

Maternity leave no condition to prove parentage, says HC

SAURABH MALIK TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 10

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has made it clear that parentage cannot be denied merely because the mother did not avail of maternity leave at the time of the child's birth.

The Division Bench of Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma and Justice Meenakshi I Mehta also dismissed the Centre's plea challenging the grant of family pension to the woman-applicant whose mother, an Income Tax Department employee, had not entered her name in the service records.

the applicant's biological mother despite the fact that her birth certificate was produced and affidavits of other two siblings filed.

"As per law, even if a child is born from an illicit relationship, and the father and mother are having existing marriage in terms of the provisions of the Hindu Succession Act, the child would be treated as their legitimate child," the Bench asserted.

The court added that a birth certificate and educational certificates reflecting parentage were sufficient proof. "For a child born of a parent who has expired, apart from submitting birth certificate and educational certificates reflecting the parentage, we do not find there is any other document which can produce to prove the parentage," the Bench said.

Drug kingpin Bhinder, wanted by FBI, nabbed from Ludhiana

His accomplices were held with 391 kg meth, 109 kg cocaine in US

PK JAISWAR/GURBAXPURI TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

TARN TARAN, MARCH 10

In a significant breakthrough, the Tarn Taran police have apprehended druglord Shehnaaz Singh, also known as Shawn Bhinder, from Ludhiana.

Following the crackdown by US authorities, Bhinder fled to India. His involvement came to light through the interrogation of his five accomplices, who were arrested in connection with the seizure of 391 kg methamphetamine, commonly known as ICE, along with 109 kg cocaine.

Those arrested by the FBI



Shawn Bhinder in custody of the Tarn Taran police. VISHAL KUMAR

were identified as Amritpal Singh, alias Amrit, alias Bal; Amritpal Singh, alias Cheema; Taqdeer Singh, alias Romi; Sarabjit Singh Saabi; Fernando Valladares, alias Franco; and Gurlal Singh. "Bhinder was a key figure in a global narcotics syndicate, responsible for smuggling cocaine and other drugs from Colombia into the US and Canada," said DIG Ferozepur

Range Swapan Sharma. After his escape to India, the Punjab Police successfully tracked and arrested him from Ludhiana, Sharma added. Bhinder was also wanted in connection with an Arms Act case registered in December 2024, in which the Tarn Taran Police had arrested five members of the notorious Jaggu Bhagwanpuria and Amritpal Bath Gang. The

arrests led to the recovery of a significant cache of arms and ammunition.

Tarn Taran SSP Abhimanyu Rana said preliminary investigations revealed Bhinder played a crucial role in transporting large consignments of drugs across international borders using trucks and trailers. Detailing the modus operandi of the racket, Rana said interrogations revealed Bhinder had been operating a transportation business in Canada since 2014. "Under the guise of a legitimate transportation business, he allegedly facilitated the movement of drugs from Colombia to the US and Canada via Mexico," Rana explained. The probe further uncovered that Bhinder, along with his accomplices, was transporting approximately 600 kg of cocaine from Colombia every week. Bhinder's network is believed to have ties with notorious drug traffickers, including Amritpal Singh, alias Baath, and Gurdant Singh Bholu Havelia.



An illegal house of an alleged drug trafficker being razed in Barnala.

Repeat NDPS culprits face bulldozer action

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SANGRUR, MARCH 10

The Barnala Improvement Trust, with the assistance of the district police, on Monday demolished an "illegally constructed house" located behind the Bus Stand in Barnala. A JCB machine was used to raze the property, which belonged to a mother-daughter duo involved in drug peddling, identified as Kali Kaur and her daughter Sarbo.

Mohammad Sarfaraz Alam, SSP said according to official records, Kali Kaur had nine cases registered against her,

including seven under the NDPS Act, while her daughter Sarbo faced seven cases, six of which were under the NDPS Act. The demolition was carried out following a request from the Trust, which sought police help to remove the "illegal encroachment."

The SSP emphasised that the operation was conducted in an orderly manner, with adequate police presence to ensure law and order. "We are committed to taking stringent action against drug traffickers and criminals, in line with the government's vision of a drug-free Punjab," he added.

Canara Bank advertisement with details of branches and services.

6 arrested with drugs in Abohar

ABOHAR, MARCH 10

The police on Monday seized 80 gm of heroin from Paramjit Kaur, a resident of Government Seed Farm. A case has been registered under the NDPS Act, and she has been remanded to two days of police custody.

In separate cases, 40 gm heroin was seized from Rohit Kumar and Sonu, 20 gm from Raju and JUDGE Singh and 4 gm from Prahlad Kumar. — OC

988 FIRs, 1.3K arrests in 10 days of war against drugs

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 10

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) state president Aman Arora on Monday claimed the state government had achieved significant milestones in its 10-day-old war against drugs (Yudh Nashian Virudh) campaign. Addressing a press conference, Arora revealed that under the campaign, the police had registered 988 FIRs under the NDPS and arrested

1,360 drug traffickers.

The police have seized 1,035 kg of heroin, opium and other synthetic drugs, along with approximately 6.81 lakh drug pills and Rs 36 lakh. These figures underscore the AAP-led government's determination to eliminate the drug menace from the state, he said.

In a strong move against drug-related assets, around 24 buildings linked to traffickers had been demolished. These properties, worth

crores of rupees, were allegedly acquired through illegal means. During the operations, 19 traffickers sus-

GOVT COMMITTED The police are working round-the-clock to combat the drug menace. Traffickers should either quit smuggling or leave the state. Aman Arora, AAP STATE CHIEF

tained injuries when the police were forced to open fire in self-defence.

Arora emphasised the AAP government's "unwavering commitment to eradicating drugs from Punjab". He warned drug traffickers to either quit smuggling or leave the state, stating that the police were working round-the-clock to combat the issue. He criticised previous governments for allegedly shielding drug traffickers.

A Cabinet Committee has been formed to oversee the campaign. The committee is regularly visiting districts, holding meetings with officials and monitoring progress. Health Minister Balbir Singh is overseeing hospitals, de-addiction and rehabilitation centres.

Arora affirmed that the Punjab Government and police were working systematically this time to root out drugs from the state.

AUTHUM AUTHUM INVESTMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED advertisement with possession notice details.

AUTHUM AUTHUM INVESTMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED advertisement with possession notice details.



Farmers protest outside the house of Minister Harbhajan Singh ETG in Amritsar on Monday. VISHAL KUMAR

CM challenged to agri debate

Farmers stage dharnas near houses of ministers, MLAs

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 10

Protesting outside the residences of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislators and ministers, farmers, under the aegis of Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) and the BKU (Ekta Ugrahan), today challenged Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for a debate on agriculture in Chandigarh on March 15.

Members of 37 farmer unions staged protests outside the residences of AAP leaders at 70 places across the state. The four-hour protests, which began around 11 am, were held against the government crackdown on SKM and BKU leaders between March 3 and 5 for preventing them

from protesting in Chandigarh. A majority of the top leaders had been put under preventive arrest. After the government succeeded in foiling their attempt to reach Chandigarh, the SKM and the largest BKU faction had declared that they would protest outside the houses of AAP leaders.

Farmers raised slogans against the government for stopping them from exercising their democratic right to protest. Leaders of all unions, while addressing the gathering of protesters, also said they would now hit out at the ruling party by opposing them in the elections.

In an official statement, the SKM said the AAP govern-

ment was toying the agenda of BJP of creating Jat versus non-Jat and urban versus rural by defaming the SKM.

Ludhiana: Various farmer unions under the banner of SKM staged sit-ins in front of the residences and offices of Cabinet Ministers and AAP MLAs in the district. These included residences of ministers Hardeep Singh Mundian at Kohara and Tarunpreet Singh Sond in Khanna. Sit-ins were also held outside the residences of other MLAs. Muktsar: Farmers lodged protests outside the residences of Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khuddian at Khuddian village and MLA Jagdeep Singh Kaka Brar in Muktsar town.

Slow delivery of milled rice, state writes to FCI

RUCHIKA M KHANNA TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 10

The state government is worried over the shortage of space for storing rice milled from the paddy procured in October last year. The space crunch is leading to slow delivery of rice by millers to the Food Corporation of India, which in turn, is leading to resentment among rice millers.

In a letter to the FCI, the state Food and Supply Department pointed out that only 32% of the custom-milled rice could be delivered as the corporation stated that it did not have space. Ideally, all rice is to be delivered to the FCI by March 31.

The state government has also revoked the "unscientific/non-uniform" allocation of space by the FCI field staff to the millers. "The field staff is allocating space to the millers at centres other than the one originally linked, without paying transportation charge. This has led to discriminatory and non-uniform allocation of space to the rice millers by the FCI," reads the letter, a copy of which is with The Tribune. Sources said the issue of shortage of space for storing rice as well as wheat,

32% custom-milled rice delivered as FCI short of space



which will start coming in the mandis by mid-April, was also discussed at a meeting of all state agencies today.

"We are trying to create space for rice, and there will be no shortage of space. About 70 lakh metric tonne (LMT) of rice is yet to be delivered by rice mills. We are not just speeding up the outward movement of rice from Punjab to other states, but are also hiring godowns owned by state foodgrain procurement agencies for keeping the newly milled rice," B Srinivasan, General Manager of FCI, Punjab Region, told The Tribune. He added that movement of rice stored in Punjab would increase from April onwards.

PNB Housing advertisement with appendix IV-A e-auction sale notice of immovable property (IES).

AAP-centric questions in Class XII exam spark row

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 10

A controversy has erupted after the Punjab School Education Board (PSEB) included two questions about the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the Class 12 political science exam held on March 4. The first question, carrying one mark, asked about the year of AAP's establishment, while the second, an eight-mark

question, required students to elaborate on the policies and programmes of the Punjab unit of the BJP has accused the ruling AAP of using the education system to influence young minds, calling it a form of political propaganda. Education Minister Harjot Bains defended the inclusion of the questions. — TNS

Obituary notice for S. Shivraj Singh Dhillon, including details of the funeral and contact information.