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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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PURI TAKES ON AMARINDER
OVER VACCINE 'SALE' PUNJAB

ART OF SURVIVAL IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC
SPECTRUM

PM: INDIA EMERGING CLIMATE
JUSTICE LEADER BACK PAGE



SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021

Centre issues last warning to Twitter

NEW DELHI: The government on Saturday issued a final warning to Twitter, asking it to follow the law of the land or face liability. "Twitter Inc is hereby given one last notice to immediately comply with the rules, failing which the exemption from liability shall stand withdrawn," the government said. —TNS



BLUE TICK ON V-P NAIDU'S PERSONAL HANDLE RESTORED

IN BRIEF

Mamata's nephew is TMC general secretary

KOLKATA: TMC chief Mamata Banerjee on Saturday elevated her nephew Abhishek Banerjee to the post of party's national general secretary. **BACK PAGE**

Delhi's doorstep ration delivery plan 'blocked'

NEW DELHI: The Centre has stopped Delhi Government's doorstep delivery of ration scheme, scheduled for rollout next week, for not seeking prior approval, said sources. —PTI

T20 World Cup set to be moved out of India

NEW DELHI: The T20 World Cup in October-November is set to be shifted to the UAE and Oman with the BCCI having intimated the ICC. —PTI

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Covishield 'more effective' than Covaxin

Produces higher level of antibodies, shows study on health staff

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 5 Indian healthcare workers have shown high immune response to Covid after receiving the two mandated doses of both domestically manufactured vaccines — Covishield and Covaxin.

A preprint of the first Indian study among doctors and nurses who received both shots shows that a higher proportion of those inoculated with Covishield produced antibodies compared to those who received Covaxin, even though both shots elicited a good immune response.

"Among 515 healthcare



A health worker administers a vaccine dose to a student in Hyderabad. PTI
HP RESTRICTIONS TILL JUNE 14
The Himachal Govt has extended curfew till June 14 and cancelled the state board Class XII exams. **INSIDE**

workers (305 male, 210 female), 95 per cent showed seropositivity (higher antibodies) after two doses of both vaccines. Of



FARMERS BURN COPIES OF AGRI LAWS IN PB, HRY
SUBHASH RAJTA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

THE SYMPTOMS

- Cold & cough lasting a month or more
- Fever persisting more than 24 hours
- Stomach pain, skin rash, unusual fatigue
- Fast heartbeat, red eyes, swollen lips, tongue
- Swollen hands/feet, headache and dizziness
- Fatality chances low if treated in time

Pb reports rare syndrome in children post Covid recovery

SUKHMEET BHASIN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, JUNE 5 Even as Punjab is witnessing cases of mucormycosis or black fungus, which affects adult population after recovery from Covid, instances of multi-system inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) are also being reported.

Sources say though the reason behind the occurrence of MIS-C is not yet known, a

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FARMERS BURN COPIES OF AGRI LAWS IN PB, HRY
SUBHASH RAJTA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DELHI TO EASE CURBS FURTHER FROM JUNE 7

- Govt, private offices to reopen with 50% attendance
- Delhi Metro to operate at 50% capacity
- Markets, malls to open on odd-even basis

1,20,529 FRESH CASES

TOTAL DEATHS 3,44,082 **ACTIVE CASES** 15,55,248
3,380 DEATHS IN 24 HOURS

or both seropositivity rate and average rise in anti-spike antibody was significantly higher
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

'Confused' govt to blame for Covid ravages: Amartya

MUMBAI, JUNE 5 India's "confused" government focused on taking credit for its actions, rather than working to restrict the spread of Covid, resulting in schizophrenia that led to massive troubles, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has said.

India was better placed to fight the pandemic because of its pharma manufacturing prowess and also higher immunity levels, the noted economist said at an event here late on Friday evening. Sen's remarks came in the backdrop of the second wave seeing the number of officially reported cases topping over 4 lakh a day. —PTI

"Yes, I do know that there are some issues related to India-China relations but I know the attitude of both the PM of India and also the President of China. These are very responsible persons and they earnestly treat one another with utmost respect. I believe that they will always arrive at a solution to any issue that they might face," Putin said at a meeting with the world's 16 leading news agencies. "But it is important that no other extra-regional power is interfering with that," he cautioned.

India and China have been locked in a standoff on the border in eastern Ladakh with New Delhi calling for disengagement in order to further bilateral ties. Putin also said there were no "contradictions" preventing Russia from working with either India or China. Russia has created an environment in which both India and China can work within the framework of SCO and BRICS. "We are also cooperating at the UN," he added.

Putin's observations come a month after he agreed with PM Modi's suggestion for a two-plus-two meeting of their Foreign and Defence Ministers, making Russia the first

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Modi, Xi capable of resolving issues on their own: Putin

No extra-regional power should meddle: Russia

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

TAKE ON QUAD

In this configuration (Quad), we do not see Russia's place, but it doesn't prevent us from working with China or India... No partnership should be aimed at turning friends against anyone.



Vladimir Putin

disengagement in order to further bilateral ties. Putin also said there were no "contradictions" preventing Russia from working with either India or China. Russia has created an environment in which both India and China can work within the framework of SCO and BRICS. "We are also cooperating at the UN," he added.

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Farmers burn copies of laws across state

Observe anniv of ordinance promulgation by Centre as 'Sampoorna Kranti Diwas'

Tribune News Service

PATIALA/MUKTSAR, JUNE 5 Farmers burnt the copies of the Centre's three farm laws near residences of BJP leaders and at other places in Patiala and Rajpura on Saturday, observing the day of the promulgation of the farm ordinances last year as 'Sampoorna Kranti Diwas'.

Farmers carrying black flags raised slogans against the BJP-led central government for not scrapping the legislation which, they said, would destroy the farming community.

Farmers gathered in Rajpura and burnt the hoardings of BJP leaders, including Harjeet Grewal, while in Patiala they protested against BJP leader Bhupesh Aggarwal. Heavy police was deployed and barricades put up near the protest sites to maintain law and order, even as farmers managed to reach the protest sites.

In Muktsar, the district police had made strict security arrangements near the residence of BJP's Muktsar district president Rajesh Pathela. The farmers could not reach there and burnt the copies of the three farm Bills on Tibbi Sahib Road at some distance. In Bathinda, the BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) staged a protest outside the houses of BJP leaders Dyal Dass Sodhi at Tungwali and Vinod Kumar Binta at Bhuchro Mandi. The farmers also burnt the copies of the laws outside the office of the SDM, Talwandi Sabo, and



BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) members protest in Bathinda; and farmers burn copies of the laws in Patiala on Saturday. PAWAN SHARMA & RAJESH SACHAR



'CORPORATES MAKING PRODUCTS COSTLIER'

Farm leaders Mothu Singh Kotra and Harjinder Singh Baggi said by handing over public institutions to corporate houses, household products and facilities were becoming inaccessible to the people of the country due to their high cost. They said attempts were being made to tarnish the image of Punjab by fanning the flames of religious issues.

staged a protest at Fire Brigade Chowk here.

Senior leaders Mothu Singh Kotra and Harjinder Singh Baggi said the new laws were being rolled out in the name of economic reforms by the BJP government. They said attempts were being made to tarnish the image of Punjab by fanning the flames of religious issues.

In Jalandhar farmers burnt copies of the three farm ordi-

nances and marched to the residence of BJP leader Manoranjan Kalia to mark a year of the passing of the farm laws and the anniversary of the protests at the Delhi borders. Members of the BKU (Rajewal) held protests at the DC office, Nakodar, while those of the Kirti Kisan Union and Dehati Mazdoor Sabha raised slogans and burnt the copies of the laws outside BJP leaders' residences.

Jyani's office gheraoed

FAZILKA, JUNE 5

A large number of farmers gheraoed the office of BJP leader and former minister Surjit Kumar Jyani at the grain market in Fazilka today.

The leaders of different farm outfits, including Master Boota Singh, Pargat Singh Chackpakh, Harish Nadha, Yadavinder Singh and others, alleged Jyani was supporting the "black laws" and they had decided to boycott him and other BJP leaders.

They said the boycott would continue till the laws were not withdrawn by the Centre. They warned that the BJP would have to face the consequences of the laws.

Cops foil march in Fatehgarh Sahib

Earlier, the farmers gathered at local Pratap Bagh, took out a procession in the town and reached the grain market to gherao the office. Elaborate police arrangements were made to prevent any untoward incident. In Fatehgarh Sahib, local farm leaders today attempted to gherao the residence of district BJP president Pardeep Garg at Amloh town, but a large contingent of the police thwarted the attempt. — OC

Asr MLA may get campaign charge | Rebels dig in heels

RAJMEET SINGH
Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 5

As the three-member panel headed by Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge went into a huddle to finalise its report in Delhi, the dissident group in the Punjab Congress is learnt to have decided to sustain its pressure against CM Capt Amarinder Singh ahead of a decision by the party high command.

Amid reports from the party circles that there will be no change in the state leadership, the dissidents plan a meeting in the coming days to strategise on the future course of action.

As more details of the meeting between the panel and CM emerge, it is learnt Captain Amarinder, while listing out facts and figures, has not agreed to the appointment of Navjot Singh Sidhu as PPCC president.

In the event of change of guard in the PPCC, there is likelihood of the Rahul Gandhi team zeroing in on a Dalit or Hindoo face, agreeable to the CM. The post of chairman of the campaign committee may be offered to Sidhu.

The CM is learnt to have said the details to the Vigilance complaint against Sidhu and complaint against Jalandhar Cantt MLA Pardeep Garg at Amloh town, but a large contingent of the police thwarted the attempt. — OC



Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

KISHOR YET TO CLARIFY STAND

■ Political strategist Prashant Kishor, who has been appointed as an adviser to the CM, is yet to clarify on continuing with the state government

■ The issue of replacing or swapping seats of 30 MLAs was discussed at his meeting with CM in Delhi on Friday

to Congress chief Sonia Gandhi. The issues were not discussed in yesterday's meeting, it is learnt.

The panel is said to have asked the CM about the delay in probe into sacrilege and police firing cases, renegotiating or annulling power purchase agreements, inadequate appointment of political class as chairman in boards and corporations.

Meanwhile, the CM should not have used the agencies and police to collect data on the nefarious activities of Congress leaders and should have registered cases against them.

Lok Sabha MPs Gurjeet Aujla, Ravneet Bittu, Manish Tewari besides others played a crucial role in countering the dissidents in the top party circles in Delhi.

The CM's camp is surprised at once Captain Amarinder loyalists — ministers Sukhbinder Sarkaria and Tript Rajinder Bajwa — joining hands with the dissidents. Meanwhile, the BJP today said the CM should not have used the agencies and police to collect data on the nefarious activities of Congress leaders and should have registered cases against them.

Now, 'missing MP' posters surface in Fatehgarh Sahib

FATEHGHAR SAHIB, JUNE 5

Posters claiming that MP Dr Amar Singh has gone "missing" surfaced in Fatehgarh Sahib.

Advocate AS Dharni, spokesperson, SAD, and Advocate Inderjit Singh Sau claimed that the posters were pasted on the walls by them.

They claimed that the MP was missing from the area during the ongoing pandemic and he did not bother to visit any hospital or take stock of the medical facilities.

They reminded the MP about the promises he made during the elections, adding that he was totally "missing" from the constituency. — OC

Kidnapping case against man who married minor quashed by HC

SAURABH MALIK
Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 5

In a significant judgment, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has quashed a kidnapping case against a man, who married a minor, after ruling that he has the right to hold as the girl's natural guardian". The assertion came after the Bench was told that the girl, minor at the time of marriage, was residing with the man on her free will.

The matter was placed before Justice Harnaresh Singh Gill's Bench after the man filed a petition seeking the quashing of the FIR registered initially for wrongful confinement under Section 346 of the IPC. The offence of kidnapping under Sections 363 and 366 of the IPC was later added to the FIR.

Justice Gill observed the girl was alleged to be minor at the time of performing marriage. But the fact remained that she performed marriage with the petitioner and their marriage certificate had also been placed on record. The petitioner, being the husband, was in relationship with the girl. In terms of Sections 19 and 21 of the Guardians and Wards Act read with Sections 6, 10 and 13 of the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, he had a "right to hold as the natural guardian of the minor Hindu girl married to him".

But since the couple chose their life partners against the

Says he has right to 'hold as girl's natural guardian'



5 nabbed after 'fake CBI raid' at Gurdaspur village

Seven took away 35 ounces of gold, ₹4 lakh in Pathankot | Two accused still at large

RAVI DHALIWAL
Tribune News Service

GURDASPUR, JUNE 5

The police have arrested five persons who, posing as CBI officers, carried out a 'raid' at Deeda Saansian village, 7 km from here, and decamped with 35 ounces of gold and Rs 4 lakh in cash early on Wednesday. Two others are still at large.

SSP Nanak Singh said the brazenness with which the miscreants carried out the 'raid' had shocked both villagers and the police. Officers claimed they were surprised at the immaculate planning and clockwork execution with which the exercise was carried out.

Early on Wednesday, seven persons walked into a house

INSIDE JOB, CLAIM COPS

■ Seven persons posing as CBI officials hire two Innova vehicles and 'raid' a house in Pathankot village on Wednesday, a day after a wedding there

■ Probe suggests a woman member of the house gave them location and key inputs. They fled within 20 minutes after tying family members with a rope

IMMACULately PLANNED

● The immaculate planning and brazenness with which the miscreants carried out the 'raid' has shocked both villagers and the police. Nanak Singh, SSP

claiming to be CBI officials. A marriage ceremony had taken place at the residence a day ago and the team knew where precisely the gold ornaments and cash were lying. The team was led by a physically challenged man

who claimed he was the 'CBI director', while a woman accomplice addressed herself as the 'PA' to the 'CBI director'. The others designated themselves as 'constables'.

The 'director' flaunted his contacts in New Delhi and

told the family he had conducted scores of similar raids across the country. Both he and his 'PA' carried pistols.

The SSP said as soon as they got the information, they knew it was an insider job. Investigations revealed a woman living in the house was in touch with the suspects. She had been sending them the precise location and vital inputs, he said.

The seven suspects had arrived at Pathankot, 30 km from Deeda Saansian, on Monday evening and checked into a plush hotel.

On the day of the crime, they hired two Innova vehicles to carry out the 'raid'. They finished the job within 20 minutes and tied the family members

with a rope before driving back to Pathankot and then to Chandigarh.

To ensure the two taxi drivers did not get suspicious, the suspects got down in front of the CBI office in Sector 30-A, Chandigarh, before dispersing.

"We checked the movement of vehicles at toll plazas on the Deeda Saansian-Pathankot and Pathankot-Chandigarh highways. Later, we questioned the two drivers who came up with valuable information," said the SSP.

Those arrested have been identified as Amarinder Singh, Kulwinder Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Lakhbir Singh and Anamika Bhania (Kangra).

PATIALA, JUNE 5

SAD leader Prem Singh Chandumraja today accused the Punjab Government of being hand in glove with the Centre and looting farmers using the Land Acquisition Act.

The SAD leader said they would approach the Punjab Governor in this regard. "If

there is no headway after meeting the Governor, the SAD will form a strategy to set off our protest against the state government over land acquisition," he said. He claimed the government had been planning to acquire land on collector rate, which would do injustice to landowners. — TNS

Three AAP MLAs booked for violations at stir

MUKTSAR, JUNE 5

The police have booked nearly 160 persons, including three MLAs of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), for allegedly violating Covid guidelines while lodging a protest outside the Lambi police station on Friday.

Notably, AAP activists under the leadership of MLAs Kultar Singh Sandhu, Prof Baljinder Kaur and Gurmeet Singh Hayer had lodged a protest

against the Capt Amarinder Singh-led Congress government's alleged failure in taking action against those running an illegal liquor bottling plant at Badal village.

against the Capt Amarinder Singh-led Congress government's alleged failure in taking action against those running an illegal liquor bottling plant at Badal village.

Those booked included these three MLAs, and nearly 160 unidentified persons under Sections 188 and 283 of the IPC. The three AAP MLAs condemned the registration of the FIR and termed it as an act of suppressing the voice of people.

They said instead of filing cases against the AAP, the CM should act against his party leaders and the Badals for their wrongdoings. — TNS

Feared torture by Moga cops, claim kin

Fearing arrest, Tinku had been on the run for the past few days. On Thursday evening, he visited his friend Gurpreet Singh's house at Jaimal Wala village. Gurpreet claimed Tinku told him his (Tinku's) mother and wife were picked up by the Moga police, due to which he was under stress. "With the help of a local leader, I planned to make him surrender in a court, but Tinku took my revolver from the

house and shot himself," he told mediapersons.

The Ferozepur police later reached the spot and took the body into custody. Two licensed weapons — a revolver and a rifle — owned by Gurpreet were recovered from the spot. Tinku's car was also impounded by the police. Officials of the Moga police were tightlipped on the incident. A senior official said the police were verifying his links with gangsters, particularly hawala racketeers and arms smugglers. The youth's family claimed he killed himself apprehending torture at the hands of the Moga police. — TNS

Akalis to meet Guv on land acquisition rates

PATIALA, JUNE 5

SAD leader Prem Singh Chandumraja today accused the Punjab Government of being hand in glove with the Centre and looting farmers using the Land Acquisition Act.

The SAD leader said they would approach the Punjab Governor in this regard. "If

there is no headway after meeting the Governor, the SAD will form a strategy to set off our protest against the state government over land acquisition," he said. He claimed the government had been planning to acquire land on collector rate, which would do injustice to landowners. — TNS

force to avoid any untoward incident inside the Golden temple complex.

The 'bhog' of the 'akhand path' for those who departed during the infamous operation would be held tomorrow at 7 am. At the martyrs' memorial of the operation, built inside the Golden Temple, the 'bhog' of another 'akhand path' would be held tomorrow morning.

Meanwhile, Jarnail Singh Sakhira, SAD (A) leader, said parallel jathedar Dhian Singh Mandir would read a message to the community from Akal Takht tomorrow.

On the run, youth 'shoots' self

MOGA/FEROZEPUR, JUNE 5

A 32-year-old youth, "wanted" by the Moga police, allegedly shot himself with a revolver at Jaimal Wala village under the Mallanwala police station in the Ferozepur district on Friday.

The youth has been identified as Pankaj Kumar Dhingra, alias Tinku, a resident of Faridkot city. Preliminary investigation by the Ferozepur police suggested no criminal case was registered against him. However, the Moga police suspected him of having links with gangsters, as claimed by relatives and family members.

YC protests fuel price hike

BATHINDA, JUNE 5

Punjab Youth Congress activists staged a protest against rising fuel prices and torched the effigy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Mauj today.

The stir was led by Navjot Singh Sandhu, state secretary, and Harpreet Singh, vice-president, Mauj. Sandhu claimed the skyrocketing cost of fuel was hurting small traders as well as those in the transport business. While the crude oil prices were on the decline, the BJP government was refusing to slash the fuel prices, he said. — TNS

Bluestar anniv: Amritsar turned into fortress

Tribune News Service

AMRITSAR, JUNE 5

Amritsar has been turned into a virtual fortress, with around 7,000 police personnel, commandos and intelligence officials deployed ahead of the 37th anniversary of Operation Bluestar.

Security has been beefed up in the city, especially around the Golden Temple. The police have been deployed inside the premises too. Barricades have been erected on roads leading to the Sikh shrine to keep a watch on suspects. Antecedents of people

residing on rent around the Golden Temple are being checked.

Keeping in view the history of clashes between the

Profiteering from vax shameful: Puri

BJP fields Union minister to take on Capt over vaccine, agricultural laws

VIBHA SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 5

The BJP today fielded Union Minister Hardeep Puri to take on Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on issues related to Punjab, including "diversion" of Covid vaccines to private hospitals and farmers' agitation against the three agricultural laws.

Puri, who attacked the state government claiming that private hospitals in Mohali charged Rs 3,200 and more for a Covid shot that cost much less, also took on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi who hit out at the Centre with "where are the vaccines for our children" charge.

Stating that vaccines "sold for profit" were for the 18-44 age group, Puri said: "Vaccines for children are being

WHY WAS ORDER WITHDRAWN?

When we raised the issue, Capt issued directions to withdraw the order, which means it was fishy. Why was the decision taken in the first place?

Hardeep Puri, UNION MINISTER



INHUMAN, CONDEMNABLE

The Punjab Government is buying vaccines at ₹400 each from the Centre and selling these to private hospitals for ₹1,060 instead of passing the benefit to the people through government hospitals. Profiting during an emergency is inhuman, condemnable and saddening.

Mayawati, BSP PRESIDENT



thrown into the garbage in Rajasthan and being used for profiteering in Punjab — the two Congress-ruled states."

Referring to the Punjab

Health Minister's statement that "he was not in charge of vaccines", Puri today wondered who then took the decision and why

it was rolled back. "Why did the government roll back the decision if nothing was wrong with it? Why did the Health Minister say he does not have control over vaccines? Was there an arrangement between the Punjab Government and hospitals," he wondered, adding that he was not raising these questions as a Union minister but as a 'karyakarta' of the party from Punjab.

The minister said it was "shameful" that the Punjab Government was trying to profit from vaccines meant for people. "When we raised the issue, Capt withdrew the order, which means it was fishy. Why was the decision taken in the first place?" he said.

Puri said as per Punjab Government officer and in

charge of Covid-19 vaccination, Vikas Garg, 4.29 lakh doses of Covishield were procured at Rs 13.25 crore (Rs 309 per dose on an average), while 1,14,190 Covaxin doses were procured at Rs 4.70 crore (Rs 412 per dose on an average).

Quoting Garg's order, he also questioned how the government was planning to get back the vaccines already administered.

Puri also slammed the Congress for opposing the three farm laws and the Central Vista project. "The pro-farmer Modi government has agreed to all demands of farmers and taken several steps, including DBT on MSP, for their benefit," Puri, who had unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha elections from Amritsar in 2019, said.

Civil Surgeon Dr Charanjit Singh did not respond to repeated phone calls. However, when questioned about the reason for the rise in the death rate, a senior doctor claimed that many persons might have contracted the virus but never visited a doctor. "They may have never been diagnosed and died at their homes without medical care," he said, refuting the claims about hiding the number of Covid-19 deaths.

As per the data available with the Death and Birth Registration wing of the Municipal Corporation (MC), Amritsar, a total of 983 deaths were registered in April last year.

Fatalities up 77% in Asr, but cause in 3K victims unknown

Of 3,749 deaths in 2 months, just 774 due to Covid

CHARANJIT SINGH TEJA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, JUNE 5

With 3,749 persons dying in April and May this year, Amritsar has registered 77.34 per cent increase in the death rate against the corresponding months last year, which reported 2,114 deaths.

As per the data of the Health Department, of 3,749 persons, 774 died of Covid this year — 286 in April and 488 in May — but the reason for the remaining deaths is still unknown. Last year, only seven persons died of the viral infection in the two months, according to the official data.

Civil Surgeon Dr Charanjit Singh did not respond to repeated phone calls. However, when questioned about the reason for the rise in the death rate, a senior doctor claimed that many persons might have contracted the virus but never visited a doctor. "They may have never been diagnosed and died at their homes without medical care," he said, refuting the claims about hiding the number of Covid-19 deaths.

Though the data for the corresponding month this year is yet to be compiled, the entries in zonal offices reveal that around 1,500 death certificates have been issued so far. The MC staff claimed that entries for around 500 deaths



DEATH SURGE

2 MONTHS OF MAYHEM

MONTHS	CASUALTIES
2021	2020
May	2,000 1,131
April	1,749 983
Total	3,749 2,114

reported at Guru Nanak Hospital, Civil Hospital and Community Health Center in Verka were yet to be compiled.

During the first wave of pandemic, the MC had conducted door-to-door screening and contact tracing. The MC control room did more than five calls in 2.5 lakh households through auto-operated computer calls.

However, during the second wave, no such practice was adopted for mass screening and tracing Covid-19 patients.

Mayor Karanjit Singh Rintu said: "Last year, we were proactive against the Covid-19 spread and yielded good results. This time, the district administration and health authorities did not make such efforts and the death toll rose. Still, there is a need to trace every Covid-infected person in order to take care of him/her and avoid the spread of the virus."

However, the toll rose to 1,749 in the corresponding month this year. In May 2020, the MC registered 1,131 deaths, which rose to around 2,000 in the corresponding month this year.

Though the data for the cor-

responding month this year is yet to be compiled, the entries in zonal offices reveal that around 1,500 death certifi-

cates have been issued so far.

The MC staff claimed that entries for around 500 deaths

50-bed paediatric Covid care ward, DMCH was also setting up one and the administration was preparing the Civil Hospital for it. The Mother and Child Hospital, part of the Civil Hospital, has nine ventilators and 19 beds equipped with oxygen supply in the newborn intensive care unit, but due to lack of trained staff those are lying un-operational for the past two years.

"Infrastructure is there, but there is lack of trained manpower. A committee has been formed by the district administration, funds are being raised and a tie-up has been done with three groups who will help in training the Civil Hospital staff. These facilities will prove helpful post-Covid as well," he added.

Health infrastructure is there, but there is lack of trained manpower. A committee has been formed by the district administration, funds are being raised and a tie-up has been done with three groups who will help in training the Civil Hospital staff. These facilities will prove helpful post-Covid as well," he added.

Former Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal today laid the foundation stone of two PSA oxygen plants at Tawandi Sabo and Goniana. She asked the district administration to make the plants operational in a month.

Harsimrat had earlier ear-

marked Rs 1.5 crore from her

them once the buildings for the same were completed.

Harsimrat said she had approached Bathinda refinery to contribute in augmenting oxygen supply in the region and that the refinery had imported a machine which would enable it to sup-

ply 70 oxygen cylinders to hospitals. —TNS

Lockers full, unclaimed ashes sent to Haridwar

ARCHIT WATTS

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUKTSAR, JUNE 5

As lockers to keep ashes at the cremation ground here have gone full to their capacity, the management of the cremation ground with the support of some social activists today sent the ashes to Haridwar for immersion.

Notably, the management of the cremation ground had repeatedly appealed to the families of those not claiming the ashes to come or they would perform the rituals and immerse the ashes in the Ganga. Krishan Kumar Shammi Tehria, president, Shiv Dham Management Committee, Jalalabad Road, here, said, "We have today sent some ashes for immer-



sion in the Ganga. The ashes were lying here for past sometime. We had made several appeals, but to no avail. The ashes will be immersed after performing all rituals by followers of a religious sect."

He said recently Covid deaths had increased. "Some bags containing ashes are still hanging in the open. Earlier people used to come within two weeks to collect the ashes, but now people are not showing up even after a month," said a local.

DMCH okays Covaxin trial on kids

MANAV MANDER

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LUDHIANA, JUNE 5

Ludhiana's Dayanand Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) has given nod to Bharat Biotech for clinical trial of Covaxin on kids aged between four and 12 years.

With the prediction of children being more vulnerable in the third wave, the trial is being carried out and the company is approaching medical colleges across the country.

Dr Bishav Mohan, medical superintendent of Hero DMCH Heart Institute, said the company approached the hospital authorities, who agreed to the request. "The initial formalities for the trial run have begun. Once all the paper work is done, the company will inform us and fresh guide-

COVID METER		
Cases	1,907	
Critical	295	
Active	24,454	
Deaths	79	
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Ludhiana	201	5
Jalandhar	184	5
Hoshiarpur	150	3
Patiala	147	6
Muktsar	129	5
Total	5,77,997	15,009

lines will be issued accordingly," he said, adding that permission would be sought from parents of the children being considered for the trial.

He said in order to prepare for the third wave, Christian Medical College and Hospital had set up a

newly formed committee, adding that permission would be sought from parents of the children being considered for the trial.

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State logs 723 cases, 59 die

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 5
With 59 deaths and 723 fresh Covid cases, the overall tally of the state jumped to 7,620 lakh on Saturday.

Five deaths each were reported from Hisar, Rewari and Bhiwani; four each from Panipat, Sirsa, Jhajjar and Fatehabad and Jind, three each from Gurugram, Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar and Kaithal; two each from Ambala, Karnal, Panchkula and Nuh and one each from Faridabad, Mahendragarh, Palwal and Charkhi Dadri. So far, a total of 8,664 fatalities have been reported.

The highest number of cases was reported from Hisar at 75, followed by Yamunanagar (67), Panchkula (66), Karnal (57) and Sirsa (55). — TNS

COVID METER		
Cases	723	
Recovered	1,744	
Active	9,974	
Deaths	59	
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Hisar	75	5
Yamunanagar	67	3
Panchkula	66	2
State total	7,620	8,664

Black-marketing of black fungus drug goes unchecked

Patients' kin arrange drug from other states at a premium

SUNIT DHAWAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, JUNE 5

Amid an acute shortage of Amphotericin-B, the drug required to treat mucormycosis (black fungus), patients, their kin as well as administrators of medical institutes are a harried lot.

The black-marketing of the drug continues as the state authorities have failed to supply the required number of doses. The injections are also not available at private medical stores.

Kin of patients have been forced to arrange the injections from other states.

As many as 168 patients are admitted at Rohtak-PGIMS while many others are under treatment at local private hospitals. Some have shifted to hospitals in Delhi-NCR.

"The attendants of the patients are running from pillar to post to arrange the injections as those being received in government supply are not

39 PATIENTS IN FBAD

- As many as 39 patients are undergoing treatment for black fungus (mucormycosis) in government and private hospitals of Faridabad district.
- So far, the district has confirmed 95 cases, including eight deaths. A total of 35 patients have recovered. The reports of nine patients are awaited.
- Officials said the deaths were reported between May 19 and May 31.
- Currently, 20 patients are admitted at the ESIC hospital while eight are under treatment at the Asian hospital and six at the Sarvodaya hospital.
- Dr Ram Bhagat, Deputy Civil Surgeon and nodal officer for Covid, said there was no shortage of Amphotericin B.
- The injection was also provided to private hospitals. In neighboring Palwal, only one death due to black fungus has been reported so far.

sufficient for the admitted patients. We also feel helpless as there is little we can do in this regard," says a consultant doctor at the PGIMS.



As many as 168 patients are admitted at Rohtak-PGIMS. FILE PHOTO

INJECTIONS IN SHORT SUPPLY

● Injections being received in government supply are not sufficient for the admitted patients. We also feel helpless as there is little we can do in this regard.

A consultant doctor, PGIMS-ROHTAK

On the other hand, the PGIMS authorities maintain that the number of injections required by the admitted patients is being

sent to the state authorities on a regular basis and the injections are given to the patients as soon as these are received.

Jhajjar deaths up fivefold in May

DEATH SURGE

RAVINDER SAINI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JHAJJAR, JUNE 5

The district recorded a five-fold increase in deaths in May as compared to the corresponding period last year. The health authorities, however, feigned ignorance about the unprecedented rise in fatalities.

As per the record of the Health Department, 498 deaths were registered in May last year, but the figure shot up to 2,678 in the same month this year.

According to government data, of these, only 157 deaths were due to Covid. The difference of 2,180 fatalities has raised a question mark over the reporting of Covid casualties.

Similarly, in April 2020, when the entire nation was under the lockdown, the district registered 433 deaths. However, the figure for April this year was 822. Of these, merely 10 deaths were due to the virus.

"A total of 282 persons have died in the district in the past one year. Of



As per government data, of 2,678 fatalities reported in May, only 157 deaths were due to Covid. FILE PHOTO

3 MONTHS OF MAYHEM

MONTHS	CASUALTIES
2021	2020
May	2,678 498
April	822 433
March	526 542

deaths. We will soon look into the issue as currently, staff is busy in Covid duties," said Dr Sanjay Dahiya, Civil Surgeon.

Sources, however, say the actual number of Covid deaths in the district is higher than the official figure. People in rural areas often skip testing.

An official said a majority of people did not turn up for sampling when special camps were organised in their villages.

Farm leaders to gherao police stations on June 7

SONEPAT, JUNE 5

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) has given a call to gherao police stations across the state on June 7 for four hours if the state government did not withdraw the criminal cases registered against the protesting farmers.

The protesting farmers on Saturday burnt the copies of three farm laws at the Kisan Andolan office at the Singhu Border. Besides, they organised protests all over the country on the call of the SKM, it was claimed.

The SKM leaders, Balbir Singh Rajewal, Darshan Pal, Gurnam Singh Charuni, Hannan Mollah, Jagit Singh Dallewal, Joginder Singh Ugrahan, Yudhvir Singh, Yogendra Yadav, Abhimanyu Kohar, in a joint statement, said Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan had launched a historical mass movement against the then the government on June 5, 1974, and the BJP-led Central government had brought in three anti-farmer laws as an ordinance on June 5 last year.

These were the laws that were never demanded by the farmers, but these have been brought undemocratically in the name of the farmers, the SKM said.

The protesting farmers and their supporters burnt copies of the three laws outside the houses, offices of BJP leaders, leaders of other NDA allies.

The SKM has given a call to organise mass demonstrations and to stage dharna in front of all the police stations from 12 noon to 4 pm on June 7. — TNS

Five-day standoff ends as Tohana MLA tenders apology to farmers

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, JUNE 5

The five-day standoff between the farmers and the JJP's Tohana MLA Devender Singh Babli ended today as the MLA tendered his apology to the farmers for using inappropriate language.

The MLA also announced to forgive those persons with whom he had a confrontation on Tuesday.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) leaders Rakesh Tikait, Gurnam Singh Charuni and Yogendra Yadav had reached Tohana to court arrest on their demand for apology from Babli and the withdrawal of the criminal cases against the farmers.

They gathered at the Anaj mandi in Tohana town of Fatehabad district and staged a demonstration there. Later, they carried out a march in the town and reached the Tohana police station to court arrest



Farm leaders at the grain market in Tohana on Saturday.

in support of their demands.

Addressing the activists, BKU leader Tikait said the police were fond of making arrests of the farmers. They had turned up in large numbers to court arrest. He stated that the people of Haryana are revolutionaries and could not be bogged down by the pressure tactics of the government.

"We need to save our energies to take on the Central

government on the issue of the three agriculture laws. The participation of Haryana people in the agitation has not gone down well with the government, thus it is trying to provoke the farmers so that the agitation can be sabotaged. But we have understood the plans of the government," he said.

Charuni also lambasted the state government, alleging that false cases were

being made out against farmers in various districts of Haryana. "We have come to Tohana to court arrest and thus the police need not to make raids to carry out arrests," he said.

After nearly three hours of protest, the farm leaders were approached by a mediator that the MLA Babli wanted to hold talks with them on the issue. The leaders accepted his offer and reached the rest house for holding the discussion. The sources said that four leaders, including Tikait and Charuni besides some representatives of the administration, were present during the talks which continued for nearly an hour.

Later, MLA Babli released a video in which he stated that he had forgiven the persons who assaulted his car on Tuesday in Tohana. "I also take back the unparliamentary words which I used during the incident. I express my regret."

The apex court had also made it clear that it would be open to the court to exercise its

discretion in the facts and circumstances of each case where there was no possibility of the parties resuming cohabitation and there were chances of alternative rehabilitation.

"The marriage between the parties has irretrievably broken and now they have decided to part ways, so that they both have an opportunity to live their lives in the manner they like. In the given situation, the insistence of the court below to wait another six months would result in adding to their woes," Justice Arun Monga ruled.

The judgment assumes significance as the Supreme Court in a case had ruled that the period mentioned in Section 13B (2) of the Hindu Marriage Act was not mandatory, but directory.

The apex court had also made it clear that it would be open to the court to exercise its

Court's insistence on 6-mth wait in divorce case unwarranted: HC

SAURABH MALIK

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 5

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has made it clear that a trial court's insistence on estranged couple waiting for six months in a divorce case even after the irretrievable breakdown of their marriage was unwarranted.

"The marriage between the parties has irretrievably broken and now they have decided to part ways, so that they both have an opportunity to live their lives in the manner they like. In the given situation, the insistence of the court below to wait another six months would result in adding to their woes," Justice Arun Monga ruled.

The judgment assumes significance as the Supreme Court in a case had ruled that the period mentioned in Section 13B (2) of the Hindu Marriage Act was not mandatory, but directory.

The apex court had also made it clear that it would be open to the court to exercise its

'NO POSSIBILITY OF RECONCILIATION'

Justice Arun Monga asserted that the court, after interaction with the couple, was of the view that their marriage appeared to have broken down irretrievably and there was no possibility of reconciliation. Keeping in view the averments made in the petition and in view of the law laid down by the Supreme Court, he added that he was of the view that the approach adopted by the court below in insisting on the parties to wait for another six months for second motion hearing was totally uncalled for

view that their marriage appeared to have broken down irretrievably and there was no possibility of reconciliation. he added that he was of the view that the approach adopted by the court below in insisting on the parties to wait for another six months for second motion hearing was totally uncalled for

Setting aside the order, Justice Monga directed the Principal Judge to entertain the joint petition filed by the petitioners under Section 13-B by waiving of the six months period and proceed with the matter by recording the statements of the parties before disposing of the petition on merits in accordance with law.

Justice Monga asserted that the court, after interaction with the couple, was of the

Soon, policy on e-vehicles

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, JUNE 5

Under a thick security cover following the call of farmers of opposing the visit, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Saturday chaired a programme organised to mark World Environment Day in Sector-4.

Khattar launched 'Oxy Van' (oxy forest) on 80 acres of Forest Department land at Mughal Canal near Sector-4 in the city. Besides, the CM laid the foundation stone of 'Nagar Van' (city forest) in

Panchkula, started Panchavati plantation at 134 places of Kurukshetra pilgrimage and launched Pranvayu Devta Pension Scheme.

Meanwhile, the farmers staged a protest at Bastara toll plaza and later burnt the effigy of the CM at the place in Sector-4 where the CM had chaired the function.

The farmers alleged that the programme of the CM had been advanced due to the protest call given by the farmers, but, as per the authorities, the CM attended the programme following the

call by the SKM. Earlier, they assembled at the Town Park where more protesters, including women, joined them before they reached the civic body office.

Jhajjar: Farmers, led by BKU leader Joginder Singh Ugrahan, took out a motorcycle, car and tractor rally from Tikri border to Bahadurgarh town here on Saturday. They organised a protest outside former BJP MLA Naresh Kaushik and the SDM office.

The protesters burnt the copies of three farm laws outside the SDM office.

The protesters burnt the copies of three farm laws outside the SDM office.

Mayor seeks suspension of three MC employees

YAMUNANAGAR, JUNE 5

Mayor of the Yamunanagar-Jagadhri Municipal Corporation Madan Chauhan has sought the suspension of Junior Engineer (JE) Vikas Sabarwal and bairdars Manjeet and Naresh Kumar for irregularities.

The Mayor alleged that the construction of a drain's

(nullah) concrete slab was not being done as per the criteria mentioned in tender. He requested the authorities to blacklist the firm involved in the work.

On June 3, the Mayor along with Senior Deputy Mayor Praveen Kumar Sharma had inspected works in wards 19 and 20. — TNS

Land acquisition: 3 HCS officers indicted for fraud

BHARTESH SINGH THAKUR

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 5

A Haryana Civil Services (HCS) officer faces suspension, while explanation has been sought

Class XII exams cancelled, curfew extended till June 14

CABINET MEET

Curbs on gatherings stay

Tribune News Service

SHIMLA, JUNE 5
The state government today decided to extend the curfew till June 14 and cancel the Class XII examinations to be conducted by the Himachal Board of School Education. The decisions were taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur here.

The Cabinet meeting was scheduled to be held in the morning but was postponed due to the demise of BJP legislator Narinder Bragta as the Chief Minister rushed to Chandigarh on hearing the news. However, after he returned from Chandigarh, a brief meeting of the Cabinet was held and only two emergent issues of the Class XII exams and extending the curfew were taken up.

Though there has been an appreciable decline in the number of Covid cases, based on the feedback from various quarters, the government decided to continue with the curfew till 6 am on June 14 with all existing restrictions.

Public transport would continue to remain suspended and all educational institutions would also remain closed. The restriction of 20



Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur presides over a Cabinet meeting in Shimla on Saturday.

Public transport to remain suspended, schools closed

persons at all social gatherings, including marriages and funerals, would also remain in force.

"The Cabinet decided to cancel the Class XII examinations in line with the Central Government's decision. It decided that the HP Board of School Education would devise a formula to calculate the awards of the students keeping in view the formula devised by the CBSE and declare the final results accordingly," said Education Minister Govind Thakur.

The Cabinet also decided that if students were not satisfied with the results, they would be allowed to appear in a special examination to be conducted when the situation is conducive for it.

It was also decided that telephonic consultation be ensured for Covid patients discharged from hospitals for recovery at home. The Health Department should explore options for the procurement of vaccines directly from the producers.

Earlier, the Cabinet passed a resolution mourning the demise of Narinder Bragta, Jubbal-Kotkhai MLA and BJP Chief Whip in the state Assembly and his contributions were remembered. A two-minute silence was also observed as a mark of respect to the departed leader.

Forests Minister Rakesh Pathania had also raised the

issue when a BJP leader from Chamba admitted to Tanda medical college did not get the services of a nephrologist.

LALIT MOHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, JUNE 5
Kidney patients in Kangra district are suffering as there is no nephrologist to treat them.

Sources say that the lone nephrologist posted at the Tanda medical college was transferred to Shimla about two years ago but no replacement was provided despite the demand of local MLAs and ministers.

They say patients on ventilator support at Tanda medical college are unable to get dialysis done in the absence of a nephrologist in the hospital.

Ajay Mahajan, district Congress president, alleges that the up-pradhan of a village died on Wednesday, as he could not get dialysis done at the Tanda medical college. The patient was serious and required dialysis urgently. However, he died as no nephrologist was available in the entire region, he says.

Mahajan says that the state government had not posted a nephrologist in Kangra, the biggest district of the state. Three ministers in the state Cabinet and seven MLAs of the BJP from the district are answerable to people for the unavailability of the services of a nephrologist, whenever required, he adds.

The CMO says that dialysis machines for Covid patients are available at Tanda medical college but there is no nephrologist to conduct the procedure.

DIALYSIS STOPPED

■ Patients on ventilator support at Tanda medical college are unable to get dialysis done in the absence of a nephrologist in the hospital.

issue when a BJP leader from Chamba admitted to Tanda medical college did not get the services of a nephrologist.

Kangra CMO GD Gupta admits that dialysis facility is not available at Tanda medical college and there is no nephrologist in government hospitals in the district. He, however, says that 25 patients are undergoing dialysis at the Dharamsala Zonal Hospital every day. Private agencies are operating dialysis machines installed by the government at the Dharamsala Zonal Hospital and the Nurpur Civil Hospital on the outsourced basis. But performing the dialysis procedure on renal patients in the absence of a nephrologist is an unethical practice. Dialysis is being performed under the online surveillance of a nephrologist, whenever required, he adds.

The CMO says that dialysis machines for Covid patients are available at Tanda medical college but there is no nephrologist to conduct the procedure.

Fish found dead in Parwanoo

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, JUNE 5

A large number of fish was found dead in a natural pond at Sector 1 in the industrial town of Parwanoo this morning. Local residents informed officials of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) about the incident. The officials found the dead fish floating on the shallow muddy water of the pond.

Several industries are located in the vicinity of the pond and a drastic decline in the level of dissolved oxygen could also occur due to the dumping of industrial effluents into it.

Pradeep Moudgil, Assistant Environment Engineer, SPCB, along with a team reached the pond. He

Traffic flow restored via Rohtang Pass

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KULLU, JUNE 5
The traffic has been restored through the 13,058-foot high Rohtang Pass. Oil tankers, gas cylinders or explosives are not allowed to cross Atal Tunnel and these are being sent via the Rohtang Pass.

During the peak tourist season, everyday only 1,200 vehicles (800 petrol and 400 diesels), are allowed to cross the Gulaba barrier. Manali SDM Raman Gharsangi said the permits would be provided manually until the number of visitors increases.

Manali Hoteliers' Association president Anup Ram Thakur said now the traffic towards Lahaul would cross through the tunnel and only tourist vehicles visit the Rohtang Pass.

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Bragta dies a month after Covid recovery

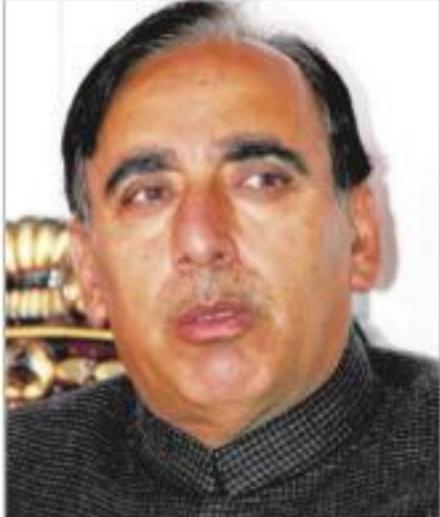
SHIMLA, JUNE 5

Narinder Bragta (68), who was a sitting BJP legislator from the Jubbal-Kotkhai Assembly segment in Shimla, died at the PGI, Chandigarh, this morning after a brief illness.

The three-time MLA, who was the Chief Whip of the BJP in the Vidhan Sabha, had recovered from Covid. He was admitted to the PGI, Chandigarh, about a month back due to heart and kidney ailments.

The death of the former minister is a major setback for the ruling party as he was considered a tall leader from old Himachal, who vociferously raised the issues concerning people of the area, particularly apple growers.

Bragta had been elected to the Vidhan Sabha for the first time in 1998 and remained horticulture minister in the BJP regime led by Dhumal from 1998 to 2003. He was again inducted into the Cabinet by the Dhumal government from 2007 to 2012.



THREE-TIME MLA

■ Narinder Bragta had been elected to the Vidhan Sabha for the first time in 1998 and remained horticulture minister in the BJP regime led by Dhumal from 1998 to 2003

■ He was again inducted into the Cabinet by the Dhumal government from 2007 to 2012.

his political successor.

Bragta had been peeved at not being inducted in the BJP regime headed by Jai Ram Thakur after the BJP assumed power in 2017. He was considered a staunch Dhumal loyalist, who never hesitated to speak his mind when it came to raising issues concerning people of his Assembly segment. —TNS

818 fresh Covid cases, 19 succumb to virus

Tribune News Service

COVID METER

	+VE	DEATHS
Samples tested	20,05,214	
Recovered	181,972	
Active	9,484	
Positive	194,742	
Deaths	3,263	
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
Bilaspur	12,250	75
Chamba	10,241	126
Hamirpur	13,840	236
Kangra	44,422	975
Kinnar	3,066	36
Kullu	8,493	149
Lahaul & Spiti	2,618	17
Mandi	25,982	358
Shimla	24,982	573
Sirmaur	14,886	198
Solan	21,806	290
Una	12,809	230
Total	194,742	3,263

SUNE SAIYYAM AUR SAAVDHANI KI 5 BAAT, DEIN CORONA KO MAAT.

#CoronaKoHaranaHai



If you have Corona, isolate yourself in a room for at least 10 days.



Consult your treating doctor for medication.



Wash your hands regularly with soap and water.



Caregivers must wear a mask (N95) when in the same room as the affected person is.



If fever or difficulty in breathing persists, seek medical advice and attention.

If you have Corona, isolate yourself in a room for at least 10 days.

Consult your treating doctor for medication.

Wash your hands regularly with soap and water.

Caregivers must wear a mask (N95) when in the same room as the affected person is.

If fever or difficulty in breathing persists, seek medical advice and attention.

www.covidmedia.ficci.in

FICCI

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry

www.covidmedia.ficci.in

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CRPF man among 5 dead in Ramban mishap

BANHAL/JAMMU, JUNE 5

Five persons, including a CRPF jawan, were killed and one was critically injured on Saturday when a cab skidded off the road and fell into a 300-m gorge along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Ramban district, the police said.

The SUV was on its way to Jammu from Srinagar and the accident took

L-G ORDERS ROAD SAFETY AUDIT

Srinagar: J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday expressed grief over the Ramban accident and directed the departments concerned to carry out a road safety audit within a week. PTI

place at Diggole, near Khuni Nallah, when its driver lost control over the vehicle, Ramban Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) PD Nitya said.

A defence spokesman said

the speeding vehicle hit another car before plunging into the deep gorge around 9.30 am and was first noticed by the road opening party of the Territorial Army. The police identified three of the deceased as CRPF Head Constable Shagun Kumar of Kangra (Himachal Pradesh), Vaneet Saur of Gupkar (Srinagar) and Garu Ram of Talab Tillo (Jammu). The other two have been identified as Mohammad Rafi of Uri (Baramulla) and Sanjeev Kumar of Reasi, who worked as a follower in 16th Battalion of the Indian Reserve Police. — PTI

E-TENDER NOTICE

On line e-tender on lump sum/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:- Annual repair and maintenance of Sewerage Scheme Palampur Town in Tehsil Palampur District Kangra (H.P.) (SH:- Operation and maintenance of complete sewer network, manholes, flushing tanks and sewerage treatment plant 0.351 MLD for three years).	Rs. 86,43,417/-	Rs. 1,18,940/-	Rs. 800/-

Last date of filing/uploading the tender through e-tendering 10/06/2021 upto 11.00 AM and the same will be opened on 10/06/2021 at 11.30 AM. The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website www.hpihp.org and www.hptenders.gov.in.— DPR/HP/1256

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA TRIBAL PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION KALWAN

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 01 FOR 2021-2022 (II Call)

Online E Tenders in B-1 form for the following work invited by Executive Engineer Tribal P.W. Division Kalwan Nashik Road, Manu Tal Kalwan, Distt. Nashik Phone No. 02592-221056 for and on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State from Capable and eligible P.W. Deptt. Registered/Unregistered Contractor or International Contractor whose Sub Company or Branch Located in India, and also completes terms and conditions mentioned in tender document can participate in the tender process. Tender Notice and Tender Documents are also available on our website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. Right of Rejection of E-Tender/Cancellation of E-Tenders reserved by the Executive Engineer Tribal P.W. Division Kalwan. Conditional Tender will not be accepted.

E-Tender Notice including Total (1) One work below 500.00 Lakh. Details of mentioned E-Tender Notice available on below websites

1) www.mahapwd.com 2) <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Tender Document Sale Start and End Date Time	8/06/2021 To 22/06/2021	From 11:00 Hrs Up to 17:00 Hrs.
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Note

1. E-Tender Fee (non-refundable) and Earnest Money will be accepted online only.
2. All eligible/interested Contractors are required to be enrolled on portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> before downloading tender documents and participate in e-tendering.
3. Post Qualification Criteria is applicable for above works.

Please Note this to all Registered/Unregistered Contractors.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
O.C. Sign by E.E
Tribal P.W. Division, Kalwan.
DGIPR-2021-22/No. 5/C729

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tenders on form 6 & 8 for the following works are hereby invited on behalf of the Governor of H.P. from the contractors/firms of appropriate class registered with HP I&PH Department, so as to reach in the office of the Executive Engineer, I&PH Division, Rohru on 10.06.2021 up to 11.00 A.M. and tender shall be opened on the same day at 11.30 A.M. in the presence of the intending contractors/firms or their authorized representatives who may wish to be present. The tender forms can be obtained from this office against cash payment (non-refundable) during working hours up to 09.06.2021 up to 2.00 PM. No tender form shall be issued by post. The form can also be downloaded from Departmental website www.hpihp.org.in.

The earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate/Time Deposit account and Post Office saving account in any Post Office in Himachal Pradesh duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer, I&PH Division, Rohru must accompany each tender. The contractor who has obtained exemption for depositing earnest money must attach a copy of exemption documents with their offer. The conditional tender and tenders received without earnest money will be summarily rejected. If holiday declared by the Government on the above date due to some reason, the tender shall be received and opened on the next working day. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject the tenders without assigning any reason. The tender form will only be issued on the production of registration certificate in the prescribed manner. The tender documents sent should be in two sealed cover in prescribed manner. The contractors are advised to see work site and read the conditions carefully before tendering. The offer of the tender shall be kept open from the date of opening of tender is 120 days. The rates are quoted both in words and figures.

Sr. No.	Description of works	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time	Cost of work
1	Construction of Flow Irrigation Scheme Andhra in G.P. Dhagoli, Tehsil Chirgaon, Distt. Shimla H.P.) (SH:- C/o 262 mtr. Long CC/Stone masonry channel and CC lining in Beds and sides at RD 0/263 to 0/252 and C/o 5 mtr long Retaining Wall) MNP	4,99,273/-	10000/-	6 Months	250/-
2	Construction of Flow Irrigation Scheme Andhra in G.P. Dhagoli, Tehsil Chirgaon, Distt. Shimla H.P.) (SH:- C/o 263 mtr. Long CC/Stone masonry channel and CC lining in Beds and sides at RD 0/0 to 0/263) MNP	4,59,271/-	9200/-	6 Months	250/-
3	Providing WSS to Village Tangnu Tehsil Chirgaon, Distt. Shimla (H.P.) (SH:- C/o 2 No. Intake chamber as per standard design and Trenching laying & jointing of GMS of various dia)	4,99,555/-	10000/-	3 Months	250/-

Terms and conditions:

1. The work will be done as per PWD specification.
2. The contractor/firm are required to be registered with Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag.
3. The Earnest Money, Renewal of Enlistment, PAN No. and clearance of Income Tax is required.
4. The tenders received without above documents/formalities will be rejected at the time of opening of tenders without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer,
JSV Division, Rohru.

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Offline tenders form PWD-6 & 8 are hereby invited for the following works and contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with H.P. I & PH Department will eligible for participating in the tender on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, so as to reach in this office on or before 10.06.2021 up to 3:00 p.m. and same will be opened on the same day at 3:30 p.m. in presence of intending Contractor/firm or their authorized representative who may wish to be present at the time of opening of the tender. The tender documents can be had from this office on or before 10.06.2021 up to 11:30 a.m. Conditional telegraphically tender will not be entertained. The Earnest Money will be received at the time of application in the shape of NSC/Time Deposit (FDR) duly pledged in the name of Executive Engineer, Phina Singh Medium Irrigation Project Division, Sadwan in Tehsil Nurpur, Distt. Kangra, H.P. The cost of tender form shall also be deposited at the time of application in shape of cash or Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer, Phina Singh Medium Irrigation Project Division, Sadwan, If the tender cost or Earnest Money is not deposited at the time of application, failing which the tender shall not be opened & liable to be rejected. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject the tender without assigning any reasons, if happens to be holiday on the date of opening of tender, then the tender shall be opened on the next working day. The notice inviting tender is issued with ref. to CPWD manual under Section 17.5 being emergent works.

Sr. No.	Description	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time of Comptn	Cost of Form	Time allowed
1	C/o PSMIP in Tehsil Nurpur, Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:- Unloading and stacking of Cement bags at Phina Singh MIP Divisional Store at Madanpur)	4,77,000/-	9,540/-	250/-	Three months	

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

1. The work shall be executed as per CPWD Specifications as per direction of Secretary (IPH) to Govt. of HP vide letter No. IPH-B-(A)-9/2010-11 Shimla Dated 03.10.2018.
2. The quantity can be increase/decreased as per site conditions & Prior approval of Engineer-in-Charge be taken before execution.
3. Nothing shall be paid for the rejected work and material.
4. Income Tax, GST, Labour cess and security shall be deducted from each R/Bill of the contractor as per rules.
5. The work shall be executed as per drawings/design by JSV(PSMI) Engineer-in-charge/competent.
6. The Tenders received without earnest money/copy of enlistment/ Income Tax & GST clearance will be rejected.

Executive Engineer,
(JSV)PSMIP Division, Sadwan.

No. EE/PSMIP/SDN/Tender/2021-459-79 Dated: 04.06.2021 DPR/HP/1280

HP JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE FOR e-TENDERING

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Solan invites e-tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors/firms for the following work through e-tendering process:

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Time of Comptn	Tender ID	Cost of form	Last date of filling/uploading the tender through e-tendering up to
1.	Water Supply Scheme to PC Habitation in G.P. Dharkot and Basal in Solan constituency Dist: Solan (HP) : SH- C/O Raw water sump well cap. 44000 Its., Sedimentation tank cap. 44000 Its. Filter bed (three units), Sump well (Two Nos.) cap. 44000 Its. Main storage tank 197000 Its., Sector storage tank cap. 142000 Its., Pump house 1st and 2nd stage, Distribution system, Rising main and Pumping machinery Raw water stage, 1st and 2nd stage (Under JMM Phase-II).	1,61,18,913/-	1,94,000/-	One year	2021_HPIPH_48081_1	1500/-	16.06.2021 upto 11 A.M.

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from website <http://hptenders.gov.in>

Tribute paid to jawan who died during patrolling

SRINAGAR, JUNE 5

The Army on Saturday paid floral tributes to Sepoy Arun Singh who had slipped to death while on an area domination patrol in Shopian district.

In a solemn ceremony at Badamibagh Cantonment, officiating Corps Commander, Chinhar Corps, Major General Anupam Bhagi and all ranks paid homage to the gallant soldier on behalf of the nation, a defence spokesman said here.

He said Singh was on the area domination duty from Sedhau to Tangimarg when he slipped and fell into the Vishwa river on Friday. — PTI

Bridge to healthcare



L-G: Must work towards restoring ecosystem

SRINAGAR, JUNE 5

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday appealed to the people of the UT to work towards restoring the ecosystem.

In his message on World Environment Day, Sinha said J&K was known for its rich ecosystem, comprising lakes and forests, which must be conserved for the present and future generations.

Along with the government, environmental experts and practitioners, "the power to revitalise our environment also lies with the people", he said.

"On this day, let us vow to keep working towards restoring and rejuvenating our ecosystems and make earth a better place," the L-G said. He stressed taking initiatives like planting trees at home, schools, colleges, and public spaces; launching cleaning drives, and ensuring proper waste disposal for the protection and revival of the ecosystem.



affordable medicines and vaccines, senior officials in the Health Department said.

The composite index score of the UT in SDG-3 has improved by 8 points from 62 in 2019-20 to 70 in 2020-21, the report said.

With the increase in the overall score, the Jammu and Kashmir has secured a place in the "frontrunner" category (with index score higher than or equal to 65).

In 2019-20, it was in the "performer" category (50 to 64 scores), officials said.

SDG-3 relates to good health and well-being of people, addresses all major health priorities, including reproductive, maternal and child health, communicable and non-communicable environmental diseases, and effective, quality and

affordable medicines and vaccines, senior officials in the Health Department said.

The study highlights the significance of speedy vaccination to avert a potential third wave of the pandemic, signalling the urgency of expanding the coverage, which is running low due to stock shortages of Covaxin and Covishield.

While no difference was observed in relation to gender, body mass index, blood group and any comorbidities, people aged 60 years and above or those with type 2 diabetes had a significantly lower seropositivity rate, indicating a compara-

tively lower antibody response. The study also shows a good safety profile for both vaccines.

"Both the vaccine recipients had similar solicited mild to moderate adverse events and none had severe or unsolicited side-effects. In conclusion, both vaccines elicited good immune response after two doses,

The government is hoping to reach all 95 crore adults by December this year, with vaccine stocks expected to improve from June.

FROM PAGE 1

Covishield 'more effective' than Covaxin

although seropositivity rates and median anti-spike antibody titre was significantly higher in

G-7 nations sign pact to tax tech giants

LONDON, JUNE 5
The world's richest countries signed a landmark agreement on Saturday, committing them to confronting corporate tax avoidance and making sure that giant tech companies paid their fair share, Britain's treasury chief said.

Rishi Sunak, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said finance ministers from the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations signed the pact on the second and final day of meetings in London.

"I'm delighted to announce that G-7 finance ministers today, after years of discussions, have reached a historic agreement to reform the global tax system to make it fit for the global digital age and crucially to make sure that it's fair, so that the right companies pay the right tax in the right places," Sunak said in a video message posted on Twitter. The G-7 ministers agreed in



Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak in London. REUTERS

HISTORIC AGREEMENT

"I'm delighted to announce that G-7 finance ministers have reached a historic agreement to reform the global tax system to make it fit for the global digital age and crucially to make sure that it's fair, so that the right companies pay the right tax in the right places."

Rishi Sunak, CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

G-7 BACKS MAKING CLIMATE RISK DISCLOSURE MANDATORY

■ Group of Seven (G-7) rich countries backed moves to force banks and companies to disclose their exposure to climate-related risks on Saturday.

■ G-7 finance ministers meeting in London also called for more coordination to measure what impact companies are having on the climate. REUTERS

principle to a global minimum tax rate of 15 per cent for multinational companies in each country they operate in.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who attended the London meetings, said the agreement "provides tremendous

momentum" towards reaching a global 15 per cent rate that "would end the race-to-the-bottom in corporate taxation, and ensure fairness for the middle class and working people in the US and around the world." The meeting of

finance ministers came ahead of an annual summit of G-7 leaders scheduled for June 11-13 in Carbis Bay, Cornwall. The UK is hosting both sets of meetings because it holds the group's rotating presidency. The G-7 has also been facing

pressure to provide vaccines for low-income countries facing new surges of Covid-19 infections and to finance projects to combat climate change.

International discussions on the tax issue gained momentum after US President Joe Biden backed the idea of a global minimum 15 per cent corporate profit tax rate. The proposal also found support among other major economies such as France and Germany.

Nations have been grappling with the question of how to deter companies from legally avoiding tax by resorting to tax havens—typically small countries that entice companies with low or zero taxes, even though the firms do little actual business there. They've also been trying to solve the related problem of taxing internet-based companies doing business in countries where they have no physical presence and thus pay little or no tax. —AP

100 civilians die in Burkina Faso during raid

OUAGADOUGOU, JUNE 5
Armed assailants killed around 100 civilians in an overnight raid on a village in northern Burkina Faso, the government said on Saturday, as the region faces a worsening wave of jihadist violence. The provisional death toll given by the government made it the country's deadliest attack in recent years.

The attackers struck during the night on Friday, killing residents of the village of Solhan in Yagha province bordering Niger. They also burnt homes and a market, the government said in a statement. The government, declaring a 72-hour period of national mourning, described the attackers as terrorists but no group claimed responsibility.

Attacks by jihadists linked to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State in West Africa's Sahel region have risen sharply since the start of the year.—Reuters



Youngsters queue up outside a vaccination centre in London. REUTERS

Phuket to reopen to jabbed foreign visitors

BANGKOK, JUNE 5
As Thailand continues to battle its third and worst wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, the authorities have said the country's largest resort island Phuket remained on track to reopen to vaccinated foreign visitors from July 1.

The reopening was approved at a meeting of the Centre for the Economic Situation Administration, chaired by PM Prayut Chan-o-cha.—IANS

TRACKING VIRUS		
NATION	DEATHS	
US	61,265	
BRAZIL	4,70,968	
INDIA	3,46,597	
MEXICO	2,28,568	
UK	1,27,836	

WORLDOMETER TILL JUNE 5, 11 PM

HK activist freed, says arrest was meant to 'frighten'

HONG KONG, JUNE 5
A Hong Kong activist was released on Saturday after being detained on suspicion of publicising a commemoration of China's deadly crackdown in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, and said her arrest was meant to have a chilling effect on marking the anniversary.

Chow Hang Tung had helped organize previous candlelight vigils on June 4, and her arrest Friday coincided with the 32nd anniversary of the Tiananmen crackdown in 1989. Police said Chow was arrested on suspicion of publicising an unauthorised assembly. The vigil was banned for a second year running, with the authorities in the semi-autonomous Chinese city citing pandemic-related social distancing restrictions.—AP

Myanmar forces kill 20 anti-coup protesters

YANGON, JUNE 5



SATURDAY'S DEATH TOLL HIGHEST

■ Saturday's civilian death toll appeared to be the highest since more than 80 persons were reportedly killed in Bago in early April.

■ In the borderlands, some two dozen ethnic armies have been waging insurrections for decades.

northwest of the main city of Yangon, when soldiers said they had come to search for weapons, at least four local media outlets and a resident said. "The people in the village only have crossbows and there are a lot of casualties on the people's side," said the resident. —Reuters

Torrential rain kills 6 in Lanka; five missing, 5,000 displaced

COLOMBO, JUNE 5



People wade through an inundated street at Malwana, on the outskirts of Colombo, in Sri Lanka on Saturday. AP/PTI

three armed forces and rescue officials in the badly-hit areas," said disaster management official Pradeep Kodippili. The Navy has been conducting rescue operations in inundated areas.

D Abeywardena, a senior

irrigation department official, said sluice gates of all reservoirs had been opened.

Spokesman for the state power utility, Sulakshana Jayawardena, said all hydropower reservoirs were running at full capacity.—PTI

E-TENDERING NOTICE

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

Job No:	Name of Work	Estd. Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of form	Time
1	Providing GWSS to various habitations of GP Majholi Tipper & Kaleda Majheothi in Tehsil Nankhari Distr. Shimla (HP) (SH:- Site Development, C/O Head wire, C/O S/Tanks 28000 ltrs cap, 15000 ltrs cap, 10000 ltrs cap & 5000 ltrs cap at various nodes, barbed wire fencing, RCC intake & Laying, Jointing & testing of GI Pipes of various dia's at different nodes)	12646054/-	208961/-	1500/-	One Year
2	Providing House Hold Connection to individuals to GP Bagali, Barach, Barog, Delath, Karangla and Nankhari under Jal Shakti Sub-Division Nankhari Tehsil Nankhari Distr. Shimla HP (SH:- Site Development, C/O 3 Nos RCC Nallah intake, Filter Bed 3 unit, C/O RCC S/Tank 30000 ltr. cap, 25000 ltrs cap, 15000 ltr. cap & 3 Nos RCC S/Tank 10000 ltr. cap each, barbed wire fencing Butt welded Joints in gravity main, Rain water harvesting structure, laying & jointing GI Pipe of various dia in different Node)	12942980/-	211923/-	1500/-	One Year

Last date of filing/uploading the tender through e-tendering 10.06.2021 upto 5.00 PM and the same will be opened on 11.06.2021 at 10.00 AM. The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website www.hppih.org.

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Rampur

Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences Raebareli Road, Lucknow-226014 (U.P.) FAX: +91-522-2668017, TEL.: +91-522-2668004-8 www.sppgi.ac.in

Last Date for receipt of application: 25th June, 2021 FACULTY APPOINTMENTS-ASSISTANT PROFESSORS & ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

The Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow invites applications on prescribed form, from suitable Indian citizens of all categories for appointments as Assistant Professors and Associate Professor on contract basis for a period of one year or till regular appointment, whichever is earlier in various Departments. For detailed information, kindly visit the website www.sppgi.ac.in

DIRECTOR

NOTICE ON SHORT TERM BASIS FOR E-TENDERING The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division No. II, Kullu at Bhuntar invites offline tenders on short term basis on behalf of Government of Himachal Pradesh from approved and eligible contractors for the following works :-

Sr. No.	Name of Work:	Estimated Cost	EMD Cost of Tender	Time of completion (months)	Cost of form
01	Providing Hiring of outsource vehicle (Balero AC) for collection of water sample for testing from various scheme in District Kullu H.P. (for 8 months)	286000	2860	Eight	250

Last date of sale of tender forms:-09-06-2021upto 5:00 PM and opened on 10-06-2021 up to 12:30 PM. The tender forms/NIIT and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from the website www.hppih.org or from office of the Executive Engineer upto date specified above.

(Er. Ravinder Kumar Sharma), Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division No. II, Kullu at Bhuntar

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

DPR/HP/1294

HIMACHAL PRADESH POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION

(A State Govt. Undertaking)

HPPTCL Zone Chamba, Distt. Chamba (H.P.)-176318.

Tel./Fax no.01899-220831 E-mail:-dgmchamba@hpptcl.in

Head office: Himed Bhawan, Panjari, Shimla-5, www.hpptcl.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed Bids are hereby invited on behalf of Managing Director HPPTCL Shimla by the Dy. General Manager(Projects), HPPTCL Chamba Zone at Chamba from the Experienced / Reputed surveying companies for the below mentioned Jobs/Works of survey:-

TENDER DOC. No:	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	ESTIMATED COST(Rs. IN LAC)	COST OF BID DOCUMENT (IN Rs.)	EARNEST MONEY (Rs. IN LAC)	LAST DATE OF RECEIPT / OPENING OF TENDER
1. HPPTCL/DGM (P) /132 KV Chanju- Mastra line -1/2021-22	Carrying out Preliminary/Detailed survey i/c preparation of forest clearance case (complete in all respect) for the construction of 132 KV D/C Transmission line from Chanju-I HEP to 132/220 KV GIS substation Mastra at Pukhari in Distt. Chamba under HPPTCL PIU Chamba using Modern survey Techniques	21.13 lac	2000.00	53000.00	21-06-2021 (up to 1.00PM) / 21-06-2021(at 3.30 PM)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
 1. The detailed Scops of Works is given in the Bidding Document.
 2. A Set of Bid Document containing Technical Specifications, Commercial Terms and Conditions can be seen and obtained from the office of Dy.General Manager (Projects), HPPTCL Chamba Zone at Chamba from 5-6-2021 to 20-6-2021 on payment of Cost by Demand Draft, in favour of Sr. Manager (Projects) HPPTCL, Chamba payable at Punjab National Bank at Chamba (H. P.), on any working day from 5-6-2021 to 20-6-2021(between 10.00 A. M. to 04.00 P. M.).Bids of the Firms, who do not purchase the Bid Documents in advance, shall not be opened.
 3. The Bidders shall deposit Earnest Money in shape of bank draft/FDR as mentioned above along with Bid, which shall be placed in a Separate Sealed Envelope. Bids not accompanied with requisite Earnest Money in a Separate Envelope as stated above shall not be opened.
 4. Bids in duplicate superscribed with Bid Document Number and Date of Opening, complete in all respects will be received in double sealed cover up to 13.00 Hours on the Last Date of Receipt of Bids as mentioned above. Bids will be opened in the office of Dy. General Manager HPPTCL Chamba Zone at Chamba (H.P.) on the same date at 15.30 Hours.
 5. The Bids will remain valid for a period of 60 days from the Date of Opening.
 6. The HP Power Transmission Corporation Limited reserves the right to reject any or all of the Bids and to alter the Scope of Work without assigning any reason.
 7. In case, Bid Opening Date happens to be a holiday, the next working day shall be the Date of Opening.
 8. Qualification Requirements for Bidder are given in the Bid Document.
 10. The Bidding Documents are non transferable and Cost of Bidding Documents shall not be refunded under any circumstances.
 11. All the dispute, if any, arises will only be settled in the jurisdiction of courts at Chamba (H. P.)
 12. The contractor/ Firm have registered under GST Council of India and will have to produce GST registration no. at the time of agreement within seven days after the award of work.
 13. The GST as applicable will be paid extra.
 14. The contractor shall ensure proper safety of all the workmen belonging to him or to HPPTCL or to others working at the site. The contractor shall also be responsible for provision of all safety notices and safety equipment required both the relevant legislation and the Engineer, as he may deem necessary.

DPR/HP/128
DGM (Projects)
HPPTCL, Chamba Zone, Distt. Chamba (H.P.)

US senators' Taiwan visit likely to rattle Beijing

TAIPEI, JUNE 5

Three US senators will visit Taiwan on Sunday and will meet President Tsai Ing-wen to discuss security and other issues. Taiwan's government and the de facto US embassy in Taipei said on Saturday, a trip that will likely irritate China. The US has no formal diplo-

matic ties with the island claimed by China, but it is its most important international backer and supplier of arms. Tammy Duckworth and Dan Sullivan of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Christopher Coons of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will visit the island. —Reuters

CLASSIFIEDS

JAT SIKH

Solicit proposals for 1986 born, 5'-7", beautiful Athletie B.Tech, MBA (ISUS) Jat Sikh girl from Affluent Status family. Believe in all traditional marriage customs except dowry. Caste no bar. hirinder@gmail.com (CL21018785)

SM for Mohali based Jat Sikh girl March 89/ 5'-5", BCA, MBA, WhatsApp. 97803-07129. (CL21020294)

Medical/ professional match for Jat Sikh, 27, MD, USA citizen, very pretty girl, doing Residency- Internal in USA. Well established family. Jat Sikh boys doing Residency in USA preferred. E-mail: bestcare2012@hotmail.com (CL21019893)

SM for beautiful Jatt Sikh US citizen 31, 5'-5", B.Sc. Medical, pursuing Clinical SAS Programmer. WhatsApp: 12533262983. (CL21013531)

US based Doctor, extremely beautiful Jat Sikh girl 36, 5'-6", innocently divorced looking for Doctor, Engineer or well established businessman (age 34-42) from a respectable Jatt Sikh fam, US based or Canada (Open to move to US). Respond with biodata and pics docmatr11@gmail.com (CL21014727)

Equally status Officer, preferably Army, for beautiful Convent educated Jat Sikh girl August 1994/ 5'3", B.Com, MBA, Officer SBI, posted Srianganagar. Father retd. Addl. SE, Punjab Electricity Board, mother Deputy Suptd. Haryana Govt. Urban/ Rural properties. Forefathers Zaildar. Businessmen excused. 94169-84929, 96641-64500 (Ambala). (CL21014912)

Wanted well qualified match for Jat Sikh girl, 90, 5'-3", Ph.D. (Commerce) with 10 years US visa. Only Jat Sikh enquires preferably from abroad. 9814000089. (CL21017042)

PQM from USA/ Canada based for slim, fair, V. smart & intelligent, convent educated Punjabi Khatri girl, 32 years, 5'-4½" working as Project Scientist in App. Institute in Toronto. Call: WhatsApp No. 94163-24909. (CL21019759)

Looking for an educated and decent match for 32, 5'-5", Grewal, Canadian PR, MBA girl. Preference to Canadian PR, or citizen, 9855929267. (CL21019790)

Jat Sikh (Sidhu) very beautiful only daughter, innocent divorcee (short time) issueless, 5'-6", Born 1994, schooling YPS, LL.B. Requirement Khandani Sardar Jat Sikh family (more than 20 acre). Doctor/ Lawyer/ CA/ Gazetted Officer Govt. job preferred. Marriage bureaus excuse. 9041816636. (CL21019942)

Ludhiana based well educated Jat Sikh Grewal family seeks professionally qualified, well settled alliance for their beautiful, well cultured, 1995 born, 5'-6", daughter Gold Medalist B.Tech. and M.Tech. and now pursuing PhD from Thapar University, Patiala. Contact 98720-17111. (CL21019948)

Seeks professional qualified Jatsikh boy for our daughter 13.11.89, 5'-3½", M.Sc. Honor, first year Medical PU Campus Chd., PG Diploma from Vancouver University, Canada PR, job in insurance company Canada. Brother married well settled in New Zealand, Dhillon family Sangrur. WhatsApp 95010-10362. (CL21020127)

Match for Jat girl 1991/5'-5", IELTS Trainer, status family Amritsar, brother Canada. 98788-22505. (CL21018577)

Match for M.A., M.Ed., M.Phil Permanent Govt Teacher School, 45'-5", Slim, beautiful, looks very young, innocently few days issueless divorcee. Father Class-I Officer (Retd), Brother M.Tech., M.B.A. Director University, urbanized decent family. whatssapp 98144-28239. (CL21018600)

Canada/ USA PR, having land property well educated boy for beautiful convenient educated, M.Sc. IT, 5'-7", 1993 Jat Sikh girl Bathinda. 94782-24488. (CL21018682)

Suitable match for Jatt Sikh girl, December 1992, 5'-3", M.Com, Govt permanent job in Chandigarh. Preference Chandigarh Mohali. 94639-61937. (CL21018804)

Reputed Jat Sikh (Sardar) family requires match for 1981, 5'-3", M.A., beautiful daughter. Boy should have 20 or more acres agriculture land. Malwa preferred. 90566-65540. (CL21018939)

Match for Jat Sikh beautiful girl June 1992, M.Com, Amritsari. Preferred Gursikh boy. Mobile: 92157-46997, 94666-34827. (CL21018979)

Jat Sikh BDS girl, 90, born 5'-7", seeks well educated match. (M) 81461-99405. (CL21018988)

Chandigarh based well established Jatt Sikh business family owning urban and rural property seeks alliance for their very beautiful, well educated daughter, 31, 5'-2", self employed. We seek well settled boy. 98785-44443, 98887-75477. (CL21019195)

Well established Jat Sikh parents seek suitable match for their never married beautiful, fair, slim daughter, Post Graduate, 5'-5", 1980. Seek well established business, professional boy from status Jat Sikh family. Respond with photograph, biodata, matchmatri082016@gmail.com (CL21019296)

Beautiful Jatt Sikh Mann girl 35, 5'-4", by look below her age, Fashion Diploma from India and abroad. Early marriage. NRI and good Indian families preferred. WhatsApp: 98724-44736, 77195-7817. (CL21020243)

Non-drinker, vegetarian, having equal status, match for 5'-8"/91, Class One. Gazetteed Officer (Medical). 98789-60578. (CL21019324)

Suitable match for Jatt Sikh girl born 1987, 5'-4", Ph.D., Nanoscience, Postdoc, Fast track Canadian PR applied. Contact only boys with equivalent qualification and willing to settle in Canada. Contact: 85579-6255. WhatsApp: 006142098087. jameel.dhillon@yahoo.com (CL21019333)

Match for beautiful Jat Sikh girl 5'-8", 34, Diploma Nursing. Pls. WhatsApp biodata and latest snaps to 98152-00029. (CL21019452)

Suitable match for Jat Sikh girl, 24, 5'-8", doing M.Pharmacy, well educated family, having 50 acres agriculture land belongs Distt. Gurdaspur. 73554-58758. (CL2101946)

High placed Officer/ landlord match for Jat Sikh well qualified girl, 5'-3" feet/ 34 yrs, property in Tricity, match from Tricity preferred. Parents Ex- Senior Officers. Email: jsb.4663@gmail.com Mob: 98729-40224. (CL21019473)

Govt. job/ well settled match for Ambala based Jatt Sikh Aug 1992, 5'-4%", slim, B.Com, M.Sc Computer working on contract Haryana Govt. Deptt. Panchkula. 90349-72723. (WhatsApp). 98153-32026. (CL21019509)

Suitable match for Jatt Sikh girl 1987, M.Sc Maths, B.Ed, M.Ed. 88160-68004. (CL21019557)

Doctor or doing Residency Jat Sikh 1992/ 5'-2", MBA- HR girl, doing private job. 93103-55567. (CL21018677)

Match for beautiful, sincere, caring and respectful MBA, 5'-1", April 92 girl. Running her own reputed business enterprise at Chandigarh. Boy doing entrepreneurial business/ Govt. officer preferably in Tricity may contact 0172-37598100. Father very Senior Officer (retd.), Sikh, Mohali. Castie immaterial. (CL21019720)

Suitable professionally qualified match for 1990 born, 5'-4", BDS, MBA, Jat Sikh, Pandher girl, working as a Assistant Professor at GHGC. Brother permanent resident in Canada. Father in Government job having agriculture land. Government employee/ Businessman or settled in Canada on PR preferred. Contact: 81968-0034. (CL21019720)

Match for slim, fair, well settled match for their slim, beautiful, fair, 5'-7", 1992 born, daughter Master in Computer Science, PR in Canada, working as an Operation Manager for a Financial Institution in Toronto. Call: WhatsApp No. 94163-24909. (CL21019759)

Reputed Jatt Sikh family looking suitable match for their slim, beautiful, fair, 5'-7", 1992 born, daughter Master in Computer Science, PR in Canada, working as an Operation Manager for a Financial Institution in Toronto. Call: WhatsApp No. 94163-24909. (CL21019740)

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Match for an educated and decent match for 32, 5'-5", Grewal, Canadian PR, MBA girl. Preference to Canadian PR, or citizen, 9855929267. (CL21019790)

Suitable match for Sardasia Sikh girl 28 Sept. 1989, 10 am, Ludhiana, 5'-2", fair, M.Phil. (Music, Vocal), Lecturer, caste no bar. 98039-12836, 78142-30075. (CL21019841)

Suitable match for Sikk Brahmin girl, 5'-3", Nov 1991, B.Tech. CSE, Govt. or MNC preferred. Sikh Khatri welcome. WhatsApp 94172-47493. (CL21019848)

SM4 Ramdasia Sikh (Diabetes) girl, Feb. 1993, 5'-4", B.Tech., working in MNC Chandigarh, doing MBA from LPU. Tricity preferred. 76965-90798. (CL21019770)

Suitable match for Sardasia Sikh girl 20.8.1987, 5'-2", BALLB (Hon's). LLM preparing for competitive exams seeking well qualified Gursikh boy in Tricity or Canada PR from status family. Parents retired and settled in Mohali. 78079-06586. (CL21019925)

SM for Ramdasia Sikh (Weaver), 5'-4", November 88, slim girl (Ph.D. Punjab), vegetarian. Well-settled vegetarian preferred. 80543-70833. (CL21020082)

PQM4 Sikhi Ca girl, '94 born, 5'-4", working in Big4, location Bangalore, Tricity. Contact No. 98784-33245. (CL21020097)

Wanted Officer/professional/ businessman match from reputed family for Sikk Rajput girl Nov 1990, 5'-5", M.Sc. Physics (Hons). PLU, Self employed. Father Advocate, well educated family (Doaba based). Contact: 98725-21218, 90416-21481. Email: bismihas1957@gmail.com (CL21020143)

23, B.Com, PGDCA Diploma, simple, beautiful girl, requires simple family boy. 062328-67558. (CL21020155)

Doctor match for a beautiful Jat Sikh girl 31, 160, US Citizen, MD, doing fellowship USA. Contact: 0096597-89901. (CL21020225)

Gazetted Officer match for Jat Sikh girl 27, 5'-7", B.Tech., MBA, employed as Officer in State Bank of India belonging to well educated Mohali based family. Contact with biodata and pic. 90568-85887. (CL21020135)

Jat girl 1990, 5'-4", MBA, job Multinational Company Gurgaon, Canada PR applied, divorcee after 15 days. Amritsar. 78885-18903. (CL21018578)

Match for Jatt Sikh girl 5'-5"Nov 1990, Software Engineer in USA. Email: matri6301@gmail.com (CL21020140)

Suitable match required for 1986 born, 5'-6", MD Physician in New York. Family is well-settled in America. Email: biodata and photo to rishtasikh@gmail.com U.S. citizen only. (CL21018426)

Status match for Dec. 1987 born, 5'-6", pretty. Dentist from landlady Grewal family of Ludhiana. WhatsApp +9198772-67122. (CL21018520)

Match for Jat girl 1991/5'-5", IELTS Trainer, status family Amritsar, brother Canada. 98788-22505. (CL21018577)

Match for M.A., M.Ed., M.Phil Permanent Govt Teacher School, 45'-5", Slim, beautiful, looks very young, innocently few days issueless divorcee. Father Class-I Officer (Retd), Brother M.Tech., M.B.A. Director University, urbanized decent family. whatssapp 98144-28239. (CL21018600)

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High placed Officer/ landlord match for Jat Sikh well qualified girl, 5'-3" feet/ 34 yrs, property in Tricity, match from Tricity preferred. Parents Ex- Senior Officers. Email: jitkiran3@gmail.com WhatsApp: 0098768-40098. (CL21019690)

26, Graduate, Interior Designing Diploma, beautiful girl, medium family wants match. 078692-59657, 074711-37252. (CL21020162)

Khatri Sikh girl, December 1993, 5'-2", M.Sc. regular Pb. Govt. job, Govt. employee preferred. 82645-21355. (CL21020171)

Suitable match for Arora Sikh girl 1992, born 5'-1", M.Sc. Pursuing Ph.D. Upper middle class. 98140-37361. (CL21020179)

RAMGARHIA/DHIMAN

Fatehgarh Sahib Ramgarhia girl, 30, 5'-5", M.Tech, CSE, looking for qualified turbaned Sikh vegetarian boy. 98155-20609. (CL21018453)

Dhiman/ Hindu/ Gotra/ Hunjan, 5'-2", M.Sc, regular Pb. Govt. job, Govt. employee preferred. 82645-21355. (CL21018773)

SM for Saraswat Brahmin girl 5'-1", 6 Mar '92, 23.15 hrs. Nangal Practicing company Secretary in Chd. 8

PROPERTY For Sale



Chandigarh Sector 18, 8 Marla
Ground and Second Floor, well built.
Good location. Owner 94639-61754.
(CL21018655)

10 marla newly built floors Sector 15,
5 marla independent house, good
location Sector 22, 46, Bhagwati
Estates 98140-40445. (CL21018815)

8 marla newly built floors B-Road, 7-
marla first main road Sector 22 ground,
nicely renovated Sector 23, Bhagwati
Estates 98140-40445. (CL21018816)

IT City SCO LOI for sale. Draw
owner. 98727-18351

Showroom for sale, triple storey on

main road in Manimajra and Sunny

Enclave. 78373-44591. (CL21020214)

2 kanal liveable duplex house, Sector

21, Chandigarh. (Immediate settle-

ment). Contact: MG Properties 97817-63123,
98141-71600. (CL21020232)

SCO available on A-road Sector 11
Panchkula. Ground and basement on
rent for 5.5 Lac pm and first and second
floor has furnished office space. Kitty
Estates 99883-85553. (CL21020235)

8 marla Sector 38, Chandigarh, 3 BHK
1st 2nd floor, ready to move. Excellent
location huge back park. Italian flooring,
modular kitchen, Kajaria, Jaipur fittings,
DP Builders 94170-03396, 98888-
85553. (CL21020248)

10 marla ready to move ground floor
Sector 15, Chandigarh. New construction.
Branded fittings. Ample parking space. DP
Builders 94170-03396, 98888-
85553. (CL21020255)

10 marla newly built floor 15, 21,
32, 35, 37, 38, 40. Eight marla
Sector 18, 20, 22, 38, 40. Seven marla
Sector 37. Five marla 22, 38. Megh
Estates: 98159-05086, 98762-22255.
(CL21020256)

10 marla with lift, corner, huge back
park floors in pre-construction booking in
Sector 15, Chandigarh. Premium
construction. Branded fittings. Ample
parking space. DP Builders 94170-
03396, 98888-85553. (CL21020257)

12 marla corner facing park newly
built with lift Sector 28, Chandigarh.
Contact: 98141-12887, 98720-05875.
(CL21019394)

Kothi floor 6 marla B-Road & facing
park/ 8/10 marla ground. 1st 2nd floor
Sector 79, Mohali. Castle Estates
95011-83500. (CL21019432)

HIG upper ground floor free hold

facing Park Sector 39. HIG independent

duplex Sector 38 West. Megh Estates:

82838-04546. (CL21020266)

Mohali: 2650 yrs. industrial plot
facing main road commercial location
Phase 7. Rani deal. Sharhan: 98728-
92299. (CL21020321)

2 kanal high specifications Sector 18,

wider choice Sectors 8, 27, 16, 21, 33.

Sharhan: 98728-92299. (CL21020326)

5½ acres prime commercial plot

Mohali on highway near Max Hospital

ideal for Hotel/ Hospital/ business

**centre. Sharhan: 98728-92299, 98766-
63033. (CL21020328)**

One kanal newly built Sector 8

Choice Sectors 18, 16, 21, 33, 35, 36,

Sharan: 98728-92299, 98766-60333.

(CL21020335)

1 kanal single storey liveable house,

Sector 35, Chandigarh. Contact Delhi

Punjab Real Estate: 98724-07701.

(CL21018811)

14 marla single storey liveable house,

Sector 35, Chandigarh. Contact Delhi

Punjab Real Estate: 95011-21600.

(CL21018813)

One kanal house Sector 8, 11,

Chandigarh. Confirm deals. Contact

**Delhi Punjab Real Estate: 98724-
07701. (CL21018814)**

4 kanal conference houses Sectors 2,

9, 28, Chandigarh. Contact Delhi

Punjab Real Estate: 98724-07701.

(CL21018831)

Chandigarh 1 kanal new Sector 35,

36. Also 10 marla 2nd with lift Sector 7,

98151-86915. (CL21018834)

Chandigarh one kanal newly built

duplex house Sector 16A also Sector

35A. Gulati Estates 98140-06264.

(CL21018845)

Direct deal corner modern 2 kanal

house (1250 gaj) prime location,

in Defense Sector, Chandigarh.

Genuine buyers only. 98149-67149.

(CL21019775)

Chandigarh going very cheap

showroom huge parking Sector 40-C,

**(Direct deal). Immediate sale. 98149-
67149. (CL21019780)**

Smart investment: Zirakpur

showroom 16'x80' front huge parking,

on Zirakpur - Ambala Road, 5 storey

builtup, (rented with MNC @ 5.25 per

**month). Sampark Estates: 98142-
11400, 0172-4627889. (CL21019786)**

Zirakpur VIP road, newly builtup

4 storey vacant showroom 30'x121'

(pair) in main Market front huge

parking, @ .45 Cr. 99157-12626.

(CL21019780)

Chandigarh: Showroom Two Bay

rented, prime location Sector-9,

Madhya Marg. Genuine customers

only. 99143-27641. (CL21020122)

3 storey building at Mohali, 1 km

from Shoghi, Shimla. 85804-76678.

(CL21014549)

Mohali: Commercial Showroom,

prime location, ample parking. Ground/

Basement Vacant, Phase-11, Throwaway

price. 99143-27641. (CL21020123)

Mohali: 10.5 marla single story

marbled house in Phase 4, North East

sector. Facing facility, only serious

buyers may contact: 98724-90349.

(CL21018327)

Chandigarh booth main road Sector

34 (Food Market). Rare deal

confirmation with Shree Properties

98140-35506. (CL21018504)

Chandigarh ten marla corner/B-road

house Sector 15, 37. Facing park Sector

33. Shree Properties 98140-35506.

(CL21018505)

Chandigarh one kanal marbled

second floor, park Sector 33.

Reasonable price. Shree Properties

98140-35506. (CL21018507)

Chandigarh showroom (front

stairs) freehold Sector 7, 19.

Vacant possession. Authorization with

Shree Properties 98140-35506.

(CL21018508)

Chandigarh one kanal single story

house, Sector 10. Reasonable price.

Confirmation with Shree Properties:

98140-35506. (CL21018509)

Chandigarh one kanal facing East

old houses Sector 21, 32. Plot price.

Shree Properties: 98140-35506.

(CL21018524)

Wanted/ available all sizes kothies

full/ floorwise in all sectors

Chandigarh Rania Properties: 98140-

42287, 97804-18330. (CL21018531)

For sale 400 square yard

plot one km from Chair

Market beautiful location facing

Dauladhar Mountain. 79736-56816.

(CL21018554)

Multi-purpose commercial site

for sale Moga (Pb.) front on

NH-95. 150 feet backside 300

feet and back 15 feet street.

Near D.C. Complex 1.5 km

Moga to FZR Road near Guru

Nanak Furniture House. Front

20' parking site. 84271-50335.

10 marla facing park, facing North

East triple liveable house (3.70 Cr.)



Vasily Grossman's 'Life and Fate' was judged so dangerous in the Soviet Union that not only its manuscript, but even the ribbons on which it was typed were confiscated

ARTS page 12



From the battles fought on western front between Degh Nadi and Bein river emerged two PVCs, eight Maha Virs, and many more who won Vir Chakras

TRIBUTE page 13



Preet Mohan Singh Malik's book maps facets of Sikkim and its relations with Himalayan states from late 18th century to the 20th century, when it became part of India

BOOKS page 14

Art of Survival

SARIIKA SHARMA

THE fingers would move deftly on the *algoza* to the rhythm of *Mirra-Sahiba, Jugni* and *Dulla Bhatti*. With equal ease, Bhajan Lal would pick up the *tumbi* and strike at the strings with such grace, there was no dearth of work. Radio programmes, *melas*, university programmes, weddings — all platforms were equally valued; they brought him subsistence. But this was until March last year. As the pandemic struck, the very hands that played the *algoza* found themselves gathering whatever scrap they could find.

A B-high grade artiste with All India Radio, Jalandhar, since 1995, he now sets out on his bicycle, negotiating the bylanes of villages around Samrala, looking for waste boxes, shards of glass, newspapers and broken plastic wares. Whatever he is able to collect by 1 pm is sold to a dealer. On a good day, he earns ₹100, but there are times when he finds no scrap at all.

Before the pandemic struck, life was different. Folk artistes had busy careers, not too well paying, but satisfying. Bhajan Lal especially commanded respect for his ability to play several instruments. Bharat, a choreographer from Meham village in Rohtak, was happy to be able to provide his young daughters with whatever they asked for. But as coronavirus swooped down upon the world, gatherings became a bane. Bhajan Lal, Bharat and several like them were suddenly in a changed world, one that had no place for them. They were soon left to look for alternative sources of income. Lacking any other skills, they found themselves working as daily wagers.

Bharat, a graduate in arts, too, takes up odd jobs. "I do whatever I manage to get — sometimes I am a construction labourer, at times, a painter." The second wave has worsened things. With not much construction activity happening in the village, he has had no work for more than a week. At fate's mercy is *dholak* player Shamsher Singh from Julana village in Haryana's Jind district. For the last two days, he has been engaged with the digging of a pond. The work would have ended by the time you read this and

“January 2020 was my last performance, at Ghaziabad. Ever since, I have been in the village, taking up whatever work is available. People tell me you are a graduate, why are you doing *dihadi*, but where are the jobs? I have kids to feed. Bharat Bhushan, CHOREOGRAPHER, ROHTAK

Shamsher would be back to hunting for work to feed his family of five, including three kids, the eldest of whom is 11.

The pandemic has been especially unkind to artistes who live in anonymity. Often part of groups led by famous men and women, the limelight understandably stays away from them during the good times. And during the bad times such as these, they don't make for a good story of deprivation either.

"The lockdown has left us hand-to-mouth," says Raj Kumar, whose father, Gurcharan Singh Chatra, was a known name in Malwai Giddha. The dance form has become a major attraction at weddings in the last few years, says Raj, but with the guests now limited, there is no place for it. Following his father's death in January, the baton of the 15-member group he helmed is in the hands of Raj Kumar and his brother. But with the situation not abating, he is unsure how they are supposed to carry forward the legacy. Most of the people from the group are now daily-wagers; Raj has turned a cook, his brother Des Raj, a driver.

Tales of misery seem unending and agonising. If 86-year-old *algoza* player Swarn Singh Mahi, from Manewala village near Machhiwara, Ludhiana, is suddenly at the mercy of those around him, there are so many across Punjab and Haryana quietly



In Himachal, cancellation of events has meant that hundreds of dancers and musicians are out of work. A file photo from an event in Shimla.

CENTRE OF THEATRE OUT OF ACTION

NEHA SAINI

SUKHWINDER VIRK, 55, was among the busiest theatre actors in Amritsar, featuring in notable plays such as 'Saka Jalilwanwala Bagh', 'Kuddesian', and regularly touring festivals. Her film outings included impressive names too — Irfan Khan's 'Qissa', Akshay Kumar's 'Gold', Kapil Sharma's 'Firangi'. But that was before Covid-19 hit.

With all theatre activity suspended and film shoots cancelled, Sukhwinder found herself out of options and funds six months into the lockdown. "I have dedicated more than two decades of my life to theatre, passionately working on stage, committing myself to my art. Never had I thought that I would be abandoned by my fraternity and would struggle to survive," she says, her voice grim and sombre. As an actor, she had always managed to find work. Not in it for money, she was mostly driven by her passion and love for theatre. "I am disillusioned now. Mainu loki kehnde si ki theatre ton roti ni kama sakde (A lot of people used to tell me that theatre cannot make enough money to buy me food). I never believed them. Now, I do," she says.

The academies that should have come to the rescue of the artistes are citing fund issues. Chandigarh-based theatre director Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry says she has written to several bodies on behalf of artistes from the city, but no one cares.

Theatreperson Manchpreet, who taught Punjabi to actor Irfan Khan during 'Qissa', is among the artistes who have been hit hard due to the pandemic. Recently, while talking about the distress in the theatre fraternity, he whose name means love for stage, had shared, "It's a tragedy that theatre artistes who have given 20-30 years to stage and have no other source of income are jobless due to the lockdown. And we cannot even help them sail through this difficult



time." Several notable artistes from the fraternity, like Vijay Sharma, have repeatedly raised the issue.

Amritsar has been the epicentre of the theatre activity in the region, with no dearth of talent. With the rising popularity of Punjabi entertainment industry, talent from the region managed to finally find visibility and work. But the pandemic changed things unexpectedly. With the theatre activity suspended, many artistes found themselves broke or looking for other jobs. "I had managed to find work as a drama teacher in a private school, with a job that paid me ₹12,000 every month. But with schools shut and online classes happening, I have not been paid salary by the school management for past three months," says Vikas Sonu, a theatre actor, who was a regular with Punjab Natshala productions. "No one asked us if we needed help. The government too didn't offer support. I do not have any other skill to find employment in any other industry."

The academies that should have come to the rescue of the artistes are citing fund issues. Kewal Dhalwal, who helms Punjab Sangeet Natak Akademi, says that while he has been helping people on a personal level, the body has no funds. Chandigarh-based theatreperson Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry says she has written to the UT Adviser, and approached several academies too, on behalf of artistes from the city, but no one cares. "There is no consideration for the theatre fraternity," she rues.

awaiting death. Once a singer at hotels in Ludhiana, Vishal Sonu now sells tea leaves. "For the first few months, I waited for things to get normal. But when the wait seemed never-ending, I entered the trade of tea leaves. I did not give a second thought to it as am I already under a debt of ₹70,000," he says. Pending rent of shop and godown has been worrying 60-year-old Narinder Singh and his son, Ramandeep, of Master Fauji Band in Ludhiana. Work was going steady and they would earn ₹5,000 per day. As the pandemic rendered weddings simpler, they went out of work. Ramandeep took up work in a medicine factory, but that too shut down recently. He now does odd jobs, earning barely ₹300 per day.

Un-fair times

With all the entertainment activities coming to a halt due to restrictions, small-time folk artistes feel doomed. In Himachal, especially, the cancellation of village fairs has meant that hundreds of dancers and musicians are out of work. "Covid-19 has snatched our livelihood and we have been forced to work as labourers for subsistence," laments Roshan, a folk artiste from Chamba, whose wife is also a folk singer.

Work is irregular and doesn't pay much; ₹400 to 500 per day is what he earns, and work is available for about 10 days a month under MNREGA as well as at private construction sites. Earlier, he would earn about ₹20,000 per month by singing Chambyari folk and playing *khanjari* and other instruments for tourists in Khajjar, besides performing at weddings and *jagrangs*. Supporting a family of six is getting tougher by the day.

The story of Vishal from Baijnath in Kangra is no different. "My wife and I used to earn our livelihood by singing and performing one-act plays at weddings and religious events. Covid forced me to become a driver, but I met with an accident last year. There is no hope now," he rues. The family of 55-year-old folk singer Vipin from Jawalamukhi is also in dire straits. It is now dependent on his wife, an *anganwadi* worker, who earns ₹6,000 per month.

No help in sight

Along the thread of despair run stories of neglect. If artistes in Punjab and Haryana rue that neither the government, nor the North Zone Cultural Centre or the cultural academies have offered any assistance, artistes from Himachal say they feel abandoned by the temple trusts that did not come to the rescue of the people associated with them. "While ration rotted in godowns and was donated to *gaushalas*, artistes were forgotten. Essential items like foodgrains



(From top) Malwai Giddha exponent Raj Kumar and his father, the late Gurcharan Singh Chatra; folk singer Vipin from Jawalamukhi in Himachal; and musician Roshan from Chamba and his wife.



“I have given 25 years of my life to *dholak*, and here I am today. I go to the labour chowk every day to look for any work I can get. But for the last 10 days, I have been home, suffering from typhoid, with no money for treatment. I urge you to help me. Take my account details, if you please.

Surender, DHOOLAK PLAYER, ROHTAK

Speaking on condition of anonymity, an official with the NZCC, Patiala, says that while no artistes are registered with the organisation, it has been helping those who approach it by giving them online programmes. However, insiders say that such programmes are few and far between. The official admits that there are hundreds of artistes in villages across the region who do not have any idea that there is a body like NZCC that works for their welfare. "Approaching us for help is out of question for them," he says.

In the face of continuing uncertainty, these artistes are unsure of what lies ahead. They are fighting it out, but are not sure how long can they sustain. "I am an artiste, I have never done anything else," says Bhajan Lal, who dusts his instruments daily. "I do not know how long this will last. I sometimes wish this disease claims me."

— With inputs from Bhanu P Lohumi and Manav Mander



Algoza player Bhajan Lal now goes around villages in Samrala looking for scrap.



A novel that was 'arrested'

It took me three weeks to read it (Grossman's 871-page book) and three weeks to recover from the experience, during which time I could barely breathe.

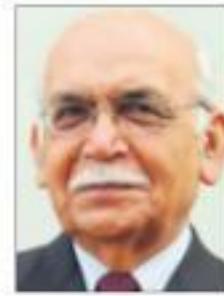
— Linda Grant, writing in *The Guardian* on Vasily Grossman's 'Life and Fate'

It (the Battle of Stalingrad) was a storm that had flung open every door in Russia, that had driven people out of their warm homes and onto black autumn roads, sparing neither peaceful city apartments, nor village huts, nor hamlets deep in the forest...

— from a description of Russia in 1942-43

It is not enough to say, "I wrote the truth." The author should ask himself two questions: "First, which truth? And second, why?" We know there are two truths and that, in our world, it is the vile and dirty truth... that preponderates.

— Grossman



ART &
SOUL

BN GOSWAMY

I KNOW that I simply do not have the title to write on it, for I have not yet read the book — only ordered it — but the temptation is far too strong. For, I find myself virtually numbed by reading what others have written on it. I write here thus not on 'Life and Fate' but about it. And this, because Vasily Grossman, its writer, has been called, repeatedly, the 'Leo Tolstoy of the USSR', and his book described as 'one of the greatest books of the 20th century'... in fact, 'one of the greatest books ever'. This was a book judged so dangerous in the Soviet Union that not only its manuscript, but even the ribbons on which it had been typed were confiscated by the state.

To place his work, briefly, in the present context: Vasily Grossman was born in 1905 in a Jewish family in Ukraine, then a part of Czarist Russia. On growing up and taking up different jobs, at the age of 25 or so he took to writing as a career, publishing short stories and novels. When the war broke out in 1939, he was appointed as a war correspondent with the Soviet army by a newspaper; and it is from the field of battle that he wrote about what was happening on the ground: in reports that felt as if written with grit between his toes, sand in his mouth, and acrid smoke in his nostrils. As he watched the progress of what has been sometimes described as 'the greatest battle in human history' — the Battle of Stalingrad in which every town, every village, every street, every single home was fought over — he had the opportunity to observe the devastation that evil systems operating on both sides under the eyes of two ruthless dictators,



Clockwise from left:
'The Mother Calls',
a 52-metre-high
statue at
Volgograd, Russia,
commemorating
the Battle of Stalingrad;
Vasily Grossman as a
war reporter; mother
with a dead child in her
arms; a man having
retrieved his musical
instrument from his
shattered home; a
soldier waving the
victorious Red Flag at
the end of the battle.



Hitler and Stalin, thrive on. During those years, he learnt of his own mother being marched off to her death in a village that the invading German army had captured, and saw with his own eyes Treblinka, the unspeakably inhuman extermination camp that the Nazis had run — there were accounts of horrors like children being torn in half, men's skulls being crushed by hammers — and wrote later what is regarded as the earliest account of a Nazi death camp by a reporter. But equally, he saw the repression in his own land, diktats issued against the peasants by the Soviet overlords, and learnt about grain procurement campaigns which involved peasants, along with their children, to be put to death by starvation.

Out of all these experiences, and his own struggle with beliefs, but also with his undying faith in humanity, emerged, after the war had ended, writings that could shake

every conscience. Grossman had always had problems with censorship but when he approached for permission to publish these works, he was plainly told by Suslov, the Communist Party's chief ideologist, that his book ('Life and Fate') could not be published 'for two or three hundred years', for it contained harsh comments on the Soviet system. 'Why should we publish your book?' Suslov told him, 'and begin a public discussion as to whether anyone needs the Soviet Union or not? Why should we add your book to the atomic bombs that our enemies are preparing to launch against us?' The KGB raided Grossman's flat, seized manuscripts and notes, even the typewriter ribbon on which the text had been written. Grossman himself was never arrested, however. When the atmosphere in Soviet Russia began to change a bit, he tried again, and wrote to Nikita Khrushchev: 'What is the point of me being physically free when the

book I dedicated my life to is arrested... I am not renouncing it... I am requesting freedom for my book.' But all he kept hearing from the authorities was 'No'. 'It would have been better if they had killed me,' Grossman later told his daughter. He died in 1964.

But the book still got published: how, is another story. Now it is available, having been translated in every conceivable language. This because, as someone wrote: 'Vasily Grossman had fashioned an immense, intricately detailed tapestry depicting a time of almost unimaginable horror, and even stranger hope. 'Life and Fate' juxtaposes bedrooms and snipers' nests, scientific laboratories and the Gulag, taking us deep into the hearts and minds of characters ranging from a boy on his way to the gas chambers to Hitler and Stalin themselves.' The book, apart from being a great story with a family at its cen-

tre, is 'a considered statement of Grossman's moral and political philosophy — a meditation on the nature of totalitarianism, the danger presented by even the most seemingly benign of ideologies, and the moral responsibility of each individual for his own actions'.

But, in fairness, should not one hear, at the end of this little piece, Grossman's own voice? "...the time has now come for us writers," he said once, "to shoulder our responsibility. Do we understand the magnitude of this noble and far from simple task? Do we understand that it is we who, more resolutely than anyone, must now enter into battle against the forces of forgetfulness, against the slow and implacable flow of the river of time?" And listen to the questions he asks in his work: "Does human nature undergo a true change in the cauldron of totalitarian violence? Does man lose his innate yearning for freedom?"

Sowing seeds of struggle in the Himalayas

MANSI ASHER

In the era of irreversible ecological destruction, initiatives to 'save the environment' mushroom every day. It is, after all, also the age of 'solutions'. 'Green' is now a pre-fix to growth and technology. As an environmental activist, one is constantly grappling with dilutions and schisms within environmentalism. It is crucial, today more than ever, to revisit the roots and branches of ecological movements on our land. Last month, we lost a persistent worker of one such struggle, 'Earth warrior', 'Chikpo Bahuguna', 'Gandhian fakir' — many titles have been bestowed upon Sunderlal Bahuguna.

To understand the environmentalism he exemplified, one could also turn to

Sunderlal Bahuguna may have departed, but there are many formidable repositories of diverse oral and embodied knowledge that we could fall back on

Himachal where two activists in particular engaged closely with him. Both, Kulbhushan Upmanyu, who started his work as a *sarvodayi*, and Ratan Chand, a communist, are now in their 70s. Both practising farmer-horticulturists hail from Chamba and have been at the forefront of environmental work in the region.

From a family of priests (*sewadars*) of Chamba's famous Laxmi Narayan temple, Ratanji's gentle demeanour, unassuming appearance and non-evocative speaking

style camouflage his dogged nature. At an early age, he distanced himself from the family occupation as he explored his Left leanings. His home in Saho village has photos of Karl Marx, Gandhi and Vivekanand on the wall. A staunch trade unionist who joined the Communist Party of India (CPI), his activism ranged from fighting for wage rights of the labourers at a hydropower project in Chamba, to gaining compensation for those who lost their land to it back in the late 1970s.

When the Bairi Siul project became functional, he was quick to observe the deforestation, landslides and threats to local lives and livelihoods. This laid the ground for building an environmental consciousness. In 1981-82, Bahuguna, on his Kashmir to Kohima *yatra* carrying the message of protecting the forests of the Himalayas from commercialisation, was visiting Chamba. Ratan Chand paid him a visit and from then on, even as he remained associated with the CPI, he became an ally of Bahuguna, visiting his Silsila Ashram in Uttarakhand annually.

Influenced by the ideas of Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave, Upmanyu began working with the JP movement during the Emergency. Apart from supporting the implementation of land reforms in Bhatiyat, where he lives, he also resisted the authoritarian policies of the Central regime and worked on *gram swaraj*. His first meeting with Bahuguna, also in 1981, was at Prashant Ashram in Pathankot; the simple man with the *patka* (headcover) left quite an imprint. Upmanyuji too later donned the *patka*, considered a symbol of resistance. During the Kashmiri

Kohima yatra, Upmanyu spent two months with Bahuguna, travelling from one end of HP bordering Jammu right up to Jaunsar Bawar. Interactions with people, observations of forest conditions and discussions with Bahuguna confirmed Upmanyu's own analysis of what was happening in the name of forest conservation. The forest department's 'improvement forestry' was converting rich biodiverse forests of oak and other fodder species into timber woodlots. Chir-pine monoculture plantations were impacting grassland ecosystems and encroaching on Gaddi-Gujjar pastoralist lands. Thus began a local movement, with slogans like 'Chir-safeda band karo, chaare ka prabandh karo' and 'Aaj Himalaya ki lalkaar, van par gaon ka adhikar'.

Apart from sit-ins and fasts, a powerful direct action in this resistance was entering forest department nurseries to replace seeds of pine and poplar with indigenous species. Simultaneously, community afforestation efforts were organised on village lands with the *panch jeevan* species (fodder-fruit, fuel wood, leaf litter, fibre and medicinal plants). The movement spread over 18 panchayats. The state government was forced to concede to their demands to stop commercial felling of trees and restrict promotion of timber species. Several cases were filed against Upmanyu and fellow activists during this movement. He spent two months in Chamba jail in 1986. Ratan Chand organised solidarity protests involving schoolchildren in Chamba at the time, he recalls fondly.

Both are full of stories from the Tehri *andolan*. Ratanji recalls being lathicharged at the proposed dam site in Uttarakhand in 1997. Years later, he would once again be brutally attacked in Chamba as part of a long struggle against the Hul hydropower

project. This movement played a crucial role in highlighting the impacts of what are often referred to as 'green and clean' energy hydropower projects in the state. He and Upmanyu questioned the extractive model of 'development' being pushed in the Himalayas even as they worked to protect local forests with community participation.

In the late 1990s, Upmanyu set up the Himalaya Bachao Samiti to continue the work around forest governance and, more recently, implementing the Forest Rights Act 2006. Ratan Chand started Paryavarjan Chetna Kendra, an educational centre, at his village. Upmanyu steered clear of electoral politics, while Ratan Chand contested locally and even led terms as the panchayat president and District Council chairperson. By 2007, the year Bahuguna visited Manali to stand with protests against Ford's mega ski resort, the need for an economic paradigm shift, especially in the Himalayas, became their clarion call under the campaign 'Himalaya Niti Abhiyan'.

"Simplicity is a human value, not a sacrifice," says Upmanyu. Perhaps that's why environmentalists of this league mostly led unsung lives. "People like Bahuguna are given the stature of 'icons' when convenient, but for the most part, they bear the brunt for countering dominant worldviews," adds Ratanji. Bahuguna may have departed, but there are many such formidable repositories of diverse oral and embodied knowledge to fall back on, so that we learn and unlearn, in our quest for change.

— The writer is an environmental activist with Hindhara Collective



Ratan Chand

Sunderlal Bahuguna

Kulbhushan Upmanyu

16 Madras, 3 Grenadiers' braves



**50
YEARS OF THE
1971 WAR**

From the battles fought on western front between Degh Nadi and Bein river emerged two PVCs (Maj Hoshiar Singh and 2nd Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal).

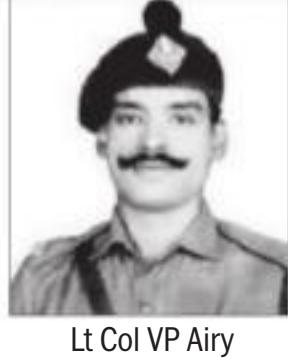
eight Maha Virs, including Lt Col VP Ghai, Lt Col VP Airy and Havildar Thomas Phillipose, and many more who won

Vir Chakras and other awards for their bravery

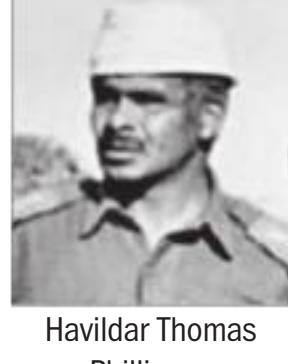
MVC RECIPIENTS



Lt Col VP Ghai



Lt Col VP Airy



Havildar Thomas Phillipose

Lt COL DILBAG SINGH DABAS (RETD)

ON December 3, 1971, at last light, the PAF simultaneously attacked the forward Indian airfields, including the Advance Landing Ground at Faridkot. When the expected pre-emptive ground attack by Pakistan did not materialise, the Indian Army decided to cross the International Border on the western front and enter the Shakargarh Bulge at dusk on December 5, with troops advancing on a broad front between Degh Nadi in the north and Ravi river in the south-east. The plan of the 54 Infantry Division, spearheading the advance, envisaged launching of operations against Zafarwal-Rajan-Dhamtal from general area Mawa-Galar, establishing a bridgehead across Basantar Nadi and capturing the Supwal Ditch.

The task allotted to 54 Infantry Division also included the destruction of Pakistan's 8 (Independent) Armoured Brigade and the capture of Zafarwal. After some preliminary operations en route, its 47 Infantry Brigade was ordered to establish a bridgehead west of Basantar Nadi to include areas Barapind-Lalial RF-Sarachak and south-west shoulder of Supwal Ditch during phase 1 of the Divisional attack, followed by capture of Jarpal and Lohal in the second phase.

The Pakistan army had predictably concentrated the bulk of its armour to the west of Basantar between Supwal Ditch and Zafarwal and waited for the enemy armour to enter the dragon (*chakravyuh*). The Indian armour entered the *chakravyuh* and smashed it, but not without losing Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal, its Abhimanyu.

During the 1971 war, from the battles fought on the western front between Degh Nadi and Bein river emerged two Param Virs (Major Hoshiar Singh of the 3rd Grenadiers and Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal of The Poona Horse); eight Maha Virs, including Lieutenant Colonels VP Ghai, VP Airy and Havildar Thomas Phillipose, and many more who outperformed themselves and won Vir Chakras and other awards for their bravery.

Lt Col Ved Prakash Ghai, an alumnus of Mission School and DAV College, Dehradun, while commanding 16 Madras, raised in 1819 as the 2nd Travancore Nair Infantry, led it from the front and blunted three determined counter-attacks by the enemy to dislodge his battalion from the bridgehead established by his Madrasis. He was killed in action but not before ensuring that his gallant Thambis held on to the bridgehead they had established at a heavy cost.

Lt Col Ghai was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra for outstanding command of his battalion during the bridgehead battle. The excerpts from the battle account read:

At 7:30 pm on December 15, during phase 1 of the Division attack, Lieutenant Colonel Ved Prakash Ghai, commanding 16 Madras, led his battalion for the capture of Lalial and Sarachak as part of the bridgehead operation. The positions were captured after some of the sharpest hand-to-hand encounters. The enemy launched many counter-attacks at night to dislodge the battalion but under the inspiring leadership of Lt



In this group photograph of the 3rd Grenadiers, Lt Col Ved Prakash Airy, MVC, is seated in the centre. To his left is Maj Hoshiar Singh, PVC, and to his right, Maj SS Cheema, SM.

Col Ghai, his men beat back all attacks.

As the day dawned, the enemy again launched a determined counter-attack supported by artillery and armour. With utter disregard to personal safety, Lt Col Ghai moved fearlessly from one Company position to another encouraging his men. Inspired by his fearlessness, bravery and leadership, the battalion repulsed the attacks with heavy losses to the enemy. However, a stray bullet by the withdrawing enemy caught him in the chest, wounding him seriously. Before he could be evacuated, Lt Col Ghai died on the battlefield but not before ensuring that his battalion held onto the bridgehead for three nights and two days steadfastly against all possible odds.

Havildar Thomas Phillipose from Kerala was a Non Commissioned Officer in 16 Madras. During the 1971 war, his and the platoon's dare-devilry during the bridgehead battle proved beyond doubt that the Madrasis (men in Indian Army belonging to Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana) are no less martial than the maliciously created martial classes by the British.

Havildar Thomas Phillipose was platoon commander in one of the companies of 16 Madras occupying the bridgehead across Basantar. During a counter-attack, after causing heavy casualties, the enemy captured a portion of the bridgehead after overpowering one of the forward sections of his platoon. Realising the criticality of the situation, Havildar Thomas rallied the meager strength of his platoon, sounded the battle cry 'Veer Madras Adi Kollu-Adi Kollu-Adi Kollu' (Brave Madras Hit and Kill - Hit and Kill - Hit and Kill) and led the dash with bayonets drawn. The spontaneous action inspired the small force of Madrasis to the hilt. During the dash, although he received a bullet on his left shoulder, wounding him severely, Thomas did not stop. The charge led by him was so determined that the enemy fled without giving a fight.

For his conspicuous gallantry, Havildar Thomas Phillipose was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra. Major PV Sahadevan and Naik Sahadevan of 16 Madras, too, performed beyond the call of duty and earned Vir Chakras.

Lieutenant Colonel Ved Prakash Airy, an alumnus of Government School, Karnal, took over the command of the 3rd Grenadiers in April 1971. In the morning hours of December 5, the battalion, as part of 47 Infantry Brigade, was ordered to cross the IB and 'Bash on Regardless' (the motto of 54 Infantry Division).

On the night of December 5/6, the 3rd Grenadiers crossed the International Border. The first interference from the enemy's infantry and armour came up at Bhaironath. With the bold planning by Lt Col Airy and dauntless courage by his *paltan*, by the first light on December 6, not only was the defended locality captured, but also taken were three prisoners of war and two Sherman tanks with Patton turrets.

The battles fought and won so far were only part of the preliminary operations. For the main task, the 3rd Grenadiers spearheaded Phase 2 of the 54 Infantry Division attack and, under the leadership of Lt Col Airy, did more than enough to earn the title of 'PVC Battalion' by capturing the heavily defended Jarpal deep inside Pakistan.

During the iconic battle, the 3rd Grenadiers not only captured the heavily defended Jarpal, but with support from the tanks of The Poona Horse and the guns of Divisional Artillery, including those of 161 Field Regiment and 75 Medium Regiment, held on to it defeating repeated enemy counter-attacks.

The role played by Lt Col Airy earned him the Maha Vir Chakra. The battle account reads:

The 3rd Grenadiers was tasked to capture the heavily defended localities of Jarpal and Lohal on the night of December 15/16, with a view to establish a bridgehead on Basantar Nadi for the tanks to break out. Lt Col Airy led his troops fearlessly even when his men were fighting the enemy hand-to-hand. Though the casualties of the battalion were marginally high, both objectives were captured. But after regrouping, the enemy counter-attacked in the morning hours on December 16, followed by the attacks supported by the tanks to dislodge the Grenadiers from the bridgehead but all the counter-attacks were ruthlessly beaten back one after the other.

During the battle, unmindful of his personal safety, Lt Col Airy moved from one Company to

the other, with just his cap balaclava as headgear, motivating his men to hold the captured ground. Noticing the firm resolve of the Grenadiers, the enemy finally retreated with heavy losses."

During the battle of Jarpal, 'C' Company of the 3rd Grenadiers under the command of Major Hoshiar Singh beat back repeated counter-attacks. Maj Singh was awarded the PVC.

The 'B' Company of the 3rd Grenadiers, under the command of Major SS Cheema, which was defending Jarpal adjacent to the 'C' Company of Maj Hoshiar Singh, too, repulsed repeated counter-attacks against all possible odds. For his exemplary leadership, Maj Cheema was awarded the Sena Medal (gallantry). Lance Havildar Jaswant Singh and Grenadier Ram Kumar also made the battalion proud by winning Vir Chakras.

After winning the toughest battle, Lt Col Airy, before endorsing the bravery of his battalion's officers and men, did the honour to the bravehearts of the supporting arms, including Second Lieutenant Khetarpal of The Poona Horse, Captain Satish Sehgal of 75 Medium Regiment, Major Prahalad Toro of 161 Field Regiment and Captain RN Gupta of 9 Engineer Regiment.

Regarding endorsement of the bravery of Second Lieutenant Khetarpal, there is a piece of history that personifies the strong inter-arm camaraderie. Maj Cheema, commanding 'B' Company of the 3rd Grenadiers, along with his forward platoon, while fighting the enemy infantry with baited breath and at a visible distance, watched Arun in action. Even after his tank got hit, Arun did not abandon it (since the tank gun was still firing) and singlehandedly destroyed three enemy tanks from as close as 75 yards before dying a hero's death. After the battle, Maj Cheema (from Infantry) narrated the most conspicuous bravery of Second Lieutenant Khetarpal (from Armoured Corps). And Lt Col Airy, a thorough professional, proudly endorsed the submission.

After the war, a senior General officer from the Pakistan army remarked, "If two armoured regiments (13 Lancers and 31 Cavalry) of our army could not evict two Indian infantry companies (Hoshiar's and Cheema's of 3rd Grenadiers) supported by just a squadron of armour (of The Poona Horse), it was foolhardy to pitch 35 Frontier Force battalion against them. It was nothing short of *hara-kiri*, suicidal."

Incidentally, C(Sikh) Squadron of 13 Lancers, at Partition, formed part of The Poona Horse. So, during the 1971 war, in effect, the 'son' was fighting the 'father'. And among the defeated 13 Lancers (by The Poona Horse) was the Officer Commanding B Squadron, Major Jehangir Karamat, who later became Pakistan's COAS.

Lt Col Airy also displayed a high level of morality and professionalism by recommending Lt Col Mohd Akram Raja, Commanding Officer of 35 Frontier Forces, his counterpart, whose body was recovered with bullet marks on the forehead and right hand with a firm grip on his gun, for the highest gallantry decoration in Pakistan. The handwritten citation did not go unnoticed. Lt Col Raja was awarded 'Hilal-i-Jur'at', Pakistan's second highest gallantry decoration.

Try out garden on the rooftop

AMARJEET BATTH

FOR those living in urban areas, a rooftop garden may be an ideal way to bring home the greens. Besides adding to the beauty of your house, a rooftop garden can become a platform for family interaction, while offering ecological benefits like helping lower the temperature and creating a habitat for birds. The following tips can be helpful when you design a garden on your rooftop:

Make a beginning

Start by placing a few pots along the parapet or the periphery. If you plan to extend the rooftop, it is better to check the structural stability of the house with an architect or civil engineer. Avoid natural grass if the building is old and without proper gradient or waterproofing.

Open up the boundaries

If privacy is not a concern, open up the boundaries of your garden with a grill railing or glass borders. This will give it a bigger look. Replace the concrete boundaries with herbaceous linings. If the house doesn't offer a good view, plant high vegetation for a green effect.

Get a net house

The rooftop can get too hot during the summer and too cold in winters. Though watering the plants helps lower the temperature, a net house (50-70 per cent shade grade) is required to protect the plants from the scorching heat and frost. Ensure that this structure is stable.



PHOTO BY THE WRITER

Often the most neglected part of the house, it can be turned into the most happening area

ACCESSORISE YOUR GARDEN

- Craft a focal area like a miniature waterfall, a small statue, an interesting plant arrangement, or a specimen tree so as to catch the attention as soon as you step in the garden.
- Hang some baskets to lend colour and add foliage at an eye level. These can be used for screening purposes as well.
- Go for furniture that fits your style and theme. Too many colours will make the
- place appear busy and cluttered.
- Use vertical space to add more plants, especially the trailing varieties.
- Add musical notes to the garden by hanging some wind chimes.
- Good lighting can lend another dimension to the rooftop greens. Be careful that the lights do not hit the eye directly. Brighten up the entrance and focal area.

Containers and pots

Flowers are best planted in 10-12-14-inch earthen pots while the size for growing vegetables can vary from 12-18 inch pots. For small trees, use bigger pots which can be made by cutting a plastic drum into two parts. In a new construction, make raised plant beds that don't touch the roof surface.

Starter's manual

As a beginner, don't get attracted by exotic plants but go for the hardy ones, which require less maintenance. A few options that will not fail the beginners are bougainvillea, dwarf date palm, Texas sage, trailing lantana (*lantana selloviana*), wild sage (*lantana camara*) and weeping fig

(*ficus*). Among flowering winter annuals, English daisy, carnation, cineraria, dahlia, ice plant, kale, lupin, pansy, petunia and Sweet William are highly admired in pots. Plant 'jhunka bel' or 'juhi' for attractive flowers and fragrance at ground level and trail these to the roof garden. Plant double *chandni* and *motia* (*jasmium sambac*) in pots.

Gardening and caring

To prepare the pot mix, take one part garden soil, one part well-rotten farmyard manure and half part sand. Add moss for better aeration and making the pot light in weight. Mix DAP in it. Rotate the pots fortnightly. Irrigation should be done on need basis. Ensure that the top soil does not totally dry up. During the monsoon, ensure that excess water doesn't get accumulated. Tilt the flooded pots to drain out excess water. A dose of fertiliser (NPK 20:20:20) should be given as and when required during the growth period. Ensure repotting once a year. Top the pot soil periodically. Keep pruning all the year round to keep plants healthy.

Veggies and fruit corner

Fruit trees like lemon, pomegranate, mango (*amarpali*) flourish well in big pots. Vegetables such as brinjal, capsicum, green chillies and tomatoes grow well in pots while bottle gourd (*ghiya*), summer squash (*chappan kaddo*) and bitter gourd (*karela*) need staking to trail. You can also plant shrubs and herbs like *kari patta*, *tulsi*, *dhaniya*, *pudina*, lettuce and aloe vera.

CAPTION CONTEST 1308

HIMANSHU MAHAJAN



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

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

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

Selected entries for Caption Contest 1307

May 30 issue (see photo)

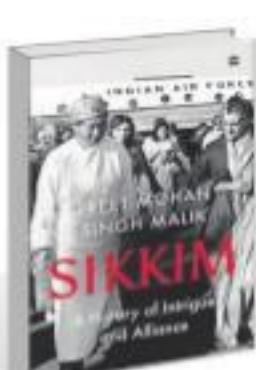
- All flights postponed till further notice – Rajiv Arora, Patiala
- Beyond territorial disputes – Rajesh Kumar Bajaj, Sangrur
- Drumroll please – Bharti Walia, Ambala
- Floating a union – Mohan Singh, Amritsar
- Wings on sail – KL Notay, Nurpur



Unravelling the intriguing facets of Sikkim

VIVEK KATJU

IQBAL'S 'Saare Jahan Se Achha Hindustan Hamara' refers to the Himalayas in words which were embedded in the Indian consciousness: 'Parbat woh sab se uncha, hum-saya aasman ka, woh santri hamara, woh pasbaan hamara (That highest mountain, the companion of the skies, which is our sentry, and our watchman — English translation by Sharjeel Imam). Preet



SIKKIM: A HISTORY OF INTRIGUE AND ALLIANCE
by Preet Mohan Singh Malik.
HarperCollins.
Pages 304.
₹699

Mohan Singh Malik, however, shows in this very valuable contribution to India's strategic literature that neither history nor logic supported this sentiment.

Malik joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1962. He was posted to Gangtok five years later. His three-year stint in Sikkim, then an Indian protectorate, gave him an insight into its significance to the Himalayas and especially of Sikkim to Indian security interests. It also made him aware of the threats posed through the Chinese occupation of the Chumbi valley. He correctly points to the mistake made both by the British and later by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in not occupying when that was possible.

The book is divided into three sections. The first and third are largely focused on Sikkim. The former deals with facets of Sikkim and its relations

with other Himalayan states, mainly Nepal, in the later 18th and the first two decades of the 19th century. Then a dominant and aggressive Nepal gained Sikkimese territory. Sikkim looked in vain to Tibet for assistance and later to the British, who had defeated Nepal in 1814-16. British help came at the price of cession of Sikkimese territory, including Darjeeling. Sikkim had also to open up to the British and provide it a route to Tibet. Malik coherently deals with the domestic contradictions and power play and how the British made it a protectorate. In the 20th century, the British had made Sikkim — as distinct from Nepal and Bhutan — virtually part of the Indian princely state system.

In the book's third section, which deals with post-Indian Independence developments, Malik asserts that it was open to Nehru to merge it with the Union as was done with the other princely states. A large section of the Sikkim population was also keen on its amalgamation with India. He did not do so and the process had to await almost three decades when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi responded to the wishes of the Sikkim people and made it an Indian state. During these years, Sikkim's ruling class indulged in machinations against India. Malik's posting provided him an insight into these goings-on. His account of the period and beyond till Sikkim's merger is exceedingly well narrated.

Malik critically examines the history



The author, a former diplomat, says it was open to Nehru to merge Sikkim with the Union, but it happened only three decades later, when Indira Gandhi (seen here with the last king of Sikkim) made it an Indian state. PI

of Tibet-China ties and of British appreciation of this relationship in the book's second section. He does so in a masterly

manner to dismiss China's traditional assertion that Tibet was historically its part. In the years 821-22, China and

Tibet had signed a perpetual treaty to "abide by the frontiers which they are now in occupation". Malik correctly emphasises that it is only China which has "violated" the treaty. Concluding his survey of Chinese conduct through the ages vis-à-vis Tibet and the British in respect of Tibet, Malik observes: "China did not attach sanctity to agreements arrived with it" and "is untrustworthy and uses deceit to gain tactical advantage". He also observes that the "Indian political leadership has not been able to work (this) out".

While British Indian officials were alive to the dangers of accepting Chinese suzerainty over Tibet, London continuously did so in the quest to promote its overall interests with China. This went in the face of Chinese inability to get Tibet to refrain from acting independently. It was also a misinterpretation of the 'priest-patron' relationship between the two. It was only when Russia made moves in Tibet that the British forcefully countered it by forcing their will on Lhasa.

Malik forcefully and convincingly points to the mistakes of Nehru's approach to Tibet and China. He accuses him of sacrificing India's security interests in the futile quest of China's friendship for the sake of pan-Asian solidarity and within the rubric of his overall foreign policy approaches.

Both general readers and specialists will gain from this well-written book.

Literary flashes and platitudes

ROHIT MAHAJAN

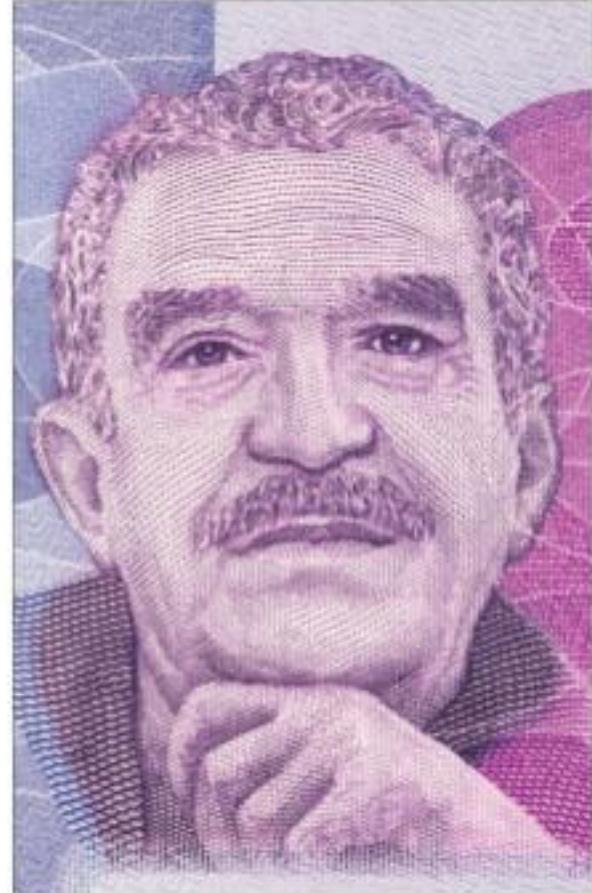
In this anthology of essays written in the first two decades of this century, Salman Rushdie quotes Milan Kundera to explain his own writing method — of wild flights of imagination and conceit and utterly fantastical happenings — in these words: "Kundera was suggesting that the possibilities of the realist novel have been so thoroughly explored by so many authors that very little new remains to be discovered."

Thus, Rushdie adds, that for innovation, "we must turn to surrealism and find new ways of approaching the truth through lies", and that the mantra "write what you know" leads to a "lot of stuff about adolescent suburban angst".

These thoughts explain his embrace of fabulism, which led to fantastical sentences, situations and stories that made him an acclaimed writer — but he did go out of flavour a long time ago. The magic didn't cease but became a bit too magical; the surprise element of the 1980s was gone and the surrealism became banal through surfeit. Rushdie invokes the 'Pancharatna' — the talking jackals and the feuding crows and owls — and the 'Arabian Nights' and 'Aesop's Fables' to build up a case that the yearning for the fabulist story is universal; he delights in tracing the journey of such tales from India "all the way down to the magic realism of the South American fabulists".

Rushdie believes realism has beaten magic realism, sadly, and seems to mourn this. This opening essay is his act of defiance against unkind reviewers and unloved books.

Rushdie first read Gabriel Garcia Marquez's 'One Hundred Years of Solitude' in 1975; expecting "insufferable tedium", he "fell deeply in love". However, he notes that in "Latin



ISTOCK

Rushdie first read Marquez's 'One Hundred Years of Solitude' in 1975, expecting "insufferable tedium", but "fell deeply in love".

America and beyond, the grand moment of magic realism has passed"; he regrets that the writer Roberto Bolano "notoriously declared that magic realism 'stinks' and jeered at Marquez's fame, calling him 'a man terribly pleased to have hobnobbed with so many presidents and archbishops'". Interestingly, Rushdie has faced similar criticism for his 'Joseph Anton', in which he seemed a bit too excited, for a great writer, on meeting famous people such as Madonna.

In the 1980s, when Rushdie was a novelist deeply invested in the political, he wrote: "What I am saying is that politics and literature, like sport and politics, do mix, are inextricably mixed, and that that mixture has consequences."

There were consequences in his particular case. He had to apologise to Indira Gandhi and remove a paragraph from 'Midnight's Children' after she sued him; in a far more frightful situation, the supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini, gave a fatwa calling for Rushdie's death

after the publication of 'Satanic Verses'. An atheist who questioned religion since early youth, a Left-leaning young man who supported Iran's Islamic Revolution against the Shah in the early stages, Rushdie was soon christened an "Islamophobe".

"Let's be clear," writes Rushdie in 'The Liberty Instinct', "The gods did not create us in their image. We created them in ours."

Rushdie asserts that the religious explanation regarding the origins of human beings is "100 per cent wrong" — that "science has better stories and many of them are verifiable".

In surely the most belated exculpation in the world's history, it was only in 1964 that Jews were finally relieved of the collective guilt of deicide — god-killing — by the Roman Catholic Church. It took some 1,931 years. In 1633, Galileo was placed under a lifetime of house arrest for believing that the earth moves around the sun. It took the Catholic Church 359 years to acknowledge that the great Galileo was right, after all.

After a bloody Reformation, lasting centuries, Christianity was defanged. Blasphemy was normalised — offence-taking is not an option in European Christianity, and the ideal of free speech promoted. Other religions must realise, urgently, that all ideas, including religious ideas, must be open to examination — and even mockery.

In perhaps the most fond essay in this collection, written on the day Christopher Hitchens died, Rushdie pays tribute to his friend — who "went to war" for Rushdie after even the Pope "failed to be outraged" by Khomeini's death *fatwa*.

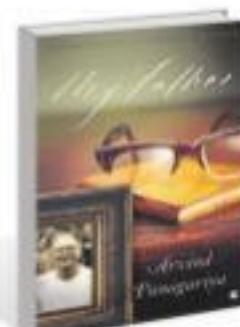
From Shakespeare to Cervantes, Akbar to Vonnegut to Bin Laden, Rushdie paints on a vast canvas in this book; he deals in platitudes, too, as in addresses to students or memorial speeches, repurposed as essays here.

It's in his literary observations, such as on Amrita Sher-Gil's letters, that he shines the brightest.



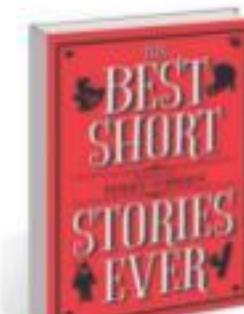
BACKFLAP

ARVIND PANAGARIYA set out to write his autobiography, but soon realised it was turning out to be his father's biography. Born in a Rajasthan village in the 1920s, Baloo Lal's family could not scrape together two full meals a day. The village lacked even a primary school. Yet, he completed his education, went on to serve with distinction as a civil servant in Rajasthan and, after retirement, wrote the first definitive book on the history of the freedom movement in Rajasthan. In a way, Baloo Lal's journey from Suwana to Jaipur was a long and arduous one, much more so than that of his own son from Jaipur to Washington, DC. This is his story, as told by the son, an economist. The book is an ode to ordinary citizens who can provide a window to the social, cultural and political echoes of their times.



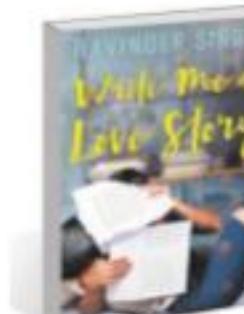
MY FATHER: THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF AN ORDINARY MAN
by Arvind Panagariya.
HarperCollins.
Pages 210. ₹599

THEY say short stories are tiny windows into other worlds and minds and other dreams. Academician-turned-writer Terry O'Brien gathers his list of the best short stories ever in this book. In their time, these 41 stories challenged the staid. There is variety in style and the range of subjects is enormous, but the thread that ties them all together is the quality of writing. Every writer in this collection is a master of the form: from American poet-writer Edgar Allan Poe to Nobel laureate Ernest Hemingway, English authors Somerset Maugham and Virginia Woolf to French naturalist and writer Guy de Maupassant. Then there are the horror and fantasy writer MR James and 'Jungle Book' writer Rudyard Kipling sharing story space with Russian playwright Anton Chekov and Colombian contemporary author Gabriel Garcia Marquez, to name a few.



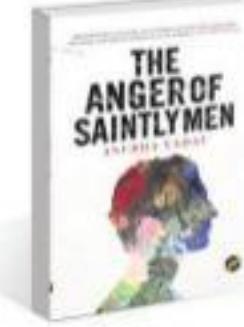
THE BEST SHORT STORIES EVER
Edited by Terry O'Brien.
Westland.
Pages 266. ₹199

THIS is author Ravinder Singh's 11th novel and his boldest ever. His first novel, 'I Too Had A Love Story', was inspired by a personal tragedy. Over the next few years, he delved into wholesome mush, 'romance' and now this, his latest one, is a modern, erotic romance. A publishing house, looking for their next bestselling author, set their sights on Abhimanyu Razdan, the golden boy of Indian publishing and a romance writer with millions of fans. But Abhimanyu ends up running into the literary editor of the publishing house before his first meeting with them, and they get into an argument. Abhimanyu and Asmita are as different as can be, but despite their differences, fate has something else in store for them and they soon find that there is no running away from love.



WRITE ME A LOVE STORY
by Ravinder Singh.
HarperCollins.
Pages 346. ₹250

THE Anger of Saintly Men explores how little boys are turned into 'men' in Indian households. It follows the story of three brothers, Sonu, Anu and Vicky, growing up in the 1990s. A new decade has started and the men have just moved to their new, first and last, home which they name Chuhedani. The book delves deep into issues of masculinity, caste, class, homophobia and shame. Written by Anubha Yadav, also an academician and filmmaker, it questions systems which have crushed men's expectations, desires and hopes for centuries. An important novel that compels us to think about how we raise men and patriarchy's deep grip on men's life, it is a story of sexual awakening, heartbreak and growing up under the shadow of India's first wave of liberalisation.



THE ANGER OF SAINTLY MEN
by Anubha Yadav.
Bee Books.
Pages 192. ₹399

Freya, Baba and my roots



GUEST COLUMN

KABIR BEDI

I have lived outside Punjab for most of my life, but I never severed its precious umbilical cord. Over the years, I have seen that whatever our religious or political beliefs, our roots are an enduring bond between all Punjabis. I'll always be one at heart



The writer's parents Freya Bedi and Baba Bedi. PHOTO COURTESY: KABIR BEDI

YOU can take a Punjabi out of Punjab, but you can't take Punjab out of a Punjabi. I have lived outside Punjab for most of my life, but I never severed its precious umbilical cord. The ancestral village of my father, Baba Bedi, is Dera Baba Nanak. It's where my mother, Freya Bedi, spearheaded her historic protest against the British as a "hand-picked satyagrahi" of Mahatma Gandhi in 1942. I was born in Lahore, then capital of undivided Punjab, a year before Independence. Even today, as part of Pakistan, Lahore remains quintessentially Punjabi.

"The Huts", our rustic home on the outskirts of Lahore, was not just a symbolic name. Three *kutcha* thatched-roof village huts, with mud-plastered walls, no electricity or running water, sheltered my eclectic family. My parents Baba and Freya; my elder brother Ranga; my beloved grandmother Bhabaji and her adopted son Binder; two shepherd dogs, Pug and Snug; and a friendly buffalo, Miss Chambelle Cutty, tethered nearby for milk. I was, in my mother's words, "welcomed home with garlands and a tikka on his forehead" at the door of a hut.

Our rural home was a landmark in Lahore. It reflected my parents' lack of money, but equally, their solidarity with India's poor. It was a gathering spot, an *adda*, where freedom fighters, leftists and communists made their plans. They were watched, harassed, and sometimes beaten up by the police. After Independence, many of them became famous politicians: President of India Giani Zail Singh; Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral; "Lion of Kashmir" Sheikh Abdullah; Communist leader Harkishan Singh Surjeet. Writer and historian Khushwant Singh wasn't an agitator but a sympathiser. Some were creative people who became famous: artist Satish Gujral, actor Balraj Sahni, Poet Laureate of Pakistan Hafeez Jalandhari. All loved the Punjabi atmosphere of Lahore.

The Tribune, Punjab's biggest newspaper, was also based in Lahore. My parents had sharply divided opinions about it. The paper put my mother's historic

satyagraha on its front page: "Mrs Freya Bedi left for Dera Baba Nanak where she will offer *satyagraha* on 21st February." It reported her being jailed by the British as a big story too. In 1943, *The Tribune* sent her to cover the horrors of the Bengal famine, where over 20 lakh people were starving to death. After that, it commissioned her to write a regular column on women's issues, 'From a Woman's Window', the first of its kind in India. So my mother was fond of the paper.

My father viewed *The Tribune* rather differently. The newspaper was nationalist in spirit, but he felt it was not outspoken enough. He spotted a chink in the paper's armour. It didn't print on Mondays, as Sundays were holidays. So, in a small room on a small hand press, Baba started a radically nationalistic newspaper called *Monday Morning*. But taking on the Goliath of Punjab was gruelling work for idealists with no money. My mother pitched in dutifully. Journalist Jag Pravesh Chander, later the head of Delhi's government, came to help out.

Actor Balraj Sahni tried to join in too, but my father dissuaded him. "My dear Balraj, look here," he admonished him, "if this were a literary magazine, I would say gladly come. Running a political weekly without funds is a dog's job, and we are dogs. We are out to be whipped by our own choice. You are an artist." Balraj left after a few months, but he was among the first to welcome me when I began my career in Bollywood. In the end, *Monday Morning* had to close down for lack of money. "Journalism in India," my mother lamented in a letter to a friend, "is a tragic struggle against advertisers and news agents who sit on bills and never pay up".

My family members were forced to abandon their beloved huts in Lahore during the horrors of Partition in 1947. But it led to a new life for my parents in Kashmir. Freya looked after the refugees of the war that raged between India and Pakistan. Baba, as an adviser to Sheikh Abdullah, helped write a "revolutionary" new Kashmir Constitution that gave land to the tillers. After moving to Delhi in

1953, my parents' lives moved on from revolutions to religions. I've chronicled their amazing transformations in my autobiography. My mother became the top Buddhist nun in the world. As a 16th generation descendant of Guru Baba Nanak, my father revered him, even wrote books on him. But he went on to become a new-age philosopher in Italy. Throughout all those tumultuous years, he never lost his Punjabi sense of humour. "Dekhi jaao" was his impish response to every problem.

We wore the badge of being Punjabi with great pride in our family. I learnt my Punjabi through my *dadi* Bhabaji, Mata Phool Kaur. She was an eternal presence in my life until she passed away in Delhi when I was 13. She made me tell her the world news every day in Punjabi as she was partially blind and bedridden. It was her way of teaching me the language, and reminding me of my roots. Those roots remained deep inside me even when I moved to America in the late 1970s.

I was living in Hollywood when the barbaric killings of Sikhs took place in Delhi in 1984. I was outraged and horrified. What also distressed me was the breakdown of goodwill between Sikhs and Hindus in California. The bitterness was being stoked by separatists and had to be reversed. The killings couldn't be allowed to become a Hindu-Sikh conflict. Both communities had lived in harmony for more than 500 years. I started the S.H.A.R.E (Sikh Hindu Allied Relief Exchange) Peace initiative and sent contributions for the relief of victims to the Punjab Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Thankfully, both communities are at peace again around the world.

Over the years, I've seen that whatever our religions, whatever our political beliefs, our roots are an enduring bond between all Punjabis. I'll always be one at heart. I'm even married to a Punjabi sherni. And, like my mother, I'm finally writing for *The Tribune*.

(With extracts from the writer's autobiography Stories I Must Tell: The Emotional Life of an Actor)

Commend, don't penalise, Naomi



GOOD SPORT

ROHIT MAHAJAN

It seems necessary, too, for sports writers wish to infuse their writing with insight and detail about a hero's battles. Rafael Nadal said he understood Osaka, but "for me, without the press, without the people who normally are travelling, who are writing the news and achievements that we are having around the world, probably we will not be the athletes that we are today". "We are not gonna have the recognition that we have around the world, and we will not be that popular, no?" Nadal said.

With popularity, the sport grows; more fans, more success, more sporting mythology, more hero worship, more money. But the passion of fans can be a curse; hero worship has a harsh flip side: Osaka traces her current mental state to the night she won the biggest prize of her career — a win over her idol, Serena Williams, in the final of the US Open in 2018. Only 20, she was booted because the crowd had wanted to see Serena win — Serena's anger at a point being docked (stolen, she said) heightened the highly "patriotic" crowd's passion. Boos rained and Osaka silently cried, trying to hide her tears by pulling down her cap.

Osaka doesn't want any more of the inquisition; she had declared that she'd be willing to pay the financial penalty for skipping her media duties: "I hope the considerable amount that I get fined for this will go towards a mental health charity."

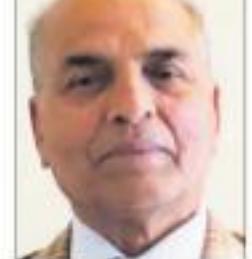
Whichever way you look at her, Osaka has been unimpeachable. She's known for doing the right thing, as when she wore masks bearing names of dead Black persons, six men and a 12-year-old boy, at last year's US Open in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter campaign. She speaks with intelligence and, often, idiosyncrasy and humour, when asked questions about her life and her thoughts.

Daughter of a Black Haitian man and a Japanese woman, Osaka knows what it feels to be an outsider — in both Japan and USA. She has spoken against a rise in attacks against Asian-origin people in the Covid era. She has said an athlete must not be apolitical: "I hate when random people say athletes shouldn't get involved with politics and just entertain."

Empowered by social media, she speaks directly to the fans, cutting out the intermediaries.

You can trust that when she speaks on serious issues, she's given them a great deal of thought — her views on sometimes-predatory methods of questioning by journalists must be given consideration, as also her views on depression, a scourge that is becoming more virulent.

Memorable moments with Cariappa



MILITARY MATTERS

COL MAHESH CHADHA (RETD)

The founding father of the Indian Army cherished and nourished the ideals of discipline, character and selfless service

It was in April 1972, while I was posted at Shillong, that a message came from the Army HQ about the visit of General KM Cariappa, the first and the last Indian Commander-in-Chief of Independent India. One had heard about him as the founding father of the Indian Army; an admirable officer and a gentleman, moulded in the British tradition. More than anything else, I had read a booklet titled 'Officer's Code of Conduct' issued by the Army HQ on his orders. It was thus a great honour and a matter of pride to be detailed as his liaison officer.

Accompanying the GOC, we received the former Army Chief, who retired from active military service in 1953, at the Guwahati airport. Tall, lean and handsome, he was immaculately dressed in a morning suit, with a felt hat. Shaking hands with him sent a wave of warmth and blessings.

General Cariappa, affectionate-

ly known as Kipper, a name given by a British officer's wife, was visiting Guwahati and Shillong as president of the Ex-Servicemen League. He addressed a rally and took stock of the problems faced by ex-servicemen and their families. Some were living a retired life in remote and inaccessible areas of the North-East, and there were those whose financial condition was miserable. He took notes personally and after a quick working lunch, we drove to Shillong.

At a dinner party organised in his honour, he amused us with anecdotes. As a young officer in the British army, he was frequently posted from one regiment to another, then took over as the CO of 1/7 Rajput; as the western Army commander, he planned and executed operations in Jammu and Kashmir in 1947-48, saving Poonch and also Kargil and Leh as he bulldozed his way in moving forces to Ladakh across the Zojila.

Visiting the Military Hospital, he spent some light moments with the wounded soldiers who were convalescing after the Bangladesh war, bringing much cheer. Sharing his war experiences in Burma, he spoke about the beauty of Khasi and Jaintia hills and the bravery of

tribes of all 'seven sisters'. Besides many motivating superlatives, he emphasised on personal hygiene and took out a small bundle of a leaflet-like paper soap; handy and disposable. He also presented us an Indian version of Scotch whisky, the newly brewed Peter Scot.

The following day, he called on the Governor, BK Nehru, an equally distinguished man. Later, he met the Chief Minister, Williamson A Sangma, a tribal leader who had organised a civic reception for him where the music king of North-East, Bhupen Hazarika, sang 'Rikksha chaloae ami dui bhai' (we two brothers pull a rickshaw).

General Cariappa, on taking over the reins of Indian Army in 1949, instituted the day as Army Day and was given the honorary rank of Field Marshal on January 15, 1986. He breathed his last in 1993, leaving behind a unique legacy of leadership — discipline, character and selfless service to the nation.

Despite everything, this is a time to refresh relationships



IMMORTAL FOR A MOMENT

NATASHA BADHWAR

What does one do with love one cannot express to one's beloved? One scatters it all over so it lands like sparkle

ONE of my best friends has been in a hospital ICU all this week. How does one discover who one's best friend is? Sometimes they need to land up in hospital for you to realise that even though you may have met in your adult years — when it is cooler to be busy and distant rather than enthusiastic about each other — you are quite madly in love with this person. The physical reaction in your body tells you that you are no longer okay after finding out that your friend is seriously ill.

I'm one of those gifted people who has lots of friends. Sometimes I joke that I don't make friends. Friends make me. My friend, S, however, is the exception. When I first began to read her online, I was fascinated by her candid demeanor. She seemed so sure of herself. So confi-

dent and casual about being seen by strangers online. I wanted her to know me, even as I regarded my own self as awkward and tongue-tied.

It took a while for the ice to break between us. When we finally met, I was equally fascinated to discover how private and shy S seems to be in real life. And how voluble I was in her company because I felt I already knew her. I had been reading her. I trusted her instantly.

We are often reminded to not get taken in by the personas people project on social media. Yet the same online platforms that some use to hide their true selves are the location for many others to not only reveal themselves fearlessly, but also discover nascent parts of themselves that they hadn't had a chance to express in their non-virtual life.

Some of us disclose ourselves in cryptic ways. There are others who can see through our words to get a glimpse through the window to our inner self. Something like that happened between S and me. It happened between S and many others too, who like me, sought her friendship for themselves.

I have met S's husband a few times before but had never spoken to him on the phone. Now he is the only way I can get news of her as she recovers from severe infection brought on by Covid-19. And her devoted army of friends, well-wishers and admirers have become her husband's support system. I text him twice a day and on days when I skip the routine, he sends me information voluntarily. I transmit the scant news we have to her network of friends. I think about what she would want me to

do and carry on with it.

As we continue to live through the cruel whirlwind of the second wave of the pandemic, we find ourselves stranded in an unfamiliar, halfway terrain. The national health crisis has left no family untouched by death and disease, but we also feel compelled to get on with each day as if nothing untoward is happening. Most of us are emotionally exhausted, yet we tell ourselves that now is the time to keep oneself together. We can feel our feelings later.

At a time when we want to reach out to each other for support, we are trapped by lockdown and our own personal crises closer to home. Despite everything, this is also a time when our relationships are refreshed, when our collective crisis has reminded us of the preciousness of what connects

us to each other.

My friend, S, is a smartphone queen and a communications expert, but she has not responded to any messages from her hospital bed for most of last week. I continue to text her and share updates, hoping to make her laugh when she feels stronger and adjusts her spectacles to check her messages. This morning, I texted her to inform her that I was going to write about her. Because how can I write about anything when it is her on my mind all the time? I imagine she gave me permission.

What does one do with love one cannot express to one's beloved? One scatters it all over, so it lands like sparkle and makes everything shiny and beautiful for one immortal moment.

— The writer is a filmmaker & author: natasha.badhwar@gmail.com

Modi: India fast emerging as leader of climate justice

Launches E-100 pilot project in Pune for production of ethanol



VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 5
India will achieve the target of 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said, adding that the government has advanced the target date by five years. The earlier target was 2030.

The PM said 11 sectors had been identified to make good use of resources by recycling them through modern technology.

"The action plan for 'Kachra to kanchan campaign', which will have all regulatory and development related aspects, will be implemented in coming months," he said, addressing an event to mark World Environment Day organised by Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

"India is setting an example to the world that it is not necessary to stop development to protect the environment," the PM said. Till 2014, on an average only 1.5 per cent of ethanol was being blended in India, which is currently 8.5 per cent.

In 2013-14, around 38 crore litres of ethanol was pur-



Boatmen take part in 'Clean River Narmada' campaign on World Environment Day in Jabalpur. PTI

COUNTRY'S GREEN FOOTPRINT

- India advances 20% ethanol blending in petrol to 2025
- Kachra to Kanchan campaign being taken forward in mission mode
- India stands among top five countries in terms of installed renewable energy capacity
- Capacity of solar energy up by 15 times in past 6 yrs
- Ujjwala scheme reduced dependence on wood
- Forest cover increased by 15,000 sq km in last few yrs
- Number of tigers doubled and leopards increased by 60% in last few years

'ECONOMY AND ECOLOGY CAN GO TOGETHER'

India is setting an example to the world that it is not necessary to stop development for protecting the environment. Economy and ecology can go together.

Narendra Modi, PRIME MINISTER

Living in harmony with nature has been at centre of Indian ethos: Prez

chased in the country which has increased to more than 320 crore litres, the PM said.

He released the report of the expert committee on roadmap for ethanol blending in India and launched the E-100 pilot project in Pune for production and distribution

of ethanol across the country. The theme for this year's event is "Promotion of biofuels for a better environment". Ethanol has become one of the major priorities of the 21st century India," he said, adding that using biofuel has a better impact on

the environment as well as on farmers' lives.

"A large part of this eight-fold increase in ethanol procurement has benefitted sugarcane farmers," the PM said.

He also interacted with a Pune farmer who shared his experience of organic farming.

Vested interests thwarted Choksi's extradition, says Antiguan media

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 5

"Vested interests and weak laws" were at play when a Dominican court accepted the "abduction theory" of PNB fraud accused Mehul Choksi and adjourned the hearing in the case, said local media in Antigua and Barbuda.

Choksi has been granted interim relief from immediate deportation from Dominica to India.

Despite it being an open-and-shut case, the Dominican court had on Thursday adjourned the matter of his detention, as the next date of hearing is yet to be fixed and the court proceedings are expected to take time.

The local media reports alleged that Choksi's lawyers connived with oppo-



POLITICAL CONNIVANCE

- Antiguan media reports suggest that Mehul Choksi's lawyers connived with opposition leaders to pressure the judiciary, which rather than questioning the fugitive's illegal entry from Antigua to Dominica, believed his lawyers' version that he had been abducted.
- The fugitive diamantaire had gone missing from Antigua on May 23 and was soon caught in Dominica after the Antigua police launched a manhunt last month.
- "He was charged with illegal entry into Dominica after he allegedly escaped from Antigua and Barbuda in a possible attempt to evade extradition to India," the local media reports suggested.

sition leaders to pressure the judiciary, which rather than questioning the fugitive's illegal entry from Antigua to Dominica, believed his lawyers' version that he had been abducted.

The local media, while quoting authorities in Antigua and Barbuda, however, contended that evidence suggested Choksi was planning to escape to Cuba and so he fled the country.

The fugitive diamantaire had gone missing from Antigua on May 23 and was soon caught in Dominica after the Antigua police launched a manhunt last month.

"He was charged with illegal entry into Dominica after he allegedly escaped from Antigua and Barbuda in a possible attempt to evade extradition to India," the local media reports suggested.

India calls for int'l support to deal with fugitives

NEW DELHI, JUNE 5

India today asserted that the world community needed a strong and aligned international cooperation to bring to book fugitive economic offenders and their assets, as the countries individually are faced with challenges of combating graft, as wrongdoers move to safe haven elsewhere.

Addressing a special session of the UN General Assembly on "Challenges and measures to prevent corruption and strengthen international cooperation", Union Minister Jitendra Singh said, "India's Fugitive Economic Offenders Act 2018 empowers authorities for non-conviction-based attachment and confiscation of proceeds of crime and assets of such wrongdoers against whom an arrest warrant in relation to a scheduled offence has been issued by any Indian court and who has left the country to avoid prosecution."

—TNS

Didi elevates nephew as TMC gen secy

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



Abhishek Banerjee is a Lok Sabha member

Shah, singled out Abhishek while attacking Mamata in their election speeches. At one point, Mamata, the TMC supremo, had thrown an open challenge to Shah to contest against Abhishek.

Widely perceived as Mamata's heir apparent, Abhishek, following the promotion, has become the official number two in the party.

Abhishek had held the TMC youth wing president's post till now.

Prior to him, Subrata Bakshi was the party's all-India

IN BRIEF

BKU's Tikait to meet Mamata on June 9

KOLKATA: BKU leader Rakesh Tikait, accompanied by three other farmer leaders, will meet West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on June 9. Sources said they would formally invite Mamata Banerjee to the farmers' protest site on the outskirts of Delhi to address the agitators there. —TNS

Govt: Appoint officers to help kin of deceased

NEW DELHI: The Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has asked all Central ministries and departments to appoint nodal officers to help deceased employees' kin get their monetary and other entitlements as quickly as possible. Details of the nodal officer may be displayed on the official websites of offices at different levels. —TNS

FM meets insurers, wants faster claim settlement

NEW DELHI, JUNE 5

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday reviewed the progress made under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package insurance scheme for health workers fighting Covid-19 and asked insurers to accelerate the disbursement of pending claims under the Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.

During a virtual meeting with heads of insurance companies, she stressed on the importance of streamlining the process under the schemes so that the claims were disbursed speedily.

To address the issue of delays, Sitharaman said a new system had been put in place whereby a certificate from the district magistrate endorsed by the nodal state health authority would be sufficient to process the claims. —PTI

GST collection above ₹1 lakh crore in May

NEW DELHI, JUNE 5
GST tax collections remained above Rs 1 lakh crore mark for the eighth straight month in May, indicating that the impact of the second wave of Covid-19 on the economy might have been limited.

Tax collections on sale of goods and rendering of services in May (Rs 1.02 lakh crore) were 27 per cent lower than April 2021, but 65 per cent higher than May 2020 when the nation was under complete lockdown.

"Gross GST revenue collected in May 2021 is Rs 1,02,709 crore of which, CGST is Rs 17,592 crore, SGST is Rs 22,653 crore, IGST is Rs 53,199 crore (including Rs 26,002 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs 9,265 crore

COLLECTION IN MAY	
₹1,02,709 CR	GROSS GST
₹17,592 CR	OF IT IS CGST
₹22,653 CR	SGST
₹53,199 CR	IGST
₹9,265 CR	CESS

(including Rs 868 crore collected on import of goods)," a statement by the Finance Ministry said. —PTI

29 graduate from Army Cadet College

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 5

The graduation ceremony of 117th course of the Army Cadet College (ACC) wing was held at the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun, today, with 29 cadets being conferred degrees by Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

After three years of training at ACC, the graduating cadets will join the IMA for one year of pre-commissioning training.

Lt Gen Harinder Singh said the degrees which the cadets received represented a major milestone in their career.

Seventeen cadets graduated in humanities and 12 in science stream. The Chief of Army Staff's gold, silver and bronze medals for overall performance were awarded to WCA Rituraj Singh, WCC Vikram Gautam and WCQW Dulab Rana, respectively. —TNS

US, India, China account for 60% of 2 bn vax doses distributed globally

UNITED NATIONS, JUNE 5

Of the two billion Covid-19 vaccine doses distributed globally till now, about 60 per cent have gone to just three countries — the US, India and China, a senior adviser at the World Health Organisation said. Senior adviser to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Bruce Aylward made the comments at a press briefing on Friday.

"This week, we will see over two billion doses... we will probably pass the two billion doses... landmark in terms of the number of doses of the vaccines and new vaccines that have actually been developed. These have been distributed now in over 212 countries," Aylward said.

"If we look at that 2 billion



US ANNOUNCES \$57 MN AID FOR TB

■ The US on Friday announced a \$57 million aid for efforts against tuberculosis in seven high-burden countries, including India.

■ Other countries for which the aid is being given are Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines, South Africa, Tajikistan and Ukraine. —PTI

doses, over 75 per cent of it has gone to just 10 countries. And in fact three countries — China, the US and India — account for about 60 per cent of those doses," he said.

He said the 60 per cent of the two billion doses that have gone to China, India and the US are "all domestically produced and used". —PTI

Indian-origin teen Megha T-3 in US Open

SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE 5

Megha Ganne, an American amateur teen golfer with Indian parentage, continued to hold the spotlight with an even-par round on the second day to sail into the weekend rounds in tied-3d place at the US Women's Open here.

Megha (17), who came into the Major after battling through a 3-for-1 play-offs in the qualifiers last month, had three birdies and three pars.

Tvesa up to T-10 in France
Evian-Les-Bains: Indian golfer Tvesa Malik staged a brilliant comeback in the second round of the Jabra Ladies Open with the day's best card of a 4-under 67 that catapulted her to tied-10th. In the first round, she had carded a 4-over 75 that put her in the danger of missing the cut.

Spore F1 Grand Prix called off
Singapore: Formula One's Singapore Grand Prix has been called off this year due to Covid restrictions, local organisers Singapore GP Pte Ltd have confirmed. —Agencies, TNS



Novak Djokovic celebrates after defeating Lithuania's Ricardas Berankis on day 7 of the French Open in Paris on Saturday. PTI

Djokovic in 4th round for 12th year in a row

PARIS, JUNE 5

Novak Djokovic reached the fourth round of the French Open for a record 12th consecutive year. The top-seeded Djokovic has not been pushed yet in any match in the first week at Roland Garros, winning 6-1 6-4 6-1 against 93rd-ranked Ricardas Berankis today.

Joining him in the fourth round was defending champion Rafael Nadal, who eased past Cameron Norrie of Great Britain in straight

sets. Roger Federer was to play his third-round match in the night session.

In the women's draw, fifth seed Elina Svitolina crashed out with a third-round 6-3 6-2 loss to 33rd-ranked Czech Barbora Krejcikova as big names continued to fall. The tournament is already without its top three women's seeds, and Ukrainian Svitolina joined them after failing to find a way to rein in the 25-year-old Krejcikova's power-packed game in their first meeting. —PTI

Plea in SC to restrain banks from declaring defaulting loan a/cs NPA

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THE BASIS

NEW DELHI, JUNE 5

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking directions to government and the RBI to restrain banks from declaring loan accounts as NPAs for the non-payment of EMIs. The relief has been sought in view of the lockdowns during the second wave of Covid-19.

The petitioner, NGO Trust Distress Management Collec-

tries and getting several countries to start their vaccination drives, the challenge is in the access to the vaccines.

He said the 60 per cent of the two billion doses that have gone to China, India and the US are "all domestically produced and used". —PTI

It sought to highlight that last year, when the situation was not as bad as that during the second wave, the RBI had announced a moratorium for three months and subsequently extended it to six months and had also allowed restructuring of loans.

Aijazuddin has challenged a Telangana High Court order refusing the pass any specific orders. The HC had asked the Centre to consider his representation for registering an FIR against Twitter and its users posting communal and hateful messages. —TNS

Cong protests fuel price hike



Congress workers stage a protest against fuel price hike in New Delhi on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MUKESH AGGARWAL

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