

# The Sunday Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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ARTICLE 370 ALLOWED RAMPANT CORRUPTION, SAYS JITENDRA J&K

REBOOTING FOR TOKYO SPECTRUM

US APEX COURT REJECTS SUIT ON POLL RESULT BACK PAGE

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020



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## PM virtually rules out rethink on laws

Invest in villages, he asks industrialists at FICCI meet | Fast by 32 farm leaders tomorrow

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 12 Even as PM Narendra Modi virtually ruled out a rethink on the three farm laws, maintaining that these were part of an inter-linked chain of reforms aimed at removing the walls that inhibited the growth of different sectors of economy, farmers' leaders on Saturday announced to step up the protest against the farm laws with all 32 union leaders going on fast at the Singhu border on December 14.

"We saw walls dividing the agriculture sector with its associated segments such as agri infrastructure, food processing, storage and cold chains. After these walls are dismantled, the reforms will open up new markets for farmers, give them new options and enable them to benefit from the use of tech-



Agitating farmers hold a dharna near the Ghazipur-New Delhi border on Saturday. PTI

nology. These will lead to more investment and the prime beneficiary will be the farmer who lives off small patches of land," said the

PM while delivering the inaugural address at FICCI's 93rd annual general meeting.

"Our economy does not need walls between differ-

ent sectors but more and more bridges so that they can support each other," he stressed. Indicating that the government was firm in its

### STEPPING UP PROTEST

- Farmers picket Ambala-Hisar, Karnal-Jind toll plazas
- Call to women to reach Singhu in large numbers
- Hundreds on tractor-trailers arrive at Singhu-Delhi border
- Farmers from Rajasthan to block Jaipur-Delhi highway
- Indefinite fast by Charuni from Dec 19 (Martyrdom Day)

### DUSHYANT: SOLUTION SOON

Haryana Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala, who met Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, NS Tomar and Piyush Goyal, said he was hopeful the impasse would end in 24-48 hrs with a fresh round of talks in a day or two. TNS

reform plans, the PM observed: "The confident do not hesitate. It's the weak who are insecure and do not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## India will rise to occasion, meet Chinese challenge, says EAM

Tribune News Service

### PUBLIC SENTIMENT HIT

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 12

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today said India will rise to the occasion and meet the national security challenge posed by the seven-month-long border standoff with China in eastern Ladakh.

However, he refrained from crystal-gazing on how the LAC standoff will finally shape up. "I would not go into the prediction zone at all whether it is going to be easy or not, and what will be the timelines and so on," he said on being asked whether the bid to restore status quo along the LAC will be a long haul or a breakthrough is expected soon.

"I also believe that what has happened is not actually in the interest of China, because it has significantly impacted

I believe that what has happened is not actually in the interest of China, because it has significantly impacted

the public sentiment in India.

Professionally, I have seen the evolution of how the Indian public feels about China and am old enough to remember much more difficult days, especially in my childhood and in my teens," he said during an interaction session at the FICCI convention.

The minister admitted that South Block's proclaimed proximity with the Trump

administration did not result in a trade deal. "There was a fairly serious negotiation between our government and the Trump administration on resolving the outstanding trade issues. The general idea was—let's deal with the differences before moving forward," he said.

"For a variety of reasons they did not close it. On our side, we were dead serious. We wanted to deal with those issues because we thought there was something much bigger in store for the relationship," he explained.

Jaishankar also said India would remain committed to the concept of the Indo-Pacific though US President-elect Joe Biden had used the term "Asia Pacific" while introducing his nominee for the post of Defence Secretary.

## Centre calls 3 Bengal officers on deputation

SHUBHADEEP CHOUDHURY

Tribune News Service

KOLKATA, DECEMBER 12 The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has asked West Bengal to release three Indian Police Service (IPS) officers for central deputation. This follows the attack on BJP chief JP Nadda's convoy on Thursday when Nadda was headed to Diamond Harbour, the Lok Sabha constituency of CM Mamata Banerjee's nephew, Bhola Nath Pandey (SP-

Row over summons post Nadda convoy attack

### INTIMIDATION TACTIC

“The Centre is resorting to coercive means to intimidate the state adminn. Kalyan Banerjee, TMC CHIEF WHIP IN LS

### LETTER HAS NO MERIT

“Everyone saw what happened on Dec 10... little merit in Banerjee's letter. Kailash Vijayvargiya, BJP GENERAL SECY

Diamond Harbour), Praveen Tripathi (DIG-Presidency Range) and Rajeev Mishra (ADG-South Bengal) were

responsible for Nadda's security during his trip to Diamond Harbour.

BJP IT cell chief Amit

Malviya tweeted, "This should serve as a clear message to the Bengal bureaucracy. If dereliction of duty, based on political consideration, is your calling, then there will be cost."

TMC chief whip in the Lok Sabha Kalyan Banerjee on Saturday wrote to Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, saying that West Bengal's Chief Secretary and DGP had been summoned to Delhi with a "political motive".



The passing out parade at the IMA, Dehradun, on Saturday.

## For 3rd time, Pb cadet bags Sword of Honour

Tribune News Service

### HAILS FROM LUDHIANA

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 12

For the third time this year, a cadet from Punjab has bagged the prestigious Sword of Honour for being adjudged as the overall best during pre-commission training in an Army institution.

The Sword of Honour for the Autumn Term-2020, comprising 147th Regular Course (RC) and 130th Technical Graduate Course (TGC), was awarded to Lt Watandeep Singh Sidhu during the passing out parade at the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun, today.

The gold medal for standing first in the order of merit went to Lt Majji Giridhar, also the parade commander, while the silver medal for standing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

### IN BRIEF

Ranjit Singh's statue vandalised in Pak

LAHORE: The statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh was on Friday vandalised for the second time since its unveiling in 2019 at the Lahore Fort. A teenager broke an arm of the statue. The authorities have closed the 'Mai Jinda' haveli at the fort in Punjab province. PTI

Bengali actor found dead in Kolkata home

KOLKATA: Actor-model Arya Banerjee (35), the youngest daughter of sitar maestro late Pandit Nikhil Bandyopadhyay, whose real name was Debuddha Banerjee, was mysteriously found dead in her posh south Kolkata residence. IANS

## Electoral rolls for vaccination drive

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 12

The Centre today finalised the national Covid-19 vaccination plan with a decision to use the latest electoral rolls to identify priority inoculation group featuring people aged 50 years and more.

People aged 50 and more and those under 50 with comorbid conditions have been listed as the third priority inoculation group for Covid-19 jabs, besides healthcare and frontline workers.

The Covid-19 Vaccines Operational Guidelines that the Centre shared with states today say the age of people will be calculated based on the cutoff date of January 1, 2021, and anyone born on or before January 1, 1971, will fall under the category 50 years and



### PUNJAB TO HIKE TESTING

Vini Mahajan, Punjab Chief Secretary, has said the state government intended to enhance Covid testing by increasing the daily sampling from the current rate of 30,000 tests per day.

more. Every beneficiary must be registered on Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network (Co-WIN) to enable real-time tracking. No on-the-spot registrations will happen.

The document says: "Covid-19 vaccines have limited safety data. It is important to monitor the safety of these vaccines when administered to a large population. Adverse events following immunisation must be rapidly detected and promptly responded to." "States and UTs will identify specific days for inoculation and the conduct of the vaccination process will be similar to the election process," it says.

The guidelines mandate teams with five members each to perform duties from verifying the beneficiaries to addressing side-effects of vaccines, if any. —TNS

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The document says: "Covid-19 vaccines have limited safety data. It is important to monitor the safety of these vaccines when administered to a large population. Adverse events following immunisation

# Headed for Delhi, farmers foil bid to block NH at Haryana border

Tribune News Service

**SANGRUR, DECEMBER 12** State farmers today foiled another attempt of the Haryana Government to prevent them from going to New Delhi to participate in the protest against the Central agriculture laws.

Last night, the Haryana Government reportedly tried to block the national highway (NH) at the Punjab-Haryana border near Khanauri by placing big stones, but locals removed all before the arrival of the state farmers on tractor trailers.

After getting the information about the blockade, announcements were made from the public address system of gurdwaras to reach at the border with tractors to remove it. A large number of farmers from nearby villages with their tractors reached the spot. Soon, they cleared the national highway of big stones. They also raised slogans against the Haryana and Central governments.

"Last month, farmers



Farmers remove big stones at Khanauri near the Punjab-Haryana border. TRIBUNE PHOTO

removed all barricades from various parts of Haryana despite stiff resistance from the state government. On Saturday morning, we removed many big stones, which were placed by the authorities to block the NH to prevent farmers from reaching the spot. Soon, they cleared the national highway of big stones. They also raised slogans against the Haryana and Central governments.

Gagan Sharma, a BKU (Ugrahan) member from Moonak, said today more farmers went to Delhi from their area. "In coming days, more farmers will join protesters in Delhi to pressure the Central Government to roll back the farm laws," said Sharma.

The SHO of the Garhi police station in Jind, Bijender Singh, said they did not block any road, but NHAI employees, who were involved in the transportation of stones.

**COPS STAYED AWAY**  
We removed big stones placed by the authorities to block the NH to prevent farmers from reaching Delhi. After seeing the number of farmers swell, Jind cops didn't interfere and went back.

Rashpal Singh, a FARMER

## Bikers' group from Bathinda reaches Capital

**BATHINDA, DECEMBER 12**

A bikers' group, 'Punjabi Adventurers, Bathinda', which had embarked on a motorcycle march from Gurdwara Quila Mubarak here on Friday, has reached Delhi in support of the farmers' movement.

Group's vice-president Sukhmander Singh Chatta said the Central Government has cheated the farmers by passing the new agriculture laws. The corn purchased from farmers at Rs 7 per kg was still being sold in malls for Rs 85. In the days to come, the corporates would hike it further. He called on people of all classes to join the just fight of the farmers.

A group member, Jaswant Kaushik, said each Punjabi should make his presence felt in the just struggle of farmers to save their livelihood and the agriculture sector at large. Kaushik stressed it was important for each and every person to register his presence at protest site, because if the voice was not raised against injustice, he would repent it all his life. —TNS



Protesters outside Banawali private thermal plant in Mansa district on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## Women join protesters at Mansa

**MANSA, DECEMBER 12**

The protest by BKU (Ugrahan) in front of Banawali private thermal plant in Mansa entered the 73rd day. A large number of women protesters also marked their presence on Saturday. The union leaders rued privatisation of public sector and demanded cancellation of the farm laws.

BKU leader Ram Singh Bhaini Bagha said, "There are planned attempts at paving the way for corporates to take control of the public sector

## Day-long dharna at DC office tomorrow

and peasantry in the country today. We have to stand united against such moves."

"Earlier, it was the energy sector, then medical education, roads and even water are being partially controlled by private players today and attempts are being made to give the reins of the agriculture sector to the corporate

houses. If these new farm laws continue to exist, then agriculture would no longer remain a profitable proposition for marginal farmers.

"These laws would also affect other sectors which are directly or indirectly connected to agriculture," added Bhaini Bagha. "We are staging a day-long dharna at the Deputy Commissioner's office on December 14. We exhort farmers and their families to take part in large numbers," he added. —TNS

## Stir hits fuel sales, dealers urge govt to end impasse

**SAMEER SINGH**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**BATHINDA, DECEMBER 12**

The sale of petrol and diesel has come down considerably after the farmers' stir began over two months ago. With a restricted vehicular movement due to the ongoing agitation and farmers staying put at the Delhi borders, the sale of fuel has declined in the state.

Petroleum dealers rued that earlier the Covid-induced lockdowns impacted the sales and now the farmers' agitation had affected their business adversely. In Bathinda district alone,

there are 220 petrol stations, selling approximately 4 lakh litres of petrol and diesel on a daily basis. According to the Bathinda Petroleum Dealers' Association, the sales

have come down to 2.5 to 3 lakh litres, a decline of 30 per cent. There are approximately 3,269 petrol pumps operating in the state currently.

"Our sales have dipped

## IN BATHINDA, 30% DECLINE

As per the Bathinda Petroleum Dealers' Association, the daily fuel sale at 220 petrol stations in the district has come down to 2.5 to 3 lakh litres, registering a 30% decline. Before the stir began, the stations were selling approximately 4 lakh litres of petrol and diesel on a daily basis

<< A petrol station in Bathinda. TRIBUNE PHOTO

transportation of grocery, veggies, industrial goods and other essential items by heavy vehicles has been hit hard due to the protest. The losses are mounting on a daily basis," Vinod Bansal, a Bathinda-based petrol dealer, said, stressing the government must break the deadlock at the earliest.

A state-level executive committee member of the Punjab Petroleum Dealers' Association said the dip in sale of fuel is causing a heavy revenue loss to the state and Centre Government on account of VAT and excise duty.



Farmers stage a dharna at a toll plaza near Sriganganagar on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## Dharna at R'sthan toll plazas

**ABOHAL/SRIGANGANAGAR, DEC 12**

Farmers from Sriganganagar on Saturday staged dharna peacefully at toll plazas for seven hours and didn't allow the staff to collect toll tax. Hundreds of vehicles passed through toll points.

Police and administration officials were present there, but they did not intervene.

Gramin Kisan Mazdoor Samiti block president Harjinder Singh Mann said that peaceful protests were organ-

ised at toll points near Netewala and Hindaura on Sriganganagar-Bikaner NH-62. The farmers reached Netewala at 9 am along with MLA Raj Kumar Gaur and the protest continued till 5 pm.

Farmer activists such as Gurpal Singh Brar, Ranbir Bhangi, Gurmeet Singh Mann, Kamla Bishnoi and Banwari Lal Bishnoi, Janta Morcha convener Om Prakash Rajpurohit, Raziasar Block Congress Committee

president Banwari Lal Thori, Thermal Plant Employees Union members led the dharna at the toll plaza near Rang Mahal on Suratgarh-Hanumangarh four-lane road.

In Karadwala near Sadulshahar town, farmers led by Kaur Singh Sidhu staged a sit-in and did not allow the collection of tax. The area had received rain till late in the night. The farmers staged dharnas in the cold and fog. —OC

## Sangrur family refuses to cremate protester's body

**SANGRUR, DECEMBER 12**

Four days after the death of Gurmal Kaur at Kalajhar toll plaza due to suspected cardiac arrest during the protest against central farm laws, her family members and Bhartiya Kisan Union (Ugrahan) members have refused to cremate the body till the acceptance of their demands.

"Her body has been placed in the mortuary of Patiala

hospital. We will not cremate it till the acceptance of our demands including financial aid, government job and complete debt waiver to her family," said Harjinder Singh, working president, Bhawanigarh block, BKU (Ugrahan). —TNS

## Farmer dies in road accident

**AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 12**

Balbir Singh (57), a farmer from Bagga village, lost his life when he was hit by a vehicle near Tanda here today. He was returning from the Delhi stir. As he alighted from a truck, he was hit by a vehicle. The farmers took the body outside BJP MP Shwet Malik's house.

An SDM reached the spot and announced Rs 5 lakh compensation and assured to send his case to state government for a job to a family member. —TNS



Holding their union flags, protesters dance to special bolis against the Centre during a jago at a village in Sangrur. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## Songs, bolis at weddings new mode of protest

**MANAV MANDER**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**LUDHIANA, DECEMBER 12**

Be it any occasion, songs and bolis are an integral part of Punjabi culture. Singers are now venting out their feelings and anger against the three farm laws through them. Weddings and stage shows have become the new venues of protest these days while songs are depicting the dark times that people of Punjab are going through.

Pained at the plight of the farmers protesting in Delhi, Ravinder Ranguwal, Ludhiana-based media director and president of Punjab Cultural Society, who is also a singer and a lyricist, has written a song. "The farmers themselves are singing boliyan and tappe against the Prime Minister. I shared my song with the protesting farmers at Singh. It was liked by everyone present there," Ravinder Ranguwal, SINGER

Farmers themselves are singing boliyan and tappe against the Prime Minister. I shared my song with the protesting farmers at Singh. It was liked by everyone present there," Ravinder Ranguwal, SINGER

he added. Not only this, even marriages and stage shows in Punjab are incomplete without a boli or two on Modi and Amit Shah these days.

Recently, during a wedding ceremony at a village near Machiwara, a group of professional artistes was invited, who sang bolis on the protest. A member of a local orchestra group said: "Songs are a representation of our lives. If we are passing through difficult times, it is also depicted in the songs. We have prepared few boliyan and tappe on the struggle of the farmers and sang them during a sangeet night recently."

## Cong wants to weaken movement, alleges AAP

**CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 12**

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Punjab, has termed the dharna proposed to be staged by the Congress at the Shambhu border on December 14, as a deep-rooted conspiracy to torpedo the farmers' movement at the behest of the ruling BJP.

In a statement issued by the party headquarters on Saturday, state president and Sangrur MP Bhagwant Mann said the Congress was working as the B-team of the BJP to benefit the corporate houses, adding that it was going to

whole hog to torpedo the farmers' movement before it reached a conclusive end.

Taking an exception to the remarks made by Congress Lok Sabha member Ravneet Bittu against the struggling farmers, Mann said the Congress MP, in cahoots with the Centre, was indulging in passing offensive comments against the farmers with an intent to derail the movement.

Mann questioned as to why only the Congressmen were indulging in finding faults with the protesters. —TNS

## Agencies plotting to defame stir: SAD

**AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 12**

Shromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal and his wife Harsimrat Kaur Badal today took part in the 'Akhand Path' initiated to mark the centenary of the party, which falls on December 14, at the Golden Temple. Sukhbir appealed to all Punjabis to reject the attempts to create a communal wedge in the state. He said a conspiracy was afoot to turn the ongoing farmer agitation into a religious war. He claimed that "agencies are plotting to defame the agitation in various ways, including painting

the farmers as terrorists and separatists. We need to reject such forces and ensure peace and communal harmony is not disturbed in any manner".

Sukhbir said the agitating farmers were nationalists and not separatists. He asked CM

Capt Amarinder Singh to disclose what transpired between him and Home Minister Amit Shah recently. —TNS

## DAMDAMI TAKSAL TAKES A DIG AT AKALIS

The Damdami Taksal Sangwan has said the SAD is not the true representative of Sikhs as a party. Damdami Taksal Sangwan head Baba Ram Singh said SAD transformed itself from a Panthic organisation into a political party of Punjabis.

<< SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal does 'seva' at the Golden Temple.

badges," says Varinder Diwana, a bookseller from Diwana village in Barnala.

Kushpreet Kaur, an online bookseller, said an organisation called the Sikh Community of Greater Gelong in Australia had placed a large order of badges and flags. "We are regularly getting such queries and people are asking for small orders, which are not viable to send. So we asked them to get them printed in their respective countries," she said.

## Flags, badges of farmer unions also in demand abroad

**VISHAV BHARTI**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Jaithuke, senior vice-president of BKU (Ugrahan), said: "In the past six months, we have sold 1.30 lakh flags and 2.11 lakh badges. A flag is sold for Rs 30 and badge for Rs 10." Same is with other organisations, such as BKU (Dakaunda), which has sold 28,000 flags and 10 lakh badges of different farmer unions have been sold in the past six months.

Balwant Uppali, press secretary of the union, said: "Now, it is a trend to hoist kisan union flags atop their houses and youngsters proudly wear the badges. We



have never seen this before."

A farmer leader said the flags give a distinct identity to people. Police and other

## Over 5 lakh flags, 10 lakh badges sold in six months

we sent hundreds of flags and badges to Canada," Uppali said. Large consignments of flags are being sent to Europe and North America by farmer organisations and local businessmen. "Recently, a group of Punjabis settled in Surrey asked me to send 20 flags and





Vehicles cross the Shambhu plaza in Ambala without paying toll on Saturday. PHOTO: PARDEEP MAINI

## No toll as protesters take charge of plazas

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 12

On the call of various farmers' organisations for toll-free movement for one day in support of their protest, farmers in Haryana took over several toll plazas in the state on Saturday, allowing commuters to pass without paying fee.

They raised slogans at various toll plazas and staged dharna. The police were deployed to maintain law and order.

**Karnal:** Farmers took over the Bastara toll plaza on the NH-44 and Peont toll plaza on the Karnal-Jind NH-709A, causing loss to the toll companies running into lakhs.

Farmers closed the Bastara toll plaza around Friday midnight, but the toll authorities reopened it on Saturday morning. Farmers took charge again around 8 am.

"We will continue our protest till the fulfilment of our demand of a complete rollback of laws," said Joginder Singh, a farmer.

### GHARAUNDA MLA KALYAN GHERAOED

**Karnal:** Farmers, who were staging dharna at Bastara toll plaza, on Saturday gheraoed Gharaunda MLA Harvinder Kalyan's vehicle. They raised slogan against the government. The MLA was however allowed to cross the toll after five minutes. The MLA was going to Gharaunda to attend a programme. TNS

**Ambala:** Punjab farmers reached the Shambhu plaza on the Ambala-Amritsar NH. Even before protesters started converging on the spot, the toll administration stopped charging toll.

Waving black and red flags, a large number of farmers made a brief halt at the Shambhu barrier to hold a symbolic demonstration before marching towards Delhi.

Toll plaza in charge Ravi Tiwari said to avert confrontation, the collection of

toll was stopped at Friday midnight.

**Jhajjar/Rohtak:** Farmers staged dharna at the Dighal toll plaza on the Rohtak-Jhajjar highway, Makrauli toll plaza on the Rohtak-Panipat road and Rohad toll plaza on the Rohtak-Delhi highway for more than five hours.

**Hisar:** Farmers reached the toll plazas in Ramayan village on the Hisar-Delhi highway, Choudhriwas on the Hisar-Rajgarh road, Baddo Patti on the Hisar-Chandigarh highway and Landhri on the Hisar-Sirsia highway on Saturday morning.

Officials at the toll plaza did not oppose the farmers' demand of not collecting toll. Officials shut cameras installed for scanning FASTag stickers on vehicles.

**Gurugram:** The district remained untouched by the farmers' call. There was heavy police deployment on all borders and the Kherki Daula toll plaza. Five farmers who came in a car were detained and let off later.

They raised slogans at various toll plazas and staged dharna. The police were deployed to maintain law and order.

### Hopeful that logjam will end soon: Dushyant

Tribune News Service

Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Food, Railways and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday to discuss the farmers' protest.

He said he was hopeful that the logjam would end in the next 24 to 48 hours. "The issue relates to the Centre and not Haryana as the laws have been enacted by the Union Government. On the basis of my discussions with the Central leaders, I can assure you that a solution will come within the next 24 to 48 hours," he said.

Asked whether there was any plan to send a fresh invite to farmers for talks, Dushyant said the Central leaders were very serious on this issue. He said he was sure that a fresh round of talks between the two sides would be held in a day or two and a solution would follow.

## Leaders ask women to turn up in large numbers at Singhu border

MUKESH TANDON  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SONEPAT, DECEMBER 12

The united front of farmers on Saturday announced that leaders of 32 organisations would hold a day's fast at the Singhu border on Monday against the three farm laws. Besides, it gave a call to women to reach the border in large numbers.

### ONE-POINT AGENDA

Any amendment to the three farm legislations will not be accepted. We want revocation of the laws. This is the one-point agenda of the talks. TNS

Kanwalpreet Panu, FARMER LEADER

that farmers will protest at DC offices across the country on Monday. Besides, 32 farmer leaders will sit on hunger strike from 8 am to 5 pm at the main stage at the Singhu border," Pannu said, adding women had been urged to join the protest in large numbers.

For them, the united front decided to ensure basic amenities such as separate sitting arrangement, toilets and waterproof tents before December 15.

"Any amendment to the farm laws will not be accepted. We want revocation of the laws. This is the one-point agenda of the talks," Pannu added.

Kanwalpreet Singh Panu, state convener, kisan sangharsh committee, said hundreds of farmers from Shahjahanpur (Rajasthan) would move towards the Capital and block the Jaipur-Delhi highway.

Gurnam Singh Charuni of the BKU (Charuni) told the media he would sit on an indefinite fast on December 19, the martyrdom day of Guru Teg Bahadur.

"Four roads leading to Delhi are already blocked."

"It has been decided

## Police blockade hits supply of Palwal sugar mill

Tribune News Service

PALWAL, DECEMBER 12

The police blockade of the National Highway-19 has disrupted the supply of a sugar mill here and at the same time held up 1,000 MP farmers from marching towards the Delhi border, where thousand others are protesting against the three controversial laws.

As a result of the blockade, about 50 trucks laden with sugarcane are stuck on the highway and KMP expressway.

Sugreev Bainsla of the district's Badoli village said, "Some cane farmers from my village and surrounding areas took link roads to reach the sugar mill. It meant rise in transportation cost."

Truck drivers take alternative routes, transportation cost rises

Subhash Kaushik, secretary, transport association, claimed that several trucks had stuck on the KMP expressway and several others were running behind schedule.

The local sugar mill caters to cane growers of Palwal, Faridabad, Mewat and Gurugram districts.

Sources in the sugar mill said the situation could turn worse if the blockade was not lifted soon.

Naresh Kumar, managing director of the sugar mill, however, claimed the functioning of the sugar mill had not been affected. "Truck drivers take alternative routes to reach the mill. Besides, the management has taken measures to ensure that the supply is not affected. In November, the mill crushed 4.8 lakh quintals of cane, the highest in the past four years," he said.

## More support from Punjab pours in



Farmers from Punjab cross Karnal to join their brethren at Singhu on Saturday. SAYEED AHMED

- Thousands of farmers in 700 tractor-trailers, cars and buses crossed Karnal on Saturday and reached Singhu
- The vehicles bore flags of farmers' unions and were laden with ration and other essential items
- The cavalcade reached a tourist resort around 11 am; farmers had langar there and left for Singhu an hour later
- A jam-like situation was witnessed near the Bastara toll plaza because of the cavalcade of farmers
- While having langar near Karan Lake, 60-year-old Harjinder Singh said more farmers would join them in a couple of days
- "The farm laws ruin small and marginal farmers. If the Centre takes back the laws, we will be thankful to it," he added. TNS

## In for long haul, farmers arrange chapati makers, LEDs

RAVINDER SAINI  
Tribune News Service

ROHTAK, DECEMBER 12

Farmers from across the state, who are protesting at the Tikri-Bahadurgarh border along with their counterparts from Punjab, are making optimum use of technology to make the long haul at the protest site bearable.

They are using technology to the fullest by using two roti-making machines, which churn out chapatis and knead the dough. They also have washing machines and WiFi supported LED televisions to keep them updated about the latest news. For continuous



### TECH SUPPORT

"We brought the chapati-making machine on rent from Delhi around 10 days ago to serve langar to scores of farmers. With this, we are able to feed 10,000 to 15,000 farmers daily without any trouble." TNS

Prabhat Bharukhara, FARMER LEADER

<< Farmers prepare chapatis in a machine at Tikri. TRIBUNE PHOTO

power supply they have brought generator sets and solar panels at the site.

"We brought the roti-making machine on rent here from Delhi around 10 days ago to serve langar to scores of farmers. With this, we are able to feed 10 to 15 thousand

farmers daily without any trouble," said Haryana Kisan Manch state president Prabhat Bharukhara.

Another group of farmers from Fatehabad have put up an LED screen and a washing machine under the Metro overbridge here.

"Tractor-trailers and tents are our makeshift abode these days as we don't know how long the protest will go. These facilities have made it easier for the farmers to stay updated about the latest goings-on and also have eased them in performing their daily chores," said Navdeep Singh Nathawal, a farmer.

The Covid-like symptoms notwithstanding, farmers have refused to undergo the test.

So far, six protesters have lost their lives during the

agitation. Reason: cardiac arrest and ailments

Thousands of farmers have been camping on the 10-km stretch between the Jakhoda bypass and the Tikri border since November 27.

"One-third of farmers being examined at the civil hospital and health check-up posts at border every day, with one-third of them complaining about cold, cough, body ache and fever. Doctors have recommended them Covid test, but they are unwilling to undergo the test.

The Covid-like symptoms notwithstanding, farmers have refused to undergo the test.

He added the Covid test was not conducted on the six persons who died during the agitation.

"As per the ICMR guidelines, the test will be conducted only on that person who had the symptoms."

When a farmer leader was asked about the reluctance of protesters to undergo the Covid test, he said, "Farmers have come to Delhi to protest against the farm laws and not to get themselves tested for Covid. If some farmers test positive, the Centre will have a reason to isolate them and that will weaken the agitation. It is using Covid as a pretext to disperse us."

## 24.5% increase in MBBS fee proposed in private colleges

BHARTESH SINGH THAKUR  
Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 12

After increasing the MBBS fee in government medical colleges, the state government has now turned its attention towards private colleges. The proposal is to enhance the fee from Rs 10 lakh per annum to Rs 12 lakh from the 2020-21 session in private colleges.

The increase in fee has been proposed at a time when the second round of counselling has started.

As per a December 11 notice issued by the Director General-cum-Secretary (Medical Education and Research) Amneet P Kumar, the tuition fee, including development charges, will be Rs 12 lakh per annum with an annual increase of 7.5 per cent. This means a student will have to shell out Rs 53.68 lakh for a four-year course.

Earlier, the yearly fee in private colleges was Rs 10 lakh with an annual increase of 5 per cent, which amounted to Rs

### SECOND COUNSELLING STARTS

Now	Earlier
₹12 lakh	₹10 lakh
7.5%	5%
₹53.68 lakh	₹43.10 lakh

43.10 lakh for four years.

If the proposal is accepted, the fee in private colleges will rise by 24.5 per cent.

There has been no change in refundable college security, which is Rs 2 lakh, and hostel fee, which cannot increase beyond Rs 75,000 per year. Also, library fee, sports and medical charges, and internet charges remain unchanged.

Once it gets notified, the new fee structure will remain in force for three years. But before that, the state government has invited suggestions or comments on the proposed fee structure within a week.

On November 6, the Department of Medical Education and Research had notified the enhanced fee structure for MBBS course in government medical colleges. As a result,

## G'gram court raps police for playing with liberty of citizen

SAURABH MALIK  
Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 12

Rapping the Haryana Police for unwarranted acts of omission and commission in a case where an accused was arrested in an FIR after interrogating him till the wee hours in another matter, a Gurugram court has ordered initiation of action after bringing the matter to Haryana Home Secretary's notice.

Directing the forwarding of the order's copy to the Home Secretary for "drawing appropriate action against the IO, SHO or ACP under intimation to this court", the court advised the Gurugram Commissioner of Police to consider the desirability of getting further investigation conducted by a senior officer, preferably an IPS officer.

Taking up the matter, Additional Sessions Judge Sanjay Kumar Sharma observed that it appeared to be a case of "shoddy investigation and playing with the liberty of a citizen" after asserting that the court would be failing in its obligations if the unwar-

ranted acts of omission and commission were tolerated monthly and not brought to the notice of the senior officers for appropriate action. TNS

Judge Sanjay Kumar Sharma

December 8 and asked to join investigation.

The accused was interrogated by the investigating officer, SHO concerned and other police officials continuously for 16 hours, till 2 am on December 8. One of the police officials present then arrested him, stating that another FIR had been registered.

Judge Sharma asserted that the defence counsel's arguments could not be brushed aside outright that the exercise was to prove that the police would have the last laugh. Though the bail application pertained to the earlier FIR, the court could not be expected to be absolutely oblivious to the developments leading to the liberty of the accused protected by it.

## 11 more die; 1,008 cases

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 12

With 1,008 fresh cases, the overall Covid tally in the state went past 2.51 lakh on Saturday. With 11 deaths, the toll reached 2,710.

Three deaths were reported from Hisar, two each from Faridabad and Sonepat and one each from Fatehabad, Yamunanagar, Karnal and Gurugram.

As many as 276 fresh cases came from Gurugram, followed by 182 from Faridabad, 76 from Ambala, 64 from Sonepat, 58 from Rohtak and 51 from Kurukshetra. In all, 1,365 people got cured in the last 24 hours, taking the tally of recovered cases to 2.38 lakh. TNS

### COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
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# Fleeing criminals fire at Kalka cops

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

## Accused escaped

**SOLAN, DECEMBER 12** Amit Gurjar, who is wanted in several criminal cases in Haryana, and his three accomplices fired at a Kalka police party that was chasing them in the Barotiwa area near the Himachal-Haryana border around 10 pm yesterday.

Baddi SP Rohit Malpani said that Gurjar along with his three accomplices fired at a person at Paploha village, near Kalka, Friday evening and fled towards Lehi village in Barotiwa area near the Himachal-Haryana border around 10 pm yesterday.

Two of them later fired at Kalka cops chasing them and managed to escape

to murder and the Arms Act against Amit Gurjar, Sunny Ghatiwala, Bittu Kohli and Bhagga Shahpur.

"We had set up nakaas at the Barotiwa inter-state barrier after receiving information about armed criminals having fled towards our area last night in a black Mahindra Scorpio (HP-93-3035) SUV. The accused, however, entered our area from an escape route at Kalujhida, which was far from the naka. The entire area was searched today to nab the accused and an empty cartridge and a live bullet were recovered from the place," he said.

The Barotiwa police have registered a case under the IPC for attempt

to murder and the Arms Act against Amit Gurjar, Sunny Ghatiwala, Bittu Kohli and Bhagga Shahpur.

The state government has issued many such directions in compliance with the HP High Court order issued on December 3. The High Court had set a deadline of 48 hours for intimating people about their Covid reports, both positive or negative. Although persons testing positive for Covid were being informed, those testing negative were not being intimated. As such, the latter continued to live in uncertainty and had to find out the facts about their reports on their own.

All Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) and the heads of the Microbiology Department at all medical colleges have been directed to comply with the court directives. They have been told to ensure that samples collected reach the laboratory in a time-bound manner.

Directives have also been issued that under no circumstances should the bodies of those who succumb to Covid be wrapped in the ward where other patients are admitted. Orders have been also issued to ensure proper monitoring of Covid patients staying in home isolation. They should be provided with a proper medical kit, including a pulse oximeter and a self-

help booklet, giving all details. The condition of people in home isolation should be monitored twice a day by a medical officer and a surveillance person.

Meanwhile, 38 per cent of the state's population has been screened under the Him Suraksha campaign. As many as 28,81,367 persons have been screened for Covid and flu-like symptoms so far and the campaign will continue till December 27. A database of those suffering from co-morbidities such as diabetes, blood pressure, heart and kidney ailments has also been prepared. The highest number of 6.43 lakh people has been screened in Kangra, followed by 4.86 lakh in Mandi and 2.37 lakh in Shimla.

# Now, Covid reports to be intimated within 48 hrs

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**SHIMLA, DECEMBER 12** The reports of all persons, who are tested for Covid, will now be communicated to them within 48 hours and also uploaded on the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) portal, so that those testing negative are also informed about their status.

The state government has issued many such directions in compliance with the HP High Court order issued on December 3. The High Court had set a deadline of 48 hours for intimating people about their Covid reports, both positive or negative. Although persons testing positive for Covid were being informed, those testing negative were not being intimated. As such, the latter continued to live in uncertainty and had to find out the facts about their reports on their own.

## 597 new cases, 10 persons die in state

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**SHIMLA, DECEMBER 12** The state registered 597 new Covid cases today, taking the total tally to 48,951. Besides, 10 persons succumbed to the virus in the last 24 hours. While four persons died of coronavirus in Shimla, two succumbed to it in Kangra and one each in Solan, Una, Bilaspur and Chamba.

The highest number of 159 cases was reported in Mandi, followed by 98 in Solan, 80 in Kangra, 70 in Shimla, 49 in Kullu, 36 in Chamba, 28 in Sirmaur, 24 in Bilaspur, 19 in Kinnaur, 17 in Hamirpur, 10 in Una and seven in Lahaul and Spiti.

# Farmers' stir hijacked by ultra-Left groups: Shanta Asks them to hold talks with govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT

## Arthiyas behind protest

“A group of arthiyas from Punjab is funding the agitation and providing money and other assistance to the agitating farmers.”

Shanta Kumar, BJP LEADER

Affairs, arthiyas were receiving over Rs 5,000 commission in Punjab every year which was very high. After the implementation of these laws, these middlemen would lose this amount so they were instigating the farmers.

Shanta Kumar alleged that political parties of Punjab were misleading farmers because of their vested interests since elections were due in that state. He said the FCI had badly failed to manage the storage of foodgrain not only in Punjab but also in the country as thousands of tonnes of foodgrain were rotting in the godowns as well as in the open.

राजस्व दोष एवं नियम - 33004/99													
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EXTRAORDINARY													
भाग II - प्रभाग 3 - अध्याय (ii)													
PART II - Section 3 - Sub-section (ii)													
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित													
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY													
सं. 3905]	नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, दिसंबर 8, 2020/अग्रहायण 17, 1942	No. 3905]	NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020/AGRAHAYANA 17, 1942										
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS													
NOTIFICATION													
New Delhi, the 8th December, 2020													
S.O. 4446(E).—In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of No Yet to be Assigned in the stretch of land from Km 0 to Km 3.85 (DRO Office Ambala) in the district of AMBALA in the state of HARYANA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.													
Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under subsection(1) of section 3C of the said Act.													
Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, District Revenue Officer, Ambala in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.													
Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.													
The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.													
SCHEDULE													
Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling No Yet to be Assigned in the stretch of land from No Yet to be Assigned (DRO Office Ambala) in the district of AMBALA in the state of HARYANA													
State: HARYANA District: AMBALA													
S. Survey/Plot No.	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)									
Taluk: Ambala													
Village: Dadiana (36)													
1	13/14	Private	sailaab <i>i</i>	0.366600(Hectare)	0.3666000								
2	13/15	Private	sailaab <i>i</i>	0.1406000(Hectare)	0.1406000								
3	13/16/1	Private	sailaab <i>i</i>	0.1777000(Hectare)	0.1777000								
4	13/16/2	Private	sailaab <i>i</i>	0.1808000(Hectare)	0.1808000								
5	13/17	Private	sailaab <i>i</i>	0.3430000(Hectare)	0.3430000								
6	13/24/1	Private	sailaab <i>i</i>	0.1997000(Hectare)	0.1997000								
7	13/24/2	Private	Agriculture	0.2022000(Hectare)	0.2022000								
8	13/25	Private	sailaab <i>i</i>	0.3842000(Hectare)	0.3842000								
9	13/7/1	Private	sailaab <i>i</i>	0.0876000(Hectare)	0.0876000								
10	13/7/2	Private	sailaab <i>i</i>	0.0307000(Hectare)	0.0307000								
11	16/14	Private	sailaab <i>i</i>	0.4045000(Hectare)	0.4045000								
12	16/15	Private	sailaab <i>i</i>	0.4045000(Hectare)	0.4045000								
13	16/16/1	Private	Agriculture	0.1666000(Hectare)	0.1666000								
14	16/16/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0555000(Hectare)	0.0555000								
15	16/16/3	Private	Agriculture	0.0370000(Hectare)	0.0370000								
16	16/16/4	Private	Agriculture	0.1111000(Hectare)	0.1111000								
17	16/17	Private	Agriculture	0.3704000(Hectare)	0.3704000								
18	16/24	Private	Agriculture	0.4045000(Hectare)	0.4045000								
19	16/25/1												

# Snow, landslides shut Jammu-Srinagar highway

JAMMU, DECEMBER 12

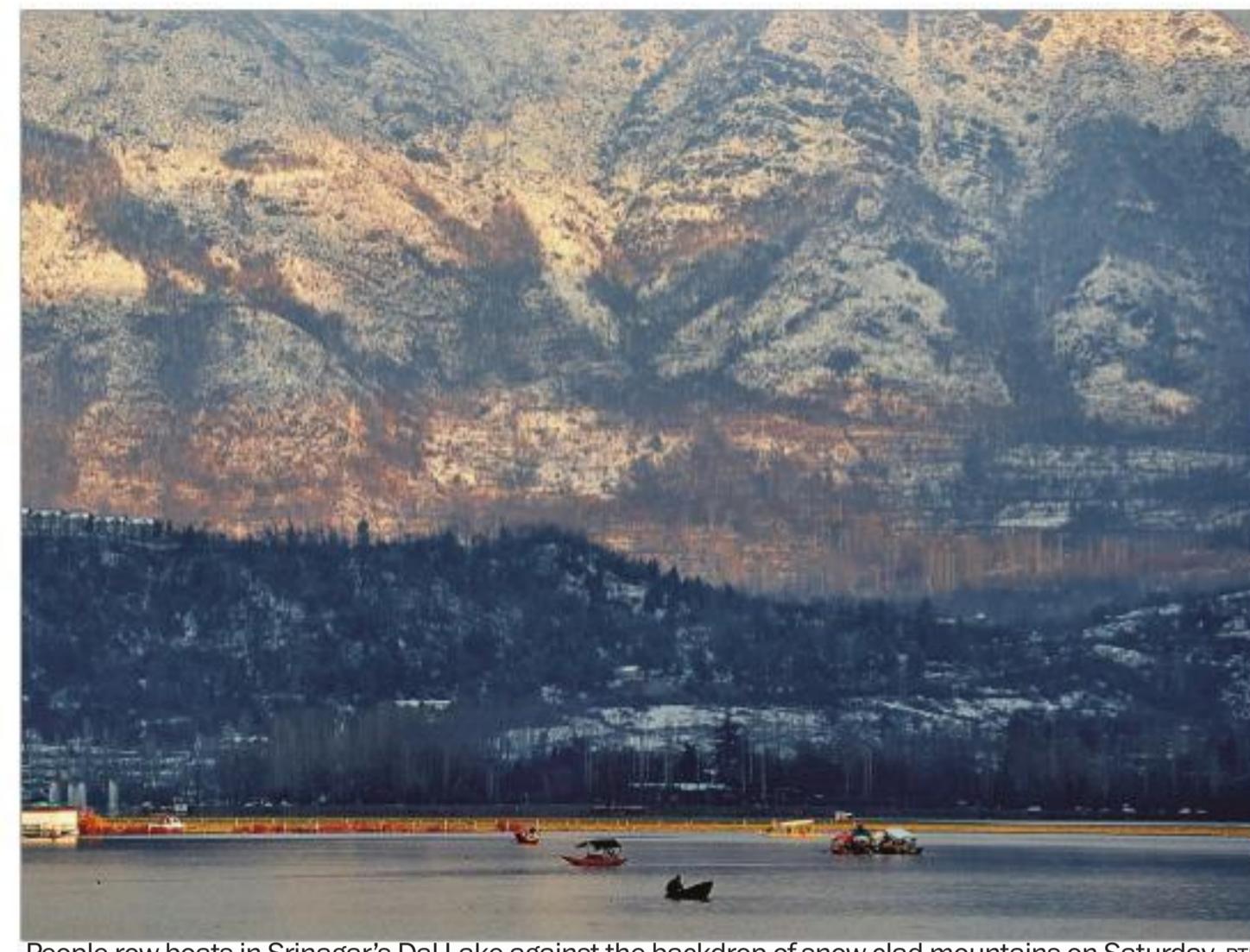
The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was closed on Saturday following overnight snowfall. Eight families were moved to safer locations after heavy rain triggered landslides in Gurmukh village in Doda district, officials said.

The highway is blocked at several points due to landslides following rain in Marog, Magerkote and Panthiyal, they said.

Efforts are on to ensure early restoration of traffic on the strategic road that links the Kashmir region to the rest of the country.

The officials said in Doda district of the Jammu region, eight families were moved to safer locations after heavy rain triggered shooting stones and landslides at Gurmu village in Kastigarh.

They have been provided accommodation and relief material, including bedding, by the district administration. Agencies concerned have pressed men and machine to clear the vital highway.



People row boats in Srinagar's Dal Lake against the backdrop of snow-clad mountains on Saturday. PTI



Children make their way through the snow in Bhaderwah. PTI

The Mughal Road, an alternative route connecting Poonch and Rajouri districts in the Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district, was closed for traffic on December 8 following heavy snowfall at Pee ki Gali and adjoining areas.

The road along with several other high-altitude routes, including the Srinath Top, which connects Kishtwar district in the Jammu region with south Kashmir's Anantnag district, usually remains closed during winter months owing to heavy snowfall.

Reports of three to nine inches of snowfall was received from different parts

of Kishtwar district, including Marwah (seven inches), Warwan (nine), Machail (seven), Ishtiyari (five) and Kishtwar, Paddar and Dachin (four inches each), the officials said. In Jammu, it was a sun-

ny day after overnight rain. The weather is improving gradually across J&K and it is likely to remain overcast throughout the day in Ladakh, a spokesperson of the meteorological department said. — PTI

## BJP women's wing activists protest against Panthers leader's remark

JAMMU, DECEMBER 12

Agitated over the alleged "derogatory remarks" by a senior National Panthers Party (NPP) leader, several BJP Mahila Morcha activists on Saturday stormed the office of the rival party here and later staged a protest after finding all rooms locked.

The NPP condemned the BJP for "vandalising" its Gandhi Nagar office and sought appropriate punitive action against the offenders.

"NPP president Balwant Singh Mankotia has hurt

the women of the country by using words like 'Nachniya and Mujra Karne Wali' against a party leader during an election rally in Udhampur," said BJP Mahila Morcha president Sanjita Dogra. — PTI



BJP Mahila Morcha activists protest in Jammu on Saturday. PTI

## Art 370 allowed rampant corruption: Jitendra

SAMBA, DECEMBER 12

Union Minister Jitendra Singh Saturday said Article 370, which was scrapped last year, led to rampant corruption in Jammu and Kashmir as successive state governments used it to make their own anti-graft laws, customised allegedly for convenience.

He said the setting up of the District Development Councils (DDC) would bring further accountability, tailor-made for convenience, he said at an election rally in support of BJP candidates contesting in the DDC polls.

"Article 370 allowed rampant corruption in Jammu and

BARRED IMPLEMENTATION OF CENTRAL LAW

Article 370 gave Jammu and Kashmir rulers the prerogative not to allow the implementation of Centre's Prevention of Corruption Act in the erstwhile state.

Jitendra Singh, UNION MINISTER

Kashmir because it gave the successive state governments the right to enact their own anti-graft laws, which were tailor-made for convenience," he said at an election rally in support of BJP candidates contesting in the DDC polls.

"At the same time, Article 370 gave state rulers the prerogative not to allow the

implementation of Centre's Prevention of Corruption Act in J&K," he said.

Jitendra, the Union Minister for the PMO, said the Prevention of Corruption Act was implemented in Jammu and Kashmir only after the abrogation of Article 370.

The Union Minister, who hails from Jammu and Kash-

mir, said there was no effective curb on corruption in the past because the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir had its own anti-corruption law and investigations into corruption cases carried on indefinitely, allowing the officials concerned to get superannuated, or making it too late to bring them to book.

"As a result, corruption in Jammu and Kashmir, both in lower as well as in higher offices, became a norm rather than an exception and the common impression was that anybody who was smart enough to get away with it eventually will," he said. — PTI

## 17K hectares grabbed under Roshni scheme will be returned: Thakur

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 12

Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Saturday expressed confidence that J&K would get back 17,000 hectares of land grabbed under the Roshni scheme and action would be taken against the guilty.

"The Roshni Act has been struck down by the J&K High Court. It has been termed illegal and unconstitutional. It had been brought in just to help a few big names in politics, business or bureaucracy," Thakur, who is the BJP's election in charge for J&K, told reporters here. He said he was glad the court had taken an initiative to probe the case.

"I am sure 3.42 lakh kanals (17,000 hectares) will be returned to Jammu and Kashmir. There will be action against who were involved in the corrupt practice," he said.

The minister said there were attempts to scare the people ahead of the elections "but they (voters) were not scared". On the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A, Thakur said many people had benefited from it, including Gorkhas and West Pakistan refugees. — PTI

Says DDC polls have been free, fair so far

and wealthy land grabbers who had benefitted from the law, which has now been struck down. The petition will come up for hearing on December 16.

Commenting on the ongoing District Development Council elections, Thakur said the people would decide which party would win.

"However, the response to the five phases of the elections so far means people have already ensured the victory of democracy. The important thing is these polls have so far been free, fair and fear-free," he said.

The minister said there were attempts to scare the people ahead of the elections "but they (voters) were not scared". On the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A, Thakur said many people had benefited from it, including Gorkhas and West Pakistan refugees. — PTI

## 2 civilians hurt in grenade attack

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 12

A militant attack on security forces in the Sopore area of Baramulla district on Saturday left two civilians injured as the grenade missed the intended target, the police said.

The militants had lobbed the grenade at security forces deployed at a bus stop in Sopore around 6 pm, but the explosive landed on the roadside, a police spokesman said.

Two civilians sustained minor injuries due to the explosion, the spokesman said, adding they have been hospitalised. The police have registered a case. — PTI

## Army organises medical camp

JAMMU, DECEMBER 12

Over 1,400 persons were treated by a team of Army doctors at a free medical camp in Kishtwar district on Saturday, a defence spokesperson said.

A total of 276 domestic animals were also examined during a veterinary camp. — PTI

## CALENDAR

December 13, 2020, Sunday

- Vikrami Samvat 2077
- Shaka Samvat 1942
- Margshirsh Parvishi 29
- Hijri 1442
- Krishna Paksha Tithi 14, up to 12.45 am
- Sukarma Yoga up to 8.17 am
- Dhriti Yoga up to 4.30 am
- Anuradha Nakshatra up to 1.40 am
- Moon in Scorpio sign
- Shri Balaji Jayanti

**भारत का राजपत्र**  
The Gazette of India

मी.जी.डी.एल.-अ. -08122020-223594  
CG-DL-E-08122020-223594  
असाधारण  
EXTRAORDINARY  
भाग II—वाचक ३—उप-वाचक (ii)  
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)  
प्राधिकार से प्राप्ति  
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, दिसम्बर 8, 2020/अग्रहायण 17, 1942  
NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020/AGRAHAYANA 17, 1942

## MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

## NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 8th December, 2020

**S.O. 4447(E).**—In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of No Yet to be Assigned in the stretch of land from Km 3.85 to Km 5.95 (District Revenue officer, Patiala) in the district of PATIALA in the state of PUNJAB, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under subsection (1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, District Revenue Officer, Patiala in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

## SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling No Yet to be Assigned in the stretch of land from Km. 3.85 to Km. 5.95 (District Revenue officer, Patiala) in the district of PATIALA in the state of PUNJAB

State: PUNJAB District: PATIALA

S. No.	Survey/Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
1	1171	Private	agriculture	0.5204000(Hectare)	0.5204000
2	1172	Private	agriculture	0.2031000(Hectare)	0.2031000
3	1173	Private	agriculture	0.7233000(Hectare)	0.7233000
4	1174	Private	agriculture	0.5242000(Hectare)	0.5242000
5	1261	Private	agriculture	0.3564000(Hectare)	0.3564000
6	1262	Private	agriculture	0.5242000(Hectare)	0.5242000
7	1263	Private	agriculture	0.5242000(Hectare)	0.5242000
8	1265	Private	agriculture	0.5242000(Hectare)	0.5242000
9	1266	Private	agriculture	0.5242000(Hectare)	0.5242000
10	1267	Private	agriculture	0.2987000(Hectare)	0.2987000
11	1305	Private	wet	0.5242000(Hectare)	0.5242000
12	1307	Private	wet	0.5242000(Hectare)	0.5242000
13	1308	Private	wet	0.5242000(Hectare)	0.5242000
14	1309	Private	wet	0.5242000(Hectare)	0.5242000
15	1310	Private	wet	0.5242000(Hectare)	0.5242000
16	1311	Private	wet	0.5242000(Hectare)	0.5242000
17	1313	Private	agriculture	0.5242000(Hectare)	0.5242000
18	1314	Private	agriculture	0.5242000(Hectare)	0.5242000

Taluk: Rajpura Village: Tepla (149)

1 1171 Private agriculture 0.5204000(Hectare) 0.5204000

2 1172 Private agriculture 0.2031000(Hectare) 0.2031000

3 1173 Private agriculture 0.7233000(Hectare) 0.7233000

4 1174 Private agriculture 0.5242000(Hectare) 0.5242000

5 1261 Private agriculture 0.3564000(Hectare) 0.3564000

6 1262 Private agriculture 0.5242000(Hectare) 0.5242000

7 1263 Private agriculture 0.5242000(Hectare) 0.5242000

8 1265 Private agriculture 0.5242000(Hectare) 0.5242000

9 1266 Private agriculture 0.5242000(Hectare) 0.5242000

10 1267 Private agriculture 0.2987000(Hectare) 0.2987000

11 1305 Private wet 0.5242000(Hectare) 0.5242000

12 1307 Private wet 0.5242000(Hectare) 0.5242000

13 1308 Private wet 0.5242000(Hectare) 0.5242000

14 1309 Private wet 0.5242000(Hectare) 0.5242000

15 1310 Private wet 0.5242000(Hectare) 0.5242000

16 1311 Private wet 0.5242000(Hectare) 0.5242000

17 1313 Private agriculture 0.5242000(Hectare) 0.5242000

18 1314 Private agriculture 0.5

**MATRIMONIALS****BRIDEGROOMS WANTED****IAS / ALLIED SERVICES**

IRS Officer Asstt. Commissioner  
Punjab cadre 1992, 5<sup>th</sup>, MBBS, 12.5 LPA, 95759-95676, 70672-78489.  
(CL20073154)

**MAHAJAN**

Wanted Govt./Bank/ office working in Tricity Chandigarh, Delhi NCR match for Mahajan girl Officer Govt. Bank, 5<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, 5.4.89, 10.05 pm, Ludhiana. Upper caste welcome. Contact 97790-21693. (CL20072475)

**Match for Mahajan girl, 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 04.10.1994, 07.21 am, Chandigarh, MBA, working as Regional HR Manager for MNC at Chandigarh. Parents both in Govt. Service at Chandigarh, 98786-50554, 94178-07003. (CL20073072)**

**Suitable match for Chandigarh born Himachali Mahajan (Gupti) girl, 5<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, 04.03.1995, 05:55 am, B.Tech., working Gurgaon, 12.00 LPA. Upper caste welcome. Mob: 70185-82150. WhatsApp 94181-51965. (CL20073303)**

**Match for Mahajan girl, 5<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, 09.03.90, 03: p.m., Kangra, M.Tech, MBA final (PU). Parents Govt. employees. 94180-31022. (CL20073553)**

**AGGARWAL**

Match for beautiful Aggarwal Doctor girl, 5<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, 1994, doing MD Microbiology. Parents-Brother Doctor. 9814005998. (CL20071923)

**SM 4 for August 1992 born beautiful 5<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, Manglik Panchkula based Garg Tech girl working with MNC (92) looking for businessman/serviceman/professional alliance from Tricity. g a r g a u g 6 4 @ g m a i l . c o m . (CL20073012)**

**Professionally qualified employed match from Punjabi family for smart Bansal girl from service class Mohali based family, 3rd July 1992, 7:05 am, Chandigarh, 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, Convent educated from Chandigarh, B.Tech, CSE: Working MNC Bangalore package 9+ LPA, Upper caste no bar, send pics & biodata. WhatsApp- 97799-16791. (CL20071951)**

**Beautiful Jindal girl 28.06.1992, 06.02 am, Kurukshetra, 5<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, 54 kg, B.Tech., Ph.D., Computer Science IIT Delhi, working Intel, 25 Lakh, looking for pure vegetarian teetotaller Aggarwal boy, location no constraints. 97804-62402. (CL20071268)**

**Garg girl 23.3.92, 2:50 pm Dhuri, B.Tech. (CS) beautiful, slim, 5<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, legally divorced, innocent. Marriage bureau excuse. 86993-48993, 85285-51845. (CL20071310)**

**Match for Mohali based Goyal girl, Ph.D. Physics, 5<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup>, 17.08.1987, 06.15 am, Bathinda. Upper caste welcome. 94633-31341, 98888-15468. (CL20071408)**

**Well qualified, working & teetotaller match for Aggarwal girl, Ph.D. Physics, 5<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup>, 17.08.1987, 06.15 am, Bathinda. Upper caste welcome. 94633-31341, 98888-15468. (CL20071408)**

**Required teetotaller Government Employee match from Tricity for Goyal girl 24.08.92, 14.19, Feroperur, 5<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, M.Sc., Govt. Bank Officer. Send biodata after kundli milan on 98763-43308. (CL20071542)**

**Slim, beautiful, Manglik Aggarwal girl, 1993/5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, Tech, seeks high status businessman boy, Ludhiana, 98887-04839. (CL20071556)**

**Suitable groom for Gupta girl, 26/5<sup>th</sup>, 22 August 1994, Meerut, 7.30 p.m., slim, fair, B.Com, M.Com, semi CA, ATC Degree, working as Audit Accounts Manager Meerut. 89505-15969. (CL20071595)**

**PQSM for Garg girl, Manglik, 5<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, slim, fair, 14.04.90, 5:30 pm, Govt. Bank Officer, Scale I. M.Sc. (Physics) M: 94160-20608. (CL20071699)**

**Suitable match for beautiful, slim, BCA, Gupta girl, 19.11.97, 10:30 p.m., Chandigarh, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, working Infosys Chandigarh. 98050-04771. (CL20071870)**

**Bathinda based Goel slim beautiful, 20.01.94, 5PM, 5<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> B.Sc. D.Yr. 98761-88252, 62831-96416. (CL20072075)**

**27/ 5<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, M.Com., Govt. job beautiful divorcee girl want suitable match. 96968-31161, 82258-82404. (CL20072255)**

**Match for Agarwal Canada PR girl, 1992/5<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, Graduation Diploma working MNC, 97705-02406, 74895-9044. (CL20072410)**

**Fair girl, Graduate Fashion/ Textile Designer, 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 8.11.1992, Non-Manglik. Upper caste welcome preferred Tricity Panchkula, 95012-5977. (CL20072466)**

**PQM for Agarwal girl, 19.2.92, 12:20 p.m., Pkl, 5<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, B.Tech. MBA 23 lac. Contact: 98726-98337. (CL20072495)**

**Status smart Agarwal sisters 1994, M.A. English, 5<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> and 1991, MDS, own practice, required Industrialist, Businessman boys. 84271-23150, 86993-72414. (CL20072639)**

**Match for smart, convent educated, Anshik Manglik, Chandigarh Singla working girl, 13-01-1991, 09.38 a.m., (Gurgaon), 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, B.Tech, MBA. Contact 94170-55990. (CL20072711)**

**Match for Aggarwal Bansal girl, B.Tech (CS) 5<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, working in MNC, Pune, DoB 15.05.1993, 3.50 am, Amritsar. 83601-38874. (CL20073055)**

**Match for Jindal girl, 30.10.1995 (8.14 a.m.) Patiala, B.Tech, working in Mohali. 9878927480. (CL20071468)**

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

**Advertisement:**

**Classified: 0172-2670257, 2670338, 2670258**

**E-mail at: classified@tribunemail.com**

**Display: 0172-2670256, 2670342**

**E-mail at: advt@tribunemail.com**

**Circulation: 0172-2670319, 2670250, 2670442**

**E-mail at: circulation@tribunemail.com**

**Match for Mittal girl 29/ 5<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup>, MS, job at USA, now in India. Preferred USA boy. 62834-59445. (CL20073104)**

**Goyal girl 21.6.1993, 4:40 pm Sangrur, 5<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, B.Tech. MNC Pune, 11 L package, 99149-12300. (CL20073105)**

**Beautiful Bansal 8.1.1988/ 00:53 a.m., Jagadhar (Karnal based)/ 5<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, Asstt. Professor Govt. College, regular, 10 lac annum. Preferred Haryana Govt. Gazetted Officer/ College Lecturer. 98966-35025. (CL20073015)**

**Match for Arora girl 1985/ 5<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup>, M.Tech, 1992 born girl. Marriage bureau excuse. Contact: 9417236561. (CL20072828)**

**Doctor, Dental College Mullan First May 89, 5<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 17.30, Karnal, 98964-09843, 90349-71143. (CL20073015)**

**Match for Arora girl 1985/ 5<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup>, M.Tech., working Chandigarh in MNC. Decent marriage. Contact: 98960-34210. (CL20073079)**

**Match for beautiful girl 19.11.1985, 03.36 pm, 5<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, B.Tech, MBA, Jalandhar, well settled boy preferred. 90230-80500. (CL20073150)**

**Match for Arora girl 1985/ 5<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup>, M.Tech., working Chandigarh in MNC. Decent marriage. Contact: 98960-34210. (CL20073079)**

**Match for Singla girl 27/5, M.Sc. (Math), B.Ed. Contact: 94174-93561. (CL20073203)**

**Doctor match for Garg MDS girl 11.10.91/ 5<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, Sangrur, 98159-70971. (CL20073229)**

**Homely unmarried slim vegetarian Garg Manglik MCA girl 35, 5<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, send details and photo. 94633-83065. (CL20073238)**

**Match for Single girl 27/5, M.Sc. (Math), B.Ed. Contact: 94174-93561. (CL20073192)**

**Match for Mittal girl 29/ 5<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup>, MS, job at USA, now in India. Preferred USA boy. 62834-59445. (CL20073104)**

**Goyal girl 21.6.1993, 4:40 pm Sangrur, 5<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, B.Tech. MNC Pune, 11 L package, 99149-12300. (CL20073105)**

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**Beautiful Bansal 8.1.1988/ 00:53 a.m., Jagadhar (Karnal based)/ 5<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, Asstt. Professor Govt. College, regular, 10 lac annum. Preferred Haryana Govt. Gazetted Officer/ College Lecturer. 98966-35025. (CL20073015)**

**Match for Arora girl 1985/ 5<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup>, M.Tech., working Chandigarh in MNC. Decent marriage. Contact: 98960-34210. (CL20073079)**

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**Homely unmarried slim vegetarian Garg Manglik MCA girl 35, 5<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, send details and photo. 94633-83065. (CL20073238)**

**Match for Single girl 27/5, M.Sc. (Math), B.Ed. Contact: 94174-93561. (CL20**

**Suitable match for SC Ramdasia** MBBS, Sept. 93 born, 5'-2", vegetarian girl. Medico, I.A.S., PCS preferred. Caste no bar. Dowry seeker please excuse. 98885-72717, 98141-15644. (CL20073196)

**Match for SC Sikh girl, 24/ 5'-6", M.Sc. Maths.** Preferred Govt. job boy. 98786-64046, 99779-46464. (CL20073566)

**NRI**

**Suitable match for Hindu Punjabi Arora girl,** Oct '89/5'-3", Masters. Software Engineer, I-140 approved. Preference equal status US settled boy. Caste no bar. W/App +1732789931. (CL20073201)

**Suitable match for Majbi Balimki** girl 3.7.1989, 5'-4", BA, B.Ed., LL.B. Caste no bar. 76580-75923. (CL20073204)

**Ramdasia Hindu girl, June 1986, MA (English), B.Ed., M.Sc. (IT), now preparing IELTS. 95012-60300, WhatsApp: 62830-43597.** (CL20073201)

**Suitable match for Canada PR** PQM for Canada PR Ramgarhia girl Aug 89, working IT Company Winnipeg 5'-3". Marriage bureaus excuse. adee.org@gmail.com, 70873-52319, 204-881-8310. (CL20056392)

**Suitable match for Canada PR** Ahluwalia girl 31.10.1990, 5'-6", M.Com. Working at Canadian Bank. Preferred Edmonton, Calgary. 76967-32931. (CL20071022)

**Dec. 94, 5'-6", PR Canada-Brampton,** work as Nutrition Manager. +9184220-03671. (CL20071265)

**Canada USA settled match** for 39 years, Ph.D., 5'-6", never married Canada PR girl working Toronto. skvamtria49@gmail.com +9190414-72503. (CL20072375)

**Ramdasia Sikh girl, Jan. 89, 5'-4", Ph.D. (Agri).** Senior Research Fellow. Selected. Gazette Officer. Light phulwari. contact 94175-07692. (CL20072376)

**SC suitable educated match for** Toronto Canadian PR girl, 51/5'-5", B.Tech. & PG Diploma. Preferred Toronto, Canada. Contact: 84279-39727, 62847-07220. (CL20073271)

**Ramdasia Sikh girl, Jan. 89, 5'-4", ETT, working in Pharmaceutical Co.** Father Govt. job. Preferred Tricity. Mobile: 96469-27572. (CL20073353)

**SM4 qualified Ravidasia (Ad-darhni) girl 1990/5'-2", M.Sc. M.Ed qualified UGC, NET, PSET, CTET working as Assistant Prof. in Pvt. University Punjab. Father Railway Engineer Doaba preferred. 9463-83922. (CL20073349)**

**Preferably government employee** match for Ramdasia Sikh girl, 1989 born, 5'-5", MPED, Gymnastic Coach Diploma, Government DPE Teacher. Father retd. Govt. employee. 94653-41935. (CL20073398)

**Suitable match for BAMs** Doctor Ramdasia Cult Mahant girl 1/27-5'-1". Caste no bar. 98723-20307. (CL20073481)

**Suitable teetotaller match for** Ramdasia Sikh girl 31, 5'-1", LL.M., Assistant Professor, Pvt. college. 98559-48576. (CL20073490)

**Wanted private/ Government** employee match for Ramdasia Sikh 90, 5'-3", MBA working girl, Chandigarh/ Mohali preferred. 98778-47291, 98880-71141. (CL20073535)

**DIVORCEE**

**Well settled match for Jat Sikh, 44, 5'-5", slim, very beautiful, fitness freak, 61 Kg. Ph.D. Professor, earning 24 LPA. Own house, highly educated family. 94658-08433, 78149-20374.** (CL20065869)

**Status match for Civil Judge cum Judicial Magistrate in Punjab, 35+years, 5'-6", very beautiful, from status family. Preferred Judicial Officer, Doctor, Gazetted Officer below 40 years. Short time divorcee. Upper caste welcome. Kindly respond with complete details, snaps to E-mail: bhras83@yahoo.in WhatsApp: 90693-00030. (CL20066089)**

**Match for Civil Judge cum Judicial Magistrate in Punjab, 35+years, 5'-6", very beautiful, from status family. Preferred Judicial Officer, Doctor, Gazetted Officer below 40 years. Short time divorcee. Upper caste welcome. Kindly respond with complete details, snaps to E-mail: bhras83@yahoo.in WhatsApp: 90693-00030. (CL20066089)**

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**SIKH**

Seeking US based suitable match for our daughter, US based/ educated, born 1987, 5'-5". Contact: mern86878@gmail.com (CL20071085)

**Sikh match for beautiful slim girl 5'-3"**, MD Anaesthesia, 1987 born, matchforskd@gmail.com (CL20065909)

**MD/ MS, PCMS/ Gazetted Officer** vegetarian match for Ramdasia Sikh MD (Medicine) Doctor girl, 1.50,000 PM, 34 yrs/ 5'-6". 9463-47789, 99888-19961, (CL20071294)

**Perfect match for Australian PR girl, 34/ 5'-7", MCA/ IT professional, Australian PR/ working/ citizen preferred. Castle no bar. 8699227750, (CL20071320)**

**Suitable match for Ramdasia Sikh girl, 5'-3", 88 born, B.A., LL.B., AssistantManager in IDBI Bank.** Tricity preferred. Mobile/WhatsApp 94160-20124, Email:jeetsimran9000@yahoo.com (CL20071328)

**POM Canadian citizen 89 born beautiful Sikh girl 5'-2" Govt. employee, Canadian/US citizen/PR preferred. WhatsApp +13659982827, (CL20071540)**

**Suitable match for Thapar B.Tech, 1989, 5'-9", Govt. job, Ramdasia Sikhs Ph./WhatsApp: 94640-87244, (CL20071541)**

**Well placed match for smart, convent educated, Nai Sikh girl, Nov. 1989, 5 ft. B.Com, CA Inter, IELTS 8 bands, Independent IELTS trainer. Applied for Canada PR, decision awaited. Educated family. Mail biodata, photo to: holly.matrix20@gmail.com or whatsapp to 9877818274, (CL20072175)**

**POM required for 83 born Nai Sikh Manglik girl M.Sc., B.Ed., 5'-2", well-settled Jai Sikh can also contact. 85579-35352, (CL20072198)**

**Match for Sikh Ramdasia girl June 1989, 5'-3", MBA, package 10 LPA, Job NCR. Boy equal job NCR. 98886-63883, (CL20072202)**

**Match for Weaver Sikh girl 5'-6", 1984, teacher at Chandigarh, M.A. Hindi, M.Phil., B.Ed., NET JRF, CTET. Preferred Sikh family around Chandigarh. 92554-95536, (CL20072287)**

**Suitable Turbaned match for Ramdasia Sikh (Juhla) 1992, 5'-3", M.A., B.Ed. Permanent Govt. Teacher. Parents retired. Send Biodata with Photo on 94172-33800, (CL20072306)**

**Looking well qualified/ settled alliance for Ramdasia (Weaver) Sikh, issueless, legally divorced girl, 5'-2", 24.3.1980, B.Tech., M.Tech., Govt. job. Tricity preferred. Contact: 97801-78566, (CL20072615)**

**Match for Sikh Rajput M.A. fair unmarried girl, 1977, 5'-2", Govt. job. Caste no bar. 95019-51037, (CL20072655)**

**Parents invites alliance for daughter born 1988, 5'-4", Govt. job Chd. (Nursing officer). Applied Canada for Nursing Registration & PR. Canada citizen/PR preferred. 9463029292, (CL20072193)**

**Wanted well qualified handsome boy for Ramgarhia Sikh beautiful New Zealand citizen girl 5'-4" 28. Caste no bar. 0064210754854, (CL20072220)**

**Canadian PR (Weaver) Sikh girl 24, 5'-4", Childhood Diploma. Prefer well-educated boy PR/ work permit. Caste no bar. Contact: 95929-16655, (CL20072793)**

**Compatible match for Ramgarhia girl, May '90, 5'-6", B.Tech., IT, Senior Product Manager in Top Most US based MNC. Seeks cutstuds Sikh boy. Respond with full biodata & recent photograph. Contact: 98880-20483, (CL20073114)**

**Match for Majhi Sikh girl, 1990/ 5'-2", M.Com, Govt. employee. Preferred Govt. employee. Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar. Contact: 98768-46817, 98772-81223, (CL20073218)**

**Sikh Julaha girl, 1987, 5'-4", (MPT Ortho), working in Europe. Required B.Tech boy. 98777-34603, (CL20073524)**

**Sikh Ramdasia girl, 5'-3"/ 1998, B.Sc (Medical), 7 bands. Required Canada going boy. Legal marriage. 99148-75336, (CL20073525)**

**SIKH KHATRI**

**Seeking Medico/ MBA/ Civil Services match preferably from Tricity for convent educated Sikh Jat/ Khatri girl, 22 July, 1988, 08.20.a.m., B.A., B.Ed. Sikh Khatri preferred. 80131-18013, (CL20071929)**

**Professionally match for beautiful, tall, 5'-5", MCA, Government Permanent Job, 1982. Status educated family. 95010-03311, (CL20072288)**

**Professional/working, clean shaven match for Sikh Khatri/Aroha working girl, M.Tech IIT, 20.11.92, 19, 50, 5'-6", handsome package. # 98969-70111, (CL20072582)**

**Non drinker, SM 4 Sikh Khatri girl, M.Sc. Math, B.Ed., M.Phil., 5'-4", Jan. 1990. Parents Govt. service. M: 94640-33189, (CL20072688)**

**Suitable match for beautiful Sikh Khatri girl, Dec. 1991, 5'-4", Officer Nationalised Bank well settled family wanted. Govt. job, businessman or landlord boy status family good marriage. 94176-14814, 97796-44554, (CL20073058)**

**SIKH LOBANA**

**Canadian Lubana girl 29, 5'-4", required Canada based Lubana boy. Contact: 83607-80875, (+1)514-515-5121, (CL20071137)**

**SIKH KHATRI/ARORA**

**Sikh Arora 27, 5'-3", B.Tech., MBA, top inst, working top Co. Father Army Offr. Seeks alliance from Sikh/ Hindu & Jat Sikh Civil & Defence Offrs. WhatsApp: 93102-22549, (CL20071021)**

**Beautiful, slim, Graduate 46, 5'-2", unmarried Arora Sikh Australian citizen girl. WhatsApp 99154-64619, (CL20071357)**

**Gursikh strictly NT ND preferably Canada PR boy wanted. 100% qualified and settled there for Jan 93 fair slim beautiful 5'-3" cultured post graduate Canada PR girl, presently in India with parents. Post particulars with photographs to 988262696 (CL20071470)**

**Well qualified professional businessman match for 5'-5" 88 born beautiful, smart, educated, working in MNC Gurgaon. Upper middle class family. Please cont. 94173-80008, chawlaрам77@gmail.com (CL20072262)**

**Well settled match for slim, smart, Arora Sikh, Asst. Prof. girl from Defence background. M.Arch, 5'-3", 1995. Contact: 70428-54433, (CL20071096)**

**Chandigarh one kanal facing Northwest house Sector 18. Authorisation only with Shree Properties 98140-35506, (CL20071098)**

**Chandigarh one kanal marbled duplex (six bedroom) house Sector 32. Reasonable price. Shree Properties 98140-35506, (CL20071093)**

**Chandigarh one kanal excellent top location B-road facing park Double/Duplex Phase-10. 99143-27641, (CL20071766)**

**Chandigarh 8/ 1 Kanal excellent location facing huge park Northern Sector-9. Genuine customers only. 99143-27641, (CL20071768)**

**Chandigarh Showroom fully built, Vacant, extraordinary location, branded cloth market, near My Shop Phase-7. Expected rent 4.25 Lacs. 99143-27641, (CL20071770)**

**Chandigarh Showroom ground/ basement top location, ample parking. 78, Phase-11. Genuine customers only. 99143-27641, (CL20071773)**

**Chandigarh Showroom Two bay pre rented excellent location Sector-9 Madhya Marg. Nominal lease. 99143-27641, (CL20071777)**

**Chandigarh Complete SCO with good rental returns, floors also available. Goel Properties 98551-23123, (CL20071627)**

**Chandigarh ten marla old & beautiful full and floorwise in 8, 10, 11, 18, 21, 32, 34, 35, 38, 40 on good location. Contact 98780-61933, (CL20071363)**

**Chandigarh ten marla advance booking for first and second floor Sector 27. Ample parking. Shree Properties 98140-35506, (CL20071088)**

**Chandigarh one kanal facing building for first and second floor Sector 27. Ample parking. Shree Properties 98140-35506, (CL20071090)**

**Omaxe New Chandigarh available 1 kanal residential plot premium location ready possession only for 1.85 Crore. Call: 98148-44686, 83602-68499, (CL20071970)**

**Chandigarh available residential and commercial properties full/ floors attractive price. Call 98148-44646, 83602-68499, (CL20071972)**

**Chandigarh available residential and commercial properties full/ floors attractive price. Call 98148-44646, 83602-68499, (CL20071975)**

**Chandigarh Sector 8 available luxury builder floors in 1 kanal house with Bank loan. Call 98148-44646, 83602-68499, (CL20071985)**

**For best deals in sale/ purchase of property in Chandigarh, Mohali Omaxe Eco City. Call 98148-44646, 83602-68499, (CL20072167)**

**Corner A-road 515 sq.yds. prime commercial location, designer kothi, high taste. Direct deal. Dealer excuse. 98883-55994, (CL20072454)**

**PROPERTY FOR SALE**

**Omaxe New Chandigarh: 500 gaj & 300 gaj plots available at best locations. 93160-37544, (CL20068621)**

**One/ two kanal facing park Sector 8, 34, 35. Four kanal 8, 9, 10, Chandigarh shaleen Ent. 98881-21133, (CL20070817)**

**Chandigarh 7/ 1 Kanal marbled triplex well constructed house Sector 22, front huge parking. Shree Properties. 98140-35506, (CL20071088)**

**Chandigarh one kanal marbled second floor (5 years old) with lift B-road Sector 19. Shree Properties. 98140-35506, (CL20071089)**

**Chandigarh ten marla advance booking for first and second floor Sector 27. Ample parking. Shree Properties. 98140-35506, (CL20071090)**

**Chandigarh showroom ground floor, rented to Bank, for Rs. 3,13,00/- per month. Shree Properties 98140-35506, (CL20071092)**

**Chandigarh one kanal marbled duplex (six bedroom) house Sector 32. Reasonable price. Shree Properties 98140-35506, (CL20071093)**

**Chandigarh Showroom fully built, Vacant, extraordinary location, branded cloth market, near My Shop Phase-7. Expected rent 4.25 Lacs. 99143-27641, (CL20071770)**

**Chandigarh Showroom ground/ basement top location, ample parking. 78, Phase-11. Genuine customers only. 99143-27641, (CL20071773)**

**Chandigarh Showroom Two bay pre rented excellent location Sector-9 Madhya Marg. Nominal lease. 99143-27641, (CL20071777)**

**Chandigarh Complete SCO with good rental returns, floors also available. Goel Properties 98551-23123, (CL20071627)**

**Chandigarh ten marla old, ground floor, Sector 21-D. For more details contact Subash & Co. 98155-04699, (CL20071773)**

**Chandigarh Showroom Two bay pre rented excellent location Sector-9 Madhya Marg. Nominal lease. 99143-27641, (CL20071777)**

**Chandigarh Complete SCO with good rental returns, floors also available. Goel Properties 98551-23123, (CL20071627)**

**Chandigarh ten marla old & beautiful full and floorwise in 8, 10, 11, 18, 21, 32, 34, 35, 38, 40 on good location. Contact 98780-61933, (CL20071362)**

**Chandigarh one kanal facing building for first and second floor Sector 27. Ample parking. Shree Properties 98140-35506, (CL20071088)**

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**Chandigarh one kanal facing building for first and second floor Sector 27. Ample parking. Shree Properties 98140-35506, (CL20071097)**

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**Chandigarh one kanal facing building for first and second floor Sector 27. Ample parking. Shree Properties 98140-35506, (CL20071099)**

**Chandigarh one kanal facing building for first and second floor Sector 27. Ample parking. Shree Properties 98140-35506, (CL20071100)**

**Chandigarh one kanal facing building for first and second floor Sector 27. Ample parking. Shree Properties 98140-35506, (CL20071101)**

**Chandigarh one**

Kanal duplex facing park Phase 9, double/ duplex facing park 3B1, 3B2, duplex corner/ facing park Sector 71, (kanal duplex plot A road 69, corner 79). Priyanshi Associates 82839-3009, (CL20073053)

131 yards brand new triple storey kothi A-road, facing park, facing East ample parking. Full or floorwise, Aerocity Mohali. Owner: 98158-48100, (CL20073123)

Mohali 300 gaj kothi newly triple, marvellous 9 bedrooms, owner deal must sell today. 94170-03412, (CL20073171)

Vacant Booth (7'x9') Janta Market, Phase-3B1 Mohali, Registry case, Owner: 9888176307, 9357283133, (CL20073262)

6 marla kothi triple storey facing park, front pocket, Sector 78, Mohali, 98760-52353, (CL20073285)

4, 6 marla kothi ground and 1st floor available, facing park, Sector 80, Mohali, 98760-52353, (CL20073287)

4 marla plot corner, East facing from pocket, Sector 80, Mohali, 98760-52353, (CL20073289)

10'x 12' marla duplex, facing park, Phase 2, 6 marla top floor, facing park, Sector 78, Owner: 95920-00110, (CL20073366)

Showroom sites 80 yards Airport Road, Sector 119 and 120 sq. yards Sector 108, Mohali. Subhash Mangat: 98720-99999, (CL20073369)

6, 8, 10, 16 Marla floors available in Mohali, 95017-00049, (CL20073416)

SCO Site Sector-86 Transfer case, Map approved by Gamada, Reasonable price, 95017-00049, (CL20073423)

3 BHK attached bathrooms Sector 110, Mohali, 27 Lac negotiable, Dealer excuse, 75080-07019, (CL20073433)

5 marla kothi 2 storey corner B-road, 79, 78, 5 marla first floor 90/1, 80. Ekam 98888-34322, (CL20073441)

8 marla 2 storey corner facing park Sector 79, 2, 2, 68, 6 marla 78, 80, Ekam 98888-34322, (CL20073456)

12 marla 2 storey facing park, Sector 79, 68, 10 marla 3 storey single line Phase 5, 4, 7, B-road, 69, 68, 79, Ekam 98888-34322, (CL20073458)

1 kanal 2 storey B-Road, Phase 7, 10, 3A, 79, 16 marla facing park, 77, B-Road, 7, 10, Ekam 98888-34322, (CL20073459)

100 square showroom in Sector 89, corner plot 306 square in Sector 89, KD- 88475-14831, (CL20073498)

6 marla double storey marble house, facing park, Sector 68, Hira Real Estate: 98728-99591, 98724-01166, (CL20073503)

Mohali: Showroom, full or floorwise, main markets Phase-5, 3B2, VII, XI, Sector 82. (Only genuine buyers) Contact Empire Estates: 98159-50922, 97796-36055, (CL20073544)

Mohali: 8 & 10 marla, double/duplex, (F/park, corner, B-Road) Facing Park, 10(x30), Site/builtup, single/pair, huge parking, front Airport Road, Sector 66A, Mohali. Empire Estates: 98150-83500, (CL20073545)

Mohali: 10% marla house, 1st & 2nd floor, 50% share, ample parking, B-road, Phase 5, (Ready to Move), Contact: Owner 76960-21919, (CL20073547)

Janta Land: Commercial shop (10x30), Site/builtup, single/pair, huge parking, front Airport Road, Sector 65, Mohali. Empire Estates: 98150-83500, (CL20073548)

AERO CITY IT CITY & Sector 88-89 ALL SIZE RESIDENTIAL/ COMMERCIAL PLOTS AVAILABLE Direct Deal With Owner SRI SAI 9716397263 ESTATES 9782437305 CL20073186

Mohali: 100, 150, 200, 300, 400, 500 square yards plots corner/ facing park/ B-Road in Aerocity & IT City, Raman Estate: 98889-98877, (CL20071918)

Available 1 kanal plot on 80 feet wide road, Sector 79, Contact Vikas Goyal: 98550-55839, (CL20071924)

Rizakpur 250 sq plot excellent semi commercial location behind Maryland hotel, 98781-39908, (CL20072408)

Mohali industrial one kanal builtup Janta Land, Royal 98889-88899, (CL20072512)

Wanted/ available Omaxe/ DLF/ Punjab Officers/ Altus/ Eeo/ Eeo/ residential/ commercial office, 3014/ Eco I, Ravi Garg: 98881-11888, Hardik 78883-73520, (CL20072564)

Janta Land: 1000 gaj, industrial plot #1953 & #1954 (pair), front pocket, terrace case, Sector-82, Empire Estates 93763-00005, (CL20072852)

FLAT FOR SALE

Rishi Apartment 3 BHK Semi Furnished flat Sector-70 & +31+ Homelander Height Fully Furnished flat, Sector-70, 3 BHK Darsan Vihar, Sector-68, Orbit Estates 8728883540, 9915534500 (CL20072747)

Wanted/ available CHB flats all categories, Sector 38 West to 63 Societies flats Sector 48 to 51, Chandigarh, Rama Properties: 98140-42287, 97804-18830, (CL20071149)

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W



World War I commemorations were all about celebration of valour. Hardly anyone remembered the non-combatants who did back-breaking tasks across theatres of war **SOCIETY page 12**

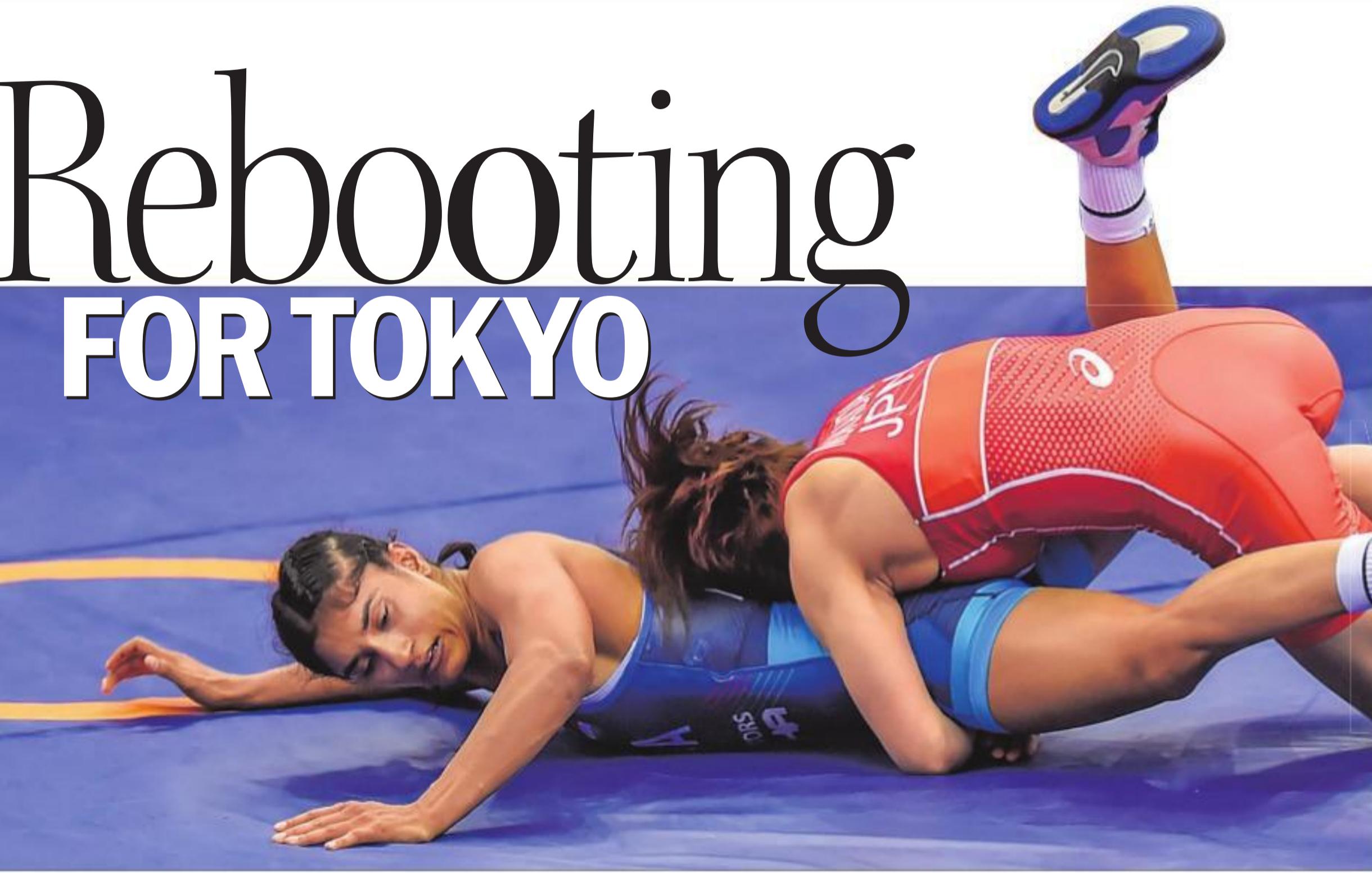


The crime genre sells like nothing else, be it the big screen or the OTT platforms. A look at how crime writers and makers keep both the shock and sensitivity alive **ENTERTAINMENT page 13**



'Book of Indian Essays', on 200 years of English prose, includes pieces by the likes of Buddhadeva Bose, Rabindranath Tagore, Salim Ali, going on to RK Narayan and GV Desani **BOOKS page 14**

# Rebooting FOR TOKYO



Vinesh Phogat, who tested positive, faced post-Covid problems and had to stop training. She is back to her full training schedule now.  
FILE PHOTOS: AGENCIES

VINAYAK PADMADEO &amp; KARAM PRAKASH

**F**OUR years down the drain, four years of blood, sweat, tears, pain and hard work may be wasted — that's the horrible prospect that confronts Indian athletes preparing for the Olympics... Yet, they must retain hope as well as their peak physical and mental health, train hard in isolation, away from family and friends, confined to the safe spaces of their training centres, with contagion in the air.

Anxiety, nervousness and excitement sum up the mental state of the Indian athletes as they seek to recapture the form that made some of them favourites for the podium for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, now postponed to 2021.

When Covid-19 forced the country to shut down, training for the Tokyo-bound sportspersons came to a standstill and many athletes got stuck, some at home, some in centres. After the restrictions were lifted, they resumed training with strict protocols in place. Many found it hard to come to terms with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). For a select few, like rifle shooter Divyansh Singh Panwar and wrestler Vinesh Phogat, reality hit home hard as the virus paid them a visit.

Vinesh, the only Indian woman wrestler to qualify for the Tokyo Games and a hot favourite for a medal, contracted Covid in August-end, just two days prior to being conferred with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award. The next two months were chaotic, at best.

After coming out of quarantine, she resumed training but had to discontinue after suffering post-Covid complications. "I developed a dry cough and I would tire easily. On doctor's advice, I had to completely stop training for almost a month," Vinesh said.

"I had maintained my fitness levels during the lockdown, but this setback affected it. After a few weeks, I started running on the treadmill and cycling to try to get my body acclimatised again. Over the last six weeks, my training is back to full scale," added the 2019 World Championships bronze medallist.

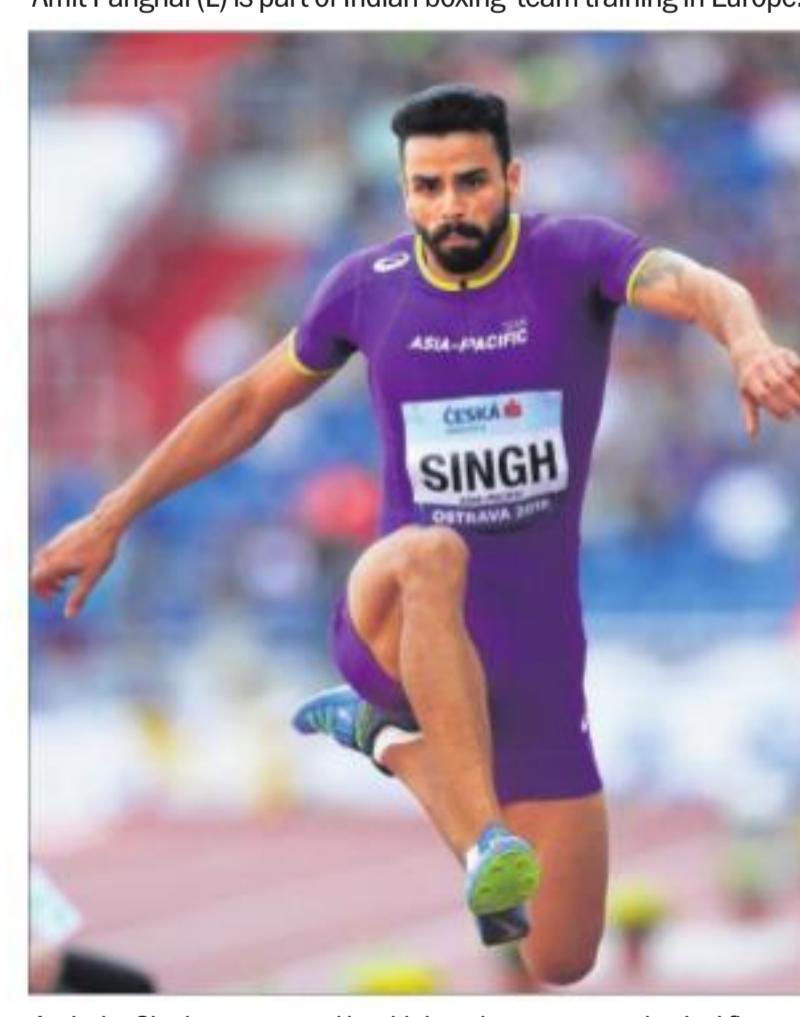
Having recovered, Vinesh has decided not to join the national camp in Lucknow. "I did not want to join the camp as I was worried about contracting the virus again," she explained. "Also, the confined environment would have affected me mentally as we would not be allowed to move freely. It would have felt like jail."

She has also decided to skip the Individual World Cup in Belgrade that started on Saturday. "There was no point participating underprepared," she said. "Besides, my coach (Woller Akos) told me that as many of the top teams have withdrawn, I, too, should stay back and build on my fitness." She plans to hit the road running at the Rome Ranking Series in January 2021 — the same tournament where she last fought before the pandemic struck.

## COOPED UP

For Panwar, things haven't been this extreme, though he's uneasy at having to end the year without having participated in any competition. During the lockdown, the 18-year-old was cooped up for two months in his rented flat in Faridabad's Charmwood Apartments — where he was routinely spotted on his balcony, practising in full shooting gear.

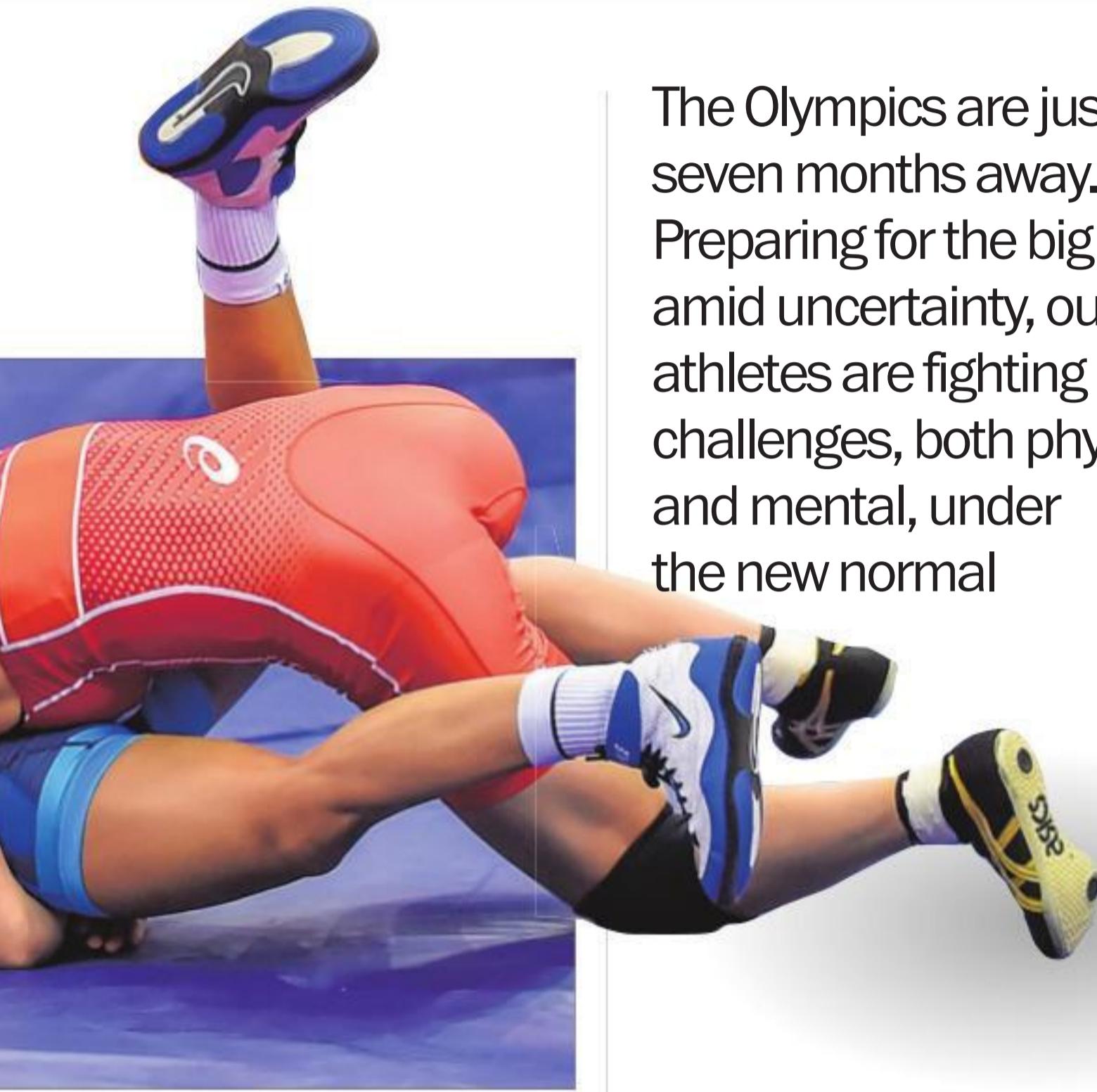
After the lockdown ended, Panwar, the current world No.1 in air rifle, moved to Jaipur to train at his home range. Later, in October, the national team assembled for the first time in over six months at the national camp held by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) for the Olympic Core Group. Things were looking up for Panwar, but not for long. After the Diwali break, when the team underwent Covid testing, he was found positive, though asymptomatic. "The 14-day quarantine did not affect me at all. I watched movies and had plenty of stress-free time with my Labrador pup 'Klaus,'" said Panwar, now back at training.



However, his hope of participating in international competitions remains distant as the scheduled World Cup season is subject to easing of travel restrictions.

## PLAYING SINGLES

When the lockdown was announced, the men's and women's hockey teams got stuck at the Sports Authority of India campus in Bengaluru. Training was discontinued and they were confined to their rooms. The loneliness took its toll and many wanted to return home. Their team captains, Manpreet



Singh and Rani Rampal, did request for permission for their players to go home — but this was out of the question. It was only in June that they could start training in a phased manner and were also allowed to go home soon after. When they returned in August, the virus struck the men's team hard — six players, including captain Manpreet, tested positive for Covid and had to be hospitalised.

Post-recovery, they are back to training and trying to keep match-fit. However, the absence of real-time competitive play is worrying coach Graham Reid, as he has to figure out where the team stands in terms of strategy and fitness against other teams. "Only high-quality international competition can provide this. We have, however, tried to provide a high-quality internal competition as much as possible," Reid said.

The training has been going on as much as possible in the new normal. "This has brought its own mental challenges as the normal unloading and refreshing needs to be done inside the camp," he said. Rampal, meanwhile, had something to cheer her up as she became the first woman hockey player to be conferred with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, India's top sporting honour.

## MISSING THE RUNGS TO TOP

The absence of competition has also got shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor anxious, as he is yet to book a berth for the Tokyo Olympics. He's worried about missing his dream competition due to lack of qualifying tournaments. When the schedule of international events is known, athletes train in such a way as to hit their peak at the biggest events — such as the Olympics, Asian Games or World Championships. "I don't know when the competition is, so I don't know when I have to peak," Toor said. "If any tournament is randomly announced, say next month, I won't be able to give it my best shot because the body takes time to get into the competition mode."

Toor also finds it tough to train alone as training for the throw events, which require explosive strength, needs competitive spirit. "You need a competitor of equal standard in training, otherwise there is no motivation to push harder," Toor said. To overcome this, his coach Mohinder Singh Dhillon has been calling athletes of other disciplines at Toor's training sessions so as to fire him up.

## LEARNING NEW MENTAL SKILLS

Toor, who lost his father shortly after winning gold at the 2018 Asian Games, has learnt to cope though. "Being away from family was tough initially. My mom was alone in Moga, and I was concerned about her. But now things are better."

For discus thrower Navjeet Kaur Dhillon, who won bronze in the 2018 CWG, the restrictions were akin to imprisonment. "We couldn't step out for months. It took a mental toll on me. I have always lived in an open and free environment. At times, I would lock myself in my room and cry," Navjeet said. "If you are not stable mentally, you can't train. You have to stay motivated. It is the most important factor when there is no competition," said the athlete from Amritsar.

For triple-jumper Arpinder Singh, winner of gold at the 2018 Asian Games, his dream of competing at the Tokyo Games kept him going through the year. "During the complete lockdown, I started weight training at home itself. I had to arrange for weights and create a makeshift training area at home in my small village, Harse Chhina in Amritsar, to maintain strength and fitness," said Arpinder, who comes from a farming family. "But more than physical fitness, mental health is important as part of holistic fitness," he added. "I had not given a thought to it earlier, but Covid made me realise that one must take care of one's mental health. It felt like being in jail."

The Olympics are just seven months away. Preparing for the big stage amid uncertainty, our athletes are fighting many challenges, both physical and mental, under the new normal



## FOR BOXERS, THE TOURS CONTINUE

The boxing stars are among the lucky few who are not only competing, but also training abroad. A 15-member team, including five who have already qualified for the Olympics, are training in Europe. The men have already participated in the Alexis Vastine International Tournament in France. Haryana's Amit Panghal won gold at Nantes, where India had a haul of six medals.

The touring boxers have now moved their training base from Italy to Germany where they will compete in the Chemistry Cup. This would be the first international competition for the women in the team. Ludhiana's Simranjit Kaur cannot hide her excitement. "Honestly, I am a little nervous as this would be my first competition in a very long time. But at the same time, I am quite excited too," she said over the phone from Germany.

"We have been out of the country for a while now and the training and sparring sessions against French and Italian boxers have shown that we are progressing well," adds the 25-year-old athlete. "Sitting at home was difficult though I got to spend time with family, something I have not been able to do in a number of years. But you tend to lose focus," she added.

Her excitement is contagious, but with only six months left for the opening of the Tokyo Games, time is running out for the elite athletes to reach their peak fitness. The good thing is that training has started, and more international events may soon happen for more athletes. As Simranjit says, "We are not the only ones affected by Covid — in the darkness of despair, one must find a ray of hope, and the athletes are doing their best to find it." Touche.



Simranjit Kaur (R) trains with her coach Raffaele Bergamasco in Germany.



Cooped up in his flat in Faridabad during the lockdown, Divyansh Singh Panwar practised in his balcony in full shooting gear.

Shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor is anxious as he is yet to book a berth for the Tokyo Olympics due to lack of qualifying tournaments.

# Whom the world chose to forget

World War I commemorations were all about celebration of valour. Hardly any remembered the non-combatants who did back-breaking tasks till long after war had ended. Worst still were untouchables among them, a new book notes

SARIKA SHARMA

**A** CONFIDENTIAL letter from Mesopotamia in March 1916 called urgently for 450 latrine sweepers from India. In temperatures unlike what they had ever faced in India, the Indian Labour Corps had been constructing roads, railways, bridges. Basra was to be a major port to launch the military campaign during World War I. When Radhika Singha came across this letter dated March 1916 at the National Archives in New Delhi, she wondered why it was marked "Confidential". More research revealed that there had been a cholera outbreak in Basra and "...sweepers were going to be placed in jeopardy at the epidemic front". Later, *dholis* were to be called in, too, tasked with disinfecting military hospitals, exposing them to high risk. By the time the Mesopotamia campaign ended, 3,000 men from Indian Labour Corps had died in Basra alone.

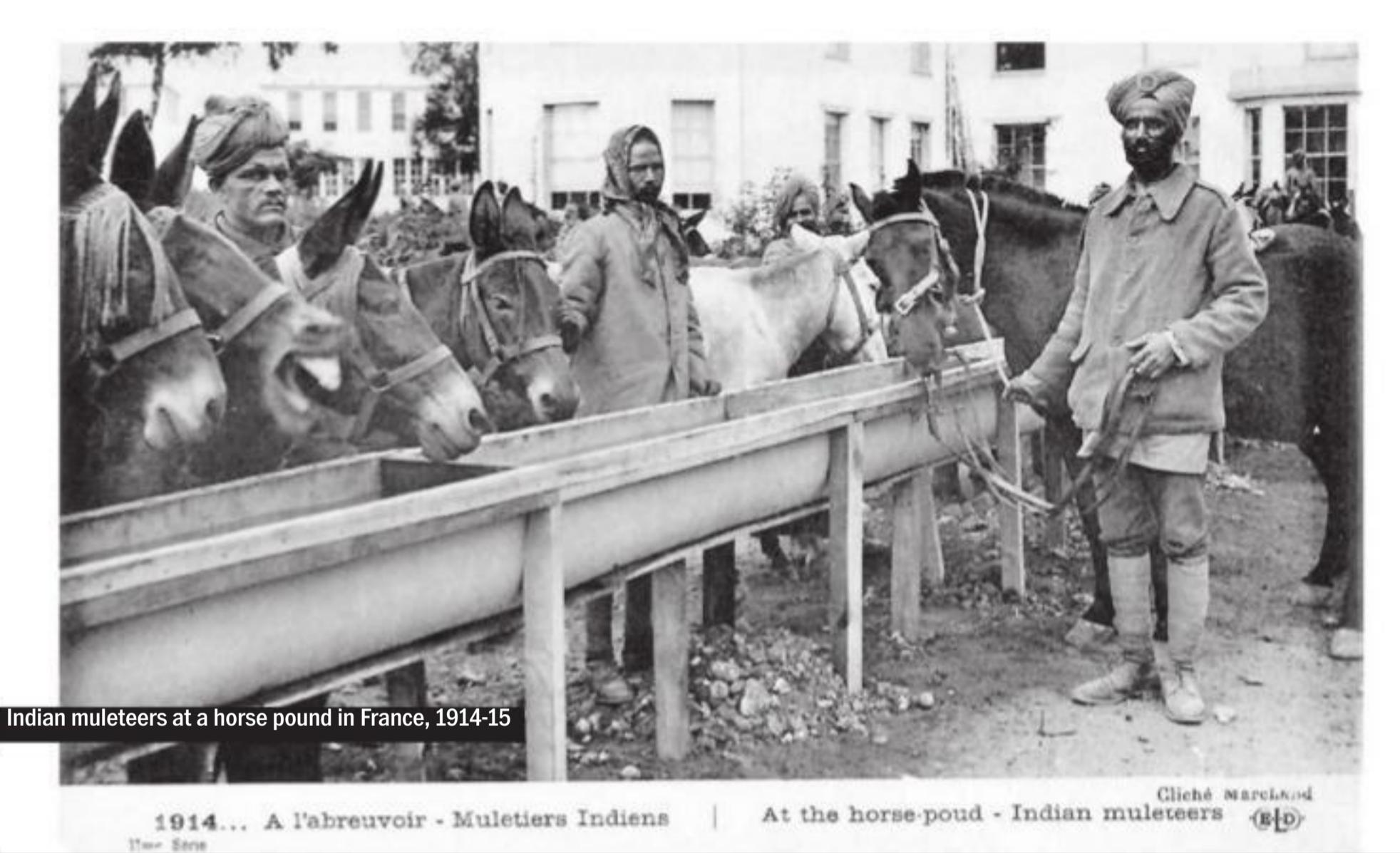
During the five-year commemorations of the Great War, not a tear was shed for these dead. Singha's new book, 'The Coolie's Great War', rights the wrongs.

When England declared war against Germany on August 4, 1914, Indians pleaded for combatant role. A colour ban had long forbidden non-white subjects from fighting white races. But Indians wanted to fight for the Empire — to press for self-rule and fight the colour bias. The combatant role was eventually granted and Indians joined the British forces across the theatres of World War I. Hundred years later, to be recounted before the world were tales of valour of these Indian soldiers. Forgotten, however, were the non-combatants — 5,50,000 had braved the war too along with the coloured and white men. In her book, published by HarperCollins, Singha, who is professor of history at Jawaharlal Nehru University, brings the spotlight on Indian Labour Corps, who fought in the war along with Jail Labour Corps and Porter Corps — from the porters, stevedores and construction workers in the Coolie Corps to those who maintained supply lines and removed the wounded from the battlefield. Worst among them perhaps were the untouchables, the lowly. The caste divide hadn't spared them here too. Not even in death.

Singha tells the story of a sweeper whose own fellow countrymen refused his body a dignified burial. The cold had been too much for him and he had died of pneumonia in a hospital in England. "Inspecting the Lady Hardinge Hospital at Brockenhurst, which treated Indians from the Expeditionary Force in France, Sir Walter

97,288

The number of non-combatants Punjab sent to the Great War



## THE FORGOTTEN HERO

Kuhoi Sema Naga lies buried at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at Mazargues in Marseilles, France. Also known as Kuhoi Zhimomi, he was the son of Naga Chief Sukhai Zhimomi. What makes him special, says Peter Francis, spokesperson of the CWGC, is that the original temporary grave marker (above) for Kuhoi recorded that he took 24 heads and was present at the death of 130 enemies in battle.



PHOTOS COURTESY: HARPERCOLLINS

## REMEMBERED AT INDIA GATE

Indian Labour Corps	1,174
Mule Corps	973
Supply and Transport Corps	952
Bullock Corps	398
Army Bearer Corps	377
Camel Corps	370
Followers Central Depot	214
Indian Military Works Services	123
Army Hospital Corps	97
Indian Postal and Telegraph Department	69
Indian Railways	41

## RAISING THE CORPS

The author says that while Coolie Corps was raised for expeditionary forces sent overseas before WWI too, these were not regarded as a regular part of the army. During the war, the label 'Coolie Corps' was replaced by the politically more acceptable label 'Labour Corps' and 'Porter Corps'. They were raised for Mesopotamia in 1916 and France in 1917. Their disbandment began in 1921.

Lawrence noted an act of local kindness. A burial plot had to be found:

'for a sweeper belonging to a peculiar sect which never cremates. We asked the Woking Muhammadan Burial ground to allow us to bury him there, but they flatly declined. We then had recourse to the Rev. Mr. Chambers, the Vicar of Brockenhurst. He came forward and kindly allowed us to bury him in his Churchyard.'

Singha believes (and so has now been reiterated by Shrabani Basu in her book 'For King and Another Country') Sukha Kaloo is the sweeper of Sir Lawrence's report. The Hindus had refused to cremate him because he was an untouchable and the Muslims because he just wasn't one of them. His grave now lies beside some New Zealand graves in the church at Brockenhurst.

Inviting them to join WWI, recruitment agents had made rosy promises about a post-war order, writes Singha. "Recruitment propaganda began to conceptualise the return home in ways which evoked both hope and anxiety about the nature of the postwar order. A Madras recruiting officer told 'untouchable Paraiyans' that '[w]hen (sic) you wear the King Emperor's uniform, you will be able to walk through the Brahmin quarter and spit where you like." The locals were, understandably, not taking kindly to all this. Singha recounts a poem published in the 'Bijnor Punch', ridiculing the airs of Chamar recruits: "They who used to get husks and bran at house now get ghi, rice and gram in their rations, why then should not their martial ardour be kept up!"

When the Secretary of State of India, Edwin Montague, brought reforms to India, he received a bundle of petitions from spokesmen of 'low-caste', 'untouchable' and tribal communities, demanding the right to represent themselves in legislative bodies. Singha says Montague's visit galvanised political and associational life. "Babasaheb Ambedkar writes about this moment in a very interesting essay titled 'A strange event'. He notes that as Dalit communities began to demand the right to represent themselves, the Congress, which had hitherto separated issues of social reform from its political manifesto, began to forefront the 'welfare and uplift of the depressed classes' as one of its political goals."

Things were to change in Punjab too. Singha says: "In post-War Punjab, Rāmdasis and Mazhabī Sikhs, including some of those who had served in the army, began to demand the right to use common wells and to enter gurdwaras. Some signed up for the *jathas* taken out by the Akalis in the 1920s to seize control of gurdwaras from Hindu *mahants* as another means of asserting equality with the Jat Sikhs."

# Manufacturer to take blame for poor putty

The onus of proving point doesn't lie with the consumer



## CONSUMERS BEWARE!

PUSHPA GIRIMAJI

When we painted our house this Diwali, we were advised to use wall putty before applying the paint, for a smoother finish and increasing the lifespan of the paint. However, it soon began coming off at several places. Now, neither the manufacturer nor the dealer is taking responsibility for the defect, nor are they willing to compensate or rectify it. I now want to go to the consumer court. How do I go about it? First of all, take pictures of the falling putty and get the contractor who did the work and is claiming that the product is defective to certify so. Secondly, ask the manufacturer to send a technical expert to assess the damage and tell you how they plan to rectify the matter. Thirdly, call an independent expert to give his opinion on the quality of the putty and the cost involved in redoing the walls. If you have some unused putty left, you can also send it to a laboratory to have its quality checked. Check if there are similar complaints about this particular putty.

Once you have all the evidence, you can seek damages to cover your expenses in redoing the wall, besides compensation for the harassment caused.

I must mention a recent judgment of the apex consumer court in a similar matter. The consumer here had bought for his house, 20 bags of putty and 45 bags of Plaster of Paris for

₹15,190, engaged seven labourers and got the work completed in six days, at a cost of ₹19,200. However, the putty started falling off. He called the dealer and showed him the problem. When neither the manufacturer nor the dealer offered a solution, he lodged a complaint with the consumer forum.

The manufacturer said it was due to application error. It was also contended that the consumer had not produced any report from a lab certifying to the defect. Besides, no other consumer had complained about the product.

What the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission said in response will go a long way in helping consumers fight such cases. Presiding member Anup K Thakur drew a clear distinction between the 'onus of proof' and the 'burden of proof' and said that the onus of proof did not lie with the consumer. The consumer had discharged the burden of proof by claiming a defect in the wall putty. If the manufacturer held a different view, he must prove it. The Commission also pointed out that even though a technical executive was deputed by the manufacturer to examine the problem and he submitted a report, neither was he produced before the District Forum nor his report.

The Commission observed: "...arguably, wall putty and POP are works undertaken to get a proper finish and if this finish, in any manner, is not achieved, it does give cause for complaint." Instead of making amends by undertaking to do up the affected portions, the opposite parties sought to contest the case, the Commission regretted.

(JK White Cement Works Vs Rajendra Kumar and Another; RP No 1195 of 2018, date of order September 2, 2020)

# The sweet warmth of winter



## FOOD TALK

PUSHPESH PANT

**M**AKAR SANKRANTI and Lohri mark the end of the winter chill. But, for some reason, it also marks the occasion to indulge in sweetmeats that are traditionally believed to fortify our body for the rigours of winter. Corns are popped over bonfire and *rewari* and *gajjak* are enjoyed as the embers glow and flames leap. *Gajjak* season, hence, continues till long after these festivals. Historians believe that the custom dates back to millennia before the birth of Christ and have found references to a concoction like this in the Vedic texts.

*Gija* literally translates as basic food and *gajjak* indicates just a little extra.

Each one of us has a favourite *gajjak* and the term has now come to cover a wide range of rustic rural sweets — *gur patti*, *singdana chikki*, and assorted *rewari*. My father, who went to a medical school in Lucknow, was partial to the rose-scented *rewari* and flaky *gajjak* made in that city. Though my mother too found the stuff fit enough for effete nabobs, she put her money on *gajjak* from sleepy towns in the Hindi heartland.

A time long ago, Meerut was famous for three things: Meerut College, Madan Kainchiwale and *gajjak* from Begum Pul.

The college had an enviable reputation, but its aura affected only a small circle of scholars. It was the sharp scissors and the seasonal sweet that was cherished by all.

With time, we realised that there were other producers of *gajjak* that challenged



ISTOCK

### BOMBAY MEWA CHIKKI

#### INGREDIENTS

- Sugar 1 cup
- Ghee 1/3 cup
- Assorted nuts 1/2 cup (almonds, pistachios slivered)
- Raisins 1 tbsp
- A few rose petals
- Black peppercorns 1/4 tsp
- Green cardamom seeds 1/4 tsp

#### METHOD

Line a flat tray well with ghee. Heat a little ghee in a pan and add sugar on low heat, stirring constantly with a flat wooden spatula. As the sugar melts, add the nuts and the raisins along with rose petals and peppercorns. When it begins to caramelise, pour it at once onto the ghee-lined tray. You have to be very alert at this stage as the sugar turns solid and sets very fast. Level with a spatula and let it cool. Cut into thin, diamond-shaped chikkis later.

Meerut's claim as the *gajjak* heaven. Bhind-Morena — the badlands of Uttar Pradesh criss-crossed by ravines and home to dacoits — is known for the most delicate yet unpretentious *gajjak*, crisp and crumbly. Agra, close by, boasts of *shahi fare* in Tajganj that traces its lineage to the days of the Mughal empire. However, generations of careless catering to tourists has led to a decline in the quality.

In Bihar and Jharkhand, *gajjak* takes the form of *tilkut*. The shape is different, but the process is the same. Sesame seeds are beaten painstakingly in jaggery, pulled and folded back till the ingredients are homogenised.

A well-made *gajjak* requires no frills, just

a few cardamom seeds, if at all. However, these days you encounter *gajjak* smothered with raisins, slices of coconuts, slivers of pistachio and what not. Some are advertised as "*meewewali gajjak*, *khalis deshi ghee mein bani*". Come to think of it, even the reference to *ghee* appears a bit ostentatious. It was the sesame seeds that were supposed to yield oil to flavour and enrich the *gajjak*.

Now, try taking on the *gajjak* challenge at home only if you are a glutton for punishment though. Professionals take 15-16 hours of backbreaking labour to produce 7-8 kilos of the stuff. We suggest that you try your hand at *Bombay mewa chikki* inspired by the Sindhi Majoon that was once fed to this visiting bridegroom.

## Entertainment



## Into a child's mind

Marathi film *Sthalpuran* uses captivating visuals to reveal a boy's quest to discover his environment

DIPANKAR SARKAR

**A**KSHAY INDIKAR's sophomore work *Sthalpuran* (Chronicle of Space, 2020) is about the inner struggle that eight-year-old bespectacled boy Dighu faces when he has to relocate from Pune to a coastal village in Konkan with his mother and elder sister and stay at his grandparents' house. How Dighu copes with his new life, especially in the lingering absence of his father, forms the bedrock on which the foundation of the film rests. The young Dighu religiously jots down his thoughts in a diary, comparing his life in the village with the one he had in Pune. Creatively designed title cards, which appear at irregular intervals of the narrative, illustrate these pages. *Sthalpuran*, which recently won the Young Cinema Award at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards, was selected for the Generation K-plus category at the Berlin Film Festival earlier this year.

Without adhering to the run-of-the-mill linear plot or character arc, the filmmaker evokes the atmosphere and feel of the surroundings to narrate the story. Captivating visuals of natural environment provide an emotional perspective to the protagonist's mental journey. Throughout its 85 minutes, the film creates a poetic universe experienced through a unique storytelling.

In most of the scenes, Indikar, whose debut film *Trijya* was screened at many international film festivals, has opted to keep the camera static, allowing viewers to absorb themselves in the milieu of the film. The natural colours displayed within the sequences lend the film a glimmer of naturalism. The colours highlight Dighu's quest to cope with his natural environment. Neel Deshmukh, a first-time actor from the Kalyan suburb of Mumbai, gives a memorable performance as young Dighu.

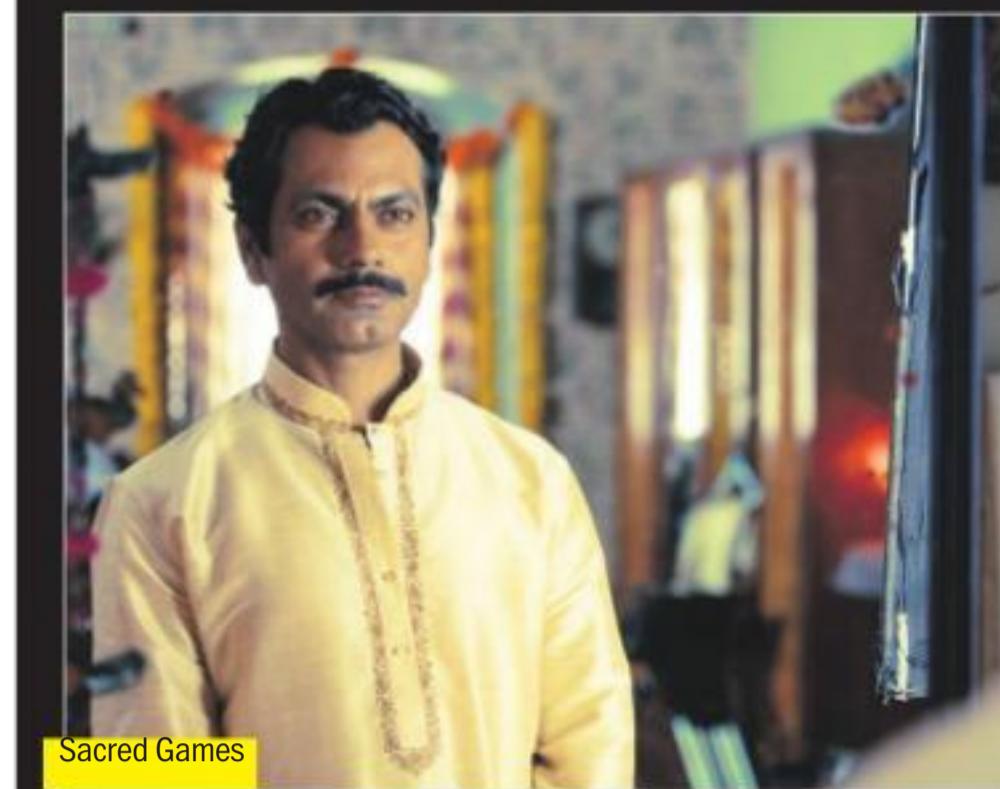
Jagadeesh Ravi's able cinematography lends an aesthetic appeal to the film. The natural sounds of the sea and torrential monsoon rain have been balanced with the roaring industrial sounds of a brick factory and heavy vehicles. This drama, which has very little dialogue and much attention has been paid to mundane details, requires patience and appreciation of plodding of the natural world. The film's unhurried pace must be allowed to grow on the viewers.



Akshay Indikar

## Crime de la crime

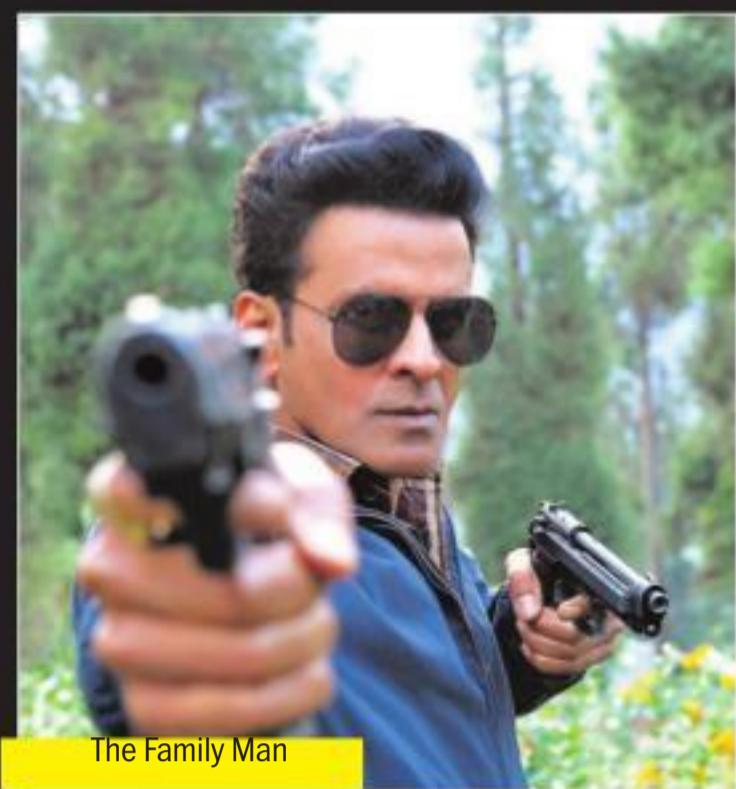
The genre sells like nothing else, be it the big screen or OTT. A look at how crime writers and makers keep both the shock and sensitivity alive



Sacred Games



Mirzapur



The Family Man

NONIKA SINGH

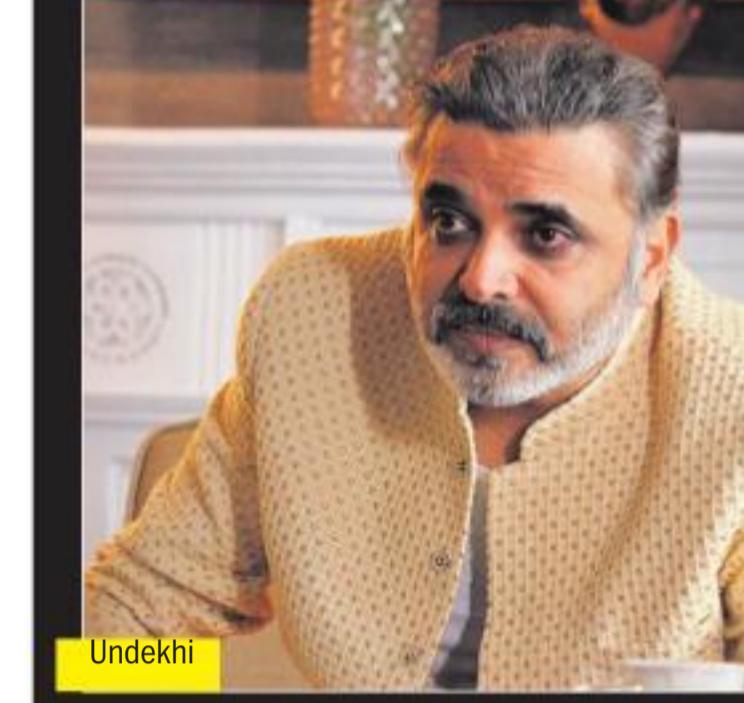
"Place the body near the beginning of your book — preferably on the first page, perhaps the first sentence." — Louise Penny

**C**RIME, a mindboggling genre, piques the reader as much as it enthralls the viewer when translated on the screen. The OTT space, too, is inundated with crime dramas. As our fascination for murder, gore and violence shows no signs of ebbing, we wonder what it takes to make us traverse the dark alleys of crime. Director Ashish R Shukla, whose web-series *Undekhi* hit the right buttons this year, shares the potent combination. He says, "The trick is to make it relatable and unpredictable at the same time. Novelty is what matters the most in heightening the fear factor." An ideal thriller's episode, he insists, not only ends on a cliffhanger but also is packed with many such mini-cliffhangers. He adds, "Frankly, we are manipulating the viewer's mind psychologically."

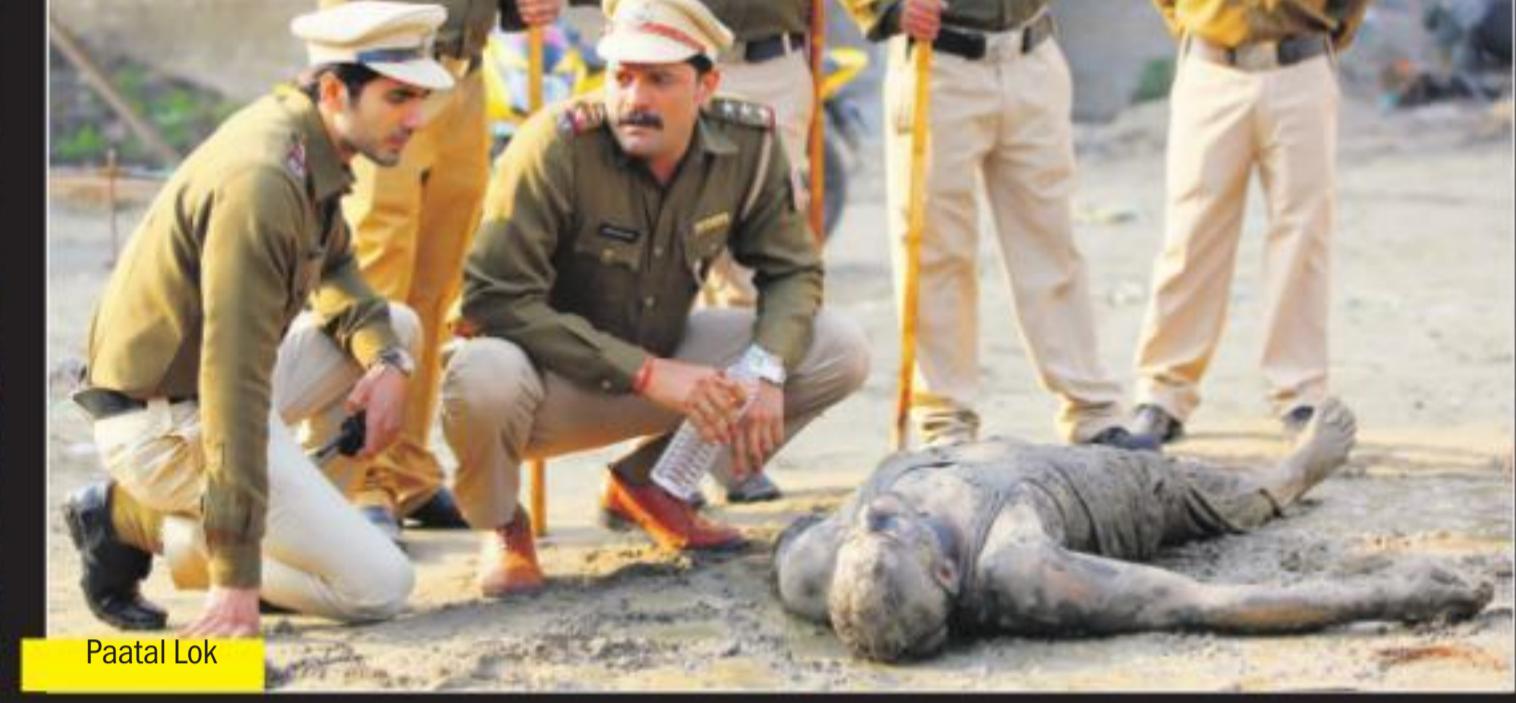
If the key to a crime novel is its page-turning ability, filmmaker and author Piyush Jha says it's the edge-of-the-seat quality that keeps the adrenaline rush of viewers going. Writer of bestsellers like *Mumbaistan* and *Compass Box Killer: An Inspector Virkar Crime Thriller*, his book *The Anti-Social Network* will soon be recreated as a web-series. Explaining the method behind crime writing, Jha says, "We are merely responding to the milieu and experiences around us. We need to understand the cadences of the reader's mind, how much to reveal and at what time." And what kind of space do they inhabit? While Jha says, "We are not serial killers plotting murders all the time, only telling a human story," Shukla feels, "It is all about amplifying our own dark experiences."

The challenge becomes manifold since the world we live in is brimming with gruesome incidents, somewhat deadening our responses to violence. But then, as Jha says, "What kind of crime and criminality we, the creators, are going to talk about is our prerogative." The task becomes doubly onerous in case of real-life crime shows like *Delhi Crime*, where both sensibility and sensitivity have to be kept in mind.

Shukla, who has worked with Anurag Kashyap, master of dark dramas, may have learnt the ultimate lesson of fearlessness from him. Yet, he is aware that the antagonist can't be unnecessarily glorified and the injustice behind the crime must be driven home. Actor Varun Badola, who wrote the dialogues for *Undekhi*, too, endorses that redemption has to be an integral part of crime sto-



Undekhi



Paatal Lok

ries. Yet, we all love the Gaitaondes and Munnas of *Sacred Games* and *Mirzapur*. Shukla relies heavily on performances to create his characters, good or bad. He says, "Not just heroes, even the bad guys must have a certain swag and charm." Does that mean that crime writing is not merely cut to chase, but can be complex and nuanced? The fact that the best Indian series *Sacred Games* and *Paatal Lok* have been based on books by authors (Vikram Chandra and Tarun Tejpal, respectively) outside the film world, too, tells us how crime writing is a specialised genre.

Often cinema (*Class of 83*) goes where others like crime author S Hussain Zaidi have gone before. Filmmaker Sanjay Gupta, who adapted Zaidi's *Dongri to Dubai* for *Shootout at Wadala*, doesn't think there is much difference between adapting a book and penning a fresh screenplay. "Except that someone else has done the research for you."

As writers and filmmakers, do they feel an extra onus on their shoulders while dabbling with the genre? Gupta couldn't care less about the message-

ries. Yet, we all love the Gaitaondes and Munnas of *Sacred Games* and *Mirzapur*. Shukla relies heavily on performances to create his characters, good or bad. He says, "Not just heroes, even the bad guys must have a certain swag and charm." Does that mean that crime writing is not merely cut to chase, but can be complex and nuanced? The fact that the best Indian series *Sacred Games* and *Paatal Lok* have been based on books by authors (Vikram Chandra and Tarun Tejpal, respectively) outside the film world, too, tells us how crime writing is a specialised genre.

ing. For him, black and white is oh-so-boring. The reason why crime stories, that too often non-fiction, work for him is audience response. As this Mumbai boy has spent seven long years of research in finding out the details of Mumbai underworld in the 1980s and 1990s for his next big screen outing *Mumbai Saga*, he also dispels the notion that we are living in more violent times.

Jha reminds us that violence is not a natural corollary of all crime. "Look at *Scam 1992*, it's a crime that does not involve any direct violence." The problem in India is, he feels, we often confuse gang wars alone with crime. The truth is crime genre is a wide range. From the whodunit detective stories to horror to thrillers to even white collar crimes, much falls under its ambit. As we are moving towards a world where it is becoming difficult to sift between drama and reality, where newspapers carry more crime within their fold, says Shukla, "it's important to sift the grain from the chaff." Whether all makers can distil the truth or not, crime genre remains a possibility pregnant with many layers and meanings. How often and



Aarya

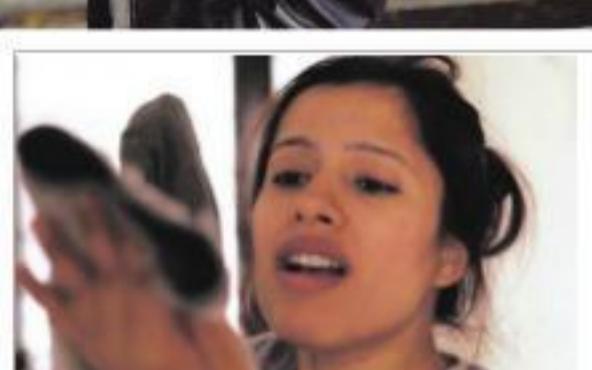


Class of 83

how well it is done is yet another story. As Manjit Sachdev, head of content at Voot & Voot Select, states, "We are reaching a saturation point and becoming formulaic in our approach to 'genres', especially in terms of crime thrillers." Nevertheless, right now, what is certain is that crime entertains and pays. As Richard Castle says, "There are two kinds of people who sit around all day thinking about killing people... mystery writers and serial killers. I'm the kind that pays better."

Chandigarh's Sunder Pal's film on same-sex relationships has been finding viewers across the world

## A queer love story

(Clockwise from top) Director-actor Sunder Pal (L) and Navpreet Moti in *Vilom*, which was screened at the Cannes Film Market, 2020; and Ambika Kamal as Nivi.

When Vilom embarks on a video art project with Nivi (Ambika Kamal), their bond makes Amay jealous. The film chronicles the evolution of their relationship. Shot in Chandigarh, the film was completed in three schedules over a year-and-a-half to capture different seasons.

"The film," says Sunder, "was inspired by an article I read about the police harassing a gay person. I researched on the abuse the queer community faced and started writing a story."

After finishing the 70-page screenplay, he pitched it to various producers but many did not agree with his treatment of the subject. He finally decided to make the film himself. "I was a freelance teacher and conducted acting and personality development workshops. I used that income to fund the film."

But there was a problem. Trained as

for answers online. It took me five attempts to get the Digital Cinema Package [digital equivalent of a film print] right."

Most of the cast and crew were his friends, many of whom also studied at the Department of Indian Theatre, Panjab University. "I couldn't find people with all the required skills within my friend circle, so I had to budget in some professionals." He found the film's editor through an open call he'd posted on Facebook. The editor recommended a colourist to him. Amsterdam-based Ernst Spyckerelle composed the score of the film.

"I also handled production design, costume and art department. I had to check the lighting, the set, the shot, then act in the shot and review it later. I had to take on all of this because I didn't have the money to hire people," he says.

The lack of funds forced him to make certain compromises. "The production quality and sound could have been better. But I was an amateur when I started," confesses Sunder. Nevertheless, the film has been garnering audiences across the world. "The release of the film has been delayed in France due to the lockdown there. It is also being shown on online streaming platforms like Dekkoo and GagaOOlala." *Vilom* is being screened online at the I View World Human Rights Film Festival 2020 until December 20.

## CAPTION CONTEST 1284



Entries are invited to suggest a caption for the above photograph. The caption should only be in English, witty and not exceeding 10 words, and reach Spectrum, The Tribune, Chandigarh, 160030, by Thursday. The best five captions will be published and awarded ₹300, ₹250, ₹200, ₹150 and ₹100, respectively. Each caption must be accompanied by a clipping of the caption contest and its number. Photocopies of the caption photo will not be accepted. Please mention the pin code in your address.

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

## Selected entries for Caption Contest 1283

December 6 issue (see photo)

■ Colour matte — Vivek Sargota, Chandigarh

■ Inflation on the go — Nisha, Chandigarh

■ Aircraft — Karnail Singh, Mohali

■ Ready to catch eyeballs — Alisha Chandra, Chandigarh

■ Air males — Jaskaran Preet Kaur, Chandigarh

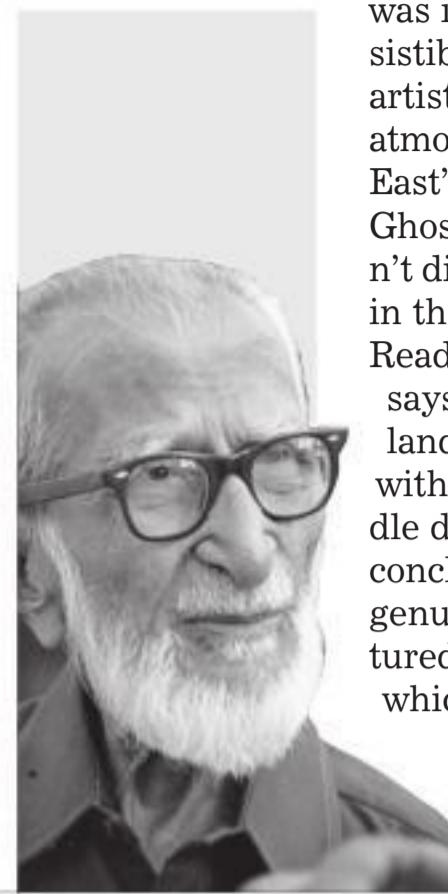
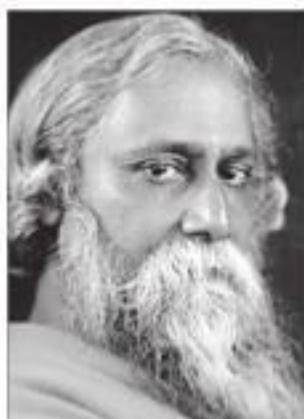


# In the delightful presence of the greats

KEKI DARUWALLA

**T**HIS valuable 'Book of Indian Essays', edited and compiled by Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, is an eye-opener. For instance, we get to know of Buddhadeva Bose's unstinted admiration for Henry Miller. When we were students, we never bothered to read him. Bose visited him and stayed overnight at Big Sur, where Miller lived. Henry gave him all his time, all his attention. "Perhaps he would be described as an American DH Lawrence — and a writer whose mania was confession". Miller wanted to go to India to see 'a real saint', a venture forcefully resisted by Bose. He could have met a thousand 'real villains'. I was surprised by Bose's admiration for Miller. From a book on Nikos Gatsos, the Greek poet, I formed a very poor opinion of Henry Miller.

The book, consisting of 45 essays, is well researched, starting with Derozio, Bankim Chandra, Tagore, Salim Ali, going on to RK Narayan and Desani. There are some famous ones,



(Clockwise from above, left) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Rabindranath Tagore, Salim Ali and Amrita Sher-Gil.

**THE BOOK OF INDIAN ESSAYS: TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF ENGLISH PROSE**  
Edited by Arvind Krishna Mehrotra.  
Black Kite/Hachette.  
Pages 462.  
₹699

Salim Ali, going on to RK Narayan and Desani. There are some famous ones,

for instance the scathing one by Nissim Ezekiel on Naipaul, or Amrita Sher-Gil on modern Indian art imitating the forms of the past. Nissim's counter-punch has become a classic. He lambasts Naipaul for being uninvolved and unconcerned. "He (Naipaul) writes exclusively from the point of view of his own dilemma, his temperamental alienation..." He adds, "Mr Naipaul's book has the moral

authority of hysteria, the interest and value of suffering impotence."

Amrita Sher-Gil veils her disdain of Indian art's tryst with mythology. I remember Satish Gujral branding Raja Ravi Varma's paintings as "calendar art". Paint Radha or Draupadi as you like, but the sari's folds better be right. Sher-Gil starts her essay with "It seems to me that I never began painting, that I have always painted". Born in 1913, it

was in 1934 that she was suddenly irresistibly drawn to India, hoping that "my artistic personality should find its true atmosphere in the colour and light of the East". (Note the East, Tagore, Aurobindo Ghosh and other Indian savants couldn't digest their dinner without bringing in the East. It was a palpable presence. Read Tagore's Nobel Prize speech.) She says, "Those serene or sun-flooded landscapes, consciously naturalistic, with authentic Indian ruins in the 'middle distance', that serve as trademarks, conclusive irrefutable proofs as to the genuineness of the article (manufactured in India), not one brushstroke of which conveys India really."

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay tells us in his skimpy two-page essay, the 'poojah dalan', where the idols were kept, got the lion's share of the money

spent on a Bengali house. Tagore has a boring essay on 'The Nation' where he says things like "The cult of the nation is the professionalism of the people". Then he adds, "This cult is becoming their greatest danger, because it is bringing them enormous success, making them impatient of higher ideals." Who would we credit with 'higher ideals' in India today? Sri Sri who hasn't paid the fine for damaging the Yamuna embankment, or Adityanath

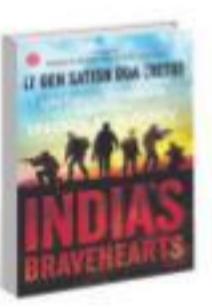
Yogi? There's a fine essay by Hasan Shahid Suhrawardy bringing alive the exhilaration among Indian students at Oxford when Tagore won the Nobel Prize, and visited Oxford to deliver lectures. He felt that "India had once again been placed on the map of the world". Didn't Manekshaw do it in 1971, and Kapil Dev in 1983? At lunch, Tagore sat stone-still, "and in the noon haze, I fancied to myself Orpheus sculpted on the prow of some Hellenic boat, mirrored in the waters of the Ionian seas". Those Oxonians wrote better than us, the ones from Allahabad or Ludhiana. The next essay in the book is by the great Salim Ali on the 'Indian House Crow'.

One can't miss a perceptive essay by Victor Anant, 'The Three Faces of an Indian'. He starts by saying "We finally saw freedom arrive, not with an ideological bang, but with a whimper of political expediency". Sanjay Subrahmanyam rightly castigates Aravind Adiga's Man Booker Prize-winning novel 'The White Tiger'. The essay is titled 'Another Booker Flop'. The one essay I didn't care for was Pankaj Mishra's 'Mashobra'; the language as stale as the *rajma* and *chana* he ate day after day at a *dhaba*, no excitement at the landscape, language as desultory as the years he lived there.

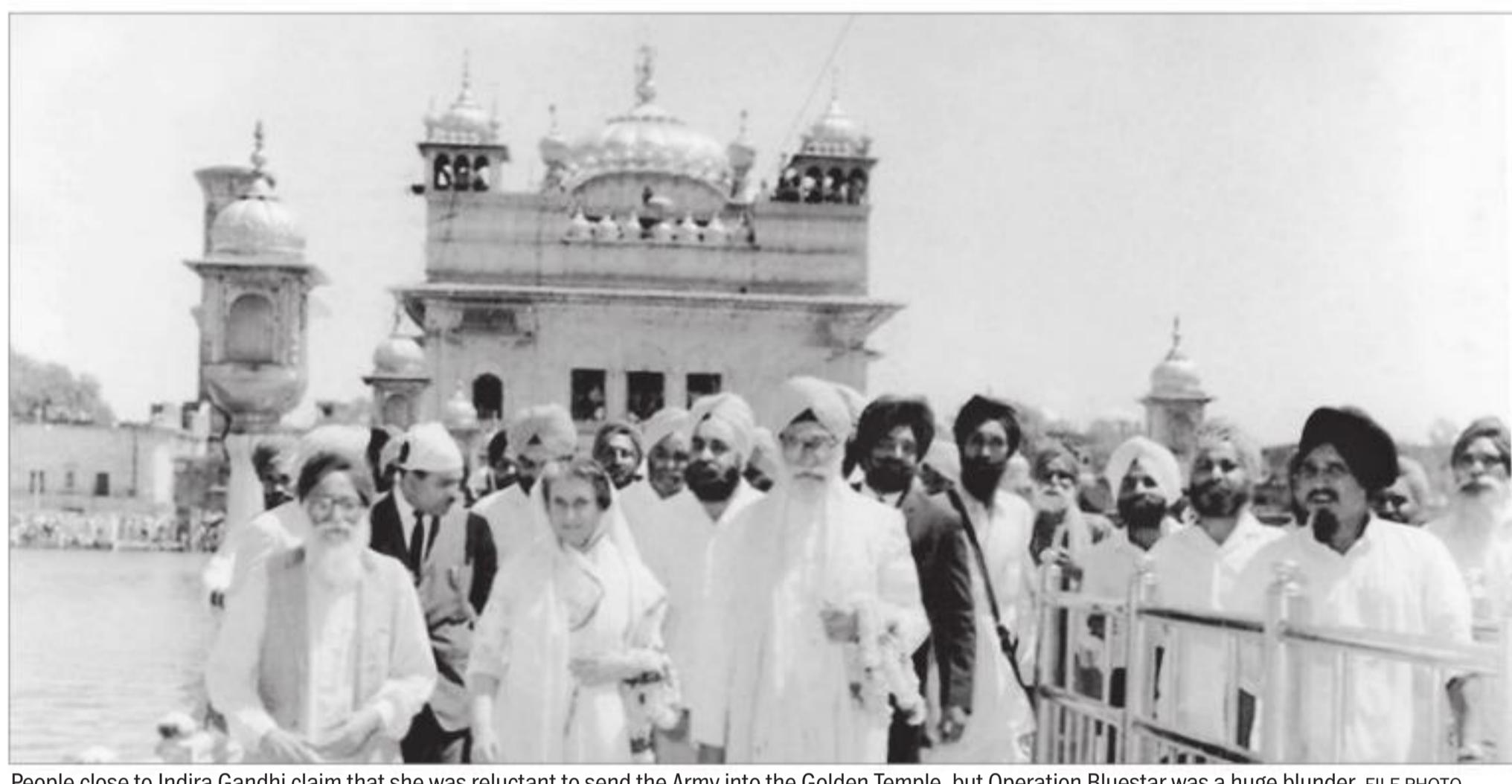


## BACKFLAP

**F**ROM the Corps Commander who planned and executed the surgical strikes in 2016 comes an account of the day, and a rare insider account of the Army. There are a total of 12 stories about daring operations, risks taken, lucky escapes and extraordinary colleagues. There are other thrilling tales by Lt Gen Satish Dua (Retd) about psychological domination and mindgames around the LoC, and heartwarming stories of soldiers from both sides sharing *chai*. The book comes with a foreword by the Army Chief.



**INDIA'S BRAVEHEARTS**  
by Lieutenant General Satish Dua (Retd).  
Juggernaut.  
Pages 200. ₹299



People close to Indira Gandhi claim that she was reluctant to send the Army into the Golden Temple, but Operation Bluestar was a huge blunder. FILE PHOTO

**THE KHALISTAN CONSPIRACY: A FORMER RAW OFFICER UNRAVELS THE PATH TO 1984**  
by GBS Sidhu.  
HarperCollins.  
Pages 296.  
₹599

Sidhu has a lot of telling to do. By his own admission, the Department helped build the Khalistan legend and actively participated in the planning of Operation Bluestar. Posted to Ottawa in 1976 to look into the Khalistan problem, Sidhu found nothing amiss in the Sikh diaspora in North America during the three years he was there. As he puts it, Delhi was unnecessarily making a mountain of a molehill where none existed. He reveals how in 1981, the R&AW created seven new stations in West Europe and North America to counter Khalistan activities when there were none. Neither were the officers sent always familiar with the Sikhs or the Punjab issue.

The main thrust of his book, however, lies in what he describes as Operation One and Two conducted, as he believes, from 1 Akbar Road, not without the connivance of the Department.

The problem with Punjab arose from a

lack of understanding of Sikh history and insensitivity to the insecurity at times of the most formidable of minorities. In Sidhu's telling, rightly so, the problem was of the Congress' making, notably the Gandhi family, which in its obsession with power created a Frankenstein in the form of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, inspired by Sanjay Gandhi and Giani Zail Singh to counteract the Akali party. Gianji denied having ever met Bhindranwale but what is undeniable is that the Sant campaigned for the Congress in the 1980 election.

The more immediate provocation, however, could have been Mrs Gandhi's Hindu card, which antagonised not only the Akalis, but the Sikh community as a whole, communalising Punjab.

After the clumsy handling of the Emergency and the debacle in the 1977 elections, Mrs Gandhi returned to power with a thumping majority; Sanjay was riding high, but then tragedy struck. Mrs Gandhi was shattered and never the same.

Operation Two, as Sidhu refers to it, leading up to Bluestar, was even a bigger tragedy. People close to Mrs Gandhi and those working with her at that time are

unanimous in their opinion that she was most reluctant to send the Army into the Golden Temple. Natwar Singh is even on record that the Army, which assured of minimum use of force, flouted her instructions. Bluestar was a huge blunder and a disaster with far-reaching consequences.

Bhindranwale had warned that if the Army entered the Golden Temple, it would lay the foundation of Khalistan. Khalistan was never a movement and may have remained a chimera, but Bhindranwale dead became much bigger than Bhindranwale alive and Punjab was to witness a decade-and-a-half of terrorism.

Bhindranwale never raised the demand for Khalistan or went beyond the Akali Anandpur Sahib Resolution, while he himself was prepared for negotiations to the very end. All talks with the more moderate Akalis had already failed. The hawks had

taken control of Mrs Gandhi and so the worst was to happen and the Sikhs never forgave her for what happened. President Giani Zail Singh felt betrayed; relations between him and the Prime Minister were strained and were only to worsen in Rajiv Gandhi's time.

For atonement, Mrs Gandhi secretly

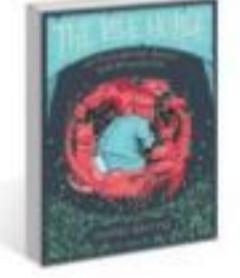
went to pay obeisance at Darbar Sahib on June 23, 1984. According to the officers who accompanied her, she was horrified by the destruction. She made both her anguish and anger known to senior Army officers. In July, she also visited Ladakh where addressing Sikh troops she referred to them as her children, but all this atonement was too little, too late. Sikh troops had already revolted at many places.

The final act of the tragedy remains a riddle. Everybody around her and Mrs Gandhi herself knew of the threat to her life and yet nobody could do anything to save her. If security instructions were flouted, they were only done at the behest of the Prime Minister, who opposed the removing of Sikh guards. Indira Gandhi had a premonition of death.

Sadly, nobody other than Dr Manmohan Singh has had the civility to publicly apologise for Bluestar or the anti-Sikh pogrom.

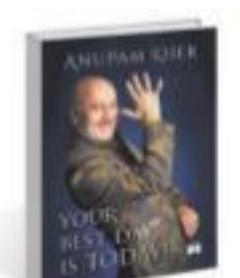
Recently, Gurbachan Jagat, one of Punjab's more illustrious police officers, warned that with divisive forces at work, we could again be at the crossroads of history. If protesting farmers can be dubbed as Khalistanis, we may be slipping again.

**Y**OU probably heard about Chetak, Rana Pratap's legendary horse, while growing up. Or Rani Laxmibai's Badal. But there are several that remain forgotten. This book wants to correct this historical wrong and brings together several such forgotten heroes. What's more, the stories are in the voices of these characters themselves. So, Akbar's favourite cheetah, Samand Manik, takes you on a tour of the royal court. Waghya, Shivaji's dog, offers an insight into what Shivaji was really like. Unlike anything you've read, right?



**KHAKI IN DUST STORM: POLICE DIARIES BOOK I**  
by Amod K Kanth.  
Bloomsbury.  
Pages 334. ₹799

**A**CTOR Anupam Kher was in New York when the fears around Covid-19 started turning real. His return to India was to see lockdown, curfew, isolation, boredom, uncertainty, anger, frustration. How does normalcy return then? Well, live it like your best day is today! The book is a compendium of experiences, lessons and positive takeaways that help one deal with during the dark times in life. His earlier books — 'Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly' & 'The Best Thing About You Is You' — too are in the self-help genre.



**THE BLUE HORSE & OTHER STORIES**

by Nandini Sengupta.  
Hachette.  
Pages 148. ₹299

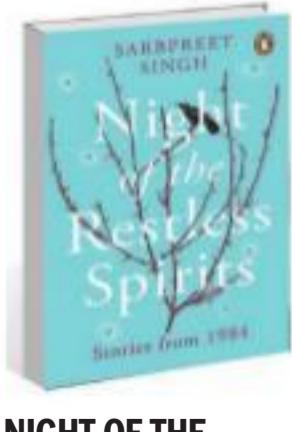
**T**EEN years after Brandon Sanderson began Stormlight Archive, comes 'Rhythm of War', his fourth novel in a series of 10. The 4,60,000 words pack in them a tale of technological discoveries that would change the face of the war; a protracted war in which none has gained an advantage so far. The series is based in a universe known as Cosmere and action happens across different solar systems. The last one in the series, 'Oathbringer', was a best-seller. This one is already being hailed as an "epic in every sense".



**RHYTHM OF WAR**  
by Brandon Sanderson.  
Hachette.  
Pages 1,230. ₹899

# Reprising pain of 1984, and scars that remain

HARVINDER KHETAL



**NIGHT OF THE RESTLESS SPIRITS: STORIES FROM 1984**  
by Sarbpreet Singh.  
Penguin Random House.  
Pages 217.  
₹499

"It has been thirty-five years, but the sting of the slap is still fresh on my face." These words of a young bureaucrat, who righteously tries to protect all the lives that he was responsible for in a curfew-bound and riot-riddled town of Madhya Pradesh caught in the bloodbath let loose against the Sikhs in the wake of Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984, comes across as the underlying theme of the six short stories spun by Sarbpreet Singh in the 'Night of the Restless Spirits'. Adapted from real-life horri-

fying inflamations that ordinary people found themselves engulfed in willy-nilly in the charged atmosphere of 1984, pivoted around Operation Bluestar and the PM's assassination, the tales perceptively swathe a large and varied spectrum of those extenuating circumstances.

The fact that the sting of the incidents continues to haunt our socio-political set-up, with many a question still lying buried under, lends a bulwark against the fictional reprising of the pain and painful events of and around that fateful year. Of course, the US-based author has the advantage of hindsight afforded by the lapse of 36 years since that turmoil and tumultuous time. The sheer depth of emotions and experiences that the characters — Sikhs and others linked to them in varied fashions — undergo in realistic settings is sensitively portrayed and keeps the reader engrossed.

Giving a ringside view of the complex

happenings of 1984 that acquired multidimensional ramifications, an insightful attempt is made to cover 360 degrees, with a rich sprinkling of Sikh culture and milieu. Visuals of those ghastly events appear in the reader's mind as ordinary men and women, government officials, bravehearts, bigots, traitors and conspirators cross paths in the communal flare-ups and tragedy and misery is heaped on the Sikhs. Thousands of them lost their lives, limbs and livelihoods in those days of carnage fuelled by blinding rage and mob mentality. A few beautiful pen portraits of inter-personal relations and calls of conscience, blurring the lines of race or religion, serve to keep the faith in humanity alive.

Particularly touching is the story of the family of 'Phaji', a promising and well-read medical student driven to the precipice by the circumstances. 'The Gen-

eral' gives a detailed version of the induction of Sikhs in the US in the movement gaining ground back home, along with the government's dirty tricks department at play. The shadow of being a terrorist sympathiser that trails every Sikh is brought to fore in 'The Court Martial'. 'The Survivor' evokes the harrowing ordeal of Sikh passengers as their train coach is set ablaze, and 'The Martyr' is based on the mindless killings that marked the days of militancy.

Finally, who are the restless spirits? A symphony, over the centuries, of "tormented lost souls of Punjab, who are summoned back each time tyranny returns and innocents are butchered".

Many in the community today would relate to some or the other aspect of the novel. The tales open doors for conversation for a closure that has been denied to the victims of that time for too long.

# Farmer as the standard-bearer



THE INWARD EYE

GURBACHAN JAGAT

Devoid of any political leadership, common folk have chosen their own path to oppose and negotiate with the 'Dilli Darbar'. It is no longer limited to being an agitation of farmers, it has become a movement of people as a whole. It's time a solution was arrived at democratically — Parliament should convene and listen to the voice of the people

**T**HE proclamation of Emergency in 1975 came as a bolt from the blue and hundreds of political leaders and workers were arrested in midnight swoops by the police. Political activity came to a standstill and all instruments of the Constitution stood blunted. Such was the atmosphere of fear that people were scared of going out on the streets. The biggest fear was of sterilisation and the Youth Congress hoodlums. At that time, it seemed as if the darkness would last forever, but resistance was building up quietly. We had tall leaders in the Opposition like JP Narayan, Vajpayee, Advani, Badal, Morarji Desai and Fernandes, to name a few. The Akali Dal was the first party to have a mass rally to oppose the Emergency in Amritsar and launched a 'march' against it. All these leaders had a vision to lead us during and after the Emergency, but a lot of them failed when it came to governance. Today, we have only puny leaders in the Opposition firing salvos through tweets. They will soon lose their offices, residences and security paraphernalia if they do not step out into the streets and fight the good fight. We could have looked into other fields for leadership but today, the university, the press, the visual media, the NGOs, the intellectuals and the social scientists are under attack and some of them have been locked up on trumped-up charges and even bail is not available to them. There is no relief from the highest judicial levels and the aged and infirm septuagenarians in jail have to beg for straws and sippers.

Now once again, as draconian laws are passed against the peasants and small farmers, the Punjabi farmer has led the charge and is joined by his comrades from across the country. Devoid of any political leadership, the common folk have chosen their own path to oppose and negotiate with the 'Dilli Darbar'. India's farmers

are on the move everywhere. Today, Delhi is no longer 'door ast'. It is within striking distance. All of a sudden, the Central Government and the urban elite are in a face-to-face situation with the 'peasantry'. Who are these people and where from have they come in such big numbers? They were supposed to be 'unseen and unheard' in their remote villages but today they are vociferous and raising slogans, burning effigies of political and corporate leaders.

Why have they come to Delhi? Because most of the effective power now rests with the Central Government and state capitals are empty shells devoid of any meaningful power. There is no point in agitating in the state capitals, hence the shrewd farmer has bypassed the state capital, ignored the Chief Ministers and proceeded straight to the seat of power to get his grievances redressed. Delhi is also where these new laws were promulgated — which farmer asked for them, by the way? How have we reached this stage where the states no longer matter? Where is the federalism enshrined in our Constitution? The answer is simple — federalism is dying a slow death, through a thousand cuts. GST ended up taking away whatever financial independence the states had legally in their hand — the states are paupers today, scrapping for whatever crumbs are thrown from the high table. Come the lockdown and the states were left facing lakhs of migrants going back. In addition, they were left to look after the victims of the pandemic for which they had no infrastructure.

I could go on about instances of the Centre chipping away at the powers of the states, but must dwell on the biggest strike so far — the assault on the farmers and the grievous blow to them, 'their land'. However, the Centre was in for a surprise; the farmers understood the implications of these so-called reforms and went in for direct action. The farmers were not taken

in by the state or Central Governments because for the first time, they have identified the beneficiaries of these laws and named them — 'the corporates', that are the favourites of the powers-that-be. These laws would place the land, the produce, the marketplaces and the prices in the hands of the corporates and their political friends. This is why the farmers are targeting the corporates as joint villains. Now is this a one-off partnership, or has it been going on for a considerable period of time? Is this the new social contract? Is this the new model of governance in which the corporates own most of the valuable resources and infrastructure and the small traders, farmers, workers become serfs? Is this the reason why young boys and girls and mid-level businessmen and industrialists are moving out of the country in huge numbers? Is this why the stock exchange keeps soaring while all other parameters of the economy keep falling? According to some recent surveys, even Bangladesh is beginning to outshine us.

Unlike the way of the government, the farmers have not gone by stealth, they have used their vehicles, not hijacked state transport and they have gone with the sun shining brightly over their heads. They have placed their demands in a forthright manner and their terms are non-negotiable. There are no go-betweens. This has come about because the normal concept of democratic discussion and decision-making has gone for a toss. Decisions are announced at midnight and promulgated through ordinances. When and if Parliament meets, hardly any worthwhile discussion takes place and the brute majority forces its way. Decisions which affect the whole country and especially the marginalised sections are taken without discussion, without debate and without consultation with the Opposition parties.

The standard-bearer of free speech and liberty — 'the media'

— has been totally co-opted by the corporate-political setup and there are very few exceptions. The media has been a great disappointment because in its absence, how do you spread the counter-narrative to the one given by the authorities? They have taken on the role of the prosecutor, jury and judge. Advani's famous description of the media — 'you were asked only to bend, but you chose to crawl' is more than apt today. Talking of judges, if 1975 was a low defined by AN Ray and the habeas corpus case, the deafening silence of the courts today in most matters has probably surpassed it.

The land of Bhagat Singh, Raiguru and Sukhdev has shown once again that it will not bow to tyranny and that we will fight back for what is rightfully ours. The farmers have shown the way and lighted a new path for our survival. It is up to us, 'we the people'. We are the people who gave ourselves this Constitution after decades of mass struggle and oppression led by fearless and self-sacrificing leaders of the calibre of the Mahatma, Nehru, Patel, Tilak, Gokhale, Maulana Azad and many more. We are their descendants and it is up to us to safeguard and preserve what they bequeathed to us. Today, there is no foreign ruler, today we have our own government. It's time that a solution was arrived at democratically — Parliament should convene and listen to the voice of the people. It is no longer Punjab alone but Haryana, UP, Uttarakhand, MP, Andhra Pradesh and the rest. It is no longer limited to being an agitation of farmers; rather, it has become a movement of the people as a whole. The farmers, however, started the good fight and in the words of Majrooh Sultanpur: 'Mein akela hi chala tha jaanib-e-manjil magar log sath aate gaye aur karwan banta gaya'.

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

# Veritable lows of higher education



TOUCHSTONES

IRA PANDE

Indian historians and economists are not at the top. In fact, a popular joke is that if you are not Indian, you cannot study development economics. Names such as Amartya Sen, Jagdish Bhagwati, Arvind Panagariya, Kaushik Basu, Raghuram Rajan, Abhijit Banerjee show that the list is endless. It used to be said that after the Second World War, several persecuted Jewish academics escaped to the US, where they were snapped up by universities such as Harvard and Yale. For years, they brought Nobel Prizes to their new countries. Another surge of scientists came in the wake of dismemberment of USSR and this gave several eminent space scientists to NASA.

Today, it is our fellow Indians who are looked at with respect and awe in these countries. Let us not forget that almost all our Nobel Prize winners have worked in foreign labs to win laurels. This is not to say that no work is being done here in our own labs (the recent developments in Covid vaccines come readily to mind), as does the fact that India produces the world's most reliable and inexpensive pills). My simple point is that we have not been successful in retaining our talent in India. For decades now, children have been migrating abroad to pursue graduate and post-graduate studies. A huge number never return and I know from personal experience that there is hardly any Indian middle class family where at least one (if not all) child has chosen to live abroad because conditions there are far more exciting for research. So while our own campuses are losing the best students and teachers, our country seems helpless to stem the rot.

Education is among the most passionately debated subjects today and the need for independence and autonomy in deciding courses and recruiting faculty is universally accepted. However, the heavy hand of the State falls upon any institute that dares to raise the flag of autonomy. JNU is the most recent victim of a sustained campaign to discredit its reputation by labelling it a conclave of Lefties and anti-national elements. Hateful as this may be, we must also lay the blame beyond the political parties that fuel this propaganda. JNU itself must truthfully examine its faults and its tendency towards an academic monoculture, where any deviation from the ideological preferences of the mainstream were either ridiculed or snuffed out. The fallout of the Mandal Commission and the skewed reservation policy must also be honestly assessed. Political correctness at the cost of academic excellence is a dangerous trend. But who will dare say so?

# Enemy's grave at Three Heights in J&K



**MILITARY MATTERS**  
LT GEN RAJ SUJLANA (RETD)

Recalling the bravery of 9 Sikh in 1971 war, and why the recent renovation of a grave of a fallen Pak officer is in consort with the ethos of the Indian Army to respect all those killed in battle

**I**RRESPECTIVE of who shows guts and bravery in battle, it deserves respect and honour. The recent report of renovation of the grave of a fallen Pakistani officer in Jammu and Kashmir is in this spirit, and is in consort with the ethos of the Indian Army to respect all those killed in battle. I was a part of 9 Sikh during the Indo-Pak war in 1971 when this outstanding battalion captured 42 square km of PoK in Lipa valley, a record unmatched by any other Infantry battalion during the war. The enemy's resistance collapsed as the Sikhs emerged out of thin air, accompanied by the resounding 'jaikaras' of 'Bole So Nihal, Sat Sri Akal'.

Of the many surprise attacks was the capture of the area (referred to here as Three Heights) where the grave is located. Three Heights, at the outbreak of war, was located well to the rear of the enemy defences where they least expected an attack, but was to witness many acts of gallantry. After the capture of the initial objectives, two companies of 9 Sikh

took a wide hook by night to launch an attack by infiltration on Three Heights. After one company had established firm base for the attack to the north-east of Three Heights, further infiltration was resumed with a recce in strength under Major 'Hardy' Hardul Singh, Lt Taneja and an additional platoon under Lt Pushpinder as immediate reinforcements. It being daylight, stealth was paramount; around 2 pm, this force had crept close to Three Heights. The enemy's resistance collapsed as the Sikhs emerged out of thin air, accompanied by the resounding 'jaikaras' of 'Bole So Nihal, Sat Sri Akal'.

The opportunity could not be missed. The troops following up were whistled forward hurriedly, but suddenly a sentry spotted the lurking Sikhs. 'Hardy', true to the adage that 'boldest measures are the safest', took the initiative and launched the attack. This daylight rush totally surprised the Pakistanis. They defended well, especially the mortar handlers, but the Sikh resilience was overbearing. The follow-up troops, along with

the platoon under Lt Pushpinder, had joined up; soon the entire Three Heights, along with four mortars with 280 high explosive bombs and other weapons, was captured. The counter-attack was also beaten back. The enemy casualties were nearly 30 killed and two captured; due to the surprise, our casualties were low: five killed, one officer (Lt Taneja) and six other ranks wounded.

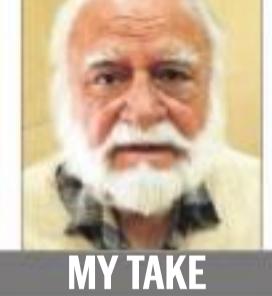
Fast forward to May 1972, Three Heights again witnessed extremely severe fighting. On May 5, Pakistan launched a surprise attack with over two battalions supported by helicopter-based SSJs and heavy artillery support — a ratio of nine attackers to one defender. Some peacetime activities had started; thus the 9 Sikh company was pretty under-strength, but egged on by Major Pancholy, they fought it out till most were killed or wounded. Pancholy, critically wounded, was evacuated along with only a handful of men. 9 Sikh launched a counter-attack soon with four officers leading and three of

them were wounded; in an intense fire-fight, Capt Sen killed Maj Sabir Khan, but was himself badly wounded. It was an extremely high-intensity battle. The casualty figure on our side was 20 and 28 were wounded. Pakistan lost many more, including the Commanding Officer (Lt Col Haq Kiyani), and it awarded five Sitara-e-Jurat and two Tamgha-e-Jurat, their third and fourth highest gallantry awards, for this operation.

Some 15 years later, I was back there as the Company Commander. Maj Khan's grave was a short distance from my bunker. The grave

reminded me of the famous poem by Rupert Brooke: 'If I should die, think this only of me. That there is some corner of a foreign field that is forever (me)...'. But lest the gallantry of many others be forgotten, the poem continues, 'There shall be in that rich earth richer (gallantry acts) concealed.' How true! The original epitaph that read 'Here lies Maj Khan killed by Capt AS Sen of 9 Sikh' needs to be known and preserved.

# Why 'The Protester' deserves to be person of the year



MY TAKE

RAHUL SINGH

It takes guts to protest and take on the powers-that-be. You risk being called unpatriotic, but dissent is the very essence of democracy

**I**N 1927, the American news magazine *Time* began its tradition of selecting a 'Man of the Year'. This was later enlarged to 'Person of the Year' (so as to include women), and even further to a 'group, idea or object who has done the most to influence the events of the year'. Its first 'Man of the Year' was Charles Lindbergh, who made the first trans-Atlantic flight. Our own Mahatma Gandhi was made 'Man of the Year' more than once. In the same fashion, as 2020 comes to an end, I hereby select my person of the year: 'The Dissenter'. You can also call that person 'The Protester', which is rather apt, given the ongoing farmers' protests. Let's not go into the rights and wrongs of the farmers, nor even if they represent all the estimated 146 million farmers spread throughout the country. But they certainly do stand for the one million farmers in Punjab and probably quite a few others in Haryana, UP, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan.

It is also worth bearing in mind that many, if not most, of the Punjab farmers came from Pakistan, after the subcontinent was partitioned in 1947. They arrived from across the border, often traumatised and usually penniless, having lost their land and worldly belongings, amidst horrific bloodletting. A majority of them were Sikhs. Yet, leaving the bitter past behind, they rose phoenix-like, and made Punjab the most prosperous and thriving state in a remarkably short time. They also ushered in the Green Revolution, turning a famine-prone land into a food self-sufficient one. And they freed us from the humiliating PL-480 Act, whereby we were importing American foodgrains for our survival. The nation has much to thank them for. It is another matter that the indiscriminate use of water, pesticides and fertilisers degraded the soil, and that the gains from the Green Revolution are now being widely questioned by environmentalists. The state has also suffered from maladministration in recent years. That, along with the twin menace of militancy and the ruinous use of narcotics, blighted Punjab, bringing it several notches down from its earlier primacy. Nevertheless, the resilience and enterprise of the Punjabi farmers remains embedded in the national consciousness.

The voice of dissent also made itself heard in the beginning of the year. On December

11, 2019, Parliament passed the Citizen Amendment Act (CAA). Three days later, a movement began that soon snowballed into thousands of protesting women — mostly Muslim — in a Delhi locality called Shaheen Bagh. The protesters claimed that the CAA unfairly targeted Muslims, as did the National Population Register (NPR), which is due to be implemented. As proof, they held up the relevant passages of the Constitution. The protest movement lasted from mid-December up to March 24, after the lockdown announcement. It captured the imagination of the nation, with many thoughtful Indians, not just Muslims, wondering why one particular community was being singled out for citizenship. Shaheen Bagh became a symbol of protest against an Act that reeked of sectarianism.

The lockdown became the occasion for more protests. Somehow, the Prime Minister and his government had overlooked the plight of millions of migrant labourers, left stranded far away from their homes, with no work and hence no food or roof over their heads. It was a monumental mistake and a little like the PM's disastrous demonetisation, another measure the conse-

quences of which had not been thought through. Yet, with his legendary communication skills, he was able to put a spin on it and make both measures sound positive. We now know that they caused immense suffering. Yet, the protesters and the dissenters were labelled "anti-national".

Let us now turn not to individuals but to institutions that have become a focus of dissent — our law courts. Though he has been mentioned before, the example of Justice Siddharth of the Allahabad High Court needs re-telling. He highlighted the misuse by the UP government of the law banning cow slaughter. He questioned the credibility of the state police in making arrests under this law — mostly of Muslims, needless to say. After the same state government had passed an ordinance against inter-faith marriages — targeting Muslims, yet again — that very High Court rendered another stinging judgment. Its strong wording bears repetition: "The right to choose a partner, irrespective of caste, creed or religion, is inherent under the right to life and personal liberty." Yet, other BJP-ruled states intend to pass a similar law. The huge irony is that soon after the

infamous ordinance, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had the gall to visit Mumbai to try and persuade Bollywood to set up a 'film city' in his state. Somebody there should have told him that, contrary to his sentiments, Bollywood shines in inter-faith unions. One also wonders whether once the Yogi's 'film city' comes up, it will have a prominent sign at the entry: "Inter-faith couples not permitted".

Very few governments, even the most democratic ones, are comfortable with dissenters and protesters. Like Indira Gandhi, especially during her Emergency rule, the present government is behaving no differently, except for its marked anti-Muslim leaning. Hence, it takes guts to dissent, or to protest, thereby taking on the powers-that-be. You risk being called unpatriotic, or an "urban naxal", especially when there is a majoritarian government in power, with a leader who is charismatic and still hugely popular. But dissent is the very essence of democracy, its lifeblood. And the Constitution should be one's guiding spirit. The *Bhagavad Gita* put it another way: "Do your duty, no matter the consequences."

*The writer is a veteran journalist*

# To push connectivity, trilateral meet on Chabahar tomorrow

Tribune News Services

**NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 12**  
In a rare quicksilver move in diplomacy, India, Iran and Uzbekistan will hold trilateral meeting on the joint use of Chabahar port on December 14, three days after it was proposed by Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev during a virtual summit with PM Narendra Modi.

The move will increase the use of Chabahar port in Iran to step up its trade and economic engagement with Central Asia bypassing Pakistan. Uzbekistan is Central Asia's most populous nation and has ample reserves of uranium, gold, coal and oil. Some of these natural resources could be evacuated from Chabahar to parts of world not easily accessible to this double landlocked country.

"This will open up economic opportunities for the traders and business community of the region. Besides Uzbekistan, other Central Asian countries have also shown interest in using the port. India seeks to cooperate closely with regional countries on this issue," said a statement issued by the MEA.

In an indication of the importance assigned to the first "Trilateral Working Group Meet-



## OPENING UP NEW OPPORTUNITIES

**■** The move will increase the use of Chabahar port in Iran to step up its economic engagement with Central Asia bypassing Pakistan. This will open up economic opportunities for traders of the region.—MEA

## MAJOR TRANSIT POINT

**■** The port is being developed by India, Iran and Afghanistan to boost trade ties among the three countries in the wake of Pakistan denying transit access to New Delhi.  
**■** Located in the Sistan-Balochistan province on the energy-rich Iran's southern coast, the port can be easily accessed.

from India's western coast, bypassing Pakistan. It is considered to be a major transit point to connect with several Central Asian countries.

**■** The trilateral meeting is taking place in the backdrop of India pitching for participation of Uzbekistan in the International North South Transport Corridor project.

ing", the co-chairs will be at the Deputy Minister level from Iran and Uzbekistan, and Secretary-level from India.

India is involved in the development of the first phase of Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar in cooperation with Iran to open up sea-land con-

nnectivity between India and Afghanistan. The plan is to push this connectivity into Central Asia and beyond.

Aware that this route provides a second access from the sea apart from Karachi, the US has given a waiver from sanctions for the development of this Iranian port.

The route, if gets patronised by Central Asian countries such as Uzbekistan, will render insignificant Pakistan's blocking of connectivity initiatives in the region, especially from India to Afghanistan and the five Central Asian nations.

# Jairam bags award for Menon biography

Tribune News Service



Jairam Ramesh

## Acid thrown on woman, kids over property feud

**AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 12**

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh's biography of former Union Defence Minister VK Krishna Menon bagged this year's Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay New India Foundation Award jointly with debutant author Amit Ahuja.

Ramesh has clinched the award for authoring the first-ever biography of a man who was the only leader in the 1960s to consistently argue for a negotiated border settlement with China.

His book, "A Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of VK Krishna Menon" traces the life of one of India's most controversial figures remembered for his "failings" during the 1962 India-China war.

Along with the latest work, Ramesh's past biographies of Indira Gandhi and later her

principal secretary PN Haksar are based on primary sources written almost around the same time and not based on recollections of conversations.

The Menon biography is for example based on the late Defence Minister's own archives that were opened for scrutiny last February. Ramesh said Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay also figured in his Menon book. "They were colleagues in the Congress Socialist Party," he said.

The accused have a dispute over the house where victims Laxmiben Dantani, her two daughters and son lived. They wanted her to vacate the house. The siblings' father had sold the house to Laxmiben a few years ago, but the duo wanted it back," he said. "Ajay and Vijay have been booked for attempt to murder," the police said.—PTI

"Texas has not demonstrated a judicially cognisable interest in the manner in which another state conducts its poll," the Supreme Court said.

"All other pending motions are dismissed as moot," the court said in a brief unsigned order, delivering a devastating blow to the efforts of Donald Trump to challenge the election result.

## BLOW TO TRUMP

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"All other pending motions are dismissed as moot," the court said in a brief unsigned order, delivering a devastating blow to the efforts of Donald Trump to challenge the election result.

believed the court was required to hear the case but expressed no position on Texas' claim. Around 126 Republican Congressmen had backed the lawsuit.—PTI

The ministry said "public health" is a state subject and the state governments must lead the process of health sector reforms in a suitable and sustainable manner to protect the common people from health hazards. The ministry said "public health" is a state subject and the state governments must lead the process of health sector reforms in a suitable and

sustainable manner to protect the common people from health hazards.

"Improvement in the health sector can be effectively led by the state government with effective monitoring and specific intervention to control and regulate the implementation process of the guidelines and schemes in a proper perspective," it said.—PTI

# Can't coerce family planning, Centre tells apex court

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 12

The Centre has told the Supreme Court that India is unequivocally against forcing family planning on its people and any coercion to have a certain number of children is counter-productive and leads to demographic distortions.

In an affidavit filed in the top court, the health ministry told the apex court that the family welfare programme

in the country is voluntary in nature, which enables couples to decide the size of their family and adopt family planning methods best suited to them, according to their choice and without any compulsion.

The submission was made in response to a PIL filed by BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, challenging a Delhi High Court

order that dismissed a plea seeking certain steps, including two-child norm, to control the country's growing population.

After Prithvi Shaw fell in the day's second over, Gill took over and reached his half-century off 49 balls. The 21-year-old played some elegant drives and looked assured on the backfoot, which seems to be his forte. Gill fell in an unfortunate manner to leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson after he missed a flick and the bowler appealed for lbw, but he was given out caught at slip. TV replays were inconclusive and a disappointed Gill had no option but to walk back to the dressing room.—PTI

# Rohit fit but needs to work on his endurance

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 12

Senior India batsman Rohit Sharma was today declared "clinically fit" by the Indian cricket board (BCCI), but notably, he would be required to work on his endurance.

Sharma is expected to leave for Australia on Sunday, and he would be in quarantine for 14 days there. He could play in the last two Tests, subject to a

positive assessment by the squad's medical team. BCCI today stated that the National Cricket Academy medical team was satisfied with his fitness "after assessing him on different metrics that tested his skills related to batting, fielding and running between the wickets". The Mumbai batsman had suffered a hamstring injury during the IPL.—PTI

# Pant, Gill stake claim for Test berth

**SYDNEY, DECEMBER 12**

Rishabh Pant and Hanuma Vihari put themselves in reckoning for next week's first Test against Australia with hundreds as Indian batsmen dominated on the second day of the warm-up match against Australia A today.

Needing 19 runs to reach his century when Jack Wildermuth commenced the day's final over, Pant clobbered him for 4, 4, 6, 4, 4 to remain unbeaten on a blistering 103 off only 73 balls. Overall, he hit nine fours and six sixes. At the other end, Vihari had steadily played his way to a fine 104 off 194 balls. Also staking his claim for selection was young Punjab batsman Shubman Gill, who made an elegant 65 off 78 balls, hitting 10 sweetly-



timed boundaries.

At close of play, India were

386/4 for an overall lead of 472

runs, having bundled the

home team out for 108 in their

first innings yesterday.

While Gill may have

## CBI conducting inquiry into 'missing' gold

**NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 12**

The CBI has set up an internal inquiry after 103 kg gold worth Rs 43 crore, seized and sealed by it eight years ago, went missing, officials said.

The Madras High Court has directed the Tamil Nadu Crime Branch-CID police to probe the case of "missing" gold, which left the country's premier investigating agency red-faced.

The gold is part of 400.47-kg bullion and ornaments confiscated by the CBI when it carried out searches at the office of Surana Corporation Ltd in Chennai in 2012 in a case pertaining to alleged favours extended by officials of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC) to the firm in import of gold and silver.

"When this court expressed its opinion, as to why no FIR was registered for theft, the Special Public Prosecutor submitted that an internal enquiry is being conducted by the CBI in this regard. "When this court expressed its opinion, as to why no FIR was registered for theft, the Special Public Prosecutor submitted that an internal enquiry is being conducted by the CBI in this regard. He requested this court to give a direction to the CBI to register an FIR for theft and conduct investigation," the Bench said.—PTI



Farmers at the Singhu border in New Delhi. MUKESH AGGARWAL

# Bid to portray farmers as anti-national: Sirsa

Tribune News Service

## HOW MANY SACRIFICES WILL FARMERS MAKE?

**■** Eleven protesting farmers have lost their lives in the last 17 days due to various reasons. How many more sacrifices will the farmers have to make to get the agri laws repealed?

Rahul Gandhi,  
CONG LEADER

was taken against purveyors of fake news. The Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee president said this was a movement of farmers of the entire nation and not only of Punjab.

Besides Punjab, farmers and their family members have converged on the outskirts of the national Capital from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and other states.

## EC toys with idea of digital voter ID card

**NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 12**  
The Election Commission (EC) is toying with the idea of providing voters with election photo identity card in a digital format for easy accessibility, a senior official said.

He, however, made it clear that no decision has been taken by the EC yet in this regard. "We keep getting suggestions and ideas from officers on fields, through working groups of (state) chief electoral officers and public. This is one such idea we are working on," the functionary said.

Asked whether the digital voter identity card would mean that a voter can carry it on his or her mobile phone using an application, the official said once the EC takes a decision, such details will be settled.

"It can be on a mobile, website, through e-mail... the idea is to

The aim is to provide faster delivery and easy accessibility

provide faster delivery and easy accessibility. Physical card takes time to print and time to reach the voter," he explained. In digital mode, the picture of the voter will also be clearer, making the identification easier.

Another senior poll panel official said the EC will have to look into the safety aspects before taking a decision. Eligible voters who are on EC's electoral rolls are provided with a physical voter identity card. Introduced in 1993 for the first time, the election photo identity cards are acceptable as proof of identity and address.—PTI

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH			
Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid submission schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
<b>EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - MCPH Division No. 3</b>			
1.	Comprehensive operation, maintenance and watch and ward of public toilets in various location including the maintenance of civil, public health, electrical works complete in all respect under the MCPH Sub Division No. 10, Chandigarh. Estimated Cost : Rs.53,13,000/- Tender Fee : Rs.3,000/-	EMD : Rs.1,06,260/- Time Limit : 12 Months To 21.12.2020 upto 6.55 PM	12.12.2020 22.12.2020 at 10.00 AM
2.	Comprehensive operation, maintenance and watch and ward of public toilets in various location including the maintenance of civil, public health, electrical works complete in all respect under the MCPH Sub Division No. 16, Chandigarh. Estimated Cost : Rs.57,96,000/- Tender Fee : Rs.3,000/-	EMD : Rs.1,15,920/- Time Limit : 12 Months To 21.12.2020 upto 6.55 PM	12.12.2020 22.12.2020 at 10.00 AM
3.	Comprehensive operation, maintenance and watch and ward of public toilets in various location including the maintenance of civil, public health, electrical works complete in all respect under the MCPH Sub Division No. 17, Chandigarh. Estimated Cost : Rs.57,96,000/- Tender Fee : Rs.3,000/-	EMD : Rs.1,15,920/- Time Limit : 12 Months To 21.12.2020 upto 6.55 PM	12.12.2020 22.12.2020 at 10.00 AM

Note : Tender Notice alongwith detailed terms and conditions is available on website at [www.chandigarh.gov.in](http://www.chandigarh.gov.in) or tenders.chd.nic.in

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National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), Chandigarh			
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Course Commencing from January, 2021			
Due to COVID-19 pandemic, classes would be conducted in blended mode (Through online live sessions/classroom teaching)			
<b>Industrial Training Courses (6 Months)</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artificial Intelligence &amp; Machine Learning</li> <li>• Blockchain Professional</li> <li>• Java 2 Enterprise Edition</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BigData Analytics</li> <li>• PHP with MySQL</li> <li>• CCNA v7.0 (Routing and Switching)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet of Things (IoT)</li> <li>• Electronic Product Design</li> <li>• Mobile Application Development using Android</li> </ul>			
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