

**OPINION 6**  
CHECKMATING  
CHINA

**MONEY 9**  
MANUFACTURING  
CONTRACTS FOR 4TH MONTH

**SPORT 12**  
TALENT IS NOT THE PROBLEM  
IN OUR COUNTRY, SAYS CHHETRI

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BRANDY  
UNVEILS NEW  
MUSIC ALBUM  
10 VIVACITY

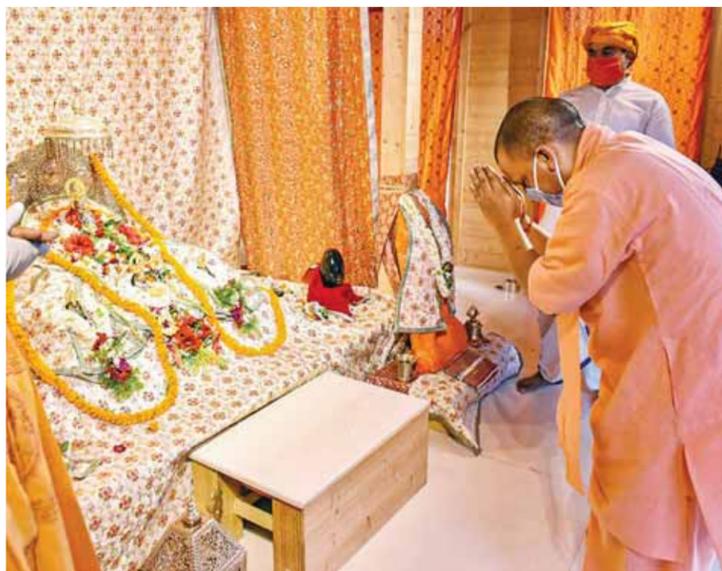
## Only 4 on temple stage with PM

Bhagwat, UP Gov, UP CM, Mahant Gopaldas to share podium with Modi during bhoomi puja; Uma to stay away from event

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will share the stage with just four more dignitaries — Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Mahant Nritya Gopaldas — at the grand Ram Temple foundation-stone laying ceremony at Ayodhya on August 5.

Even someone like Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who is one of the tallest leaders from Uttar Pradesh and former Chief Minister of the State, will not be on the dais. Home Minister Amit Shah will not be able to make it due to Covid-19 infection, and veteran LK Advani and MM Joshi will have to watch the ceremony on video conference from Delhi itself. Both Joshi and Advani were reportedly advised by the organisers to not travel to Ayodhya due to their age related vulnerability to Covid-19.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath offers prayers to Lord Ram during his visit to Ram Janmabhoomi premises to take stock of preparedness for the ground breaking ceremony of the Ram Mandir, in Ayodhya, on Monday PTI

Firebrand BJP leader Uma Bharti said she would, for the safety of the PM and other guests, stay away from the event and visit the site after everyone was gone. Incidentally, only a day ago she had declared she would take part in the ceremony.

The invitations are only for residents of Ayodhya. The first invite went to Iqbal Ansari, one

of the Muslim litigants in the Ayodhya case. Padma Shri recipient Mohammad Sharif, another Muslim, honoured for cremating over 10,000 unclaimed bodies, has also been invited.

The invitation card mentions Prime Minister Narendra Modi and three more names,

indicating a vastly trimmed list in the time of Covid-19.

The invite also has an image of the idol of "Ram Lalla" or infant Lord Ram. Each invitation has a security code that will work only once; if the guest exits the venue they will not be allowed back in, according to Champat Rai of

the Ram Temple trust. Invites have been sent to some 175 people for the elaborate "Bhoomi Pujan" organised on Wednesday in the middle of the nation's coronavirus fight.

Champat Rai said the invites were finalised only after they RSVP-ed on phone calls. "We have the Covid situation,

that's why we have kept social distancing in mind. We have personally called and apologised to many people. Age is a factor too. How will Advaniji (91) come at his age? So we have carefully prepared a list around these compulsions," he said.

On inviting the Muslim litigant, Rai said: "Celebrating an event does not mean someone else should feel bad. No one should be teased."

PM Modi is expected to establish a 40 kg silver brick for the symbolic start of the construction of a Ram Temple that has been central to the BJP's core agenda and election promises for decades.

According to news agency ANI, three prominent scholars of Astrology and Vyakaran left for Ayodhya from Kashi on Monday to participate and supervise in the rituals of the 'Bhoomi Pujan'.

The scholars are office-bearers of the Kashi Vidwat Parishad, an organisation of intellectuals and scholars of Veda, Astrology, Paninian, Sanskrit Grammar and Indian philosophy.

The organisation represents Kashi. Three scholars, including the VHP vice-president Prof Ramchandra Pandey, member Prof Vinay Kumar Pandey and Prof Ramnarayan Dwivedi, the convener have left for Ayodhya.

## 'Sushant was disturbed at Disha's suicide link'

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The ongoing sluffest between the Bihar and Mumbai Police over the investigation into the Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case assumed a new dimension on Monday as Mumbai Police Commissioner Parambar Singh went on record saying that he was "emotionally disturbed" after his ex-manager Disha Salian's alleged suicide.

A day after Mumbai BJP general secretary and MLA Ameet Satam raised suspicions over Disha's alleged suicide and indirectly linked the development with the actor, the Mumbai Police chief came clean on the issue by saying that the late actor was "emotionally disturbed" to see his name being linked with Disha.

Disha allegedly committed suicide by falling from the 14th floor of a building in Malad in Mumbai on June 8.

Talking to mediapersons, the city police chief said, "When the actor saw his name being linked to Disha Salian's death in the social media, he was emotionally disturbed.

He (Sushant) had met Disha Salian only once, he even asked his advocate who she was."

Singh said that the actor was acutely conscious about what was being published, appearing about him in both the media and social media.

"Sushant would Google search for articles and his name to find out what was being

## Mumbai top cop says late actor had met Disha for just once



written about him. He would also search for "painless death," "schizophrenia and bipolar disorder," the police chief said.

The Mumbai Police chief's clarification came after former Chief Minister and current Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis tore into the Uddhav Thackeray dispensation for quarantining an IAS officer from Bihar who is in Mumbai to investigate the actor's suicide case.

"It is really very strange why the Maharashtra Government is coming under unnecessary suspicion by not allowing Bihar Police to perform their duties. Instead of solving the mystery of Sushant's death, such behavior will only result into huge public outcry and disbelief amongst the people about the investigation,"

Fadnavis said in two tweets. Fadnavis charged that the Mumbai Police were adopting different yardsticks for police from different States and for different cases.

"A medical team from Kerala visited Mumbai, UP Police came to investigate Vikas Dubey case, a team from the Bihar Police is already working in Mumbai since 4 days but none of them were quarantined then why only an SP rank officer is treated differently?," the senior BJP leader asked.

## DCGI allows trial of Oxford vaccine on 1,600 Indians

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major development, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has given nod to Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) for conducting phase II and III clinical trials of Oxford University-AstraZeneca vaccine against Covid-19 in the country.

The drug regulator has allowed the trial on 1,600 participants in India in over 20 selected trial sites. Now, SII can start the process to begin the trials, said the Union Health Ministry in a statement here.

The DCGI approved SII's revised protocol to start the human trials on Sunday, a day after subject expert committee (SEC) of the DCGI gave its nod to the SII proposal.

"The DCGI has granted permission for phase 2 and 3 clinical trials of vaccine candidate named Covishield after it was found that the subject expert committee that went



through the data and protocol submitted for the trial was satisfied with the results," it said.

On July 20, the initial trial results for the vaccine candidate, Covishield, which were made public by Oxford University had shown promising results.

The preliminary trial results published in *The Lancet* said the vaccine candidate was safe and induced immune reaction against SARS-CoV-2, which causes Covid-19, and protect healthy people from infection.

"As soon as they (DCGI) grant permission, we will begin trials for the vaccine in India. We will soon start manufacturing it," Adar Poonawalla, CEO, SII, had said.

## India pips USA, Brazil in daily virus cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Monday piped the USA and Brazil to record the highest daily rise in coronavirus cases in the world. This was the first time that India's daily spike was the highest in the world.

While India recorded 52,783 cases, the USA reported 49,038 and Brazil reported

24,801 cases. This was after many weeks that the USA's caseload came below 50,000 marks and Brazil listed below 30,000 cases.

In terms of mortality, India was again ahead of both the USA and Brazil, but Mexico recorded the highest number of death on Monday. India recorded 758 deaths, the USA

## Mexico registers highest number of deaths

467, Brazil 514 whereas Mexico listed 784 deaths.

Meanwhile, Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organisation (WHO) has said the number of cases globally has increased more than 5-fold to 17.5 million and the number of deaths has more than tripled to 6,80,000 since WHO's emergency committee on Covid last met 3 months ago.

International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR), Dr Tedros said, "The pandemic is a once-in-a-century health crisis, the effects of which will be felt for decades to come. Many countries that believed they were past the worst are now grappling with new outbreaks. Some that were less affected in the earliest weeks are now seeing escalating numbers of cases and deaths. And some that had large outbreaks have brought them under control."



A medic wearing PPE kit collects sample from a woman for Covid-19 rapid antigen testing, in Kolkata, on Monday PTI

**Covid-19 IN INDIA**

**TOTAL**

**CASES: 18,55,238**

**DEATHS: 38,972**

**RECOVERED: 12,29,329**

**ACTIVE: 5,86,500**

| STATES         | TOTAL CASES | DEATHS | RECOVERED |
|----------------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| Maharashtra    | 4,50,196    | 15,842 | 2,87,030  |
| Tamil Nadu     | 2,63,222    | 4,241  | 2,02,283  |
| Andhra Pradesh | 1,66,586    | 1,537  | 88,672    |
| Karnataka      | 1,39,571    | 2,594  | 62,500    |
| Delhi          | 1,38,482    | 4,021  | 1,24,254  |
| Uttar Pradesh  | 97,362      | 1,778  | 55,393    |
| West Bengal    | 78,232      | 1,731  | 54,818    |
| Telangana      | 67,660      | 551    | 48,609    |
| Gujarat        | 64,684      | 2,504  | 47,663    |
| Bihar          | 59,567      | 336    | 38,508    |
| Rajasthan      | 45,555      | 719    | 32,051    |
| Assam          | 45,276      | 109    | 32,385    |
| Haryana        | 37,173      | 440    | 30,470    |
| Odisha         | 36,297      | 248    | 23,074    |
| Madhya Pradesh | 34,285      | 900    | 24,099    |
| Kerala         | 26,873      | 85     | 15,278    |

## ED questions Sushant's CA in money laundering case against Rhea

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday questioned Sandeep Sridhar, Chartered Accountant of deceased Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput, in connection with a money laundering case against his girlfriend actress Rhea Chakraborty and others.

The ED registered the case under Prevention of Money Laundering Act last week after taking cognisance of a Bihar Police FIR against Chakraborty, her family members and others under the Indian Penal Code Sections relating to cheating, theft, criminal breach of trust and abetment to suicide.

The Patna Police had registered its case following a complaint from Rajput's father Krishna Kumar Singh.

Sources said Sridhar appeared before the agency's office in Mumbai for questioning.

Sridhar was earlier questioned by the Mumbai Police at his apartment in Mumbai on June 14.

Sridhar was questioned by the ED officials about the banking transactions between Rajput and Chakraborty, the sources further said.

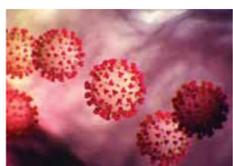
## 18 more die of Covid-19 in Punjab

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Eighteen more succumbed to the deadly contagion in Punjab on Monday as the State reported 677 fresh cases of the novel coronavirus, pushing its Covid-19 tally to 18,527, and death toll to 442.

The hotspot Ludhiana continued to report soaring number of cases and deaths. Of the 19 deaths, maximum eight were reported from Ludhiana, three from Bathinda, two from Amritsar, and one each from SAS Nagar (Mohali), SBS Nagar (Nawanshahr), Barnala, Sangrur, Jalandhar and Patiala.

With whopping 186 cases reported from Ludhiana in the past 24 hours, the district's Covid-19 tally has reached



3,714 (20 per cent of state's total cases) and death toll at 115 (26 per cent of state's total deaths) — highest among all districts.

Besides Ludhiana, Bathinda reported 118 fresh infections, followed by 115 from Jalandhar, 51 from Ferozepur, 34 each from Patiala and Gurdaspur, 29 from Amritsar, 22 in Moga, 20 in Barnala, 14 in Fazilka, 13 in Pathankot, 11 in Mohali, nine each from Kapurthala and

Hoshiarpur, eight from Sangrur, three from Faridkot, and one from Fatehgarh Sahib.

The fresh positive cases include 13 cops — including 11 from Ludhiana and two officials from Gurdaspur, six healthcare workers, two prisoners — one each from Gurdaspur and Barnala, one frontline worker, among others.

As many as 416 patients — including 144 from Ludhiana followed by Amritsar (91), Patiala (43), Gurdaspur (26), Fatehgarh Sahib (23), SAS Nagar (18), Hoshiarpur (16), nine each from Moga, Muktsar and Barnala, Fazilka (8) and Pathankot (6) — were discharged on Monday, taking the total recoveries to 11,882, with 6,203 active cases.

## PUNJAB HOCH TRAGEDY Death toll rises to 108, 12 more arrested

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Police on Monday apprehended 12 more persons, including two businessmen, in the spurious liquor tragedy that has claimed 108 lives since Wednesday evening — with 82 deaths in Tarn Taran and 13 each in Amritsar and Gurdaspur's Batala.

Amid strict instructions from the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh to further step up investigations into the hooch tragedy, the Punjab Police have launched a manhunt for a Ludhiana-based paint business owner who had initially supplied the three drums of spurious liquor that had triggered the wave of deaths.

The Chief Minister has directed the state Director General of Police (DGP)

Dinkar Gupta to put the full might of the police force in tracking and apprehending every single person involved in the case and move swiftly to ensure stringent action against each of them.

"Nobody should be spared," said Capt Amarinder, even as the Punjab Police launched a departmental inquiry against two DSPs and four SFOs suspended for negligence.

The magisterial inquiry ordered by the Chief Minister is also probing the involvement of all suspects, as well as the six police and seven Excise and Taxation Officers whose suspension was ordered by the Chief Minister on Saturday.

With the latest arrests, the total number of arrests in the case has gone up to 37, including five kingpins of the illicit

liquor mafia that spanned several districts of the State. A manhunt has been launched for eight more identified accused, including the Ludhiana-based paint shop owner Rajesh Joshi, believed to be a key player in the mafia chain, said DGP Dinkar Gupta.

Investigations are also in progress to identify other links, he said, adding that efforts are also in progress to identify various supply routes across the districts since there were multiple buyers of the Ludhiana-based businessman, who was still absconding. Raids were still continuing, he added.

Among the arrests made in the past 24 hours is Ravinder Singh Anand of Moga who runs a factory manufacturing mechanical jacks. He had bought three cans of 200 litres each of the spurious liquor at

Rs 11,000 a drum from the Ludhiana businessman. He had recently started manufacturing of hand sanitiser.

From Ravinder, the three drums went to one Avtar Singh, also of Moga, who sold it to Harjit Singh and his two sons, residents of Pandori Gola village in Tarn Taran, for ₹28,000 a drum.

Harjit and his sons paid ₹50,000, with balance still pending, and hid the drums in bushes near their village. Further investigations have revealed that Harjit and his sons (Satnam and Shamsher) gave 42 bottles worth of spurious spirit from the drums to Gobinder Singh, for ₹6,000. Each of these bottles was diluted by him by 10 per cent to make 46 bottles, which he sold to the sons of Balwinder Kaur on July 28 and 29 in two

installments of 23 bottles each.

Balwinder, the first person to be arrested in the case, had further diluted the alcohol by adding 50 per cent water and sold a bottle of the diluted spirit for ₹100.

Meanwhile, Ravinder Singh has further revealed that he was an associate of a Moga-based paint store owner named Ashwini Bajaj, who has been arrested. Ravinder's questioning disclosed the involvement of Rajesh Joshi, who is evading arrest.

"Initial investigations indicate that Gobinder, Ravinder, Darshana Rani, Triveni Chowhan, and Harpreet Singh are among the key accused in the case, and their links with other major mafia gang members are being ascertained," said the DGP.

*Detailed report on Page 3*

Efforts on to make Himachal stray cattle free State: Jai Ram Thakur

PNS ■ SHIMLA

To get rid of the menace of stray cattle in the state, Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Monday said efforts are on to make Himachal Pradesh stray cattle-free within one and a half year.



Launching 'Assistance to Gausadan/Gaushala/Cow Sanctuary Scheme' and National Artificial Insemination Programme Phase-II of Animal Husbandry department here, Thakur said under the Scheme, ₹500 per cow per month would be provided to all Gausadans/Gaushalas/ cow sanctuaries having 30 or more cattle as maintenance allowance after complete tagging under Information Network for Animal Productivity and National Health (INAPH) and National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) as per the Government of India guidelines. He said that these

benefits would be extended to cow sanctuaries/Gaushalas established by the government, registered Gausadans and Gaushalas being run by Panchayats, Mahila Mandals, Local Bodies and NGOs etc. Thakur said the state government has decided to ensure that no one would be allowed to abandon their cattle. He said in the very first

cabinet meeting it was decided to make provision for providing shelter to stray cattle and levying one rupee cess per bottle of liquor for construction and maintenance of cow sadans, he added. He said the government has now decided to levy cess of ₹1.50 per cattle of liquor to generate the income and also to develop cow sanctuaries in the

cattle thereby helping the farmers to supplement their income. He said that this would benefit over eight lakh farmers of the State.

Thakur also interacted with the farmers and members of the Managing Committee of Gausadans and Gaushalas.

Agriculture, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and Animal Husbandry Minister Virender Kanwar said that it was for the first time the Chief Minister has interacted with cattle rearers of the state. The efforts would be made to bring all the abandoned cattle into Gau Sadans and cow sanctuaries for which active cooperation of every section of the society was required. He said that efforts would also be made for capacity enhancement of the cow sanctuaries in the State.

The minister said seven cow sanctuaries were coming up in seven districts of the State which would be made functional at the earliest. He said

that the Agriculture department would purchase cow dung from the cow sanctuaries and would be sold to farmers

as vermi-compost. The efforts would also be made to plant fodder trees in cow sanctuary areas so that cows could get

green fodder. He said that the state government would ensure free vaccination of cattle twice in a year.

Haryana CM approves comprehensive plan for crop residue management

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on

Monday approved a comprehensive plan for crop residue management in the State to the tune of over Rs. 1,304 crore. The aim of the plan is to prevent stubble burning in the State. The Central Government has provided Rs. 170 crore to the State under this plan this year.

Giving details, Kaushal said that the State Government had been taking all possible measures for management of paddy straw in-situ (in the field), including distributing equipment for crop residue management, establishing Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) and establishing dedicated control room at state headquarters at the Directorate of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

vided a sum of Rs. 453 crore in the State Budget.

The Haryana Government has also encouraged establishment of straw bailer units to promote ex-situ management. Under this initiative, 64 such units were established till November 5, 2019, and 131 were established between November 6 and December 11. The State Government has also issued 155 permits to farmers for purchase of such units.

To reiterate the strict stance being taken against stubble burning, the Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department has taken stringent action against stubble burners and officers who have failed to control stubble burning. This includes registration of 2,020 FIRs, suspension of seven officers and charge-sheeting of 23 officers. Besides, 499 show-cause notices were issued to Village Level Nodal Officers.

Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Sadhu Ram S/o Jaggu Singh R/o # 1466, Sector 25, Panchkula, Haryana declare that my Son Gurpreet Singh is out of my control. I disown them from my all moveable/immovable properties. If anybody deals with them at their own risk.
I, Rajneesh K. Garg R/o H. No. 125, Sector 6, Panchkula, declare that someone with some mischief has got published Advertisement for sale of my S.C.O. 366, Sector 8, Panchkula, in the property column of Classifieds (Panchkula) on dates 18.07.2020, 19.07.2020 & 26.07.2020, whereas this Showroom was never put for sale by me or any of my representative or agent.
We Narinder Kumar S/o Maman Chand & Sneh Lata W/o Narinder Kumar R/o H.No.64, Street No. 1; Ferozepur Cantt. declare that my son Anshu Mittal and his wife Deepthi are out of my control so I disown/ disinherit them from my moveable/immovable property. Anyone dealing with them will do so on their own risk.
I, Kalawanti W/o Gobind Ram R/o Motian Bazar Samana Teh-Samana (Patiala) declare that my son Jony and his wife Muskan are out of my control. So I disown with them from my moveable/immovable property. If anybody dealing with them at his/her own risk.
I, Jaspal Singh S/o Balraj Singh R/o Golden Avenue Amritsar Road (Tarn Taran) declare that in my son Parasdeep Singh school record and CBSE Board his DOB entered wrongly 09-07-2003. But my son correct DOB is 19-07-2003. So amended my son DOB in his school record.
I, Sarwan Singh S/o Surinder Singh No. 1557/0389L Rank L/NK name Sarwan Singh R/o Vill: Rajoke Teh-Patti (Tarn Taran) Pb, India, declare that in my NOK record my wife name entered wrongly Rajwant. But my wife correct name is Rajwant Kaur. Rajwant & Rajwant Kaur is one and the same person. So amended my wife name from Rajwant to Rajwant Kaur in NOK record.
I, Sukhpreet Kaur Aadhar Card No.4207 3737 3889 And D.O.B 15-09-1991 D/O Late Jaswant Singh No.-1550426-W Rank Ex LNK/TS R/O Vpo. Bharowal Kalan Tehsil Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Declare That In My Father's Discharge Book My Name Is Wrongly Mentioned As Sukhpreet Kaur But My Correct Name Is Sukhpreet Kaur Which Is Also According As My School Record. May Be Amended My Name And Mentioned My Correct Name In My Father's Discharge Book As Sukhpreet Kaur.
मैं विजय सिंह पुत्र श्री गुलाब सिंह निवासी म.न. 22, न्यू प्रीति कालोनी जण्डली, अवाला शहर से सूचित करता हूँ कि मैंने अपने पुत्र अनिरुध को अपनी चल अचल सम्पत्ति से वेदखल किया था लेकिन अब वह मेरे कहने सुनने में है इसलिए मैं यह वेदखली रद्द करता हूँ आगे से मेरा पुत्र मेरी चल अचल सम्पत्ति का हकदार होगा।
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mewa Singh S/O Bali Khan R/O Village Namol (Sangru) Have Changed My Name To Mewa Khan.
I, Sudhanshu Gupta, S/o Rupesh Kumar, 541, Gate No.3, Sukhmani Enclave, Ludhiana, have changed name to Sudhanshu.
I, Satish army no.14822137K HAV/MT s/o gopi ram r/o village jaurashi saraf khas teh samalkha distt panipat declared that in my service record my son monu Kumar and his dob 27.8.2003 that is wrong and his correct name mono Gahlyan and his dob is 28.8.2003.
Disclaimer
The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the contents for the advertisement (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own.
Classified Advertisement Contact : 94174-19351

I, Darshana Rani W/o Sh. Anil Kumar R/o H. No. 278/5, Gali No. 5, Mill Gate Vinod Nagar, Hisar hereby declare that I have changed my name from Darshana to Darshana Rani for all future purposes.
I, Rajinder Singh S/O Bachan Singh, R/O 55/2, Raikot, Distt. Ludhiana, Have Changed My Name To Harjinder Singh.
I, Lovepreet Singh S/o Gurdeep Singh R/o Mandi Lakhevali (Sri Muktar Sahib) changed my name to Lovepreet Singh Khurmi.
I, Gurpreet Singh Bhangu S/O Malkeet Singh Vill Lakhna Khole, Tehsil Dhillwan, Distt. Kapurthala, Have Changed My Name Gurpreet Singh To Gurpreet Singh Bhangu.
I, Komal D/O Ashok Kumar R/o Vill: Attalgarh Teh-Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) Pb, changed my name to Komal Kaur.
I, Jagdish Singh S/O Karam ngh R/O Jagdish Raj R/O Ward No.3/140 Nangal Kotli Gurdaspur Tehsil & District Gurdaspur Punjab India Am One And Same Person Of Above Both Names.
I, Jagdish Singh S/O Karam Singh R/O Jawahar Nagar, Gill Kalan, Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Minor Son's Name Hamroor Singh To Hamroor Singh Gill.
I, Jaspinder Kaur D/O Bal Singh Sandhu R/O Mount View Colony Kotta Gaunspur Bharwain Road Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Jaspinder Kaur Sandhu.
I, Manpreet S/O Tirath Ram R/O Vpo. Sandhra District Hoshiarpur 144105 Punjab Have Changed Name To Manpreet Singh.
I, Lovkesh Kumar @ Lovkesh S/O Jagdish Raj R/O Ward No.3/140 Nangal Kotli Gurdaspur Tehsil & District Gurdaspur Punjab India Am One And Same Person Of Above Both Names.
I, Narender Kumar Dahiya S/O Rajender Singh R/O Nahra (227), Sonipat, Haryana 131103 That In My Service Record Date Of Birth Of My Father Is 01/07/1956 Mentioned Wrongly. Correct Date Of Birth Of My Father Is 05/06/1955 As Per Adhar Card.
I, Narender Kumar Dahiya S/O Rajender Singh R/O Nahra (227), Sonipat, Haryana 131103 That In My Service Record Name Of My Mother Is Krishna Devi And Date Of Birth 01/07/1961 Mentioned Wrongly, Correct Name Of My Mother Is Krishna And Correct Date Of Birth Of My Mother Is 17/10/1956 As Per Pan Card.
I, Ranjeet Singh S/O Jasveer Singh R/O Vpo. Mahla Kalan (Moga) Have Changed My Name To Ranjeet Singh Gill.
I, Hardeep Singh S/O Balwinder Singh R/O Vpo. Mahla Kalan (Moga) Have Changed My Name To Hardeep Singh Brar.
I, Dilbag Singh S/O Harchand Singh R/O Vpo. Mehron Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Dilbag Singh.
I, Jashanpreet Kaur D/O Late Hardeep Singh R/O VPO. Longodeva Distt. Ferozpur Have Changed My Name To Jashanpreet Kaur Gill.

State additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Dept Sanjeev Kaushal, said that the State Government has submitted to the Central Govt an annual action plan to the tune of Rs. 639.10 crore under the scheme 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue'. The plan entails in-situ and ex-situ management of crop residue, as well as enforcement measures regarding prohibition on stubble burning. All administrative measures will be taken as the previous year, he added.

805 new Covid cases in New Delhi

Total tally reaches 1,38,482

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi on Monday reported 805 new cases of Covid-19 taking the total number of people infected with coronavirus to 1,38,482 while the death toll touched 4,021.

According to Monday's health bulletin, which details information about the fresh cases registered in the last 24 hours, 10,133 tests (3904 RT-PCR, CBNAAT and True NAAT tests figures; 6229 — Rapid Antigen). The number of containment zones stood at 496.

Also, 3579 beds in COVID care centres are occupied by persons under quarantine, including travellers who have returned by Vande Bharat Mission and bubble flights, it said.

The number of tests done

per million, as on Monday was 56,515, it said.

A total of 1,24,254 patients have recovered, migrated or been discharged while the number of active cases in the capital currently stands at 10,207. On July 20, the fresh cases count had dipped to 954 while the recovery rate stands at 88 per cent.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, suspected individuals who test negative for COVID-19 in rapid-antigen tests should undergo RT-PCR to rule out the infection.

Rapid-antigen testing requires a prescription and an ICMR form filled by a registered doctor, and a government identity proof, same as that for RT-PCR test.

On June 23, the national capital had reported the high-

est single-day spike of 3,947 cases. According to the Saturday bulletin, out of the total number of beds in COVID hospitals, 10692 are vacant.

Testing was ramped up June 18 onwards, when Delhi started conducting tests through the faster rapid-antigen methodology. Since then, tests have increased almost threefold -- from an average of around 7,000 a day during June 12-18 to an average of around 20,000 per day at present.

As per Government's report, both Government and private hospitals have done a fair job in tackling coronavirus.

Delhi Government's Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital with seven per cent death rate is on top ranking for giving treatment to corona infected patients.

Kejriwal gives ₹1 cr to kin of Covid warrior

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday met with the family of corona warrior late Dr Joginder Chaudhary and handed over a cheque of Rs 1 crore as financial assistance.

After a month-long struggle, 27-year-old Dr Chaudhary succumbed to the deadly novel coronavirus Delhi last week. Dr Chaudhary had been battling the infection since June 28 after he was tested positive a day earlier.

While meeting the family of Dr Chaudhary at his residence, Kejriwal expressed his gratitude to Dr Chaudhary's sacrifice and sacrifice for the people of Delhi. He also said that the Delhi government will do whatever it can to support the family of Dr Chaudhary.

"Our Corona Warrior Dr Joginder Chaudhary, posted in Delhi Government Hospital, served the patients by putting his life at stake. Dr. Chaudhary had passed away recently due to corona infection, today I met his family and handed over a cheque of Rs 1 crore as financial assistance. Will help the family in every possible way," tweeted Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal.

During the COVID pandemic, the doctors are treating patients day and night without caring for their lives. Dr. Chaudhary was one such COVID warrior of Delhi. The relentless work of the doctors, nurses, sanitation workers and other medical officers have worked significantly as the number of cases is coming down every day. The positivity rate and the number of deaths have also come down in the capital.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUSHPAC First (I)

Pushpak Society (First) issued a notice for NOC in the name of Ramesh Pathak s/o Krishan Lal, Flat no 1367-B, 2ND Floor on Dated 01-06-2020. Please read the name as Rajesh Pathak. Corrigendum is issued.

BY SECRETARY

Notice
I, Pawan Jain W/o late Sh. Yashpal S/o Melli Ram R/o Vishnu Colony Kurukshetra, declares that I have registered purchased 171.67 square yard Kitta Plot No. 5 Waka Rakha Dura kalan ward no. 8 Gurdev Nagar Thanesar District Kurukshetra. Registry No. 6256 dated 12.12.2017 in the name of Gurcharan Singh R/o Naranjan Singh. The said sale deed/registry of plot has been lost by me somewhere at Railway Road Kurukshetra on dated 16.10.2019. If anybody misuse it he will be responsible himself.

Notice
I, Jagbir S/O Banwari R/O VPO Kalinga Distt. Bhiwani declare that the name my son is Anil Kumar as per his all documents on the other hand the name of my son Anil kumar wrongly written as Anil in the Army record of the my son Pardeep Pamar. Both the name Anil kumar and Anil related to same person.

punjab national bank पंजाब नैशनल बैंक

Whereas the authorized officer of PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a demand notice on the dates mentioned against each account and stated herein after calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rule, on the dates mentioned against each account. The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amount and interest thereon, given below:

Table with 5 columns: Name of the Account / Borrower, Description of property mortgaged, Date of demand notice, Date of possession, Amount O/s. It lists various mortgage accounts and properties across different districts in Punjab.

HOOCH TRAGEDY

# Punjab Ministers lash out at Opp

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Cabinet Ministers on Monday issued separate statements lashing out at the opposition parties, including SAD and AAP, for scoring brownie points on an "unfortunate" hooch tragedy.

Coming all out to defend the Congress Government in the matter of spurious liquor tragedy that sniffed out more than hundred lives, Cabinet Ministers — Sunder Sham Arora, Balbir Singh Sidhu, Bharat Bhudhan Ashu, Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi, and Aruna Chaudhary — launched a scathing attack on the Akali Dal over its series of allegations against the Congress leaders' involvement while raking the issues of sacrilege and Akalis' alleged involvement in drug trade.

"This is not the time to derive mileage and score political brownie points instead the occasion demands that all political parties come together on a single platform and present a united front," said the state Industries and Commerce Minister Arora. "At this calamitous time, the Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal's recent statement, accusing the Congress Government of cover-up to save the skin of ruling party legislators, is in very bad taste and smacks of Akalis' eagerness to settle political scores to regain their lost

ground," said Arora pointing that seven excise and six police officials have already been suspended in the case.

Arora said that 88 persons from Ferozepur, Mansa, Muktsar, and Patiala districts have been nabbed; 7420 litres 'lahan', other chemicals and 1212 bottles of illicit liquor have been seized by the State Police and raids are being conducted at industrial units across the State.

"How come the Akalis developed sudden love for the people of Punjab whereas during their previous tenure, they themselves were involved neck deep in the drug trade and ex-Minister Bikram Singh Majithia was hand in glove with smugglers who were out to ruin the youth of Punjab... The sacrilege cases, the firing at Behal Kalan and Kotkapura, all are clear cut proof of treachery committed by the Akalis with the people of Punjab and now the Akalis pointing out fingers at the Congress Government can very well be termed as the case of 'pot calling the kettle black'," he said while advising the Akalis to desist from playing negative politics over the deaths of innocents in the hooch tragedy.

Asking SAD president Sukhbir Badal to stop shedding crocodile tears, Health Minister Balbir Sidhu said that the SAD president seems to be suffering from selective amnesia while

asking the Chief Minister to step down owning moral responsibility for spurious liquor tragedy.

Lambasting at the Akalis for their dubious role for blatantly accusing Capt Amarinder Government for hooch tragedy, the Sports Minister Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi said that it was nothing but pot calling the kettle black as similar incidents had occurred in 2012 and 2016 in Gurdaspur and Batala respectively during their regime.

"These tragedies do claimed several lives during SAD-BJP alliance government," he said, adding that in Batala case, neither any FIR was registered nor any action taken against the main accused.

Describing hooch tragedy unfortunate, Social Security, Women and Child Development Minister Aruna Chaudhary said that Punjab Police is very much capable to crack down the entire case. "Chief Minister has already ordered suspension of seven excise officials and six policemen with immediate effect and initiated an inquiry against them besides giving strict orders to state police to bring the guilty to justice... The government has also directed the police to launch statewide crackdown on spurious liquor manufacturing units that may be operating in the State and so far conducted more than 100

## SAD COUNTERS SAYING ROOTS OF TRAGEDY LEADING TO CMO

raids throughout the state," she said.

## ROOTS OF HOOCH TRAGEDY LEAD TO CMO: SAD

Alleging that the Congress Government had gone into panic mode as the roots of hooch tragedy led to the Chief Minister's Office, SAD on Monday said that was why the "sycophant" Ministers had been roped in to cover up the sins of the Congress party and its legislators. SAD spokesman Daljit Singh Cheema, reacting to the commenting Cabinet Ministers' statements on hooch tragedy, said that the parroting of old lies indicated that Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and his coterie had become jittery that given the scale of human tragedy, an independent inquiry by a sitting judge of the High Court or the CBI would nail them.

"This is why four Ministers have been put into service to launch a false, baseless and politically motivated counter-attack on SAD instead of taking any effort to nab the Congress legislators and distillery owners associated with the Congress party who are

responsible for the murder of nearly 150 persons," he said.

Stating that SAD would not rest till justice was done to victims of "biggest hooch tragedy in the history of the State", Cheema said: "No amount of damage control by even the entire Cabinet can save Congressmen who have played with the lives of innocent people by supplying poisonous alcohol to them."

SAD leader asked the four Ministers to tell Punjab why the Congress Government did not take action against two Congress legislators who were behind the illegal distillery-cum-bottling plant unearthed in Patiala. "If stern action had been taken against the legislators then, 150 lives would have been saved. Instead of doing this, the government is still trying to protect the MLAs by refusing to transfer files of the case to the Enforcement Directorate," he said.

Cheema also asked the four Ministers to tell people why the government was shielding four Congress MLAs of Majha region who had been charged with distributing spurious liquor by hooch tragedy victim families. "Similarly, the Ministers should explain why they had accused a former chief secretary of misbehaviour when the latter accused them of being responsible for loss of excise revenue and then affected a compromise with him," he

asked.

"Doesn't this prove that you all are complicit in the Rs 5,600 crore excise loss as well as the deaths of 150 persons who died because you failed to take action against Congressmen and distilleries engaged in sale of illegal liquor and smuggling of spirit respectively?" asked Cheema.

**HOW COULD POLICE BE EXPECTED TO CONDUCT FREE AND FAIR INQUIRY AGAINST POWERFUL POLITICIANS: AAP**

Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Punjab unit on Monday said the Congress Government during its three and half years tenure had done nothing, except putting every scam under wraps. "Beginning from the desecration of Sri Guru Granth Sahib and Behal Kalan-Kotkapura shooting incidents, the Chief Minister has done nothing but formed a Special Investigation Teams (SITs) to hush-hush the multi-crore scams, allegedly involving who's who of his Ministers and MLAs, while upright officers, who exhibited seriousness to take the investigations to conclusive ends, were being targeted or transferred, while the SITs set up by him has proved to be mere 'clean chit' issuing teams by far," said senior leader and Leader of Opposition in Vidhan Sabha Harpal Singh Cheema.

Taking a swipe at Capt Amarinder, Cheema said that while high-level SITs were constituted to investigate into liquor mafia, seed scam, Batala explosives factory case, drug trafficking, Khanna-Rajpura-Ghanaur illegal liquor factories and countless others, "the investigating teams have pointed fingers at the who's who of the ruling government, but to no consequence". Cheema demanded that spurious liquor case should be investigated by a sitting High Court judge or the CBI, as the state police had proved a complete failure to conduct a free and fair investigation and bring the powerful politicians involved in all kinds of mafia and eating out the vitals of the state, to justice.

**SAD SEEKS DHILLON'S ARREST FOR PATRONIZING ILLEGAL LIQUOR SALE, SAND MAFIA**

Shiromani Akali Dal treasurer and Dera Bassi MLA NK Sharma has demanded immediate arrest of Congress leader Deepinder Singh Dhillion for patronizing illegal liquor sale and sand mining mafia in the assembly segment. Sharma said that he has submitted a representation informing about large scale sale of illegal liquor going on unabated in Dera Bassi area including Zirakpur and Lalru. "Now again, sale of illegal liquor is going on unabated as Dhillion is patronizing this

illegal trade. Main kingpin of this racket is Bittu Jalwera, who is Dhillion's right hand man and was active in seeking votes for Dhillion during 2017 assembly elections and now recently-held Block Samiti elections," he alleged.

**BJP HOLDS CONG GOVT RESPONSIBLE**

BJP's national secretary Tarun Chugh slammed the Congress Government in the State, holding it responsible for the tragedy. Chugh sought a probe by a sitting judge of the High Court into the case while rejecting the magisterial inquiry ordered by the State Government. He also met families of the victims in Batala. Lambasting the state government, the BJP leader said that the tragedy has "exposed" the anti-drug drive of the state government.

**YAD ACTIVISTS STAGE DHARNA**

Activists of the SAD's Youth Akali Dal also staged a dharna in Tarn Taran against the government. Led by YAD chief Parambans Singh Romana, they alleged that some Congress MLAs were "patronising the illicit liquor trade". Romana sought the registration of an FIR against them and said the Shiromani Akali Dal will continue its protest till action was taken against the culprits.

# Khattar announces opening of 11 new colleges

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a move to give a push to higher education, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday announced the opening of 11 new women colleges on the occasion of Rakshabandhan. He said that with these colleges, Haryana has become the first state in the country to have a college within a radius of 15 km.

Khattar made this announcement at a function organised at Government Postgraduate College, Sector-1, Panchkula. Along with this, the Chief Minister planted saplings and called upon people to plant trees to protect the environment on the occasion. "Education donation is the greatest donation. In view of this, 97 new colleges were set up in the last five years in the State whereas in the last 48 years only 75 Colleges were opened, he said."

He said it is a matter of coincidence that a new National Education Policy (NEP) has been announced



recently. Under NEP, by the year 2030, Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education has to be increased upto 50 percent, which is currently up to 32 percent.

Khattar expressed confidence that Haryana would achieve this goal in collaboration with non-governmental committees, enlightened people of the society along with government efforts. The new education policy has given the option to choose the subject according to the skill of the student professionally from Class

6, which is the biggest feature of this policy.

"The country's first Skill Development University in Haryana has been opened in Dudhola in Palwal district under the name of Lord Vishwakarma. Currently thousands of youth are pursuing skill education in this university," he added.

Khattar said that the new education policy would prove to be effective in the Prime Minister's direction towards creating a 'self-reliant India'. This will lead to a radical

change in the field of education and it will be employable.

The Chief Minister said that this program was for the announcement of only 10 colleges, but on the request of the Minister of Women and Child Development, now 11 colleges will be opened simultaneously in the State. This is a special gift of Raksha Bandhan for our sisters and daughters.

He said that now some colleges have been opened within a radius of 15 kilometers. The government aims at to open a college in a radius of 10 km.

He called upon the people of the State that if there is a more distance college in any area, then they should bring it to the notice of the government, action will be taken immediately. Today, every Vidhan Sabha constituency from Panchkula to Nuh and Jagadhri to Dabwali has been given some colleges.

The Chief Minister said that at present there are 161 government colleges in all circles of the State, which fall in

one or the other assembly constituencies. But it is surprising that not a single college was opened in Baroda Vidhan Sabha in 10 years of Congress rule. Therefore, two colleges have been opened in Baroda.

The Chief Minister said that with an aim that the educated public representatives to come in the Panchayati Raj Institutions, they fought at various forums till the court. As a result, in the year 2016, 43 percent of the women came out of the 33 percent reservation.

He said that 50 percent seats will be reserved for women in the upcoming Panchayati Raj elections. Female fetidice is a stigma in society and its situation in Haryana was worse a few years ago. In view of this, the 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' campaign was launched.

Along with the government efforts, this campaign brought about meaningful results with the public cooperation and currently the sex ratio has reached 923 which was earlier only 871.

# PGIMER listed for phase II, III trials on Covishield vaccine

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) has been listed as one of the 17 trial sites for conducting the second and third phases of human clinical trials of Covishield, the potential vaccine developed by the Oxford University.

The trails would involve administration of the vaccine to 1,600 people healthy adults across trials at 17 sites.

PGIMER Director, Prof. Jagat Ram on Monday said, "The results of phase I trials in the UK have been optimistic and did not present any serious adverse side effects. Phase II and III trials will be done on a larger human population to see its efficacy and requisite protection against COVID-19 in humans."

Elaborating, the Director said, "As the results of the trials will have far reaching impact, we will strengthen our

**The trails would involve administration of the vaccine to 1,600 people healthy adults across trials at 17 sites**

capacities, wherever required, to come out with tangible outcomes. A core group will be constituted to work out the modalities and comprehensive plan along with timelines to meet the desired expectations of Drugs Controller General of India and contribute towards containing the pandemic to the best of our abilities."

It's an honour to be entrusted with this vital responsibility of being one of the sites for phase II, III trials on Covishield vaccine, he added.

Earlier, the PGIMER had begun trial of convalescent plasma therapy in patients with serious infection and had also assessed the safety of

Mycobacterium w (Mw) in four hospitalized infected patients.

Notably, a committee of experts on COVID-19 under the aegis of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) had recommended the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to grant approval to Serum Institute of India (SII) for conducting the Phase II and III trials. The permission was granted after Serum Institute satisfied certain requirements sought by the Drug Controller in the design of the proposal.

In addition to PGIMER, the other sites for trials include AIIMS in Delhi, ABJ Medical College in Pune, Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences (RMRIMS) in Patna, AIIMS in Jodhpur, Nehru Hospital in Gorakhpur, Andhra Medical College in Visakhapatnam and JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research in Mysore.

# Antigen testing starts in Chandigarh

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With the Covid-19 cases witnessing rapid surge in Chandigarh, the UT Administration has begun antigen testing in the city.

For this, 5500 kits of antigen testing have been procured. Initially, the Administration has planned to utilize these kits for extensive testing of samples, particularly among health officials, police personnel, municipal officials and vendors in the grain market here.

An antigen is a protein (in this case present on the virus) that induces an immune response in the body in the form of production of antibodies against a disease, and detecting its presence through an antigen-based test determines a present infection.

As the antigen tests are faster and less expensive than molecular tests are, experts consider antigen tests more practical to use for large numbers of people.

Till the evening, out of 37 rapid-antigen tests done, a 16-year-old boy, who is a resident of Babu Dham colony was tested positive for Covid-19. A resident of Punjab was also found positive of Covid-19 through antigen testing.

Notably, Delhi was the first state to start antigen based Covid-19 testing and other states that have deployed antigen testing in a significant way include Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana

**The antigen tests are faster and less expensive than molecular tests are**

**Two micro-containment zones declared in UT**

In an order issued on Monday, the UT Administration has declared six houses in Pipliwala Town in Manimajra and a residential block of EWS Colony Dhanas as the new micro-containment zones. UT Home-cum-Health Secretary Arun Kumar Gupta told The Pioneer that the perimeter control in the micro-containment zone will remain in place for 14 days starting from the last positive case detected in such zones. The micro-containment zone policy of Chandigarh has been prepared on the pattern of the Punjab Government. Under the policy, few houses will be demarcated as micro-containment zones from where a high number of positive cases are being reported.

**Administrator directs to start dedicated dialysis facility for COVID-19 patients**

Punjab Governor and UT Administrator VP Singh Badnore has directed the Administration to start a dedicated dialysis facility for

COVID-19 patients, who require regular dialysis. "This will reduce burden on PGIMER and all such COVID patients, who require regular dialysis may contact Director Principal, GMCH-32," he said during his review meeting with senior UT officers on Monday.

In view of the surge of positive cases, the Administrator also directed the Administration to identify additional facility, where COVID-19 patients could be accommodated, as and when such additional facilities will be required. He said that Community Halls located away from residential areas could be utilized for the purpose.

**PGIMER raises issue of being overburdened**

During the meeting with UT Administrator, the senior doctors from the PGIMER complained that many patients from Punjab, Haryana and neighboring states are coming to the emergency ward and when found positive, they have to be accommodated in Nehru Hospital Extension, PGIMER. The PGIMER requested the Administrator to take up with the neighbouring states this issue of overcrowding of PGIMER by the patients, who could be locally treated, instead of being brought to PGIMER. On this, the Administrator advised the Director PGIMER to hold regular meetings with Health Directors of neighbouring states and follow a proper protocol in receiving patients from other states.

# 43 fresh cases reported in Chandigarh

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

43 fresh cases of Covid-19 were reported in Chandigarh on Monday taking the total tally to 1159. Out of the total positive cases, 433 were active cases till the evening.

The fresh cases were reported from Sectors 7, 8, 10, 20, 23, 25, 34, 35, 38, 51, 56, Babu Dham colony in Sector 26, Kajheri, Burail, Maloya, Khuda Lahora, Raipur Khurd, Ramdarbar, Dhanas and Butrola.

"43 fresh cases have been reported in Chandigarh. While 42 cases were detected through RCPPCR, one was detected through rapid antigen testing," stated Chandigarh Health Department's evening bulletin.

Out of 37 rapid antigen tests conducted in the city, two were found positive. While one is a resident of Babu Dham colony, another positive patient is from Punjab, the bulletin stated.

Among fresh cases, four members of a family including a five months old male child from Sector 51 were tested positive for COVID-19. Four members of a family including three females aged 19, 22, 43 and 17 years old male from Sector 35 and four family members including males aged 7, 20 29 and five years old girls from Sector 56 were also found infected.

Apart from this, three cases from Sector 20 including two persons working in immi-gration office, 53 years old

# Haryana has 654 more cases, doubling rate improves

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The doubling rate of Haryana's Covid-19 cases improved to 26 days on Monday even as the state's infection tally shot up to 37,173 with 654 more people testing positive for the virus. The death toll rose to 440 with seven fatalities, according to an official bulletin.

As per report, there were 6263 active cases in the State while 780 patients got recovered or discharged in the last 24 hours from different hospitals of the State. The State, however, has witnessed a positive trend as far as recoveries are concerned. The State has recorded a recovery rate of 81.97 per cent so far and a total of 30, 470 COVID-19 patients have recovered in the State till date.

The number of tests so far crossed the 6.57 lakh mark on Monday, with 25, 955 tests per million. The fatality rate was at 1.18 per cent.

According to a Health Department bulletin, out of seven, four fatalities were reported in Panipat while two in Kurukshetra and one in Bhiwani. Meanwhile, 654 more people tested positive for the disease on Monday with Faridabad reporting the highest number of 170 cases, the bulletin said. Panipat saw 106 fresh infections followed by 60 Panchkula where 60 people were tested positive. Other districts where new cases were

# Punjab Govt under attack from within too, from disgruntled Cong leaders

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Government is not only under attack of the opposition parties in the State but also that of its own men over the shocking hooch tragedy that claimed over 100 lives. Several Congress legislators and parliamentarians have come out in open to put their own party's government in dock over the illicit liquor trade allegedly going unabated in the state.

Latest in the attack are Rajya Sabha members— Partap Singh Bajwa and Shamsher Singh Dullu — who on Monday met the Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore, joining the opposition's chorus, seeking CBI and Enforcement Directorate probe into the hooch tragedy.

Mincing no words, both Bajwa and Dullu accused the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, who also holds the Excise and Taxation portfolio, of failing to reign in on the illegal distillery rackets in the State.

The duo, who had also raised the issue of liquor mafia a few months back, claimed that the Excise Department and the Police turned a blind eye to the liquor mafia despite several warnings and requests made to the Chief Minister.

"They couldn't avoid it and now cannot investigate it. It is beyond them... Central agencies need to take over. The Chief Minister was repeatedly warned about the liquor mafia,

but the indifference to these warnings claimed so many lives. The families of the victims deserve justice for repeated administrative failures. If this is how he will run the state, then God have mercy on us," said Bajwa.

Congress leaders urged the Governor to send a recommendation to the Centre to let the CBI as well as the ED investigate the production and distribution of illegal liquor in Punjab.

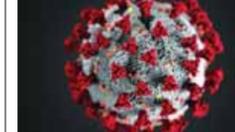
"We have written the letter to highlight the existence of the liquor mafia in Punjab to seek immediate action.

For several months now, there have been reports of loss to the public exchequer due to smuggling of liquor by licensed distilleries, functioning of illegal distilleries and production of spurious liquor in Punjab," he added.

Bajwa added, "We have raised this issue as it shows a clear-cut failure of the administrative machinery in the State."

Known Capt Amarinder's detractors, Bajwa and Dullu pointed at the functioning of illegal distilleries in Punjab. "The first illegal distillery was found at Khanna, the second at Rajpura and the third at Ghanaur. Interestingly, Rajpura and Ghanaur are both part of Patiala which is the Chief Minister's home district and the parliamentary constituency of his wife," read the letter submitted by the Congress Rajya Sabha MPs.

# Punjab CM speaks to 5-year-old TikTok sensation, Covid-19 positive



Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Monday tweeted a video of his conversation with five-year-old Noorpreet Kaur, the young TikTok sensation, who was scheduled to tie him 'rakhi' on Raksha Bandhan but could not as she was tested positive for Covid-19 a day before.

"Spoke to our little star Noor on Raksha Bandhan. Happy to share that she is doing fine and am sure she and her father will beat COVID-19 soon. Already looking forward to meeting you. God Bless," Capt Amarinder said in a tweet accompanying the video.

The five-year-old, who became a TikTok star during the lockdown period with over 1.5 million followers, was scheduled to personally tie 'rakhi' to the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder but tested positive for COVID-19 on Sunday when she underwent testing made mandatory for those who wanted an appointment with the Chief Minister.

Her father Satnam Singh, a labourer at a brick-kiln, also tested positive for the virus along a person who is believed to be part of Noor's TikTok team.

# Gyms, yoga centres to reopen with new dos and don'ts



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

From maintaining a distance of six feet to using a visor rather than a mask, from following respiratory etiquette to a strict no to kids and elderly persons with co-morbidities, the Union Health Ministry on Monday outlined the dos and don'ts for gyms and yoga centres ahead of their reopening from August 5.

Come Wednesday, it will be a new normal at gyms and yoga centres when these institutes will reopen as a part of the third phase of easing of lockdown in the country.

The Union Health Ministry's guidelines maintain that elderly people above 65 years, people with comorbidities, pregnant women and children below the age of 10 years should not use gymnasiums or yoga institutes in closed spaces. Also, yoga institutes and

gymnasiums located in Covid-19 containment zones shall not be permitted to open. Yogic kriyas are to be avoided or planned in open spaces. Users to be put in batches and allocated staggered timings to avoid overcrowding of people while entering and exiting the fitness centre. Each batch could have a gap of 15-30 minutes in between to keep rush at bay and facilitate cleaning and disinfecting process, the release stated. "Those having oxygen saturation level below 95 percent should not be allowed to exercise," as per the guidelines.

"Individuals must maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet as far as feasible," it says adding that wearing of masks and face covers is mandatory, however, those may cause breathing difficulties during exercising, therefore, the government said that people can

## 'Remote patient monitoring system' developed to keep tabs on covid patients

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Researchers at IIT-Madras' Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre (HTIC) and Helyxon, a healthcare startup, have developed an AI-backed remote patient monitoring system for Covid-19 to keep tabs on critical parameters like temperature, oxygen saturation, respiratory rate and heart rate.

Equipped with geo-fencing tracking alerts, the OXY2 can keep a tab on the patient's vital parameters and inform the medical staff about any aberration. Costing between ₹2,500 to ₹10,000 depending on configuration, the device has already found usage among 2,000 patients in public and private hospitals, and at homes, with another 5,000 devices in the

pipeline. "The device is completely self-contained, portable, wireless and can be clipped on to patient's finger and data is streamed to a mobile phone or central monitoring system. "The temperature is measured at the armpit and blood oxygen level, and other parameters at the finger itself. The device is reusable and has a lifetime of over a year," said Prof. Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam, Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre (HTIC), IIT Madras.

The core technology was validated by a year-long multi-centric study at various Chennai-based medical institutions for the accuracy and performance with reference to current standards. The scientist said that specific to Covid, the reduction of

close contact with patients by doctors and nurses, savings in PPE and monitoring equipment was found to be a significant advantage by hospitals. Based on the clinical inputs, the team engineered this device in response to demand for low cost, simple and easy to use devices for monitoring patients anywhere at hospital or home. Commenting on the product, Mr. Vijai Shankar Raja, founder and managing director of Helyxon said, "It is more than a monitoring device. "Based on feedback from doctors and hospital management, deployment of OXY2 reduces overall load, stress and anxiety in the healthcare system, saves hospital beds for severe cases, and increases confidence for patients at home."

plan fitness activities keeping the floor area of 4m2 per person. Equipment and machines should be placed at a distance of 6 feet. Utilisation of outdoor space, if any, has been encouraged. The institutes have also

## HRD Ministry comes up with new alternative academic calendar for classes 6 to 8

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

HRD Ministry on Monday announced a new alternative academic calendar for classes 6 to 8 which is a continuation of the previous 4-week calendar.

The Calendar contains detailed guidelines for teachers on the use of technology & social media tools to impart education while the students are at home. It further aims to empower our students, teachers, school principals & parents with positive ways to deal with #Covid19 via online teaching-learning resources and achieve the best possible learning outcomes.

The academic calendar consists of subject-wise directives for eight weeks and detailed guidelines on using social media tools and tech-



nology for education is a reference for teachers to continue teaching during the Covid-19 pandemic.

HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank had released the academic calendar for the primary classes of 1 to 5. The academic calendar for the upper-primary classes was developed by the National

Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

"Alternative Academic Calendar for upper primary stage (Classes VI to VIII) for four weeks was released earlier. I have launched the academic calendar for the next eight weeks today," Pokhriyal said on twitter after announcing the calendar.

## TENSION ALONG LAC

### CSG to review outcome of fifth round of Corps Commander-level talks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With China stalling a pull back and India insisting on a complete disengagement from "friction points" at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, the all-powerful China Study Group (CSG) on Tuesday will review the outcome of the fifth round of Corps Commander level talks that were held on Sunday. The CSG comprises top brass of the defence, external affairs and home ministries besides the National Security Advisor (NSA).

The military-level talks between Lt General Harinder Singh and Major General Liu Lin at Moldo near the LAC in Chushul, Ladakh, on Sunday, lasted more than 10 hours after starting at 11.00 am. While an official statement is yet to come, sources said here on Monday that India asked China to step up the withdrawal of its troops from the Pangong Tso (lake).

In fact, the CSG in its meeting last week also favoured complete disengagement by China as a major confidence building measure to defuse tension. The government may give details of the latest round of Corps Commander talks to end the 10-week-old impasse at the LAC after the crucial CSG session on Tuesday, sources added.

The CSG was set up in 1976 by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to advise on policy issues relating to China and includes top secretaries and military and intelligence officials. It was initially headed by the Foreign Secretary.

Though appreciating the position that China has substantially reduced and withdrawn its troops from Galwan valley, Gogra and Hot Springs, the Indian security establishment is, however, concerned that the Chinese troops have not withdrawn from the contentious Pangong Tso. In fact, the first face-off took place at this place on May 5 when the Chinese intruded more than five km into India and obstructed an Indian army patrol. It led to exchange of blows.

Since then, the Chinese bolstered its troop strength there forcing India to take preventive steps to thwart any major challenge, sources said adding as per the latest satellite photographs of the Pangong Tso the Chinese have not gone back though agreed upon in the last round of Commander-level talks.

The Chinese continue to occupy positions in depth on slopes along 'Finger 5' and on slopes extending towards 'Finger 8.' India maintains the LAC is at Finger 8. Mountain spurs are called Finger. However, China is



### Govt releases draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy, 2020

#### Its purpose is to place India among leading countries in defence, aerospace sectors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a fillip to defence manufacturing in the country with the focus on 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliance), the Government on Monday came out with a draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP) 2020. The main objective is to achieve a turnover of more than ₹1,75,000 crore (25 Billion dollar) including ₹35,000-crore worth of exports in aerospace by 2025.

Giving details of the draft of the policy, now in public domain for inviting suggestions, officials said the main focus is on providing a framework to position India amongst the leading countries of the world in defence and aerospace sectors.

The DPEPP 2020 is envisaged as an overarching guiding document of the defence ministry to provide a focused, structured and significant thrust to defence production

capabilities of the country for self-reliance and exports. Besides achieving a turnover of ₹1,75,000 Crores, the policy also aims to develop a dynamic, robust and competitive defence industry, including aerospace and naval shipbuilding industry to cater to the needs of armed forces with quality products.

Moreover, the document focuses on efforts to reduce dependence on imports by giving a push to Make in India through initiatives like domestic design and development. Also to promote export of defence products and become part of the global defence value chains, the draft said. The policy brings out multiple strategies under the following focus areas like procurement reforms, indigenization, support to MSMEs/Startups, optimise resource allocation, investment promotion, FDI and ease of doing business amongst others.

India and China have been engaged in discussions through established military and diplomatic channels to address the prevailing situation along the LAC. The engagement (July 14) was consistent with the consensus reached between the Special Representatives of India and China earlier, on July 5, to discuss complete disengagement.

The Senior Commanders reviewed the progress on implementation of the first phase of disengagement and discussed further steps to ensure complete disengagement. The two sides remain committed to the objective of complete disengagement. This process is intricate and requires constant verification. They are taking it forward through regular meetings at diplomatic and military level.

## MHA invites feedback on criminal laws from public, stakeholders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Ministry on Monday invited suggestions from subject experts and all stakeholders for the incorporation or amendments in criminal laws. The Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws, a joint forum organised by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and National Law University, Delhi, has opened a separate page on their website for the public to make suggestions regarding various criminal laws including Indian Penal Code (IPC) and CrPC.

"National Level Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws set up by MHA has been inviting professionals, functionaries

and stakeholders involved with Indian criminal justice system to submit their suggestions," said MHA. The Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws is created to recommend reforms in a principled, affective, and efficient manner which ensures safety and security of the individual, the community and the nation, said the statement.

NLU Vice Chancellor Prof Ranbir Singh is the Chairperson of the Committee. Other members are NLU Registrar Prof GS Bajpai, Prof Balraj Chauhan, Vice Chancellor of Jabalpur Law University, noted lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani and former judge GP Thareja.

## Expression of opinion cannot constitute contempt of court: Prashant Bhushan to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



The expression of opinion, "however outspoken, disagreeable or unpalatable to some," cannot constitute contempt of court, activist lawyer Prashant Bhushan said on Monday in his reply to a show cause notice issued by the Supreme Court.

The top court on July 22 issued notice to Bhushan for hearing on August 5 the criminal contempt proceedings initiated against him for his two alleged derogatory tweets against the judiciary, observing his statements prima facie

"brought the administration of justice in disrepute".

In a 142-page reply affidavit filed through lawyer Kamini Jaiswal, the activist lawyer has referred to several apex court judgements, speeches of former and serving judges on contempt of court and the "stifling of dissent" in a democracy and his views on judicial actions in some cases.

Bhushan also stood by his two tweets.

"The respondent (Bhushan) states that expression of his opinion however outspoken, disagreeable or however unpalatable to some, cannot constitute contempt of court. This proposition has been laid down by several judgments of the Supreme Court and in foreign jurisdictions such as Britain, USA and Canada," he submitted.



President Ram Nath Kovind celebrates Raksha Bandhan with nurses of the Trained Nurses' Association of India, Military Nursing Service and President's Estate Clinic

## Declare locust attack as national disaster: Gehlot to PM

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding that the locust menace affecting many States of the country be declared a national disaster, according to a statement on Monday.

In the letter, Gehlot said the locust outbreak was an international problem and the Centre should coordinate with all affected countries to tackle the menace, the statement said.

The Chief Minister said that it would be appropriate to declare the locust menace as national disaster due to possible damage to crops of kharif and rabi crops, and the weak economic condition of farmers and states due to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

It will further strengthen the capacity of states to deal with locust outbreaks, the chief minister said.

Gehlot informed Modi that locusts had started coming in Rajasthan from April 11 and 32 out of the 33 districts had been affected.

In addition to Rajasthan, locust attacks have been reported in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh,



Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

This has become a multi-state problem, he said in the letter.

Locust outbreaks have been seen on such a large scale in the country after several decades. In such a situation, declaring this problem as a national disaster will be in the interest of all the affected states and the farmers, Gehlot said.

Locust swarms were controlled quite effectively by the joint efforts of the Centre, Locust Warning Organisation and the state government, but still the farmers lost about Rs 1,000 in rabi crops, he said.

In 2019-20, about 6.70 lakh hectares in 12 districts of

Rajasthan was affected by locust. In 2020-21, locust control has been done in about 3.83 lakh hectares so far, Gehlot said.

According to the earlier estimates of the Food and Agriculture Organization, the locust outbreak arrived early in the state and is expected to be much higher this year, the statement said.

In such a situation, the Centre should take appropriate steps in time, he added. Gehlot underlined that the locust outbreak was an international problem and they must be stopped at their point of origin in order to check the origin of new locust groups.

## IMD issues red alert for extremely heavy rain for Mumbai

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rain lashed Mumbai on Monday as the monsoon system active over the Arabian Sea strengthened and the weather department sounded a red alert that it will get intense in the metropolis and its suburbs during the next two days.

Though Mumbai had been receiving intermittent rainfall, forecasting agencies said this would be the second spell of heavy rain for a fortnight. Mumbaiers are advised to avoid going out on August 4 and 5, said private forecaster Skymet Weather, adding that the intensity will start decreasing from August 6.

On the east coast, the India

Meteorological Department's Odisha centre said a low-pressure area was developing over north Bay of Bengal under the

### The flood situation in Assam improved on Monday as the water receded from many areas, though one more person lost his life in the deluge

influence of a cyclonic circulation over Gangetic West Bengal and another one over northeast Bay of Bengal. It will bring heavy rainfall to several parts of the State between Tuesday and Thursday.

The IMD advised fishermen to not venture deep into the Bay of Bengal till August 6 as surface winds with speeds up to 50 kmph will make the sea conditions very rough.

The low-pressure area is likely to trigger heavy rainfall and thunderstorms in parts of Madhya Pradesh, too, where the monsoon activity has remained subdued so far.

In north India, a sultry weather prevailed in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana as the axis of the monsoon trough, which was active over the region last week, shifted southwards.

The trough is now passing Ganganagar and Pilani in Rajasthan, through Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh and Banda in Uttar Pradesh, towards

Beharampur in West Bengal and Mizoram and Meghalaya.

Under its influence, several areas in Rajasthan were lashed by rain since Sunday. Jaipur, Tonk, Bhilwara and Pilani recorded 34.8, 7, 2 and 3.1 mm rainfall, respectively, in the past 24 hours till Monday evening, according to the local meteorological centre.

Several areas in the State reported waterlogging. In Jaipur, a car got stuck on a flooded road. Locals rescued the driver and the other occupants of the car.

More than 800 villages in 15 districts have been inundated in Uttar Pradesh due to swelling of Sarayu and Rapti rivers, state minister Anil Rajbhar said.

He said embankments had been breached in Gonda,

Azamgarh and efforts were on to seal them. As many as 188 medical teams and 16 disaster response and provincial constabulary teams have been deployed for rescue operations.

The flood situation in Assam improved on Monday as the water receded from many areas, though one more person lost his life in the deluge.

This year, floods and landslides have damaged roads and other infrastructure at several places and claimed 136 lives in Assam, according to official estimates.

The number of flood-hit people decreased by 4.65 lakh since Sunday but around 3.89 lakh people in 17 districts are still affected, the Assam government said in a bulletin.

# Nothing to worry, will be discharged soon: BSY

**Bengaluru:** Allaying fears about his health after testing Covid positive, an upbeat Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Monday assured people that there was "nothing to worry about" and he would be discharged from the hospital soon.

"There is nothing to worry about. I will be discharged soon and start work," said Yediyurappa in Kannada in a video message played in all the local news channels across the state.

Yediyurappa, 77, and his daughter B.Y. Padmavati who also tested positive, are under treatment at a private hospital here though they are asymptomatic with mild symptoms of the virus.

Assuring the people that he was doing fine, the Chief Minister said doctors had conducted required tests and observed no complications.

"I will recover soon. I am in touch with all officials since Sunday to ensure that the government works are not affected. I also spoke to senior officials earlier in

the day," he said. Yediyurappa also thanked BJP President J.P. Nadda, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, former Prime Minister and JD-S supremo H.D. Deve Gowda, his son and former Chief Minister H.D.

Kumaraswamy, opposition Congress leader Siddaramaiah and seers of mutts for praying for his speedy recovery.

He also urged people to wear masks and maintain social distancing to prevent the spread of the disease.

In a related development, state Home Minister Basavar Bommai and new Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Kamal Pant have

decided to undergo self-quarantine, as they in contact with Yediyurappa on Friday and Saturday. **IANS**

## Karnataka Guv tests negative after recent meeting with CM

**IANS ■ BENGALURU**

**K**arnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala has tested negative for coronavirus, three days after meeting Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa who was diagnosed positive on Sunday, an official said on Monday. "The Governor has undergone a corona antigen test and tested negative," said a communique from the Raj Bhavan.

The Chief Minister, along with Home Minister Basavaraju Bommai, had called on the

Governor last week to discuss the Covid situation in the state and measures being taken to contain the pandemic spread.

"The Governor's ADC and Personal Secretary Tejas Bhatti have also undergone antigen tests, and were found to be negative," the communique said.

Yediyurappa, 77, and daughter B.Y. Padmavati who also tested positive, are under treatment at a private hospital though they are asymptomatic with mild symptoms.

## Yediyurappa's six staffers test positive for coronavirus

**IANS ■ BENGALURU**

**S**ix persons, including a woman working at the official residence of Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa here, also tested positive for coronavirus, an official said on Monday.

"As Yediyurappa and his daughter Padmavati tested positive, all staffers and others at his official residence and home-office are being tested as primary and secondary contacts. Of them 6, including a gunman, cook, maid, driver, housekeeper and a policeman on security duty tested positive so far," an offi-

cial of the chief minister's office told IANS.

Yediyurappa's official residence 'Cauvery' and the adjacent home-office 'Krishna' are located on Kumara Krupa road in the high security area of the city centre.

The asymptomatic chief minister and daughter are under treatment at the privately-run Manipal Hospital in the city's eastern suburb.

"A team of doctors and nurses from the state-run hospital rushed to Yediyurappa's residence and home office to test the staff and those frequenting the places on duty.

# Kerala reports 962 infections on Mon

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI**

**A**s 962 new persons were diagnosed with Covid-19 on Monday, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan gave a piece of his mind to all including Health Minister KK Shylaja over the ever increasing number of pandemic cases in the State.

Monday saw two persons succumbing to Covid-19 in Kerala. The Chief Minister was upset over the increase in the number of patients in the State which had declared that Covid curve has been flattened.

"Initially all of us were working with dedication and commitment. But that was lost midway and a sense of complacency has set in. All of us are equally responsible for the present situation as we threw caution to wind. We were carried away by the praise showered on us by other countries which were competing against each other to wax eloquence on us," said Vijayan as minister Shylaja and other officials sat grim faced.

Out of the 962 persons tested pos-

itive on Monday, 801 contracted the pandemic through local transmission, he said. "There were 55 expatriates and 85 persons from other States who tested positive today while 40 patients could not furnish details of the source from where they contracted the disease," said Vijayan.

The only positive news from the field was the number of persons who made recovery from the ailment. "815 persons got cured on Monday. Thiruvananthapuram continued to be the city with highest number of Covid-19 patients (205) followed by Ernakulam (106) and Alappuzha (101)," he said.

The number of hotspots shot up to 506 while the Chief Minister said he had entrusted the covid-19 management to the State Police who would take stringent measures to eliminate the pandemic.

The responsibility of marking the containment zones too have been handed over to the State Police. The Chief Minister said the police has been asked to mark and monitor the containment zones.

## Art 370 abrogation gives hope to deprived members: Valmiki community prez

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

**A**fter scoring 92 percent marks in his class 12th examinations, Inderjit Singh Gill, has now set his eyes on the prestigious UPSC examinations to realise his dream of becoming an IAS officer. Since childhood he had tutored his mind to crack the prestigious examination at all costs.

Inderjit is not the only one who is nurturing dreams of making it big in life.

Eklavya, currently working as office assistant in the Central University Jammu is also preparing to crack an entrance examination for the post of J&K Bank associate.

After discontinuing her studies in 2016, another bright student from the Valmiki community, Radhika Gill is planning to take an admission in the government degree college to pursue her graduation studies.

These youngsters represent the fourth generation of the Valmiki community living in Jammu since 1957.

After the Abrogation of



Inderjit Singh Gill (L), Eklavya (M) and Domicile certificate of Radhika Gill (R)

of them have been regularised by the government till date.

President of the Valmiki Community in Jammu, Garu Bhatti told The Pioneer, "the decision of the BJP government to Abrogate Article 370 and 35-A has infused new lease of life among the deprived members of the community".

He said, "an estimated number of 150-200 youth are studying in different graduate and post graduate courses in Jammu and Kashmir and now with the issuance of Domicile certificates they can all compete in the competitive examinations and secure their berth". Previously, despite acquiring degrees majority of youth could not apply for a government job or take admission in the professional degree courses.

In 1957, the then Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad had decided to bring in Safai karamcharis (sweepers) from other States.

Article 370 and 35-A last year they claimed all the doors closed by the successive State Governments have been thrown open by the BJP led Narendra Modi Government in one go.

"We have seen difficult times in the past, my father was working as a sweeper when I was a kid. He worked hard and rose to the level of supervisor in Jammu Municipal Corporation. Now, I want to become an IAS officer and make my parents, my community proud", Inderjit Singh told The Pioneer.

Inderjit, is currently living with his parents and three other siblings in Valmiki colony in Gandhi Nagar area of Jammu.

Radhika told The Pioneer, "I

discontinued my studies after passing class 12 examination. There was no future for us when Article 370 was there. Now it has been abrogated and I have already received my Domicile certificate, she added. "I can apply for government jobs as per my qualification and also pursue higher studies".

Eklavya told The Pioneer, "after my graduation I started working as office Assistant in the Central University Jammu. Now I have applied for a J&K Bank post and also filing forms for other posts advertised by the J&K government to try my luck. I feel empowered now", he added.

There are around 13 colonies in Jammu district alone but none

## Now budget-friendly snacks available at Cochin airport

**UNKUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI**

**D**ays of the coffee and tea shops in the country's airports charging exorbitant rates for the hot beverages are over thanks to an initiative by a lawyer based in Kerala's Thrissur city.

Shaji Kodankandathu, a lawyer by profession who is also a social activist had taken up the cudgels for the general public in this regard. Shaji asked the Cochin International Airport Authority of India Ltd (CIAL) Airport about the reason behind the unbelievable prices charged by the shops for tea and coffee. "A cup of coffee costs ₹200/- while a cup of tea costs ₹150/- and there is no justification for these prices. The airport authorities could not give any convincing reply to me questions," Shaji told The Pioneer.

He said he had to give up meals and even snacks while waiting to catch flights after the security check in. "I am not that rich to spend ₹500 for a cup of coffee and a banana fry. Its only because of time constraint that I travel by flight and the authorities should not squeeze me," he said.

When Shaji failed to get any response from the Airport Authority of India, he

wrote to Prime Minister's Office stating all the details. "I was surprised when I received a letter from the PMO saying that all my concerns have been taken into consideration and the AAI have been instructed to sell tea, coffee and snacks at affordable rates," said Shaji.

The lawyer said that there are thousands of passengers among the flyers who would not be able to afford the tea and coffee being sold at the shops on the airport. "What we need is a cup of black tea or coffee and a samosa or something like that at affordable rate. There is nothing which prevents these shops from selling these items at this rate," said Shaji who also disclosed that he has seen hundreds and hundreds of passengers starving at airport because they cannot afford such high rates.

"Its not exotic or exquisite tea or coffee that they sell at these airports. Most people do not react to such over pricing because it is a time consuming process. But Ill react because it is a matter of survival for me," said Shaji.

He said airports all over the country may have to sell the hot beverages and snacks at the rate specified by Coffee Board or Tea Board.

## TN sees highest 1-day fatalities with 109 deaths

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI**

**1**09 deaths and 5,609 new Covid-19 patients in the last 24 hours. This is what the medical bulletin issued by the Tamil Nadu Government said on Monday. The State saw the highest number of fatalities till date on a single day while 5,800 persons were discharged following recovery from hospitals across the State.

As on Monday, there were 56,698 Covid-19 patients in Tamil Nadu. The day also saw 56, 278 persons getting tested through 122 laboratories across Tamil Nadu. The death toll in Tamil Nadu till date reached 4,241.

While the situation in Chennai remained stable with the Metropolis testing 1,021 new patients, Chengalpeta (331), Kancheepuram (322) and Thiruvallur (332), the three neighboring districts remained problematic without showing any abatement.

# Didi Govt opposes new education policy, forms panel

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

**O**pposing the new education policy (NEP) introduced by the Central Government on grounds that the State was not consulted and the issue was not discussed in Parliament before giving clearance, Bengal Government has formed a six-member committee to ponder over the new scheme and table its own report.

Contradicting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that the new education was discussed and debated over the last five years at various levels before being introduced, Bengal Education Minister Partho Chatterjee on Monday said "though the Prime Minister

claimed that the new education policy was discussed extensively at various levels neither the issue was discussed in Parliament nor the State Government was taken into confidence ...particularly when education is in concurrent list."

A number of serious questions have been raised in the aftermath of the central declaration he said, adding "questions are being raised as to why Madhyamik (Class X) board exam has been done away with in the new scheme of things, why Bengal was not represented in the central advisory team that proposed such a sea change in the national education system and why there is such a vehement trend towards centralization in the new system."

Informing that the State Government had formed its own committee which would discuss the worth of the new system and submit a report, Chatterjee who earlier called the NEP a "copy paste" of the western and American model said the report would then be sent to the Centre.

"We have formed a team of advisors which will review the NEP and submit a report to the State Government which will then consider sending it to the Centre," Chatterjee said. The report is to be submitted by August 15.

The team comprises Trinamool Congress MP Professor Sougato Roy, Jadavpur University Vice Chancellor Suranjan Das, Rabindrabharati University Vice

Chancellor Sabyasachi Basu Roychowdhury, educationist veteran educationists Pabitra Sarkar and Nrsinghaprasad Bhaduri and State syllabus committee chief Avik Majumdar.

Apart from this the Government will also consult various academic associations like Calcutta University Teachers Association (CUTA), Jadavpur University Teachers' Association (JUTA) etc. Besides "private individuals and other institutions may also send in their views by August 15," Chatterjee said.

According to inside reports though the State Government sees central encroachment in the NEP it is willing to gauge the general view as the "BJP Government has

very cleverly cloaked dirty fangs of the NEP by some velvety cover like credit banking system etc.

According to a JUTA member "what seems to get lost from the vision amid the hype is the element of dangerous centralization in terms of original research ... one wonders whether critical evaluation would be allowed by the National Research Foundation ever."

In fact the JUTA said "the NEP 2020 seeks to replace the inclusive, democratic, progressive, idea of India by a narrow, sectarian, and bigoted notion, driven by the compulsion to propagate the divisive ideology of a particular political party... It has set back education in India by at least a century."

## Jawan missing in J&K, his burnt car found

**PNS ■ JAMMU**

**T**he whereabouts of an Indian Army jawan, who went missing late Sunday evening from near Kulgam, could not be traced in the last 24 hours by the joint teams of security forces combing the area inch by inch across South Kashmir districts.

He was currently visiting home on account of Eid holidays.

The day-long searches conducted in the South Kashmir belt of Kulgam, Shopian and Anantnag could not yield desired results. Meanwhile, the family members had issued a passionate appeal to the suspected abductors to release their son without causing any harm to him.

According to a statement issued by the Indian Army, "Rifleman Shakir Manzoor of 162 Battalion (TA), is missing since 17:00hrs yesterday. His aban-

doned burnt car has been found near Kulgam. It is suspected that the soldier has been abducted by terrorists. Search op in progress".

The burnt car, which belonged to Manzoor, was found from Rambhama area of neighbouring Kulgam district. In May 2017, a young, unarmed army officer was kidnapped by terrorists when he was attending a family wedding in Shopian. The bullet-riddled body of Lieutenant Ummer Fayaz was recovered the next day 30 km from the wedding venue.

The 22-year-old had joined the Rajputana Rifles five months before. He was believed to be the first Kashmiri officer to be murdered while on leave in his home state since 1991.

In June 2018, another soldier Aurangzeb, who went home to Poonch for Eid, was abducted and killed.

## Curfew in Srinagar on August 4, 5

**Jammu:** Ahead of the first anniversary of Abrogation of Article 370, 35-A, the District Magistrate of Srinagar has decided to impose strict curfew restrictions on August 4th and 5th of August with immediate effect to prevent violent protests.

According to the order signed by the District Magistrate, Srinagar, "Superintendent of Police, Srinagar has reported that a series of inputs have been received suggesting that separatist and Pakistan sponsored groups are planning to observe August 5, 2020 as 'Black day', therein apprehensions of violation action or protests are not ruled out. There are specific inputs about violent protests endangering public life and property."

"Complete restrictions on public movement under Section 144 to be in place", the order stated. Medical emergencies and movement of staff on Covid-19 duty with pass/valid cards shall be exempted from above restrictions, the District Magistrate order said. **PNS**

## J&K: Total crosses 22k mark with 590 new cases

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU**

**T**he total number of coronavirus positive cases Monday crossed 22,000 mark while 11 patients died taking the total death toll due to Covid-19 to 407 in Jammu & Kashmir.

According to the media bulletin, out of 590 new positive cases, 157 were reported from Jammu division and 433 from Kashmir division, taking the total number of positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir to 22,006.

Also 11 Covid-19 deaths have been reported; 02 from

## Covid patients shifted to hospital in garbage vehicle in Andhra

**Amaravati:** In a shocking incident, three Covid-19 patients were allegedly shifted to a hospital in a garbage vehicle in Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram district.

A video, which shows three persons boarding the trolley in Nellimarla town, has gone viral on social media, prompting the authorities to order a probe.

The incident reportedly occurred on Saturday when an ambulance did not reach to shift three members of a family to the hospital.

They had undergone Covid-19 tests on Wednesday and it was on Friday that they were found positive. Locals alerted 108 ambulance and requested that they be shifted to hospital. However, the ambulance did not reach the location, forcing the residents to arrange a trolley from Nellimarla Nagar Panchayat.

Local officials ordered a probe into the incident. Primary Health Centre medical officer Gayatri Devi said the ambulance was sent immediately after learning about the patients from volunteers but before the vehicle could reach there the local residents mobilized a trolley from the municipal body. **Nellimarla Nagar**

**Local officials ordered a probe into the incident. Primary Health Centre medical officer Gayatri Devi said the ambulance was sent immediately after learning about the patients from volunteers but before the vehicle could reach there the local residents mobilized a trolley from the municipal body**

Panchayat Commissioner J. R. Appala Naidu said the vehicle was being used to carry Sodium Hypochlorite and other items for burying the Covid-19 victims.

Vizianagaram District Medical and Health Officer Dr Ramana Kumari said she had ordered a probe into the incident. Former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said he was appalled over the treatment meted out to the patients. "Appalling! Three Covid-19 patients in BC Colony, Jarjapupeta in Vizianagaram Dist were taken to the hospital in a garbage vehicle," the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief tweeted.

"Don't know about coronavirus, but the helpless patients might contract other dangerous diseases. Why are they not being treated like humans?" Naidu asked. **IANS**

## K'taka sees slight drop in daily cases at 4,752

**Bengaluru:** After logging more than 5,000 Covid-19 cases a day for the past several days, Karnataka saw a drop in infections with 4,752 new cases in the last 24 hours, raising the state's tally to 1.39 lakh, said a health official on Monday.

Similarly, Bengaluru has also witnessed lesser number of cases with 1,497 infections as compared to 2,000 cases on a daily basis.

With the new infections, the city's tally breached 60,000 mark to settle at 60,998, out of which 36,290 are active.

Among other places, Mysuru accounted for 372 infections, followed by Ballari (305), Bagalkote (209), Dharwad (191), Kalaburagi (170), Koppal (157) and Shivamogga (155) among others.

98 more patients have succumbed to the virus, raising the state's toll to 2,594. However, on a positive note, record 4,776 more patients have been discharged in the last 24 hours, 2,693 in Bengaluru Urban alone, raising the total number of recoveries to 62,500.

Of the 1.39 lakh cases in the southern state, 74,469 are active. **IANS**

## Another UP Min test +ve

**Lucknow:** Uttar Pradesh Jal Shakti Minister Mahendra Singh has tested positive for COVID-19, hours after the State BJP President Swatantra Dev Singh and two other legislators were confirmed to have contracted the virus.

Apart from Mahendra Singh, eight other state ministers -- Yogendra Upadhaya, Devendra Pratap Singh, Rajendra Pratap Singh, Dharam Singh Saini, Chetan Chauhan, Upendra Tiwari,

Raghuraj Singh and Jai Pratap Singh -- are tested positive and are undergoing treatment.

Cabinet Minister Kamal Rani Varun, who tested positive for coronavirus last month, died on Sunday at the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) in Lucknow.

The families of two more Ministers, Satish Mahana and Brijesh Pathak, have also been infected with the virus. **IANS**

## Raksha Bandhan brings cheer back to markets in Agra

**IANS ■ AGRA**

**R**aksha Bandhan brought some cheer back to markets in Agra as people ventured out of their homes to buy sweets and gifts for relatives and sisters. Shopkeepers reported brisk sale of 'rakhis' early Monday and flower garlands for special pujas. "Tempo is high right now, more so because of the Ayudhya festivities beginning today," said priest of the Sri Mathuraadheesh temple Pandit Nandan Shrotriya.

"Though the scare of Covid-19 is writ large everywhere, still people are now moving out and thronging the markets. More roadways buses are ferrying people to their homes in rural areas. Though

restrictions are in place, many people have chosen to visit Govardhan and Vrindavan, in groups, in their private vehicles," said Jugal Kishor Pandit.

However, with 29 fresh cases, Agra's Covid-19 tally has risen to 1,870, with 100 deaths. The principal of the SN Medical College Dr Sanjay Kala and half-a-dozen staff reported positive on Sunday evening. Kala has been home quarantined. The number of active cases is 292.

Mathura reported 32 fresh cases in the last 24 hours, with Mainpuri (20), Firozabad (26), Etah (18), Kasganj (5). The health department has started screening people in mohallas and crowded locations in the interior of the city.

## Tripura BJP MLA defies quarantine orders

**Agartala:** Ruling BJP MLA in Tripura and former State Health Minister Sudip Roy Barman on Monday defied orders to go into quarantine after visiting a Covid Care Centre (CCC) and distributing fruits among the Covid patients here on Sunday.

Barman in reply to the West Tripura District Magistrate (DM) Sandeep Mahatme's letter, said: "Some vested interested persons are trying to put me intentionally in the quarantine centre so that I can easily come in contact with others who have tested positive for the coronavirus, which could be hazardous to my health."

He also wrote that he had neither clinically or otherwise tested positive for COVID-19, nor was he a symptomatic or asymptomatic patient.

The BJP MLA told the media that an FIR was registered against him on Monday. Barman became the Health and Family Welfare, Information Technology and Science and Technology Minister after the BJP-led alliance government came to power in Tripura in March 2018. **IANS**

# A long haul

As talks for pullback continue, they are just a diversion as it isn't easy for China to give up Pangong Tso



As the Chinese are reluctant to significantly pull back from Pangong Tso, fortifying their positions around it, and making concessional retreats at other sites just to keep talks going, India should be prepared for the long haul. And though a Siachenisation at the heights would mean a waste of man and resources on both sides, China seems to be preparing for a stakeout this winter at least. For all the diplomacy around eastern Ladakh, it is just a diversionary tactic as the Chinese will not forfeit what they have gained in Pangong Lake and Depsang areas. That's because this geographical wedge between

Gilgit-Baltistan in the west (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir), where China is heavily invested in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and Aksai Chin in the east, is an irritant to its regional supremacy, strategically and economically. And it wants an unhindered run of the highway from Xinjiang to Tibet, 179 km of which is under Indian shadow. So far, its contiguous hold on Central Asia, Pakistan and beyond was a low-cost, undemanding exercise, playing as it did on smartly interpreting its version of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the ground. As it is unmarked and fluidic, it has justified its salami slicing to perceptual differences and pre-empted counter-attacks by heaving down with military presence and developing border infrastructure, the scale of which has held India back from a robust counter-challenge for years. But now that we have ramped up our border infrastructure, China is extremely uncomfortable about the proximity of the Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) road to sensitive areas and strategic highways to the north of the Karakoram Pass. And as Galwan has shown, our troops are more than capable of bloodying noses in high altitude warfare. So China simply won't give up the spurs it has now because it doesn't want to compromise its edge in the Karakoram. Already, it has browbeaten India at the talks table by calling for a buffer zone, which means our forces cannot patrol up to the points they used to because of the Chinese insistence on a no man's land. This would allow it to build resources on its side unmonitored and reverse any disengagement move made so far at short notice. This clause also makes Indian vigilance difficult besides burdening soldiers with knife-edge preparedness at all times. China is hoping that it will be able to renegotiate the status quo at Pangong Tso by wearing out our troops and patience, particularly during a long, hard winter. If anything, the "push and extract" policy might continue even as nominal concessions are made to show that it is committed to the dialogue process. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) cannot be written off simply because it has had a history of winter offensives, be it the occupation of Tibet or the incursion of 1962.

For China, the loss of troops at Galwan is a loss of face. And the fact that it has maintained somewhat of a radio silence on casualties means that it will strike back. Right now, tainted by the Wuhan virus, China may have stretched itself too thin in using the pandemic to reshape its imperial dream of colonising the world. But it won't acknowledge India's neo-assertiveness by withdrawing. Instead, it will consolidate, given that it will be the only economy to register growth, even if it is as low as one per cent, and will bet big on fighting for Asian pride against a US-dominated West. Despite the US opposition, it has already got aggressive in the South China Sea, claiming islands, setting up bases and enveloping South and Southeast Asians with its transactional economic largesse and debt-trapping. Many have given in to the bullying but India hasn't. Besides, with the US using us as its proxy, we will increasingly become a pawn in the game of two big powers for world domination. If China loses its stakes in India, the second biggest Asian power, how would it be able to convince other Asian nations to go with its hegemonic vision? So there will be need-based engagement all right but coercion will be constant. India may not match up to its economic and military might as yet and while it develops self-sufficiencies of its own, it has to take on a partnering role with both Western and regional countries. It can challenge China in the Indian Ocean region, get more active in the Quad initiative with US and Japan and use its international goodwill as a nation that respects "rule-based order" to build a case against China's aggressive tactics. And it must now confront the boundary question, insist on marking the LAC. For years of denial and yielding to the Chinese template of working around the boundary dispute have only left us with trade dependencies and a deficit. Today, it is eastern Ladakh but if the territorial push in Bhutan is any indication, China may very well expand its claim lines in Arunachal Pradesh now, just to stretch us beyond our extremities. We should be wary of the fact that the PLA, which has been pitching tents, building roads and marking territories since 2013 and which directly takes orders from Chinese President Xi Jinping himself, may lie low but not go silent.

## All wasn't lost

Chennai techie finds Pragyana, the rover on-board Chandrayaan-2, intact while assessing NASA images



In some good news for India, which is grappling with the twin woes of an ailing economy and the deepening coronavirus crisis, a Chennai-based techie has claimed that the rover onboard Chandrayaan-2, the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO's) moon mission, is intact on the lunar surface and had even moved a few metres. India's second mission to the moon had ended in disaster as a last-minute software glitch led to the Vikram lander crash-landing on the lunar surface, just 500 metres short of touchdown. Yes, we were ambitious to land on the dark side of the moon, which bigger space-faring nations have not attempted, but the rover's presence is reassurance that while we need to refine our efforts, they have all not gone to waste. And ISRO needs to follow through the Chandrayaan series in mission mode.

Since the failure of the Chandrayaan-2 last year, things have not gone too well for ISRO, with its GISAT-1 launch being mysteriously called off on March 4, a day before take-off citing an ambiguous "technical reason." Plus, the space agency, which had a very busy schedule for this year — with around two dozen launches, including Aditya, India's first solar probe — is having trouble keeping its commitments. Due to the pandemic playing spoilsport, ISRO, too, had to go into a lockdown mode. India's ambitious human space flight programme Gaganyaan, is in trouble because the astronaut training of the four test pilots of the Indian Air Force has been stopped. Besides over 100 manufacturing units in the private sector, that are contracted to manufacture components for ISRO's missions, are shut and the work of producing rockets, satellites and scientific instrumentation is on hold right now. But what is most encouraging is that the rover was found by a Chennai techie, Shanmuga Subramanian, from NASA's images. He had earlier helped NASA find the debris of the Vikram lander, earning him plaudits from the space agency and the gratitude of an embarrassed ISRO. His persistence should be a reason for inducting him and others like him in our space-faring projects. Space nerds should be identified from school and encouraged. It was difficult to detect the rover because it was on the South Pole of the Moon, which is not always well-lit and was missed by the NASA flyby on November 11 possibly for this reason. Not just this, it seems that the rover uploaded commands to the lander, which could not relay them back. Is some data stored there? But with the Vikram lander going silent, we will never know. Whether this translates into any gains for ISRO, only time will tell. But for now, there is something to cheer about in the Indian space community.

# Checkmating China

If Trump can be persuaded to see the Baloch quest and Iran as potential allies that could take the Makran coast away from China, it would put a powerful brake on the latter's ambitions



SANDHYA JAIN

Indian analysts seem indifferent to the threat of India losing the railway line from Iran's Chabahar port to Afghanistan and Central Asia and suggest that New Delhi should focus on ties with Arab countries that provide energy security and jobs to millions of Indians. The view that India must choose between the Sunni Arab world and Shia Iran is myopic and contrary to established Indian diplomacy. Certainly, lakhs of Indian Muslims annually visit Saudi Arabia for hajj/umra but the lockdown imposed in March revealed that thousands of citizens visit Karbala and Najaf that are sacred to the Shias. Many work in Iran. Indeed, Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav (ret'd) is believed to have been abducted from Chabahar and pushed across the border into Pakistan.

The stalemate in India-Iran ties is due to US sanctions that cover countries engaging with Tehran commercially. India secured an exemption for the Chabahar port, which may not cover the railway, and stopped buying the light Iranian crude suited to its refineries after the six-month grace period ended. The freeze on its oil revenues seriously hurt Iran's economy, forcing it to seek ways to end its economic and diplomatic trauma.

Tehran moved cautiously, leaking "news" about a \$400 billion deal with China, which seemed credible given Beijing's huge investments across the globe. An unverified 18-page document gave the details of a 25-year Iran-China agreement that Chinese President Xi Jinping had proposed during a visit to Iran in January 2016. It mentioned a \$280 billion investment in Iran's oil and gas industry and \$120 billion across various sectors. Beijing would receive crude oil and gas at discounted prices for 25 years.

New Delhi was alarmed at the possibility of China funding the railway and depriving India of its coveted alternate route to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan. Envoy Gaddam Dharmendra rushed to meet Iranian Speaker Bagher Ghalibaf and Vice Minister of Roads and President of the Railways, Mohsen Pourseyed Aghaei, to salvage the Chabahar-Zahedan (and possibly Zarang) line. Also at stake is a free trade zone to serve the landlocked Central Asian states. Further, the Farzad-B gas field was discovered by ONGC Videsh in 2012 but its development has been



stuck in wrangling over Iran's desire for two pipelines as opposed to India's insistence on a single pipeline. This is purely a commercial dispute and Tehran needs to be reasonable.

But for Chabahar and related projects, India will have to pioneer some deft diplomacy to break the deadlock between Washington and Tehran or sacrifice its regional ambitions forever. It is no secret that Islamabad is now firmly in Beijing's sphere of influence; its deafening silence on the treatment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang and refusal to bring its citizens back from Wuhan after the pandemic in order to save China's face leave no scope for doubt on this score. India did not blame China but rushed to bring its students back from Wuhan; now, the Chinese aggression in Ladakh has dramatically altered the situation.

An independent Balochistan offers a way out. At the time of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, American scholar Selig Harrison had the prescience to realise that the turmoil in Kabul would bring Pakistan's Baloch problem to the forefront (*In Afghanistan's Shadow: Baluch Nationalism and Soviet Temptations*, 1980). Till his death in 2016, Harrison urged

Washington to support Baloch independence in pursuit of its own interests in the region but successive administrations from Nixon-Kissinger remained invested in Islamabad.

Now, the China-Pakistan axis has eroded Washington's relationship with its non-NATO ally, Baloch resistance to Islamabad's unceasing atrocities and resentment against the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that encroaches upon their land and resources give America an opening. For, Balochistan is the geostrategic region without which Pakistan is just a landlocked landmass, of no use even to the Army that controls it.

As Italian scholar Valeria F Piacentini observed in 1945, Balochistan is at the crossroads of two "axes", east-west and north-south, of three macro-regions: Asia, Africa and the Mediterranean basin. It forms the hinge between the Indian sub-continent, Central Asia and the Euro-Asiatic steppes and the Iranian plateau; as also the link between regions that gravitate towards the Indian Ocean and its western "sea routes", the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea.

This is why London want-

ed Balochistan to be part of Pakistan and nudged MA Jinnah after the Khan of Kalat proved obdurate. Balochistan was annexed in 1948. The CIA-MI6 operated from Balochistan to overthrow the then Iranian Prime Minister M Mossadegh after he nationalised the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. Washington used Balochistan for its proxy war against Soviet forces in Afghanistan and opened war against the Taliban.

Gwadar Port, China's big prize and *raison d'être* for the CPEC, belongs to Balochistan. Chabahar is part of the same Makran coastline. If US President Donald Trump can be persuaded to see the Baloch quest and Iran as potential allies, that could take the entire Makran coast away from China (depriving it also of the military base it is building in Jiwani peninsula off Gwadar). It would put a powerful brake on China's relentless acquisition of ports and bases across the Indian Ocean littoral.

Iran is a catch for Beijing because like Pakistan, it can join the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by land and sea, giving it access to staggering geostrategic space. Tehran could link Beijing with Ankara, which offers access to the

Mediterranean Sea and the nations of North Africa, Central Europe and Europe that comprise its littoral. The Mediterranean Sea opens into the Atlantic Ocean via the Strait of Gibraltar; this could bring Beijing closer to Washington than ever envisaged by the State Department or Pentagon. Beijing in Chabahar would also have access to the Arabian Sea, Strait of Hormuz and Sea of Oman, besides a shortcut to its military base in Djibouti. A US-friendly Balochistan and Iran would end this dream run.

Interestingly, in June 2020, Moscow arrested Valery Mitko, president, Arctic Academy of Sciences, for allegedly giving China information about submarine detection, a reflection of Moscow's anger at Chinese ambitions in the Arctic region. Washington has also arrested citizens in prestigious institutions working covertly for China. It should investigate whether the tales of Russian interference in the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections originated from "friends" in institutions that received lavish Chinese funding. Perhaps Russian President Vladimir Putin has signalled as much.

(The author is a senior journalist. Views are personal)

## SOUNDBITE

Swami Swarupanand had warned that August 5 was inauspicious for the stone-laying of Ram temple. This date has been fixed in accordance with Modi's convenience.



Congress leader —Digvijaya Singh

It's (*Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl*) my film, too. Everyone has a right to their opinion, but people are spitting fire against one another. The flak is unfair.



Actor —Angad Bedi

I believe that he (Trump) plans to install himself in some kind of emergency way to continue to hold onto office. And that's why the American people had better wake up.



Top Democrat leader —Whip James Clyburn

While people boycott Chinese products, cellphone makers in China will continue as title sponsors of the IPL. No wonder China is thumbing its nose at us.



NC leader —Omar Abdullah

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Liquor deaths

Sir — It is unfortunate that more than 85 people died and many others were taken ill due to the consumption of spurious liquor in Punjab. The sale of illicit liquor is a thriving business not only in Punjab but in many parts of the country. In fact, India remains one among the countries with the highest number of alcohol-related deaths. And whenever such a tragedy unfolds, Governments react by imposing a ban on the sale of liquor. They fail to either bring tighter regulations or crack down on dens, which operate without a licence as they fulfil a demand while making huge profits.

People take to illicit liquor as they cannot afford to buy licensed brands. Spurious liquor does not attract taxes or duties and, thus, comes cheap. The Punjab Government must set a precedent by constituting a Special Investigation Team which must track down all bootleggers in the State. The Union Government, too, must come up with a multi-pronged plan to curb the sale and consumption of toxic alcohol.

Ramesh G Jethwani  
 Bengaluru

### Plain truths about Rafale

Before the arrival of the Rafale jets, their acquisition process went through many twists and turns. It was in 2000, during the initial years of NDA-I, when the Indian Air Force (IAF) initiated a proposal for the acquisition of 126 Mirage 2000-1Is from Dassault Aviation (DA) for induction from 2004-05 onwards. According to the CAG, the Defence Procurement Board (DPB) discarded the proposal after protracted deliberations till 2004. When the UPA Government came to power, it issued a Request for Proposal for the acquisition of 126 advanced versions of MMRCA in 2007. As per the delivery terms, 18 aircraft were to be supplied in flyaway condition and the balance 108 were to be manufactured by HAL. The RFP was withdrawn based on a report by the Ministry of Defence, which reportedly carried out a statement saying that "the price bid of DA was non-compliant as it was incomplete and not in the prescribed format" yet again. And the NDA-II Government signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) in 2016 for 36 fighter jets at a price aligned to the earlier "incomplete" offer. Delivery of the first batch of 18 Rafale aircraft was to be completed within 53 months and the balance 18 within 67 months from the date of signing of the IGA. The agreement put a lid on the original proposal to manufacture 108 Rafale warplanes by HAL.

Exactly two decades into the process, the ruling Government has landed on the indigenous builder now



Haridasan Rajan  
 Kozhikode

to meet the initially projected requirement. The Air Chief Marshal has now confirmed that an order for another 83 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Tejas MK IA, from HAL was being fast-tracked. In a nutshell, IAF initiated a proposal for 126 Mirage 2000-II from DA in 2000 and the Ministry is still preparing to place an order for 83 Tejas MK IA with HAL in 2020. During the intervening 20 years, India has acquired just five Rafale fighter jets out of the 36 ordered and that, too, at a phenomenal cost. Yet, the irony is that confirmed jingoists hit the streets in jubilation on the arrival of the foreign-made Rafales but found no reason to applaud the Tejas, the indigenously designed and built Light Combat Aircraft.

### Education revamp

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "New curriculum" (July 31).

The new National Education Policy (NEP) promises a transformational shift, infusing an element of joy and purpose in learning. The new guidelines, if

implemented, will offer students a flexible academic journey where they can pick and choose instead of remaining confined to set patterns. The

loftier goals are to mainstream about two crore out-of-school children. Before and after 1947, matriculation was the requirement for entrance to higher education in colleges. Then, 10+2 streams brought more changes but NEP, 2020, promises the much-needed reforms. Though challenges remain, the new NEP can be a game-changer as it promises to bestow flexibility, improve the skills of the students and grant more autonomy to educational institutions.

Abhijit Roy  
 Jamshedpur

### Exercise in futility

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "New curriculum" (July 31). NEP, 2020, is an exercise in futility. It wasn't debated in Parliament. Increasing the tenure of undergraduate courses makes no sense as postgraduate programmes have been watered down. The only redeemable feature is that it does not disturb the three-language formula system.

Ratnapriya  
 Via email

Send your feedback to:  
 letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

## Of slavery and history

Judging people for the past is a distraction from the business at hand, which is to clear up the ghastly heritage of racism that slavery has left



GWYNNE DYER

Assessing the people of America's past by today's standards would compel us to cast the majority of our heroes as villains." That seemed to be the line taken by Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas in his opinion piece for *The New York Times*. It caused great outrage, the Opinion Editor had to resign and Cotton was roundly abused for "defending slavery." He probably deserved that. What he actually said was that the "Founding Fathers" of the US saw slavery as the "necessary evil upon which the Union was built." That would sound all right in a classroom, if you then explained that otherwise the slave-owning southern states would not have agreed to a federation of all 13 colonies.

It sounded less well coming out of the mouth of a senator who wants to ban federal funding for a project to improve the teaching of the history of slavery in American schools. Senator Cotton is one of President Donald Trump's loyal soldiers, trying to whip up a white racial panic and consolidate the boss's "base." But that's not the point. The point is that I changed one word in that quote, and that it wasn't Cotton who said it. It was Nigerian journalist and novelist Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani, and what she actually said, in an opinion piece for the *BBC*, was this: "Assessing the people of Africa's past by today's standards would compel us to cast the majority of our heroes as villains."

She was talking specifically about her great-grandfather, Nwaubani Ogogo Oriaku, who was a widely respected trader in tobacco, palm oil, and slaves in south-eastern Nigeria in the early 20th century. The Atlantic slave trade had been banned by the European empires a century before but slavery was still a flourishing domestic business in Nigeria and many other African countries. Her great-grandfather became famous by defying the British colonial authorities, who were trying to stamp out slavery within Nigeria. They had confiscated some of his slaves and he marched right up and demanded them back, waving a trading licence that dated back to the previous century.

They were taken back, apologised and returned his slaves. Indeed, they were so impressed by his boldness and self-confidence that they subsequently appointed him "paramount chief" of his region. So he became a local hero in his own day and is still a hero to Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani's family. Slavery was normal in most pre-modern societies, including almost all the kingdoms and ethnic groups of sub-Saharan Africa. Africans had sold slaves north to various Islamic empires in the Middle East for centuries before Europeans showed up on the coast in ships. They were just another set of customers buying in the same market.

Most enslaved Africans didn't travel more than a few hundred kilometres from home, of course. It is estimated that in the 18th century, one-third of the people in what is now Senegal were slaves who belonged to other Senegalese. But the ones who were sold to foreigners probably suffered even more.

Historians believe that around one-fifth of the ten million Africans transported to the Americas over more than three centuries died on board ships. The fatalities among the estimated 17 million African slaves sold to Arab traders and forced to walk across the Sahara or carried around the India Ocean in ships during ten centuries were probably just as high. What awaited the survivors when they arrived was pretty appalling too.

But Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani is right. The past is a different country and it's pointless to judge people by standards they would not even comprehend. Judging people for past history is a distraction from the business at hand, which is to clear up the ghastly heritage of racism that slavery has left in America.

It is noteworthy that there is no comparable heritage of guilt and racism in the African countries that sold the slaves. Everybody, slaves and masters, was from the same group, and everybody was involved one way or another. We used to do it, now we don't, end of story. Why is it so different in the European countries, and above all in the US? My guess is that it's because slavery, uniquely in the world, had completely died out in Europe by a thousand years ago. When 16th-century Europeans reached West Africa, it was quite new to them.

They took to slave-owning readily enough but they had no traditional framework in which to think about it. Nwaubani Ogogo Oriaku didn't need to justify owning slaves by telling himself they were inferior. He'd bought them fair and square. What's the problem? Whereas American plantation owners had to come up with bizarre racial fantasies to explain to themselves why it was right to own other people — and their great-great-grandchildren are still struggling with those fantasies today.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work'.)

NONE OF THE ILLICIT LIQUOR (DEATH) CASES FROM THE LAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN SOLVED BY THE PUNJAB POLICE. —DELHI CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL

POINT COUNTERPOINT



WHY DON'T YOU ASK YOUR PUNJAB UNIT FOR DATA AND FIGURES FIRST AND THEN COMMENT ON OUR WORKING. —PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER AMARINDER SINGH

# In the name of God

The BJP has already made the construction of the Ram temple a political issue that will hold good for 2024. Ayodhya city has been painted in saffron hues



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

The innocuous-sounding statement of the General Secretary of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, Champat Rai, that the construction of the Ram temple, whose foundation will be laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 5, will be completed within three-and-a-half-years, has political overtones which no one can miss.

"We will try to complete the construction by three years but we have six months extra in case we fail to meet the deadline because of any eventuality. But, mark my words, the temple will be ready with its pristine grandeur by the end of 2023 or early 2024," Rai had said when announcing that Modi would be the chief guest of the ground-breaking ceremony for the Ram temple's construction.

For those who need it to be spelled out, the timing of the completion of the temple is crucial — end of 2023 or early 2024. The Lok Sabha elections are expected by March 2024. This means that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would again use the Ram temple to play the Hindutva card and propel the party towards victory. This time the BJP will go to the masses saying "jo kaha, woh kiya (we did what we said we would do)." The common refrain of BJP leaders and campaigners will be, "We promised the people that the Ram temple would be built in Ayodhya and we fulfilled that promise." I would not be surprised if the party takes a miniaturised model of the Ram temple across villages or puts up such models before the Model Code of Conduct comes into play in every gram Sabha. The process has already begun as the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) has asked for funds from the people for temple construction. The VHP has set a target of reaching over 10 crore families in five lakh villages across India with an appeal to donate at least ₹100 voluntarily for the temple's construction. It is set to start from Uttar Pradesh (UP) and will then spread out across the country.

The VHP's plan does not end here. The Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, the temple trust which is entrusted with the task of constructing a temple at the Ram Janmabhoomi Complex, in collaboration with the VHP, plans to kick-start the 'Akhand Bharat Week' after the *bhoomi puja* (ground-breaking ceremony). The week will be celebrated from August 16 to August 23 when the Parishad volunteers will go to the villages and tell the masses about the Ram Mandir construction and how this temple will ensure the "akhandata" (integrity) of the country.

The BJP has always used the temple issue to meet its political aims. It has always found a mention in its election manifesto, whose nomenclature has changed with the passage of time. The BJP election manifesto is now called 'Sankalp Patra'. After the famous Rath Yatra carried out by Lal Krishna Advani along with Pramod Mahajan in 1989 from Somnath to Ayodhya, with Narendra Modi accompanying the yatra from Somnath till the border of Gujarat, the BJP saw the potential of the issue to propel the party to great political power.

When the yatra was stopped in Samastipur in Bihar by the then Lalu Prasad Government and Advani was arrested, the whole of India was drenched in the spirit of Hindutva. The rath was stopped on October 23, 1990. This set off a string

FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT TO BE SPELLED OUT, THE TIMING OF THE COMPLETION OF THE TEMPLE IS CRUCIAL — END OF 2023 OR EARLY 2024. THE LOK SABHA ELECTIONS ARE EXPECTED BY MARCH 2024. THIS MEANS THAT THE BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY WOULD AGAIN USE THE RAM TEMPLE TO PLAY THE HINDUTVA CARD AND PROPEL THE PARTY TOWARDS VICTORY



of events that shaped the country's politics in years to come. Advani's arrest triggered massive protests across the country, sparking communal riots across several towns, especially in north India. Hundreds of *Kar Sevaks* (voluntary workers) marched towards Ayodhya to liberate the Ram Janmabhoomi. Exactly a week after Advani's Rath Yatra was stopped — on October 30 — as many as 28 *Kar Sevaks* were killed in police firing while trying to storm the Babri Masjid. Even before the *Kar Sevaks* had entered Ayodhya, then Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav had claimed that "parinda bhi par nahi maar sakti (not even a bird can enter there)." Mulayam Singh still justifies the police action.

The events that unfolded then only benefited the BJP as its political clout grew exponentially and it grabbed the opportunity with both hands. In the 1991 election, for the first time the party gave the slogan of "Mandir wahin banayenge (we will build the temple there only)" but it was only in 1996, that for the first time, the BJP mentioned the Ram Mandir in its manifesto.

The party reiterated its commitment to facilitate the construction of a magnificent Ram temple at the *Jammasthan* (birthplace) in Ayodhya after coming to power as "this is the dream of millions of people in our land. The concept of Ram lies at the core of their consciousness."

The words remained the same in manifesto after manifesto and in 2019 it said: "We reiterate our stand on the Ram Mandir. We will explore all possibilities within the framework of the Constitution and make all necessary efforts to facilitate the expeditious

construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya."

That commitment was fulfilled in November 2019 when the Supreme Court paved the way for the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya and allowed the construction of a mosque, which incidentally will come up 30 kilometres away from the complex where the original mosque stood.

With the completion of one aim, the BJP has already got ammunition for the elections — which is powerful and emotive. And the subsidiary props can come from more communal pitches like cow vigilantism and the anti-citizenship law protests. Emotion is a very important quotient for winning or losing elections in a democracy. Corruption, religion, nationalism, caste *et al* are some of the issues which have an emotive appeal and can unite people in no time. This is not limited to India only. Even in the US, the slogan "America First" did wonders for Donald Trump. Similarly, in 2019, Balakot supplied the required emotive quotient in the form of nationalism and the BJP and Modi swept the Lok Sabha polls. The BJP has already made the construction of the Ram temple a political issue. Ayodhya city has been painted in saffron hues. Students of the arts faculty of Saket Degree College have drawn pictures of Ram, Laxman and characters of the *Ramayana* on the walls around the city — not even leaving the walls of the Sulabh Shauchalaya toilet complex.

In the backdrop of the COVID-19 guidelines, people have been asked not to go to the Ram Janmabhoomi site where the main function will be held. But the BJP has plans to put up LED screens all across Ayodhya so that peo-

ple can witness the ground-breaking ceremony and watch the Prime Minister lay the foundation stone of the temple on August 5. They argue that it is natural for people to want to witness this historic moment at the Ram Janmabhoomi Complex but because of COVID-19 guidelines they cannot be allowed entry there, hence they can watch it on big screens near their *mohallas* (localities).

The VHP has done its part and has asked people across India to decorate their homes, *mohallas* and *mandirs* and watch the live telecast of the grand ceremony together while singing *bhajans* (hymns). Milind Parande, Secretary General of the VHP, had issued a statement saying that the live telecasts should be accessible to the community on big screens or at auditoria. "People should decorate their houses, neighbourhoods, villages, markets, monasteries, gurdwaras and *ashrams* and distribute *prasad* and also light lamps after sunset," the VHP leader had said in that statement. "Use all means of publicity to make this grand programme available to more and more people in society," he had further said. The paraphernalia is ready. The BJP and its right-wing organisations are all set to milk the situation for political gains. The Unlock 3.0 guidelines may have asked people to desist from organising religious functions but the BJP Government and the party are ready for such a big event. After all, it is all politics. And an investment made today will hold good later. One wonders if COVID-19 management could be pursued with such intent. Lord Ram would have wanted that.

(The writer is Executive Director, News, Lucknow edition)

# No more a matter of public interest

We must act against those misusing PIL, which is considered the most important tool in delivering speedy justice to the underprivileged and the poor



J. GOPIKRISHNAN

to nurture and pursue private interests. It offered a political theatre for guerrilla warfare in a layered style. It soon became the Frankenstein's monster that could make the legislature and the executive shiver. And this year, the PIL industry wants to achieve its final goal and that is to dictate terms to the Supreme Court (SC) of India.

There has been so much degeneration that Justice Arijit Pasayat underscored that the 'P' in PIL stands for politics, *paiza*, publicity or private interest. This position has been adequately reiterated by the SC in the Ashok Kumar Pandey case. However, the litany of frivolous petitions over a period of time has become so big that PIL activists have started issuing integrity certificates to serving and retired judges and bureaucrats.

"Why is your shirt not buttoned and why are your collars open?" the Chief Justice of India (CJI) asked a PIL lawyer in the ongoing proceedings in Court No 1, following the murder of eight policemen on duty and the subsequent encounter of

Uttar Pradesh's (UP) notorious gangster Vikas Dubey and his associates by the police.

The single-member commission of enquiry appointed by the Government of UP was undone following certain PILs filed before the apex court. This was done even after the SC has ruled in the *Bharati Tamang and State of West Bengal Vs CPDR* cases that a PIL for seeking a commission of enquiry is maintainable only in exceptional circumstances.

It was further qualified in the *Zahira Habibulla Sheikh and Common Cause Vs Union of India* case that such "exceptional circumstances", justifying a relief-seeking court-appointed enquiry, arise only where deficiency in a probe is visible or there is *prima facie* evidence of abuse of power, which casts any doubt on the independence of the commission. The SC further held that even in such cases, a third party can seek remedy through a PIL only when the allegations of such abuse of power or deficiency in enquiry are

borne out of records, as laid down in the *Rajiv Ranjan Singh Lalan* case.

However, the PIL action continued. The first round was followed by objections to the appointment of a particular retired judge of the Supreme Court even after the CJI cleared the name. The "bias" of the retired bureaucrat in the commission was mocked. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the State under the Additional Chief Secretary was challenged. Value and virtue certificates from an invisible, point-based human rights curriculum were exchanged and exhibited before the Bench.

How far should the court go to satisfy the petitioners — especially when they have no track record of representing the public at large in any matters of grave concern — and those who attack the reputation of retired judges, whose contribution to the legal system for decades is in the public domain?

How did the apex court deal with such frivolous petitions in the past? In the *Mathews Nedumpara* case, the

SC in 2019 initiated *suo motu* contempt proceedings and, after taking into consideration the objectionable conduct of the petitioner, including his acts of filing frivolous petitions, sentenced him to three months' jail and a suspension of the sentence if he undertook that he would never browbeat a judge. He was additionally barred from practising before the SC for one year.

Further in the case of *Suraz India Trust v Union of India*, the court ruled that the petitioner be precluded from filing any case in public interest before any court in this country and imposed a penalty of ₹25 lakh.

When one thought that the SC-appointed commission would finally get to work on why the mockery of rule of law in the gory death of policemen should not be repeated, another bunch of petitions was filed, this time based on a media article. The PILs again questioned the integrity of a commission that collectively brings to the table 150 plus years of service to the nation.

Should these petitions and their

consequent dismissal, as bland as it may appear, soaked in the semantics of apology, not be considered one more assault on the mutilated bodies of the policemen who died on duty?

Keeping aside differences on political or ideological leanings, misgivings or otherwise concerning the judiciary, the police force and the graver grouse we have developed towards the criminal justice system, we need to pause and introspect.

The commission is expected, as per the terms of reference, to enquire into the nexus between the criminals and the police/establishment and make suggestions to ensure such events do not recur in the future.

How long do we wait for the commission to function and make appropriate recommendations to fix a broken system? A system in which a history-sheeter with more than 60 heinous offences was out on bail.

A system in which "insiders" appeared to have tipped off the criminals. A system in which there is no speedy trial or regular hearings. A system in which the criminals run a

racket from within the jails. A system in which the families of policemen murdered are looking at a long and hard road to justice. A system in which endless aspirations for the idea of justice are only soaked in the body of hope. Just because hope is the only feeling stronger than fear and it is with that hope that we look up to Court No 1 to dispense justice now.

It is time to move beyond simple dismissals and imposition of costs. In spite of settled laws, the tyranny of frivolous petitions is not just obstructing the functioning of the apex court by eating up precious time and resources but is mocking at the very idea of justice. It is time to ensure that just because the highest court has opened its doors to justice, it cannot be converted into a platform for enabling the agenda of one particular section of activist lawyers. It is time to act against those misusing the PIL, which is considered the most important tool in delivering speedy justice to the underprivileged.

(The writer is a Special Correspondent of The Pioneer)

# ISIS storm prison in Af, 29 killed

AP ■ JALALABAD

Afghan forces retook a prison in the country's east on Monday afternoon, following an hours-long gunbattle a day after the facility was targeted by ISIS in an attack that killed 29 people. The prison is believed to hold hundreds of ISIS members.

The attack highlighted the challenges ahead for Afghanistan, even as US and NATO forces begin to withdraw following a US-Taliban peace deal struck earlier this year.

Afghan Defence Ministry spokesman Fawad Aman said the prison in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, located some 115 kilometers (70 miles) east of Kabul, was taken back in the afternoon — 24 hours after it came under attack. The fighting had also left at least 50 wounded, he said.

Even as Afghan troops retook the prison, IS militants continued to fire on Afghan security forces from a nearby neighborhood. Sporadic gunfire rang out from nearby residential buildings in central Jalalabad, an area of high security near the provincial governor's office.

As security forces swept



An Afghan security person stands guard near a prison after an attack in the city of Jalalabad, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Monday. AP

through the prison, they found the bodies of two Taliban prisoners apparently killed by the Islamic State group, showing the tensions between the two militant factions battling each other in eastern Afghanistan. The 29 dead included civilians, prisoners, guards and Afghan security forces, said Attaullah Khyogani, the provincial governor's spokesman.

After the fighting was over, Afghan forces held up a black IS banner captured during the battle. From behind windows

province, later claimed responsibility for the attack.

However, some of the 1,500 prisoners there escaped during the fighting. Khyogani said about 1,000 prisoners who earlier escaped had been found by security forces across the city. It wasn't immediately clear if any prisoners were still at large.

The attack came a day after authorities said Afghan special forces killed a senior Islamic State commander near Jalalabad. Several hundred prisoners in Jalalabad are believed to be Islamic State members.

The fighting ended after the final attackers, holed up in the nearby residential complex, were killed, said Aman, the defense ministry's spokesman. He said 10 IS attackers were also killed in the operation and that the assailants killed five prisoners, including two members of the rival Taliban, before the raid ended.

While the Islamic State group has seen its so-called caliphate stretching across Iraq and Syria eliminated after a yearlong campaign, the group has continued fighting in Afghanistan. The extremists also have battled the Taliban in the country, whom the U.S.

overthrew following the 2001 American-led invasion after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The Taliban's political spokesman, Suhail Shaheen, told The Associated Press that his group was not involved in the Jalalabad attack. The U.S. struck a peace deal with the Taliban in February. A second, crucial round of negotiations between the Taliban and the political leadership in Kabul has yet to start.

The Taliban had declared a three-day cease-fire starting last Friday for the major Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha. The cease-fire expired at 12 a.m. Monday, though it wasn't immediately clear if it would be extended as the U.S. pushes for an early start to intra-Afghan negotiations that have repeatedly been delayed since Washington signed the peace deal with the Taliban.

"We have a cease-fire and are not involved in any of these attacks anywhere in the country," Shaheen said.

The Taliban also had denied being involved in a suicide bombing in eastern Logar province late Thursday that killed at least nine people and wounded 40.

# WHO: There may never be Covid-19 'silver bullet'

Virus has killed nearly 6,90,000 people, at least 18.1 mn infected

AFP ■ GENEVA

The World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Monday that there might never be a "silver bullet" for the new coronavirus, despite the rush to discover effective vaccines.

The WHO urged governments and citizens to focus on doing the known basics, such as testing, contact tracing, maintaining physical distance and wearing a mask in order to suppress the pandemic, which has upended normal life around the globe and triggered a devastating economic crisis.

"We all hope to have a number of effective vaccines that can help prevent people from infection," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual press conference.

"However, there's no silver bullet at the moment — and

there might never be." "For now, stopping outbreaks comes down to the basics of public health and disease control.

"Do it all," he urged. The novel coronavirus has killed nearly 6,90,000 people and infected at least 18.1 million since the outbreak emerged in Wuhan in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP.

CHINA MISSION

The WHO began pressing China in early May to invite in its experts to help investigate the animal origins of Covid-19.

The UN health agency sent an epidemiologist and an animal health specialist to Beijing on July 10 to lay the groundwork for a probe aimed at identifying how the virus entered the human species.

Their scoping mission is now complete, said Tedros.

"The WHO advance team that travelled to China has now concluded their mission to lay the groundwork for further

joint efforts to identify the virus origins," he said.

"WHO and Chinese experts have drafted the terms of reference for the studies and programme of work for an international team, led by WHO. The international team will include leading scientists and researchers from China and around the world.

"Epidemiological studies will begin in Wuhan to identify the potential source of infection of the early cases.

"Evidence and hypotheses generated through this work will lay the ground for further, longer-term studies."

The pair have not yet returned to the WHO's Geneva headquarters for a debriefing. Scientists believe the killer virus jumped from animals to humans, possibly from a market in the city of Wuhan selling exotic animals for meat.

Chinese officials said early in the outbreak that the virus may have spread from a market in the city, which sold live and wild animals, but no further confirmation of that has been revealed.

# Trump criticises Birx over virus remarks

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump said White House coronavirus task force leader Dr Deborah Birx hurt the Trump administration when she said widespread virus infections in urban and rural America mark a "new phase" for the pandemic.

It was a rare rebuke of Birx. Trump accused her of taking "the bait" by responding to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

who told ABC's "This Week" that she had lost confidence in Birx because Trump appointed her and the president has been spreading disinformation about the virus.

Trump, in a tweet on Monday, described Birx's response to Pelosi as "pathetic".

On CNN's "State of the Union", Birx said her comments are driven by data and that she would stake her 40-year career on using data to implement programmes to save lives.

# US virus 'extraordinarily widespread': WH Experts

AGENCIES ■ WASHINGTON

The United States is in a new phase of the novel coronavirus outbreak with infections "extraordinarily widespread" in rural areas as well as cities, White House coronavirus experts said on Sunday.

Coronavirus cases continue to surge in some parts of the country and the public health officials are trying to work with governors to tailor responses for each state.

"We are in a new phase," said Dr. Deborah Birx. "What

we are seeing today is different from March and April. It is extraordinarily widespread" in rural as well as urban areas.

"To everybody who lives in a rural area: You are not immune or protected from this virus," Birx said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Birx, the White House task force coordinator, said people living in multigenerational households in an area that is experiencing an outbreak should wear masks inside the home to protect the elderly or those with underlying condi-

tions. Admiral Brett Giroir, an assistant Health and Human Services secretary, continued to stress the importance of wearing masks.

"If we don't do that, and if we don't limit the indoor crowded spaces, the virus will continue to run," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"We are very concerned and this is a very serious point."

The coronavirus, which first appeared in China, has infected 4.6 million people in the United States and killed more than 155,000 Americans,

according to a Reuters tally.

Birx said federal officials have been working on individual reports for each state examining community trends and hospital records. "Each of these responses have to be dramatically tailored," she said.

She said what she witnessed as she visited 14 states over the last three weeks gave her cause for concern.

"As I traveled around the country, I saw all of America moving," Birx said. "If you have chosen to go on vacation into a hot spot, you really need

to come back and protect those with comorbidities and assume you're infected."

If people wear masks and avoid crowds, Giroir said, it gives the same outcome as a complete shutdown.

"That's why we're going to all the states, we're on local radio, we give specific instructions to every governor by county, what they need to do when we start - when those counties start tipping yellow, because that's the time when you have to stamp it down," he said.

**Public Works Department Government Resolution Number CAT-2017/C.R.8/Building-2, Dated 12th April, 2017 FORM-1**

**Government of Maharashtra**  
**Public Works Department**  
**North Mumbai (P.W.) Division, Andheri**  
**Telephone No. 02226231964**  
**E- Tender Notice No. 3 (2020-2021.)**

E-mail address:- **northmumbai.ee@mahapwd.com** Telephone/Fax Number **26231964/26205788**

E-Tender for the following work in B-1 Form is invited via online e-tendering system from Registered / Non Registered Contractor of Eligible Class by the Executive Engineer, North Mumbai (P.W.) Division, Andheri (w), Mumbai-58 in behalf of Government of Maharashtra. Tender Documents are downloaded from Government of Maharashtra portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> & [www.mahapwd.com](http://www.mahapwd.com). Right to select or reject is reserved by the Superintending Engineer, Mumbai (P.W.) Circle, Mumbai & Executive Engineer, North Mumbai (P.W.) Division, Andheri (w), Mumbai-58. Tender with condition is never accepted.

| Sr.No. | Name of Work  | Estimated Cost    |
|--------|---|-------------------|
| 1.     | Construction, repairs and modification of the Police firing range at Horseshoe valley, Bhatwadi, Ghatkopar (W) Mumbai. (Phase-I- Ch. 100 m to 225 m, Phase II- Ch. 0 m to 100 m) Completion of Balance work, including Electrical Work. | Rs. 9,37,50,740/- |

The Superintending Engineer, Mumbai (P.W.) Circle, Mumbai & Executive Engineer, North Mumbai (P.W.) Division, Andheri (w), Mumbai-58. Reserves right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason. The Conditional tender will not be acceptable.

Note: - Any changes in the scope / conditions and any other information in the Tender document will be intimated on the same web site.

**E- Tender Submission Date - 07/08/2020 to 31/08/2020**

**Pre-Bid Date -19/08/2020** at 12.00 pm in the office of the Chief Engineer, Mumbai (P.W.) Region, Mumbai, 4th floor, Bandhakam Bhavan, 25, Marzban Road, Fort, Mumbai-400 001

**E-Tender Opening Date- 01/09/2020.** at 15.00 Hrs.

sd/  
**Executive Engineer,**  
**North Mumbai (P.W.) Division,**  
**Andheri (West), Mumbai**

**DGIPR/2020/2021/458**

# Outbreak hits Norway cruise ship, could spread along coast

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

A Norwegian cruise ship line halted all trips and apologized on Monday for procedural errors after an outbreak of coronavirus on one ship infected at least 5 passengers and 36 crew. Health authorities fear the ship also could have spread the virus to dozens of towns and villages along Norway's western coast.

The infections on the MS Roald Amundsen raise new questions about safety on all cruise ships during a pandemic even as the devastated cruise ship industry is pressing to resume sailings after chaotically shutting down in March.

The Hurtigruten cruise line was one of the first companies to resume sailing after the pandemic hit, starting cruises to Norway out of northern Germany in June with a single ship, then adding cruises in July to the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard.

The 41 people on the MS Roald Amundsen who tested positive have been admitted to the University Hospital of North Norway in Tromsø, north of



Norwegian cruise ship MS Roald Amundsen moored in Tromsø, Norway, on Monday. AP

the Arctic Circle, where the ship currently is docked.

"A preliminary evaluation shows that there has been a failure in several of our internal procedures," Hurtigruten CEO Daniel Skjeldam said in a statement. He added the company that sails along Norway's picturesque coast between Bergen in the south and Kirkenes in the north is "now in the process of a full review of all procedures."

It has contacted passengers who had been on the MS Roald Amundsen for its July

17-24 and July 25-31 trips from Bergen to of Svalbard, which is known for its polar bears. The ship had 209 guests on the first voyage and 178 guests on the second. All other crew tested negative.

But since the cruise line often acts like a local ferry, traveling from port to port along Norway's western coast, the virus may not have been contained onboard. Some passengers disembarked along the route and may have spread the virus to their local communities.

# BABY ELEPHANT DIES AT ST LOUIS ZOO

**St Louis (US):** A baby elephant has died several weeks after it was born at the St Louis Zoo. Zoo officials said the Asian elephant calf named Avi was euthanised on Sunday because he had developmental problems that limited his ability to feed. The zoo said Avi's condition had deteriorated quickly in recent days despite feeding assistance and intravenous treatments.

# NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER JOHN HUME DIES

**London:** John Hume, the Northern Irish politician who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998 for his role in the British province's peace process, has died aged 83, his family announced on Monday. Hume, the former leader of the mainly Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), shared the Nobel with David Trimble of the pro-British Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) after the pair helped forge the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement.

# PROBE: DOGS ATTACK ON COLIN KAEPERNICK FILL-IN

**Fort Lauderdale (US):** The US Navy is investigating an incident in which dogs attacked a "Colin Kaepernick stand-in" during a K-9 demonstration during a 2019 fundraiser at the Navy Seals Museum in Florida. The Navy said in a statement posted on Twitter that officials became aware of the video on Sunday. Kaepernick is a former San Francisco 49ers quarterback who began kneeling during the playing of "The Star Spangled Banner" before games to protest social injustice and police brutality. He played his final NFL game in January 2017.

# ITALY'S NEW VIRUS CASES DROPS BELOW 200

**Rome:** The number of new confirmed cases of the coronavirus in Italy fell below 200 for the first time in a week, with 159 cases registered on Monday, according to Health Ministry figures. That brings the total number of cases in Italy to 248,229 and deaths to 35,166.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE / MOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
**LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS Online on or before 03.09.2020 upto 5:00 PM**

E-auction Sale Notice for sale of Movable/Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assessts and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) & (6)(2) of the security Interest ( Enforcement) Rules,2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable/Movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Central Bank of India, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "What ever there is basis".

| DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE/ MOVABLE PROPERTY/IES |   |  |                   |          |                     |
|--|---|--|-------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Branch/ Type of Account                        | Name of Account/ Owner of Property  | Details of Property  | Reserve price Rs. | EMD Rs.  | Bid Increase Amount |
| Bahadurgarh/ Cent Trade                        | M/s. Ram Electric Co. (Prop. Mrs. Shanti Singhal W/o Mr. Jai Bhagwan Singhal) Mr. Jai Bhagwan Singhal (Guarantor) Kothi No. 20, Road No. 23 East Punjabi Bagh New Delhi 110076. | Equitable Mortgage of Commercial Property bearing shop No. 2151/2 measuring 45 Sq. Yards situated at Chah Indara, Dr. H C Sen Road, Kauria Pul, bhagirath Place, New Delhi - 110 006, vide registered Sale Deed No. 5133, Book No. 1 Volume 7609 Page 72-78 dated 15.09.1997 registered with Sub Registrar I, New Delhi in the name of Smt. Shanti Singhal W/o Sh. Jai Bhagwan Singhal resident of Kothi No. 20, Road No. 23, East Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi - 110 076. Bounded as: East :Gali, West :Property No. 2152, North :Property No. 2165, South :Gali | 58.82 lacs        | 5.89 lac | 0.20 Lac            |

**E-AUCTION DATE: 04.09.2020**  
**E-AUCTION TIME: 2:00 PM TO 4:00 PM**

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:** The e-Auction is being held on "As is where is & As is what is Basis." 1. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on auction and claims/ rights/ dues/ effecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/ rights/ dues. 2. It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. 3. The interested bidders shall submit their EMD through Web Portal: <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> (the user ID & Password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>) through Login ID & Password. The EMD shall be payable through RTGS / NEFT in the account through portal or Account No. 1268172955, Name of the A/C.: REGIONAL OFFICE ACCOUNT, Name of the Beneficiary: AUTHORISED OFFICER, IFSC Code: CBIN0280394. Please note that the Banker Cheque / Demand draft shall be submitted to Branch Office through RTGS/NEFT (Online) on or before 03.09.2020 on or before 5:00 PM. For further information please contact at Branch Office Bahadurgarh (9813526993) & Authorised Officer (8930501766), Regional Office, Rohtak (8901508220 Recovery). For more details visit the bank website [www.centralbankofindia.co.in](http://www.centralbankofindia.co.in).

**STATUTORY NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 READ WITH RULE 6.7.8 & 9 OF THE SECURITIES INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002**

Borrower/s Guarantor/s are requested to participate & Co-operate for processing of proposed sale auction so that we may receive maximum sale proceeds. If you have any interested buyer for the above mentioned property/ies your buyer is entitled to put the bid for purchase of the property/ies as per the terms of auctions.

**Date: 03.08.2020**  
**Place : Rohtak**

**Authorised Officer**  
**CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA**

# Oli, Prachanda talks remain inconclusive; both agree to meet again today for parleys

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and the ruling party's executive chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Monday held informal consultations for two hours to sort out their differences, but the talks remained inconclusive, party sources said.

The two leaders held a marathon three-hour long meeting on Sunday but failed to agree on a power-sharing deal.

"Sunday's talks were positive and on Monday also the talks were held in the same direction," a party leader close to the Prime Minister said.

During Monday's meeting, Prime Minister Oli was accompanied by his close confidante Subash Nembang, who has been working as a mediator to resolve the differences between the two warring factions.

Prachanda was accompanied by senior leader and former Prime Minister Jhala Nath Khanal.

As the Standing Committee meeting has been postponed indefinitely, the two leaders were making efforts to decide a fresh date for the meeting of the party's 45-member powerful body, sources said.

Prime Minister Oli postponed the crucial

Standing Committee meeting on July 28 for the ninth time.

While Oli stood for calling the Secretariat meeting to resolve the differences, Prachanda said that it would be inappropriate to call the Secretariat meeting as the Standing Committee meeting that was put off on July 28 is yet to be over, My Republica newspaper reported.

"The meeting between the two top leaders of the NCP ended inconclusive as both the sides stood adamant in their demands," the paper said.

Citing party insiders, the paper said that Prime Minister Oli wants the Secretariat meeting to resolve the key issues of intra-party dispute as he now commands a majority in the nine-member body after Vice Chairman Gautam stood in his favour.

Prachanda, who is backed by Madhav Nepal, believes that the Standing Committee could take decisions favourable to him as their faction commands a comfortable majority, the paper said.

Gautam had proposed that Oli be allowed to stay as prime minister for the remaining term of the House of Representatives (HoR), that is, two-and-a-half years, and chairman of the party until the unity general convention that Oli has proposed to hold by mid-December.

# SpaceX capsule and NASA crew make 1st splashdown in 45 yrs

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla:** Two NASA astronauts returned to Earth on Sunday in a dramatic, retro-style splashdown, their capsule parachuting into the Gulf of Mexico to close out an unprecedented test flight by Elon Musk's SpaceX company.

It was the first splashdown by U.S. astronauts in 45 years, with the first commercially built and operated spacecraft to carry people to and from orbit. The return clears the way for another SpaceX crew launch as early as next month and possible tourist flights next year.

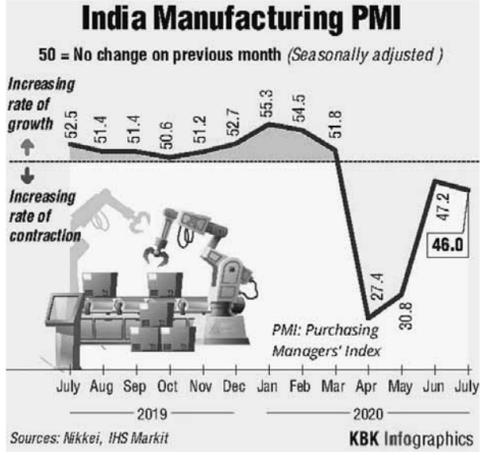
Test pilots Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken arrived back on Earth in their SpaceX Dragon capsule named Endeavour, less than a day after departing the International Space Station and two months after blasting off from Florida.

# Manufacturing contracts for 4th month

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's manufacturing sector activity contracted at a slightly faster pace in July as demand conditions remained subdued amid prolonged closures, following which firms reduced both staff numbers as well as purchasing activity, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The headline seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 46 in July, down from 47.2 in June. This is the fourth straight month of contraction for the Indian manufacturing sector. In April, the index had slipped into contraction mode, after remaining in the growth territory for 32 consecutive months. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction.



Indian manufacturers shed more light on the state of economic conditions in one of the countries worst affected by the Covid-19 pandemic," said Eliot Kerr, Economist at IHS Markit.

As per the survey, output contracted at a slightly faster pace than in June as demand conditions remained subdued with some businesses still closed amid lockdown exten-

Moreover, export orders also witnessed a decline. Survey participants commented that international clients were hesitant to place orders while the duration of the pandemic remained uncertain.

Deteriorating demand conditions led Indian manufacturers to continue cutting staff numbers during July. On the cost front, manufacturers reported another decrease in input prices during July, the survey said adding that subdued demand for most goods more than offset the inflationary effects of shortages in some raw materials, the survey said.

However, despite the ongoing negative impact of COVID-19, sentiment towards future activity improved for the second month running, the survey said.

# Markets extend losses to 4th day as risk-off mood prevails

## RIL, BANK STOCKS BLEED

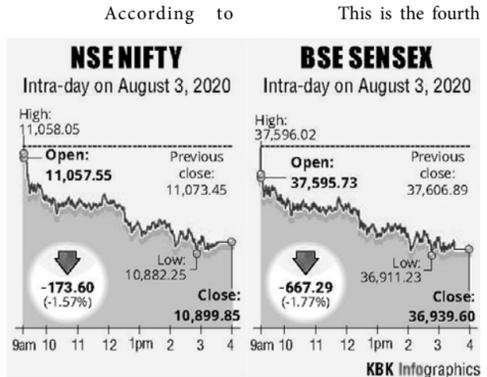
PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex crashed 667 points while the Nifty closed below the 10,900-mark on Monday as investors remained in selling mode for the fourth straight session amid frothy valuations and mounting Covid-19 cases.

A depreciating rupee and grim macroeconomic data further sapped risk appetite, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex, which opened in the red, stayed in the negative zone throughout the session to close at 36,939.60, down 667.29 points or 1.77 per cent.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty tumbled 181.85 points or 1.64 per cent to end at 10,891.60. The Sensex has now lost 1,553.35 points in four days, while the Nifty has shed 408.95 points. Kotak Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack in Monday's session, slumping 4.41 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, ONGC, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Auto and Reliance Industries (RIL).

Only six index constituents closed with gains -- Titan, Tata Steel, SBI, L&T, HCL Tech and PowerGrid, surging up to 3.15 per cent.



traders, massive selling in index majors RIL and HDFC duo dragged the key indices lower. Further, foreign fund outflows and concerns over the unabated rise in Covid-19 cases across the world kept investors on edge, they added.

The rupee too sank 20 paise and settled below the 75 per US dollar mark. On the macro front, India's manufacturing sector activity contracted at a slightly faster pace in July as demand conditions remained subdued, PMI data showed.

The headline seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 46 in July, down from 47.2 in June.

# COVID-19 FALLOUT Fiscal deficit may rise 6.8% of GDP

New Delhi: With economic disruptions set for a long haul due to Covid-19 pandemic, India could see its fiscal deficit this year to balloon to over 6.8 per cent of Gross Domestic Product, brokerages analysing the first quarter deficit numbers have said.

The current expansion (in deficit), the brokerage said, is primarily due to low economic activity in the last two months (e-way bill 7 per cent lower than last year in June-end) and an extension of the tax filing deadline to Aug'20.

The Controller General of Accounts on Friday said that country's fiscal deficit has expanded to 83 per cent of Budget Estimate in the April-June quarter primarily due to lower tax collection and higher expenditure for Covid-19 relief. According to a report on Indian economy by Emkay Global Financial Services, low economic activity and lower tax collections coupled with expanded expenditure in schemes like Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act, PM-KISAN and extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana till November, 2020 has created a scenario where the deficit would widen.

Capital spending has surged 40% due to ways and means advances for FCI (high procurement) and road spending (base effect due to low spending in Q1FY19 due to elections); excluding these two, spending has declined by 4%, Emkay has said in its report.

The fiscal deficit is the total amount by which the government's expenses for a year exceeds its revenues. The concern on the deficit comes from the trend witnessed in the first quarter of current fiscal. Lower net revenue receipts and elevated expenditure has pushed the fiscal deficit to 83 per cent of budget estimate in the three month period of April-May.

# Govt needs to have control over sale of margarine, Gadkari writes to PM

New Delhi: Concerned over the rise in use of margarine in hotels and restaurants, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has raised the issue with PM Narendra Modi and suggested that the Govt needs to have control over the sale of margarine as it is adversely affecting health of the people and causing financial loss to dairy farmers. Gadkari had recently written to PM Narendra

Modi regarding the matter. "Taking immediate cognisance of the demand, the Prime Minister's Office directed the FSSAI which immediately issued clarification, directives and future course of action to control the use of the margarine in edible items," according to an official release.

Margarine has a negative impact on human health due to the presence of large amounts

of trans fat in it. Its use has increased significantly in hotels and restaurants. This is affecting adversely the health of the people and the sale of the butter made from the cow milk, fetching financial loss to the farmers. The Govt needs to have control over the sale of margarine," the Minister for Road Transport and Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) said.

# Gold rises by ₹185, silver jumps ₹1,672

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose by ₹185 to ₹54,678 per 10 gram in the national capital on Monday amid rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had closed at ₹54,493 per 10 gram. Silver also jumped ₹1,672 to ₹66,742 per kg from ₹65,070 per kg in the previous trade.

# Microsoft: Will continue discussions to buy TikTok in US after Nadela-Trump talks

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Technology giant Microsoft has said it will continue talks to purchase the popular Chinese-owned video-sharing app TikTok's American business after its India-born CEO Satya Nadella and President Donald Trump had a conversation.

The statement from Microsoft came days after Trump said that he could use the emergency economic pow-

ers or an executive order to ban TikTok in the US over national security issues. Redmond-headquartered Microsoft, in a statement on Sunday, said that following a conversation between Nadella and Trump, it is prepared to continue discussions to explore a purchase of TikTok in the US. "Microsoft fully appreciates the importance of addressing the President's concerns. It is committed to acquiring TikTok subject to a complete security

# Stocks up on signs of industrial recovery, eyes on US talks

AP ■ TOKYO

Global shares edged up on Monday as investors weighed risks from rising coronavirus cases against evidence of a recovery in industrial activity in China and Europe. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's weekend comments that President Donald Trump plans to take action on a what he sees as a broad array of national security risks presented by software connected to the Chinese Communist Party caused market jitters in Asia.

Pompeo's remarks followed reports that Microsoft is in advanced talks to buy the U.S. Operations of TikTok, which is owned by the Chinese company ByteDance and is seen as a source of national security and censorship concerns by the Trump administration.

Market sentiment improved in European trading after so-called PMI surveys of industry showed activity in the sector picked up markedly in July as lockdowns continued to ease.

# Sumit Deb assumes charge as CMD, NMDC

Hyderabad: Sumit Deb has assumed charge as Chairman-Managing Director of NMDC Limited on 01 August, 2020. Prior to assuming the role of CMD, NMDC, Sumit Deb was Director (Personnel) and succeeds N Bajjendra Kumar, IAS, who has superannuated from the services of the Corporation yesterday. He brings with him vast knowledge gathered through his extensive experience at RINL & NMDC. He aspires to help NMDC reach new heights and levels of success.



(Commercial) in 2015, later he was then promoted as Executive Director (Personnel & Administration) at NMDC. In

2019 he assumed charge as Director (Personnel) and was heading various functions of Personnel & Admin, Human Resource Development, Law, Corporate Communications, CSR, Rajbhasha and has given a new dimension to company's vision & objectives.

Sumit Deb is a graduate in Mechanical Engineering from Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar. Prior to NMDC, he was with Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL). He joined as a Management Trainee and worked with RINL for about 25

years accumulating rich and diverse experience in the steel industry. He has worked in different regions of the country, dealing with heterogeneous mix of both external as well as internal customers and handling the domains of HR, marketing & distribution. Shri Deb has diverse experience in man power & succession planning, training & development and other HR functions. He also has experience in the marketing and distribution of steel & iron ore, sponge iron, pellets and diamonds.

# Jewellery & Gem Virtual Exhibition on Aug 19-20

New Delhi: Informa Markets in India, formerly UBM India, in association with Jewellery NET, will hold its debut "Jewellery & Gem Virtual Exhibition" on August 19-20. The virtual show will see participation from Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, UP, J&K, Karnataka, West Bengal. Yogesh Mudras, MD of Informa Markets, said, "The show will be a leading-edge web-based platform that will ensure a grand display of luxury, variety of jewellery, insights, markets trends and networking opportunities all configured through the touch of a fingertip.

# SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo), **Name:** Md. Sakeel, **S/o:** Md. Wasil, **R/o:** VPO Madarganj, Dist. Arhariya, Bihar, **Aged:** 15 years, has been missing/ kidnapped from main bazar, Pahar Ganj, Delhi since 04.02.2013. A case vide FIR No. 31/13 u/s 363 IPC, Dated 04.02.2013, has been registered at P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi. His physical description is as under:



Md. Sakeel

**Height:** 4'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Physique/Build:** Thin, **Clothing:** Yellow Colour Sweater and Jeans Pant. Any person is having any information/clue about this missing/kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Pahar Ganj, Delhi at **E-mail:** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or **website :** <http://cbi.nic.in> **Fax No.:** 011-23011334, **Tele No.:** 011-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O  
P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-23524746, 23520787

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**

Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001  
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813  
Mobile No. 096461-22955, 096461-11033,  
e-mail: [po.pspcl@gmail.com](mailto:po.pspcl@gmail.com)  
e-tendering page: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.nicgep/app>.

**Tender Notice :- QQ-2311/PO-P**

**Tender Specification No.** QQ-2311/PO-Poles  
**Short Description** Design, Manufacturer, Testing before dispatch & Delivery of 10,000 nos. 11KV, 400 Amp Air Break (AB) switches against PSPCL Tender Enquiry QQ-2311/PO-P

**Start date for down loading of Specification / tender documents from** <https://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
**Last date for downloading of Specification/ tender documents from** <https://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
**Last date for Bid submission** 31-08-2020 (upto 11:30 AM)  
**Bid Opening date** 03-09-2020 (11:30 AM)  
**Tender Document Cost.** NIL  
**EMD** As specified in the specification  
**Payment Mode.** Online (via e-payment gateway of GEPNIC)

For detailed NIT & Tender specification please refer to <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in.nicgep/app>.  
Note: It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspaper. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official PSPCL website [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)

Chief Purchase Officer/MM,  
For CE/MM, PSPCL, Patiala,  
C 248/2020 RO 58767/2020 Dt. 03-08-2020

# Chandan Kumar Mondol takes charge as Director (Commercial) at NTPC

New Delhi: Mondol has been with NTPC for over 35 years and has held several key leadership positions across multiple business units.

Mondol joined NTPC as 9th Batch Executive Trainee (ET) in 1984. He has vast experience and comprehensive knowledge of the power sector and has worked in both power plant and corporate functions. He started off his journey with the project execution and commissioning of 3X500 MW units at Ramagundam and 4X210 MW units at Kahalgand.



Organisational Restructuring, identifying risks of the company and its mitigation through comprehensive Enterprise Risk Management Policies etc. Shri Mondol took charge as Business Unit Head (BUH) of Khargone in March 2015 and was responsible for execution of 1320 MW Green Field Power Project involving land acquisition, Right of Use, Right of Way, R&R plan, Project Planning & Construction, Boundary Management with the local administration, State Government and other statutory authorities. Before his appointment as Director (Commercial), he has worked as RED-WR1, RED (DBF & Hydro), ED (PP&M) and ED (Commercial).

**बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम, लि० पटना**  
(बिहार सरकार का उपक्रम)  
राष्ट्रीय स्पर्द्धा ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं०-23/2020-21

- विद्युतपदाता का पदानाम एवं पता
- निविदा आमंत्रण की तिथि
- निविदा कागजात प्राप्त (अवलोकन) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय
- निविदा जमा (अपलॉड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय
- निविदा बिडों का स्थान
- बी-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (टैकनीकल बीड)
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (फिनाल बीड)
- निविदा दस्तावेज की तिथि कार्य का विवरण

1. मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०, अस्पताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना-800023  
- दिनांक: 31.07.2020  
- दिनांक: 14.08.2020 से 03.09.2020 के 15:00 बजे तक।  
- दिनांक: 04.09.2020 के 15:00 बजे तक।  
-केवल वेबसाइट [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) पर  
- दिनांक: 20.08.2020 को 04:00 बजे अपारदर्शक/बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०, अस्पताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना-23  
- दिनांक: 05.09.2020 को 15:00 बजे।  
- तकनीकी मूल्यांकन के बाद।  
:- 120 दिन

| क्र | जिला का नाम    | कार्य का नाम   | प्रस्तावित राशि (अनुमानित एवं गैर अनुपूर्वित) (₹00 में) | अवधन की राशि (₹00 में) | परिमाण विषय का मूल्य (अप्रत्यक्षीय) (₹00 में) | Bid Processing Fee | कार्य सम्पत्ति की अवधि (माह में) | रूप महाप्रबंधक का नाम |
|-----|----------------|--|---|------------------------|---|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1   | पटना           | पटना जिला के पालीगंज, मिर्जा, बेलछी, दनियावां, एवं घोषवरी प्रखंडों अन्तर्गत बिहार राज्य सक्की प्रसंकरण एवं विद्युतन सहकारी संघ लि० के लिए प्राथमिक सक्की उत्पादक सहकारी समिति(PVCS) में स्थित संरचना निर्माण कार्य। (5 प्रखंडों में)                                   | 22100000.00   | 442000.00              | 10,000/-                                      | 5,700/-            | 6 (छ)                            | पटना                  |
| 2   | नालन्दा        | नालन्दा जिला के राजगीर, नमस्तीया, वेन, कयायपुरसराम, एवं हिलसा प्रखंडों अन्तर्गत बिहार राज्य सक्की प्रसंकरण एवं विद्युतन सहकारी संघ लि० के लिए प्राथमिक सक्की उत्पादक सहकारी समिति(PVCS) में स्थित संरचना निर्माण कार्य। (5 प्रखंडों में)                               | 22100000.00   | 442000.00              | 10,000/-                                      | 5,700/-            | 6 (छ)                            | पटना                  |
| 3   | पूर्वी चम्पारण | पूर्वी चम्पारण जिला के केवसिया, सुगीरी, फाड़पुर, महरी, हरिहरी, घोड़सहन, अरेराज एवं संगामपुर प्रखंडों अन्तर्गत बिहार राज्य सक्की प्रसंकरण एवं विद्युतन सहकारी संघ लि० के लिए प्राथमिक सक्की उत्पादक सहकारी समिति(PVCS) में स्थित संरचना निर्माण कार्य। (8 प्रखंडों में) | 35400000.00   | 708000.00              | 10,000/-                                      | 17,700/-           | 6 (छ)                            | मुजफ्फरपुर            |

11. कोई भी संवेद्यक को केन्द्रीय/राज्य सरकार/सार्वजनिक क्षेत्रों में निवेशित हो अथवा अन्तर्पूर्व/राष्ट्रीय स्तर के हो, निविदा में मांग ले सकते हैं परन्तु कार्य का लेट अफ एक्सेप्टेंस प्राप्त होने के बाद भवन निर्माण निगम में सुविधित श्रेणी में निवेशन कराना अनिवार्य होगा।  
12. निविदा केवल ई-निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट ([www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)) पर निष्पादित किया जाएगा। ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया से संबंधित जानकारी सहजया कक्ष, भवन तल्ला प्लॉट नं०-एन/22, रोड नं०-25 श्री कृष्णा नगर, बैक ऑफ इंडिया कम्प्लेक्स, पटना-800001 पटना दूरभाष संख्या 9939035696, 0612-2523006 से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।  
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) पर देखा जा सकता है।

मुख्य महाप्रबंधक,  
बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०, पटना

PR. No. 004488 (NI NI) 2020-21

नोवल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु Toll Free No.: **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

खाद्य सामग्री-संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है।

Trend Slazer

'Always addressed Irrfan Khan as papa'

It has been over three months that Irrfan Khan passed away. RADHIKA MADAN, who co-starred with the late actor in his last release, has an interesting anecdote as she recalls working with him.

She opened up on the bond she shared with Irrfan on the sets of their film, *Angrezi Medium*, and shared how she used to call him "papa" or "dad". In the film, Irrfan played Radhika's father.

"I never addressed him as sir, I always addressed him as papa or dad. He would just smile. I remember when I first met him and I called him dad, instead of feeling weird about it, he gave me a big hug. I will always remember him as dad," Radhika said.



'More than often I am told that now I am focusing on my career in South and have left Mumbai. But I

have not gone anywhere. Scripts and opportunities took me everywhere. Why should I say no to a film if the story is exciting? I think we are a generation of actor for whom the length of the role does not matter but substance does.'

—Aditi Rao Hydari

Bollywood actor ESHA GUPTA has shared some words of wisdom on social media and said that it's cool to be kind.

Esha took to Instagram, where she shared a monochrome picture of herself. In the photograph, Esha is seen sporting a sweatshirt with "cool" written on it. She completed her look with winged eyeliner and kept her hair open.

As the caption, she wrote, "It's cool to be kind."

Last month, Esha opened up about how the COVID-19 induced lockdown has been an "emotional roller coaster" for her.



Brandy unveils new music album

Singer BRANDY has unveiled her seventh album *B7* after an eight-year break.

The 15-track album is co-written and co-produced by Brandy. It also has collaborations with Chance the Rapper, Daniel Caesar and her daughter, Sy'rai.

After a five-year legal battle with her former label, Chameleon Entertainment, Brandy told *Rolling Stone* that she has finally found freedom with this record's release.

"I put everything I could into this project. It was so freeing for me because I did get a chance to really dig in and write from my heart of hearts. I was able to really get a lot of things off of my chest, really use music as a way to escape and heal," Brandy said.

# What's so regressive, netizens?

While looking at host SIMA TAPARIA's approach to arranging marriages in *Indian Matchmaking*, it's difficult not to feel a sense of camaraderie as she rightly addresses the desires of the participants about their future partner, says GARIMA RAGHUVANSHY

The recent Netflix series, *Indian Matchmaking*, has taken netizens in India by storm. Perhaps, a good measure of the show's success is the large number of memes that it has spawned. Not all of that attention has been approving, however. The show has been heavily criticised. There's been a lot of talk online about how the series captures the worst of Indian culture — colourism, casteism, and patriarchy. There are some who "can't believe" that a "horrible" institution like arranged marriage is being celebrated through a Netflix original instead of being definitely laid to rest, as it surely should be.

Since I couldn't connect to most of the arguments online and the condemnations therein to the show itself, I was compelled to ask — did we watch the same show? Sure, the show isn't perfect. It's not even brilliant. But neither in the show nor in its contestants could I see any malice or immorality. But then why did some viewers find it deplorable?

For the sake of contrast, and to put my surprise in context, let me share with you my own responses to the show.

Quite simply, I found *Indian Matchmaking* to be mostly hilarious and sometimes, heartwarming. The stand-out feature of the series was its cast. More than the spicy editing and high-budget production, it's the people featured in the show that creates the magic. They're all delightfully strange, and convincingly and compellingly real. This is not the carefully-curated cast of an average reality show. It is a bunch of human beings out and about in all their glorious variety. They are not at all self-conscious or apologetic about their conversations and in stating about what they desire in their future partner or *damaad/bahu*. Everyone in *Indian Matchmaking* gave me a plenty of laugh-out-loud moments, some raised eyebrows, and even some collective gasps and gasps. Well, not to forget some silent smiles.

All of the show's participants are navigating the deep and sometimes not-very-still waters of an arranged marriage. On camera, no less. They're figuring out what they're looking for in a partner, what kind of a person would fit beautifully with them, and what they value not just today, but likely, for many years to come. And in the process, they're figuring out the most about themselves. We even see some of the participants grow as people through the course of eight episodes, losing some of their knots. It's difficult not to feel a sense of camaraderie.



My guess is Sima Taparia, the matchmaker in the show, feels it too. She seems to be looking out for her clients and really wants them to be happy. Throughout the eight episodes of the series, Mumbai-based Sima more than a few cartwheels in her attempts to get her clients the happiness that they desire. Impressively, she doesn't seem to be worried about what her clients will think once the show is aired and they see her plain-spoken descriptions of them. As the show progresses, Sima emerges as a character herself and a supremely relatable one. In several scenes, she reminds me of the older women in my life, many of whom are those no-nonsense, straight-forward aunts, who apparently have joined the many groups that have a 'gaze' (I am completely stumped by this term 'aunty gaze', which is supposed to be right up there alongside 'the male gaze' and 'the Western gaze', but that's a conversation for another time).

In other words, Sima seems to be a part of the real, current world. A big part of that comes from how matter-of-fact she is about her profession. She doesn't have any judgements about what her clients want in their partners or sons and daughters-in-law. "You want a girl from

an industrialist family?' 'Sure.' 'You want someone good looking?' 'No problem.' 'You want a guy who has his career plan firmly in place?' 'Got it.' 'You're looking for someone with a progressive mindset?' 'I might not be able to find you that person, but I know someone who can.'

Much like how Sima doesn't quit in the face of her clients' demands, viewers haven't been able to stop watching (or even 'hate-watching') her and her clients in action, if *Indian Matchmaking*'s ranking on Netflix and all the buzz it has created online are an indication. But as we saw, not all of that buzz was the happy kind. So, to return to the questions that set off this article, why did some viewers find the show deplorable? Did we even watch the same show?

I believe a part of the answer really is that we didn't. A recent tweet against the show was in reference to Sima aunty's alleged penchant for telling young women that they have to adjust, be flexible and compromise, in order to find a groom. The allegation itself is strange. Because in the show Sima tells almost every one of her clients, including the rich guys, that she is setting them up for someone in India and hence, they will have to adjust accordingly. The netizens bashing the

show for celebrating patriarchal mindsets were either unable to see this fact or simply considered what it actually meant as irrelevant. Both of which indicate that most people expressing disgust or dismay aren't really responding to the show at all. Logically, then, what actually happens doesn't matter to their responses.

On another note, I am also bewildered at the bad rep that things like 'adjusting', 'flexibility' and 'compromise' seem to have. They are like 'dirty words'. It only takes a moment of looking at our own relationships to acknowledge that adjusting, being flexible and compromising could actually be sometimes pretty valuable in any relationship, be it with friends, family, colleagues, and even in those fleeting bonds with co-passengers in a cramped public transport from the pre-COVID days. In the delectable *khichdi* of human relationships, being adjusting is actually an essential ingredient. Without that, we'd all be individual grains of *dal* and rice that do not fit into each other's daily lives. To hammer the point home, are there any mythical creatures, who, even after being in a dream relationship, have not adjusted, been flexible or made space for some compromise? Did the authors of such arguments not look at their own experiences or relationships before giving away such grave denouncement? Or worse still, have they never understood the sweet nothings in a relationship? My mind is bogged.

The idea of mythical creatures in perfect, adjustment, flexibility, and compromise-free relationships, actually brings us to the next part of the answer. A lot of people who found *Indian Matchmaking* immoral, also have a deep discomfort with the idea of arranged marriages. It is strange when you think about it. As Sima aunty rightly pointed out, in India, we say marriage and love marriage. In other words, arranged marriages are much more common in India than love marriages and this has been the case for the last several decades at least (going by what our grandparents and parents remember and report on the issue). So surely, most of the marriages we see around us are arranged ones. Some of them are unhappy from the beginning, some start off happy and then sour over time, for reasons perhaps unknown even to those couples. Many arranged marriages around us, however, are actually doing quite alright. Some of them are even resounding successes, healthy and happy and deserving of being the #goals. What then explains this strong discomfort with arranged marriages?

For the most part, I think it's an actual inability to see these marriages for what they actually have been, much like the inability to actually see how *Indian Matchmaking* transpires in its eight episodes. Most of us are woefully blind to the marriages of our parents, grandparents, friends' parents, or even our friends, siblings, and cousins. We don't know what makes these marriages tick, and what works and what doesn't. We don't know what makes for a happy marriage nor what breaks one. And perhaps, most regrettable of all, we don't want to find out. We have either accepted the ridiculous, outlandish ideas of romance and marriage fed to us through films or, conversely, we are passionate defendants of the equally non-existent 50-50 marriages, mythically-free of adjustment and flexibility.

In other words, we are satisfied defending ideological notions of how one ought to find a partner when they "don't know" them or "love" them. "Why are you going for an arranged marriage, you're good looking and progressive, you can find someone on your own!" is how it goes. They have no interest in looking at what marriages ought to be like and in observing what happens and often succeeds in practice. This may be our state. Notably, it isn't where most of the participants of *Indian Matchmaking* are coming from. Many of them explicitly state, they've tried dating and it didn't work for them. So now they're looking to try something different. In several responses to the show, this choice, and the process of looking for a partner through matchmakers or arranged marriages, has been labelled everything from un-empowered and regressive to straight-out bigoted. This is astounding. It is also true of most 'progressive' responses to the show.

But consider this — if those who have the choice not to (and here I'm not talking only about the participants of the show) choose arranged marriages as the way to find their partner, they must be doing so after having learnt something about the process of dating, and about themselves in it. They must also have observed successful marriages around them, many of which might be arranged. Surely then, when they choose arranged marriages, they are acting from experience and from some kind of knowledge. To explain their choice as bigoted, or worse still, ignorant, betrays a deliberate blindness. Most notably, it demonstrates the expectation for people to root their choices not in knowledge or experience, but in slogans — "How is this progressive?"

## THE TAKEAWAYS

The Michelle Obama Podcast features the former First Lady diving deep into conversations with loved ones — family, friends and colleagues — on the relationships in our lives that make us who we are



As they pull the curtain back and invite listeners into their home, the former US President Barack Obama joins First Lady Michelle Obama in *The Michelle Obama Podcast* for an intimate conversation about the challenges we all face, the legacy (and the world) they hope to leave behind for Sasha and Malia, the relationship between young people and politics, and the President's eternal optimism.

Excerpts from the show's first episode:

**On why Michelle fell in love with Barack**

**Michelle Obama:** You know that at the core of everything you have done politically, what I know about you as a person and one of the reasons why I feel in love with you is...

**Barack Obama:** It wasn't just my looks... but that's okay...

**Michelle:** You're cute you know... But no, one of the reasons I fell in love with you is because you are guided by the principle that we are each other's brother's and sister's keepers. And that's how I was raised!

**On quarantining together**

**Michelle:** Like most Americans we've been spending a lot of time together in quarantine.

**Barack:** You don't seem too happy about that the way she said it, right?

**Michelle:** It's just a fact.

**Barack:** [Laughs]

**Michelle:** There wasn't a judgment. We've been together...

**Barack:** I've been loving it.

**Michelle:** Yeah, I've been having a great time. But we've had some interesting conversations because these are some crazy times.

**On why Obama became a community organiser**

**Barack:** I think I figured out once I got to school that if I am chasing after my own success, that somehow, I am going to end up alone and unhappy.

**Michelle:** Yeah.

**Barack:** That's why I ended up going into community organising. When I thought about how I was going to spend my life, what I looked at was what those civil rights workers had done and the freedom writers had done. I thought, you

know, that looks like hard work but it never looks like lonely work.

**On political apathy in young people**

**Michelle:** The only thing that worries me, and I agree in terms of the hope that I feel when I look at young people — just how they were raised, the values, their exposure, the questions that they have, the change in the economy that's forcing them to ask a certain set of questions — that give me hope. But the thing that I worry is that I hear, I think, too many young people who question whether voting, whether politics is worth it.

**Barack:** Well, partly because they have been told. The message is sent every day that government doesn't work. They take for granted all the things that a working government has done in the past...

**Michelle:** Yeah.

**Barack:** In some ways, we're still living on the investment that was made by that greatest generation.

**Michelle:** I always joke, and I've always said one of the challenges of being President... Like you don't have a marketing budget, you know?

**Barack:** Yeah.

**Michelle:** There's really no structure to market government, right?

**Barack:** Right.

**Michelle:** The average young person knows far more about the cereal they're eating, and the car they are driving than they do about what government actually does for them because they don't have marketing budgets. There isn't a jingle...

**Barack:** [Laughs] The only time they know about what government doing is when...

**Michelle:** Is when it doesn't work, right?

**Barack:** So we're getting a good lesson in that right now.

**On raising daughters and idealistic young people**

**Michelle:** When it comes to fathers raising their girls, I do think that the average father today does believe that their girl can be anything she wants to be and they are delivering those messages around the dinner table.

**Barack:** Right.

**Michelle:** There is a different way of parenting. But what we didn't do... We delivered those messages at the dinner table but we didn't take them to the board room. We didn't change our workplaces; we didn't change things outside the home.

**Barack:** We didn't institutionalise...

**Michelle:** We didn't institutionalise the values that we'd been teaching this generation of kids. So now, they are growing up. They are leaving the dinner table and they are going out into the world and going, "The world doesn't look like what I was taught back home." You know, this isn't right.

**Barack:** Young people are idealistic as they have ever been. I think they are more idealistic now than they were when I was growing up. The difference though is that idealism that they feel as if they can channel it outside of governmental structures and outside of politics. The problem is, again we're getting a pretty good lesson in this right now, there's some things we just can't do by ourselves or even groups of us can do by ourselves. As general proposition: We can't build infrastructure by ourselves, we can't deal with a pandemic by ourselves.

(The podcast can be streamed on Spotify.)



## Back on track

R MADHAVAN leads an all-star cast in new web series, *7th Sense*. The team lands in Dubai

The first set of crew members comprising the technical team, directors, cinematographers, production designers, music director and assistants of Gaurang Doshi Productions' web series *7th Sense* went to Dubai recently.

The Bollywood producer is all set to shoot two web series in the UAE, with this one being the first. With some of the finest actors such as R Madhavan, Ronit Roy, Chunky Pandey, Ameesha Patel, Prateik Babbar and Tanuj Virwani, among others, the big ensemble murder mystery promises to be captivating, keeping viewers on the edge while bringing out their inner detective. "The series will not only intrigue and excite but will also create history," said Gaurang.

The next web series *Line of Fire* comprises two seasons and boasts of stars such as Prakash Raj, Jimmy Shergill, Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, Tanuj Virwani, Vijay Raaz, Tannishtha Chatterjee, Kabir Singh, Sana Saeed, Manu Rishi and Tanvi Azmi.

"I am thrilled and excited as the action has begun. I am also thankful to the UAE Government for making the process so seamless. It has done a good job in controlling the spread of the virus and has become an inspiration for the world. Our team would be taking all the precautionary measures," commented Gaurang.

He added, "This would indeed be the first web series from Bollywood to be entirely shot in UAE. Bringing together a stellar star cast after five months of lockdown seems like a milestone. The team is excited to start shooting again and be back at work," added Gaurang.

The entire cast and crew for both the web series consist of over 100 members. The crew of *7th Sense* also features actors like Elli AvrRam, Aashas Gulati, Sana Saeed, Ahsaas Channa, Dibyendu Bhattacharya, Sajjad DelaFrooz and Manuj Sharma. It is being directed by Karan Darra.

(The first series will start filming from August 20.)

# HEALTH

## Early Hopes

Adding to the growing evidence that early BCG vaccination may be helpful in taming the COVID-19 spread, scientists now claim that countries with mandatory BCG vaccination until at least the year 2000 tended to exhibit slower infection and death rates during the first 30 days of the outbreak



## CUT THE OIL



Monsoon and skin problems go hand-in-hand. The most common of them is oily skin. DR MONICA KAPOOR shares tips that can help beat the woes

Monsoons are here and oily skin is a part and parcel of the rains. More so, because of the changing weather. There are many reasons for oily skin. Sebaceous glands produce sebum to keep your skin soft and moisturised. When too much sebum is produced, skin appears oily and this can also lead to acne and other skin problems.

Hormones and genetics are the main factors for oily skin. As sebaceous glands mature with age, sebum production increases on the skin layer, and the higher the androgens present in the body, the more sebum is funnelled through the pores. This sebum sits on the surface of the skin layer and makes it oily. When excess of these oils get trapped in the pores and combine with dead skin cells and bacteria, it gives rise to pimples and blackheads.

There are many skin care tips you should follow for oily skin during this monsoon:

- To control excess oil from the skin is to cleanse it and keep it clean at all times. Cleanse your face twice or thrice daily to rid it of all the accumulated dirt and oil build-up which leads to clogged pores, acne and other problems.

- Use serums only when you want to tackle different skin problems. If your skin feels dehydrated, then use a hydrating serum in your skincare routine; for brightening and anti-ageing effect, use a serum with brightening and anti-ageing properties.

- Exfoliate oily skin once or twice a week.

- Oily skin needs regular moisturising and hydration. Exposure of skin of moisture will only further encourage the sebaceous glands to produce more oil to compensate. Hence apply an oil-free, non-comedogenic, water-based moisturiser regularly on your skin.

- While doing makeup, always use a primer, it aids in keeping sebum under control. It also keeps your makeup on for a longer time.

- Use an alcohol-free toner almost every day. Using a toner daily will help in eliminating excess oil and banishing dirt from your skin.

- Use a basic mask or a peel once a week on your skin. Best face mask for oily skin is one that contains charcoal or moroccan clay that keeps skin calm and clear.

- Layering on sunscreen is an essential part of the day time oily skin care routine in this season. Always use a mineral-based product which contains Zinc or Titanium Dioxide that absorbs oil from the skin.

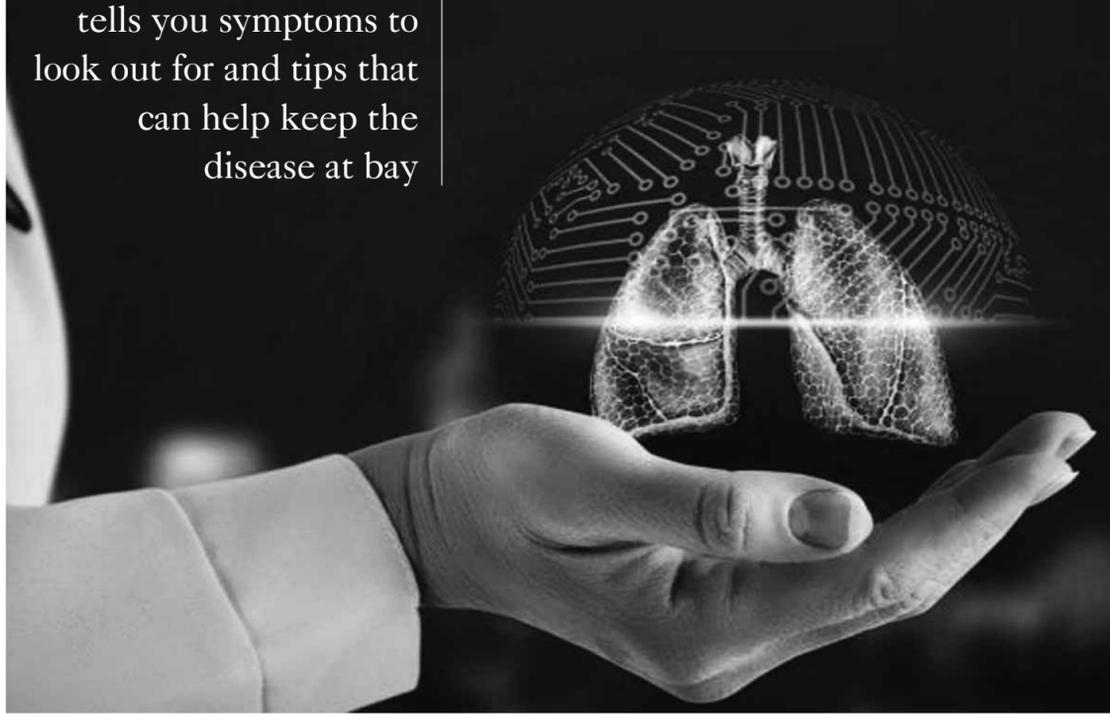
- Never sleep with your makeup on. This will clog pores and increase other skin problems.

- Use a face mask regularly. Apply it at least two or three times in a week. Use a mask that contains kaolin and bentonite clay as it helps absorb excess oil.

The writer is a celebrity cosmetologist & director, The Cosmetic Club

Lung cancer is the biggest cause of cancer related deaths in the world. DR SHUBHAM GARG tells you symptoms to look out for and tips that can help keep the disease at bay

## TAKE A DEEP BREATH



Lung cancer is usually a neglected entity in the universe of Cancer management in India. It is not one of the first diagnosis in the mind of the primary doctors, neither is it a top priority in the cancer treatment centers. Even when we talk about awareness, we restrict ourselves to breast and gynecological cancers in women and to head and neck cancers in men but conveniently forget lung cancers

One of the main reasons for this step-motherly treatment towards lung cancer is usually the dismal prognosis associated with it. Once the diagnosis of lung cancer is confirmed, everybody, including the treating doctors, condemn the patient to a life span of under a year and feel that there is not much point treating such patients.

It is a fact that lung cancer is the biggest cause of cancer related deaths in the world. In fact, in 2018, 1.8 million deaths across the globe were attributable to lung cancer alone. In India alone, 60,000 patients died due to lung cancer in that year.

But sometimes we have to read between the lines to understand the statistics.

It is important to understand that the large number of deaths that are associated with lung cancer are because they are usually detected in advanced stages. This can make a huge difference to survival rates in patients of lung cancer. Early stage lung cancer, if treated diligently and for its complete duration, has a survival rate of more than five years in most cases. However, a stage four lung cancer patient will not be able

to survive more than an average of six-eight months.

So, it is important for us to understand the causative factors and early signs and symptoms of lung cancer to detect it early and also realise what is the best possible treatment for it.

### Causes:

- Cigarette smoking is the biggest cause of lung cancer. Its smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, most of which have been identified as causing cancer agents. A person who smokes more than one pack of cigarettes every day has a 20-25 times greater risk of developing lung cancer than a non-smoker.

- Passive smoking, or second-hand smoke, can be another big cause of lung cancer.

- Air pollution from motor vehicles, factories, and other sources also contribute to incidences of lung cancer, and many experts believe that prolonged exposure to polluted air is similar to prolonged exposure to passive smoking possess risk of developing lung cancer.

- Chemical exposure: Accidental or Occupational exposure to asbestos or radon also increases the risk of lung cancer. Asbestos is a commonly associated with cement industry.

- Lung diseases, such as tuberculosis (TB) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), also create a risk for lung cancer. A person with COPD is at four to six times greater risk of lung cancer and this is when there no exposure to cigarette smoking.

**It is important to understand that the large number of deaths that are associated with lung cancer are because they are usually detected in advanced stages. Early stage lung cancer, if treated diligently and for its complete duration, has a survival rate of more than five years in most cases**

### Symptoms to look out for:

- Cough
- Difficulty in breathing
- Spitting or coughing blood
- Chest pain
- Hoarseness or problems of swallowing.

**Prevention & screening for**

### early detection

Prevention is primarily focused on smoking cessation. Smokers who wish to quit obtain benefit from many different strategies, including nicotine replacement therapy with patch or gum, counseling, and support groups. Smokers who do not wish to quit, but are told that they must, often will relapse if they can ever quit at all.

The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) has recently recommended and amplified the following recommendations regarding screening:

Adults between 55 and 77 years of age with a history of at least 30 pack years of cigarette smoking, either currently smoking, or who have quit in the past 15 years, and who have discussed the risks and benefits of CT screening with the ordering physician and have undergone documented smoking cessation counseling should undergo annual low-dose CT scan screening.

Such testing has shown that the risk of fatality from lung cancer is reduced by 15 per cent -20 vis-a-vis those receiving only an annual chest X-ray.

Remember, it is in our hands to prevent and detect lung cancer. The later the lung cancer is detected, the worse is the prognosis, shorter the survival and less effective the treatment. Hence, be alert and if you feel that your body could be showing any signs of a lung discomfort, consult your doctor today to preempt any chances of developing a fatal disease.

The writer is Senior Consultant, Surgical Oncology, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Patparganj/Vaishali

## DadiKaKehna

*If you are spending most of your time studying or working on computer, then dry, itchy eyes and headaches are common. ROSHNI DEVI shares home remedies that can help relieve the pain*



With online classes and work from home becoming the new normal, the screen time has increased manifold for both adults and children. This often result in increased eye strain thereby resulting in headaches. Not only this, dry and itchy eyes are also no exception, more so because of the changing weather. Here are a few home remedies that will help relax your eyes and headaches.

First, while working on laptop/computer, one should take breaks every 20 minutes. This will give your eyes the much needed relax and will eliminate the risk of

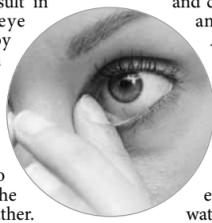
headache.

Second, blink often. While working/studying on the the devices, we often forget to blink, this increases the pressure on the eyes and can lead to dry and itchy eyes.

Also the changing weather acts as a catalyst to increase dryness in eyes.

Third, splash your eyes with cold water atleast two-three times a day.

Fourth, use ice packs. Ice will help reduce the discomfort and eliminate headaches. Take two ice cubes, wrap them in a towel and place them on your eyes for around 10 to 15 mins. Repeat it daily.



## DOCYARD

DR ROHAN SEQUERIA  
Consultant General Medicine

JASLOK HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE



## Let's get checked

The human body is a complex machine. It is a network of different organs, bones, muscles, and systems. Owing to the fact that the functioning of the human body is multi-faceted, one needs to ensure regular health check-ups.

In case there is any disorder, it can be detected at an early stage and eliminated as soon as possible before it reaches a dangerous and incurable stage or starts to affect the other parts of the body.

Most people are more concerned about their outward appearance. If they look good and are robust from outside, they consider themselves to be healthy. However, you never know what's happening inside. You won't even get to know about some grave underlying disease till it turns into someone serious and leaves a great impact on your health.

### Basic health check-ups need to be regular

As we start growing old, our body becomes home to numerous diseases. Health issues and problems start as early as when you are in your 20s and 30s. Some of the most common check-ups that need to be conducted are checking blood pressure levels, twice a year dental check-ups and cleaning, cholesterol and level of glucose, and regular blood tests. It is important that you consult a doctor to get regular check-ups and screenings and if you're a woman to get a yearly pap smear.

### The older you are the more you need to be checked regularly

Once you step into your 40s, in addition to all the tests which are required at the age of 20, you need to check for some age related and genetic diseases like diabetes, blood pressure and cholesterol tests. Women especially need once a year gynaecological tests like mammograms and pap smears. In addition, they also get menopause which also might need a doctor's visit. And as you get into your 50's and 60's you need to check at least once a year Bone Density Scan, stool occult blood test and tests for visual and hearing impairment.

### By going for regular check-ups, your doctor will be able to catch early signs of potential illnesses and take corrective measures. It can also allow your doctor to catch any changes to your body which may be indicative of a medical condition

Here are some reason why regular check-ups can help you. **Awareness of personal health:** Regular appointments with your doctor can keep you aware of your body's health. This awareness will enable you to take better care of yourself and take the correct lifestyle measures to maintain your overall health.

**Prevention of serious conditions:** By going for regular check-ups, your doctor will be able to catch early signs of potential illnesses and take corrective measures. It can also allow your doctor to catch any changes to your body which may be indicative of a medical condition. This way, you will be able to treat the condition before it escalates.

**Encourages healthy habits:** You will be encouraged to maintain healthy practices. Such practices include a good diet, regular exercise, and stress management. Without regular health appointments, there is less motivation to maintain your general health, so healthy habits that maintain your cholesterol, BMI, and stress levels will be neglected.

**Keeps your body in good shape:** In addition to encouraging you to maintain healthy lifestyle habits, regular check-ups will also help keep your body at its best. This is because your doctor will provide suggestions to keep your body in its best shape. As a result, you will feel fit, healthy, and energised.

**Maintains a strong immune system:** Individuals who go for regular health check-ups are less likely to get sick. This is because they maintain healthy habits that facilitates a strong immune system.

## SUMMERCoolERS

**FENNEL SEEDS:** Fennel seeds are pale green or brown in colour. They are highly aromatic and flavourful herbs used in cookery. They are used to treat some common digestive ailments including heartburn, intestinal gas and bloating.

Fennel seeds also reduce inflammation. This may help soothe swelling or irritation in the intestines and improve digestion.

Some people eat fennel seeds as mouth fresheners. Chewing fennel seeds can also help in getting rid of bad

breath as they increase the production of saliva thereby washing out the bacteria. They also help to relieve morning sickness.

The antioxidants and other antimicrobial properties in fennel seeds help treat a host of hair ailments. Some of these include dandruff, scalp itchiness, hair breakage and hair fall.

They also contain nitrites, compounds known to lower blood pressure levels. The fiber content in them also help in lowering the cholesterol levels.



## SLIMLINE

A 58-year-old woman was successfully treated and cured with a Benign lesion of the pancreas at SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre (SRM MCHRC) in Kattankulathur.

Radha (name changed) came to SRM MCHRC with complaints of abdominal pain for two weeks. She had no other symptoms. However, she was Diabetic and was on treatment for the same for the last two years.

Evaluations such as MRCP, CT Abdomen and Endoscopic Ultrasound were performed on her and she was diagnosed having a cystic lesion of the pancreas. She underwent surgery recently, and a large cyst of 10x11x7 cm was noted over the distal aspect of the pancreas.

Histopathological examination of the excised mass revealed a mucinous cystadenoma of the pancreas. This patient had a benign tumour which was diagnosed promptly early and removed successfully. Her quality of life post-procedure remains good, and she continues treatment for her diabetes alone.

## Homoeopathy can help

Boosting immunity is the preliminary shield in the battle against COVID-19. DR PRATIP BANERJI tells you how homoeopathy can help prevent the contagion

The outbreak and spread of COVID-19 has left most of us panic-stricken. And the pandemic has wrecked havoc across the world. COVID-19 is a viral infection and humans have no natural immunity to viruses. The research community is perplexed because of its ever-evolving mutations.

Currently, the conventional treatment of Covid 19 infection is being done with some anti-viral medicines and antibiotics. While these anti-viral medicines were found to have had some effect on SARS and MERS infections earlier, which were caused by similar viruses, so far there is no definite information that they are having an effect on COVID-19 cases.

Boosting immunity is exactly what is required in the battle against this disease- to prevent, as well as help sick patients recover from this contagion.

This is where homoeopathy has a distinct advantage, and can be deployed to effectively combat the pandemic. Historically, homoeopathy has an excellent track record in the treatment of epidemics/pandemics.



Homoeopathic medicines are safe to use, and we can expect very little, if any, side-effects as can be experienced by using other systems of medicine.

In homoeopathy, an agent is used to treat the same symptoms in a diseased human being that it can produce in a healthy one. Thus, the homoeopathic arsenal against any disease already exists, and it is only a question of matching the symptoms of the contagion to the known symptoms of a medicine which is the most similar. Thus, the reaction time between diagnosis and treatment is reduced

dramatically.

COVID-19 is basically a respiratory infection which initially affects the upper respiratory tract; if allowed to progress, it settles in the lungs (lower respiratory tract), causing pneumonia and fibrosis with a poor prognosis. Due to this, any and all treatment should be targeted as such. In the treatment of COVID-19 positive cases, so far whatever information is available, does not provide anything new in this virus, except for the fact that it is more aggressive in its progression, and prognosis is fatal in immune compromised and elderly patients.

Historically, the practice had tremendous success in treating viral diseases, such as the common cold and different types of flu, dengue, measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox and even the odd case of rabies, using homoeopathy — it is important that this treatment option is tried for building the immunity of the population to effectively combat the virus.

The writer is a homeopath and Co-founder of Dr Prasanta Banerji Homoeopathic Research Foundation

# GENOA RETAIN SERIE A PLACE

AP ■ ROME

Genoa secured safety on the final day of the longest-ever Serie A season, while Lecce dropped down to the second division. Genoa beat Hellas Verona 3-0 to finish four points ahead of Lecce and ensure a 14th consecutive season in the top Italian league on Sunday. Lecce lost 4-3 to Parma, Brescia and Spal had already been mathematically relegated.

## LONGEST SEASON

The coronavirus-delayed season ended almost 12 months after it started on Aug. 24, 2019. "The longest season in history ends today, in our country's most difficult year in recent memory," said Vincenzo Spadafora, Italy's sports minister. At the start of the lockdown in March, Italy was the epicenter of the pandemic in Europe and has now registered more than 35,000 deaths from COVID-19. "During those weeks we really thought that the season

should be stopped," Spadafora said. "But thanks to the series of precautions we took and the seriousness of the protocols put in place by the Italian soccer federation, the season was not only able to restart but also be completed."

Due to the virus, the season was suspended for more than three months between March and June. Juventus sealed a record-extending ninth straight title last weekend. **GENOA SAFE** Antonio Sanabria scored twice for Genoa, which also got a goal from Cristian

Romero. Still, it was a nervous finish with Genoa losing two players to red cards and ending with nine men to Verona's 10.

Lecce, which needed to win and hope that Genoa didn't, fought back from two goals down to equalize by halftime. But then Andreas

Cornelius and Roberto Inglese restored Parma's two-goal lead before Gianluca Lapadula pulled one back for Lecce.

## OTHER RESULTS

Udinese beat eighth-place Sassuolo 1-0, Fiorentina defeated last-place Spal 3-1 to finish 10th, and Bologna drew 1-1 with Torino.

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## Talent is not the problem in our country, says Chhetri

IAANS ■ NEW DELHI

Birthday boy and iconic Indian football team captain Sunil Chhetri on Monday said talent is not the problem in the country and all stakeholders need to ensure that the next crop of players are well looked after.

"Talent is not the problem here. We could have plenty of Olympic gold medals. I know how hard the AIFF works to get a bigger pool of players. It is very important to give the young talented players the right food, training and so on. When all this is done, it can be a monumental growth," Chhetri, who turned 36 on Monday, said during the E-Delhi summit organised by Football Delhi to celebrate the occasion of his birthday.

All India Football Federation (AIFF) President Praful Patel lauded the Government of Odisha for setting an example of how a state government can help sports thrive in a particular region. "I think states like Odisha need to be commended. They have actively supported every sport. That is something that other state governments should follow too," Patel said.

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju, AFC General Secretary Dato Windsor John, Jagdish Mitra, Chief Strategic Officer, Tech Mahindra, Football Delhi President Shaji Prabhakaran were also present in the virtual meet, as was talismanic captain Chhetri.

Patel, during the discussion highlighted the progress that the All India Football Federation has made forward



together over the last decade. "We have come a long way. Globally FIFA now acknowledges that Indian football has to be supported and strengthened for the sport to grow in the region. FIFA and AFC have made it clear that football has to be commercially viable and it has to support the overall ecosystem around it," he opined.

"That is why it is important to professionalise the sport. The I-League was the first step towards that. Now, the ISL has taken it further and made more additions to Indian football."

Sports Minister Rijiju lauded the AIFF for bringing FIFA events to India (2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup and the 2021 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup).

"I complement AIFF for engaging with FIFA to bring this tournament. With such tournaments being hosted in India we will have a brilliant situation where the sport will further mature," he said. "We will ensure that the U-17 Women's World Cup is one of the most successful FIFA events in India."



## Pak may play two spinners in 1st Test

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan's head coach and chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq has not ruled out the possibility of playing two spinners in the first Test against England which begins from Wednesday at Old Trafford.

"We have looked at the West Indies series and we have seen that at Manchester and Southampton conditions are different and we are seeing some dry conditions and help for spinners and reverse swing," Misbah said during a media interaction on Monday.

Misbah also felt that the top order of both teams would play a decisive role in the series as bowling of both teams was top class. "England's batting has struggled in these conditions. It will be a match between how the top order of both teams perform. If you can cross 300 in the first

innings your chances of winning are around 75 percent."

Misbah said that not playing at Lord's and Oval, the two happy hunting grounds for Pakistan on previous tours, would not really matter as the pitches and conditions in Manchester and Southampton could help the visitors.

He conceded that playing the right combination in the Test would be a decisive and important factor in the first match.

"I think I am pretty much satisfied with the preparations, we assembled after three months and started from zero. It has been a wonderful experience, we require such camps before a major series."

"This period was important for team bonding and preparations, creating match scenarios and good thing is the team is in good shape and looking forward to the series."=

## Ind not to take part in women's world squash C'ship

PTI ■ CHENNAI

India on Monday pulled out of the Women's World Team Squash Championship scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from December 15 to 20 due to "lack of preparation time" and "uncertainties" about travelling amid the COVID-19 pandemic. SRFI secretary general and former national coach Cyrus Poncha said the decision was taken after consulting with the top players.

"Due to uncertainties regarding guidelines for the safe travel of our athletes and staff for national & international tournaments (yet to be obtained from the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) & Sports Authority of India (SAI)), coupled with lack of preparation time and match readiness of athletes, and after consulting our top players, the SRFI has decided to withdraw from the championship," he said in a press release.

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Whereas the authorized officer of **PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a demand notice on the dates mentioned against each account and stated herein after calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

| Name of the Account / Borrower   | Description of property mortgaged  | Date of demand notice | Date of possession | Amount O/s   |
|--|--|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1. M/s R.L. Agro Foods Pvt. Ltd. through its Director Sh. Subhash Chand S/o Sh. Sadhu Ram, Regd. Office: 1, Shambli Road, Nissing-132024, District Karnal Address-2, 2789, Old Grain Market, Nissing-132024, District Karnal Address-3, House No. 23, Sector-8, Urban Estate, Karnal-132001. | 1. <b>Factory land &amp; building</b> measuring 41K-8M as under: 1- Land measuring 34K-16M comprising of Kheawat No. 84/80, Khatoni No. 134, Rectangle No. 35, Khasra Nos. 8/2(7-16), 9(8-0), 10/12(0-4), 11/22(0-6), 12(7-10), 13/1(7-16), 18/2(9-9), 19(0-15), Total Kittas-8 situated in village Kuchpura, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal vide Jamabandi for the 2011-12 and Sale deed No. 1525/1, dated 14.12.2004 belonging to M/s Ashutosh Foods, Nissing, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal. 2- Land measuring 6K-12M comprising of Kheawat No. 230/222, Khatoni No. 531, Rectangle No. 6, Khasra Nos. 12(0-11), 18(2-2), 19(3-19), Total Kittas-3 situated in village Aongadh, Tehsil and District Karnal vide Jamabandi for the year 2009-10 and Sale deed No. 5722/1, dated 26.08.2004 belonging to M/s Ashutosh Foods, Nissing, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal. | 10.01.2020            | 30.07.2020         | Rs.67,02,98,962.65 paise (Rs. Sixty seven crore two lakh ninety eight thousand nine hundred sixty two and paise sixty five only) as on 30.12.2019 with further interest and other expenses w.e.f. 01.12.2019 thereon until full payment. |

| Name of the Account / Borrower   | Description of property mortgaged   | Date of demand notice | Date of possession | Amount O/s   |
|--|---|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| 2. M/s R.L. Agro Foods Pvt. Ltd. through its Director Sh. Sunil Kumar S/o Sh. Subhash Chand, Regd. Office: 1, Shambli Road, Nissing-132024, District Karnal Address-2, House No.23, Sector-8, Urban Estate, Karnal-132001 Address 3: House No. 23, Sector-8, Urban Estate, Karnal-132001 | 2. Land measuring 2K-10M detailed as under: 1- Land measuring 1K-15M being 35/79 share out of land measuring 3K-19M comprising of Kheawat No. 1185, Rectangle No. 187, Khasra Nos. 13/2(3-19), Total Kittas-1; 2- Land measuring 0K-8M being 1/4 share out of land measuring 1K-12M comprising of Kheawat No. 742/688, Khatoni No. 1186, Rectangle No. 187, Khasra Nos. 12/23(1-12), Total Kittas-1; 3- Land measuring 0K-7M being 7/69 share out of land measuring 3K-9M comprising of Kheawat No. 743/688, Khatoni No. 1187, Rectangle No. 187, Khasra Nos. 13/1(3-9), Total Kittas-1 situated at Nissing, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal vide Jamabandi for the year 2007-08 and Sale Deed No. 1510/1, Dated 05.02.2008 read with Mutation No. 9232 belonging to Subhash Chand son of Sadhu Ram son of Bul Chand, resident of Nissing, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal. | 10.01.2020            | 30.07.2020         | Rs.67,02,98,962.65 paise (Rs. Sixty seven crore two lakh ninety eight thousand nine hundred sixty two and paise sixty five only) as on 30.12.2019 with further interest and other expenses w.e.f. 01.12.2019 thereon until full payment. |

| Name of the Account / Borrower   | Description of property mortgaged  | Date of demand notice | Date of possession | Amount O/s   |
|--|--|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| 3. M/s Anand Rice Mills (Guarantor/mortgagor) through its partner Sh. Suresh Kumar S/o Sh. Sadhu Ram, Regd. Office: 1, Shambli Road, Nissing-132024, District Karnal Address 2: House No. 636, Sector-8, Urban Estate, Karnal-132001 | 3. Land measuring 32K-0M along with structure standing thereon comprising of Kheawat No. 795/737, Khatoni No. 1207, Rectangle No. 187, Khasra Nos. 18(4-12), 19(8-0), 20(8-0), 21(14-18), 22(14-18), 23(11(1-12)), Total Kittas-6 situated at village Nissing, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal vide Jamabandi for the year 2012-13 and Sale Deed No. 701/1 Dated 20.10.2000 read with Mutation Nos. 6128 belonging to Subhash Chand son of Sadhu Ram son of Bul Chand, resident of Nissing, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal. | 10.01.2020            | 30.07.2020         | Rs.67,02,98,962.65 paise (Rs. Sixty seven crore two lakh ninety eight thousand nine hundred sixty two and paise sixty five only) as on 30.12.2019 with further interest and other expenses w.e.f. 01.12.2019 thereon until full payment. |

| Name of the Account / Borrower   | Description of property mortgaged   | Date of demand notice | Date of possession | Amount O/s   |
|--|---|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| 4. Sh. Prem Chand (guarantor/mortgagor) S/o Sh. Sadhu Ram, Regd. Office: 1, Shambli Road, Nissing-132024, District Karnal Address 1: Shop No. 25, Purani Anaj Mandi, Nissing-132024, District Karnal Address 2: House No. 636, Sector-8, Urban Estate, Karnal-132001 | 4. Plot/shop no. 25 (1/3 share in plot/shop) situated at Old Anaj Mandi, Nissing, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal having an area of 88.88 square yards bounded as under: North : Shop of Musadi Lal Phool Chand; South : Shop of Suresh Kumar; East : Mandi Phari; West : House of Ram Lal son of Sadhu Ram & others With all rights appurtenant thereto vide Gift Deed No. 1179/1 dated 04.02.2003 belonging to Subhash Chand son of Sadhu Ram son of Bul Chand, resident of Nissing, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal. | 10.01.2020            | 30.07.2020         | Rs.67,02,98,962.65 paise (Rs. Sixty seven crore two lakh ninety eight thousand nine hundred sixty two and paise sixty five only) as on 30.12.2019 with further interest and other expenses w.e.f. 01.12.2019 thereon until full payment. |

| Name of the Account / Borrower  | Description of property mortgaged   | Date of demand notice | Date of possession | Amount O/s   |
|---|---|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| 5. Sh. Suresh Kumar (guarantor/mortgagor) S/o Sh. Sadhu Ram, Regd. Office: 1, Shambli Road, Nissing-132024, District Karnal Address 1: 2791, Purani Anaj Mandi, Nissing-132024, District Karnal Address 2: House No. 636, Sector-8, Urban Estate, Karnal-132001 | 5. Land measuring 36K-0M along with structures standing thereon in the name of Prem Chand son of Sadhu Ram (besides other lands owned by Prem Chand and mortgaged with the bank) being 720/4878 share out of land measuring 243K-18M comprising of Kheawat No. 251/232min, Khatoni No. 566, Rectangle No. 5, Khasra Nos. 16/21(0-2), 17(1(0-11)), 24(8-0), 25(2(6-0)), Rectangle No. 6, Khasra Nos. 21(8-7), 22(8-0), 23(8-0), 24(8-0), 25(8-2), Rectangle No. 7, Khasra Nos. 21(6-9), Rectangle No. 20, Khasra Nos. 1/1(1-12), Rectangle No. 21, Khasra Nos. 1(7-12), 2(8-0), 3(8-0), 4(8-0), 5(7-12), 6(1(2-7)), 7(7-18), 8(8-0), 9(8-0), 10(7-12), 11(7-12), 12(8-0), 13(8-0), 18(1(0-18)), 18/2(3-3), 19(7-11), 20(7-11), Rectangle No. 22, Khasra Nos. 1(7-18), 4(8-0), 6(8-0), 7(8-0), 14(8-0), 15(7-10), 17(1(1-2)), Rectangle No. 23, Khasra Nos. 5(3-0), 7(2-3), situated in village Aongadh, Tehsil and District Karnal vide Jamabandi for the year 2014-15 and Transfer Deed No. 8067/1 Dated 31.10.2014. Out of which structures are standing on part of Rectangle No. 6, Khasra Nos. 22(8-0), 23(8-0), Rectangle No. 21, Khasra Nos. 2(8-0), 3(8-0), 8(8-0), 9(8-0), 12(8-0), 13(8-0). | 10.01.2020            | 30.07.2020         | Rs.67,02,98,962.65 paise (Rs. Sixty seven crore two lakh ninety eight thousand nine hundred sixty two and paise sixty five only) as on 30.12.2019 with further interest and other expenses w.e.f. 01.12.2019 thereon until full payment. |

| Name of the Account / Borrower   | Description of property mortgaged   | Date of demand notice | Date of possession | Amount O/s   |
|--|---|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| 6. Sh. Sunil Kumar (guarantor/mortgagor) S/o Sh. Subhash Chand, Regd. Office: 1, Shambli Road, Nissing-132024, District Karnal Address 1: House No.23, Sector-8, Urban Estate, Karnal-132001 Address 2: House No. 636, Sector-8, Urban Estate, Karnal-132001 | 6. Residential house on plot No. 636 situated at Sector-8, Urban Estate, Karnal having an area of 512.36 sq. yards bounded as under: North : Road; South : Plot No. 647 P; East : Plot No. 635; West : Plot No. 637 with all rights, appurtenant thereto vide Sale Deed No. 3855/1 dated 18.08.2008 registered with SR Karnal in the name of Smt. Bimla Rani w/o Sh. Prem Chand | 10.01.2020            | 30.07.2020         | Rs.67,02,98,962.65 paise (Rs. Sixty seven crore two lakh ninety eight thousand nine hundred sixty two and paise sixty five only) as on 30.12.2019 with further interest and other expenses w.e.f. 01.12.2019 thereon until full payment. |

| Name of the Account / Borrower   | Description of property mortgaged | Date of demand notice | Date of possession   | Amount O/s |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|------------|
| 7. Land measuring 28K-02M along with structure standing thereon detailed as under: 1- land measuring 8K-0M being 160/2226 share out of land measuring 111K-6M in Kheawat No. 601/562, but is recorded in possession of land measuring 7K-8M being 160/2226 share out of land measuring 103K-6M comprising of Kheawat No. 601/562, Khatoni No. 874, Rectangle No. 46, Khasra Nos. 6(8-0), 13(8-0), 14(8-0), 15(8-0), 18(8-0), 24(8-0), Rectangle No. 70, Khasra Nos. 3(8-0), 4(8-0), Rectangle No. 185, Khasra Nos. 25/3(0-7), Rectangle No. 198, Khasra Nos. 1(8-0), 2(8-0), 10(8-0), Rectangle No. 199, Khasra Nos. 5/2(5-8), 6(8-0), 7/1(1-0), Rectangle No. 857(0-11), Total Kittas-16 situated at village Nissing, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal vide Jamabandi for the year 2012-13 and Sale deed No. 95/1 dated 29.04.2005 in the name of Anand Rice Mill. | 10.01.2020                        | 30.07.2020            | Rs.67,02,98,962.65 paise (Rs. Sixty seven crore two lakh ninety eight thousand nine hundred sixty two and paise sixty five only) as on 30.12.2019 with further interest and other expenses w.e.f. 01.12.2019 thereon until full payment. |            |

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Whereas the authorized officer of **PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a demand notice on the dates mentioned against each account and stated herein after calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

| Name of the Account / Borrower  | Description of property mortgaged  | Date of demand notice | Date of possession | Amount O/s   |
|---|--|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1. M/s Ashutosh Foods (Borrower/mortgagor) through its partner Sh. Sushil Kumar S/o Sh. Prem Chand Address 1: Karnal- Kaithal Road, Nissing-132024, District Karnal Address 2: House No. 636, Sector 8, Urban Estate, Karnal-132001 | 1. <b>Factory land &amp; building</b> measuring 41K-8M as under: 1- Land measuring 34K-16M comprising of Kheawat No. 84/80, Khatoni No. 134, Rectangle No. 35, Khasra Nos. 8/2(7-16), 9(8-0), 10/12(0-4), 11/22(0-6), 12(7-10), 13/1(7-16), 18/2(2-9), 19(0-15), Total Kittas-8 situated in village Kuchpura, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal vide Jamabandi for the 2011-12 and Sale deed No. 1525/1, dated 14.12.2004 belonging to M/s Ashutosh Foods, Nissing, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal. 2- Land measuring 6K-12M comprising of Kheawat No. 230/222, Khatoni No. 531, Rectangle No. 6, Khasra Nos. 12(0-11), 18(2-2), 19(3-19), Total Kittas-3 situated in village Aongadh, Tehsil and District Karnal vide Jamabandi for the year 2009-10 and Sale deed No. 5722/1, dated 26.08.2004 belonging to M/s Ashutosh Foods, Nissing, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal. | 11.03.2020            | 30.07.2020         | Rs.44,63,14,107.16 (Rs. Forty four crore thirty three lakh fourteen thousand one hundred seven and paise sixteen only) as on 28.02.2020 with further interest and other expenses w.e.f. 01.01.2020 thereon until full payment. |

| Name of the Account / Borrower   | Description of property mortgaged   | Date of demand notice | Date of possession | Amount O/s   |
|--|---|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| 2. M/s Ashutosh Foods (Borrower/mortgagor) through its partner Sh. Ashesh Singla S/o Sh. Prem Chand Address 1: Karnal- Kaithal Road, Nissing-132024, District Karnal Address 2: House No. 636, Sector 8, Urban Estate, Karnal-132001 | 2. Land measuring 2K-10M detailed as under: 1- Land measuring 1K-15M being 35/79 share out of land measuring 3K-19M comprising of Kheawat No. 1185, Rectangle No. 187, Khasra Nos. 13/2(3-19), Total Kittas-1; 2- Land measuring 0K-8M being 1/4 share out of land measuring 1K-12M comprising of Kheawat No. 742/688, Khatoni No. 1186, Rectangle No. 187, Khasra Nos. 12/23(1-12), Total Kittas-1; 3- Land measuring 0K-7M being 7/69 share out of land measuring 3K-9M comprising of Kheawat No. 743/688, Khatoni No. 1187, Rectangle No. 187, Khasra Nos. 13/1(3-9), Total Kittas-1 situated at Nissing, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal vide Jamabandi for the year 2007-08 and Sale Deed No. 1510/1, Dated 05.02.2008 read with Mutation No. 9232 belonging to Subhash Chand son of Sadhu Ram son of Bul Chand, resident of Nissing, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal. | 11.03.2020            | 30.07.2020         | Rs.44,63,14,107.16 (Rs. Forty four crore thirty three lakh fourteen thousand one hundred seven and paise sixteen only) as on 28.02.2020 with further interest and other expenses w.e.f. 01.01.2020 thereon until full payment. |

| Name of the Account / Borrower  | Description of property mortgaged  | Date of demand notice | Date of possession | Amount O/s   |
|---|--|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| 3. M/s Anand Rice Mills (Guarantor/mortgagor) through its partner Sh. Suresh Kumar S/o Sh. Sadhu Ram, Regd. Office: 1, Shambli Road, Nissing-132024, District Karnal Address 1: Karnal- Kaithal Road, Nissing-132024, District Karnal Address 2: House No. 636, Sector 8, Urban Estate, Karnal-132001 | 3. Land measuring 32K-0M along with structure standing thereon comprising of Kheawat No. 795/737, Khatoni No. 1207, Rectangle No. 187, Khasra Nos. 18(4-12), 19(8-0), 20(8-0), 21(14-18), 22(14-18), 23(11(1-12)), Total Kittas-6 situated at village Nissing, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal vide Jamabandi for the year 2012-13 and Sale Deed No. 701/1 Dated 20.10.2000 read with Mutation Nos. 6128 belonging to Subhash Chand son of Sadhu Ram son of Bul Chand, resident of Nissing, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal. | 11.03.2020            | 30.07.2020         | Rs.44,63,14,107.16 (Rs. Forty four crore thirty three lakh fourteen thousand one hundred seven and paise sixteen only) as on 28.02.2020 with further interest and other expenses w.e.f. 01.01.2020 thereon until full payment. |

| Name of the Account / Borrower  | Description of property mortgaged   | Date of demand notice | Date of possession | Amount O/s   |
|---|---|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| 4. M/s Anand Rice Mills (Guarantor/mortgagor) through its partner Sh. Pankaj Singla S/o Sh. Suresh Kumar, Regd. Office: 1, Shambli Road, Nissing-132024, District Karnal Address 1: Karnal- Kaithal Road, Nissing-132024, District Karnal Address 2: House No. 636, Sector 8, Urban Estate, Karnal-132001 | 4. Plot/shop no. 25 (1/3 share in plot/shop) situated at Old Anaj Mandi, Nissing, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal having an area of 88.88 square yards bounded as under: North : Shop of Musadi Lal Phool Chand; South : Shop of Suresh Kumar; East : Mandi Phari; West : House of Ram Lal son of Sadhu Ram & others With all rights appurtenant thereto vide Gift Deed No. 1179/1 dated 04.02.2003 belonging to Subhash Chand son of Sadhu Ram son of Bul Chand, resident of Nissing, Sub Tehsil Nissing, District Karnal. | 11.03.2020            | 30.07.2020         | Rs.44,63,14,107.16 (Rs. Forty four crore thirty three lakh fourteen thousand one hundred seven and paise sixteen only) as on 28.02.2020 with further interest and other expenses w.e.f. 01.01.2020 thereon until full payment. |

| Name of the Account / Borrower   | Description of property mortgaged   | Date of demand notice | Date of possession | Amount O/s   |
|--|---|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| 5. M/s Anand Rice Mills (Guarantor/mortgagor) through its partner Sh. Sunil Kumar S/o Sh. Subhash Chand, Regd. Office: 1, Shambli Road, Nissing-132024, District Karnal Address 1: Karnal- Kaithal Road, Nissing-132024, District Karnal Address 2: House No. 636, Sector 8, Urban Estate, Karnal-132001 | 5. Land measuring 36K-0M along with structures standing thereon in the name of Prem Chand son of Sadhu Ram (besides other lands owned by Prem Chand and mortgaged with the bank) being 720/4878 share out of land measuring 243K-18M comprising of Kheawat No. 251/232min, Khatoni No. 566, Rectangle No. 5, Khasra Nos. 16/21(0-2), 17(1(0-11)), 24(8-0), 25(2(6-0)), Rectangle No. 6, Khasra Nos. 21(8-7), 22(8-0), 23(8-0), 24(8-0), 25(8-2), Rectangle No. 7, Khasra Nos. 21(6-9), Rectangle No. 20, Khasra Nos. 1/1(1-12), Rectangle No. 21, Khasra Nos. 1(7-12), 2(8-0), 3(8-0), 4(8-0), 5(7-12), 6(1(2-7)), 7(7-18), 8(8-0), 9(8-0), 10(7-12), 11(7-12), 12(8-0), 13(8-0), 18(1(0-18)), 18/2(3-3), 19(7-11), 20(7-11), Rectangle No. 22, Khasra Nos. 1(7-18), 4(8-0), 6(8-0), 7(8-0), 14(8-0), 15(7-10), 17(1(1-2)), Rectangle No. 23, Khasra Nos. 5(3-0), 7(2-3), situated in village Aongadh, Tehsil and District Karnal vide Jamabandi for the year 2014-15 and Transfer Deed No. 8067/1 Dated 31.10.2014. Out of which structures are standing on part of Rectangle No. 6, Khasra Nos. 22(8-0), 23(8-0), Rectangle No. 21, Khasra Nos. 2(8-0), 3(8-0), 8(8-0), 9(8-0), 12(8-0), 13(8-0). | 11.03.2020            | 30.07.2020         | Rs.44,63,14,107.16 (Rs. Forty four crore thirty three lakh fourteen thousand one hundred seven and paise sixteen only) as on 28.02.2020 with further interest and other expenses w.e.f. 01.01.2020 thereon until full payment. |

| Name of the Account / Borrower  | Description of property mortgaged   | Date of demand notice | Date of possession | Amount O/s   |
|---|---|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| 6. Residential house on plot No. 636 situated at Sector-8, Urban Estate, Karnal having an area of 512.36 sq. yards bounded as under: North : Road; South : Plot No. 647 P; East : Plot No. 635; West : Plot No. 637 with all rights, appurtenant thereto vide Sale Deed No. 3855/1 dated 18.08.2008 registered with SR Karnal in the name of Smt. Bimla Rani w/o Sh. Prem Chand | 6. Residential house on plot No. 636 situated at Sector-8, Urban Estate, Karnal having an area of 512.36 sq. yards bounded as under: North : Road; South : Plot No. 647 P; East : Plot No. 635; West : Plot No. 637 with all rights, appurtenant thereto vide Sale Deed No. 3855/1 dated 18.08.2008 registered with SR Karnal in the name of Smt. Bimla Rani w/o Sh. Prem Chand | 11.03.2020            | 30.07.2020         | Rs.44,63,14,107.16 (Rs. Forty four crore thirty three lakh fourteen thousand one hundred seven and paise sixteen only) as on 28.02.2020 with further interest and other expenses w.e.f. 01.01.2020 thereon until full payment. |