postal services have also had an interesting tryst with politics and law. The concept of a 'pocket veto vote'

was used by the then President Zail Singh to oppose the Indian Postal (Amendment) Bill of 1986. In nation-building, many postal staff are expected to help with the smooth running of elections with the staff holding key posts. The recognition of a person, on a postal stamp, is seen as a rare honour — ironically, Zail Singh would later receive this honour.

The romanticism associated with writing letters is so profusely loaded. Fine paper needs to be sourced — ink leaves its mark on paper — like fingerprints — never to be matched, thoughtful words are carefully transcribed. And then, the journey starts. The letter is sealed, stamped and sent forth. Meticulously sorted, they travel day and

night. Through valleys and ravines, meadows and dust paths, motorways and village lanes — to make their way to the recipient. The letter's journey ends, but another one starts — of communication and messages received!

In today's world of emails and instant messages, the value of letters is certainly not one that utilitarianism alone can support. Messages can be written, sent and received, even before the word 'letter' can be said! In 2013, the telegrams died a silent death. The last one was sent in July that year. Not many send or receive letters either.

The post office has nonetheless not lost its sheen entirely. Stamps can be bought from there and several savings schemes are operated in the post offices, keeping them busy. 'Official' documents are also sent from there, through registered post and speedpost services.

The challenges that India Post faces are numerous. In a fast-paced world, with many private players in business, the competition is stiff. However, slow, mindful living is coming back into vogue. The lockdown, in particular, has made us reflect — on ideas of instant gratification and has made us question many things that we took for granted.

The slow, rhythmic coming together of words, and then, the unhurried journey made by the letters — all seem like things belonging to another era. Yet, India Post is an institution that we must preserve and ensure it thrives. We owe it that much, and much more.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Business of health

Apropos of the editorial 'Medical oxygen supply' (Sept 14), not only is the supply of medical oxygen of utmost importance, it is also imperative that this uninterrupted supply is maintained at high quality and a reasonable price. It is often seen that when the word 'medical' or 'health' is added to a commodity, its price is scaled up manifold. Quality check must be maintained. During this pandemic, the demand for masks and sanitisers was taken as an opportunity by the business community to supply low quality products at high cost for sheer profiteering.

SANDEEP CHAUDHRI, KARNAL

Khadi-khaki nexus

The brutal thrashing of a veteran by Shiv Sainiks in broad daylight, for forwarding an innocuous, humorous WhatsApp message, is condemnable. The arrogant outfit has no tolerance for dissenting views and unabashedly employs violence to curb the same. The blatant aggression with impunity to settle scores with the opponents is not unprecedented. During the CPM rule in West Bengal, their cadre often caused unprovoked mayhem with backing from their mentors. Now, the TMC members too are not lagging behind. During the SP rule

in UP, incidents happened, notably the slaying of a DSP, at the bidding of a notorious political leader. The latest is the Unnao case involving a BJP leader. We, hapless citizens, have to put up with the nexus of khadi, khaki and apraadh.

BAKHSHI GURPRIT SINGH, JALANDHAR

Silencing dissent

Refer to 'Six accused of assaulting Navy veteran get bail'; it is shameful that a senior citizen, who happens to be a retired Navy officer, was attacked and recorded on camera by alleged Shiv Sena workers who got bail within hours of their arrest. This speaks volumes of the high-handedness of the political party in power, misusing of its position to silence the voice of dissent. Even if Sharma had broken some law, there was a legal remedy to follow instead of taking law into their own hands.

ASHOK KUMAR, JALANDHAR

Containing China

India is working on three fronts with respect to China: giving a befitting reply on the border; breaking the supply chain; and helping contain China with the cooperation of the Indo-Pacific region. While Pakistan will never become friends with India, Nepal is an immediate

concern because it is increasingly playing into the hands of China. India must undertake constructive cultural, spiritual and historical measures so that Nepal continues to support India.

JATINDER MASOUN, LUDHIANA

Real role models

'Breaking barriers during tough times' (Sept 11) is inspiring and motivating. Doing the job supposed to be done by men, these women are real-life heroines who are earning the bread and butter for their families even during this time of the pandemic. Girls are now knocking down stereotypes and taking up path-breaking jobs across sectors that many might term unconventional choices. They may face challenges such as high stress and anxiety, lesser wages, social prejudices and sexual harassment at the workplace, but kudos to them that they are still working. Let us support and encourage women who are working in an age-old patriarchal society. They are role models for others.

JANAK RAJ SARANGAL, GURDASPUR

Harsh realities

My eyes filled with tears after reading the middle 'Mother's touch and surmedaani'. Learn to live

with the new realities is what we are told. But what about the old realities? Weren't they for real? A daughter visits her own 'home' as a guest, tries to find old memories (of realities of a bygone era), but can't find much. Perhaps we live in an unreal world, where the real is absent all the time. Parents, when they are gone, continue to live in our thoughts. Small nuances of the times spent together bring back joy and pain. Strange are the ways of this world!

DEEPAK TAAK, PANCHKULA

No sense of law

It is appalling to read that a large number of peoples' representatives in Punjab are involved in criminal acts ('Why cases pending against politicians for 36 years, asks SC', Sept 11). Cases against them are pending for decades. They have no fear of the law. Those responsible for such a state of affairs must be identified and taken to task for misusing the process of law. The judiciary has been raising issues from time to time on the pendency of cases, well-connected criminals dodging the law and so on, but little has been done to improve the situation. Innocent litigants continue to suffer for no fault of theirs.

AMANDEEP, MOHALI

China woos European nations to counter US

MANOJ JOSHI
DISTINGUISHED FELLOW, OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION, NEW DELHI

was also an exercise to shore up China's standing with the EU, its largest trading partner. An important goal was to prevent the fire that had been lit against China in the US from spreading to Europe.

But the outcome was not a particularly happy one. Almost all his interlocutors, reacting to the strong public opinion in Europe, raised the issue of Hong Kong and Uighurs. Meanwhile, European businesses are worried about the fallout of the Hong Kong national security legislation and the negative public opinion at home.

Even as the Wang tour reached

France, the European Union's top foreign policy official, Josep Borrell offered a wide-ranging critique of China in two opinion pieces. He criticised China's growing authoritarian tendencies and its vision of the world order prioritising economic and social rights over political and civil rights. He also said there were serious imbalances in the EU's relationship with China, especially the lack of market access for European businesses.

Last year, in its strategic outlook document, the EU had declared China to be a cooperation partner, as well as an 'economic competitor' and 'systemic rival'.

While in Germany, Wang got into a highly publicised spat when he criticised the Speaker of the Czech Republic Milos Vystrcil for making a visit to Taiwan to promote business links. He accused Vystrcil of 'short-sighted behaviour and political opportunism' and said he would 'pay a heavy price' for his actions. The Czech government was not amused and called in the Chinese ambassador to complain about the tone of Wang's statement.

On Monday, China and the EU will



have held their summit meeting led by German Chancellor Angela Merkel as the current chair of the European Council and President Xi Jinping. On the eve of the summit, the EU Chamber of Commerce in China released a position paper with 800 detailed recommendations for improving the business environment spread across 34 industry areas. It focused on issues that required urgent attention such as limited market access and the complex regulatory environment that prevented European businesses from functioning properly in China. It also called for a 'political agreement' to finalise the bilateral investment agreement that has been hanging fire for the past seven years, by the end of 2020.

In a move that cannot have been par-

ticularly comfortable for Beijing, and in the midst of Wang's tour, Germany issued the policy guidelines for its first Indo-Pacific strategy. The aim of the document, the German government press release said, was to make "an active contribution to the shaping of the international order in the Indo-Pacific." The German definition of the Indo-Pacific is similar to the Indian one, comprising the entire Indian and Pacific Oceans.

In a statement accompanying the guidelines, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said that though the Himalayas and Malacca Straits seemed far away, "our prosperity and our geopolitical influence in the coming decades will depend...on how we work with the countries of the Indo-Pacific region." Germany

wanted to shape the world order that was emerging "so that it is based on rules and international cooperation, not on the law of the strong."

Neither Germany nor the EU, are about to jump into the Quad and align with the US against China. German policy looks more like the one articulated by Japan and South Korea, and even India, notwithstanding our Himalayan contretemps. It essentially complements French policy which was issued two years ago and which emphasises multipolarity. Germany and France are now working towards a common EU strategy on the Indo-Pacific.

The Chinese are not without leverage in Europe. Many European giants like Volkswagen and Daimler depend on the China business for their profits.

The Chinese are not without leverage in Europe. European giants like Volkswagen and Daimler depend on the China business for their profits. But in the current global climate, China is locked in a seemingly unending conflict with the US and public opinion in Europe is pushing its politicians to take a tougher stand against China on account of human rights.

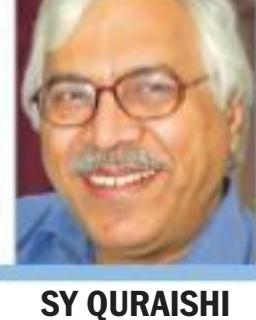
BILATERAL BOOST: China is trying to shore up relations with other countries after ties with the US dipped.

Chinese investments are welcomed not just in central and eastern Europe, but Greece, Hungary and Italy as well.

But in the current global climate, China is locked in a seemingly unending conflict with the US and public opinion in Europe is pushing its politicians to take a tougher stand against China on account of human rights.

Governments in Europe seek to use this to maximise their advantage with China and push hard on the issue of subsidies in China, as well as the bilateral investment treaty. It is in China's own interests to complete the treaty at the earliest to counter the Trump Administration's decoupling and containment policy against China to take hold. But at this juncture, no one really knows who or what is driving policy in China.

Time to give democracy a new lease of life

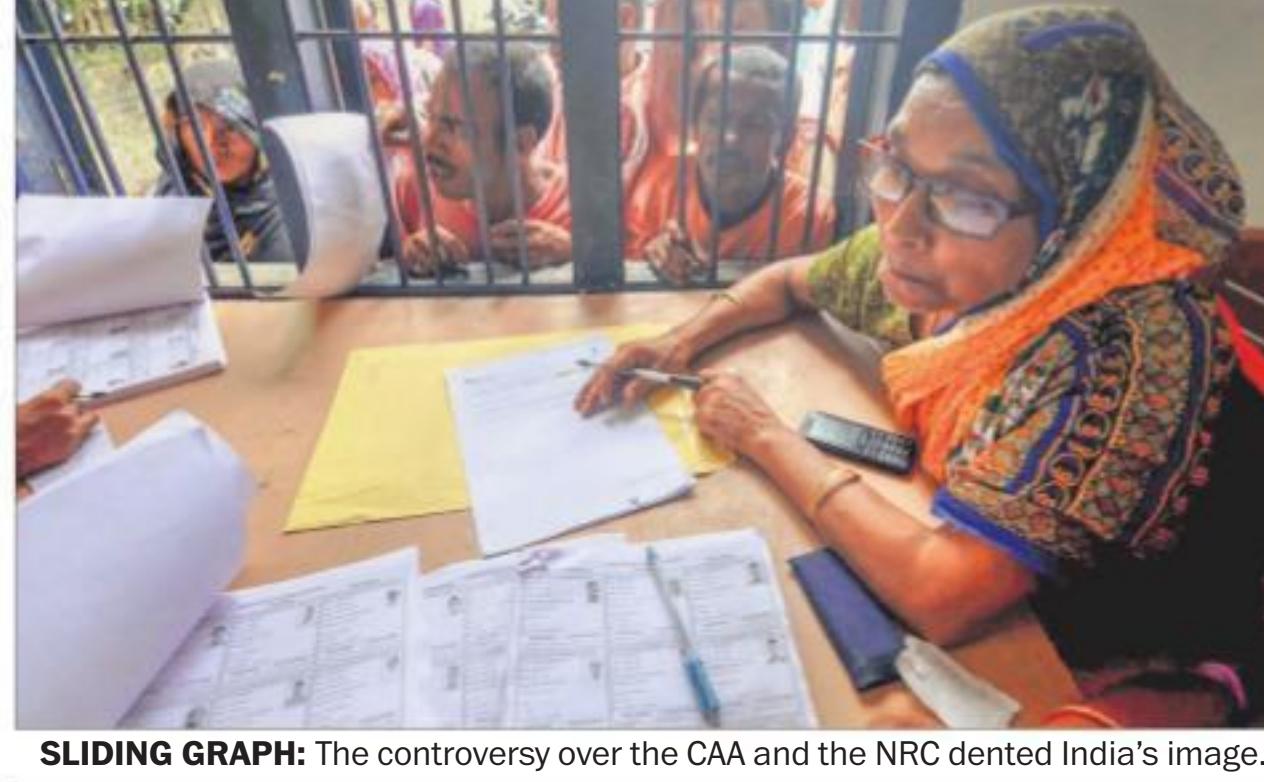
SY QURAISHI
FORMER CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

As the world is abuzz with the terminology of the dreaded coronavirus, the vocabulary of democracy has been silently put to sleep. Grappling with the virus, countries have been quick to discard democratic practices as unnecessary obstructions. What better day to bring to light the colossal damage governments have done to democracy than the International Day of Democracy (September 15) — the only occasion left to remind us of its existence?

It is no surprise that countries imposed strict lockdowns during the pandemic. However, what escaped attention was a more stringent hold on human rights. According to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), 57% of the countries took action, under the garb of containing the Covid-19 pandemic, which negatively affected the democratic rights of their people. Apart from authoritarian regimes, the organisation notes that 77% of hybrid regimes — countries that swing between democratic as well as authoritarian form of government — and two in every five democratic regimes, witnessed at least one development that was 'disproportionate, illegal and indefinite'.

Analysing countries on five broad parameters — representative government, fundamental rights, checks on government, impartial administration and participatory engagement — IDEA concludes that countries in Asia-Pacific region had the most worrisome developments, while Europe had the least.

Within the Asia-Pacific region, the respective governments in South and



SLIDING GRAPH: The controversy over the CAA and the NRC dented India's image.

Southeast Asian sub-regions came down heavily on fundamental rights and the civil society, while weakening the existing checks and balances to hold them accountable. For instance, the Philippines President imposed state emergency with military assistance and penalised propagation of fake news on social media platforms. Cambodia has been on a spree to arrest rights activists. Indonesian President Joko Widodo issued an emergency regulation allowing him to bypass the country's parliament regarding changes in the budget throughout the Covid-19 period.

South Asia, a region whose population constitutes half of the world's democracy, is not far behind. Sri Lanka has weaponised the pandemic to launch its offensive against dissent and Muslim minority, while Bangladesh fastened its

grip around the deteriorating political opposition and Pakistan put behind bars Covid-19 warriors like doctors and nurses for highlighting the lack of PPE kits.

India, the leading democracy in South Asia, has been a guiding light for its neighbours over the years. However, this time around, it has unfortunately joined them in aggressively eroding democratic principles. From arbitrarily slapping stringent legislations like Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) on student activists to inactivity during the migrant exodus, from a communally charged narrative to the absence of parliamentary oversight, India has ticked all boxes in projecting itself as a dying democracy in this pandemic. But is it just after Covid-19 struck that India had to 'sacrifice' its constitutional responsibility for 'larger public good'?

In terms of 'civil society participation', India performed miserably. It

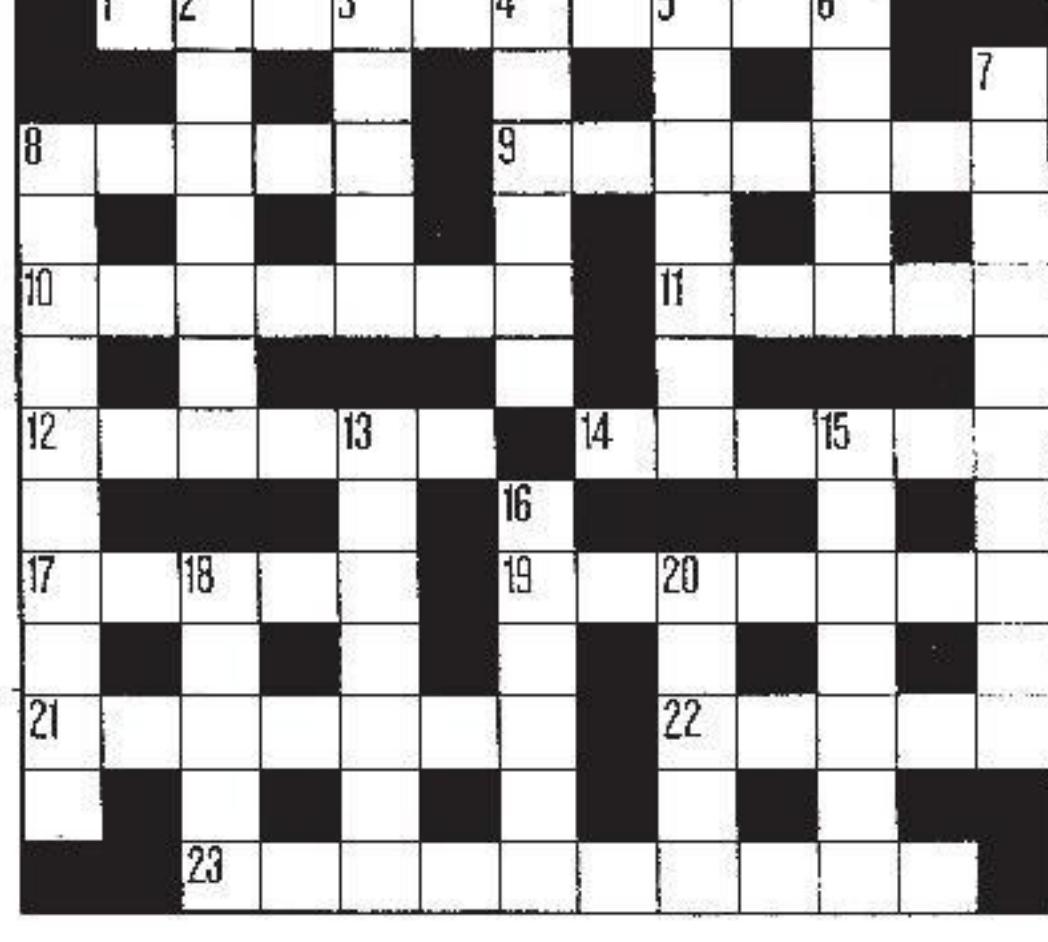
scored 0.59, less than Pakistan's score of 0.73. In fact, our country has come under the scanner of organisations like the UN for its regressive treatment of civil society organisations. The index acknowledged that with the help of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, the Ministry of Home Affairs crushed the foreign funding of NGOs with 1,807 of them losing their licence for this in just 2019.

Not just the GSoD index, the 12th edition of the Democracy Index, 'A year of democratic setbacks and popular protests' by *The Economist's* Intelligence Unit, released earlier this year, recorded similar observations. Drastically falling since 2017, India tumbled 10 positions down to the 51st rank. The report attributed the dip to the government's action in J&K and the NRC in Assam. Clearly, the *Sab changa si* narrative failed to whitewash the contravention of civil rights in Jammu and Kashmir.

The index underlined that the controversial legislation, Citizenship Amendment Act (2019), which seems to target Muslim community, would further deprecate India's position next year.

This alone must stand as a warning that India, once renowned for its democratic model, decorated with secular principles, pluralism and rule of law, is now on its way to being called an authoritarian-cum-majoritarian country globally. The fig leaf of the pandemic has accelerated the whole process. As feared, the paradox of the largest democracy slipping from a flawed one to a hybrid regime may slowly be turning into a sad reality. This International Day of Democracy is a good occasion to introspect!

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Come by, 4 Mayhem, 9 Rancour, 10 Burns, 11 Stall, 12 Crevice, 13 Kingdom come, 18 Applaud, 20 Tiber, 22 Award, 23 Warning, 24 Dreary, 25 Detect.

Down: 1 Cerise, 2 Mania, 3 Bootleg, 5 Amble, 6 Heroism, 7 Master, 8 Crack of dawn, 14 In place, 15 Coterie, 16 Canard, 17 Bright, 19 Adder, 21 Baize.

ACROSS

- 1 Become very enthusiastic (3,7)
- 8 Intended (5)
- 9 Samurai code of honour (7)
- 10 Depart from subject (7)
- 11 Overturn (5)
- 12 Chinese small boat (6)
- 14 Sanity (6)
- 17 Come to mind (5)
- 19 Suitcases, trunks etc. (7)
- 21 Collect into list (7)
- 22 Pretend (5)
- 23 Gossip at length (4,3,3)

DOWN

- 2 A blend (7)
- 3 Supple (5)
- 4 Sturdy (6)
- 5 Style of dress (7)
- 6 French river (5)
- 7 Moderation (6,4)
- 8 Talent for making money (5,5)
- 13 Aviation transport company (7)
- 15 Power of endurance (7)
- 16 Miserable (6)
- 18 Causing laughter (5)
- 20 Indiscreet remark (5)

SU DO KU



MEDIUM

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020, TUESDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Bhadrapad Shaka	24
■ Bhadrapad Parvishtha	31
■ Hijri	1442
■ Krishna Paksha Tithi 13, up to 11.00 pm	
■ Shiva Yoga up to 11.02 am	
■ Aashle Nakshatra up to 2.25 pm	
■ Moon enters Leo sign 2:25 pm	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: TUESDAY 18:28 HRS
SUNRISE: WEDNESDAY 06:07 HRS

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	34	26
New Delhi	37	26
Amritsar	37	26
Bathinda	36	26
Jalandhar	36	25
Ludhiana	34	24
Bhiwani	38	26
Hisar	36	24
Sirsra	37	26
Dharamsala	26	17
Manali	27	13
Shimla	24	15
Srinagar	30	13
Jammu	35	25
Kargil	20	10
Leh	27	9
Dehradun	31	23
Mussoorie	24	16

TEMPERATURE IN °C

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online e-tender on items rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Palampur on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the Contractor/Firm of appropriate class.			
Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of tender
Work No. 1:- Providing house hold connections by Ministry of Jal Shakti "Har Ghar Nal Se Jai" under LWSS Tikkari Sagoor in Baijnath Constituency in Tehsil Baijnath, District Kangra, H.P. (SH) Construction of reinforcement cement concrete over head storage tank of 50000 litre 10 Mtr. staging height	Rs. 110000/-	Rs. 22000/-	Rs. 400/-

Last date of filing/uploading the tender through e-tendering **16/9/2020** up to **11.00 a.m.** and the same will be opened on **16/9/2020** at **11.30 a.m.** The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website www.hpijh.org and www.hptenders.gov.in: DPR/HP/2932

NORTHERN RAILWAY**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Sr.DME/DMU/Jalandhar acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the works mentioned hereunder. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date 10.10.2020 at 12:00 hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Bidders are allowed to make payments against this tender towards cost of tender document and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card, etc. Manual payments through demand draft, Bankers cheque, deposit receipts, FDRs, etc. are not allowed.

Name of Work	COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR GODREJ 02 NOS, GX500D(SB) DIESEL FORK LIFT TRUCKS WITH ROTATING FORK ATTACHMENT & 02 NOS. GX300E ELECTRIC FORK LIFT TRUCKS AT DMU CAR SHED BUDGAM FOR 02 YEARS
Estimated Cost of Work (Approximate)	Rs. 17,27,518.00 (Rs. Seventeen lakhs Twenty Seven thousand Five hundred eighteen and paise eighty only)
Tender Security Amount (Earnest Money Deposit)	Rs. 34,600/- (Rupees Thirty Four Thousand and Six Hundred only)
Cost of Tender Document (Non Refundable)	Rs 2,000/- (Rs. Two thousand only)
Tender document available for sale on website	14/09/2020
E-Tender closing Date & Time	10.10.2020 up to 12:00 Hrs
Date and time of opening of E-Tender on IREPS website	10.10.2020 at 12:15 Hrs
Validity of Tender	45 Days from the last date of submission of tender
Type of Tender	Open Tender (Single Packet System)
Contract Period	24 Months
Website	www.ireps.gov.in
Tender No. 08-2020-DEMUL_BDMG Dated. 14/09/2020	1997/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA**Retaining wall along Solan NH caves in****Protest over poor condition of highway**

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, SEPTEMBER 14

The residents of Jodinernagar today staged a protest against the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) over poor condition of the Pathankot-Mandi highway, which claimed the life of one youth on September 10.

The villagers said that victim Mohit Kumar Awasthi (29) was travelling on his bike towards Kangra from Jodinernagar side, when he met with a road accident at Neugal bridge near Paror.

They said that due to potholes on the highway, the bike of the victim tumbled. He fell down because on the highway and died on the spot.

Brij Gopal Awasthi, a social activist, said that after the death of the youth, no official of the local administration or the NHAI visited the affected family. No financial assistance was provided to the family of the deceased. — TNS

**ROAD USED BY VILLAGERS, SCHOOLCHILDREN**

About 10 to 12 villages having a population of about 2,000 use this road to go to Chakki-ka-Mor to sell their farm produce. Even children use this road to go to school.

The retaining wall that collapsed at Chakki-ka-Mor, near Parwanoo. TREBUNE PHOTO

Infraprojects that was tasked with the expansion of the highway to four lanes.

He says that a case for seeking due compensation from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been submitted to the

district administration. “Farmers, who use this road to transport their produce to Chakki-ka-Mor, are particularly suffering due to the collapse of the retaining wall.

Efforts are being made to restore the link road so that at

least small vehicles can pass,” adds Dhiman.

He says that the village road started damaging in 2018 and this year it has worsened during the rains. The latter half of the Kimmughat-Chakki-ka-Mor

link road has been rendered unfit for motorists.

Rajesh Kumar, Executive Engineer, PWD, Kasauli division, says that the collapse of the retaining wall raised by GR Infraprojects below Thar village has caused severe damage to the link road above. “It has not only been rendered unfit for plying vehicles but also a lot of money has been spent on the repair of cracks and a portion of the road has also sunk,” adds Rajesh.

About 10 to 12 villages having a population of about 2,000 use this road to go to Chakki-ka-Mor to sell their farm produce such as tomatoes and vegetables. Even children use this road to go to Senior Secondary School at Jabli.

GR Infraprojects had earlier blocked the link road to the highway and it was after the villagers protested that it agreed to reopen the road.

Cong walks out over MLA's detention in SP's office

Agnihotri says authority of MLA being undermined

**ASSEMBLY IN SESSION**

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 14

The Congress and the CPM today staged a walkout in the Vidhan Sabha against the detention of Kullu MLA Sunder Thakur in the SP office on the pretext of Covid and hooliganism by BJP workers in his hotel complex.

Opposition members created ruckus in the assembly while accusing the government of targeting the Kullu MLA. It was through a point of order that Leader of Opposition Mukesh Agnihotri raised the issue in the Assembly before the question hour.

“How can the Superintendent of Police seal the SP office and detain the Congress MLA who was sitting on a dharna with his supporters,” Agnihotri said. He said an SP cannot detain an MLA without informing the Speaker. Moreover the District Magistrate and not the SP has the powers to seal the

SP office if a Covid case is reported from any office or premises. He demanded that action should be taken against the SP, Kullu, for violating the Covid guidelines.

As Agnihotri insisted that the institution of the MLA was being denigrated, the entire opposition staged a walkout in the Assembly before the question hour.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said the issue was wrongly being given a political angle. “The issue of encroachment in the Kullu MLAs hotel is pending in the high court and no damage has been caused to his property,” said the CM.

Thakur said since an ASI had tested positive, the SP office, where the MLA and 10 Congress office bearers were protesting, had to be sealed. He justified the action by the SP and said there had been no violation of any rules.

The Congress legislators started raising slogans and staged a walkout. The lone CPM legislator Rakesh

Singha also joined the walkout, while stating that it was a question of protecting the institution of an MLA which was under threat.

Later, Agnihotri said action must be taken against the SP as he has violated Covid SOPs. “Even if one case is reported from somewhere, the entire office complex is never sealed and as such the SP has violated the norms,” he said.

Agnihotri said the Kullu MLA was being targeted at the behest of political bosses and he was detained inside the SP's office as a result of which he could not come here to attend the session.

SECOND WALKOUT BY OPPOSITION

- The Opposition walked out of the Vidhan Sabha for the second time on Monday as the government refused to accept the amendments sought to the Labour Bill that was passed

Himachal Pradesh Bill 2020 and the Factories (HP Amendment) Bill 2020 were passed in the Vidhan Sabha amid walk outs by the Congress and the CPM

- CPM legislator Rakesh Singh and Congress MLA Jagat Singh Negi sought amendments to the three Bills terming these as anti-labour

Illegal mining won't be allowed, says Pathania

PALAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 14

Forest Minister Rakesh Pathania said here yesterday that no mining activities would be allowed in forestlands in Himachal Pradesh and in case of any violations stringent action would be taken against the defaulters as well as the officer responsible. He asked the people to report such violations to his office.

Talking to *The Tribune*, the forest minister said his top priority was to check environmental degradation, particularly of forest land. He said it was shocking that the mining mafia had not even spared the forestlands and constructed illegal routes in gross violation of rules to reach the river beds

State Covid cases near 10,000-mark

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DISTRICT-WISE COUNT	+VE	DEATHS
Una	871	8
Solan	2,275	17
Kangra	1,535	17
Chamba	639	5
Hamirpur	738	5
Sirmaur	1,259	5
Mandi	909	8
Bilaspur	527	1
Shimla	632	11
Kullu	388	1
Kinnar	121	-
Lahaul & Spiti	29	-
Total	9,923	80

of Latwara village near Palampur. The second victim was 62-year-old person of Kangra, who had diabetes and hypertension. He was initially admitted to the Zonal Hospital, Dharamsala, yesterday, but was referred to Tanda medical college where he expired.

2 die in Kangra

Two more deaths were reported from Kangra district, taking the total number of coronavirus fatalities in the district to 16.

The first Covid victim was the 72-year-old person

Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE/CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R., SONEPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICE OF HARYANA INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MARKETING CORPORATION LIMITED (HHIMC), AT IIMH, GANAU (HARYANA)	11.09.2020 21.09.2020	55.02 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xeniihm.hsamb@gmail.com
2	HSAMB YAMUNA NAGAR	PROVIDING INTERLOCKING PAVER BLOCK ON INTERNAL ROAD & APPROACH ROAD GRAIN MARKET MUSTAFABAD (SARASWATI NAGAR) + 4 OTHER WORKS	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE 29.09.2020	55.30 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	07132-237825 xenyhm.hsamb2020@gmail.com
3	HPGCL, PANCHKULA	E-TENDERS IN TWO PARTS FROM THE ELIGIBLE BIDDERS ARE INVITED DESIGN, ENGINEERING, PROCUREMENT & CONSTRUCTION AND COMMISSIONING OF 100 MW CAPACITY OF 100 MW GRID CONNECTED MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANT AT THREE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS VIZ. 30 MW AT NEW ASH DYKE FTPL, FARIDABAD, RS 1.5 Core for 30 MW at new ash dyke area FTPL, FARIDABAD, Rs 1.5 Core for 15 MW area near ash dyke FTPL, Faridabad, Rs 1.2 Core for 12 MW at WYC Hydel Yamuna Nagar issued by any of the scheduled banks valid for 9 months from the last date of bid submission to be submitted in the form of bid security with Part-I tenders documents. Original Hard copy of the tender guarantee should be submitted along with Part-II L3	08.09.2020 10.09.2020	1.11 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-275612 xenhsamb.hisar@gmail.com
4	H.S.A.M. BOARD, HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICE OF HARYANA INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MARKETING CORPORATION LIMITED (HHIMC), AT IIMH, GANAU (HARYANA) + 4 OTHER WORKS	11.09.2020 21.09.2020	3.96 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
5	DHBVN, HISAR	PROCUREMENT OF 400 KVA OIL IMMersed NATURALLY COOLED COPPER WOUND OUTDOOR TYPE DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS, EEL-3 (BEE STAR-2), NIT NO. 659/DHM/XMEN/MM dated 09.09.2020	09.09.2020 16.10.2020	5.46 CRORE	www.dhbvn.org.in	805988695
7	MC HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF PRECAST C/C BOUNDARY WALL/THANA ROAD PARKING AND TWO GATES AND ONE SECURITY ROOM AT HISAR + 17 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 30.09.2020	6.90 CRORE	etenders.hry.nic.in	xenmchisar@gmail.com
8	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, TOHANA	CONSTRUCTION OF STREETS FROM RUB TO HOUSE OF DARSHAN IN WARD NO. 01 MC TOHANA + 2 WORKS	11.09.2020 18.09.2020	39.06 LACS	https://etender.hry.nic.in	9416719490
9	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GURUGRAM	REPAIRING OF OLD STORM WATER DRAIN IN FRONT OF SECTOR 10A MARKET, ALONG WITH KHANDSA ROAD, WARD NO. 23, MC, GURUGRAM.	OPENING CLOSING DATE 01.10.2020	47.48 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9999740089</

Home Guards protest



Home Guards volunteers protest for their various demands in Jammu on Monday. PTI

NC for discussion on J&K situation in Parliament

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 14
On the opening day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Monday, the National Conference (NC) demanded discussion on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the aftermath of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A on August 5 last year.

Three NC MPs, led by Farooq Abdullah, the driving force behind the "Gupkar declaration" of August 4, 2019, and its reiteration on August 22 this year, have written a letter to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and cited what they described as "unprecedented situation in the region in the wake of the unilateral, unconstitutional and undemocratic rescinding of Article 370 and 35A. Mohammad Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi, two other MPs of the party, have also signed the letter.

They asserted that the measures taken by the Centre, "besides giving a lie to the sovereign commitments of the country to the people of J&K", have pushed the entire region into a precarious situation.

Contesting the Centre's narrative that the violence has come down in Kashmir post abrogation, the MPs asserted

OXYGEN SHORTAGE ISSUE RAISED

Farooq Abdullah expressed grave concern over the shortage of oxygen in Jammu hospitals, saying the situation was reportedly worrisome, particularly in the wake of the alarming spike in the Covid cases during the past one week.

He was responding to the Union Health Minister during the zero hour in Parliament on the opening day of the Monsoon Session. The Tribune was the first to highlight this issue.

that "there has been a surge in the incidents of violence and skirmishes on the LoC and LAC almost on a daily basis".

They said there had been no thaw in violence-related incidents inside J&K as well and the situation was nowhere near what was promised after abrogation. So far, the situation in the entire region has brought to front our valid apprehensions, the promised development and creation of jobs are still not perceptible on ground, they added.

They asserted that the measures taken by the Centre, "besides giving a lie to the sovereign commitments of the country to the people of J&K", have pushed the entire region into a precarious situation.

Contesting the Centre's narrative that the violence has come down in Kashmir post abrogation, the MPs asserted

Tewari: Govt discriminating against Pbi

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14
Accusing the government of discriminating against the Punjabi language, Anandpur Sahib Member of Parliament Manish Tiwari today said though many of its dialects were spoken in adjacent Jammu and Kashmir, the government had deliberately kept it out as the official language in the Union Territory.

Discrimination against Punjabi should be stopped in J&K and the language included as the official language, Tewari said as a zero hour mention in the Lok Sabha today.

The Union Cabinet had recently approved a Bill under which Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi, apart from the existing Urdu and English, would be the official languages in J&K. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020, would be introduced in the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament.

While the government said it was the long-pending demand of the region to include Dogri, Hindi and Kashmiri as official languages, the BJP-led Centre's move took many by surprise and triggered demands for the inclusion of more languages in the proposed legislation.

They asserted that the measures taken by the Centre, "besides giving a lie to the sovereign commitments of the country to the people of J&K", have pushed the entire region into a precarious situation.

Contesting the Centre's narrative that the violence has come down in Kashmir post abrogation, the MPs asserted

Dept tells private schools to refund capitation fee

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 14
Acting on the complaints of parents, the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Department today went tough against the private schools for charging capitation fee and directed for immediate refund of it to parents.

"Any private school charging capitation fees/admission fees in violation of the RTE Act, 2009, and the Fee Fixation Committee orders may refund it to the parents immediately; orders to be issued shortly."

Asgar Hassan Samoon, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, SCHOOL EDUCATION

tee for Fixation of Fee Structure wherein the latter had sought a direction to all private educational institutions for not charging admission fee in violation of the orders of the committee, court and government.

Samoon referred to the recent letter of the Commit-

fore is without powers. As a result, for the last one year, the problems faced by the people of Valley have not been addressed due to which all issues are unattended and pending. We request the Lt Governor to look into the matter immediately and order smooth functioning of the Waqf Board so that huge pending problems of people are addressed at an earliest," an ACCIK statement said. —TNS

smooth functioning of the Waqf Board by appointing board of directors.

"It is very unfortunate that the J&K Waqf Board — the leading organisation of Jammu & Kashmir — is without the board of directors and the CEO concerned there-

and their issues leaving behind an impression of chaos and panic," the speakers said at a meeting held here today under the chairmanship of PDP general secretary and former legislator Surinder Choudhary. The speakers highlighted the contribution of the party in restoring peace not only in Jammu and Kashmir, but also in the entire region after its formation in 1999. They said even at this crucial juncture the PDP had stood tall despite con-

1,229 cases, 17 deaths take toll to 895 in UT

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 14
Jammu and Kashmir reported 1,229 new positive cases of Covid, 837 from the Jammu division and 392 from the Kashmir province, during the past 24 hours, thus taking the total number of cases in the UT to 55,325.

Seventeen deaths, nine from the Jammu province and eight from the Kashmir division, were also reported during the same period.

Moreover, 644 more patients recovered and were discharged from various hospitals, 231 from the Jammu division and 413 from the Kashmir valley.

According to an official bulletin issued on Monday evening, out of the 55,325 positive cases, 18,049 were active positive, 36,381 had recovered and 895 died, 160 in the Jammu division and 735 in the Kashmir division.

The bulletin further said that out of the 12,48,495 test results available, 11,93,170 samples had tested negative.

Till date, 5,25,963 travellers and persons in contact with suspected cases had been enlisted for observation, which included 42,090 persons

in home quarantine, 18,049 in isolation and 55,018 under home surveillance. Besides, 4,09,911 persons had completed their surveillance period.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC



UT TRACKER

Total persons under surveillance		
Persons completing surveillance		
Samples tested		
5,25,963	4,09,911	12,48,495
Positive cases	55,325	11,93,170
Patients cured	36,381	895
Total deaths	895	895
	55,325	895

were discharged from hospitals. The recovery rate on August 31 was over 61 per cent with death toll 44.

On September 14, the number of positive cases jumped to 8,744, out of which 5,855 were active positive and 2,797 recovered. Thus, the recovery rate dropped to nearly 32 per cent. Not only has the recovery rate gone down drastically but the death toll has doubled during the same period. During the last over five months, from March 9, when the first Covid case was detected in Jammu till the end of August, only positive patients have lost their lives, but in the last 15 days, this number has jumped to 92.

Although the authorities are claiming that the spike in the number of cases is the result of the rapid tests, the hike in the death toll has created fear among residents. On August 31, the total positive cases in Jammu district were 3,288, out of which 2,035 patients recovered and

were discharged from hospitals. The recovery rate on August 31 was over 61 per cent with death toll 44.

On September 14, the number of positive cases jumped to 8,744, out of which 5,855 were active positive and 2,797 recovered. Thus, the recovery rate dropped to nearly 32 per cent.

Not only in Jammu district, the situation is going from bad to worse in the whole Jammu province, comprising 10 districts, during the past 15 days. On August 31, the total positive cases in the Jammu province were 8,781, out of which 6,523 recovered and the death toll was 66. Within the last 15 days, the positive cases in the Jammu province have jumped to 18,225, out of which 8,170 were recoveries.

before that, every panchayat halqa would get Rs 10 lakh for various development works.

The L-G promised that justice would be done to the families of the "missing" Rajouri youths

before that, every panchayat halqa would get Rs 10 lakh for various development works.

The L-G promised that justice would be done to the families of the "missing" Rajouri labourers, assumed to have been killed in an "encounter". The families of the youths had written to L-G Sinha on Friday, expressing anguish over the delay in getting the DNA reports and sought his intervention to help them receive the bodies.

"A committee constituted to suggest a package for business and other ailing sectors has submitted its report. The report is under consideration with the Government of India and I think within a week's time, there is going to be a major announcement about a package as never before," the L-G said. He also said that "Back to village programme—3" would commence on October 2 and

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Heroin worth ₹35 cr seized in Rajouri

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 14
The Rajouri police today foiled a major smuggling bid with the arrest of a drug peddler and recovered a huge consignment of 7-kg heroin-like substance, with market value of Rs 35 crore, from his possession.

A police team intercepted a Tata Mobile vehicle for routine frisking, said the SSP.

During the frisking of the vehicle, the police recovered the huge consignment of drugs that was kept hidden in the vehicle.

The driver of the vehicle, identified as Tariq Ahmed Ghani, a resident of Bachro in Kashmir's Kulgam district, was arrested on the spot and the vehicle was seized, the SSP said. —TNS

smooth functioning of the Waqf Board by appointing board of directors.

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and their issues leaving behind an impression of chaos and panic," the speakers said at a meeting held here today under the chairmanship of PDP general secretary and former legislator Surinder Choudhary. The speakers highlighted the contribution of the party in restoring peace not only in Jammu and Kashmir, but also in the entire region after its formation in 1999. They said even at this crucial juncture the PDP had stood tall despite con-

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CITY PARK, SANGRUR TENDER NOTICE CITY PARK - SANGRUR

Everybody is informed that 8 unipoles of City Park, Sangrur are proposed to be given on rent for a period of five years. All interested parties can submit their bids on or before 24/09/2020 at 12 noon in the office of District Red Cross Society, Sangrur. The bids shall be opened on 24/09/2020 at 4 pm at the office of Assistant Commissioner (Gen)-cum-Convenor, City Park, Sangrur. For any detail/enquiry you may visit the website (www.sangrur.gov.in) and the Red Cross Office, Sangrur.

Sd/- Karamjit Singh, P.C.S.
Asstt. Commissioner (Gen)-cum-Convenor, City Park, Sangrur
acsgsangrur@gmail.com
Mob. No. 94176-12400
(Secretary, Red Cross, Sangrur)

DPR/Pb/76685

दहरातः लिंगु बैंडरेल, भुज्य किवल सपलाईज अरे खपतवार मामले, लुपिआणा

टेंडर मंगल दा नोटम

दो पंजाब ऐं लंगर चार्टरेट पार्सेन्स 2020-21, जिस दो वर्षीय वार्षिक दाता वैल्युट विभाग द्वारा दहरातः लिंगु बैंडरेल, भुज्य किवल सपलाईज अरे खपतवार मामले, लुपिआणा

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Geeta removed from UK mayor candidate list

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 14 An Indian-origin entrepreneur-activist was on Monday dropped as a prospective London mayoral candidate to contest against Sadiq Khan next year after her past antisemitic comments came to light.

Geeta Sidhu Robb, the founder of organic food and juice products firm Nosh Detox, had been shortlisted as the Liberal Democrat candidate to take on Labour's Khan but was instead suspended from the party after a 1997 General Election footage revealed her making anti-Jewish remarks. "I apologise profusely for my actions in the 1997 General Election campaign," said Sidhu Robb. — PTI

Suga set to replace Abe as PM

Says fighting pandemic and turning around economy his priority

TOKYO, SEPTEMBER 14 Yoshihide Suga was elected the new head of Japan's ruling party on Monday, virtually guaranteeing him parliamentary election as the country's next Prime Minister.

Suga received 377 votes in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party election to pick a successor to PM Shinzo Abe, who announced last month that he would resign due to health problems. The other two contenders received a combined 157 votes — former foreign minister Fumio Kishida got 89 and former defence minister Shigeru Ishiba had 68.

The expected victory in the party vote by Suga, currently the chief cabinet secretary of Abe's government, all but guarantees his election in a parliamentary vote Wednesday because of the majority held by the Liberal Democrats' ruling coalition. Suga gained the support of party heavyweights and their wing members early in the campaign on expectations that he would continue



Yoshihide Suga gestures as he is elected the head of the ruling party at the Liberal Democratic Party's poll on Monday. REUTERS

Abe's policies.

That his victory appeared to be a done deal has raised criticism from inside and outside the party that the process is undemocratic and murky. The closed-door politics also apparently led lawmakers to support Suga in hopes of getting favourable party and Cabinet posts in the new administration. Suga has said his top priorities are fighting Covid and turning around an economy battered by the pandemic.

He repeatedly has noted achievements under the Abe-led government when asked about various policies.

Despite his low-key image as Abe's right-hand man, Suga is actually known for his iron-fist approach to getting jobs done as a policy coordinator and influencing bureaucrats by using the centralised power of the PM's office. Suga says he is a reformist and that he has worked to achieve policies by breaking territorial barriers

POLL DRAWS CRITICISM

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of bureaucracy.

Suga had emerged as frontrunner after Abe, Japan's longest-serving premier, said last month he would resign because of ill health, ending nearly eight years in office.

There is speculation Suga will call an election for the lower house of parliament as soon as next month to boost his chances of winning a full three-year term as LDP chief next year. A vote for the chamber must be held by late October 2021.— Agencies

Unrest in Belarus



Riot police officers detain a protester during a Belarusian opposition supporters' rally protesting the official presidential election results in Minsk on Sunday. AP/PTI

US-Taiwan economic talks infuriate China

TAIPEI, SEPTEMBER 14

China warned the United States on Monday of potential "serious damage" to their relations if it does not withdraw from an upcoming economic meeting with Taiwan that is expected to be attended by a senior American official.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin urged the US to "stop all forms of official exchanges with Taiwan, so as to avoid serious damage to China-US relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."

Taiwanese media reported that US Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Keith Krach is planning to visit the island later this week for an economic and commercial dialogue with Taiwan's government.

The visit would follow one by US Health Secretary Alex Azar last month. Azar was the highest-level US Cabinet offi-



Angela Merkel during a conference in Berlin. REUTERS

EU, Beijing discuss ties

Brussels: German Chancellor Angela Merkel, top European Union officials and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks on Monday focused on trade, trying to reinvigorate slow-moving discussions on an investment agreement and building trust to tackle the thorny political issues harming their ties. AP

US Ambassador to China to step down next month

BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 14

The US Ambassador to China will step down early next month, ending a three-year tenure marked by a trade war and increasingly bitter relations between the world's two largest economies.

Terry Branstad, appointed by President Donald Trump in 2017, confirmed his decision in a phone call with Trump last week, the US Embassy said in a statement on Monday. It did not give a reason for his departure.

"I am proud of our work in getting the phase one trade deal and delivering tangible results for our communities back home," he was quoted as saying at an embassy staff meeting on Monday.

China's foreign ministry said before the embassy announcement that it was aware of Pompeo's tweet but had not received any notification that Branstad was leaving. — AP

Foreign labs confirm Navalny poisoned with Novichok: Berlin

BERLIN, SEPTEMBER 14

Specialist labs in France and Sweden have confirmed Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was poisoned with the Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok, the German government said Monday.

A German military laboratory previously confirmed the substance in his samples. German government spokesman Steffen Seibert also said that the Hague-based Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is taking steps to have samples from Navalny tested at its reference

HEALTH IMPROVING, SAY DOCTORS



The Berlin hospital treating Alexei Navalny says his condition has improved further and he is now able to leave his bed briefly. According to experts at the Charite hospital, Navalny has been successfully removed from mechanical ventilation.

laboratories.

"Independently of the ongoing examinations by the OPCW, three laboratories have now confirmed independently of one another the proof of a nerve agent of the Novichok group as the cause of Navalny's poisoning," Seibert said in a statement.

He said Germany had asked France and Sweden for an "independent review" of the German findings.

Navalny, the most prominent opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was flown to Germany two days after falling ill on August 20. — AP

In Argentina, 50% of the tested found infected

BUENOS AIRES, SEPTEMBER 14

Argentina's Covid positive rate, the number of daily infections to the number of tests carried out, has topped 50%, underscoring how much work the South American country has to do to bring the virus under control. Health ministry's data showed the country carried out 17,955 tests the day before, when it recorded 9,056 confirmed Covid cases.

In United Kingdom (UK), human trials of a new antibody treatment for Covid patients began on Monday. Monoclonal antibodies will be given to about 2,000 patients in the coming weeks to see if they are effective against coronavirus. — Agencies

TRACKING COVID

NATIONS	DEATHS
US	1,98,658
BRAZIL	1,31,736
MEXICO	70,821
UK	41,637
PERU	30,710

WORLDOMETER
TILL SEPT 14, 10 PM



Indian economy to contract by 9% in current fiscal: S&P

Says rising Covid cases to hold back private economic activity

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

S&P Global Ratings on Monday slashed its FY21 growth forecast for India to (-) 9%, from (-) 5% estimated earlier, saying that rising Covid cases would keep private spending and investment lower for longer.

"One factor holding back private economic activity is the continued escalation of the Covid," S&P Global Ratings Asia-Pacific economist Vishruth Rana said.

Rising Covid cases in India will keep private spending and investment lower for longer. S&P Global Ratings now expects the country's economy to contract by 9% in the current fiscal year, which ends

Weaker recovery in informal sectors to blame

Earlier, the rating agency had forecast 5% contraction for the Indian economy in the current fiscal

It said rising Covid cases in India will keep private spending and investment lower for longer

It said risks to the growth outlook include a weaker recovery in informal sectors of the economy and deeper economic losses for micro and small enterprises



March 31, 2021, the US-based rating agency said.

For 2021-22 fiscal, it expects economic growth at 10%.

It said risks to the growth outlook include a weaker recovery in informal sectors of the economy and deeper economic losses for micro and small enterprises.

"In addition, if credit quality worsens materially following the expiration of loan moratoriums, the recovery will slow. One factor that presents potential upside to growth is the availability of a widely-distributed Covid vaccine earlier than our current estimate around mid-

2021," S&P added.

It said the 23.9% contraction in the April-June quarter was larger than expected.

"While India eased lockdowns in June, we believe the pandemic will continue to restrain economic activity.

New cases per day in India averaged nearly 90,000 in the week ending September 11, according to data from the World Health Organisation.

Last week, two other global rating agencies Moody's and Fitch projected Indian economy to contract 11.5% and 10.5%, respectively, in the current fiscal. However, Goldman Sachs has estimated the contraction at 14.8%. — PTI

FM seeks Parliament nod for addl spending of ₹2.35 lakh cr

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday sought Parliamentary approval for additional spending of Rs 2.35 lakh crore due to the impact of the Covid pandemic leading to massive outgoes to shore up the health infrastructure, meet payments arising from the PM's Rs 20 lakh-crore package and account for the

extra expenditure on social security payments.

Of this, proposals involving net cash outgo aggregate to Rs 1.67 lakh crore and gross additional expenditure, matched by savings or by higher recoveries is Rs 68,868.33 crore.

Major non-Covid expenses include Rs 6,000 crore for the Price Stabilisation Fund, Rs 44,340 crore for post-devolution grant to states, about Rs 1,000 crore for border roads

Inflation eases to 6.69% in Aug

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

Retail inflation softened slightly to 6.69% in August, even as food prices continued to rule high, official data showed on Monday.

The government has revised downwards the retail inflation for July to 6.73% from the earlier estimate of 6.93%. Food inflation during the month stood at 9.62%. Food inflation in August fell marginally to 9.05%, according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data. — PTI

BUSINESS

USD \$ 73.48
EURO € 87.25
POUND £ 94.61
JPY ¥ 0.69
YUAN 10.78
CAD \$ 55.74
AUD \$ 53.45
SGD \$ 53.81
HKD 9.47

BSE 97.92
NSE 24.4
GOLD ₹51,753
SILVER ₹68,755



NHPC in pact with CSIO for R&D collaboration

NHPC has signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with CSIR-CSIO, Chandigarh, for R&D collaboration. It was signed by RR Yadav, GM (In charge), R&D Division, NHPC, and Dr Surendra S. Saini, senior principal scientist & Head (BDPM), CSIR-CSIO Chandigarh, in the presence of YK Chaubey, Director (Technical), NHPC, and Prof SA Ramakrishna, director, CSIR-CSIO through video conferencing. The agreement details the terms and conditions, modalities for providing research, development and consultancy services by CSIR-CSIO Chandigarh in its areas of expertise to NHPC as mutually agreed.

Kribhco gives preventive Covid kits to agri dept

Kribhco, Haryana, recently organised a programme in the office of Directorate of Agriculture, Panchkula, for free distribution of preventive Covid-19 kits. The kits were distributed to the staff of the Agriculture Department in the presence of Dr Suresh Gehlot, additional director, Agriculture, and Manjeet Singh Nain, JDA (QC). Senior officials of Kribhco were also present.

New stream of 'fly ash' traffic for Northern Rly

Northern Railway, Ambala Division, recently operated a rake of fly ash from Bathinda to Roopnagar, thus creating a history. An entirely new stream of 'fly ash' traffic was started by the Ambala Division when 4,060 tonnes of hydrated fly ash was loaded in BOXN wagons. The move is seen as a win-win situation as it benefits the client in the form of reduced tariff and churns out more revenue for the Railways,

Pensioners can submit life certificate till Dec 31

In a major welfare measure, the government, in view of the ongoing Covid pandemic, has relaxed the existing timeline for submission of life certificate for pensioners. All Central government pensioners can submit life certificate from November 1 till December 31. Pensioners in the age group of 80 years and above can submit the life certificate from October 1 till December 31.

HDFC disburses subsidy to over 2 lakh homebuyers

HDFC Ltd has disbursed subsidy to over 2 lakh homebuyers under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS). It has become the first lender in the country to do so. It has approved home loans worth Rs 47,000 crore under CLSS to homebuyers belonging to the economically weaker section, low income group and middle income groups.

NFL records 16% growth in sale of fertilisers

NFL has recorded fertiliser sale of 23.81 lakh MT in April-August, recording a growth of 16% as compared to the previous best of 20.57 lakh MT recorded during the same period in 2019-20. On the production front too, the company has surpassed the target by producing 16.11 lakh MT of urea in the first five months of the current fiscal, higher by 13% compared to 14.26 LMT produced during the same period in 2019-20.

Invesco MF unveils India focused 20 equity fund

Invesco Mutual Fund has launched Invesco India Focused 20 Equity Fund, an open-ended equity scheme. The fund seeks to generate capital appreciation by investing in up to 20 stocks with a flexibility to move across the market capitalisation range. The new fund offer will close on September 23.

HDFC Bank to double BCs' network in Punjab

HDFC Bank plans to double its banking correspondents (BCs) network in Punjab. The bank is expected to add 500 more BCs to its network by the end of this year, taking the tally to over 1,000 in the state.



Nabha Power — a wholly owned subsidiary of L&T Power Development — has won two



BRIEFLY

MANCHESTER

England level series after Australia collapse in 2nd ODI

England won the second ODI by 24 runs after a dramatic Australian collapse. England's decision to bat first had appeared to backfire with the world champions limited to 231/9 and Australia reaching 143/2 with 20 overs left. But the tourists collapsed to 147/6, and 166/8, before finishing 207 all out.

PARIS

Neymar says was racially abused by Marseille player

Paris St Germain forward Neymar said he was the target of a racist slur during his side's 1-0 defeat by Marseille. Neymar was one of five players sent off in the last minute of stoppage time when a full scale brawl broke out on the pitch. AGENCIES

TODAY ON IV
CYCLING
TOUR DE FRANCE
EUROSPORT 4:30PM

Thiem wins first Grand Slam title after thrilling fightback

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 14
Austria's Dominic Thiem finally claimed his maiden Grand Slam title with a stunning comeback to beat Germany's Alexander Zverev 2-6 4-6 6-4 6-3 7-6(6) in a nerve-jangling battle of wills in the US Open final. The 27-year-old world No. 3 appeared to have blown his golden chance as he fell two sets behind but hit back to become the first player to win a Grand Slam from having trailed by two sets since Gaston Gaudio at the 2004 French Open.

Thiem, who dropped only one set en route to the final, started as favourite but was stifled by nerves early on, trailing by a set and 1-5 as his evening threatened to become a nightmare on an

FIRST LOVE



Dominic Thiem celebrates with the trophy. USA TODAY SPORTS/REUTERS

It's amazing how far our journeys brought us to share this moment and I wish — really I wish — we could have two winners today, I think we both deserved it.

Dominic Thiem



Dominic Thiem hugs Alexander Zverev after the match. AP/PTI

MATCH STATS

THIEM	VS	ZVEREV
8	ACES	15
8	DOUBLE FAULTS	15
62	1ST SERVE IN (%)	64
68	WIN 1ST SERVE (%)	70
48	WIN 2ND SERVE (%)	41
7/13	BREAK POINTS WON	8/18
23/31	NET POINTS WON	43/66
43	WINNERS	52
55	UNFORCED ERRORS	65
Match duration: 4hr 01min		

With the match deep into its fourth hour, though, it had become not just a physical battle but a psychological one too. First Zverev faltered with the title tantalizingly close, then Thiem could not hold serve for glory at 6-5 as a US Open men's final moved into its first-ever fifth set tiebreak.

A gut-wrenching climax saw Thiem take a 6-4 lead as Zverev's serve crumbled. But he netted a forehand with the court gaping, then sent another forehand wide. Thiem earned another match point with a fearless pass though, and Zverev then dragged a backhand wide. — Reuters

SAI working on protocol for recovered athletes

VINAYAK PADMADEO

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is devising plans to manage training workload of athletes who have tested positive for Covid-19.

A team of doctors, physiologists and sports science experts is in the process of drawing up a post-recovery plan for the athletes.

A number of high-profile Indian athletes — including national hockey captain Manpreet Singh and wrestler Vinesh Phogat — have contracted the virus in the last two months. Indian hockey player Surender Kumar had to be readmitted to hospital in Bengaluru after Covid due to thrombosis, or swelling, in his right hand. While he has been discharged from hospital after recovering, his workload is being monitored and he has been given a lighter training plan than his teammates.

"We are developing a protocol for the athletes who have been detected Covid-positive and have later recovered," a source close to the development said.

"I am going to understand that it will be on a case-to-case basis, depending on the virus load and other factors. A report on this is due," he said.

After the report is received, SAI will brief athletes on how to start training after recovering.

No training for recovered wrestlers

Meanwhile, SAI will not allow

Punjab increases incentives for winners

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 14

Punjab Sports Minister Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi today announced that Punjab's sportspersons who win the national lifetime achievement award will be automatically eligible for the state's highest sporting honour, the Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award.

He made the announcement after honouring the Punjab sportspersons who were recently decorated with the national sports awards. Hockey star Akashdeep Singh won the Arjuna Award, while Kuldeep Singh

Job for pugilist Lakha

The Sports Minister announced that boxer Lakha Singh, an Asian Games medallist and an Olympian, at present eking out a livelihood by driving a taxi, will get a government job. "I have discussed the matter with the Director Sports and decided that Lakha Singh will be recruited in the Sports Department very soon," said the Sports Minister.

Bhullar (athletics), Ajit Singh (hockey), Manpreet Singh (kabaddi), Manjit Singh (rowing), Sukhwinder Singh (football) and Lakha Singh (boxing) were given the Major Dhyan Chand Award.

Colonel Sarfaraz Singh was given the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award.

Entitlement of awards

Sodhi said the sports policy of 2018 will now cover winners of all national sports awards, including Dhyan Chand and Dronacharya Awards. He said those who win the lifetime achievement award (Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand Award) would be automatically considered eligible for the Maharaja Ranjit Singh Awards.

No cap on pensions

He also announced that

there would be no annual income limit on the pension given to veteran sportspersons. "Whatever the annual income of the veteran player, he will continue to be entitled to a pension," he said.

"The state government has also in principle decided to create separate quota for sportspersons in government jobs. We are continuing with 3% reservation in all jobs of state government, its boards, corporations, cooperative/statutory bodies and local authorities for graded sportspersons who are residents of Punjab and have represented the state at national level," said Sodhi.

PUNJAB HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION INVITATION OF BIDS
Tender Reference-Bid No. 17 e-tender/PHSC/EE (W)/2020-21 Dated:- 11.09.2020

The Department of Punjab Health Systems Corporation, Mohali invites online bids for Providing, Installation and Commissioning of Oxygen Generation Plant at CH Jalandhar and Ludhiana including CMC (Comprehensive Maintenance Contract) for 5 years.

Closing Date:- 24.09.2020 up to 17.00 Hrs.

For details logon to www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

Note:- Any Corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (W)
For Managing Director
DPR/Pb/76727

PUNJAB HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION RE-INVITATION OF BIDS (SHORT TERM)
Tender Reference Bid No. 20 e-tender/PHSC/EE (W)/2020-21 Dated:- 11.09.2020

The Department of Punjab Health Systems Corporation, Mohali invites online bids for Connection with existing Medical Gas Pipeline in MCH Building from existing liquid Oxygen Tank with Vaporizer and other misc works including replacement of the existing Vaporizer at Rajindra Hospital, Patiala.

Closing Date:- 22.09.2020 up to 17.00 Hrs.

For details logon to www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

Note:- Any Corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (W)
For Managing Director
DPR/Pb/76731

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
E-Tendering Notice No. 12/NIT Dated: 14.09.2020

E-tender are hereby invited for the "Internal Clearance of Kaashtil Minor" on work order basis on behalf of the Governor of Punjab through our website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. from approved and eligible L&C Societies registered only with B&R Department, Punjab (Principal Department as per notification of Punjab Govt., Department of Co-operation (Co-operation I-Branch) No. 76/52/79-1(5)/8856 dated 04.11.2019. The detail of work and bidding process are available on <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> website. All tendering process such as sale of tender documents, processing fee, deposit of Earnest Money, submission of bid document and corrigendum, if any, shall be carried out online through our website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. Prospective bidders are advised to visit the above website frequently.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Majitha Division UBDC, Amritsar.
DPR/Pb/76733

DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES HIMACHAL PRADESH e-EOI NOTICE
Telephone 01978-223212, 01978-224068
e-mail-fisheries-hp@nic.in

Department of Fisheries invites sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) from firm/ company/partnership/proprietorship firm engaged in work of "Setting up of Mega Aquarium in State of H.P at Dharmshala" in the EOI Document containing the details of qualification criteria, submission requirement, brief objective & scope of work and method of evaluation etc., which is available on Fisheries Department official Website.

The EOI Document has been made available on the DoF, HP website: www.hpfisheries.nic.in and can also be procured from Directorate of Fisheries HP on any working day between 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Last date for submission of EOI Response will be 17.11.2020 up to 05:00 PM.

Director-cum-Warden of Fisheries, Himachal Pradesh, Bilaspur.
Endst No.: FSH-F(3)-160/2017-(D)- Dated:- DPR/HP/2937

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB PWD B&R BRANCH SHORT TIME NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS
Bid No. 31 DATED 09.09.2020

Dept. Inviting Work : Executive Engineer, Central Works Division No. 2, PWD B&R, Amritsar.

Brief of Work : Strengthening of Amritsar Sohian Fatehgarh Churan Road from RD 25.22 to 26.68.

Area of Work : Amritsar.

Date of Opening of Bid : 06.10.2020

For detailed terms and conditions of the Notice Inviting Tender please see to punjab.gov.in, www.eprocgbpwd.gov.in

Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Central Works Division No. 2, PWD B&R, Amritsar.
DPR/Pb/76735

PRESS NOTICE ON SHORT TERM BASIS FOR E-TENDERING

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division No. II, Kullu at Bhunter invites online bids on short time basis on behalf of Government of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works:-

Sr. No. Name of Work Estimated Cost (Rs.) Earnest Money Time allowed Form Cost

1 Energisation of Hand Pump at Village Jathot in G.P. Sanyan More in Tehsil Ark Distt. Solan (HP) (SH:- Providing, Laying and jointing of GMS Pipe of various dia in distribution system, Providing laying and testing of Rising Main 32 mm dia and lowering PPR 25mm dia and Supply and erection of submersible pumping machinery with allied accessories).

2 Improvement & retrofitting of various LVSS/GWSS under Jal Shakti Section, Kashog, Sub Division, Darlghat to provide FHTC under Jal Jeevan Mission in Tehsil Ark District Solan (HP) (SH:- Construction of Sector Storage tank 51300 liter capacity).

3 Improvement & retrofitting of various LVSS/GWSS under Jal Shakti Section, Kashog, Sub Division, Darlghat to provide FHTC under Jal Jeevan Mission in Tehsil Ark District Solan (HP) (SH:- Laying & jointing of GI Pipe (Light Class) in distribution system of various classes under Jal Jeevan Mission).

4 Improvement & retrofitting of WSS Kuthar Area in Tehsil Kasauli District Solan (HP) (SH:- Providing and fixing FHTC) (Under Jal Jeevan Mission).

5 Improvement & retrofitting of LWSS B.A. Mangal in Tehsil Ark District Solan (HP) (SH:- Laying & jointing of GI Pipe (Light Class) 15mm dia for providing 103 Nos. House Connections) (under Jal Jeevan Mission).

6 R/M Augmentation of LWSS Behli Bagai (stage in Tehsil Ark District Solan (HP) (SH:- Installation of Centrifugal Pumping Machinery with allied accessories) (Balance Work).

Last date of submission of tender: 16.09.2020 up to 11.00 AM

Last date of sale of tender from Divisional Office: 15.09.2020 up to 04.00 PM

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

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

TENDER NOTICE
The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Arki invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work(s) through offline process:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Time allowed	Form Cost
1	Energisation of Hand Pump at Village Jathot in G.P. Sanyan More in Tehsil Ark Distt. Solan (HP) (SH:- Providing, Laying and jointing of GMS Pipe of various dia in distribution system, Providing laying and testing of Rising Main 32 mm dia and lowering PPR 25mm dia and Supply and erection of submersible pumping machinery with allied accessories).	149539/-	3000/-	One Month	250/-
2	Improvement & retrofitting of various LVSS/GWSS under Jal Shakti Section, Kashog, Sub Division, Darlghat to provide FHTC under Jal Jeevan Mission in Tehsil Ark District Solan (HP) (SH:- Construction of Sector Storage tank 51300 liter capacity).	447488/-	9000/-	One Month	250/-
3	Improvement & retrofitting of various LVSS/GWSS under Jal Shakti Section, Kashog, Sub Division, Darlghat to provide FHTC under Jal Jeevan Mission in Tehsil Ark District Solan (HP) (SH:- Laying & jointing of GI Pipe (Light Class) in distribution system of various classes under Jal Jeevan Mission).	145653/-	2920/-	One Month	250/-
4	Improvement & retrofitting of WSS Kuthar Area in Tehsil Kasauli District Solan (HP) (SH:- Providing and fixing FHTC) (Under Jal Jeevan Mission).	247809/-	4960/-	One Month	250/-
5	Improvement & retrofitting of LWSS B.A. Mangal in Tehsil Ark District Solan (HP) (SH:- Laying & jointing of GI Pipe (Light Class) 15mm dia for providing 103 Nos. House Connections) (under Jal Jeevan Mission).	331134/-	6630/-	One Month	250/-
6	R/M Augmentation of LWSS Behli Bagai (stage in Tehsil Ark District Solan (HP) (SH:- Installation of Centrifugal Pumping Machinery with allied accessories) (Balance Work).	362734/-	7260/-	Three Months	250/-

Last date of submission of tender: 16.09.2020 up to 11.00 AM

Last date of sale of tender from Divisional Office: 15.09.2020 up to 04.00 PM

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

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Arki.

Dated Panchkula,
the 11th Sep., 2020

Sd/- Secretary,
Haryana Staff Selection Commission
Panchkula.

PRDH/82783

Financial assistance for 47 cagers: BFI

Kangana leaves Mumbai for HP, calls PoK analogy 'bang on'

MUMBAI/SHIMLA, SEPT 14

Actor Kangana Ranaut on Monday left Mumbai for her home state Himachal Pradesh, saying she had been terrorised with "constant attacks and abuses", declaring that her analogy comparing the city with PoK was "bang on".

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur accused the Shiv Sena-Congress government of harassing her. The actor took a flight to Chandigarh and then travelled by road to reach Manali.

Kangana, whose comments triggered a spat with Maharashtra's ruling Shiv Sena, had come to Mumbai from Manali last week.

The same day, "illegal" alterations at her office were razed by the Shiv Sena-led Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), following which she moved the Bombay High Court, which stayed the demolition.

"With a heavy heart leaving Mumbai, the way I was terrorised all these days constant attacks and abuses hurled at me attempts to break my house after my work place, alert security with lethal weapons around me, must say my analogy about PoK was bang on (sic)," Ranaut wrote on Twitter.

Targeting the ruling party, the 33-year-old actor said the protectors had declared themselves as "destroyers" and



Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut at the Mohali airport. PTI

THEY ARE WRONG IF THEY THINK I'M WEAK

“The protectors have declared themselves as “destroyers” and are working towards dismantling the democracy. But they are wrong to think that I’m weak. By threatening and abusing a woman, they are ruining their own image.” Kangana Ranaut

were working towards dismantling the democracy. “But they are wrong to think I’m weak. By threatening and abusing a woman, they are ruining their

own image,” she added.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said the actor would continue to get the security provided by the state government. — PTI

Chinese surveillance: Cong asks govt to up cyber security

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

The Congress on Monday urged the government to step up its efforts on cyber security for confronting China's intentions in the cyber space after a media report claimed that a Shenzhen-based firm with links to the Chinese government was monitoring over 10,000 Indian individuals and organisations in its global database of "foreign targets".

A report in a national daily claimed that the range of targets in India identified and monitored in real time by

Delhi cops seek 10-day custody of Umar Khalid

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

The Delhi Police on Monday sought 10-day custody of former JNU student leader Umar Khalid, arrested under the stringent anti-terror law Unlawful

Activities (Prevention) Act, in a case related to the communal violence in northeast Delhi in February.

Khalid was presented before Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat through video-conferencing. Khalid was arrested on Sunday night in the case. The police said he needed to be confronted with huge amount of data.

In the FIR, they have claimed that the communal violence was a "premeditated conspiracy" which was allegedly hatched by Khalid and two others. — PTI

No demolition of slums along Delhi tracks, for now, SC told

TRENTINE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

No slum-dwellers along the 140-km railway tracks in Delhi would be removed until a final decision was taken by the government in consultation with the Railways, the Delhi Government and the Urban Development Ministry, the Centre told the Supreme Court.

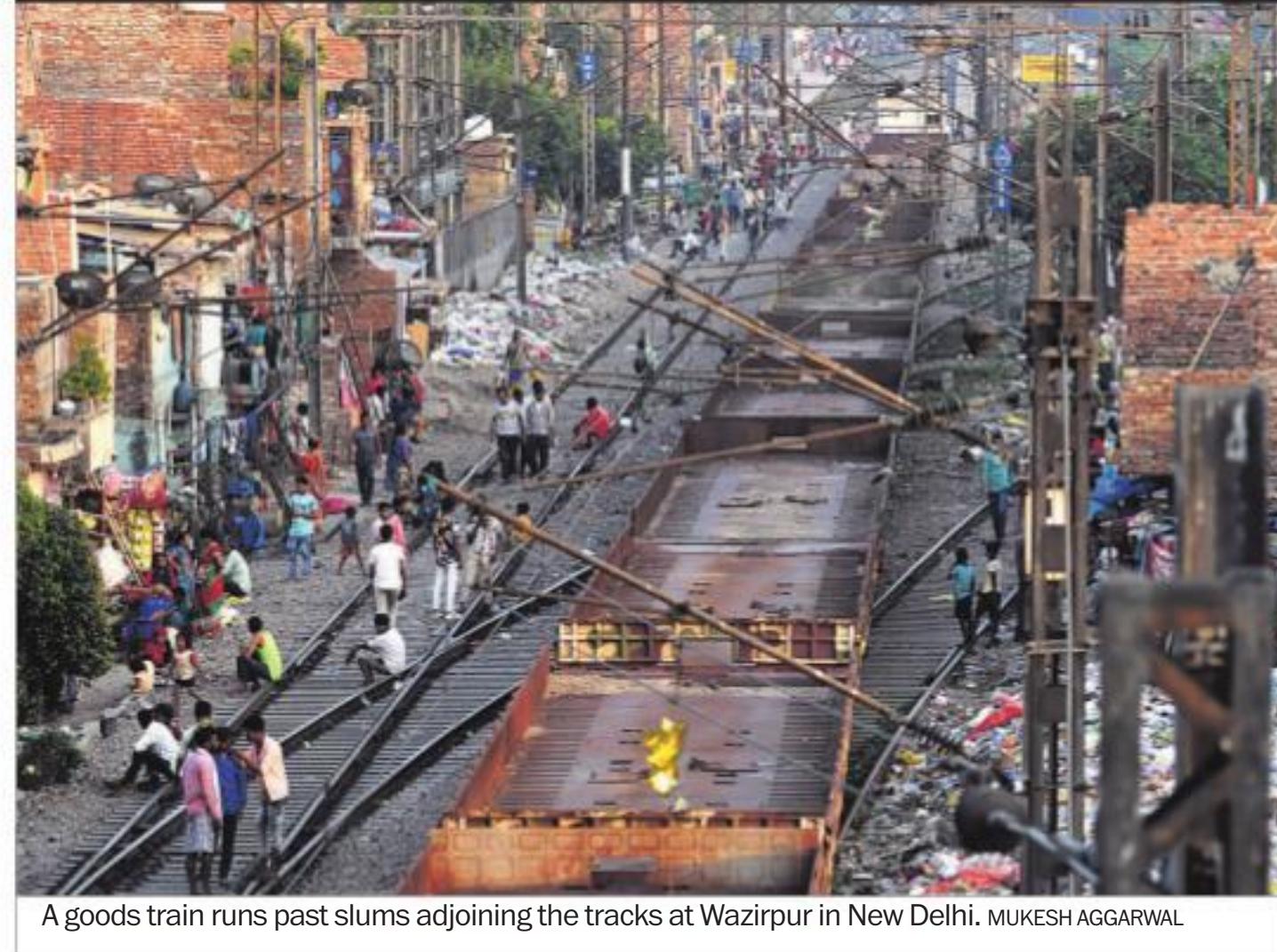
Solicitor General Tushar Mehta assured a three-judge Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India SA Bobde, that there would be no immediate coercive action for removal of 48,000 jhuggis for the next four weeks.

After recording Mehta's assurance, the Bench posted the matter for further hearing after four weeks.

The court is seized of several applications, including the one by Delhi Congress leader Ajay Maken, seeking rehabilitation of the affected slum-dwellers before they were dislodged.

A Bench, headed by Justice Arun Mishra (since retired), had on August 31 ordered the removal of around 48,000 jhuggis along the railway tracks in Delhi in a phased manner in three months, saying there should not be any kind of political interference in the implementation of its order.

Restraining courts from granting any kind of stay with



A goods train runs past slums adjoining the tracks at Wazirpur in New Delhi. MUKESH AGGARWAL

APEX COURT HAD ORDERED REMOVAL OF 48,000 JHUGGIS

The apex court on August 31 had directed the removal of around 48,000 slum dwellings along the railway tracks in Delhi within three

months. It said there shall not be any kind of political interference in execution of the plan. The apex court, which posted the matter for hearing after

four weeks, was hearing the applications, including the one filed by Congress leader Ajay Maken, who has sought rehabilitation of slum dwellers.

respect to removal of these encroachments along the railway tracks, the top court had said 70 per cent of the requisite amount should be borne by the Railways and 30 per cent by the state government, and the manpower be provided by

the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), the Railways and agencies available with the government, free of cost, and they would not charge it from each other.

On behalf of Maken, senior advocate Abhishek Manu

Singhvi wanted the Bench to order status quo but the court didn't oblige him. The petitioners said it would be risky to demolish the hutments of more than 2,50,000 people during the Covid-19 pandemic without prior rehabilitation.

UP Mughal Museum renamed after Shivaji

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday decided to name the upcoming "Mughal Museum" in Agra after Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, asking "how can Mughals be our heroes". Chairing a review meeting of Agra division, the Chief Minister made it clear that his government "always nurtured nationalist ideology and anything which smacks of subservient mentality will be done away with". "How can Mughals be our heroes?" the chief minister asked, adding the very name of Maratha warrior Shivaji will invoke a "feeling of nationalism and self-esteem". — PTI

US tanker refuels Indian Navy ship

NEW DELHI: An Indian warship on Monday undertook refuelling with US Navy tanker USNS Yukon in northern Arabian Sea using provisions of a defence agreement that allows the armed forces of the two countries to work closely and use each other's bases. "INS Talwar on mission based deployment in Northern Arabian sea undertook refuelling with US Navy Fleet Tanker USNS Yukon under LEMOA," an Indian Navy spokesperson said. In 2016, India and the US inked the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement. — PTI

Govt tables farm Bills..

FROM PAGE 1

Minister introduced the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and The Farmers' Empowerment and Protection Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, while Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Raosaheb Patil Danve introduced the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, in the Lok Sabha to replace the ordinances promulgated by the government earlier.

Opposing the legislations, several Congress members, including Adhir Ranjan Choudhary, Anandpur Sahib MP Manish Tewari and Jalandhar MP Santokh Singh Chaudhary, accused the government of "destroying the federal structure and harming farmers by putting the agriculture sector in the hands of a few corporates and doing away with the support price completely". Allaying their fears, Tomar said the measures on the con-

BARRIERS MELT BETWEEN HOUSES

- It was the first time in nearly 100 years of Parliament's history that artificial structures in the form of glass shields were mounted in the LS chamber.
- Members of one House were allowed to cross over and sit in the other to adhere to distancing norms.

try would enable barrier-free trade and empower farmers to engage with investors of their choice. The session, which stretched beyond four hours, was adjourned for an hour following obituary references to Pranab Mukherjee, vocalist Pandit Jasraj, sitting MP Vasanth Kumar and 13 ex-MPs who passed away recently. The LS also cleared two Bills — the National Commission for Homeopathy Bill, 2020, and the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill, 2020.

Centre: Same sex marriage against our society, values

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

The Centre on Monday told the Delhi High Court that marriage between same sex couples was "not permissible" as it is not recognised by "our laws, legal system, society and our values".

The submission was made before a Bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan by Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta during the hearing of a PIL seeking a declaration that same sex marriages be recognised under the Hindu Marriage Act (HMA) and Special Marriage Act. Mehta opposed the relief sought in the petition saying "our laws, our legal system, our society and our values do not recognise a marriage, which is a sacrament, between same sex couples".

He said the plea to grant recognition to or permit regis-

tration of such marriages was "not permissible" for two reasons — firstly, the petition was asking the court to legislate and secondly, any relief granted "would run contrary to various statutory provisions". "Unless court does violence to various laws, this cannot be done," he added. The counsel for the petitioner stated that the affected people were not coming forward as they feared reprisals and therefore a PIL was preferred. The Bench listed the matter for further hearing on October 21. — PTI

stration of such marriages was "not permissible" for two reasons — firstly, the petition was asking the court to legislate and secondly, any relief granted "would run contrary to various statutory provisions". "Unless court does violence to various laws, this cannot be done," he added. The counsel for the petitioner stated that the affected people were not coming forward as they feared reprisals and therefore a PIL was preferred. The Bench listed the matter for further hearing on October 21. — PTI

Ex-bureaucrats move court over 'hate speech'

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

Amid the raging controversy over Sudarshan TV programme "UPSC Jihad", a group of former bureaucrats on Monday moved the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the programme that alleged Muslims had "infiltrated" civil services in a planned manner.

"In its plea, 'Constitutional

Fresh plea against NLAT over exam

Conduct Group', which included Amitabha Pande and six others, stated: 'Freedom of speech and expression is not limited to what the ruling dispensation may find palatable or what public consensus may permit but includes the freedom to dissent, to question received wisdom and established social mores and to offend, shock or disturb,' they said in their plea."

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EMI starts from ₹4 111**

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LOCAL

SAFETY
GLOBAL NCAP
5 Star+
4 Star Rated Cars

DRIVING PLEASURE
Multi-drive Modes
Automatic Transmission
Powerful BS-VI Engines

DESIGN
Panoramic Sunroof

Your safe online car-buying experience
tata motors click to drive

tata motors click to drive

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