

Good news for apple farmers as govt mulls hike in prices

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28 The Jammu and Kashmir Government is proposing to increase the price of apples under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for apple growers in Kashmir.

NAFED, which is the nodal agency for procuring apples, has fixed Rs 54, Rs 38 and Rs 15.75 for A, B and C grade apples, respectively.

NAFED is assisted by the J&K Department of Horticulture Marketing and Planning (J&KDHMP) in registering and grading of apples at four procurement centres in Kashmir.

The scheme was announced by the J&K Government on August 12 in view of the lockdown and communication blockade in Kashmir.

To date, over 3,000 farmers have registered themselves with NAFED and J&KDHMP.

To encourage more farmers to join the scheme, the government is now proposing to increase the prices for



“We are proposing a hike in the prices of apples that we hope will encourage more farmers to come forward.” Senior government official

REASON TO CHEER

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apples, official sources said.

“We are proposing a hike in the prices of apples that we hope will encourage more farmers to come forward,” a senior government official said.

He said he was confident that C grade apples would also fetch close to Rs 20 after rates were revised.

“That should lure more farmers to come forward with their produce,” the official said.

Apples are cultivated on 3.87 lakh hectares in Kashmir. It fetches Rs 8,000 crore annually and supports seven lakh families.

Kashmir contributes 75 per cent of the apples produced in India. Experts believe that the turnover could be much higher if processing plants and cold storages are set up in Kashmir.

Over the years, rice farmers in Kashmir have also shifted to apple farming as the fruit generates better returns and is less labour intensive. — IANS

ITBP cop ends life in Jammu

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 28 An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle here, a police official said on Saturday.

ASI Jaswant Singh was found dead with a bullet injury in his neck at Van Bhawan near the Rail head complex on Friday, he said.

Quoting preliminary investigation, the official said it was believed that the ASI shot himself with his service rifle, resulting in his instant death. The body was handed over to his unit after the completion of the legal formalities, he said. Singh's unit was part of the recent deployment of forces in Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370 and the reorganisation of the state into two Union Territories on August 5, the official said. Singh hailed from Himachal. — PTI

Curbs back after Imran's UN speech

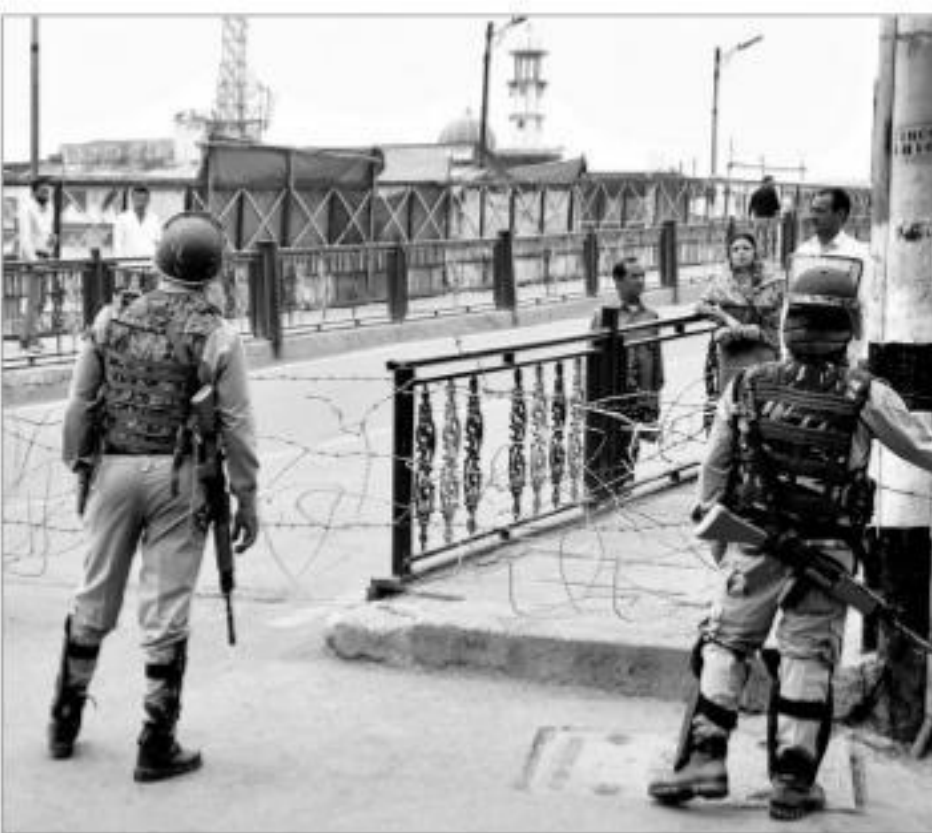
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28 The authorities reimposed restrictions in parts of Srinagar on Saturday following Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's UN speech on Kashmir, which “received backing” from many locals.

Residents in several parts of Srinagar's old city claimed that fire-crackers were burst soon after the Pakistan Prime Minister's speech.

Ahead of the United Nations General Assembly address, the locals were expecting some positive development that could ease the situation in the Kashmir valley. But it appeared uncertainty grew in the Valley, where a daytime shutdown was being observed since the abrogation of Article 370.

Danish Ahmad, a baker in Srinagar, said, “The way Pakistan PM Imran



Security personnel stand guard near Amira Kadal in Srinagar on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: AMIN WAR

Khan talked of the issue at the UN, it seems the shutdown will continue.”

Public transport in the Valley has remained suspended for over two months and markets across the region have observed a daytime shut-

down since the abrogation of Article 370.

No political group or leader, most of whom are under detention or arrest, has called for a shutdown, making the ongoing spell one of the longest lockdowns.

Drug menace: Be vigilant, pharma distributors told

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 28 Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Tejinder Singh and Assistant Controller, Food and Drug Organisation, Iqbal Palla today asked all pharma wholesale distributors

to be extra vigilant while selling drugs that can be misused for intoxication by the youth.

Addressing the general body meeting of the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries, convened by Jammu Pharmaceutical Distribu-

tors' Association chief Rakesh Gupta, they said the distributors must inform the authorities about the chemist demanding the extra supply of drugs than the prescribed limit.

The Jammu SSP also apprised the House of

recent action taken against drug peddlers.

Rakesh Gupta requested them to provide a list of chemists flouting the law. He assured them no drug supply shall be made to people who are hell-bent upon destroying the youth.

Imported flowers adorn Vaishno Devi temple



5 nations from where flowers have been imported to decorate Mata Vaishno Devi shrine: Britain, Switzerland, South Africa, Sri Lanka & Dubai

96-ft-long main cave's entrance will have a gold-plated door

FESTIVE LOOK: Pilgrims on their way to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra on Saturday. Shrine board officials said various events had been planned to mark Navratras beginning Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

70 vans to sell onion at ₹24/kg

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28 Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday flagged off 70 mobile vans which will be selling onions at Rs 23.90 per kilogramme in all Assembly constituencies in the city.

The event was held outside the Delhi Secretariat, which was attended by Food and Civil Supplies Minister Imran Hussain and several Aam Aadmi Party leaders. The government will also sell onions at 400 ration shops across the national capital.

“Flagged off 70 mobile vans from the Delhi Secretariat that are being stationed in 70 Assembly constituencies for sale of onion at Rs 23.90 per kg. In addition, 400 fair price shops have also begun supply of affordable onion. We expect the market price of onion to reduce soon,” Kejriwal tweeted.

While announcing the move on Friday, Kejriwal had said a person can buy a



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal flags off onion vans in New Delhi on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MUKESH AGGARWAL

The government will also sell onions at 400 ration shops across the national capital. Each person will be entitled to a maximum of 5 kg

maximum of five kg of onion at a time. He had also said that onion is being sold between

3 held with ₹13 lakh red sandalwood at airport

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28 Three passengers were apprehended by CISF personnel at the Delhi airport for carrying red sandalwood logs worth about Rs 13 lakh in an alleged illegal manner, officials said on Saturday.

They said Ashish Chhabra, Deepak Mahroliya and Sandesh Dhingeya were intercepted on Friday at the Indira Gandhi International Airport as their activities were found to be suspicious. A total of 160 kg of sandalwood worth an estimated Rs 13 lakh has been recovered from the

ON ENDANGERED LIST

- A total of 160 kg of sandalwood has been recovered from three passengers
- Red sandalwood is in the list of endangered tree species in India, and its felling or sale is banned
- It is smuggled for sale in illicit international markets for medicinal use

three passengers, they said.

They have been handed over to customs officials to ascertain the source of the wood and the possible smuggling ring. Red sandalwood is in the list of endangered tree species in India, and its felling or sale is banned. It is smuggled for sale in illicit international markets for supposed medicinal uses as well as for making luxury furniture. — PTI

CALENDAR

September 29, 2019, Sunday

- Vikrami Samvat 2076
- Shaka Samvat 1941
- Ashwin Shaka 7
- Ashwin Purnimite 13
- Hijari 1441
- Shukla Paksh Tithi 1, up to 8:14 pm
- Brahma Yoga up to 4:09 am
- Hast Nakshatra up to 7:07 pm
- Moon enters Libra sign 5:45 am

Navratre start.

MOTILAL NEHRU SCHOOL OF SPORTS, RAI-131029 DISTT. SONIPAT (HARYANA)

(Winner of Green School Certificate 2018-2019 & Winner International School Award (ISA) 2008-2011, 2012-2015 & 2016-2018)

(A co-educational residential school run by the Govt. of Haryana, sprawling over 250 acres of land, affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), New Delhi & Member of the Indian Public Schools' Conference (IPSC) and National Progressive Schools' Conference (NPSC).

ADMISSION NOTICE (SESSION 2020-2021)

- Admission to Class IV (Main Entry Point)**

Approximately 100 candidates in class IV (50 Boys+50 Girls) will be admitted strictly on the basis of merit in various admission tests. 80% seats are reserved for Haryana Domiciles and 20% seats are for Non-Haryana. Reservation of seats will be strictly in accordance with the Govt. orders. Age group for class IV is (01.07.2010 to 30.06.2012) i.e. between 08 to 10 years as on 30th June 2020.
- Since the age verification is carried out by various Sports Federation/ Association is on basis of certificate of Date of Birth issued by Municipal Corporation/Registrar Date of Birth duly registered with in 05 year (i.e. 30.6.2017) from the date of issuance of certificate of date of birth. The Date of Birth of the candidates for admission will be accepted accordingly.
- Admission to Outstanding Sportsperson Category**
 - All the remaining vacant seats in other classes will be filled under Outstanding Sportsperson Category on the basis of various tests and trials in relevant sports discipline. The students must be between 08 to 18 years of age. The Candidates must have participated at Open School or Nationals or have got **First/Second/Third** position in School States/Open State Tournaments. Preference will be given to position holder & participation in National Level or position holder at State level within two years from 2018 to 2019.
 - Khelo India and National School Games medal winners are also eligible for admission under Outstanding Sports Person Category.

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORMS

CLASSES - IV and OUTSTANDING SPORTS PERSON CATEGORY
30.10.2019 (Wednesday) - Without late fee
15.11.2019 (Friday) - With late fee of Rs. 500/-

TENTATIVE DATES FOR VARIOUS TESTS

CLASS	DATE OF TEST	NAME OF TEST	VENUE (CENTRE) OF TEST
IV and under Outstanding Sports Person Category and Game specific talent test	20.01.2020 to 24.01.2020 (Monday to Friday)	Physical Efficiency & Sports Aptitude Test (PESAT)	Only at MNSS, Rai
IV and under Outstanding Sports Person Category	16.2.2020 (Sunday)	Written Test	Only at MNSS, Rai

NOTE:

- Offline application will not be considered.
 - The admit card will be downloaded from School Website.
 - The payment of admission form will be accepted online.
 - Inter-se-merit will be based on Physical Efficiency & Sports Aptitude Test (PESAT).
 - The Written Test will be conducted in Hindi-30 marks, English-30 marks, Math-30 and GK-10 marks. (Total 100 marks) Written Test will be a qualifying test only.
 - The written test for other classes under Outstanding Sports Person Category (OSP) will be conducted in Hindi, English, Math, Science and S.Science.
4. School Prospectus (along with Application Form) will be available on School Website: www.mnssrai.com. The cost of Application Form is Rs.1000/- and Rs. 500/- for Scheduled Caste Category. The cost of Application Form with late fee is Rs. 1500/- and Rs. 1000/- for Scheduled Caste Category. Admission Application Form will be accepted through online only.

Sd/- PRINCIPAL & DIRECTOR
M.N.S.S., RAI.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Open Tender Notice for expression of interest
The Additional Chief Medical Supdt, Northern Railway, Extra divisional hospital railway workshop Jagadhri, for & behalf of president of India, invites sealed open tenders for expression of interest on the prescribed form for the under noted work.

1 NIT No.	NIT-160 Med/Water/NABL/JUDW/2019
2 Tender No.	160-Med/Water/NABL/JUDW/2019
3 Name of work	Expression of interest (EOI) for empanelment of reputed private NABL accredited laboratories having qualified specialist/staff for Drinking water sample analysis as per BIS specification IS 10500-2012 (second edition) for E coli and 23 characteristics
4 Completion Period	2 years
5 Last date & time of submission & opening of tender	Sealed applications can be submitted upto 11:00 Hrs on 1.11.2019 and will be opened on 01.11.2019 at 12:00 Hrs.
6 Address of the office and date from which tender document will be available	Addl. Chief medical Supdt, N.rly, EDH, Railway workshop Jagadhri on any working day Between 11:00 Hrs to 13:00 Hrs from 1.10.2019 and up to 31.10.2019
7 Northern Railway Website	www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in tenderer can download tender document on their own risk from 01/10/2019 & up to 11.00 hours on 1/11/2019
8 Cost of stationary charges	Stationary charges of Rs.500/- in the form of A/C payee Bank Draft in F/O Sr. AFA. Rty. Yamuna Nagar, Jagadhri-135002 payable at Jagadhri Workshop.

3141/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
The Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC/Line, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work.

1 Name of work and location	Overhauling of Tamping Bank of Track Machine for CSM/ WST (8 Set - 16 Nos.) and UNIMAT (4 set = 8 Nos. under Dy. CE/TMC/ Line, Northern Railway.
2. Completion period of the work	12 Months
3. Approx. Cost of work	₹ 3.88 Crore/-
4. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	₹ 3,44,200/- (Rupees Three Lakh Forty Four Thousand Two Hundred only)
5. Cost of Tender Document (to be deposited Online)	₹ 10,000/-
6. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded up to 28.09.2019 & upto 15:00 hrs. on 22.10.2019 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidder can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened soon after 15:00 hrs. on 22.10.2019.
7. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in from 28.09.2019. Above tender document will be available for online submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 28.09.2019 to 22.10.2019. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender documents. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

Tender Notice No.: 1-W-DyCETMCL-TU-10-19-20 Dated: 28.09.2019. 3142/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

HIMACHAL PRADESH I&PH DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Sealed Quotation are invited for the works as mentioned below on prescribed W-5 document so as to reach in the office of the Executive Engineer, Hydrology Const. & Maintenance Division, Tutikandi Shimla — 171004 on or before **29.10.2019 up to 11.00 a.m.** The quotations will be opened on the same day at **11.30 a.m.** The prescribed W-5 document can be obtained from the above mentioned office on any working day w.e.f. **27.09.2019 to 28.10.2019** between **10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.** The bidders may also contact the office for any clarifications in this regard personally, telephonically No. **0177-2658166** or E mail ID: **eehydro@yahoo.co.in**

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Time
1.	National Hydrology Project (SH:- Renovation of Hydrology Construction & Maintenance level-1 Laboratory Building Palampur, Distt. Kangra H.P.	1,46,494	60 Days
2.	National Hydrology Project (SH:- Renovation of Hydrology Construction & Maintenance level-1 Laboratory Building at Bajinath Sub Division Palampur, Distt. Kangra, H.P.	1,42,858	60 Days
3.	National Hydrology Project (SH:- Renovation of Hydrology Construction & Maintenance level-1 Laboratory Building at Dharamsala Sub Division Palampur, Distt. Kangra, H.P.	87,494	60 Days

No. IPH-National Hydrology Project-CB-Tender/NIQ-2008-25 Dated: 27.09.2019

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hydrology C&M Division, Tutikandi, Shimla — 4.

DPR/HP/389



AWE-INSPIRING: There is a message and meaning to everything built on the impressive IIT-Ropar campus, spread over 500 acres in the lush green ambience of Punjab. TRIBUNE PHOTOS: VICKY

For an institution set up just 11 years back, sharing the top place with IISc-Bangalore in Times Higher Education rankings is a huge feat

Why IIT-Ropar finds itself right on top

GEETU VAID IN ROPAR

A narrow path ambling through green fields with silvery waters of the Sutlej peeping from one end and Shivalik foothills as a picturesque outline, it seems to be a drive through a typical rural landscape in Punjab. However, a couple of twists and turns later, four statesque pillars, with Indus Valley inscriptions, supporting steel-finished molecule models throw up a surprise. The first look of IIT-Ropar's new campus is impressive.

More than the immensity of the 500-acre campus, it is the deep imprint of allegory in its structure that mesmerises the first-time visitor. Whether it is the scientific aspiration represented in the pillars, the spiral reflecting the endeavour or the imposing buildings bearing the names of noted Indian scientists — there is a message and a meaning in everything here.

The fact that IIT-Ropar has piped some of the best institutions to share the top place along with IISc-Bangalore in this year's Times Higher Education (THE) rankings, only adds to the aura of the place. Though none of the Indian institutions figured in the top 300 as per the international ranking list released recently, IIT-Ropar has been creating ripples with its position in the 301-350 rank. A virtual dark horse, this 11-year-old institute is leading the pack of path-breaking new IITs by redefining engineering education.

With over 2,000 (2,004 to be precise) students and around 170 faculty members, IIT offers seven undergraduate and 11 postgraduate programmes. Research remains a key focus area here and in fact,



IIT-Ropar claims to be as good as IIT-Delhi and Madras in the quality of research.

Flexible curriculum: 4 types of degrees

- Allowing students flexibility to accommodate their talent and aspirations within the curriculum, the institute offers four types of degrees. The first one is the basic BTech degree. Then there is 'BTech with concentration', wherein a student can take an extra course in a second branch of his choice. For example, a student of mechanical engineering interested in computers can take five extra courses in computer science and get a 'BTech with concentration' degree.
- The third option allows students to take minors in the branches of their choice. And then there is the BTech Honours degree where students can do a research project in BTech.
- Those with entrepreneurial ambitions have access to Technology Business Incubators which provide resources and handholding for setting up new ventures.

ambience. With each faculty member having the freedom to avail of seed grants up to Rs 1 crore, there is ample motivation to make a deep dive in various fields. The emphasis on quality research is also unmistakable as the faculty members are motivated to publish only in top-notch research publications.

"As many as 60 to 70 per cent publications in the electrical engineering department are in AIEEE, which shows the high level of research being conducted here and same is the case with other departments," says Das. Summer visitation programmes also allow global exposure to the faculty members, wherein they can visit Ivy League universities and build collaborations.

The institute has also picked up certain niche verticals for socially relevant research. These include water, cancer research, electric vehicles, renewable energy distribution, manufacturing, etc. "The purpose of research is to create synergy and provide solutions to problems of people, only then does education become impactful and holistic. Thus, our students and faculty are working closely with people and government agencies to develop technologies that will improve quality of life," he adds.

Engineering education is evolving and boundaries among different branches of science are blurring fast. This is the reason research and socially-relevant innovations have become important components of engineering. Watching a molecular biologist, immunologists and electrical engineers working together in the biomedical engineering department is a testimony to the changing paradigms of engineering and the way progressive institutes like IIT-Ropar are working on these.

QUANTUM LEAP

Four years back, we were at the bottom of the newer IITs. In case of faculty, students, infrastructure, we were nowhere. But today, IIT-Ropar is leading among the lot. The rate at which we have progressed is much better

Sarit K Das, DIRECTOR, IIT ROPAR

a score of 100 in the research citation impact played a key role in catapulting IIT-Ropar to the top spot. This score for IISc was 32.4 and 49 for IIT-Delhi.

Institute Director Sarit K Das maintains that focus on research is embedded in the DNA of this institute. "The mission and vision document of IIT-Ropar makes it clear that quality of research is more important than the quantum of research and the THE score reflects this only," says Das.

Tackling impediments

As Rome was not built in a day, the accolades for this newbie tucked in a non-descript area also did not come overnight.

The recent flood that left the campus submerged and caused damage to labora-

tories, equipment and infrastructure was not the only challenge that IIT-Ropar has faced over the past 11 years.

It has been an uphill journey to get noticed by students, or to get good faculty. Till 2015, it had just 600 students and around 60 faculty members. It was a well-planned and proactive approach that led to the success story being scripted in the lush green ambience of Punjab.

Bringing IIM-Calcutta on board to prepare a roadmap for the new institute was the first step that gave direction to Punjab's only IIT. Next in line was the task of strengthening of faculty.

"Physical infrastructure alone doesn't make an institution. It is the people who make an IIT," says Das, who used "out-of-the box" methods to get top talent to

Ropar. "I travelled to different places like London, Toronto, Boston, Sydney, Melbourne, Singapore, etc, with a team to get the right people." The young post-docs looking for better options in their home country were roped in with offers that were hard to refuse.

Right pitch for research

Various factors have contributed to the strong culture of research excellence on the campus. The institute has the highest research citations among the newer IITs. With as many as 513 of the total 2,004 students being PhD students, it is at par with several older IITs on the research-student ratio.

Allowing access to resources has gone a long way in creating a research-positive

INTERVIEW | SARIT K DAS, DIRECTOR, IIT-ROPAR

'Ranking isn't everything, but has its positives'

IN THE PIPELINE

A school of management is next on the agenda as engineering and management go hand in hand now. Besides, we have sent a bid for setting up a School of Architecture and Planning. Two to three centres of excellence in water, manufacturing and healthcare verticals are also being planned

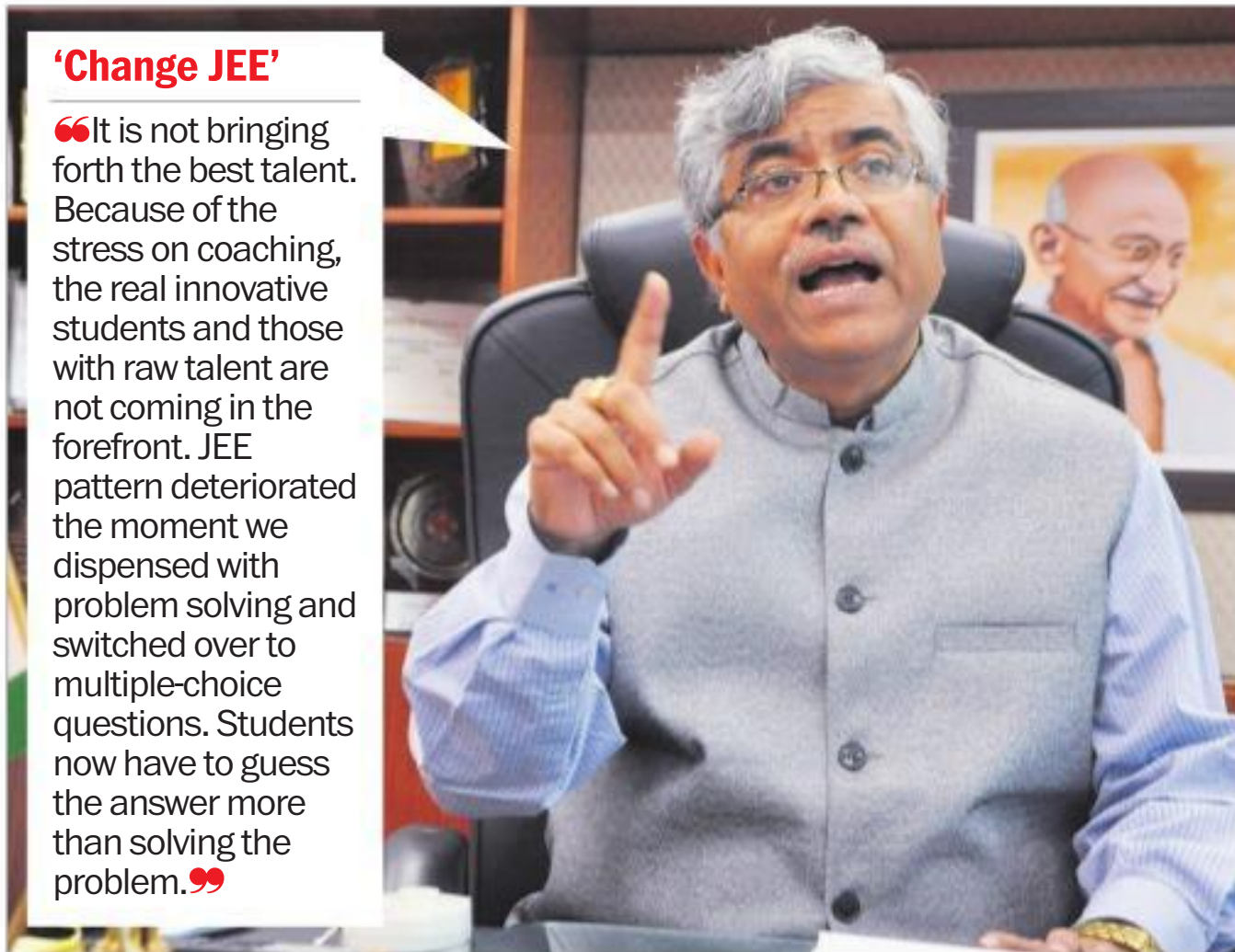
Sarit K Das, DIRECTOR, IIT ROPAR

Was there a conscious plan that led to IIT-Ropar getting top ranking among Indian institutes? We neither dreamt nor planned for the ranking. In today's world, there are many universities in India and abroad which are going out of their way to get a higher ranking. They plan everything to get a higher ranking. Our effort was never in that direction. We wanted to emerge as a good institute nationally and internationally, and recognition in the form of higher rankings is like a milestone in that journey.

What is your take on the concept of rankings? Rankings are here to stay whether we like it or not. This is because the moment you have a lot of information, you start comparing. Twenty years back, no one was bothered about the rank of an institute as there was little access to information. But today, you can't be oblivious to these. Though ranking is not everything, it does throw light on some positive aspects of an institution. This has created a healthy competition.

Most people debunk these because of lack of uniformity, but the fact is that different agencies are employing different parameters to grade educational institutes. And there is nothing like a legitimate parameter. It is like judging a man — someone may judge on honesty and integrity, while others can judge on professional status. It is a subjective assessment. But at least it puts an institute in a particular bracket. Instead of questioning the parameters, look at what is good with them, probably that is a better way.

What is dangerous is when institutes doctor their policies to get to a particular place. IIT-Ropar is not changing policies to get a higher ranking. Why THE ranking is



'Change JEE'

It is not bringing forth the best talent. Because of the stress on coaching, the real innovative students and those with raw talent are not coming in the forefront. JEE pattern deteriorated the moment we dispensed with problem solving and switched over to multiple-choice questions. Students now have to guess the answer more than solving the problem.

heartening for us is because it ratifies the original mission and vision of the institute — to produce high-quality research rather than quantity. In THE ranking, we have been excellent in citation and not in research score. The research score comes from quantum of research and citation from quality of research.

What about the controversy generated by rankings? Some older IITs have complained how we got such a high ranking and that it was due to a few multi-authored papers. But this is not correct. All ranking agencies normalise the results. I am not claiming that I am better than IIT-Delhi or Madras, but in the quality of research, we are in the same league.

Has this ranking made a difference? It has. I am getting a lot of queries and interest from industry and students, and the faculty is motivated too. But there is some misinformation also, which is unfortunate.

Are older IITs losing out on research? Unfortunately, yes. Research is not the top priority for many of the older IITs still. When I was Dean, Research, at IIT-Madras, I found that around 50 per cent of faculty was doing very little research and just 10 per cent of top performers were involved in over 40 per cent of the research work being carried out there. This ratio is much better in newer IITs as these have young faculty members who

have not only come from reputed labs, but they were recruited because of their research background.

I think older IITs need to take stock of this factor. They need to put some mechanism in place to improve that.

One of the things that IITs as a whole are missing is the tenure-track system where people are taken for five years and those who do not perform are asked to go.

How are you reaching out to students in the region? We have formed a Council of Educational Associates (CEA) for this purpose. Through this we organise workshops and even training of the faculty in some of the colleges around. During summer, we ask their faculty to come and stay at our campus and learn new methods. We have adopted two colleges — Baba Banda Singh Bahadur College, Fatehgarh Sahib, and Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College, Ludhiana, and are in the process of adopting another three. A large number of students from other colleges do internship at the IIT. We are also doing technical sessions at different colleges. We are also working with the Punjab government on skill development.

What are the future plans for IIT-Ropar? A school of management is next on the agenda as engineering and management go hand in hand now. Besides, we have sent a bid for setting up a School of Architecture and Planning. Two to three centres of excellence in water, manufacturing and healthcare verticals are also being planned. The institute already has an international centre of excellence with the Taiwanese government sponsoring a centre on AI and machine learning on the campus.

— Geetu Vaid



PROJECT FILE

Artificial Intelligence: The computer science department has developed AI-enabled technology that helps the visually impaired identify currency notes. Even soiled and crumpled currency notes can be correctly identified using this technology.

Uranium mapping: DST has commissioned a project to map the presence of uranium in groundwater in certain areas of Punjab that are witnessing high incidence of cancer.

Taking on drug addiction: The biomedical department is working on a vaccine that will serve as immunisation against drug addiction.

Robotic cold spray lab: Only the second lab in the country to use cold spray technique for boiler coatings.

Problem of silting in dams: Working with BBMB to solve the silt-deposits problem in a cost-effective manner.

Agriculture: Has developed an attachment that can be used with a tractor to remove stubble after harvesting so that it can be transferred directly to the power generation plants. This cheaper option will help deal with the pollution problem resulting from stubble burning.

Mapping water sources: An area of 5 acres has been dedicated in Doaba to start a field lab for this purpose.

Micro grid project: To allow optimum use of power generated through renewable energy sources, the electrical engineering department of the institute is working on a smart micro grid project.

Embodiment of injustice, manual scavenging is a reminder that d

How we have failed the man

SHIV VISVANATHAN

THE scavenger is one of the great characters of the nationalist movement. He is subject, agency, metaphor and he haunts Indian politics and society in a manner no other character could. The scavenger is index, conscience, litmus test of a style of politics; he haunts even the Partition. Political activist and poet Achyut Yagnik once told me a poignant story about Karachi during the Partition. As a group of manual scavengers were leaving part of the town, the residents, in a delegation, asked them to stay back, promising them protection. The residents admitted that they would not do without them. Even law and order was manageable but hygiene and dirt had their own demands.

The manual scavenger has to be read in many ways. As a broken discard of the caste system, he is still the casualty of the sanitation system. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan as a project falls or survives depending on the future of the manual scavenger. But the scavenger is not the object of policy. He can help redefine it. For example, the scavenger is an embodiment of the sensorium. As Bezwada Wilson once suggested, by rethinking smell, you can redefine a city. A scavenger can challenge the deodorised Brahmanic city and make one rethink the elitism of planning. Oddly, the only college Gandhi established was a college for scavengers at Gandhi Ashram.



A scavenger dying in a drain is the epitome of unthinking urban violence. Manual scavenging has to be rethought and in the failure of rethinking lies the failure of Indian democracy to rethink citizenship and livelihood

Between the scavenger as innovator, working sewage waste and dirt, Gandhi had the outlines of a different city and a different technology. If one explores the history of his ashrams, many of them experimented on flush tanks and various kinds of commodes. In many ways, the character of the scavenger was as important to Gandhi as the craftsmen and the peasant. Each unravelled a particular critique of society, body and technology. Each demanded a different grammar of innovation and justice. The scavenger was in many senses literally Gandhi's last man, the touchstone, the index of evaluating any project, both in terms of livelihood and justice. But in a deeper way, like *charkha*, waste and the scavenger were metaphors of Gandhian thought.

A Gandhian science

A Gandhian science began with the body, moved to food, enveloped craft. Central to all this was a kind of waste. Waste was a polyphonic term. It evokes dirt, irrelevance, junk, obsolescence, pollution, stigma but for Gandhi, waste like craft challenged modern technology. Waste and obsolescence were drawbacks of modern technology and society. For Gandhi, waste was something to be reworked and rethought. Gandhi would rethink the modern slum around waste, observing like the scientist CV Sheshadri that "waste is the only resource of a wasted people". Scavenging in that sense becomes a way

of thinking, of improvising, of literally recreating a city. It was not just a plan for sewage but a sense of how rethinking waste would redefine the idea of a wasted people in society. For Gandhi, every person had to be his own scavenger, and he forced even Kasturba to clean the latrine. She found it ritually polluting and protested but for Gandhi, an immaculate toilet was the beginning of modern civics.

The sociologist and philosopher Ivan Illich has a wonderful essay on the little cottage where Madeline Slade and Vinoba Bhavne lived. Illich writes that the toilet was immaculate, washed so systematically that it shone like marble. Illich's essay reminds of the artist Marcel Duchamp's attempt to call or exhibit the commode as a work of art. The critics objected but Duchamp replied that art was anything defined as art by the artist. All it required was a label. Gandhi went further to point out that when we internalise labels, we transform ways of life. The scavenger becomes the artist and the scientist free India desperately needed.

By reworking waste and reimagining the scavenger, India should have redefined its modernity. Also Gandhi, who always lived in cities, sensed the scavenger as an urban creature, an urban style. Scavenging was a way of walking the city, thinking subsistence and foraging accordingly. Scavenging could lead not just to an urban civics but urban forms which changed lifestyles and livelihoods and thereby altered the construction of both caste and the city. When he called Harijan children of God, he was not oblivious to the dictum that cleanliness was next to Godliness and also the cleaner was closer to God. One wished he had worked out the mythology of scavenging more systemically.

My friend, the writer, DR Nagraj once asked me what were the roots of a Dalit science. Nagraj was clear as a Dalit and as a scholar that the battle against untouchability could not just be expressed as a cry of pain. It had to be a science. A conversation between Gandhi and Ambedkar could have created not just a Dalit politics but a Dalit science, where scavenging becomes a way of reading science and city. If the *charkha* reworked the machine, the scavenger reworked science and city. The scavenger was the apt model of citizenship and science for modern India.

Unthinking urban violence

One sees it drastically in the idea of manual scavenging with all its sense of hierarchy, pollution, degradation. A manual scavenger dying in a drain was the epitome of unthinking urban violence. Bezwada Wilson, talking of Modi's Swachh Abhiyan, put it succinctly and dismissively, "That's all very well, but at the end of every Swachh Abhiyan, there is a septic tank and a Dalit." What Wilson emphasised was that there was nothing transformative about Swachh andolan.

Manual scavenging has to be rethought and in the failure of rethinking lies the failure of Indian democracy to rethink citizenship and livelihood, waste and science and reworking the idea of the sensorium into the city. Manual scavenging remains an embodiment of injustice and failure of India to follow Gandhian ideas and rethink the manual scavenger as a creative archetype for social change. The status of the scavenger shows the emptiness of current Gandhian thought and its alienation from justice. The status of the scavenger is an index of well-being. One failed Gandhi here but the sadness is that awarding Modi a prize for Swachh Abhiyan insults both Gandhi and the scavenger. The tragedy of scavenging as a manual task begins in this failure of possibilities. Instead of being a life-giving hypothesis, it has become a necrophilic ritual. Nothing could insult Gandhi more on the 150th anniversary. The scavenger is a reminder that democracy has a deodorised conscience. When it wears out, it stinks.

— The writer is a noted academic



MANUAL SCAVENGING IS A PROOF OF INDIA'S FAILURE TO FOLLOW GANDHIAN IDEAS. THE STATUS OF THE SCAVENGER SHOWS EMPTINESS OF THE CU

“Given an option, no one would like to enter the manhole undertake such hazardous jobs with the hope that at the feed their family. They risk their lives for th

8 years after SC's intervent

Manual scavenging continues to take a toll on poor sanitation workers, forcing top court to react angrily and intervene again

SATYA PRAKASH IN NEW DELHI

DECIDING a PIL filed by the National Campaign for Dignity and Rights of Sewerage and Allied Workers & Others on manhole deaths, a Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice GS Singhvi (since retired) had ruled in 2011 that "the State and its agencies/instrumentalities cannot absolve themselves of the responsibility to put in place an effective mechanism for ensuring safety of the workers employed for maintaining and cleaning the sewage system".

The human beings employed for doing the work in sewers cannot be treated as mechanical robots that may not be affected by poisonous gases in manholes, it said, noting that the State and its agencies/instrumentalities or the contractors engaged by them are under a constitutional obligation to ensure safety of persons who are asked to undertake hazardous jobs. It also made it clear that the "argument of choice and contractual freedom is not available" to the government agencies and contractors in such cases.

Using its extraordinary powers under Article 142, the top court had directed the Delhi Jal Board to pay Rs 3.29 lakh to the

victim's family in addition to Rs 1.71 lakh already paid by the contractor. It had also directed the agencies to implement a slew of directions issued by the Delhi High Court on the issue (see box).

Over to the courts again

Eight years on, nothing has changed as judicial intervention appears to have failed to move the executive. Manual scavenging continues to take its toll, forcing the top court to react angrily and intervene once again. "Why are you not providing them with masks and oxygen cylinders? In no country are people sent to gas chambers to die. Four to five people are dying due to this every month," a three-judge Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra asked Attorney General KK Venugopal on September 18 this year.

"It is the most uncivilised and inhuman situation... you have to take care of people. People are dying every day due to this," it said during hearing on the Centre's petition seeking review of its March 2018 verdict diluting provisions of arrest and judicially creating a provision for anticipatory bail under the SC/ST Act.

Constitutional framework

The Constitution of India resolves to



secure to all its citizens justice, social, economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; equality of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation.

Towards achieving these goals set out in the Preamble, the Constitution recognises 'Fundamental Rights' of individuals and citizens and 'Directive Principles of State Policy', which are fundamental in governance of the country as the State is under obligation

THE WORKFORCE, IN NUMBERS

- The latest annual report (2018-19) prepared by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment identifies 34,749 manual scavengers
- This is in addition to 14,505 manual scavengers identified by 13 states as per the provisions of Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013
- Thus, a total of 49,254 manual scavengers have been identified. The report had noted that Rajasthan, Punjab and West Bengal were the only states which reported an increase in the number of manual scavengers in the last two years.

‘ESSENTIAL, BUT GET A RAW DEAL’

“Scavengers get a raw deal despite the fact that society can't survive without their services. We always place a doctor next to God. If a doctor refuses treatment, only a few patients will lose their lives. But if a scavenger stops work, the entire society can be wiped off



Bant Singh, BALLADEER AND SYMBOL OF DALIT OPPRESSION



emocracy has a deodorised conscience. When it wears out, it stinks

Manual scavenger. And Gandhi



REPRESENTATIVE OF CURRENT GANDHIAN THOUGHT, ITS ALIENATION FROM JUSTICE PHOTOS: THE TRIBUNE AND AGENCIES

of a sewage system, but there are people who are forced to
end of the day, they will be able to make some money and
the comfort of others. — SUPREME COURT IN JULY 2011

tion, executive unmoved



DELHI HC RULING COULD BE WAY OUT OF HOLE

The Delhi High Court had in August 2008 issued a series of directions to make things easier for sanitation workers. It had ordered that medical examination and treatment will be given free of charge to sewer workers and their services should not to be terminated either by government agencies or contractors during illness. They shall be treated as if on duty and will be paid their wages during illness. It had also ordered payment of an immediate ex gratia solatium of Rs 1 lakh to the family of a deceased worker, recoverable from the contractor. It asked the government to ensure payment of all statutory dues such as Provident Fund, gratuity and

bonus to all the sewer workers, including contract workers, as applicable in law. Most important, the Delhi HC directed the government to provide “as soon as possible” modern protective equipment to all sewer workers, besides soap and oil to all the workmen on a monthly basis. The HC had ordered the authorities to provide restrooms and canteens, first-aid facilities, safe drinking water, washing facilities, latrines and urinals and shelters. If the problem has to be tackled and manhole deaths checked, the exhaustive directions issued by the Delhi HC should be replicated and implemented across India. — Satya Prakash

‘We let a person die for ₹300, that’s our *kirdar*’

Studying the dismal sanitation eco-system of ‘progressive’ Punjab

VISHAV BHARTI IN CHANDIGARH

FROM the days of Guru Ram Das’ healing touch to being pushed to the periphery by *masands* and *pujaris*; from being turned into ‘untouchables’ during the Sikh kingdom to being ‘used’ by giving the *Bible* during the British Empire; from being labelled Harijan by Gandhi in the pre-Independence era to being forced to clean blood-laced bodies after Operation Bluestar... That is how Maninder Kang’s classic short story *Kutti Vehra* criss-crosses four centuries in a ghetto of scavengers in Amritsar. Nothing changes. The story ends where it starts. As we celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, he remains just another footnote in the history of scavengers as we have failed him too.

Eight decades back, the Mahatma compared the work of a scavenger to the services offered by a mother to her children: “A Bhangi does for society what a mother does for her baby. The Bhangi protects and safeguards the health of the entire community by maintaining sanitation for it.”

Even Bhagat Singh, whose name Punjab swears by, would call the Muslim scavenger in the jail his “bebe” or mother; he would eat food from his hands.

Miserable existence

Eight decades after the launch of Bhangi Mukti Andolan by Gandhi, the practice of manual scavenging continues unabated. At a time when development is taking place in every sector, this community is still living a miserable life.

Agrees Vishav, an LLM student at Amritsar’s Guru Nanak Dev University, who hails from a family of manual scavengers. He had carried out a research on the status of implementation of laws enacted for them. On the basis of interviewing 189 sewerage workers, he found that traditional manual scavenging, in which scavengers carry human excreta on head, is no more practised in the city, but they still live and work in dismal conditions.

In almost 20 per cent of the area, residents make septic tanks outside their homes and the scavengers clean it manually as and when they fill up. “I interviewed around 200 scavengers or their families but none of the ‘genuine’ scavengers on regular jobs could see himself retiring. Each died much before the retirement,” he says.

He found several people from OBC or General Category taking jobs originally meant for the Dalits, but “not one of them goes into sewerage”. It is only Mazhabi Sikhs or Balmikis who take up the risky job, he says. “They work with a grim hope that one day they will get permanent employment, which never happens.”

Of the 189 interviewed scavengers, the law graduate could find the child of only one who could study beyond Plus Two.

Vishav’s research found that the laws, including The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act 1993 and Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act 2013, had not been implemented at the ground level till date.

As per the report of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis, 30 persons have lost lives in manholes across Punjab since 1993.

However, the number is much higher, according to the Association for Democratic Rights (AFDR), Punjab. One may debate the number, but what is not disputed is that the families don’t get justice or compensation in form of jobs or money that the law provides for.

On June 28, Azhar Ali, a worker hired by a contractor, was lowered into a manhole in Ludhiana. As per the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act 2013, it is illegal to employ scavengers for manual cleaning of insanitary latrines, sewers and septic tanks without protective equipment. However, Ali, bare-bodied, was lowered into the manhole, where he died.

AFDR’s startling findings

In July, the AFDR, Punjab, came up with a fact-finding report on the Azhar Ali incident and found that instead of registering a case under Section 302 (murder) of the IPC, the local police registered an FIR under Section 174 (investigation of unnatural death). The AFDR launched an investigation into the various cases and came up with astonishing facts about how the Punjab government has been giving a raw deal to manual scavengers.

The apathy of the successive governments can be gauged from the fact that it took the SAD-BJP government two years to notify the Act. “It points to the state of affairs in Punjab that despite a complete ban on the practice, a large number of workers have lost their lives,” says Ludhiana-based Prof Jagmohan Singh, president of AFDR.

The Department of Local Bodies is required to carry out a survey of manual scavengers and rehabilitate them. But neither was the survey done, nor did any rehabilitation take place.

Besides, Deputy Commissioners were required to constitute district-level vigilance committees, which never happened.

The report also found that despite continuous deaths, police in the state have never acted against contractors and officials under stringent sections of the IPC. Police action has always been under Section 174, which lets the



TOP QUOTE ON SOCIAL APATHY

“Unfortunately, a substantial segment of the urban society has become insensitive to the plight of the poor and downtrodden. They do not want to understand why a person is made to enter a manhole without safety gear and proper equipment. They look the other way when the body of a worker who dies in the manhole is taken out with the help of ropes and cranes

— Supreme Court in its 2011 JUDGMENT

contractors get away easily, it said.

The report found that the municipal committees and corporations in Punjab have found a new way to escape from this law by getting the sewerage-cleaning work done through contractors.

Scheme not implemented

Not only police and local bodies, the state government too has collectively failed the scavengers. A National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (NSLRS) was launched in 1992. It introduced various schemes for the rehabilitation of scavengers.

However, these are yet to see the light of day in Punjab. The Pre-Matric Scholarship for the children of those engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards was started, but Punjab has not assigned a single rupee in the budget for the past five years.

Gyan Chand Diwali, member of the State Commission for Scheduled Castes, says it is common practice with the police and administration to save contractors after the deaths of scavengers. “We allow a person to be hired to die for just ₹300,” he says.

Agrees Geja Ram, chairman, State Commission for Safai Karamcharis. “When alive or dead, a scavenger’s life matters no more than a dog’s.” He questions what the governments have done for the scavengers. “In his last term, the Prime Minister launched Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, but did he care how a scavenger works? Even in a developed state like Punjab, scavengers go down the manhole without a safety kit.”

Angry, he points at the society’s dubious character. “Look at the *kirdar* of our people. They give hefty tips to waiters in five-star hotels but crib about giving money to garbage collectors or scavengers who clean the sewerage. People rarely feel any pain when they see young men being lowered into the manhole. We, as a society, have failed them.”

When India 'willingly' gave away its territory

M RAJIVLOCHAN

A COUNTRY that is unsure of its geography would be unable to defend it and would find it impossible to survive. Some of this is visible in this book. It will shake up Indians for their lack of interest in details of foreign policy and their implicit faith in their leaders to do good for the country. Anyone wishing to know how and why the early leaders of independent India actively refused to define or protect the interests of the country would find good information in this book.

Nehru kept the foreign ministry (1946-1964) portfolio with himself. Renunciation of Indian interests informed his foreign policy. "One restrains oneself", Nehru told the Rajya Sabha on August 30, 1959, when China began to occupy Indian territory in Ladakh, "it does not make very much difference physically to China or India whether a couple of miles in the high mountains belong to them or to us." On September 10, he would complain, once again in the Rajya Sabha, that it was "not quite straight or fair" of the Chinese to redraw borders unilaterally. The Chinese have a "low estimate" of India's friendship, he would moan.

A number of Indian soldiers were captured by China, a few were killed, with little fear that India would use the military air-field at Shushol (Chushul) at Leh to defend its territory and people. The subsequent humiliation of India at the hands of China is well known, when Nehru's

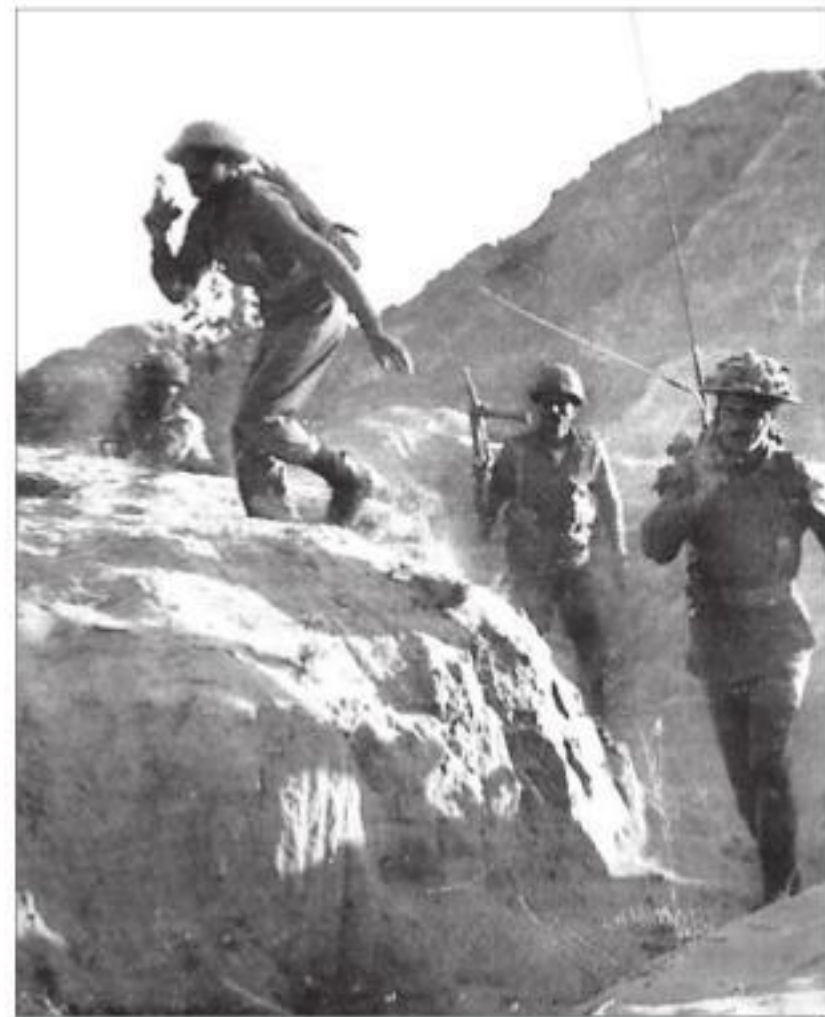


FLAWED VISIONARY: The author claims Nehru's foreign policy that was marked by infantile rage pushed ill-prepared Indian soldiers into a war with China in 1962, and led to our subsequent humiliation. FROM THE TRIBUNE ARCHIVES

foreign policy, now marked by infantile rage, pushed ill-prepared Indian soldiers into a war in 1962. What is not well known is that this wasn't the first such instance of a foreign policy marked by a curious mix of self-abnegation and infantile rage. This was merely the first time when the consequent disaster was so much in your face that it could not be ignored.

The present book tells us of previous occasions when Nehru actively renounced

Indian interests, rejected the hands that beseeched integration with India. It tells us the story of how India lost its north-western frontier, the story of how leaders from the territory of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, now in Pakistan, made efforts to be part of independent India. And how the Nehruvian policy of renouncing Indian interests, pushed them into subjugation by Pakistan. The leaders of Pakistan, even then, in 1947, were unam-



biguously promising Islamism as the hoped-for future for their country.

Pakhtunistan, much like rest of India in the early 20th century, did not have much of a presence of modern government. It was not Islamic either. The government, in so far as it was visible, was focused on crushing the people militarily. India itself, after Independence, hoped to change, create a more civil government which was responsive to the interests of the people.

The leaders who dominated Pakhtunkhwa, such as Ghazi Mirzali Khan, better known as the Fakir of Ipi, preferred to oppose Pakistan. The prospect of being part of the great transformation that India represented was attractive to these leaders and the political and economic elite of Pakhtunistan. Indians are mostly familiar with the name of Bacha Khan in this regard. Nehru spurned them. Had this book pursued the story of the Pakhtun leaders a little forward in time, it would have discovered that when their lands were abandoned by Nehru to Pakistan, many of them, such as the Fakir of Ipi, fought pitched battles for many years to be free of Pakistan.

Nehru preferred to give greater value to people like lawyer Abdul Qayyum Khan, who had left the Congress and joined the Muslim League in 1946, and become an advocate for a separate nation for Muslims. Abdul Qayyum Khan, who used to be the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party in the Central Assembly, contested the election in February 1946 on a Muslim League ticket from Peshawar, and won. In this election, out of the 50 seats in the North-West Frontier Province, the Congress won 24, the Muslim League 11, the Nationalist Muslims 2 and the Akalis 1. The tolerance of Nehru towards those advocating the cause of a separate nation for Muslims, would spur him to also ignore the desire of the Baloch leaders to integrate with India. Even in the case of Kashmir, Nehru would prevaricate; allow ifs and buts to mark the integration of Kashmir with India.

Understanding the male perspective

REICHA TANWAR

GENDER studies in India has become synonymous with women's studies and feminist theory and has largely overlooked the concepts of masculinity and gender-relations framework. There is a definite need for the development of critical thinking on gender (both masculine and feminine) and how it is constructed. Masculinity studies is an interdisciplinary field of cultural, social, historical, political, psychological and economic analysis that interrogates the constitution of masculinities across cultures at various times in history. The present volume is important that it fills the gap created by mainstream women's studies scholarship in India. Masculinity studies is not a rejoinder or repudiation of feminism. In fact, it would not have existed without feminism and its courage to question patriarchal power and privilege. It analyses how society shapes as well as views gender roles and expectations from individuals based on their sex.

This volume attempts to understand the attributes of maleness (*mardangi*) in the context of caste and class relations, patriarchy and cultural domination. The area of this study is North India with special reference to rural Haryana. It also seeks to find answers for what we are witnessing today that is worsening gender equations and an increase in gender-based violence in society.

Its author, Prem Chowdhry is an acclaimed historian who has done extensive field work in North India, specially Haryana, to understand rural Haryanvi society and the intersection of caste and class and its influence on gender relations. In fact, as a historian, as a sociologist and as an economist, all rolled into one, the author has tried to



This book fills the gap created by mainstream women's studies about the concepts of masculinity. It analyses how society shapes as well as views gender roles and expectations from individuals based on their sex. TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

locate the study of masculinity (ies) in the major shifts that marked three phases in the political economy of Haryana: the Colonial period, the period of the Green Revolution and new economic policies and globalisation.

The volume offers to the reader a gendered perspective to the British domination in India through the British Indian Army. The book explains it well. "It was a constellation of martial caste status, land ownership, dominant caste syndrome and good bodily physique which came to ideologically connect and configure the dominant masculinity in colonial Punjab." Relying heavily on oral

sources and traditional folk songs and proverbs, the book seeks to determine how masculinity has been viewed, lived and experienced in the past. It explains that through some extremely revealing and popular proverbs, still in usage.

"Aurat ka khasam mard, mard ka khasam rozgar" (The lord of a woman is a man; the man's lord in his livelihood) The saying underlines the importance given to bread earning as the primary role in an adult man's life.

"Mariyo naar kullachhani, Mariyo marad nikhathu" (A characterless woman and an

idle/unemployed man are better dead).

Apart from gainful employment/work, marriage and procreation are considered the hallmark of *mardangi*, therefore the recent phenomenon of the vast numbers of unmarried and unemployed men who are experiencing unimaginable levels of tension in Haryana's society.

An interesting observation that has been recorded during fieldwork by the author is the space that women sportsperson in Haryana have carved for themselves by excelling in wrestling, boxing and athletics. Hitherto considered to be 'masculine sports' the observations are that women are 'building their muscles by lifting weights, wearing *kachhas* (men's underclothes), exposing their bodies to the public...' And summed up by the emphatic assertion, 'who will marry these girls'?

In the display of masculinity, Dalits emerge as major victims of oppression whether by sexual assault or other forms of violence or coercion. This view is based on numerous cases which have been widely reported. The analysis of the work is based on a complete understanding that masculine identities in present Haryana are, in certain respects, empowered by modernity. And women in comparison are perceived to have become a central problematic to be more constrained. The increasing visibility of women on the streets has, in many respects, led to an increase in crimes against them, as in many ways it is a reaction to the perceived loss of masculine control over this space.

Prem Chowdhry has given us another well researched and an easy to read volume. The narrative holds attention interspersed as it is with anecdotal references and typical Haryanvi idiom that makes grasping the basic thesis easy.

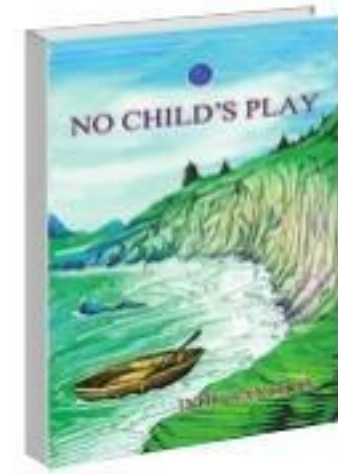
A mix of science & reality

HUMRA QURAISHI

STORIES written for children and teenagers are usually quite interesting as these have the capacity and capability of taking one ever so gently towards a different world! Carefree and carelessly casual, ripe with settings which hold sway with an abundance of childlike innocence and dramatic moves — Indu Ranchan's *No Child's Play* has it all.

It's a well written, fast-paced read. According to Ranchan, it is one of those stories that "wrote itself in the last three weeks of November 1995."

It is a semi-thriller, with lots of action and run-aways, a mix of science and everyday reality, a combination of raw childlike innocence and modern-day machines and gadgets.



NO CHILD'S PLAY
by Indu Ranchan.
Har-Anand.
Pages 165.
₹1,495

The story flows along rather spontaneously in keeping with the fact that Ranchan has been a story-teller since she was a young girl. When she was 11, she penned a comic story for her siblings. She never stopped after that and started narrating stories to them, evening after evening. In college she took to writing plays.

After she joined teaching, writing took backstage. Though she did continue to write short stories, she never bothered about getting these published. In fact, there has nearly been a 25-year gap in writing *No Child's Play* and getting it published. Also, another collection of her works, *From The Terrace*, is awaiting to be published.

A born storyteller, Ranchan has been actively involved in the creativity process and perhaps that's why she has not given the due significance to the publishing aspect. But now that her book is finally published, it stands out. It has some striking illustrations by Santosh Mishra to go along with the story, dripping with facts and fiction.

Leaves from a soldier's diary

GAURAV KANTHWAL

IN olden times, bugle calls were musical signals that announced the scheduled and non-scheduled events in an Army installation. A soldier's life used to be strictly governed by the calls of this instrument, but with the passage of time, electronics have taken over, and now bugle is mostly reserved for ceremonial purposes only. But even now the phrase the call of bugle has military connotations — it primarily signifies the beginning of war. It is a different matter that trumpets are preferred over bugles by the military men on most of the occasions.

Lt Col (retd) Naresh Rastogi's book borrows its title *The Bugle Calls* from this analogy. The book is a narration of what a soldier experienced, observed and heard in the course of two wars against Pakistan (1965, 1971). Co-author

Kiran Doshi, Rastogi's golfing partner in retired life, felt Rastogi had a vast reservoir of anecdotes which could easily translate into a book, and that's how the book came into being. Primarily, it's a memoir of a soldier's life lived through two of independent India's biggest wars with Pakistan. What is striking in the book is its vivid visual imagery recreating the terrifying atmosphere and giving an insight into the state of the mind of a soldier caught in a war.

Rastogi and co-author Doshi are an unusual combination of a soldier and bureaucrat teaming up together to compile anecdotes in book form. While Rastogi, like a true-blue *fauji*, has the gift of gab, the bureaucrat in Doshi has a knack of collecting minute details and spreading it out on paper. The book, divided into 30 chapters, narrates stories from Khadakwasla, Mhow, Delhi to Wellington, Jessore, Khulna and Nigeria.

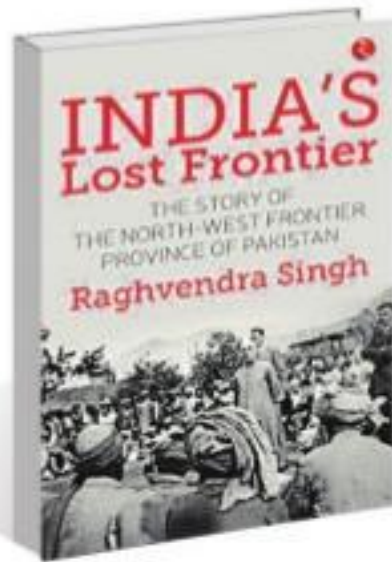
However, the main thrust of the book is in the chapters related to the Battle of Asal Uttar — the theatre of war between India and Pakistan in 1965. Hopelessly outgunned and understrength, the Indian forces destroyed Pakistan armour, making Asal Uttar, a village near Khemkaran town in Punjab 'the Graveyard of Patton tanks' on September 10. As many as 90 Patton tanks were either captured or destroyed by the Indian forces.

Company Quartermaster Havildar Abdul Hamid, mounted on his 106mm antitank recoilless gun, emerged as the hero, single-handedly destroying scores of tanks. He was posthumously awarded the Paramvir Chakra for his exceptional bravery and supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Among the very few Pakistan officers at Asal Uttar who got away was Lt Pervez Musharraf, who later became the President of Pakistan.

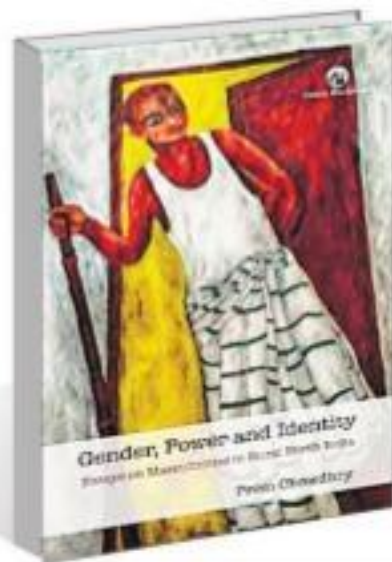
In Chapter 16, *The Battle of Asal Uttar: Day 3*, Rastogi, while narrating

the happenings of the day, recounts that Pakistan's artillery brigade commander, AR Shami, was killed in action and his body buried by the Indian soldiers. But soon a message came from the Indian Army's divisional headquarters that his body be exhumed and reburied with full honours. The orders were followed even if this put everyone in an awkward situation.

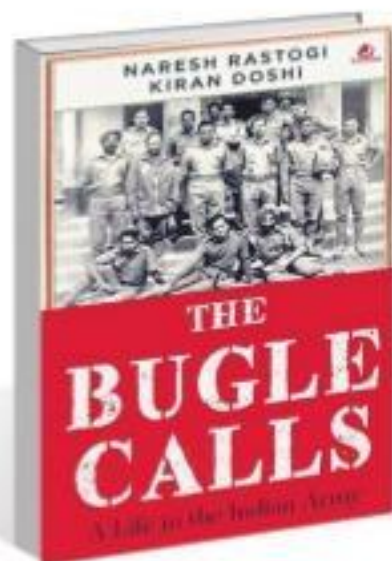
The Bugle Calls is a diary of a soldier from the time he aspires to join the forces till he settles into a retired life. Far from being a military history book, it is a compilation of stories which recounts soldiers' tough life, their bravery and the camaraderie they share in war and otherwise. The authorised versions of war fought by armies may list out facts and figures but they never depict the feelings and emotions of a soldier during the war. Such personalised accounts of a soldier are better placed to give the readers a greater insight into their lives.



INDIA'S LOST FRONTIER: THE STORY OF THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE OF PAKISTAN
by Raghvendra Singh.
Rupa.
Pages 491.
₹995



GENDER, POWER AND IDENTITY: ESSAYS ON MASCULINITIES IN RURAL NORTH INDIA
by Prem Chowdhry.
Orient BlackSwan.
Pages 296.
₹795



THE BUGLE CALLS: A LIFE IN THE INDIAN ARMY
by Naresh Rastogi and Kiran Doshi.
Tranquebar.
Pages 272.
₹599

Mumbaiwala recalls first engagement with Punjab



TRYSTS AND TURNS
JULIO RIBEIRO

Former Mumbai police commissioner, Gujarat DGP, Punjab DGP and envoy to Romania, Julio Ribeiro has distinguished himself in every position he has held. At 90, the 'super cop' is busy as ever, Mumbai always on his mind. He writes for *The Tribune* in this new column

WHEN *The Tribune* invited me to contribute a weekly column, reminiscing on my days in Punjab, I pointed out that I was not a professional writer. The discipline needed to write a weekly column would surely evade me. If I miss out at times, the readers would have to forgive me!

I celebrated my 90th birthday with my extended family in Goa in May. A month later, back in my own home in Mumbai, I slipped and fell in the bath. This necessitated a major surgery to fix the broken neck of the femur. At my age, it was sheer penance! It still is! A bed sore at the most unexpected of places — the ankle — refuses to allow the use of shoes. This, in turn, has affected my work.

What 'work'? After my stint as Ambassador to Romania, I started two NGOs in Mumbai. Interacting with people, common people, is what I do best and, hence, running these NGOs — one to counter communal forces and the other to fight corruption in the market place — brought out the best in me.

The Mohalla Committees Movement works in the slums. I find it difficult to access these areas now. Younger retired IPS officers with a social conscience have taken charge and are doing a great



IN HIS OWN WORDS: Interacting with people is what I do best, brings out the best in me.

job helping the police to douse rumours and possible conflagrations.

The second NGO, the Public Concern for Governance Trust, PCGT in short, was started eight years after the first, to support upright officers of the IAS and IPS from being victimised by corrupt politicians. BG Deshmukh, the former Cabinet Secretary, Dr Raj Kumar Anand, a Punjabi paediatrician born in Amritsar, and I were the founding fathers.

The NGO works with young people in schools and colleges of the city to instill in them respect for all human beings and ethical and moral values so essen-

tial for good citizenship. We mentor interns through the year, visit colleges regularly to interact with the staff and students on matters that should concern every citizen of our great country.

All this work keeps me totally engaged. I turned down two offers of governorship, one from PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the other from the Congress government's Home Minister Shivraj Patil, to ensure that my work for the people of my city was not affected.

The fall in the bath, the subsequent surgery and enforced confinement to the home has set my clock back! I regret

the time lost with the students. Tentatively, I have restarted my work. By December, normalcy should return.

When normalcy returns, the time available for writing will reduce considerably. So let me be as prolific as possible till that happens!

Setting foot in state

When did I first set foot on its sacred soil? Shankar Dayal Sharma, the future President, was Governor of Punjab. I was in Delhi in the Home Ministry. I had never done a job that did not require me to wear a uniform. This was the first time — almost at the end of my service. I was Special Secretary, a post that did not exist till Arun Nehru conceived its birth. In that capacity, I was asked to meet the Governor in Chandigarh to learn of the situation in the state from a Governor's privileged perspective.

Earlier, like all Mumbaiwallas, I had heard of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his defiance of the authorities. We in Mumbai did not pay the attention it merited because of our preoccupation with our own set of day-to-day problems.

That was till Bhindranwale decided to visit the city whose police force I headed! I was informed that a bus carrying him and his followers was approaching

the city. The snag lay in the information that some followers were armed with guns. Those who carried them were sitting on the roof of the bus.

How could I as the Police Commissioner allow this naked display of defiance? I phoned the state's Home Secretary and informed him of my intention to disarm the lot, a step that would surely lead to confrontation. I pointed out that if I did not do this, the government's bête noir, Bal Thackeray, would point this out as a precedent for similar 'privileges' when he travelled across the city, which he did almost daily!

Pat came the reply: 'Hold your horses. The Centre has a plan in place to disarm the miscreants.' My job was merely to report Bhindranwale's movement many times daily to the Union Home Ministry. This I proceeded to do in partnership with the local Intelligence Bureau head.

It was a big shock when we were informed that Bhindranwale had reached the Golden Temple and resumed his work there! It was apparent that he had been replaced in his room in Dadar gurdwara by a lookalike while he himself had left his lair in disguise! He made a monkey of two senior police officers!

Next week: I don the uniform again

Fed on diet of plastic, won't be cowed down



JUST JUGGLERY
JUG SURAIYA

EVEN as a new generation of eco-warriors, like 16-year-old Greta Thunberg of Sweden, wage a pacifist war against man-made climate change and environmental degradation caused by garbage, mainly non-biodegradable plastic, India's growing army of self-styled *gau rakshaks* feels that it has a unique solution to the problem of garbage that is choking the rivers, and lakes, and oceans, and burying its hills and mountains.

Two *gau rakshaks* talking about the *sarkari* move to ban the use of plastic:

1st gau rakshak: Everyone's saying that plastic, particularly single-use plastic, or SUP, is one of the world's biggest pollutants, and is one of the single biggest threats to the global environment.

2nd gau rakshak: I know, I know. I was reading in the papers just the other day that India alone daily generates plastic waste which in size and weight is equivalent to six elephants.

1st gau rakshak: Wow! Six *hathis*? That's one heck of a lot of plastic!

2nd gau rakshak: It is, indeed. And the thing with plastic, they say, is that it's very long-lasting and has an in-built shelf life of thousands and thousands of years.

1st gau rakshak: Yikes. So shouldn't we be doing something about

this plastic menace threatening the world?

2nd gau rakshak: We are doing something about it.

1st gau rakshak: We are? How?

2nd gau rakshak: By protecting and propagating our Indian cows, who have naturally evolved to become the most efficient garbage disposal species ever and thrive on a staple diet of plastic in all its forms.

1st gau rakshak: They have?

2nd gau rakshak: Hey, you're right. All the cows past their best-by milk-giving date that I've seen hanging around the streets in our towns and cities seem to eat nothing but plastic bags and wrappers, and stuff like that. Do you think they do that because nobody gives them anything else to eat?

1st gau rakshak: Nah. Plastic is their preferred form of diet. In fact, their digestive tracts have probably become so used to the stuff that eating anything else, like grass or fodder, would make them sick.

1st gau rakshak: So what you're saying is that we should encourage more and more of our *gaumatas* to become plastic vacuum cleaners gobbling it all up as fast as we produce it?

2nd gau rakshak: Exactly. And we should even go a step further and help other countries not-so-fortunate as ours to train their cows, maybe through cross-breeding, to become like ours and solve their plastic problem as well.

1st gau rakshak: That's a great idea. Maybe we could charge these countries royalties, or special fees, for training their cows, and earn much-needed foreign exchange to help bridge the national fiscal deficit.

2nd gau rakshak: Yep. Thanks to our *gaumata*, plastic pollution will never, ever cow us down....



ILLUSTRATION: SANDEEP JOSHI

Censure & unrepentant British PM



BY INVITATION
ASHIS RAY

THE latest tension in Britain's multi-act Brexit theatre pertains to Prime Minister Boris Johnson raising alarm bells about planning to bypass a law enacted by parliament, which restrains his government from leaving the European Union without an agreement.

Former premier Sir John Major's apprehension was: "It is important to note that an order of council can be passed by privy councillors — that is government ministers — without involving HM the Queen." *The Guardian*, on the contrary, quoted Cambridge law professor Mark Elliott, who asserted using the royal prerogative, the way feared by Major, would flout the 1688 Bill of Rights. He maintained: "Any suggestion that the prerogative could be used for this purpose is entirely without foundation."

There are concerns of violent clashes between leavers and remainers if temperatures are not cooled forthwith. Yet, far from dousing the flames, Johnson has indulged in fanning them. There's no sign of contrition despite the Supreme Court adjudging his advice to the British monarch and head of state, Queen Elizabeth II, to prorogue parliament as "unlawful". Forced to cut short his visit to New York for the United Nations General Assembly, his boisterous repartee to women MPs' comments in the House of Commons has caused consterna-

tion. Amber Rudd, until recently Johnson's cabinet colleague, felt his rhetoric 'legitimises violence'.

He has in his two months as prime minister lost every vote in parliament and reduced his government to a minority in the Commons by withdrawing the whip from fellow Conservative MPs who supported the anti-no-deal bill. He survives in office only because of Britain's five-year fixed term parliament Act, which has ironically also paralysed his functioning.

Johnson seems to believe he can win a snap general election by painting MPs opposed to him as villains obstructing Britain's departure from the EU; and thereby even legitimise a no-deal Brexit. Opinion polls, though, forecast a hung parliament, with the Brexit party, which is most inimical to the EU, seen as damaging the Conservative Party's prospects. In fact, the uncompromising and unanimous ruling of the 11-member Bench of the Supreme Court may also have shaken the confidence of a section of traditional Conservative supporters.

Such voters had thus far overlooked indiscretions in Johnson's private life. Now they are exposed to an alleged sex-for-sponsorship scandal involving him and Californian model-turned-entrepreneur Jennifer Arcuri reported by the *Sunday Times*. The latter is said to have received grants to the tune of tens of thousands of pounds from the Greater London Authority and been taken as a delegate on trade missions to Tel Aviv, Singapore and Malaysia when Johnson was mayor of London. The piece, now widely picked up by other media, gossiped about Johnson's visits to Arcuri's London flat "during gaps in his mayoral diary". Public reaction to this burgeoning story could have a bearing on Johnson's future.

But much of the rumpus may be for-

gotten and forgiven at least by Conservatives if he pulls off a deal with the EU. A Special Economic Zone (SEZ) between Northern Ireland, which is a part of Britain, and the Republic of Ireland, which will continue to be an EU member state, is a potential solution, if London can satisfy Brussels that there will be no customs and VAT checks on the frontier between the two.

The Conservatives' Northern Irish ally, the Democratic Unionist Party, hitherto resistant to the idea, has altered its tune. Businesses in Belfast had warned of significant job losses in the absence of a single market window with the EU. The police in the region have surmised there is a danger of terrorism once more raising its ugly head if a hard border is reintroduced. Besides, a survey in Northern Ireland sensed an inclination towards an Irish reunion, which is anathema to the hard-line Protestant DUP, historically hostile towards the predominantly Catholic Republic of Ireland.

So, a worried DUP has been compelled to consider the proposed SEZ, which would also eliminate the sticking point of a "backstop" or a border in the middle of the Irish Sea that divides mainland Britain and the Irish isles. It's a matter of carving a balance between the rival red lines of all parts of Britain equally regaining sovereignty while respecting the 1998 Good Friday Agreement of free movement and trade between the two Irelands.

Britons, by and large, are anxious to terminate the three-year post-referendum uncertainty. The Labour Party wants retention of the customs union, the Liberal Democrats and the Scottish Nationalists reject Brexit altogether. They will need to think twice before rejecting a reasonable deal.

— The writer is a senior journalist based in London

In India, language divides. Elsewhere, language unites



MY TAKE
RAHUL SINGH

When Indonesians got independence from the Dutch colonial rule, they decided to not select the language spoken by 40 per cent of Indonesians, Javanese, but one that was spoken by less than 4 per cent people, namely Malay

WHICH is more divisive — religion or language? In view of the Partition of the sub-continent in 1947, most Indians would reply, "Religion, of course." Hold on. Religion alone could not keep Pakistan together. It was mainly language that split it in 1971, leading to the formation of Bangladesh. The numerous East Pakistanis resented the way Urdu was being imposed on them at the cost of their own mother tongue, Bengali, around which much of their culture was built.

Take the example of India as well. In the early 1960s, there were widespread riots in Tamil Nadu against the imposition of Hindi. Seventy people died. In fact, there was then a demand for a separate Tamil nation, Dravida Nadu. Newly-independent India was in danger of breaking up, just like Pakistan in 1971, on account of language. Fortunately, democracy came to our rescue. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) was elected to power in the state in 1967 and its separatist demand evaporated. Democracy always moderates and cools down passions. Earlier, the then Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri had wisely eased tensions by assuring the non-Hindi-speaking states that English would continue as an official language, along with Hindi, as long as they wanted. Home Minister Amit Shah is a poor student of history, unaware that he was playing with fire when he declared recently that

Hindi should be the "one language of the country". That was a red flag to non-Hindi-speaking states, particularly Tamil Nadu.

Let's see how some other countries have handled the contentious language issue.

The most instructive is Indonesia, the fourth most populous country in the world, and the most diverse, after India. An archipelago of over 17,000 islands, it has 730 languages and 1,300 different ethnic groups. Thoughtful Indonesians realised that when they would get their independence from Dutch colonial rule, choosing the national language would pose a problem. And they did something remarkable. A body of students got together and decided not to select the language spoken by 40 per cent of Indonesians, Javanese, but one that was spoken by less than 4 per cent of Indonesians, namely Malay, later to be called Bahasa Indonesia. Note the word "bahasa", a variation of "bhasha", which means "language" in Hindi! Malay was a simple language of communication, used by traders and sailors, and understood all over the region. It incorporates several languages, including Arabic, Persian, and Hindustani. So, in 1928, at a students' conference, the solemn pledge, "One country, one nation, one language," was taken. And that language would be Bahasa Indonesia, in the Roman script. Over the years, it has developed into the undisputed lingua franca of



Hindi as lingua franca, bone of contention

the country. The other, older languages, with their own scripts have continued, but Indonesia has had no serious language problem, while India still does.

Turkey, under that great reformer — and one of my heroes — Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, did something similar. In 1928, he mandated that henceforth Turkish would be in the Roman script, not the earlier Arabic script that Turks had used for 1,000 years. The Roman script was successfully adapted to the phonetic requirements of Turkish. It was also much simpler to learn. The change had dramatic consequences. Turkey's literacy rate soared from an abysmal 10 per cent to 90 per cent, on par

with any developed country.

Not too many Indians are aware that "Netaji" Subhas Chandra Bose, after he was elected the Congress president at the Haripura session in 1938, also advocated the Roman script for Hindi. "To promote national unity, we shall have to develop our lingua franca and a common script," he said presciently at Haripura, adding that a mix of Hindi and Urdu was best, "But I am inclined to think the ultimate solution would be the adoption of a script which would bring us in line with the rest of the world."

He then continued, "Perhaps some of our countrymen would gape with horror when they hear of the adoption of the Roman script, but I would beg them to consider this problem from the scientific and historical point of view." Bose said he was inspired by a trip to Turkey in 1934 when "Ataturk enforced a new national script in 1928". But the fanatical Hindi fundamentalists would have none of it. They prevailed — with the tragic results that followed.

Apart from Indonesia and Turkey, here are some other countries that have adopted the Roman script as their national script: Vietnam, Somalia, parts of Africa (where Swahili and Igbo are spoken), Malaysia, the Philippines and, needless to say, most western nations.

One final word. There is a difference

between Hindustani and Hindi. A survey shows that four out of 10 "Hindi speakers" don't consider Hindi as their mother tongue. That survey also reveals that English is now the second most spoken language in India, cutting across all linguistic groups. English is globally the most spoken language, proficiency of which has enabled India to become an international Information Technology (IT) giant. Increasingly, Indians need a knowledge of English to get jobs, which is partly why private fee-paying schools are preferred even by the relatively poor, over free government schools.

Hindustani is the lingua franca of a large part of India (Pakistan, too), no question about that. It has a mix of Hindi, Urdu, Persian, and English. It is spoken, or at least understood, all over India, as well as in the South, particularly in the main cities. Bollywood has done a great deal to make it popular, and continues to do so. If it had been promoted in the Roman script, as Netaji had proposed, I believe it would have become a truly national language of communication and unity (just like Bahasa Indonesia), accepted by all parts of India. Meanwhile, the regional languages could have continued to flourish in their own scripts. One wonders what would have happened if Netaji had lived to take over the leadership of Independent India.

— The writer is a veteran journalist

MATRIMONIALS

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

KHATRI/ARORA

Highly educated, status business family invites proposals for extremely beautiful, fair, slim 24/5'-4", MBA girl. WhatsApp: 78146-65123. (CL19080643)

Suitable match for Anshik Manglik, 1st July 1993, 12.30 p.m. Kathiwal, 5'-4", MBA, working in OBC Bank (Insurance Industry). Now settled in Chandigarh. Contact only Tricity persons. 84276-61782. (CL19086621)

Alliance invited from Khatri/Arora family for slim, fair, find born girl. 1.6.86/4.00 p.m. 5'-6". M.Sc. (Bio-Chemistry). Lecturer in Reputed Institute, Chandigarh 13 LPA. 98888-59031. k.l.gulati09@gmail.com. (CL19086655)

Executive preferably Tricity match for Khatri slim very beautiful highly qualified talented employed girl 5'-11", 28 yrs, 6.70 LPA. Small educated Chandigarh family. WhatsApp only at: 98151-05858. (CL19086978)

Suitable match for beautiful girl 06.01.1990, 16.20, Jalandhar, 5', MCA Thapar University, working with TCS, Kundli must. 98728-71688. (CL19087099)

Suitable match for decent, beautiful girl, convent educated, MBA, 5.5.1992, 3.10 p.m., Chandigarh, 5'-3". Caste no bar. Business family preferred. 98141-95100, 98141-89100. (CL19087463)

Businessman family of Kurukshetra looking for suitable match for Panjab/Khatri girl 01.10.1992, 8:19 a.m., Kurukshetra, 5'-11", M.Tech, Lavish marriage. Contact: 98120-82596. (CL19087535)

High status business family's boy for Arora Manglik girl 5', 09 April 1990, 08.40 p.m., Ludhiana, MBA. Ludhiana preferred. 98767-37000. (CL19087711)

Beautiful 15.03.1989, 5'-3", 7.10 p.m. Chandigarh, working IT Company Chandigarh, Package 10 LPA. Well settled business family. 94177-69989. (CL19087848)

Match for beautiful Hindu Arora Aanshik Manglik girl 09.08.90 Abohar, 00.25 a.m., 5'-3", M.Tech. (ECE), settled at Bathinda, send biodata at WhatsApp: 95928-08389, 94632-58389. (CL19087870)

Qualified Punjabi match for beautiful fair Arora girl Oct. 1989/5'-5", MBA, PSU Bank Deputy Manager Chandigarh, package 10 lacs. 94154-69956, 93076-09110. (CL19087887)

Match for vegetarian girl BA, LL.B., working Chandigarh IT Park, 5'-4", 3rd Oct. 1992, Chandigarh, 4.50 p.m. WhatsApp 94642-59176. (CL19087897)

Match for Jat Sikh convent educated, beautiful girl 19.08.1993, 5'-4", Gazetted Officer Group 'A' Scientist/Engineer in ISRO. M.Sc. Computer Science, pursuing Ph.D. Father Manager SBI ret'd. Mother Pb. Govt. teacher. Radhasoami vegetarian, clean shaven family. Gazetted Class I Officer or MBA from IIM or reputed institution vegetarian preferred. WhatsApp 98728-26339, surindersrall@gmail.com. (CL19088001)

B.Tech, MBA 1984/ Punjab, 5'-6", Manager Delhi NRI also welcome 95602 - 67704. prospectmatri@gmail.com. (CL19088271)

QM, 1 Aug. 88, Rajpura, 5'-2", M.Tech., Asst. Prof. Chitkara University, 88470-66032. (CL19089308)

PQM for fair, smart, slim, pure vegetarian Hindu Arora girl 5'-4", M.Sc., B.Ed., Entrepreneur 01.12.1984, Ludhiana, 06:08 p.m, caste no bar. Contact: 94171-22985. (CL19089353)

Match for Chandigarh based Hindu Arora Khatri Dental Doctor girl, issueless divorcee, 38/5'-2", well educated family, 95010-15990, sdnat29@gmail.com (CL19089670)

Hindu Arora Manglik girl, 02.05.90, 11:15 am, Sunam, 5'-6", B.Tech., M.Tech, Thapar University, working Sr. Software Engineer, Noida. 94173-54383, WhatsApp: 95306-73599. (CL19089678)

Status match for beautiful fair, slim, MA, B.Ed, Hindu Arora never married girl, 5'-4", 40+ widowers/ divorcees please excuse. 98144-52413, arorab21@gmail.com. (CL19089833)

Professionally qualified/ Govt. Officer for very beautiful girl, B.Tech (CSE), MBA (IT), Thapar University, Dy. Manager in private Bank, Ludhiana, 10 lacs, 14.12.1993, Ferozepur, 3:05 am, 5'-4", Doctors & Engineers family. WhatsApp: 95018-51048. (CL19089884)

Well established handsome educated match for beautiful educated industrialist family daughter, 15.01.92, 7.53, 5'-3", Ambala. 90340-83138. (CL19089887)

Only established businessman/ professional match for very beautiful educated talented status family girl, 05.08.1988, 15.30, 5'-11", Rajpura decent marriage. 90341-12255. (CL19089892)

Ambala based Arora very fair slim, beautiful girl 01.04.1990, 4.50 p.m., 5'-11", MCA Chitkara job Mohali, 4 lac p.a. Father businessman. WhatsApp: 99961-63679. (CL19089895)

Professionally qualified match for Punjabi Khatri Manglik girl, 07.07.87, 6.40 p.m, Ambala, 5'-2", MBA, working as Manager Scale-2, Govt. Bank currently posted at Peermuccchalla (Panchkula). Contact after matching kundli, 99964-95487, 72066-77979. (CL19089947)

DISCLAIMER

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Suitable match for Arora Khatri girl, Manglik, 03.11.95, 5'-4", B.Tech., job Patiala. 86993-56672. (CL19088818)

Arora manglik girl 15-12-89, 6:15 am, Chandigarh, 5'-8", MA, B.Ed. 99888-31233, 97791-13515. (CL19088609)

Suitable match for fair, slim, beautiful Hindu Punjabi girl, 11th Sep 1989, 5'-3", M.Tech Computer Science, father Bank ret'd, only brother officer Air Force, reputed family, defence MNC, Govt Bank Officer preferred WhatsApp: 94673-51958. (CL19089950)

Match for fair unmarried Arora girl, 1971, 5'-2", M.A., permanent Govt. job, Patiala, Contact: 98551-00816. (CL19089998)

Status match for beautiful Hindu Kshatriya girl 25/ 5'-5", Feb. 23 1994, 9:40 am, Network Engr. at MNC Bangalore, father Senior Serving Offr, send bio data on 91024-12368. (CL19090077)

Match for beautiful Arora, 5'-4 1/2" girl, MCA, 18 April 1990, 4:47 pm, Bathinda, WhatsApp: 98550-55601. (CL19090115)

NCR settled match for Khatri girl 26, y, 5' fair, B.Sc. & Actuarial Science, Sr. Manager in Gurgaon, CTC 13L, from Ambala, veg. 94162-49649. (CL19090178)

SQM for Hindu Arora fair, 5'-4", vegetarian MDS, working in Dental College 15 Sept 1986, 05.32 pm, Ludhiana, Non- Manglik. 99888-00968. (CL19090196)

ARORA

Suitable match for Manglik Dentist Arora girl (BDS), 5'-11", 5.7.92, 8:55 p.m, Jalalabad, Tricity preferred. Own Clinic Mohali. Mob: 98151-37325. (CL19086749)

Manglik Arora girl 5'-2", 9.2.1993, 9:30 am, Ferozepur, M.Sc. (Physics), B.Ed., CTET. Contact WhatsApp: 98157-49795. (CL19087908)

Suitable match for Arora Manglik girl, 27.11.89, 2.50 p.m., Ludhiana, 5', M.Com., 8847053954. (CL19088257)

SM4 Hindu Arora MBA beautiful slim girl, 5'-3", 10.04.1992, 4:35 p.m., Jalalabad, Parents Govt. job, upper middle class. Required pure vegetarian, smart, well settled, status family. WhatsApp: 89681-30115. (CL19088418)

Match for Manglik beautiful slim fair Arora girl 5'-8", 03.04.1992, 9:55 pm Ropar, Punjab, B.Tech. working in SBI Asst. Manager, required well settled teetotal boy. WhatsApp: 98150-02654. (CL19088530)

Arora girl, 22.9.1983, 11 a.m., 5'-4", Assistant Prof. English (Ph.D.), Contact only well settled and qualified Arora family. 98728-20623. (CL19089327)

Canada study base Arora Radha Soami girl, 12.10.1991, 5.46 a.m., Moga, 5'-1 1/2", B.Tech. (IT), Canada PR boy preferred. Marriage bureau excuse. 81466-07511, (80541-40200 WhatsApp only). (CL19089639)

SM4 Hindu Arora girl, 30, 5'-3", Ph.D Pharmaceutical, Chemistry, PU Chd., vegetarian. Father Officer (Retd.), Mother PSU job, younger sister pursuing MBBS, Contact: 94630-86111. (CL19089642)

Suitable match for Arora girl 15 November 1982, 4.30 p.m. Ph.D., B.Ed., Government job, Program Manager. 094164-14031. (CL19089775)

Arora girl 1992/ 5'-3", M.Tech, Govt. job, preferred good business or Govt. job, Radha Soami family. 97795-91466. (CL19090055)

SQM 4 B'ful Mglk girl status business family 2.4.89/ 11.30 a.m. Meerut 5'-4", MBA, B.Ed. Mobile: 98370-50121. Email: k1kakkar@yahoo.com (CL19090075)

KHATRI

Suitable match for beautiful Khatri Anshik Manglik girl Oct. 88 born, 5'-11", MBBS, DEM, having Canadian PR. Visiting India in November. Preferred Medico, Engineer or well-settled boy from Punjab, USA, Canada. Send biodata with recent photo. 98724-00455, 99888-32786, +(413)556-6777. deepikakapur21@yahoo.com. (CL19087723)

Match for Hindu Khatri manglik girl, 27-5-92, 3:30 pm, Chandigarh, 5'-0", Doing Ph.D (Chemistry) USA. 98550-9329. (CL19089112)

Suitable match for Non-Manglik beautiful, 5'-3", Khatri girl, B.Tech., MBA, working in Pune, 23.12.1991, 1:10 pm, Vegetarian well educated boy preferred. Caste no bar. Contact: +91-98728-30703. (CL19089515)

Match for Punjabi Khatri unmarried 42/160 M.Sc. homely girl from Businessman family. Email: rkumar6566@yahoo.com. (CL19086036)

Doctor/ professionally qualified, cultured, tall, handsome, Overseas settled match for 1990 born, fair, slim, very beautiful, 5'-7", vegetarian. Convent educated, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Europe, Sood/ Khatri girl. Well-settled educated family. Dowry please excuse. WhatsApp: 98881-30417. (CL19079797)

Hindu Khatri slim, beautiful girl 5th July 1988 (9:35 p.m. Chandigarh), 5'-6", M.Com., MBA, working Panchkula. Teetotaler family. 0056vinod@gmail.com Whatsapp: 73559-16169. (CL19080080)

Suitable match for Khatri Chopra beautiful girl, 3rd August 1990, B.Tech, 5'-4", Iskcon devotee family preferred. 79863-01404, 99880-64783. (CL19086501)

Match for Hindu Khatri girl, B.Tech., MBA, 1.10.1992, 18:50 p.m. Patiala, 5'-5", working Mumbar, 16.5 Lacs. 98149-07528. (CL19087195)

Suitable match for Pbi. Khatri manglik girl, 31.12.1993, 7:17 am Nabha, 5'-11", B.Tech., MBA, regular service in Govt. Bank, Parents Class-I Officers. Mobile: 94638-19964. (CL19086526)

Sood (Khatri) fair complexion girl 21.10.1990, 1:08 am, 5'-4", B.Tech (I.T), MBA Finance, working MNC Gurgaon. Post Graduate match please. Family settled at Mohali. 98156-19518, 75080-49034. (CL19086558)

Suitable match for slightly Manglik beautiful Hindu Khatri girl, Jan 1992, Jalandhar, 5'-5", M.Com, CS Inter. Contact call/WhatsApp: 9872586154. (CL19086740)

PQM4 fair Punjabi Khatri girl, 21.08.1989, 07:50 am, 5'-2", B.Tech. GATE, having few White spots hardly visible. Father CA practising in Mohali. Contact: 85069-87934, 98187-54661. sunilmatri16@gmail.com (CL19086829)

Suitable match for Punjabi Khatri girl 6.4.1988, 8.00 am, Raipur, 5'-6", Postgraduate, working in Ludhiana. Caste no bar. 97793-44539. (CL19087051)

Suitable match 4 vanshi MCA girl with 6.5 Bands in IELTS, 87 born, 5'-5", Caste no bar. 78377-66790. (CL19087262)

Wanted suitable groom for Hindu Khatri girl 5'-3", 10.10.1989, MA Political Science and B.Ed, 4 years in Teaching work experience, kundli milan must. 98882-51716. (CL19087421)

Well settled professional match for smart, fair Khatri girl 10.10.1989/ 5'-4", 07.55 p.m./ Saharanpur (UP), MCA, teaching in reputed school, Contact- 98974-00343. (CL19087467)

Match for beautiful, fair, Khatri girl, 5', 24.08.92, 4:43 pm, Chandigarh, B.Com, MBA, working in leading private Bank, belongs to reputed business family, residing in Panchkula. 98722-04836. (CL19087507)

Match for Local fair, slim, beautiful, Graduate, Khatri homely girl, 5'-3", August 74, Mobile 98151-86871. (CL19087524)

Match for working, non-manglik, 5'-5", M.Sc. 4.9.1985, 2:20 am, Shimla. Whatsapp: 98151-46243, e-mail: khanna43@yahoo.com. (CL19087561)

Match for Khatri girl, 2.1.84, 5:15 am Solan, 5'-3", BA, PGDCA. 88942-22271. (CL19087670)

Engineer/Medico match for Hindu Khatri girl 1987, 5'-5", Australian registered Nurse, PR applied. 97795-91350. (CL19087689)

Professionally qualified match for Hindu Khatri B.Tech., Tech Lead Multinational Company, 10 lacs, 21.2.90, 20.29, Ambala, 5'-4", slim from status family, WhatsApp 98964-34453. (CL19087770)

Professionally qualified match for beautiful Hindu Walia girl, 5'-2", MBA, 28.12.86/4.00 p.m./Ferozepur. Working Project Manager Top MNC Bangalore 22 LPA. Father Retired GO. Chandigarh. WhatsApp 98865-87637, Mobile 94170-10600. (CL19087815)

Suitable match for Sood Khatri Hindu Australia (TR) beautiful girl 04.12.1991, 6:35 a.m., 5'-4", M.Com., MBA. 98889-48899, 99142-00433. (CL19087856)

Alliance for slim, smart, beautiful Hindu Punjabi girl 28, 5'-2", B.Tech. Software Analyst, 9 lac. Ambala based family. Seeking qualified, working match at Gurgaon, 81685-82492, 89011-92272. (CL19088266)

PQ match for slim Punjabi Khatri girl 15 June 1989 born, 5'-8", B.Sc. HM, MBA HR, employed PR in Canada. Caste no bar. Tricity preferred. cherry3hm@yahoo.co.in Call/ WhatsApp 98728-30369. (CL19088413)

B'ful slim Khatri girl 1991, 5'-5", B.Com. (Hon's) MBA, PGDM (finance) SR Consultant in reputed MNC 18.5 LPA, family based in Panchkula req. H'some well settled match, caste no bar. 75664-81719, 83199-62815. (CL19088535)

Suitable match for Punjabi Khatri girl 29 years family settled in UK for 20 years, 5'-6", Business Graduate, working in MNC, preference for UK settled boy. Interested may WhatsApp details on: 00353876564312. (CL19088675)

Match for Chandigarh born, educated, fair, slim, beautiful, Post-Graduate girl, professionally qualified Guidance and Counselling expert, working in Panchkula, 28.08.1991, 5'-6", Status family, 98166-48599, 94172-48599 (CL19088793)

Beautiful Postgraduate, 5'-4", Aug. 83, Permanent Job. Status family. Upper caste no bar. 948783-82654, 70090-12925. (CL190898238)

Match for Thaman Khatri girl 6.9.1983, 5'-3", M.Com., MBA, Manager HDFC. Well settled in Jalandhar. 95012-24888, 93573-17000. (CL19089318)

Khatri girl 15.6.1987, 5'-4", M.Sc. M.Ed. NET qualified. Preferred Govt. employee near Ambala. 70820-26309. (CL19089331)

SM Khatri girl M.Sc., B.Ed., 5'-4", 21.7.90, Asstt. Professor. Wanted NRI educated. 70098-78911. (CL19089334)

Chandigarh based Elite family seeks alliance for well educated, highly beautiful, fair, working girl, 5'-5", July 1990. Financially strong business family required only. 98783-74300. (CL19089550)

Khatri vegetarian girl 9.08.91, 01.55 p.m. Ludhiana, 5'-4", M.Tech. Doing job. Kundli match must. Preferred Ludhiana. 98764-01791. (CL19089640)

Very fair, beautiful Hindu Khatri Manglik girl 28, 5'-2", MA Economics, self employed, business family, looking for well settled match from same community. 94630-30530, 79730-30273. (CL1908964)

Suitable match for widow girl 3.11.1994, 9:10 am, Phagwara, 5', M.Sc. Math. Preferred NRI, PR boy. 95922-55750. (CL19089653)

Extremely beautiful well educated big industrial Delhi only daughter 1994, 5'-7", Hindu Khatri WatsApp: 98156-31231. (CL19089720)

Suitable match for beautiful Khatri girl, Architect, 5'-5", 18.01.1991, 10:23/ a rediffmail.com, 98142-15017. (CL19089726)

NCR working boy for Bhasin (Khatri), non-Manglik, 5'-4", M.Com., (Hons), working Big4 (MNC), earning 6 Lacs, 30.03.93, 8:13 pm Chandigarh. WhatsApp: 75892-93497. (CL19089795)

SM4 Khatri Manglik girl, 5'-0", 25.09.1992, 12:40 pm, Ludhiana, B.Com, CA (Inter), Business family of Ludhiana. WhatsApp: 94171-16624. (CL19089807)

Highly reputed, status, affluent Khatri family looking for alliance for their beautiful, fair daughter, MBA, 5'-11", Oct 89, Tricity, Pb, HR, preferred. 94184-51757. (CL19089841)

Manglik Hindu Khatri April 1992 born, M.Com., 5'-11", slim, beautiful girl, belongs to a reputed vegetarian business Industrialist family of Jalandhar. Please send particulars on WhatsApp 73472-56295. (CL19089832)

Well settled match for very beautiful homely girl 1992, 5'-4", B.Tech. High status Chandigarh settled family. 75890-96534. (CL19089905)

Match for Hindu Khatri girl 32/ 5'-7", Govt. Bank Officer, Chandigarh. Bank or Central Officer from Tricity need contact. Whats App 98784-92652, Mob. 98766-15083. (CL19089928)

Manglik beautiful & fair Khatri height 5'-11", 30 March 1984 girl, Team Leader in Govt. Bank at Chandigarh (last 7 yrs) expects qualified, good personality boy from Tricity. (Mobile)- 94191-70530. (CL19089982)

Manglik Khatri girl, 19 August 1992, M.Com., 12.10 p.m., Nawanshahr. 98148-23350. (CL19089993)

Alliance Invited
Seeking a match for extremely beautiful and educated Girl, 4th Aug. 1986/ 5'-6", Non-Manglik from Jalandhar based high status Khatri Family. MBA (Finance), CELTA. We are looking for a well established Business/ Professional Boy. Caste No bar. Mobile : 98785-72225 e-mail : kavitandandon1961@gmail.com. (CL19090032)

Suitable match for Punjabi Hindu Khatri girl convent educated, Chandigarh based 24/5'-11", M.Com. (Pbi. Uni.), MBA (Finance) UGC/NET cleared. Parents Govt. employee. 82838-32995. (CL19090049)

Suitable match for Brahmin girl 5'-11", 09.02.1989, 1.55 p.m. Una (HP), M.Sc. Nursing working as Teacher Khatri, Rajput may contact: 90410-87798, 82194-74801. (CL19090145)

Suitable match from tricity or Mumbai for very beautiful slim, 29/ 5'-4" B.Com. B.Ed. Khatri girl. 78371-04339. (CL19090177)

Suitable match from tricity or Mumbai for very beautiful slim, 29/ 5'-4" B.Com. B.Ed. Khatri girl. 78371-04339. (CL19090177)

ATTN: READERS
Readers are requested to write correct Box Number in their letters so as to ensure their delivery to the right addressee. Moreover, Box Number replies should be sent by ordinary mail only. Registered letters addressed to Box Numbers are not accepted. Advt. Manager

SAINI

Suitable match for Himachali, Saini girl, 01.12.1987, 07:25 am, Vishakhapatnam, 5'-4", B.Tech. (CSE), Technology Lead, Indian MNC, Chandigarh. Whatsapp: 84276-92377, e-mail: gcsaini@gmail.com. (CL19083656)

Professionally qualified match for slim, fair, Saini girl, 1990/ 5'-4", M.Tech. CSE. Preferred Canadian PR boy. Contact: 80541-15749. (CL19086477)

B.Tech/ MBA (Top Institutes) professional Saini/ Jat Sikh match invited for 5'-8", 1984 born, Punjabi girl, B.Tech & PGDIT, working as consultant with top MNC. Send profile and photos- kaurseeker@gmail.com or call 78374-20594. Marriage bureau/ businesswoman excuse. (CL19086691)

Sikh Saini beautiful unmarried girl, 1980/5'-2", MA, NTT, B.Ed. Caste no bar. Businessman/employed preferred. Jassi_sk@yahoo.com 0172-4652683, WhatsApp 99880-01755. (CL19087451)

Suitablematch for Saini Sikh girl 28½ yrs, 5'-6", M.Tech, private job. Contact: 62847-54873. (CL19087469)

Match for Saini Sikh Smart girl 5'-4"/ 1995, M.Sc., Working in Punjab Govt Chandigarh. Preference Govt. Employee Local or Turbaned Smart boy. Contact 98159-79408 (CL19087678)

Match for Saini girl, 18.2.91, 5'-2"