

**MONEY 6**  
FISCAL PACKAGE MAY BE ON CARDS TO  
MAINTAIN ECONOMIC RECOVERY**WORLD 7**  
MYANMAR PARDONS  
PRISONERS**SPORT 8**  
RCB VS KKR  
IN IPL TODAY

CHANDIGARH, SUNDAY APRIL 18, 2021; PAGES 4+8 ₹3

# sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



## Kumbh ends after Modi's appeal

After PM's urge, opinion grows in favour of holding rest of Shahi Snans symbolically

PNS ■ HARIDWAR/NEW DELHI

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to keep the remaining part of Kumbh Mela symbolic considering the surging Covid-19 cases, the Juna Akhada Acharya Mahamandaleswar Swami Avdhesanand Giri on Saturday announced the formal conclusion of the Maha Kumbh for the Akhada.

Panch Dash Nam Juna Akhada is the largest of the 13 Akhadhas.

Swami Avdhesanand Giri said the remaining Shahi Snan of the Kumbh should be observed symbolically on April 27 and later tweeted that protecting the lives of Indians is "our first priority".

"Considering the rising threat of Covid-19, we have formally immersed the various deities invoked for the Kumbh Mela," he said.

Earlier in a tweet in Hindi, the PM said, "I prayed that two 'Shahi Snan' have taken place and Kumbh (participation) should now be kept symbolic. This will boost the fight against this crisis."

Later, Modi thanks all the sants for cooperation with the administration and expressed his gratitude for their gesture.

Thousands of Kumbh visitors have tasted Covid-19 positives and dozens of seers have



Har Ki Pauri Ghat wears a deserted look during Kumbh Mela 2021 following a surge in Covid-19 cases in Haridwar on Saturday

PTI

succumbed to the virus during the last two weeks inviting both domestic and international outrage for allowing such massive gathering at the time when the second wave of Covid-19 was spreading like wildfire across the country.

Earlier, addressing the media here, Giri said the PM had telephoned him to enquire about the Kumbh Mela and the health of the seers. The PM had also requested that since the main Shahi Snans have concluded, the remaining Kumbh should be observed symbolically. The Juna Akhada head said he would request devotees from across the nation to visit Haridwar only in small numbers, adding that the remaining Shahi Snan will be observed

only symbolically.

The remaining Snans are to be observed mainly by the Bairagi Akhadhas. Earlier, the Niranjani Akhada had asked its Sadhus to leave for their respective destinations on April 17 considering the Covid surge. The Anand Akhada had also supported this view.

A majority of the 48.51 lakh people who took part in the last two royal baths (Shahi Snan) held on the occasion of Somwati Amavasya on April 12 and Mesh Sankranti on April 14 were seen openly violating Covid norms like face masks and social distancing.

The Kumbh has already been shortened this year to just one month from April 1 to 30 due to the pandemic.

## Covid test, quarantine to welcome returning devotees back home

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The ordeal of Covid-19 test and quarantine awaits thousands of devotees who are returning home after attending the Maha Kumbh at Haridwar. As India grapples with a devastating second wave of the coronavirus and States imposing lockdown, several States and UTs, including Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Delhi and Gujarat, have made Covid-19 test mandatory for Kumbh returnees. Some States are also keeping the returnees in mandatory quarantine.

Thousands of Kumbh visitors and hundreds of "sadhus" who attended Kumbh Mela in Haridwar have tested positive for the coronavirus disease. On Saturday alone, 175 "sadhus" who attended Kumbh Mela have been found infected from coronavirus.

Gujarat on Saturday declared that all devotees returning to the State from Kumbh Mela will have to undergo a mandatory RT-PCR test before they are allowed to enter their respective cities and villages.

Gujarat Chief Minister



Vijay Rupani said those found infected will be isolated for 14 days.

Maharashtra Minister Anil Parab has announced those coming into the State from Kumbh Mela will be quarantined. Nasik district administration is also taking necessary steps for quarantining those coming from Kumbh.

Earlier, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) mayor Kishori Pednekar claimed on Saturday that the devotees returning from the Kumbh Mela will distribute coronavirus like "Prasad" and said they should be quarantined "at their own cost" on their arrival.

The Madhya Pradesh Government has issued order to put those returning from Kumbh in quarantine or self-isolation.

## 10 lakh new cases in just 7 days in India

**Record over 2.6L cases in a day; Delhi, Maha too see highest rise**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India added nearly 10 lakh cases in just seven days ending April 17 as the country recorded over 2.6 lakh new Covid-19 infections and a record 1,493 deaths during the last 24 hours on Saturday.

The addition of nearly 25,000 new cases over the previous day count amounts to a rise of nearly 10 per cent, which shows that the growth of Covid-19 has more than doubled during the last two weeks.

Maharashtra, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh are registering newer peaks and the situation remaining equally grim in the rest of the country.

The country had 1.52 lakh daily cases on April 10 when the death count stood at 838. A relative comparison shows that the death rate is steadily climbing up vis-a-vis new infections.

Amid the alarming rise in new infections and deaths, the country is battling a paucity of hospital beds, oxygen supply, ventilators, and life-safe antiviral drug Remdesivir. A major-



Health workers and family members carry the body of a patient who died of Covid-19 for cremation amid surge in coronavirus cases in Jammu on Saturday

PTI

ity of the State have also complained of a shortage of vaccines and shut down several vaccination centres.

Several States have belatedly imposed lockdown restriction to tackle the surge, but it is too early to see if these are going to work effectively at this stage on the ground.

Delhi and Maharashtra recorded their biggest single-day rise in coronavirus cases since the beginning of the pandemic in January 2020. The national Capital registered over 24,375 new cases, taking its tally to 8,27,998, while Maharashtra's count rose to 3,77,707 with 67,123 new infections.

The death count in Delhi rose to 11,960 with 167 new fatalities on Saturday.

### Covid-19 IN INDIA

<b>TOTAL CASES:</b>	<b>1,47,82,461</b> (+2,60,533)
<b>DEATHS:</b>	<b>1,77,168</b> (+1,493)
<b>RECOVERED:</b>	<b>1,28,03,791</b> (+1,36,853)
<b>ACTIVE:</b>	<b>17,95,278</b>
<b>MAHARASHTRA:</b>	<b>37,70,707</b>
<b>KERALA:</b>	<b>12,21,168</b>
<b>KARNATAKA:</b>	<b>11,41,998</b>
<b>TAMIL NADU:</b>	<b>9,80,728</b>
<b>DELHI:</b>	<b>8,27,998</b> (+24,375)

## Maha threatens to seize Remdesivir exporting stocks

**CM complains of shortage of liquid oxygen, anti-viral drug**

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After a bitter stand-off over the alleged discrimination in the distribution of vaccines, the Maharashtra Government on Saturday flagged the shortage of liquid medical oxygen and Remdesivir in the State and even threatened to seize the stocks of Remdesivir from the exporting firms and supply them to the needy people.

On a day when Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray charged that he could not speak to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the immediate requirement of liquid medical oxygen and Remdesivir vials as the latter was pre-occupied with West

Bengal Assembly elections, senior Minister Nawab Malik accused the Modi Government of meting out "step motherly" treatment to the State over the supply of Remdesivir vials.

Not to be outdone, Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal launched a virulent attack on Uddhav whom he accused of indulging in "petty politics" and said "he (the Chief Minister) needs to stop his daily dose of shameless politics and take responsibility."

Earlier in the day, Uddhav said, "Yesterday evening, I dialled him (Modi) but I could not speak to him as he was busy in West Bengal elections." Uddhav said he wanted to discuss the issue of shortage of liquid medical oxygen and Remdesivir injection vials, both life-savers in case of critical Covid-19 cases.

He, however, said the State Government was receiving cooperation from the Centre.

## Remdesivir price drastically cut on Govt intervention

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of increasing demand for anti-viral drug Remdesivir from across the States, the Centre on Saturday urged the injection makers to slash its price considerably. The Union Health Ministry in its "Clinical Management Protocols for Covid-19" has recommended the use of Remdesivir in patients in the moderate stages of the illness.

According to a statement from the Government, the Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers, Department of Pharmaceuticals, NPPA - Advisor (Costs) NI Chowdhury on Saturday ordered all pharma companies to comply with the revised norms with immediate and retrospective effect.

Pharmaceutical companies have reduced the price from 25 per cent to up to 68 per cent.

According to the details shared by the NPPA, Cadila



Healthcare has reduced the price of its REMDAC injection to ₹899 from ₹2,800 earlier.

Similarly, Syngene International has cut the price of its brand RemWin to ₹2,450 from ₹3,950 earlier. Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Laboratories has cut the price of REDYX, which used to cost ₹5,400 earlier to ₹2,700 now. Similarly, Cipla has reduced price of its CIPREMI brand to ₹3,000 from ₹4,000 earlier.

Jubilant Generics has cut the price of its remdesivir brand to ₹3,400 from ₹4,700 earlier.

## Delhi gasping for oxygen: CM City logs 24,375 cases in 24 hrs; Kejriwal seeks Centre's help

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Terming the situation serious in the national Capital, Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said, "In the last 24 hours, there have been around 24,000 cases. A day before, there was around 19,000 cases. So, the tally spiked only in a matter of 24 hours."

The Delhi Chief Minister said he has spoken to Union Health Minister about the extreme shortage of oxygen beds in Delhi, and added that in November last year, the Central Government allotted the Delhi Government 4,100 beds at a peak of 8,500 cases, however, this time, they have only provided 1,800 beds, even after this wave being three times more fatal than the previous ones.

"Delhi is facing a shortage of oxygen, Remdesivir, and Tocilizumab, which must be made available by the Central Government for adequate treatment of corona patients," Kejriwal said.

Meanwhile, the weekend curfew aimed at breaking the chain of spiralling coronavirus



A dog trots along a deserted street during a weekend lockdown in New Delhi on Saturday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

infections got mixed reactions with many stepping out of their houses for going to offices or market places for daily chores in day time, however by evening there was some semblance of lockdown.

Roads, markets and buses across Delhi were largely empty

from Saturday morning, as the weekend curfew began in the city. Apart from essential service providers working in pharmacies, grocery shops, hospitals, some restaurants, police stations, and banks, a majority of the National Capital's residents appeared to have

stayed at home.

Police pickets could be seen around the city with police personnel and officials deployed, checking people having valid movement passes and issuing challan to those not following the guidelines.

### CAPSULE

**BENGAL: 78.09% POLLING AMID SPORADIC VIOLENCE**



**Kolkata:** West Bengal recorded over 78 per cent turnout in the fifth phase of its Assembly poll amid incidents of violence and attack on a candidate on Saturday after the bloodshed in the previous round of election. An EC official said around 78.09 per cent of the 1.13 crore voters exercised their franchise till 5 pm in 45 seats.

**POPULAR TAMIL COMEDIAN VIVEKH DIES**

**Chennai:** Popular Tamil comedian Vivekh who won the hearts of millions of people by his sharp wit and noted for his social work, promoting environmental protection died on Saturday.

## 4 Sikhs among 8 killed in mass shooting in US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The distraught families of Indian-Americans working at a FedEx facility in the US state of Indiana have expressed their anger, fear and anxiety in the aftermath of the latest mass shooting incident in the country that killed eight people, including four Sikhs.

Brandon Scott Hole, 19, a former employee at the facility in Indianapolis, carried out the mass shooting on late Thursday before allegedly committing suicide.

About 90 per cent of the workers at the FedEx delivery service facility are said to be Indian-Americans, mostly from the Sikh community.

On Friday night, the Marion County Coroner's Office and Indianapolis



A body is taken from the scene where multiple people were shot at a FedEx Ground facility in Indianapolis on Friday

AP

Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) released the names of the victims: Amarjeet Johal (66), Jasvinder Kaur (64), Amarjit Skhon (48) and Jasvinder Singh (68). The

first three deceased are women. Four others were Karli Smith (19), Samaria Blackwell (19), Matthew R.

Alexander (32) and John Weisert (74).

Haryana records highest single-day spike of 7,717 infections

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

There was no let-up in the Covid-19 surge in Haryana on Saturday as the State reported a record 7,717 new cases of the disease which took its cumulative infection tally to 3,49,794.

Thirty two more fatalities due to the viral disease were reported in the State in a span of 24 hours, pushing its overall death toll to 3,386, according to a health department bulletin. Of the fresh cases, Gurugram, the worst-hit district in the state, accounted for 2,549, its highest single-day spike so far.

Among other districts that reported a big spike are Faridabad (987), Karnal (477), Sonapat (646), Panchkula (349), Hisar (507), Ambala (173), Kurukshetra (201) and Sirsa (231), the bulletin said.

**Detailed report on P3**

## Lalu to walk free after serving half fodder sentence

Jharkhand HC grants bail in Dumka treasury case; release from jail expected tomorrow

MRITUANJAY KUMAR ■ RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court on Saturday granted bail to former Bihar Chief Minister and RJD Chief Lalu Prasad in a fodder scam case involving illegal withdrawal of funds from Dumka treasury, paying his release from jail on completion of half the sentence period. Lalu is presently being treated at AIIMS, Delhi.

The court granted bail to Lalu on bail bond of ₹5 lakh and a personal bond of ₹1 lakh. Lalu's lawyer Devarshi Mandal told PTI that they will move Special CBI court in



Ranchi after it opens on Monday to seek his release following High Court order.

Explaining the release procedure, Mandal said, they have sent an application to Lalu for his signature which will be submitted to the CBI court here on Monday along with the High Court order.

Mandal said the court has granted bail to him on the basis of depositing a bond of ₹5 lakh and a personal bond of ₹1 lakh. He has also been asked to submit his passport and has been

asked not to change his phone number and address. This case is related to RC-38A/96 in connection with the illegal withdrawal from Dumka treasury. There is a case of illegal withdrawal of about ₹3.13 crore.

Mandal said all the formalities are expected to be completed expeditiously and the release in all probability will happen on Monday. Lalu will be freed after 39 months and 25 days of incarceration.

Earlier, taking the plea of the CBI as true, Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh had rejected Lalu's bail plea. Lalu had then once again requested for bail from the Jharkhand High Court.

Lalu was serving jail sentences in four cases of fodder scam. Recently, Lalu's bail plea was filed in the High Court on the basis of completing half of the sentence.



## HOMETHEATRE

# Gripping tale of terror from young eyes

**UTOYA: JULY 22**  
**Norwegian with English subtitles &PriveHD**  
**\*ing: Andrea Berntzen, Aleksander Holmen, Solveig Koløen Birkeland**  
**Rated: 6/10**

There will always be a debate on whether it is appropriate to put out mounts of terror attacks and the impact it has on the victims. Some argue it is glorifying the terrorist in some way. Others want documentation. Over and above this debate, *Utoya* is a Norwegian mount which leaves no stone unturned to look at the terror killing on an otherwise peaceful island of Utoya in Norway executed by a home grown extreme Right group. It was Norway's 26/11 with many left dead quite without premise. "It is the safest island on Earth, mom" one of the main protagonists says in the opening sequence of this film. The environs she is walking through are green, serene and enchanting which, by the way, is a complete contrast to what the film otherwise centres on with dogged starkness throwing up the real impact of a terror attack and its aftermath on any population in any part of the world.



Here, the movie pans out through the eyes of youngsters and the terrorist is given a grand go-by, being allowed to visit the screen only in pithy scenes with almost an abstract presence to give the audience some shape of the orchestrator. An English version of this film is all set to premiere on Netflix and that promises to take over in starkness, blood and gore from Utoya. For now, however, *Utoya* is a powerful story told candidly

even though the director could be faulted for what many may perceive as a story exploiting grim reality to make some noise on the small screen. Nevertheless, a gripping tale which should get a go by because of subtitles.



# A BLACK CAPTAIN AMERICA?

**FALCON AND THE WINTER SOLDIER**  
**Episode 5**  
**Disney+Hotstar**  
**\*ing: Sebastian Stan, Anthony Mackie, Wyatt Russell, Erin Kellyman, Danny Ramirez, Emily VanCamp**  
**Rated: 6/10**

Those who have been following the miniseries would know how episode 4 ended — the Shield — all bloodied. The fallout is felt by the Falcon and Winter Soldier. The Shield, for now is back with Sam just how Steve Rogers had wanted. So are we looking at yet another Captain America? A Black Captain America? Like Isaiah Bradley played by Carl Lumbly says— no self-respecting Black will take up the job. With John Walker stripped of all his duties and the title of Captain America, there is a new person who

makes an entry — Contessa Valentina Allegra de Fontaine. Who is she and what is the agenda? Well, maybe we will get to see more of Walker in episode 6. Meanwhile, Flag Smashers have upped their ante and are preparing for the final count down. Will they succeed? Will the Falcon and Winter Soldier be able to prevent Karli from going full guns ahead? Given that death hangs over Falcon's head, things will come full circle next time. The only thing missing here is the awe-inspiring action. In almost all the episodes, till now, they have been far between. The series has Falcon, Winter Soldier and the now redundant Captain America and yet the action is way below on the makers list. That boggles the mind and wonders if it has all been saved for episode 6 for the wow factor. Definitely something that Avengers fans will be looking forward to.

— Shalini Saksena

## films & tv 02

## Plan Your Day

Cold Brew Day is on April 20. SUNDAY PIONEER brings you recipes that will surely give you chills without costing too heavy on your pocket

### COLDBREW POPSICLES WITH FRESH MINT

**Ingredients:**  
■ half and half  
■ 1 1/2 cups coffee beans  
■ 2-4 tablespoons brown sugar  
■ Mint leaves  
**Directions:**  
■ Grind the coffee beans. Place the grounds in a large pitcher or carafe. Add three cups of cold water and stir to combine. Cover and let steep for 12-24 hours.  
■ Strain the coffee and add 2-4 tablespoons brown sugar. Stir to combine.  
■ Place a few torn mint leaves into each popsicle mold and top with a few tablespoons of half and half. Freeze for 15-20 minutes, until slightly firm.  
■ Insert popsicle sticks into each mold and freeze for another 20 minutes until set.  
■ Remove the pops from the freezer and top with sweetened



coffee. Freeze until firm, 30-40 minutes. Enjoy!  
**Half and half:** It's that simple. Half whole milk, half heavy cream. The texture is thicker and more luscious than milk, but less decadent and rich than cream.

### CARAMEL SURPRISE COLD BREW



**Ingredients:**  
■1-2 cups Coldbrew  
■Handful of ice  
■1-2 tablespoons coconut milk  
■1-2 teaspoons caramel syrup  
■Pinch of sweetener of choice (if desired)  
**Directions:**  
■You can prepare coldbrew at home using French press or in a mason jar using muslin cloth, important is perfect coffee blend for your coldbrew. Keep prepared cold brew coffee in a pitcher or carafe in the refrigerator.  
■Pour one cup (eight-ounces) of coffee into a mug, cup or glass jar filled with ice. Stir in coconut milk and caramel syrup. Add sweetener, if desired. Serve immediately.  
Courtesy: Girish Chandra, Beverage Training Manager, Lavazza India

## TELLY TALE

### IT'S TIME FOR MAHASANGAM



COLORS' Mahasangam episodes have always raised the bar of entertainment with its complete package of drama and musical performances. One such blast of entertainment is the upcoming *Mahasangam* episode where the cast of *Choti Sarraamni* and *Udaariyaan* will share a screen during Baisakhi celebrations. Tejo (played by Priyanka Chaudhary) and Jasmine (played by Isha Malviya) will invite Jass even after knowing that there is stress going on in Virk family due to Fateh's decision of going to Canada. The celebration will be sparked with singer B Praak's presence as he will sing some of his hit song *Teri Mitti from Kesari* and also his recently launched soulful track, *Baarish Ki Jaaye*.

In the special episode, Fateh (played by Ankit Gupta) will have his share of dramatic moments as he will get to know that the woman he saved and admitted to the hospital is awake and turns out to be Meher! (played by Nimit Kaur Ahluwalia). In a dramatic turn of events, Fateh will also come face to face with Sarabjit (played by Avinesh Rekh). Will he be able to bring together Meher and Sarab?

Singer B Praak, who was a part of the dramatic *Mahasangam* episode said: "I am excited to shoot here in Punjab with the cast of two most relevant show. *Choti Sarraamni* is my family's favorite and *Udaariyaan*'s concept strongly resonates with each one of us. The episode is going to be full of drama, entertainment and of course our beautiful new music track, *Baarish Ki Jaaye*. I had a lot of fun shooting with the cast of the show. They are fun, energetic, and extremely talented."

#### HERO TASTES DEFEAT

Sony SAB's *Hero* — *Gayab Mode On* will take a shocking turn with Dansh (Manish Wadhwa) defeating Hero (Abhishek Nigam) and stands triumphant. The upcoming episodes will send shock-waves to the viewers, with Hero assumed to be dead. At the beginning of the War of Worlds, our beloved Hero is vanquished by Dansh. The intense battle between the two is set to take

the viewers on a roller coaster ride and keep them on the edge of their seats.

With Rocky (Keshav Sadhna) uniting with Dansh to defeat Hero, the forces of the aliens get more robust, and it becomes difficult for Hero to fight them single-handedly. Dansh threatening to destroy the planet and cause harm to human beings leads to the battle of the War of Worlds. Dansh launches his attack with the help of Rocky and with each passing moment, it gets tricky for Hero to fight Dansh and protect his ring simultaneously. The battle gets fiercer, leading to the heartbreaking moment of Dansh beating Hero and conquering the magical ring. Hero's identity as Veer is exposed to Dansh and Zara simultaneously. Dansh is celebrating after winning over Hero and gaining the magical ring. But little does he know what's in store and what will this end of Hero lead to?



Is Veer Nanda aka Hero dead? What will happen next?

Manish Wadhwa, essaying the role of Dansh, said: "Dansh is very strong and an intense character. He never gives up and attacks back with force. The experience of shooting for this fight sequence has been amazing and it's fun to work with Abhishek. He is very hardworking and we both share great timing. Dansh is happy and very delighted with getting hold of the ring, unaware of what will happen next. So, stay tuned to witness exciting twists and turns on the show and join us on this thrilling journey!"

Abhishek Nigam, essaying the role of Hero, said: "This is the most intense fight sequence we have shot on the show so far and I was so much into the character that I could feel the same energy. Hero was putting in all the efforts to save the world and protect his ring, but he chooses his loss so that he can save the world. It was a learning experience while shooting for this sequence with Manish Sir. This sequence has come out really well and it will take the viewers on a thrilling never seen before ride. So, stay tuned and don't miss the fun!"

#### KUMKUM BHAGYA TURNS SEVEN

Zee TV's popular fiction show, *Kumkum Bhagya* has been an audience favourite ever since it was launched in 2014. Its intriguing

plot and the authentic portrayal of relatable characters like Abhi (Shabbir Ahluwalia), Pragma (Sriti Jha), Rhea (Pooja Banerjee), Ranbir (Krishna Kaul) and Prachi (Mugdha Chapekar) have kept the audience entertained throughout these past seven years and has helped the show gain countless fans across the globe. Produced by Television's czarina Ekta Kapoor, *Kumkum Bhagya* has witnessed roaring success on the viewership charts every year and has won more than 50 awards till date. But it looks like there is no stopping the show even as the show completed seven years on April 15.

The family drama that explores and brings a range of emotions as well as the deepest intricacies of human relationships has kept the viewers hooked all this while through several interesting twists and turns in its storyline! In fact, the show has also managed to successfully reinstate the belief that opposites do attract by showcasing how despite having contrasting personalities, its lead protagonists are inseparable.

As Kumkum Bhagya completes seven glorious years, Shabir Ahluwalia who plays the role of Abhi got nostalgic and said: "It is not just a show, but a feeling for me. I've been associated with it for seven years now, but it doesn't feel like it's been so long. I must say that all these years have been a breeze and the entire unit including the technicians and actors are like a family for me. Generally, you hear people saying this when the show is coming to an end, but our case is different. When you're around the same people for seven years, you know them even better, as you have seen them at their best and their worst. I have to add that the writers and the creative team are fantastic, and they've held all of us together. I've been associated with the producers, Balaji Telefilms for nearly two decades and they are like a family to me. As we complete seven years, I would like to say Thank You Ekta for believing in me, Shobha aunty for being there always and Jeetu uncle, you're a rockstar and always guide us for the best. I also want to thank Zee TV for giving us such a great platform to showcase *Kumkum Bhagya*. Last but not the most important, *Kumkum Bhagya* is what it is today because of all our fans, so thank you so much to all."



# ‘I don’t regret my choices’

KUNAL JAISINGH, who plays Veer in SET's Kyun Utthe Dil Chhod Aaye, tells MUSBA HASHMI the attraction of playing the role, how it has become his priority and his story of giving endless auditions

■ **What is your role in Kyun Utthe Dil Chhod Aaye?**

I play Veer, a self-destructive and brooding person who is addicted to alcohol. I am paired opposite Gracy, who plays Amrit in the show. I will be donning a different look. I am extremely excited to be a part of this show and to work with such a lovely production house.

■ **What made you take up the role?**

The show offers beautiful love stories, many action scenes and gives a bit of knowledge to all the viewers about how people's suffering during the partition. Earlier the show managed to depict the pain and sorrow of 1947 perfectly. Now with a leap of four years, the makers are showing the story of the 1951 era and have planned many new things for the viewers. The concept of the show is unique and the overall plot is not only interesting, but intense and heart-wrenching for me. Other than that, I wanted to be a part of the show which stands out from all the other shows I have done in the past.

■ **Did you have any apprehensions?**

No, not at all. I knew I was going to be part of this story post leap. I was actually excited for it. With a lot of twists and turns ahead in the show, this will be a good start for me.

■ **From Mann Kee Awaaz Pratigya to Kyun Utthe Dil... how has the journey been for you?**

It has been a great one. I have been able to grow and learn so much in every role I have played. Every character I essayed holds a special place in my heart because with each character my audience and my fans started loving me more. Not only that, I learnt something from every character I played. Those were not only roles, but life lessons. My only goal during all these years has been to make sure that the audience understands the actions and emotions of the characters I play.

■ **Omkara Singh Oberoi was a much loved character...**

Each show has his trials and a story to tell. *Ishqbaaz* was focused on the story of three brothers, and India's first spin-off was *Dil Boley Oberoi*. When it comes to Omkara

**I was always passionate about my career, but getting into this space has been difficult, given the fact that the City of Dreams has a lot to offer but the hard way**



he was an artist who was the one balancing factor between the brothers and the family. Omkara has been a special character for me. It earned me a lot of love and support from my fans. I am grateful for all that. The character will always be valuable to me. I feel blessed and lucky and I never thought it would be so popular. The team, of course, was great. We are still like a family. We all have encouraged each other to perform at our best and that was visible in the show.

■ **How did acting happen?**

I was always passionate about my career, but getting into this space has been difficult, given the fact that the City of Dreams has a lot to offer but the hard way. I have been a part of endless auditions ever since I have come here. I have even stood in an audition line for more than 10 hours. This industry has offered me a platform to project my skills and I am truly humbled by the fact that today I am getting to do that. My experience in the industry has been a roller coaster ride with a lot of ups and downs, but I have learnt that at the end of it, it's all worth it.

■ **Do you have any regrets?**

Till date, I don't regret anything I have done in life. If I talk about my journey in the industry, it has been beautiful. None of the characters that I have played overlaps each other. We should not regret anything. After all, we do choose the opportunities that we think is right at that time. How things will unfold is not in anyone's hands. Regrets just make you sad and I don't want to feel sad for the choices that I have made. I have surely mellowed with time. I might not do the roles now which I did earlier, but when I look back then, I was proud of what I was doing and will always be.

■ **What is there in the pipeline?**

My pipeline is full with the current show that I am doing. It is my only priority. I am focused and would like to be loyal to it. I believe to make one's work stand out one should focus on a single thing at a time. That is the reason I prefer not to juggle projects.



## COVID SCARE IN THE REGION

# Haryana records highest single-day spike of 7,717 infections

32 MORE DEAD

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

There was no let-up in the Covid-19 surge in Haryana on Saturday as the State reported a record 7717 new cases of the disease which took its cumulative infection tally to 3,49,794.

Thirty two more fatalities due to the viral disease were reported in the State in a span of 24 hours, pushing its overall death toll to 3,386, according to a health department bulletin.

Of the fresh cases, Gurugram, the worst-hit district in the state, accounted for 2549, its highest single-day spike so far. Among other districts that reported a big spike are Faridabad (987), Karnal (477), Sonapat (646), Panchkula (349), Hisar (507), Ambala (173), Kurukshetra (201) and Sirsa (231), the bulletin said.

On Friday and Wednesday, the State had recorded 6277 and 5858 coronavirus cases

respectively.

Among the latest deaths, five each were from Faridabad and Panipat, three were from Hisar, Karnal, Rohtak and two each from Gurugram, Ambala, Panchkula, Palwal and Jind. One each from Fatehabad, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra districts.

The number of active Covid-19 cases in Haryana stands at 38558. So far, 3,07,850 people have recovered from the disease, and the state has a recovery rate of 88.01 per cent, the bulletin said.

Amid rising COVID-19 cases in the State, the Haryana government has decided to allow officials equal to the rank of under secretary or below to work from home and restrict their physical attendance in offices to 50 per cent. A letter in this regard has been issued by the Chief Secretary's office.

Officers of the level of deputy secretary, equivalent and above are to attend offices on a regular basis, it said. According to the order, rosters



for employees' attendance are to be prepared by divisional and wing heads and if required, they can call for more than 50 per cent physical attendance on administrative grounds. Officials who do not attend office on a particular day will make themselves available on phone and other electronic means of communication at all times from their residence and work from home, it said.

**PUNJAB REPORTS HIGHEST SINGLE-DAY SPIKE OF 4498 CASES, 64 MORE DIE**  
Punjab's daily Covid-19 cases

surged to a record high of 4498 on Saturday, taking the State's cumulative tally to 2,95,138, according to a medical bulletin.

The state's previous biggest jump of 4333 Covid-19 cases was reported on April 12. Punjab's death toll climbed to 7834 as 64 more people succumbed to the disease, the bulletin said. The number of active cases increased to 32499. There are 46 critical patients who are on ventilator support while 401 are on oxygen support, it said.

Ludhiana reported the

highest number of fresh cases at 835, followed by 790 in SAS Nagar, 449 in Jalandhar, 372 in Patiala and 352 in Amritsar. Of the latest fatalities, 10 were reported from SAS Nagar, seven from Patiala, six each were reported from Amritsar, Ludhiana and Gurudaspur; four each from Tarn Taran and Bathinda.

A total of 2615 coronavirus patients were discharged after they recovered from the infection, taking the total number of cured persons to 2,54,805. So far, 65,61, 028 samples have been collected for testing in the state, it added.

**431 CASES, 2 DEATHS IN CHANDIGARH**

Chandigarh on Saturday reported two deaths and 431 cases of coronavirus, taking the infection count to 33,309 in the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana. It had on Friday recorded 481 Covid-19 cases, the highest single-day since global pandemic struck. Last year, on September 13, Chandigarh logged 449 cases.

With two deaths, so far, 410 people have died from the infection in the union territory, according to a medical bulletin. The number of active cases stood at 3414. A total of 438 patients were discharged after they recovered from the infection, taking the number of cured persons to 29,485. A total of 3,58,865 samples have been taken for testing so far.

**12 DEATHS, 1,392 NEW CASES IN HIMACHAL**

The COVID-19 death toll in Himachal Pradesh rose to 1,167 on Saturday with 12 more fatalities, while 1,392 new cases took the infection count to 75,587, an official said. The active cases in the state climbed to 8,444, the official said.

Special Health Secretary Nipun Jindal said three people each died in Shimla and Kangra, two in Solan and one each in Sirmour, Mandi, Kullu and Lahaul-Spiti districts. Meanwhile, 647 people recovered from the disease in the past 24 hours, he added.



Due to the weekend lockdown imposed by Chandigarh Administration, the popular tourist place of Sukhna Lake remained deserted and the crowded Sector 22 Market remained closed on Saturday



T Sharma | Pioneer Photo

## INBRIEF

### SONU SOOD INTERACTS WITH WINNERS OF 'ELECTION STAR'

**Chandigarh:** Bollywood actor and Punjab State election icon Sonu Sood interacted with the winning duo of the 'Election Star' initiative launched by the Office of Chief Electoral Officer, (CEO), Punjab through a Facebook live event. 'Election Star' initiative was announced by the office of CEO, Punjab on the occasion of National Voters' Day (NVD) - 2021 on January 25 for campus ambassadors in the Colleges/Universities to encourage them to get pro-actively involved with election related activities and strengthen the Indian democracy. Election Commission of India launched a brand new facility of facilitating e-EPIC (electronic Electoral Photo Identity Card) which could be downloaded and printed initially by the first time voters and subsequently by all eligible voters. To popularise this facility amongst youth, Office of CEO Punjab announced the 'Election Star' title to be awarded for getting maximum number of e-epic downloads and a live interaction with State Icon Sonu Sood. In the first round, the contest has been adjudged from February 16 to March 15. A team of siblings duo of Ranshi and Yuvraj Singh of Mehar Chand Polytechnic College, Jalandhar were jointly declared first 'Election Star' for getting a maximum of 306 e-EPICs downloaded.

### 'BATHINDA FORT' RELEASED ON WORLD HERITAGE DAY

**Chandigarh:** To inspire the younger generation of Punjab about the glorious historical and cultural heritage of the State, senior Advisor to Chief Minister, Punjab Lt. Gen. T.S Shergill, on Saturday released the Documentary Film titled, 'The Bathinda Fort' in online mode on worldwide scale in the presence of Director of the film Harpreet Sandhu. The Senior Advisor said that the documentary film depicts Bathinda Fort, the magnificent historic monument of National importance and the oldest surviving fort in India built around the Sixth century. He said that this fort has historical relevance as it is related to the first woman Empress of India Razia Sultan, who was kept as a prisoner in this fort, later she escaped by jumping from a balcony. Lt Gen. Shergill said this Fort is also known as Govindgarh Fort, having a historical relevance with Tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, who visited this fort in the year 1705. After watching the preview of the documentary film, urged people of Punjab to watch this showcasing the glimpse of this Heritage Site of Punjab and said that, this documentary will definitely help in boosting Punjab tourism as most of people are still unaware of this heritage site in Bathinda.

### HP GUV TAKES SECOND DOSE OF COVID-19 VACCINE



**Shimla:** Himachal Governor Bandaru Dattatraya was administered the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Shimla on Saturday. He was administered the Covishield vaccine under the supervision of Principal Dr. Rajneesh Pathania. Later, the Governor appealed to the people to take the vaccine as a precautionary measure to save themselves from coronavirus. He said that every person above the age of 45 should compulsorily go in for the vaccination in order to make India Covid-19 free. The Governor also asked people to follow the rules and instructions given by the state government such as hand hygiene, wearing facemasks and maintaining physical distancing.

## Haryana Deputy CM urges PM to resume talks with protesting farmers

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and urged him to resume talks with the farmers protesting the Centre's three farm laws.

In his letter, Chautala said a team of three to four cabinet ministers may restart discussion with the farmers who have been camping at the Delhi borders for over 100 days. "I would like to bring to your kind attention that our 'Annadattas' are on roads at Delhi border agitating in respect of newly enacted three farm laws of the Central government. It is a matter of concern that such agitation is going on for more than hundred days," Chautala wrote in the letter.

Chautala said he believes every problem has a solution by way of mutual discussions. "The earlier discussion between the central govern-

ment and farmers' union brought a few solutions to the concerns raised by Samyukt Morcha. "In this regard, a team consisting of three to four senior cabinet ministers may lead the delegation for resuming talks with farmers so as to bring an amicable conclusion in this issue," he wrote in his letter dated April 15.

The deputy chief minister wrote the letter days after state's home minister Anil Vij's mis-sive to Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, saying talks with peasants should be resumed to resolve the issue. Vij had said he was concerned as a large number of farmers were sitting on Haryana's borders amid a surge in COVID-19 cases in the state.

Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar too has appealed to the farmers to end their agitation due to the increase in the number of Covid cases in the state.

# 90% of Covid patients in Himachal in home isolation: CM

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Saturday said over 90 per cent of the Covid patients are under home isolation in the state.

Presiding over a virtual review meeting of Covid-19 situation in Sirmour district from Nalagarh, he said special thrust must be laid on increasing the number of tests to detect covid-19 patients besides strengthening the mechanism of home isolation in the State.

He said that doctors must ensure proper treatment and regular monitoring of the patients under home isolation, adding that the health department must regularly monitor health parameters of the patients under home isolation. He said that elected representatives of the panchayati raj institutions must also be involved to keep a watch on the health conditions of those under home isolation.

Thakur said that the industrialists of Kala Amb and Poanta Sahib areas must be asked to ensure that the workers in their units strictly follow the SoPs and guidelines issued by the State Government to check the spread of this virus. He said that focus should be laid on contact tracing of the covid-19 positive patients.

He said that this would go a long way in timely detection of covid-19 cases in the State. He said that oxygenated bed capacity in the district should also be increased. He said that the shopkeepers must also ensure to strictly follow 'No Mask, No Service' policy to check the spread of coronavirus.

The Chief Minister said that the district administration must also ensure the social functions such as marriages etc. must strictly follow the maximum limit prescribed for such events. He said that action, if required, could be taken against the violators. He said that dis-



trict administration must also ensure that adequate arrangements be made to meet out the demand in case of any major surge in the cases.

He said that people must be motivated to use face masks and hand sanitizers and also avoid overcrowding in public places and that effective regulation of devotees must also be ensured in temples and other religious places to avoid overcrowding.

Secretary Health Amitabh

Awasthi said that the pace of vaccination must be increased as this was an effective tool to protect ourselves from this virus. He said that adequate doctors, para medical staff and equipment would be provided in all the hospitals in the district. He said that adequate stock of medicines and other equipment must be ensured by the Chief Medical Officers in their respective districts to meet any eventuality. He said that all the private hospitals

must be asked to be prepared as their services may be required in case of any eventuality.

Deputy Commissioner Sirmour R.K. Pruthi, participating in the meeting virtually from Nahan of Sirmour district, said that there has been a sharp surge in the number of Covid-19 cases in the district. He said that out of the total 598 active cases, about 500 were from industrial areas of Kala Amb and Poanta Sahib.

He has that out of these about 580 patients were under home isolation.

He said that the biggest cause of concern was the increase in the number of cases in rural areas, adding that effective IEC campaign has been launched in the district to educate the people regarding precautions to be adopted to check the spread of this pandemic.

**CM REVIEWS COVID-19 SITUATION WITH STAKE-**

### HOLDERS AT TRADE CENTRE BADDI

The State Government is making all out efforts to check the spread of coronavirus by educating the people to take preventive measures by wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said this while addressing the review meeting with the stakeholders at Trade Centre Baddi in Solan district on Saturday.

He said that now the second surge in the cases of Covid-19 pandemic was more alarming and challenging, pointing out that there were only 218 active Covid-19 cases left in the State on 23rd of February this year whereas today this number has crossed 7700 mark.

He said that the State has reported about 200 deaths during the last about 50 days. He said that the State has crossed that 2000 figure of active cases only in twenty days which was a serious matter of concern.

# Every second Covid-19 infected patients admitted at PGIMER: PGI Dean (Academic) Dr GD Puri



PGI Dean (Academic) Dr GD Puri

MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

Dr GD Puri, Dean (Academics) and Head, Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) on Saturday said that every second Covid-19 infected patient admitted at PGIMER, Chandigarh is below 45 years of age. He said the new strain apparently affected younger patients and spread much faster than the earlier strain. Patients (young) should not wait if the baseline saturation falls below 94 per cent or drops after walking and immediately report to PGIMER, he adds.

He says that Punjab and Chandigarh region is now witnessing peak of the second wave of covid-19 pandemic. This peak may continue for another couple of weeks. The decline of Covid-19 cases in this region may witness after mid-May onwards, he adds.

Dr Puri further says that both the vaccines Covishield and Covaxin are very much effective against new variants. The Covid vaccine reduces severity of illness, even if the person gets an infection after taking the vaccine, then it reduces the chances of hospitalisation. The vaccine will help to build the herd immunity hence it would help to contain the pandemic. In an interview with *The Pioneer*, Dr GD Puri talks about Covid situation in Chandigarh after confirmation report of UK variant as well as arrangement for Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 patients at PGIMER, Chandigarh: Excerpts from the interview:

**The number of Covid-19 cases in Chandigarh is increasing. How do you read the new numbers? Is UT now witnessing the peak of the sec-**

### ond wave of pandemic?

Yes, this region (Punjab and Chandigarh) is witnessing the peak of the second wave of covid-19 pandemic. This peak may continue for another couple of weeks. We may see a decline of Covid-19 cases after mid-May onwards. As much as people will continue to adhere to Covid appropriate behaviour, the pandemic will be contained at the earliest.

### How is the second wave of covid-19 different from the first wave of the pandemic?

In the first wave of the pandemic, the Covid-19 illness used to give a time of seven days, and the condition of patients used to deteriorate after the seventh day. This time, a lot of younger patients are deteriorating faster in just 4-5 days. In the first or second CT scan itself, lung involvement is diagnosed in patients. Patients are complaining with Covid pneumonia, breathlessness, chest tightness and abdominal symptoms like diarrhoea. The cough is coming late in these patients and high grade fever is there. This strain is highly contagious as all fam-

ily members are getting infected, including children. Getting a flu shot lessens the risk of severe influenza (flu) among adults, including reducing the risk of hospitalisation and admission to the intensive care unit (ICU), and also decreases the severity of illness. We all must wear face masks, maintain social distancing and adopt hand hygiene daily otherwise we will continue to face many more waves of the contagion.

**Some people including Chandigarh DGP Sanjay Beniwal were infected by covid-19 even after taking both the doses of the vaccine. What would you say?**

It is early to say anything regarding this as the study is on. Both Covishield and Covaxin are very much effective against new variants. Getting a flu shot decreases the risk of severe influenza (flu) among the people and also the severity of illness. The vaccine will help to build the herd immunity hence it would help to contain the pandemic. Both Covishield and Covaxin are very much effective against new variants. One should fol-

low Covid Appropriate behaviour even after vaccination because it will take time to develop antibodies against the virus. The priority groups of the population should get vaccinated against Covid-19 disease which will help to protect against this disease and reduce the intensity/severity of the disease which will further help in breaking the chain of the Covid-19 transmission.

**Do you think, Covid-19 cases increased in Chandigarh due to the UK variant? Which age groups of people are infected more from the UK variant?**

Covid-19 cases surging at a rate much faster in the second wave than the first wave in this region and UK variant could be responsible for this faster rate as it was proved by the latest findings of the PGIMER samples sent to National Centre for Diseases Control (NCDC), New Delhi. UT and neighbouring States including Punjab had witnessed the first wave of Covid-19 peak in September last year. Currently, this region has been witnessing the second wave of Covid-19 peak. 50 percent of total

patients having moderate and severe symptoms of Covid-19 admitted in PGIMER are below 45 years of age. A lot of younger patients need intensive care treatment and many of them are in their 20s or 30s only. The patients are deteriorating faster than before and developing severe illness. The deterioration was slow last time as the oxygen saturation used to dip at a slower pace. This time, the oxygen saturation dips faster as soon as it dips below 95 if there is lung involvement. Considering the high transmission and faster spread of Covid-19 by the UK variant, it is suggested that everyone should follow Covid Appropriate Behavior.

**After a confirmation report of UK variant among Covid-19 patients in Chandigarh, what are the additional arrangements made at PGIMER?**

Only, patients having moderate and severe symptoms of Covid-19 are admitted at Covid hospital in PGIMER which has increased its beds for Covid-19 patients from 200 to 300 out of which 50 are of ICU beds. We are seriously follow-

ing Centre Government's guidelines including 'Test, Track and Treat' to stop this emerging peak of the virus. We have scaled up the rate of RT-PCR tests, with a special focus on those areas where positive rates are high in Chandigarh. We are taking all measures to ensure that every patient can get treatment.

**Whether any health workers of PGIMER are infected to Covid-19?**

PGIMER has about 2000 doctors and 2000 nurses. Around 250 health workers of PGIMER have isolated themselves in the last one and half months (second wave of the pandemic). In the first wave of Covid-19, around 1500 health workers were infected to covid-19. We have a sufficient number of health workers to take care of the patients admitted here in PGIMER.

**Amid a surge in Covid-19 cases, Chandigarh administration imposed weekend lockdown. Do you think some more steps should be taken to contain the peak of the pandemic?**

The need of the hour is to contain the peak of the pandemic. We must take precautions as the cases are on rise again. Chandigarh administration has taken several steps including shutting down gymnasium and spa among others to contain the pandemic. At the same time, people must adhere to the safety protocol like washing hands thoroughly with soap or using sanitizer, wear masks and maintain social distancing.

**Do you think that cases are increasing rapidly because virus is in the air?**

It is early to say anything regarding this as study regarding the rapid rise of coronavirus due to its presence in the air is on.

Some studies state that cases increase due to humidity and pollution. The virus is largely transmitted when large droplets, which are exhaled by those infected, settle on surfaces and contaminate them. The available data also indicate that exposure to air pollution may influence Covid-19 transmission. The exact reasons for this are not yet clear.



## DROUGHT LIKE SITUATION

# HP CS directs agriculture, horticulture depts to prepare action plan

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Secretary Anil Khachi on Saturday reviewed the preparedness of the officials to deal with drought like situation in the state and instructed the agriculture, hor-

culture and the allied departments to prepare district level action plans to readily mitigate with such situation.

In a video conference with the Deputy Commissioners, he said crop weather watch groups must also be constitut-

ed besides the agriculture department should prepare a sound database on weather, crop conditions to assist the state disaster management authority (SDMA). He said that presently drinking water supply was normal across the

State however as per the information supplied by the districts agriculture sector had been affected due to scanty rainfall during this year.

It was disclosed in the meeting that out of total 413,134 hectare cropped area, 146,508 hectares of area had been affected due to less rainfall in State as of now with an estimated loss to the tune of ₹ 10820.57 lakh. As per the preliminary data received, the highest loss had been reported in district Bilaspur where 20280 hectares of land out of total cropped area of 28020 hectares had been affected resulting in

loss of ₹3259.37 lakh. In district Chamba, 3571 hectares of land had been reported to be affected causing loss of ₹815.58 lakh. Similarly, all other districts had also been affected due to scanty rainfall.

Anil Khachi said that various schemes of Jal Shakti Vibhag had also been affected due to short rainfall. Out of total 9526 schemes of the department, 401 schemes had been affected up to 25 percent, 197 schemes between 25 to 50 percent, 87 schemes between 50 to 75 per cent and 28 schemes affected were more than 75 per cent. He said that to overcome this problem, Jal

Shakti Vibhag must identify the water suppliers in the respective areas and fix the rates for transportation of drinking water as and where required. The chief secretary directed to repair the dewatering hand pumps and maintain all the traditional as well as private water resources besides cleaning of natural water bodies and to make available adequate water sterilization tablets in each district. He said that the representatives of PRLs should also be involved in this work and PRI representatives should be sensitised regarding water preservation and conservation methods.

The CS said that as of now, no district was facing fodder scarcity but the Animal Husbandry department needed to prepare location, inventory, requirement and movement plan in advance so that the farmers might not face any inconvenience.

The transport rates should be in place, on a need basis, whenever the fodder is required. He stressed on the package of practice to be possible. Veterinary services should be geared up so that no major outbreak of disease takes place due to drought like situation if any.

## Classifieds

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**We, Ram Ramesh S/o Late Bhagru Ram** wife Sunita Devi R/o Huda Tumble near Ravadas Mandir, Sector 15, Panchkula, declare that my son Vikash Nagara and his wife Kiran Devi are out of my control. So I disown all of them from my moveable/immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them will do so at his/her own risk.

**I, Parveen W/o Patras R/o Village Pakra Distt Gurdaspur** have changed my name from Parveen to Parveen Kumari. Concerned note.

**I, Baldev Raj S/o Indar Dass R/o VPO Sirsala, Tehsil Thanesar (Kurukshetra),** have breaks all relations with my wife Sujata d/o Sunder Nath Sharma presently r/o SKIET College, Sirsala Road, Kurukshetra, as she is out of my control. Anybody dealing with her at their own risk.

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Kuldeep Kaur** legally wedded spouse of Army No. 44838691, Hav Upinder Singh Village Raghwal PO Manhotra Teh Dausya Distt. Hoshiarpur (Pb.) declare my name written wrongly Kuldeep Kaur birth date 20-12-1984 in army record of my husband. My correct name is Kuldeep Kaur birth date 28-12-1983 be amended in army record of my husband.

**I, Pardeep Kumar S/o Sh. Daya Chand R/o 356, V.P.O. Kasandi, Sonapat 131001** have changed my name from Pradeep Kumar to Pardeep Kumar for all future purposes.

**I, Randip Kaur** spouse of Vikramjit Singh resident of Vill Ahmedabad PO Dhariwal Distt Gurdaspur (Pb) have changed my name from Randip Kaur to Randip Kaur vide affidavit dated 09/04/21 before Gurdaspur.

**I, Navjot Singh S/o Lakhwinder Singh Vill. Sajjan Majri PO Rajokheri Tehsil Barara (Ambala) Haryana (India)** have changed my name Navjot Singh to Singh Navjot.

**I, Kunal Malhotra S/O Ram Pal Malhotra R/O #10, St. No. 1, Sahed Bhagat Singh Colony, Focal Point, Ludhiana** Have Changed My Name From Kunal To Kunal Malhotra.

**I, Harpreet Singh S/O Harnam Singh R/O House No. B-2/1187, Lehal Colony, Patiala** Have Changed My Name To Harpreet Singh Malhotra.

**I, Je-451957P Rank Sub Name Yuvinder Singh S/O Surjit Singh Resident Of Vill. & Po Gharota Kalan Teh. & Distt. Pathankot (Punjab)** Declare that in my service record My Father Surjit Singh D.O.B is Wrongly entered as 15.05.1946 Instead of 01.01.1948 Vide affidavit Dated 16-02-2021 Before Notary Pathankot.

**I, Je-451957P Rank Sub Name Yuvinder Singh S/O Surjit Singh Resident Of Vill. & Po Gharota Kalan Teh. & Distt. Pathankot (Punjab)** Declare that in my service record My Mother Name 'Sudarshna devi' D.O.B 20.04.1956 is Wrongly entered. Instead of Sudarshna Kumari D.O.B 14.02.1954 Vide affidavit Dated 16-02-2021 Before Notary Pathankot, Punjab.

**I, Je-451957P Rank Sub Name Yuvinder Singh S/O Surjit Singh Resident Of Vill. & Po Gharota Kalan Teh. & Distt. Pathankot (Punjab)** Declare that in my service record My Daughter Name is Wrongly entered as Anjali Kumari Instead of Anjali devi Vide affidavit Dated 16-02-2021 Before Notary Pathankot, Punjab.

**I, Santo** spouse of Naresh chand residing at vill. Nagla Harsukh. Tehsil Kamran Distt Bhatnagar. Have changed my name from Santo to Santosh Vide affidavit Dated 16-04-2021 Before Notary Pathankot, Punjab.

**I, Je-451957P Rank Sub Name Yuvinder Singh S/O Surjit Singh Resident Of Vill. & Po Gharota Kalan Teh. & Distt. Pathankot (Punjab)** Declare that in my service record My Daughter Name 'Rohini Kumari' D.O.B 15.05.2000 is Wrongly entered. Instead of Rohini D.O.B 16.05.2000 Vide affidavit Dated 16-02-2021 Before Notary Pathankot, Punjab.

**I, Army No. JC-311426A SUB Jacob Thomas,** residing at Kuniyadathu, Valparampall House, Kuttor PO, Thiruvalla Taluk, District Pathanamthitta (Kerala) Pin-689106 Declare that in my service record. My wife Name 'Biji Abraham' D.O.B 25.09.1981 is Wrongly entered. Instead of Biji Jacob D.O.B 25.05.1981.

**I, Paramjeet Kaur W/O Harjinder Singh R/O VPO Mandiala Tehsil Hoshiarpur District Hoshiarpur (Punjab)** changed my name Paramjit Kaur.

**I, JC-405837 Nb/Sub Ranjeev Singh R/O VPO Kotla Kalan Tehsil & District Una (H.P.) 174303** have changed my son's name from Abhishek Kashav to Abhishek Thakur. Concerned please Note.

**I, No.14628927L Hav Ashok Ray** Resident of Village Lawapur Naranya Po Mahan Tehsil Mahanar District Vaishali (Bihar) in my service record my Mother's name and DOB wrongly recorded as Ilaquaman Ray and DOB 01 January 1940 instead of Kamla Devi and DOB is 01 January 1940 Vide affidavit No. AT253497 Dated 05 April 2021 before Notary public Pathankot.

**I, Roshini Devi** Mother of No. 14813673L Hav/ MT Mukesh Kumar Resident of village & post Selakui Tehsil vikas nagar / Dehradun UK-248197 have changed my name from Roshini Devi to Roshini Devi.

**I, Smt Devender Kour** Spouse Of 10362986m Rank Nk Name Yashpal Singh R/O Village And Post Office Ferozepur Kalan Tehsil & Distt Pathankot (Punjab), Have Changed My Name From Devender Kour To Davinder Kaur Vide Affidavit Dated 16.04.2021 Before Notary Public Pathankot.

**I, No.10362986m Rank Nk Name Yashpal Singh S/O Late Sh. Tarsem Singh R/O Village And Post Office Ferozepur Kalan Tehsil & Distt Pathankot (Punjab),** Have Changed The Name Of My Son From Karanvir Singh To Karanveer Singh Vide Affidavit Dated 16.04.2021 Before Notary Public Pathankot.

**I, No.3994898m Rank Ex Nk (Ts) Name Sarjeewan Singh S/O Late Sh. Sardar Singh R/O Village Jandi Post Office Chaunta Tehsil & Distt Gurdaspur (Punjab),** Have Changed The Name Of My Son From Sudanshu To Sudhanshu Vide Affidavit Dated 17.04.2021 Before Executive Magistrate Gurdaspur.

**I, Sarita W/o Karnail Singh R/O Village Karora, Tehsil Pundri District Kaithal (Haryana)** declares that in my husband's passport my name written as Sarita Devi but my correct name is Sarita as per my all documents. All concerned please note.

**I, No.14453974 Ex Nk Randhir Singh S/O Sh. Joginder Singh R/O Village Dhaulpur Po Talwandi Lal Singh Tehsil Batala Distt Gurdaspur State Punjab.** Have Changed The Name Of My Daughter Navneet Kaur To Navneet Kaur.

**I, No. JC-206135F Ex Sub Harbhajan Singh S/O Sh. Balak Singh R/O Village Nangal Butte Po Sekhwan Tehsil Batala Distt Gurdaspur State Punjab.** Have Changed The Name Of My Son Gurpinder Singh To Gurpinder Singh Cheema.

**I, Sunita** Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of No.1493855y Rank Lnk Name Parmod Kumar Presently Residing At Village Hullahehi Po Barwasi Distt Sonapat State Haryana Pin-131001, That I Have Changed My Name From Sunita Rana To Sunita Devi To My Name In Personal Documents Is Sunita. That My Date Of Birth Is 15 Jun 1990

**I, Sunita W/o Baldev Raj Khurana R/O H.No. 373, Babain, District Kurukshetra,** declares that Sunita and Sunita Rani both are my names.

**I, Ranbeer** father of No 15499000A Rank SWR Name Sateesh Kumar R/O VPO Mudahera, Teh. Hujjair, Distt Jhajjar, State Haryana 124146 hereby declare that I have changed my name from Ranbeer to Ranbir vide affidavit dated 15/04/2021 before Session Court, Hisar.

**I, Ramrtee** mother of No 15499000A Rank SWR Name Sateesh Kumar R/O VPO Mudahera, Teh. Hujjair, Distt Jhajjar, State Haryana 124146 hereby declare that I have changed my name from Ramrtee to Ramrati vide affidavit dated 15/04/2021 before Session Court, Hisar.

**I, Smt. Lakshmi W/o Sh. Ramiwas S/o Sh. Lal Ji, R/o Vill. Umra, Teh. Hansi, Distt Hisar** declare that my son Brijender Kumar Army No. 10515630X, Rank L/NK, Unit 152, Inf. Bn (TA) Sikh service record my date of birth is 1.7.1960, which is wrong, my correct date of birth is 8.12.1959.

**I, Ramiwas S/o Sh. Lal Ji, R/o Vill. Umra, Teh. Hansi, Distt Hisar** declare that my son Brijender Kumar Army No. 10515630X, Rank L/NK, Unit 152, Inf. Bn (TA) Sikh service record my date of birth is 1.7.1955, which is wrong, my correct date of birth is 18.12.1958.

**I, Service No.15621836P Rank L/Nk Devkate Rukmaj Gopinath S/O Gopinath Gangaram Devkate Present Of Unit-19 Guards C/O 56 Apo, Pin-910919, India.** Declare That In My Army Service Record My Father Name Gopinath Is Wrong. But My Father Name Gopinath Gangaram Devkate Is Correct Vide Affidavit No.662 Dated 17-04-2021. Before Notary Public Gurdaspur. Punjab.

**I, Rajiv Kumar S/o Brij Bhushan R/o 8, Chandan Colony, Yamunanagar** have changed my name to Rajiv Kumar Garg.

**I, Service No. 16019122F, Rank LNK 14 Raj Rif, Dharanveer Malik s/o Shri Prem Singh R/o Village Umri, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra, Haryana,** declares that in my service, my father's DOB is wrongly mentioned as 01-July-1960, actually it is 05-Mar-1960. My mother's DOB is wrongly mentioned as 01-July-1965, actually it is 16-January-1964.

**I, No.151350004w Rank Hav Name Balbir Marmomota Husband Of Sonu Kumari** Resident Of Vill-Pakhyian Po-Kangrail Distt-Jammu State- Jammu And Kashmir Pin-181206. Have Changed My Wife Name In My Service Documents From- Sonu Kumari To- Sonu Devi Vide Affidavit No. At763090 Dated 16-04-2021 Before Executive Magistrate Gurdaspur Punjab.

**I, Swati** Legally Spouse Of Sub (310) Chavan Pandurang Bhaskar Unit 310 Fd Regt And Resident Of Vpo-Vihte Tehsil Patan Distt- Satara Maharashtra I Have Changed My Name From- Swati To- Swati Pandurang Chavan Vide Affidavit No. At763088 Dated 16-04-2021 Before Executive Magistrate Gurdaspur Punjab.

**I, Fatima Rasis Siddiqui w/o Rais Ahmed Siddiqui r/o E-302, Nav Sanjeevan Society, Plot No-1, Sector-12, Dwarka, Kakrola, South West Delhi, N.S.I.T. Dwarka** informs that Fatima Rasis Siddiqui and Tanveer Ahmed Siddiqui are the two names of same person i.e myself. I know with both these names.

**I, No.15108500m Rank: Hav Name - Balwinder Singh R/O Vill- Rikha, Po-Talwandi Lal Singh Teh-Batala & Distt- Gurdaspur (Pb). Have Changed Name Of My Son From Tejvir Singh To Navtejvir Singh & Date Of Birth From 01/01/1991 To 01/01/1993. Please Note All Concerned.**

**I, Rozy Rani W/o Sh. Deepak Sharma R/O H. No. 41-A, D.C.Colony, Hisar** hereby declare that I have changed my name from Rozy Rani/ Rozy Sharma to Rozy Rani for all future purposes.

**I, Deepak Sharma S/o Sh. Om Parkash R/O H. No. 41-A, D.C.Colony, Hisar** hereby declare that I have changed my name from Deepak Kumar to Deepak Sharma for all future purposes.

**I, No. 14403329Y Hav/Clk Nishan Singh** Resident of House No. 958, Street No. 9 Gurbux Colony, Patiala (Punjab) Pin-147001 declare that name of my wife mentioned in various documents as Paramjeet Kaur or Parmjit Kaur which is wrong. Correct name of my wife is Parmjit Kaur. It is also certified that above names belong one person.

**I, Parmjeet Kaur w/o Hardeep Singh r/o VPO Umri, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra,** declares that Parmjeet Kaur and Amarjeet Kaur, both are my names.

**I, Darshna W/o Sudesh Kumar R/O Near Roshan Di Chakki, Kabbar Wachha Road, Mukki Tehsil And Distt. Ferozepur** Have Changed My Name As Darshana Devi.

**I, Nandhana Vipin,** Spouse of No. 15507414K, ALD, Vipinkumar V, Unit 19 Armrd Regt C/o 56 Apo, Permanent Address at Melkanjottu Puthen Veedu Vayala, Kottukkal, Kollam State Kerala 691306 have changed my name from Nandhana to Nandhana Vipin Vide Affidavit Dated 17 April 2021 before at Notary Ferozepur.

**I, Darshna Bhasin W/o Janak Raj Bhasin R/o House no 22-Bjarmally Colony Karnal declare that I have changed my Name From Sudarshan To Darshna Bhasin.For All Future Purpose.**

### 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**

**LOST & FOUND**  
I Gagan Jula s/o late Jagdish Chand Jula R/o House No 2730 sector 40C, Chandigarh declare that I have lost of agreement to sell dated 28/9/2012 and possession letter dated 28/3/2017 executed between shantl housing Development Corporation Ltd and Gagan Jula, Deepak Jula both same of late Sh. J.C. Jula and vined Prabha Jula W/o Late Sh. J.C. Jula for floor no 28C, Hollywood Heights 1, Village Padalia, Tehsil Khari Distt mohali has been actually lost.

**If anybody have found please Contact 9876099899**

**IN THE COURT OF MS. RUCHI SINGH BEDI SUB DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE (EAST)-CUM- MARRIAGE OFFICER, U.T. CHANDIGARH**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed through this notice that a request for the issuance of unmarried certificate to Mr. Rattanmol Singh Jhal son of late Sh. Rajpal Singh Jhal resident of House No. 1078, Sector 27-B, U.T. Chandigarh has been received in this office. The date of birth of Mr. Rattanmol Singh Jhal son of late Sh. Rajpal Singh Jhal is 19.08.1987.

Any person is having objections to the grant of Marriageability / Unmarried Certificate to Mr. Rattanmol Singh Jhal son of late Sh. Rajpal Singh Jhal should submit in writing to the office of undersigned by 5:00 P.M. within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

**SDM (East) - Cum- Marriage Officer U.T. Chandigarh**

**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that certificate for 200 shares of Resonance Specialities Ltd in the name Amita Sreen under Folio No: 0044508 bearing Cert. nos. 1580 & 14227 & Distt. nos. 4806901-7000 (100 shares) & 8081601-1700 (100 shares), have been lost or misplaced and application has been made to the company to issue duplicate in lieu thereof.

Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company's registrars & transfer agents at "ADROIT CORPORATE SERVICES PVT.LTD." 19, Jafarbhoy Industrial Estate 1st Floor, Makhwana Road, Marol Naka, Andheri(E), Mumbai - 400059 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, else the company will proceed to issue duplicate certificates.

**Amita Sreen, H-187, Block H, Spangle Heights, Dhakoli, SAS Nagar, Zirakpur, Mohali, Punjab - 140603**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I, Ashok Kumar Singh S/o Mana Singh R/o Village Rattawal Balachaur SBS Nagar Tehsil Balachaur has mortgaged my property on the basis of laminated Title Deed No. 1939 dated 24.12.2015 belonging to Residential plot measuring 1Kis 0 Maria Land Measuring 00Kis 2 Mis out of 8 Kis 00 mis, Khata No. 1255/1469, Kharsa No. 58/17(8-D), and land measuring 00Kis 18 Mis out of 7Kis 8 Mis, Khata no. 1258/1470, Kharsa No. 58/18(8), vide Jambabandi 2015-16 of Village Rattawal, H. B. No. 396 situated at Village Rattawal Balachaur SBS Nagar Tehsil Balachaur to State Bank of India, Bus Stand Balachaur (Branch Code 50617)

I declare that the title deed being offered as laminated is original and is laminated to prevent it from any Damage. I have mortgaged and created charge in favour of State Bank of India for availing House Loan in the name(s) of Ashok Kumar Singh S/o Mana Singh, through its branch at State Bank of India, Bus Stand Balachaur (Branch Code 50617) for Rs. 8,00,000.00

This Notice is for public at large that in case any party has any claim towards the said property, the same should be lodged with Ashok Kumar Singh S/o Mana Singh and State Bank of India, Bus Stand Balachaur (Branch Code 50617), within 15 days of publication of this notice.

**(Ashok Kumar Singh S/o Mana Singh)**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I, Om Pal Bumbia S/o Sh. Shiv Chand R/o Village Rattawal Balachaur SBS Nagar Tehsil Balachaur has mortgaged my property on the basis of laminated Title Deed No. 2351 dated 30.10.2000 belonging to Residential plot measuring 14.5 Mis bearing Kharsa No. 700(1-9) Khewat No. 559/672 situated at Village Rattawal Balachaur SBS Nagar Tehsil Balachaur to State Bank of India, Bus Stand Balachaur (Branch Code 50617)

I declare that the title deed being offered as laminated is original and is laminated to prevent it from any Damage. I have mortgaged and created charge in favour of State Bank of India for availing House Loan in the name(s) of Om Pal Bumbia S/o Sh. Shiv Chand, through its branch at State Bank of India, Bus Stand Balachaur (Branch Code 50617) for Rs. 14,00,000.00

This Notice is for public at large that in case any party has any claim towards the said property, the same should be lodged with Om Pal Bumbia S/o Sh. Shiv Chand & State Bank of India, Bus Stand Balachaur (Branch Code 50617), within 15 days of publication of this notice.

**(Om Pal Bumbia S/o Sh. Shiv Chand)**

**RAJ COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**  
Recognised by NCTE (Affiliated to CRSU Jind)  
**REQUIRED TEACHING STAFF**  
Principal, Lecturers: English-02, Life Science, Phy. Science, Math, Commerce, S.St., Hindi, Health & Art, Education (Fine Arts/Performing Arts, Music/Dance/Theater), Librarian

Qualification & Salary as per NCTE/CRSU/UGC & State Govt. Norms

Kindly Submit resume to college & a copy to DCDC CRSU Jind within 15 days from the publication of Advertisement.

**Admission Open for B.Ed. Session - 2021-22**

**Sehri Road, Khandra, Kharkhoda Sonapat Ph.: 9212239798**

Email : info@rajcollegeofeducation.com

**ADARSH SUBHASH TAYAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**  
Jind Chungli, Hansi (125033)  
(Recognized by NCTE and Affiliated with CRSU Jind )

**Requires Following Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff**

**Teaching Staff for B.Ed. Course -**

- Principal-01
- Assistant Professor Teaching in Pedagogy of Education-01
- Assistant professor Teaching in Pedagogy Subjects (Maths, English, Physical Science & Life Science)-01 Each
- Assistant professor Teaching in Pedagogy of Health & Physical Education-01

**Non-Teaching Staff - Office-cum-Account Assistant & Office Assistant-cum-Computer operator-01 Each**

**For B. A/B. Sc. B. Ed. 4 years Integrated Course**

- Principal-cum-HOD-01,
- Assistant Professors-
- (1) Perspectives in Education-04
- (2) 01 Each in Pedagogy in History, Pol.Science, Geography,Economics, Psychology, Maths, English & Hindi
- (3) One each in Health & Physical Education, Fine-Arts and Performing Arts (Music/Dance/Theater)

**Non-Teaching Staff- Librarian, Lab Assistant, Office-cum- Account Assistant, Office Assistant-cum- Computer operator, Store Keeper, Technical Assistant and Lab. Assistant/Helper-01 Each**

**QUALIFICATIONS AND SALARY AS PER NCTE/CRSU JIND/HRY.GOV.T.NORMS**

Apply Within 14 Days to the Chairmnanwith all testimonials & latest photograph and also send a copy of all to the Dean of Colleges, CRSU, Jind.

**CHAIRMAN**

**9588514426, 9215787977, Email-astcollege@gmail.com**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I PARBHAVATI DEVI W/O JAWAHAR PARSHAD R/O #196 AZAD NAGAR BALONGY DISTT. S.A.S NAGAR DECLARED MY PLOT NO. 2091, HAVING VASUKA NO.3353 DATED 15.02.2007, AZAD NAGAR BALONGY REGISTRY ALONG WITH HAND BAG LOST SOME WHERE. A COMPLAINT NO. 922 ON DATED 16.4.2021 AT P.S. BALONGY ASLO REGISTERED. ANYBODY FOUND PLEASE CONTACT.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Public is informed that Axis Bank Has Proposed A Loan Vinod Kumar On Residential Property Addressing 238 Sq. Yds., Comprised In Mustaf No. 287, Killa No. 1 (B-0) Tolling 08 Kanal Out Of Which Its Area Admeasuring 81600h Share I.E. 08 Marlas I.E. 238 Sq. Yds., Situated At Balraj Nagar, Ward No. 17, Gohana, Tehsil- Gohana, District-Sonapat, Haryana

Earlier Title Chain I.E. Sale Deed No. 1612 Dated 21.09.1993 Executed By Ran Singh In Favour Of Vinod Kumar Has Been Lost And For This Dtr No. - 323261 Dated 17.04.2021 Has Been Lodged.

Any Person / Institution Having Any Claim, Right, By Way Of Sale, Gift, Lease, Inheritance, Mortgage, Charge, Attachment Or Otherwise, Shall Bring The Same To The Notice Of The Undersigned Within 7 Days, Failing Which No Claim Will Be Considered & Entertained.

**Vineet Rathore Advocate 1120- Sector-13, Karnal Mobile no. 949612-12300**

## No pressing need for Kumbh Mela with surge in coronavirus cases: BJP leader Shanta Kumar

**Dharamshala:** Former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shanta Kumar on Saturday said the coronavirus situation is worsening in the country due to the fresh surge of cases adding that there was no need to organise the ongoing Kumbh Mela during such times.

The most unfortunate thing is that this time around the government and political leaders bear most of the responsibility for the alarming situation, he said in a press release issued here. "In the past 15 days, coronavirus patients have risen by five fold in West Bengal and a similar alarming situation is also there in other states where elections are underway," the veteran BJP leader added.

"It is written in our scriptures, 'Aapat Kale, Maryadaa

Nasti", which means that when life itself is at stake, all rules can be broken. In today's situation, there was absolutely no need to perform Kumbh Mela, where thousands of people are taking baths," the former Union minister added.

"Crowds are gathering in temples too. The disease increases in such conditions. God is everywhere; it is also in our houses, where we could perform our poojas. If all kinds of religious and political programmes would have stopped, many could have been saved of this deadly disease," he said. Shanta Kumar said economic activities should continue to an extent but in addition to this, all kinds of religious, social and political events should have been stopped.

**Agencies**

## Punjab procures 86% of wheat arrived so far in mandis, Sangrur leads

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Government on Saturday said that 29.65 LMT of Wheat has arrived so far in mandis across the State of which 25.61 LMT i.e. 86.37 per cent has been procured within a period of just one week from April 10 despite the challenging task amid Covid-19 pandemic.

Expressing satisfaction over the ongoing wheat procurement operations and arrangements put in place to facilitate all stakeholders, the Secretary Mandi Board and Director Food & Civil Supplies Ravi Bhagat pointed out that district Sangrur is leading in terms of Wheat arrival where 4.76 LMT of Wheat had arrived in the mandis, followed by Patiala and Mansa with 3.87 LMT and 2.32 LMT respectively. He said that the targeted procurement of Wheat in the state is 130 LMT during ongoing Rabi Marketing Season.

He said that 5.74 lakh passes have already been given to farmers through Arthiyas by Mandi Board and various Market Committees in view of the staggered movement of wheat due to Covid-19. Regarding the problems faced

by farmers and delay of crop payment, Bhagat pointed out that the DBT system had been introduced for the first time from this season, adding that there were some teething problems due to some technical issues, which were being resolved at the earliest by the Food and Civil Supplies Department on priority so that this system to be made more streamline and also to ensure timely payment to the farmers.

The Secretary



# Facing shortage of oxygen, Remdesivir, ventilator: States



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Grappling with the surge in Covid-19 cases, various States in a meeting with the Centre on Saturday highlighted the shortage of oxygen cylinders, ventilator stocks and poor supply of vaccine doses. Eleven States and Union Territories, including Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, account for 79.32 per cent of the new coronavirus cases in the country were present at the meeting. The high-level meeting was chaired by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan with the Health Ministers of 11 States and Union Territories to review measures taken by them for prevention, containment and management of the recent surge in Covid-19 cases.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to meet top officials of several ministries later in the evening to review the overall covid situation and vaccination drive.

M a h a r a s h t r a , Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal, Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have been reporting an unprecedented surge in new infections.

In a statement here, the Ministry said "Many of them (States) raised the issue of dovetailing the medical oxygen supply lines and capping of



## US must lift export ban on raw materials for production of vaccines, says CPM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) polit bureau on Saturday said that the United States must lift their export ban on raw materials for the production of vaccines.

In a statement, the Left party pointed out that the export ban by the US is a double-speak, citing US President Joe Biden's assurances in the recently convened Quad Summit.

"The ban on exports of materials used in vaccine production goes completely against these stated aims. The Modi government, which sets

much store on the Quad alliance, must ensure that the Biden administration keeps to its committed word and immediately ensures supply of essential vaccine material to India. This is the least that must be done when India is facing vaccine shortage in the face of an unprecedented surge of Covid infections," said CPI(M).

The CPI(M) also pointed out the concerns raised by Serum Institute of India head Adar Poonawala on hampering of production in India due to the US Government's ban on export of raw materials of

vaccine.

"The scaling up of vaccine production in India is being hampered by the shortage of the intermediate material required for vaccine production. Much of this material such as filters, solutions and plastic bags come from the United States. But the U.S. Administration has banned the export of vaccine material under its Defence Production Act. Despite requests by the Indian authorities, no relaxation or exemption has been given for export of these items," the CPI(M) said in a statement.

The steps taken for unhindered movement of oxygen cylinders from their manufacturing units across states were also detailed, the Ministry said. Taking note of the active surge in cases witnessed since last February in which most states have now crossed their highest tally, Harsh Vardhan urged the states to give special focus on the prominent five to six cities in their administration and map medical colleges to either these cities or adjoining 2-3 districts. The states were asked to seek out positive

manufacturers in the country.

The states were also informed about the issuance of the calendar of medical oxygen supply from different oxygen

Response Fund, and that of the Union Health Ministry, allowing utilisation of unspent pending balance under National Health Mission as on April 1, 2021 for COVID management purposes, were reiterated, it said.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan informed the states on the steps taken to provide medical grade oxygen and augmenting Remdesivir stocks in the country.

The states were also

informed about the issuance

of the calendar of medical oxygen

supply from different oxygen

Response Fund, and that of the

Union Health Ministry, allowing

utilisation of unspent pending

balance under National Health

Mission as on April 1, 2021 for

COVID management purposes,

were reiterated, it said.

Union Health Secretary

Rajesh Bhushan informed the

states on the steps taken to

provide medical grade oxygen

and augmenting Remdesivir

stocks in the country.

The states were also

informed about the issuance

of the calendar of medical oxygen

supply from different oxygen

Response Fund, and that of the

Union Health Ministry, allowing

utilisation of unspent pending

balance under National Health

Mission as on April 1, 2021 for

COVID management purposes,

were reiterated, it said.

Union Health Secretary

Rajesh Bhushan informed the

states on the steps taken to

provide medical grade oxygen

and augmenting Remdesivir

stocks in the country.

The states were also

informed about the issuance

of the calendar of medical oxygen

supply from different oxygen

Response Fund, and that of the

Union Health Ministry, allowing

utilisation of unspent pending

balance under National Health

Mission as on April 1, 2021 for

COVID management purposes,

were reiterated, it said.

Union Health Secretary

Rajesh Bhushan informed the

states on the steps taken to

provide medical grade oxygen

and augmenting Remdesivir

stocks in the country.

The states were also

informed about the issuance

of the calendar of medical oxygen

supply from different oxygen

Response Fund, and that of the

Union Health Ministry, allowing

utilisation of unspent pending

balance under National Health

Mission as on April 1, 2021 for

COVID management purposes,

were reiterated, it said.

Union Health Secretary

Rajesh Bhushan informed the

states on the steps taken to

provide medical grade oxygen

and augmenting Remdesivir

stocks in the country.

The states were also

informed about the issuance

of the calendar of medical oxygen

supply from different oxygen

Response Fund, and that of the

Union Health Ministry, allowing

utilisation of unspent pending

balance under National Health

Mission as on April 1, 2021 for

COVID management purposes,

were reiterated, it said.

Union Health Secretary

Rajesh Bhushan informed the

states on the steps taken to

provide medical grade oxygen

and augmenting Remdesivir

stocks in the country.

The states were also

informed about the issuance

of the calendar of medical oxygen

supply from different oxygen

Response Fund, and that of the

Union Health Ministry, allowing

utilisation of unspent pending

balance under National Health

Mission as on April 1, 2021 for

COVID management purposes,

were reiterated, it said.

Union Health Secretary

Rajesh Bhushan informed the

states on the steps taken to

provide medical grade oxygen

and augmenting Remdesivir

stocks in the country.

The states were also

informed about the issuance

of the calendar of medical oxygen

supply from different oxygen

Response Fund, and that of the

Union Health Ministry, allowing

utilisation of unspent pending

balance under National Health

Mission as on April 1, 2021 for

COVID management purposes,

were reiterated, it said.

Union Health Secretary

Rajesh Bhushan informed the

states on the steps taken to

provide medical grade oxygen

and augmenting Remdesivir

stocks in the country.

The states were also

informed about the issuance

of the calendar of medical oxygen

supply from different oxygen

Response Fund, and that of the

Union Health Ministry, allowing

utilisation of unspent pending

balance under National Health

Mission as on April 1, 2021 for

COVID management purposes,

were reiterated, it said.

Union Health Secretary

Rajesh Bhushan informed the

states on the steps taken to

provide medical grade oxygen

and augmenting Remdesivir

stocks in the country.

The states were also

informed about the issuance

of the calendar of medical oxygen

supply from different oxygen

Response Fund, and that of the

Union Health Ministry, allowing

utilisation of unspent pending

balance under National Health

Mission as on April 1, 2021 for

COVID management purposes,

were reiterated, it said.

Union Health Secretary

Rajesh Bhushan informed the

states on the steps taken to

provide medical grade oxygen

and augmenting Remdesivir

stocks in the country.

The states were also

informed about the issuance

of the calendar of medical oxygen

supply from different oxygen

Response Fund, and that of the

Union Health Ministry, allowing

utilisation of unspent pending

balance under National Health

Mission as on April 1, 2021 for

COVID management purposes,

were reiterated, it said.

Union Health Secretary

Rajesh Bhushan informed the

states on the steps taken to

provide medical grade oxygen

and augmenting Remdesivir

stocks in the country.

The states were also

informed about the issuance

of the calendar of medical oxygen

supply from different oxygen

Response Fund, and that of the

Union Health Ministry, allowing

utilisation of unspent pending

balance under National Health

Mission as on April 1, 2021 for

COVID management purposes,

were reiterated, it said.

Union Health Secretary

Rajesh Bhushan informed the

states on the steps taken to

provide medical grade oxygen

and augmenting Remdesivir

stocks in the country.

The states were also

informed about the issuance

of the calendar of medical oxygen

supply from different oxygen

Response Fund, and that of the

Union Health Ministry, allowing

utilisation of unspent pending

balance under National Health

Mission as on April 1, 2021 for

COVID management purposes,

were reiterated, it said.

Union Health Secretary

Rajesh Bhushan informed the

states on the steps taken to

provide medical grade oxygen

and augmenting Remdesivir

stocks in the country.

The states were also

informed about the issuance

of the calendar of medical oxygen

supply from different oxygen

Response Fund, and that of the

Union Health Ministry, allowing

utilisation of unspent pending

balance under National Health

Mission as on April 1, 2021 for

COVID management purposes,

were reiterated, it said.

Union Health Secretary

Rajesh Bhushan informed the

states on the steps taken to

provide medical grade oxygen

and augmenting Remdesivir

stocks in the country.

The states were also

informed about the issuance

of the calendar of medical oxygen

supply from different oxygen

Response Fund, and that of the

Union Health Ministry, allowing

utilisation of unspent pending

balance under National Health

Mission as on April 1, 2021 for

COVID management purposes,

were reiterated, it said.

Union Health Secretary

Rajesh Bhushan informed the

states on the steps taken to

provide medical grade oxygen

and augmenting Remdesivir

stocks in the country.

The states were also

informed about the issuance

of the calendar of medical oxygen

supply from different oxygen

Response Fund, and that of the

Union Health Ministry, allowing

utilisation of unspent pending

</



## AMID COVID 2.0

# Fiscal package may be on cards to maintain economic recovery

■ NEW DELHI

A fiscal stimulus package may be on the cards again as the Government looks at ways to prevent the present surge in Covid-19 cases and the ensuing restrictions imposed by the States from derailing the economic recovery.

After last year's lockdowns, which resulted in the country's GDP contracting by (-) 23.9 per cent, it was hoped that the economy will grow hand-somely in FY22 to register a double digit growth.

For this to happen, the RBI has projected a Q1 FY22 GDP growth of 26.2 per cent. But the recent surge in the pandemic has again raised serious ques-

tions about the health of the economy.

There are some discussions within the government about the need, shape and timing of a fresh fiscal stimulus package.

The idea is to see that the poor and small businesses do not suffer and their livelihood support is not disturbed, said an official source, on condition of anonymity.

The source said that any such package, if finalised, would come up later this month or next month.

The Union Finance Ministry has so far not indicated about any new stimulus to contain the disruptions caused by the fresh Covid-19

wave in the country.

Last year, the government and the RBI came up with a series of announcements to provide relief to the common man and businesses impacted by the Covid-induced lockdown.

Under its 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' package and the Garib Kalyan Yojana, the government had announced packages worth over Rs 20 lakh crore.

While the economic situation is still much better than last year and the government has indicated against a complete lockdown this year, support measures could just look at the most vulnerable sections of the society and the industry.

Sources said that like last year, the package may include measures by the government as well as compliance relief offered by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Already, various ministries are providing inputs to the Centre.

The worry for the government this time round is also about inflation that has seen an increase in the last few months.

This actually means that people are already struggling with higher food prices while their income is dogged with uncertainty.

The RBI will also have to do a balancing act over growth aspirations and containing inflation.

## DPIIT notifies PLI scheme for ACs, LED lights

### MERE ASSEMBLY OF FINISHED GOODS NOT TO BE INCENTIVISED

■ NEW DELHI

The department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) has notified the PLI scheme for ACs and LED lights and said that selection of companies to avail the incentives would

done to support manufacturing of components which are not made in India presently.

It said that mere assembly of finished goods would not be incentivised and companies investing in basic/core components would get a higher priority.

Earlier this month, the government approved a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for white goods - Air Conditioners (ACs) and LED Lights - with a budgetary outlay of Rs 6,238 crore. It will be implemented over 2021-22 to

2028-29. According to the notification of the DPIIT, the Empowered Group

of Secretaries chaired by Cabinet Secretary will monitor the PLI scheme, undertake periodic review of the outgo under the scheme, ensure uniformity of all PLIs and take appropriate action to ensure that the expenditure is within the prescribed outlay.

The group will be empowered to make any changes in the modalities of the scheme within the overall financial outlay of Rs 6,238 crore it said

that the incentive per beneficiary will be applicable on incremental sales (net of taxes) of manufactured goods (as distinct from traded goods) over the base year (2019-20) subject to ceilings.

"Mere assembly of finished goods shall not be incentivised. Selection of companies for the scheme shall be done so as to incentivise manufacturing of components or sub-assemblies which are not manufactured in India presently with sufficient capacity," it said.

## Indian pharma exports grow at 18% to 24.44 bn USD in FY 21

■ HYDERABAD

Pharma exports from India witnessed over 18 per cent growth to USD 24.44 billion during the last financial year against USD 20.58 billion in FY20, Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexil) said on Saturday.

"We have observed a big leap in our exports in the month of March 2021 which is USD 2.3 billion (figures for March are provisional) and is highest among the exports of all the months of this financial year, the growth rate for this month is 48.5 per cent against the exports in March 2020 (USD 1.54 billion)," Udaya Bhaskar, Director General of Pharmexil said in a release.

Growth rate seems relatively big as the exports of March 2020 was crunched due to lockdown across the world and supply chain disruption, he was quoted as saying.

When the global pharma market is negatively grown by 1-2% in 2020, there is a big surge in demand for Indian made generics owing to its quality and affordability, the official said adding Drug formulations and Biologicals is the second largest Principal commodity being exported by India. The Pharma exports body is expecting big growth in Indian vaccine exports in the coming years and the government policy on PLI (production Linked Incentive) scheme will also help the domestic

pharma to grow by reducing import dependence and develop export potential in the days to come as most of the countries are looking at India for APIs (active pharmaceutical ingredient) he said.

North America is the largest exporting region for Indian pharmaceuticals with more than 34 per cent share.

Country wise exports to the US, Canada and Mexico have recorded a growth of 12.6, 30 and 21.4 per cent respectively. South Africa being the second largest exporting country, recorded a big jump of 28 per cent growth while Europe was the third largest exporting region which has recorded approximately 11 per cent growth over previous year.

## Crude to be around \$60 a barrel in 2021

■ NEW DELHI

Global crude oil prices are expected to be in the range of \$60 a barrel over the long term period as OPEC+ decision to cap supply until demand recovers and the pandemic continuing to keep a check on consumption.

According to a research report by ICICI Securities, Brent has recovered and is over \$ 60/bbl since February, 21 vs April, 20 low of \$ 21/bbl driven by demand recovery from lows and OPEC+ capping supply to ensure supply deficit since July last year.

"OPEC+ capping supply until demand recovers is estimated to ensure supply deficit of 1.3 million barrels of oil per day in calendar year 2021 and keep Brent above \$60/bbl," the brokerage said.

The expectation for the crude was that it may surge in 2021 on the back of economies recovering as vaccinations tamed the spread of Covid-19. But the lockdowns again due to fresh surge in Covid cases has delayed demand recovery in Europe.

Also, the probability of US sanctions on Iran's oil exports being lifted appears to have increased substantially. EU and other signatories to the nuclear deal are talking to Iran and US separately to bring

them on the same page and revive the deal.

Indications are that US sanctions on Iran exports may be lifted as early as before Iran's presidential elections due on June 18.

"While OPEC+ capping supply should keep Brent above \$ 60/bbl, delay in demand recovery and US lifting sanctions on Iran exports would cap further rise. We estimate long-term Brent at \$60/bbl," ICICI Securities said.

With regard to gross refining margin (GRMs) the outlook is modest as capacity addition is expected to exceed to refined products demand growth.

## Second Covid wave to disrupt fabric demand: Ind-Ra

■ NEW DELHI

The second wave of Covid-19 resurgence can potentially disrupt fabric demand, said India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

"Woven fabrics production continued to improve mom, though marginally, in January 2021, despite remaining 21 per cent YoY lower," Ind-Ra said.

"While recoveries for blended and knitted fabrics were quicker, that of woven is expected to be delayed with micro-lockdowns and work-from-home culture."

Besides, export demand for woven fabrics is expected to plunge over Q1FY22 with key destination countries grappling with a second wave of pandemic.

"Fabric exports remained muted in January 2021 on a mom basis, and 17 per cent YoY lower."

Demand for imported fabrics surged over December 2020-January 2021, led by restocking by retailers."

"Imports in value terms doubled between November 2020-January 2021 with higher shipments from China, Bangladesh and Vietnam."

## AGEL arm bags 150 MWac solar project

■ NEW DELHI

Adani Green Energy arm AREH Fifteen L has bagged a 150 MWac solar energy project capacity from Torrent Power.

Adani Renewable Energy Holding Fifteen Ltd (AREH Fifteen L), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), participated in a Tender issued by Torrent Power Ltd for procurement of power through competitive bidding process, from grid connected solar photovoltaic power projects to be setup in Gujarat.

AREH Fifteen L has been awarded a project capacity of 150 MWac Solar Power Project, a BSE filing said.

The fixed tariff for this project capacity is Rs 2.22/kWh for a period of 25 years.

## Operating margins of sugar companies expected to moderate in FY22: ICRA

■ NEW DELHI

The operating margins of sugar companies are likely to moderate in FY22 due to higher production cost and reduced export subsidy, ratings agency ICRA said in a statement.

Besides, benefits from improved distillery performance was also cited by the agency as a factor that might moderate operating margins.

"In the medium term, the government support measures for higher diversion of sugar for ethanol production would reduce the sugar surplus and support in improving the demand supply dynamics of the industry on a sustainable basis," ICRA said.

As per the agency, domestic sugar production is expected to increase by 10 per cent to 30.2 million MT in FY2021 and outstrip consumption by

around 4.2 million MT.

ICRA expects sugar exports at around 5.5 million MT supported by the export policy and the closing stocks are likely to remain higher than normative sugar stock levels of 6-6.5 million MT at around 9.5 million MT for SY2021 season.

However, the stocks are expected to be lower than the previous season at around 11.0 million MT.

"Given the sugar surplus scenario in the domestic market, any significant increase in the sugar prices is ruled out in the near term. However, the higher diversion of sugar towards ethanol and the remunerative pricing of ethanol is expected to result in an improved distillery performance in FY2022," said Sabyasachi Majumdar, Senior Vice President & Group Head, ICRA.

## Correction an opportunity to add cyclical: MOFSL

■ MUMBAI

Market correction due to Covid resurgence is an opportunity to add cyclical stocks said Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

In a report, MOFSL said resurgence in second wave of Covid-19 has led to elevated market volatility and correction. Late, both Nifty and Bank Nifty are down 5 and 15 per cent from their recent highs, respectively.

"To contain the pandemic, several states have announced localised restrictions with Maharashtra yesterday unveiling set of broad-based measures for two weeks mini-lockdown."

"We expect the set of restrictive measures to impact near-term economic recovery till cases stabilise. However, key

government authorities and policymakers have ruled out national lockdown."

Consequently, MOFSL recommended that correction should be viewed by the investors as a buying opportunity and advocated adding a balanced mix of growth, cyclical and defensive stocks in their portfolios. "We continue to be 'OW' on the BFSI, IT, Metals, Cement and Capital Goods, Neutral on Consumer, Auto and Pharma while staying 'UW' on Energy, Utility and Infrastructure."

On the bright side, it said that vaccinations are gradually beginning to accelerate.

"As vaccination pick up further with approvals for more vaccines now in place, we expect the focus to shift back to growth, cyclical recovery and fundamentals."

## FICCI writes to 25 CMs on Covid management, urges to avoid lockdown

■ NEW DELHI

Industry body FICCI has written to Chief Ministers of 25 States urging them to avoid imposing partial or total lockdown in the wake of fresh surge in Covid cases.

The industry body also argued that the economy has barely begun to turnaround from the impact of the earlier lockdowns and such decisions now will push the push the economy into downward spiral.

In the letter written to state CMs by FICCI President Uday Shankar, the chamber has acknowledged the need to break the Covid chain but has suggested the strategy to focus more on ramping up covid testing, awareness drive and enforcement of Covid appro-

priate behaviour rather than lockdown.

"The population may be sensitised about the Covid appropriate behaviour like wearing masks, physical distancing and personal hygiene."

Support may be taken by involving volunteers from the schools, colleges and the NGOs. Strict compliance to Covid protocol may be ensured with suitable penalties for violations," the letter states.

FICCI has represented to the Union Government to open up the vaccination for all the people above 18 years of age to give a massive push to the vaccination drive as there is no shortage of vaccines and the inoculation capacity can be increased with the participation of the private sector.

## Petrol, diesel price unchanged for 2nd consecutive day

■ NEW DELHI

Fuel prices in the country remained unchanged on Saturday as oil marketing companies decided to go on a pause mode and analyse the global developments on oil prices before effecting a revision.

Accordingly, pump price of petrol and diesel remained at ₹90.40 a litre and ₹80.73 a litre respectively in Delhi.

The price of the two auto fuels had fallen by 16 paise and 14 paise per litre respectively on Thursday after a 15 day break when OMCs kept its prices static.

Across the country as well the petrol and diesel price remained unchanged on Saturday but its retail levels varied depending on the level of local levies on respective states.

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Ishani @ Pooja D/o Shri Dharam Das R/o H. No. D-153, Vijay Vihar, Ph-II Delhi** has been missing since 26.03.2021 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 91A dated 27.03.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Vijay Vihar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**ISHANI @ POOJA**  
Age : 20 Years, Height: 5'1", Complexion : Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue colour suit and cream colour leggy and sandal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Vijay Vihar, Delhi at E-mail Id - [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639  
DP/781/RD/2021

SHO, P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi  
Rohini Distt., Delhi  
Ph. No. 011-27061294, 27061295

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General Public is hereby informed that a person namely **Sachin Mittal S/o Sh. Sajjan Kumar, R/o H.No. B-1/9, Budh Vihar Ph-I, Delhi** has been missing since 31.03.2021 from the area of PS. Vijay Vihar. In this regard a DD No. 107-A Dated 31.03.2021 has been lodged at PS, Vijay Vihar, Delhi. The description of Missing person is as under:-

**Sachin Mittal**  
Name: Sachin Mittal, Father's Name : Sh. Sajjan Kumar, Age : 35 years, Height : 5'9", Face : Long, Complexion : Wheatish, Built: Medium, Wearing : Blue Jeans, White Shirt, Sports Shoes in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax : 011-24368639  
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641  
DP/781/RD/2021

SHO, P.S., Vijay Vihar, Delhi  
Ph : 011-27061294  
27061295

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL**

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Kusum @ Kiran D/o Sh. Ashok R/o Jhuggi No.424, Cow Street, Indira Camp, Sector-03, Rohini, Delhi Aged-17 Years** has been reported missing/kidnapped since 21.03.2021 at about 4 AM from her residence vide FIR No.097/21 u/s 363 IPC Dated 22.03.2021 registered at Police Station South Rohini, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Kusum @ Kiran**  
Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'2", Face: Long, Built: Thin, ID: KS mark on right hand, Clothing: Green coloured suit, Green coloured salwar.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, South Rohini, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Telephone No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641  
FAX No. : 011-24368639  
DP/775/RD/2021

Sd/- SHO, South Rohini, Delhi  
Tel.: 011-27512189, 27510515

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 75 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown had been found dead opposite Kabutar Market, Jama Masjid, Delhi. In this regard, a vide has been registered with DD No: 49-A, dated 12.04.2021 at PS Jama Masjid, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the UIDB is as under:  
Sex: Male, Age: 75 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Wearing: White colour kurta and white colour pajama.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Jama Masjid, Delhi.

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax : 011-24368639  
DP/764/CD/2021

SHO, P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi.  
Ph. No. 011-23269777, 2326125

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED BOY**

General Public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely **Neeraj S/o Sh. Shambhu Nath R/o E-86, Ground Floor, Vijay Vihar, Ph-2, Delhi Aged-13 Years** has been reported missing/kidnapped since 13.03.2021 at 5 PM vide FIR No.118/21 u/s 363 IPC Dated 20.03.2021 registered at Police Station Vijay Vihar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

**Neeraj**  
Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'5", Face: Long, Built: Thin, Clothing: Cream coloured pant, Blue coloured T-shirt and sport shoes in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Vijay Vihar, Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sd/- SHO, Vijay Vihar, Delhi  
Tel.: 011-27061294-95  
Mob.: 8750870329  
DP/762/RD/2021

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Pooja Mishra, D/o Ravinder Mishra R/o RZ 123, Gali No.5, Naryan Vihar, Prem Nagar 2nd, Kirari Suleman Nagar, North-West Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case CC No.7962/17 S. k. Motor V/s Pooja Misra u/s 138 NIA Act, P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Pooja Mishra cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Pooja Mishra has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Pooja Mishra of CC No.7962/17 S. k. Motor V/s Pooja Misra u/s 138 NIA Act, P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 24.05.2021.

By Order,  
Ms. Anuradha Sonker  
Metropolitan Magistrate (NI Act)-08  
Room No.215, 2nd Floor, Dwarka Court, New Delhi  
DP/787/RD/2021

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a boy **Lakhan S/o Raju, R/o Aasha Kiran, Home sector-1, Rohini, Delhi** has been missing since 03.03.2021 at 04:00 PM from the area of PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi. In this regard, DD No. 61-A dated 03.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing boy is as under:

**Lakhan**  
Name: Lakhan, Gender: Male, Age: 20 years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue colour jeans, green colour t-shirt and slippers on his feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing boy, kindly inform SHO/Vijay Vihar, Delhi.

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax : 011-24368639  
DP/779/RD/2021

SHO, P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi.  
Ph. No. 011-27521294, 27521295

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Tarsen Lal, S/o: Sh. Durga Das, R/o: H.No. B-750, Sec-1, Rohini, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 22.03.2021 from the area of P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 126A, dated 22.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing/ kidnapped person is as under: **Age: 64 years, Height: 5'8", Face: Long, Built: Thin, Complexion: Shallow, ID Mark: Mentally Disturb, Wearing: Blue colour kurta, pajama and slipper in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing person kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail Id - [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639  
DP/772/RD/2021

SHO, P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-27511294, 8750870329



# Myanmar pardons prisoners

Unclear if  
coup foes  
among them

AP ■ YANGON

Myanmar's junta on Saturday announced it pardoned and released more than 23,000 prisoners to mark the traditional Thingyan New Year holiday, but it wasn't immediately clear if they included pro-democracy activists who were detained in the wake of the military's seizure of power in February.

The releases were announced on state broadcaster MRTV, which said that junta chief Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing had pardoned 23,047 prisoners, including 137 foreigners who will be deported from Myanmar. He also reduced sentences for others.

The move comes as daily protests against the February 1 ouster of the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi continue, as does the use of deadly force against them.

According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which monitors casualties and arrests, government forces have killed at least 728 protesters and bystanders since the takeover. The group says 3,141 people, including Suu Kyi, are in detention.



A man is embraced by two women outside Insein prison in Yangon, Myanmar on Saturday

AP

Unconfirmed but credible accounts with photos on social media claimed that three people were killed Saturday by security forces in a violent crackdown in the central city of Mogoke, in Myanmar's gem mining region.

Detainees released Saturday from Yangon's Insein Prison included at least three political prisoners who were jailed in 2019, said witnesses and local press reports.

The three are members of the Peacock Generation per-

formance troupe where were arrested during that year's New Year celebrations for skits that poked fun at military representatives in Parliament and military involvement in business.

Their traditional style of acting is called Thangyat, a mash-up of poetry, comedy and music with a sharp undertone of satire. Several members of the troupe were convicted under a law banning circulation of information that could endanger or demoralise members of the military. The actors may have

drawn the special wrath of the military because they performed in army uniforms.

Several members were also found guilty of online defamation for livestreaming their performances. It could not be ascertained if all imprisoned members of the troupe were released.

Another freed prisoner was Ross Dunkley, an Australian newspaper entrepreneur sentenced in 2019 to 13 years in a Myanmar prison for drug possession. His release was con-

firmed by his ex-wife Cynda Johnston, reported The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper.

Dunkley co-founded the The Myanmar Times, an English-language daily, but was forced to give up his share in it. He became well-known for co-founding or acquiring English-language publications in formerly socialist states that were seeking foreign investment as they liberalised their economies, but was sometimes criticised for doing business with authoritarian regimes.

Early prisoner releases are customary during major holidays, and this is the second batch the ruling junta has announced since taking power.

Following the release of more than 23,000 convicts to mark Union Day on February 12, there were reports on social media that some were recruited by the authorities to carry out violence at night in residential areas to spread panic, especially by setting fires. Some areas responded by setting up their own neighborhood watch groups.

In March, more than 600 people who were imprisoned for demonstrating against the February coup were released from Insein Prison, a rare conciliatory gesture by the military that appeared aimed at placating the protest movement.

Those freed were mostly young people caught in sweeps of street demonstrations, while those considered protest leaders were kept locked up.

# Troops level may increase in Af before withdrawal: Pentagon

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Before the complete withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan by September 11, there might be an increase in number of soldiers to ensure safe and orderly drawdown, the Pentagon has said.

"It is not out of the realm the possibility that for a short period of time, there will have to be some additional enabling capabilities added to Afghanistan, to help effect a safe, orderly, and deliberately planned drawdown of everybody by the president's deadline, early September," Pentagon spokesman John Kirby told reporters at a news conference on Friday.

However, Kirby did not elaborate on the nature of the increase in US troops. "I can't speak today with exactly what that would look like, how many, when they would be going in. But as we transitioned out of Iraq, of course, it's logical to assume that you may need some logistics help, maybe some engineering help," he said.

"You may have to add some force protection capabilities, temporarily, just to make sure that the drawdown goes in a safe, orderly, and effective way. Again, we'll know more as we get closer, but that would not be out of the realm of possibility," Kirby said.

Responding to a question, Kirby said that the Department



of Defense is still working out what the future bilateral security relationship is going to be with Afghanistan.

"We're going to transition to a bilateral relationship, a military relationship that's more akin to the kinds of relationships we have with other countries," he said.

"It will not include a US military footprint on the ground in Afghanistan with the exception of what's going to be required to support the diplomatic mission there. All that's still being worked out. So, I can't speak with specificity today about what contract support the Afghan security forces are going to need going forward," he said.

The United States, he said, will maintain counterterrorism capabilities to continue to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a launching pad for terrorist attacks on the US.

"We have a vast range of

capabilities available to us and we're not going to speak to the details of exactly how we're going to maintain those capabilities and utilise those capabilities," he said.

During a televised address to the nation earlier in the week, President Joe Biden said that keeping thousands of troops grounded and concentrated in just one country at a cost of billions each year made "little sense" to him.

He said all US troops would be withdrawn from the strife-torn country by September 11 to end America's longest war that has cost trillions of dollars and the lives of over 2,400 American soldiers.

The US and the Taliban signed a landmark deal in Doha on February 29, 2020 to bring lasting peace in war-torn Afghanistan and allow US troops to return home from America's longest war.

# Worldwide Covid death toll tops a staggering 3m

AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

The global death toll from the coronavirus topped a staggering 3 million people Saturday amid repeated setbacks in the worldwide vaccination campaign and a deepening crisis in places such as Brazil, India and France.

The number of lives lost, as compiled by Johns Hopkins University, is about equal to the population of Kyiv, Ukraine; Caracas, Venezuela; or metropolitan Lisbon, Portugal. It is bigger than Chicago (2.7 million) and equivalent to Philadelphia and Dallas combined.

And the true number is believed to be significantly higher because of possible government concealment or the many cases overlooked in the early stages of the outbreak that began 16 months ago in Wuhan, China, at the end of 2019. Around the world, the trajectory of the virus and the race to bring it under control vary widely from country to

country. Even as the U.S. and Britain see their vaccination drives hit their stride and they begin to contemplate life after the pandemic, other places both rich and poor — France and India among them — are lagging behind in putting shots in arms and have imposed new lockdowns and other restrictions as cases soar.

Worldwide, deaths are running at over 12,000 per day on average and new cases at more than 7,00,000 a day.

The US toll alone is over 5,60,000, accounting for more than 1 in 6 of the world's Covid-19 deaths, by far the highest reported by any country. The United States is followed by Brazil, Mexico, India and Britain. This month, the US recommended a pause in the use of Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine while authorities investigate extremely rare but dangerous blood clots, and some European countries are putting the vaccine on hold, too.

# 5 workers killed in police firing in power plant in B'desh: Reports

**Dhaka:** At least five people working at a under construction coal power plant being built by a Chinese firm in Chittagong were killed and 20 others injured in a clash with the police following a protest by the workers over wage and allowances, Bangladeshi media reports said on Saturday.

The incident happened when the protesting workers of the plant clashed with the police, prompting them to open fire in which five workers were killed, the *Dhaka Tribune* reported.

"The violence broke out around 10:30 am at the coal-fired power plant. Five have died while at least 20 others were injured in the clash, including police and local residents," a senior police officer was quoted as saying in the report.

"They attacked police who are on duty, forcing the policemen to retaliate. Four were killed during the incident while three policemen were injured," Chattogram Range Deputy Inspector General Anwar Hossain was quoted as saying by the Daily Star newspaper. **PTI**

# Russia expels Ukrainian consul over classified information

**Moscow:** Russia detained a Ukrainian diplomat for allegedly receiving classified information from a database of the country's main security agency.

The Federal Security Service, or FSB, said Saturday that Alexander Sosonyuk, Ukraine's consul in St Petersburg, was taken into custody on Friday during a meeting with a Russian in which he received "information of a classified nature contained in the databases of law enforcement agencies and the FSB".

The FSB statement, reported by Russian news agencies, didn't give further details.

Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleg Nikolenko said Sosonyuk has been released from custody and is on Ukrainian diplomatic property. It wasn't immediately clear if Russia would move to expel him.

Nikolenko said Ukraine was preparing a response, but didn't elaborate. The detention comes amid escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine amid a Russian military buildup along the border with the eastern Ukraine region. **AP**

# US Prez Biden, Japanese PM Suga discuss Chinese influence over Indo-Pacific

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden and Japan Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, in their first in-person bilateral meeting at the White House, discussed the increasing Chinese influence over the peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific and ways to strengthen the QUAD, comprising of India and Australia as the other two nations in the grouping.

Other issues like climate change, fight against coronavirus pandemic and North Korea did appear in their talks on Friday, which was the first for Biden with a foreign leader as the president of the United States. "Our alliance has served its role as the foundation of peace and stability for the Indo-Pacific region and the world. In light of the current regional situation and the severe security environment, the importance of our alliance has reached new heights," Suga told reporters at a White House news conference with Biden.

In addition to the bilateral relationship, Suga said they

discussed the free and open Indo-Pacific.

"We agreed that while Japan and the US will take the lead to promote the vision through concrete efforts. We will also cooperate with other countries and regions, including the ASEAN, Australia, and India," he said.

"We also had serious talks on China's influence over the peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific and the world at large. We agreed to oppose any attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion in the East and South China Seas and intimidation of others in the region," Suga said.

Beijing claims almost all of the 1.3 million square mile South China Sea as its sovereign territory. China has been building military bases on artificial islands in the region also claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Beijing has impeded commercial activity like fishing or mineral exploration by countries like Vietnam and the Philippines.

# After outcry, White House says Biden will lift refugee cap in May

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Facing swift blowback from allies and aid groups, the White House said President Joe Biden plans to lift his predecessor's historically low cap on refugees by next month, after initially moving only to expand the eligibility criteria for resettlements.

In an emergency determination signed by Biden earlier Friday, he stated the admission of up to 15,000 refugees set by former President Donald Trump this year "remains justified by humanitarian concerns and is otherwise in the national interest." But if the cap is reached before the end of the current budget year and the emergency refugee situation persists, then a presidential determination may be issued to raise the ceiling.

That set off a deluge of criticism from top allies on Capitol Hill such as the second-ranking Senate Democrat, Dick Durbin of Illinois, who called that initial limit "unacceptable." White House press secretary Jen Psaki said later that Biden is expected to increase the refugee cap by May 15, though she didn't say by how much.

Biden has been consulting with his advisers to determine what number of refugees could realistically be admitted to the United States between now and October 1, the end of the fiscal year, Psaki said.

"Given the decimated refugee admissions program we inherited," she said it's now "unlikely" Biden will be able to boost that number to 62,500, as he had proposed in his plan to Congress two months ago.

# Italy's Salvini to stand trial for 2019 migrant standoff

**Rome:** A judge in Sicily on Saturday ordered former Interior Minister Matteo Salvini to stand trial for having refused to let a Spanish migrant rescue ship dock in an Italian port in 2019, keeping the people at sea for days.

Judge Lorenzo Iannelli set September 15 as the trial date during a hearing in the Palermo bunker courtroom, the LaPresse news agency reported. Salvini, who attended the hearing, confirmed the outcome and insisted he was only doing his job and his duty by refusing entry to the Open Arms rescue ship and the 147 people it had rescued in the Mediterranean Sea. **AP**

# After China, US envoy Kerry in S Korea for climate talks

**Seoul:** US climate envoy John Kerry met with South Korea's foreign minister in Seoul on Saturday for talks ahead of a virtual climate summit of world leaders called by President Joe Biden for next week.

Kerry arrived in South Korea after a four-day visit to China where he held closed-door meetings with senior Chinese officials in Shanghai.

While Kerry's discussions with South Korea's Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong were focused on Biden's climate meeting and another video summit on environmental issues that South Korea will host in May, Chung also conveyed Seoul's "serious concerns" over Japanese government plans to start releasing treated radioactive water from the wrecked

Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea in two years.

Chung also requested US help for South Korea's efforts to secure more coronavirus vaccines as it wrestles with a slow vaccine rollout and a steady rise in infections, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said. The ministry didn't release any specific comments made by Kerry during the meeting.

Chung and Kerry agreed that the countries should cooperate to create "mutual synergy" between the virtual summits hosted by each country in the coming weeks, which would help set up the UN Climate Change Conference scheduled to be held in Scotland in November, the ministry said in a statement. **AP**

# Era ends as Raul Castro steps down as Communist Party chief

AP ■ HAVANA

Raul Castro said he is stepping down as Cuban Communist Party leader, leaving the island without a Castro guiding affairs for the first time in more than six decades and handing control of the party to a younger generation. The 89-year-old Castro made the announcement in a speech Friday at the opening of the eighth congress of the ruling party, the only one allowed on the island.

"I concluded my task as first secretary... With the satisfaction of having fulfilled (my duty) and confidence in the future of the fatherland," he said in a typically terse, to-the-point finale that contrasted with the impassioned

verbal pyrotechnics of his brother Fidel, who died in 2016.

Castro didn't say who he would endorse as his successor as first secretary of the Communist Party. But he previously indicated he favors yielding control to 60-year-old Miguel Diaz-Canel, who succeeded him as president in 2018 and is the standard bearer of a younger generation of loyalists who have been pushing an economic opening without touching Cuba's one-party system.

"All processes have a continuity and I think Diaz-Canel should be there now," said 58-year-old driver Miguel Rodriguez. Castro's retirement ends an era of formal leadership that began with his brother Fidel and country's 1959 rev-

olution. "One has to step aside for the young people," said 64-year-old retiree Juana Busutil, for whom Castro "is going to continue being the leader."

The transition comes at a difficult time for Cuba, with many on the island anxious about what lies ahead.

The coronavirus pandemic, painful financial reforms and restrictions imposed by the Trump administration have battered the economy, which shrank 11% last year as a result of a collapse in tourism and remittances. Long food lines and shortages have brought back echoes of the "special period" that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s.

# Prince Philip laid to rest in royal funeral

PTI ■ LONDON

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II led a small group of senior royals at the ceremonial funeral of her husband and consort Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, at Windsor Castle on Saturday.

The funeral incorporated hymns and readings chosen by the late royal himself and focussed on the "unwavering loyalty" of the longest-serving consort in British history to his wife, the monarch, and service



to Britain and the Commonwealth.

The ceremony, which began at St George's Chapel in

Windsor Castle with a national minute's silence at 1500 local time on Saturday, was a religious one though without any

sermons, as planned by the Duke — who passed away aged 99 last week on Friday.

"The Order of Service for the funeral was agreed with the Duke of Edinburgh during his lifetime, and reflects the Duke's military affiliations, and personal elements of His Royal Highness' life," Buckingham Palace said in a statement.

At the end of the ceremony, the Duke's coffin was carried to his resting place in the royal vault beneath St George's Chapel.

CORRIGENDUM	
Reference to publication of ICICI Bank Limited vs SHISHIR DUTT SHARMA, Case No-Suit No 1967/17., ICICI Bank Limited vs SANJAY KUMAR PANDIT, Case No-Suit No 933/18, ICICI Bank Limited vs KULVINDER SINGH, Case No-FAO 213/2015, ICICI Bank Limited vs MEHKAR SINGH, Case No-CM(M) 549/2020 & CM APPL. 27986/2020, ICICI Bank Limited vs SUBODH KUMAR, Case No-CM(M) 602/2020 & CM APPL. 30659/2020, ICICI Bank Limited vs JITENDRA CHATURVEDI, Case No-CM(M) 22/2020, ICICI Bank Limited vs MOHD ASIF, Case No-CM(M) 178/2021, ICICI Bank Limited vs ARCHANA RAJ, Case No-CM(M) 573/2020 & CM APPL. 29273/2020, ICICI Bank Limited vs MOHAMMAD ARIF, Case No-CSSCJ:1871/19, ICICI Bank Limited vs VIJAY GUPTA, Case No-Suit No. 1088/2018, ICICI Bank Limited vs RAHUL YADAV, Case No-CM (M) 222/2020, ICICI Bank Limited vs VIJAY GUPTA, Case No-Suit No. 1088/2018 of April 17, 2021 published in The Pioneer (Eng.) and The Pioneer (Hin.). Due to inadvertent mistake the Auction Date was wrongly mentioned as May 1, 2021 and April 22, 2021 instead of May 06, 2021. We therefore, requesting to read it as May 06, 2021, and remaining content is unchanged.	
Dated: April 17, 2021	Place : Delhi/ NCR

कार्यालय नगर निगम, भरतपुर	
क्रमांक :- न.नि.म./निगम/ 2021-22 / 02-07	दिनांक :- 05.04.2021
<b>ई-निविदा सूचना- 01/2021-22</b>	
नगर निगम, भरतपुर द्वारा नगर निगम, भरतपुर में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में एवं अन्य विभागों के "A" & "AA" श्रेणी में पंजीकृत स्वेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से निविदा का महत्वपूर्ण शर्त एवं विवरण वेबसाइट <a href="http://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in">http://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in</a> एवं <a href="http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in">http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in</a> पर देखा जा सकता है।	
कार्यों की संख्या	18 कार्य
कार्यों की कुल लागत	505.48 लाख
वेब साईट <a href="http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in">http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in</a> से निविदा डाउनलोड करने की समय ब विधि	दिनांक 15.04.2021 से 05.05.2021 तक एवं सायं 6.00 बजे
वेब साईट <a href="http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in">http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in</a> से ऑनलाईन निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम समय ब विधि	दिनांक 05.05.2021 सायं 6.00 बजे
नगर निगम में प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क निविदा शुल्क की दृष्टि से अलग अलग रखे जा सकते हैं।	दिनांक 06.05.2021 दोपहर 12.00 बजे
निविदा खोलने की समय ब विधि	दिनांक 07.05.2021 दोपहर 12.00 बजे
UBN Number:-	
1. DLB2122WSOB01462 2. DLB2122WSOB01465 3. DLB2122WSOB01467 4. DLB2122WSOB01471 5. DLB2122WSOB01474 6. DLB2122WSOB01476 7. DLB2122WSOB01478 8. DLB2122WSOB01479 9. DLB2122WSOB01480 10. DLB2122WSOB01481 11. DLB2122WSOB01482 12. DLB2122WSOB01483 13. DLB2122WSOB01484 14. DLB2122WSOB01486 15. DLB2122WSOB01489 16. DLB2122WSOB01492 17. DLB2122WSOB01495 18. DLB2122WSOB01496	
आयुक्त	
नगर निगम, भरतपुर	







Lokas 2: What Exists Above

To move from the *Bhulok* to *Bhuvalok* (Astral Plan), from *Tamas* to more *Rajas*, we need to work on controlling our senses

2



4

Of learning and wisdom

Every seeker must undergo a mandatory grooming process before being allowed exposure to the particular subject of learning

I personally think that if you deny something or if you hide something you're inadvertently admitting it's wrong  
— Amber Heard



# TELLING THE TALE OF HERITAGE

Stories are an excellent mode of keeping the history of heritage alive, writes SUTAPA BASU, as she shares her impressions on the importance of making heritage a part of contemporary storytelling

Stories have disseminated consciousness of our past cultures since times immemorial. Whether through cave paintings or oral narrations, the earliest mode of passing traditions, history, customs, and rituals through generations has been only through storytelling. Before written language was discovered, even certain work skills were passed from father to son through stories. The reason is simple, anything woven into a story is unforgettable. Storytelling is a powerful tool that has massive lasting impact. When we listen to stories or read them, they boost our feelings of trust, compassion, empathy and positively influence our social behaviour. Storytelling has a unique ability to build connections. When we hear a well-told story, your brain reacts as if we are experiencing it ourselves. We respond to stories because they cultivate a sense of togetherness. Thus, stories that tell us about our past or what we have inherited from our ancestors make us feel, we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

## WHAT IS HERITAGE?

Heritage is the complete scope of inherited traditions, monuments, objects, and culture. Most significantly, it is the range of contemporary activities, meanings, and behaviour that we draw from them. Heritage includes, but is much more than just preserving, excavating, displaying, or restoring a collection of old things.

Heritage is tangible as well as intangible. Monuments, artifacts, books, archived records of events are tangible while traditions, lifestyles and mannerisms are some of the intangible elements that we inherit. We can explore heritage through excavations, conservation, restoration and display of concrete objects. However, history of songs, recipes, cuisine, nuances of language, dances, dress and other conventions of legacy need to be perceived and appreciated. An excellent mode of keeping the history of heritage alive, generation after generation, is through stories. For what is history but story telling?

Let's see how some of the palpable as well as abstract elements of heritage have benefited through telling stories.

## ARCHITECTURE

Old forts and castles, mansions and monuments are natural source for stories, myths, and tales. When I visited Chittorgarh fort, one of the myths I heard was about how the religious fervour of Meera Bai, the Princess of Mewar, had kept intact her chamber in the huge palace though the rest of the royal residence had been flattened. Obviously, I went back and read up everything available about the history of the palace and fort. I discovered more such myths. In *The Pillars of the Earth*, author Ken Follet

describes in great detail how a 12th century cathedral is built. He makes a tale of its unusual architecture, politics and weaves civil war, famine and religious strife around it.

Bimal Mitra's Bengali novel *Saheb, Bibi, Golam* made into the famous film, *Sahib, Bibi Aur Ghulam* is set in a *zamindari* mansion that resonates with the culture of the period. His entire story is about the feudal and patriarchal traditions which emanate from the mansion.

Another story like that is *Shatranj Ke Khilari* about the *nawabi* culture that has been filmed in the old palaces of Lucknow.

## CUISINE

An amazing story that revolves around food, its concoction, history and influence is *Like Water For Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel. Tita, the tragic protagonist of the story, is only able to express herself when she cooks. The chapters even carry recipes. They fascinated me and I even cooked some of them. The stories about food gave me a wonderful view of regional cuisine.

Another book that has enamoured me is *The Flavour of Spice* by Marryam H Reshi that gloriously celebrates spices. Reading her book, I embarked upon a delightful foray into the heritage of Indian cooking as she traces history of spices as far back as possible.

## WAY OF LIFE

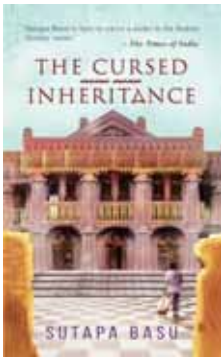
Reading *Gone With The Wind* by Margaret Mitchell gives the reader an excellent insight into lifestyles, dresses, social customs and attitudes prevalent in southern parts of USA during the American Civil War in the 1800s. The book has become a reference point for scholars of that period.

Vikram Seth's novel *A Suitable Boy* brings us the perfume of courtesans and old-world charm of the pre-independence period. It gives us a peep into lifestyles, notions and sentiments of a bygone culture.

## DRESS

Dramas written by playwrights such as Shakespeare, Kalidas or Anton Chekov, when staged, are a feast for costume designers. They display the fashions worn during a specific period in a certain parts of the world where the dramas are set. However, stories are created not only by writers but are also told by raconteurs.

When the *Ramcharitra Manas* or *Meghdoot* is recited there are vivid descriptions of garments, headdresses and weapons which make them come alive through mental visuals for the listeners. History and heritage of dresses come alive only through these descriptions. We can then compare them and find out what of that heritage still remains in our fashions today.



WE RESPOND TO STORIES BECAUSE THEY CULTIVATE A SENSE OF TOGETHERNESS. THUS, STORIES THAT TELL US ABOUT OUR PAST OR WHAT WE HAVE INHERITED FROM OUR ANCESTORS MAKE US FEEL, WE ARE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN OURSELVES

## MEANS OF TRANSPORT

Read *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen and we find out about chaises, stagecoaches, barouches, phaetons, and carriages. What about *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne to know about submarines or fictional wonder vehicles such as the muggle car from the *Harry Potter* series?

*Pather Panchali* by written by Bibhutibhusan Bandhopadhyaya and put on celluloid by Satyajit Ray shows its protagonist's obsession with the train that passes his village. Since his only travel experience had been on a bullock cart, the speeding train enthralled him.

## TRADITIONS

Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is a wonderful cameo on the traditional Christmas spirit. Similarly, *Sense and Sensibility* by Austen profiles the Victorian custom of older men marrying young girls. Emily Bronte's novel *Wuthering Heights* is all about how social class creates conflicts among its characters.

Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan*, Jhumpa Lahiri's *Namesake* and *The Lowlands* are excellent profiles of traditions and rituals in different parts of India. Arvind Adiga's *The White Tiger* gives insights into class disparities of an India of a decade ago. Chitra Divakaruni's *Palace of Illusions* takes the reader back to the rituals of the *Mahabharata* period of Indian history while *Before We Visit the Goddess* is about multi-generational bonds, that rise from the countryside of Bengal, India and sweep into the streets of Houston, Texas.

## NUANCES OF LANGUAGE

Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* is a wonderful study of the use of dialect by different social classes in nineteenth century America. In fact, introducing dialect into literary writing goes back to Chaucer. Non-standard spellings and slang are used often in literature to delineate characters and give them identity.

Evolving language is one of true measures of heritage. Do you remember Eliza Doolittle in George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*? If only learning the correct dialect could make a flower girl into a lady of consequence, how important can language be in the reconstruction of society?

Ruskin Bond often uses regional nuances and dialect to create atmosphere and build his characters. Many of his stories are set in the terai of the Himalayas and his villagers often use words in their own dialect in dialogues.

With such eminent authors to light up my path, I have included many features of heritage in my books to build ambience, build characters and bring authenticity to my storytelling. In all

my historical fiction books, I create the historical period through visual pen pictures of the dress, cuisine and traditions of the period and place. In *The Curse of Nader Shah*, I have exposed Nader Shah's obsession with the colour red on his garments and his creation of the four-cornered hat, the *kulah-e-naderi*. In *The Legend of Genghis Khan*, I have described the wide range of knives that the Mongols always carried on their belts and their varied purpose. *Padmavati* has numerous regional words sprinkled across the story for the sake of authenticity.

My latest book, *The Cursed Inheritance* focuses on the city of Kolkata and its cultural nuances. The *zamindari* mansions that dot the city inspired the setting of this cozy mystery inside a dilapidated yet grand mansion of Kolkata, called Sarkar Bari. I describe egg concoctions being cooked that are special to Kolkata as well as a coal stove built inside an iron pail, a common cooking implement in Bengal.

Kolkata is one of few cities which still has the hand-pulled rickshaws. Mentioned numerous times in my new book, is Kolkata's iconic vehicle though the protagonist also empathises with the emaciated pullers and their livelihoods. I have chronicled the tradition of celebrating the festival of Durga Puja in the mansions of old *zamindari* families in this novel. Belief in *tantric* practices and demons as guardians of treasures is one of the regional features of rural Bengal which has been exploited to the hilt.

Stories, narratives, and storytelling are central aspects of all cultures and thus, a part of heritage. For the storytelling to become an effective propagator of cultural history, it must engage the listener or reader, and provide a narrative that is both cognitively and emotionally compelling. People are natural storytellers. They tell narratives about their experiences and the meanings that these experiences have in their lives. All cultures and societies also possess their own stories or narratives about their past and their present, and sometimes about their view of the future. The memories and retelling of the past provide a sense of security in an uncertain world. Stories, both written and verbal, are veritable source for this history.

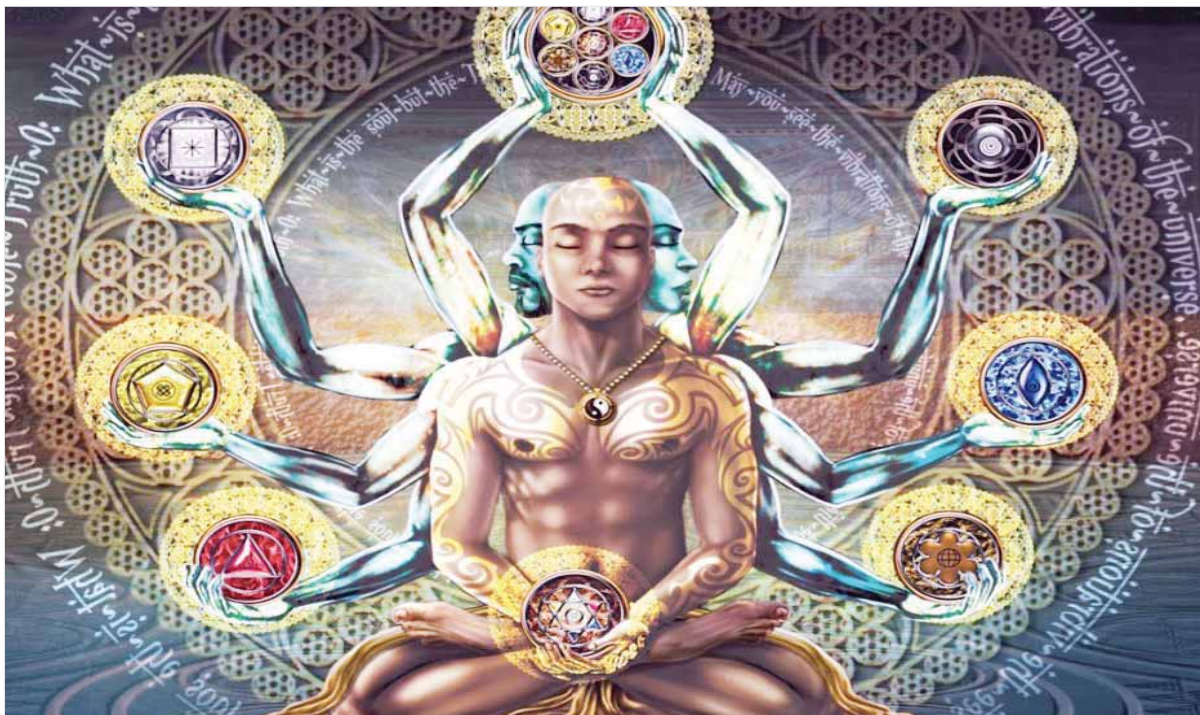
Stories are a thread of timelessness that runs through a rapidly changing environment. Hence, stories revolving around heritage bring a special sense of belonging and of continuity. It reduces global conflict and brings empathy for co-existence. All said and done, storytelling is one of the dominant means of preserving heritage and passing down of values and traditions that make the global social fabric stronger.

The writer is an author and poet. Her book, *The Cursed Inheritance*, has been recently published



# LOKAS 2: WHAT EXISTS ABOVE

In order to move from the *Bhulok* to *Bhuvalok* (Astral Plan), from *Tamas* to more *Rajas*, we need to work on controlling our senses, writes HINGORI



It is believed that it is only when you have suffered enough and built a resolve to change, do you set an opportunity to get birth on the *Bhulok* or Earth. This is supposed to be true for most of the *lokas* and for movement from one to the other, either upwards or downwards. Only the Earth dimension provides the infrastructure for the relevant criss-cross Visas. This is the *Karma loka*, where there is opportunity to go against your nature and qualify for the better.

Higher *loka* beings descend downwards often to fulfil their own completions and final attainments. Many gurus are obligated to take the rebirth to uplift their disciples and help them gain completion. They do so to manipulate a change in their *gunas* through example setting, motivation, counselling and sharing their *gyan*.

The latest and one of the greatest was the *Mahaguru* whose *Karma Bhumi* was Gurgaon and afterlife headquarters is Najafgarh. While most prophets came with a small contingent of a few, he brought along hundreds of beings from higher *lokas* to accomplish his mission.

I have in the vision state visited a few *lokas* but never connected the dots and never pondered on the subject. Unfortunately my experience was limited and though theory not my normal choice, but in this case I had to resort to borrowing a few pages from the ancients and so these thoughts are a mixture of my realisations combined with those of others.

Before we come to our own to do list, let us look at the ladders that stand parallel to the snake. What are the higher *lokas*? What qualifications are required? What can we do to get higher on the ladders?

Let us imagine ourselves standing at a mid-landing of a staircase. Climbing is greater effort and needs agility. For those who like to sound profound call it *Purusharth*. Technically, you cannot climb up the ladder to higher *lokas*, you need to float up.

In order to move from the *Bhulok* or Earth plane to '*Bhuvalok*' or '*Astral Plane*' or from the *Mooladhara Chakra* to the *Swadishthan Chakra*, from the Earth element to the water element, from the predominantly *Tamas* to more *Rajas* we need to work on controlling our senses.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT ABOVE THE SATYALOK ARE LOKAS LIKE VAIKUNTH, GOLOKA, SHIVALOK ETC. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE BHRAMLOK AND THESE ARE PARALLEL AND VARIABLE DUE TO THE INHERENT NATURE THE BEING HAS EVOLVED INTO

Remember this is a world ruled and perceived by senses. Our senses do not offer us more than 5% to 10% of reality. Between the *Bhuvarlok* and the *Svalok* or *Swarg*, the difference is quite huge.

At the *Bhuvarlok*, we have a slightly different set of off loads because this is a *loka* of intellect, memory, relationships, heroic attitudes, and emotions. On the other hand it is also a *loka* of attainment.

And then *Swarlok* is a place where you can spend your cosmic currency earned and stored. It is a place of immense pleasure and beauty. *Seva* leads to *Swarg* or beyond. It's a place where spiritual understanding and aspirations begin. People learn detachment and how to focus on the purpose of the self. They also prepare for rebirth on *Bhulok* when spiritual assets dwindle. They get born as kings and queens or administrators and dominating personalities maybe as celebrities as well. If they are philanthropic and kind, they retain their *loka* status. If not they catch a snake ride. If they are those who out do expectations, the ethereal ladder appears and the ascent is in order. The ascent is to the *Anahata chakra*

or the '*Maharlok*' which lies beyond the '*Dhruv Tara*' or the Pole star. *Mahar* is the land of the wise and balanced with qualities of selfless service, compassion and self-love. However, inactivity and observer capability is still one *loka* away. Birth on Earth comes as teachers, reformers, saintly people, healers etc.

Karmas are not doable at the level of these higher *lokas*. When one qualifies beyond devotion and beliefs and attains the status of knowing or *Gyan*, one becomes an invited resident of the '*Janalok*'. In the microcosm, this *loka* is at the level of the *Vishuddhi Chakra*. One needs to be a sincere practitioner of spirituality and dispassion to qualify for a seat here. Till you harbour emotions, don't attain *Gyan* or intuitive knowledge, you can read about this *loka* but not live here. The senses especially the sense of sound and hearing needs to be history at this point.

When self-respect turns to self-reverence, when one feels the justification of self-worship, one takes birth, if and when one needs, on *Bhulok* as a spiritual leader and an aspirant to a higher *loka*. When Duality becomes an amalgam and wisdom hands the baton to observer-ship or *Sakshibhav*, one gets catapulted to the '*Tapalok*'. This is the *loka* of *Divya Bhakti* and reflection of oneself as divinity. You cease to be judgemental and identify as one with the universal consciousness. As this is a place of the third eye in the body, one has started the journey to shift consciousness.

There are 3 centres between the *Tapalok* and the *Satylok*. Above the *Ajna Chakra* are 3 *chakras* including the *Sahasra*, the location for final emancipation.

It is believed that above the *Satylok* are *lokas* like *Vaikunth*, *Goloka*, *Shivalok* etc. It is possible that the *Bhramlok* and these are parallel and variable due to the inherent nature the being has evolved into.

Gurudev once shared with me in confidence that when we die in our afterlife, we have to first pass through the *Dhruv Tara* or the pole star to get to where we belong. He also mentioned that we come across crossroads, and at these crossroads, one side has very bare looking places, while the other has very aesthetically lovely looking places. And he warned that the bare ones are the higher ones, and we should avoid getting stuck due to our sense of sight.

So choose wisely in this life and in your afterlife.

The writer is the author of Hingori Sutras series of spiritual books



**HIDDENSOULS**  
PRAMOD PATHAK



## Corona: Fear is the key

As the second round of Corona scare grips the world as many had predicted, mass hysteria of gargantuan proportions seems to be building up again. Psychologists may call this reaction a paranoia that seems to affect large sections of the people all over the world. And Corona is not the only worry. US is worried about the gun purchases reaching alarming levels as a sizeable section of Asian Americans are in some kind of an insecurity syndrome. Worry and fear are all at the top of the mind as death seems to be lurking round the corner. The situation is eerily similar to the Corona scare round 1 suggesting that experience is not always a good teacher. Rather, it accentuates the past behaviour many times over. Against this backdrop, we once again need to ask the same questions that were raised during the previous round. The responses are of the same trial and error nature. To add to the woes some new questions have cropped up. Is this a different Corona? Does the vaccine have the answer? Difficult to say but history seems to be repeating itself. As the scare mounts and the toll counts rise to alarming levels, there is a need to have a relook at the entire scenario and examine things in totality. And things may not appear to be as simple as they look. Yes, it has impacted lives, ruined families and caused death and destruction of enormous proportions. Yes, it has shattered economies and crashed GDPs. But there is another side of the story. It has raised the number of billionaires in both developed and developing countries and there are some in the queue to graduate to the trillionaire status. It has pushed the growth of e-commerce companies astronomically while online platforms rose in geometric proportions. Investors now realise that putting money in Pharma stocks yields big dividends, and rather fast, even though there is no sure medicine in sight. It also threw quacks and charlatans in thousands sermonising on dos and don'ts on the social media. YouTube has become the most handy tool for the propaganda brigade who are delivering unsubstantiated pearls of wisdom almost at the same pace as the speed of the spread of the virus. Quite interestingly the biological virus seems to have acquired traits of computer virus. So we are told that this time the vaccine provides immunity for some months rather than a lifetime, as it used to be earlier. The connection between computer and Corona seems interesting as there is an uncanny relationship between people having stakes in computers and Pharma. It is not just the medical angle. An interesting aspect is that one voice of dissent on the social media meets with systemic campaign from troll brigade that makes sure that such voices are lost in the din. That apart, there are many intriguing aspects to ponder. But we must understand that while exercising utmost caution helps us, getting scared helps others who have something to gain from our fear. Fear is a big industry these days and marketing negativities pushes demand of goods and services that are often not required. Making a fast buck is seldom done through fair business. As Mario Puzo wrote in *The Godfather* — *Behind every great fortune there is a crime*. Corona is certainly bad, but cashing in on Corona is rather worse.

Pathak is a professor of management, writer, and an acclaimed public speaker. He can be reached at [ppathak.ism@gmail.com](mailto:ppathak.ism@gmail.com)

## IN KRISHNA'S LOVE

Each one of us, whether in heart or mind, is trying to fill the void with energy. In my case, it is Krishna energy, says RAJIV KAPOOR

In the hollow emptiness within, a dark passage to seemingly nowhere, I search for myself, or perhaps dismiss myself in the perfect burial ground that one's consciousness could serve. The more inward I look, the more beyond me the vision wants to travel. Whereto, if not Krishna's feet or the sound of His Flute that beckons many hearts. The outcome is peace when I tread with faith, and frustration when I digress to alleys not in His name. That alternating peace and frustration is because I am human. In that lies both my hope and disappointment.

Why Krishna, and not simply emptiness? Buddhist proponents may argue. Or, another name to fill the void such as Jesus or Mohammed, that few minority religious minds in India might be provoked to ask. In raising those questions, the adult mind remains minor. For all of us, whether in your heart or mine, are trying to fill the void with energy. In my case, it is Krishna energy. The big personal journey inside would be best served without the myopic lens of religion, and instead with an intuitive eye of the seeker. It is in Krishna consciousness that this pen flows.

"Among the mountains, I am the Himalayas," said He.

We are all trying to climb successive peaks that we see. Any relative comparison among the peers is useless. Glorious peaks for a few could be futile plateaus for others. Within us those subjectively defined heights are measured and more importantly, a climbing process where life is felt and lived.

I saw the peak of a woman, and in her true love, my elixir. The energy that flows in true love is the same, whether it is for God or a person. If I could not be consciously in God's love round the clock, then I needed her love. May be, through her love only, could I hope to reach the higher realms in my spiritual world that was con-



ceived from His Flute.

Indeed, from atop that peak, one of love and not marriage, I saw Krishna more relevant. So, I decided to talk to Him through my writings, in a more inspired version of myself and in His own language of creation. In humility, I called my spirit to drop ink on paper floor. Then, with abandon, I danced upon it. Krishna must be merry in the heavens too.

As I wrote in my book, *Conversations With My Love*: Creativity is God. In it, we find ourselves; His scheme, how he fulfills; Promises He makes, Ours' that He keeps; Many through progeny, follow the creative path; I found other way, I came to write.

Another peak climbed, and yet not high enough. Krishna was not always there to keep me drowned or submerged in Him. He had not yet granted me that fortune.

"Krishna, wither those clouds, that hide the next peak, and not my limbs," said I, and continued, "before I leave my pot of earth behind, present yourself Master."

"Climbing shall not end. Know this, that with every step of yours howsoever made, I will make one towards you." Replied the Master.

In that leap of faith I continued. The only glimmer of light in the dark passage within. The light of Krishna energy, that I nurtured from emptiness, dropping off all that was useless in the climb towards the next peak.

I conjured up Krishna's idol of white, spotless marble. Ganges flowed down His entire length and out through the door that my soul had opened. "It is my birthday, mate," said He, "of your Venusian heart, tell me which void shall I fill?"

My Lord, in your presence, and when your eyes meet mine, there is no void anymore. The ocean fills all empty spaces. Only depths remain unexplored, now that I have taken the dive. Call the mermaid with Your Flute and ask her to pull me deeper.

The writer is the author of book, *Conversations With My Love*

## We are programmed

The programming of fear, or that God is not there to protect us, can be changed through faith, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We, human beings, are programmed to fear. Why blame God for this? What do we do with our children? We instil discipline in them by scaring them. This process of scaring into submission is reinforced throughout one's life. If a growing child is not paying proper attention to his studies, his parents may paint a very dark picture of his future. Then, there is law to be afraid of for everyone. As a result, we are all insecure without exception. The thought of insecurity comes regularly, which makes us careful, cautious and fearful.

In short, we are programmed to be insecure. How else can a world with its seven billions plus population coexist? This is the cosmic design, which is to stop us from acting irresponsibly by being fearful. Unknowingly, we contribute to instil fear in others.

This is not all, we are also programmed to think that in spite of all the talk about God, if He exists at all, will not protect us. What good is God to us if He will not protect us. Is our security not a major concern for us. This feeling is a big factor in people not having faith in God. On the other hand, we are told that God will punish us if we stray, though this is factually incorrect, because giving punishment is done by divine authorities, based on our bad/sinful acts. God stays away from such administration of justice except in rare cases like that of Ravana. At that time, God chooses to perform many functions like re-establishing *dharma*. (*Bhagavad Gita* 4.7) This programming is also part of the cosmic design.

There are two kinds of people in the world — those born with predominantly divine and demonic qualities. (16.6) There is always friction between



them. The demonic try to cause harm to the world by their cruel acts. (16.9) Those with divine endowments are crucial for the proper functioning of the world. That is why God and His divine establishment favour them. There are three categories of such divine souls. The first one consists of just good people, who do mostly good acts not wanting to harm anyone.

The next or higher lot is of good people, who also do public service. For this reason, God does intervene in their cases by protecting them by extricating them from harmful situations, caused by their bad acts done earlier. Remember, these souls must have erred like the rest of us human beings. God has to help out; He does. God does much more for His devotees — the highest category He puts them in the '*yogakshemam*' group — (9.22). God helps in getting what one does not have and provides security of what one has. This is how the two higher groups of

people are assured of not ending up badly (6.40) or never perishing. (9.31)

So what did we learn? That the programming of being fearful or having the feeling that God will not protect does not have to be permanently inched into us, it can be changed. However, there are conditions, as mentioned earlier. If we have qualified, then, we need not be so fearful or anxious; we can come to the level of being cautious, careful, etc., which is necessary for our own good. This is when peace descends. One knows in his heart that he is never alone and helpless; God is with Him. (6.7) He enjoys God's protection. God is real; He is no longer a figment of imagination.

Every time a fearful thought comes in the mind then one thinks that he is not alone; God is with him; He will protect. Gradually, the earlier programming will change from negative to positive and life will be much better.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at [spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com](mailto:spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com)



# Importance of behavioural economics during Covid

The coronavirus pandemic has not only grabbed the headlines but has also thrown the global health emergency care in disarray. The ubiquitous virus has not spared anyone, not even the most prosperous economies of the world.

Studies have shown that people living with comorbidity (i.e., concomitant morbidity) are under high risk of falling critically ill or succumbing to coronavirus. They are dying from the in-hospital complications and a high incidence of mortality. The comorbidity is mostly of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity, cerebrovascular accident, malignancy, asthma, cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney and obstructive pulmonary diseases, etc.

Moreover, persons with diabetes have been in the lime-light since the inception of the pandemic as the epidemiological data have revealed their high risk of several clinical adversities (The Lancet, 2020). As per the statistics, 71 per cent of deaths are owing to NCDs globally, 41 million people every year, of which 15 million are under the age of 70 years. Moreover 8.5 million cases are from low and middle income countries.

The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology published its findings based on 61 million individuals in England on their absolute and relative risk of mortality due to Covid-19 and the type of diabetes. It finds that the odd ratio of in-hospital deaths is 3.51, and 2.03 for persons with type-1 and type-2 diabetes, respectively. Information from 1561 Covid-19 patients from two hospitals in Wuhan showed that those with diabetes (9.8%) were more likely to need admission to the intensive care unit or to die, and similar cases are also noted from other parts of the world.

However, despite having a high percentage of diabetes, the



A patient waits inside an ambulance to be admitted to a dedicated Covid-19 hospital in Ahmedabad on April 15, 2021

AP

reported cases of mortality in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan are comparatively low so far. The climatic and geographical factors have some bearing on this low fatality rate in this region. (Apicella et. al., The Lancet, July 17, 2020).

Using the Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI, 2017-19) database of the Harvard, IIPS and the University of Southern California on disease and health condition of the popu-

lation aged 45 years and above, we estimated that 18.28 per cent have comorbidity. About 60 per cent of the patients with diabetes have high blood pressure, while 17.32 per cent of patients with high cholesterol levels are suffering from chronic heart diseases. This co-occurrence of more than one disorder in the same individual is a matter of utmost concern during the raging pandemic. Our results also demonstrated that 75 per cent of the indi-

viduals suffering from comorbidity are hardly ever or never engaged in vigorous physical activities. Out of total patients suffering from comorbidity, about one-quarter indulge in substance use. Cases among females are more than males and it increases with the rise in income from the second to fifth income quintile.

The Government's initiative to prioritise the people with comorbidity in this age group on the vaccination list is the

need of the hour and has been followed from March 1 to curb the second wave of covid.

However, the public spending on NCDs is less than 0.5 per cent of GDP in India. The findings of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) of 2015-16 state that obesity has given a steep rise to hypertension among people with BMI more than 30. While 11 per cent of the eligible women (i.e, age 15-49) have hypertension, including 7 per cent having stage-1

hypertension, and stage-2 and stage-3 hypertension at 1 per cent each. On blood pressure parameter, it finds 61 per cent women as compared to 43 per cent men, but only 1 per cent of them take anti-hypertensive medicines.

The National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (NPCDCS) has been executed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to

raise awareness regarding risk factors and establishment of NCD clinics, cardio care centre and screening at primary health-care level. The National Action Plan has also been conceived along the global monitoring framework to reduce the premature deaths from NCDs to 25 per cent by 2025. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has militated against Government's efforts of integrating NPCDCS with National Health Mission and AYUSH to promote a healthy lifestyle and strengthening infrastructure to detect NCDs at an early stage.

The focus of the healthcare system in India at present lies on four important directions -- intervention in maternal and child health, preventive and affordable healthcare, medical infrastructure, and communicable and non-communicable diseases. Under the aegis of Ayushman Bharat Scheme, the Health and Wellness Centres, Primary Healthcare Centres, Community Health Centres are providing free diagnostic services for the NCDs.

Simply designing and implementing policies are not sufficient to weaken the bond between Covid-19 and comorbidity. There is a need to eliminate practical and psychological barriers to healthy behaviour, which is possible by the adoption of a behavioural economics approach. Integration of these idiosyncratic approaches into policymaking will illustrate its ability to improve both the effectiveness and efficiency of policies through well-designed interventions in curtailing the comorbidity, especially during the second of Covid-19.

(Pratap C Mohanty teaches Economics at IIT Roorkee. He specialises in Health Economics. Pragyta Taneja is a PhD Fellow, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Roorkee)

**Integration of idiosyncratic approaches into policymaking will illustrate its ability to improve both the effectiveness and the efficiency of policies through well-designed interventions in curtailing comorbidity, especially during the second of Covid-19**



PRATAP C MOHANTY



PRAGYTA TANEJA

## PERSPECTIVE

# Takers' total reliance key to vaccination success

**From the early-vaccinated who share their experience with others to the vaccine administrators, local bodies that facilitate the vaccination centres, healthcare community, policymakers and the media, everyone has a role to highlight the need to support and encourage the vaccination drive**



SUBHROJOYOTI BHOWMICK

It is crucial that the world's largest vaccination campaign in India must succeed with more shots being administered because this is the green shoot of hope we have to rebuild our lives and our economy and to build India stronger.

Covid-19 has had an unprecedented impact in the way we live and work. The lockdown and quarantine protocols also fueled social anxiety as more cases were identified, and reports of deaths due to Covid-19 related complications trickled in.

Every death is a tragic loss; every death impacts people and families in ways that go unreported. With over 1.69 lakh lives already lost to the pandemic, there is urgent need to embrace the nationwide vaccination drive.

The nation's resilience and prompt action has seen it record among the world's lowest number of cases and deaths per million of the population, but we must continue to build on this through the most effective and safe tool that science has developed — prompt vaccination.

After all, vaccines have helped contain several contagious diseases. The fact that we are smallpox free is just one example of how successful vaccination campaigns have enabled the nation to address pressing healthcare crises.

While the first dose of smallpox vaccine reportedly arrived in the country in 1802, the country's first national campaign in 1962 enabled us in achieving the desired effect through the tireless efforts of volunteers and a greater awareness among the public on the need to be vaccinated.

We have seen similar success in preventing tuberculosis through the BCG vaccination programme. Further, from being hyperendemic for polio in the early 1990s, India's success in eliminating wild polioviruses is another inspiring example of the success of the children vaccination programme and awareness campaigns. These successful

vaccination campaigns have helped save millions of precious lives.

What is common across all successful vaccination campaigns is the fact there has been strong grassroots acceptance. With no clear sight on when the Covid-19 pandemic will end, and if the world will ever go back to the place as we knew it, it is crucial to take the jab.

Let us take a moment to look back on the same period last year: There was no hope in sight as the pandemic wreaked havoc across the world. Less than a year later, we have hope and confidence in a number of approved vaccines, highlighting the inspiring work of our scientists. With multiple variants of the virus being reported, being vaccinated is important to support humanity's collective effort to contain the pandemic.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi has warned, the country, with its large population of 1.3 billion, stands to face trouble if vaccinations are not taken to prevent new infections. The strategy of the nation to first inoculate front-line workers followed by the elderly and now opening up vaccinations for all over 45 is the right direction as we need to ensure lower mortality, given that the elderly and those with medical conditions are more vulnerable to the complications arising from Covid-19.

With vaccination centres set up in key locations across all States, people have more access to vaccination. More than 10 crore doses of the vaccine have already been administered, including over nearly 1.35 crore people taking both the doses, as of April 14.

My family members and I have taken the jab, and the confidence it brings is enormous. The process was seamless; we visited the vaccination centre near our home. There were trained volunteers who explained to us the process of the vaccination, what to expect, and we were back home in no time.

It is both a privilege and an hon-



A medic prepares to administer a dose of Covid-19 vaccine during the vaccination festival Tilka Utsav, at EDMC Vishwarkarma Park Dispensary in New Delhi

PTI

our to get the opportunity to protect oneself, and at the same time, support the safety of the family and community. Being vaccinated, I believe, is the first step to protecting yourself and your family, and thereby the wider community and the nation. While it is important to continue to follow all protocols, vaccine ensures that you are less vulnerable to the disease, which gives you a sense of immense relief.

The Government of India has taken the right steps, by authorising the emergency use of Russia's Sputnik

V Covid-19 vaccine, and also fast-tracking approval for other shots already passed by other major countries. With the rising cases in India, vaccination is the most effective tool in our battle against Covid-19. And as the Government rightly stated, "It is very critical to expand the basket of vaccines for domestic use and hasten the pace and coverage of vaccination".

What is the key to the success of this vaccination mission is that every member of the public plays a key role in contributing to it. From the early-

vaccinated who share their experience with others to the vaccine administrators, local bodies that facilitate the vaccination centres, the healthcare community, the policymakers and the media, everyone has a role in highlighting the need to encourage the vaccination drive.

We have a solution to the unprecedented challenge we faced, and it would be unwise, and in fact a disservice to the nation, to squander this opportunity due to apprehension, uncertainty, or misinformation. India's vaccination drive is

moving in the right direction and we must step up the tempo to enable safety for all our fellow citizens, so that as a country we can focus on our growth and socio-economic and developmental priorities.

(The writer is NABH Assessor for Hospitals and Ethics Committee and honorary lecturer, Institute of Clinical Sciences, University of Birmingham, UK; and Consultant, Digital Health Programmes, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology (formerly WBUT), West Bengal)





## YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



### ARIES March 21-April 19

Health looks promising this week. Some of you may regain your health and feel a new spark of creativity. This is a great time to try a new health care approach, especially preventative care. Exercise, eating well, and rest are common approaches that you can reconsider. On the work front, a change of place, relocation; posting or transfer is on the cards. You are filled with new hopes and aspirations as it is a post for which you have been aspiring for a long time. The new avenues of progress will be opened, and you get a chance to prove your worth and potentials. On the personal front, you are demanding and very strict in your relationships, and this attitude will not go in married couples' favour.

**Lucky number 10**  
**Lucky colour** Off-White  
**Lucky day** Monday



### LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you are confused and pondering a change in your life's direction. Health is fluctuating and affecting the quality of life. You need guidelines, a session of counselling to gain the results of your past behaviour. It is never too late to improve. On the work front, there will be challenges. With your determination and will power you are likely to take hold of the situations and emerge a winner. Electrical, technical gadgets may create problems and take most of your time. On the personal front, this week is likely to bring love to the centre stage of your life. This is either a new relationship or a powerful re-bonding of an old one. You share your joy with those around you who need it.

**Lucky number 16**  
**Lucky colour** White  
**Lucky day** Sunday



### SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 19

You need to let go of the wounds of the past to move forward. This is a time that you must look within yourself to analyse the areas of fears, trying to hold onto things. Non-attachment with anyone or anything will give you the independence to decide things. Learn about the energy centres in the body and meditate on how you are functioning. Be open to changes as it is the only constant in life. This week, professionally, the need of the hour is to give your time and attention to your work. You need to be sure that your work balance is where it needs to be. Do justice to your work. Avoid confrontations and conflicts with the people in the work area as that will only tarnish your image. You find success in love and rejoice this week.

**Lucky number 9**  
**Lucky colour** Red  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



### TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week some challenges are foreseen on the health front. Problems may come up together and make you restless. Indigestion, gastric, BP and depression might leave you with no time to think. Your emotions and sensitivity are badly affected. You should spend more time relaxing. On the career front, your work graph will take a new turn this week, as your potentials will be duly recognised. Finances will improve. You will feel the positive vibrations at the workplace. This is a week of attainment, accumulation and finding inner satisfaction. On the personal front, be cautious in your relationships. You may be marked as arrogant or incompatible. Married couples may not be in harmony and want their own space.

**Lucky number 1**  
**Lucky colour** Indigo  
**Lucky day** Friday



### VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you will be balancing five elements in life and have harmony between body, mind, and soul. Those with an ongoing health issue may benefit greatly from alternative therapy like nutritional counselling, massage, dietary restriction etc. Professionally, you need career counselling at this stage to sharpen your skills. Attending short courses, workshops, or lectures etc will help you in your goals. Work will go well if you can organise yourself and work as per the rules. Relationship wise you are lucky as the people around you hear you with respect and value your ideas. Professional and personal both the fronts, you live life king size. In love, you make impression on your partner with your positive and honest approach.

**Lucky number 20**  
**Lucky colour** Golden  
**Lucky day** Sunday



### CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This is a great week for your creativity and optimism, and you believe that everything will turn out in your favour. You are generous and willing to share. You have learnt to accept your flaws and to accommodate others. It gives you the strength to be what you want to be. Health will be fine, and you enjoy it. On the work front, the feel-good factor will bring a smile to your face. This week you find the support of colleagues and seniors, and there is a chance that your name may be recommended for promotion. Make the best use of this time. On the love front, you may have your eye on someone who you feel is not treating you the way they should. It may be that you need to stop fantasizing about this person entirely.

**Lucky number 8**  
**Lucky colour** Camel Brown  
**Lucky day** Friday



### GEMINI May 21-June 20

You will overcome challenges and feel on top of the world. Appreciation, applause for a job well done on the domestic front will bring encouragement. You have the blessings of elders. As also, inner satisfaction, with positive energy after easing a difficult situation. On the career front, a good message is on the cards. Some of you will be promoted and assign an important task that will give a boost to your career. You might attend a virtual seminar or training session to enhance your skill. The stars are with you and you enjoy the results of your hard work. Relationship wise, you may not be very lucky this week. If you like someone goes ahead and express yourself. You may be expected to avoid the loose talk as this may spoil your relationship.

**Lucky number 12**  
**Lucky colour** Yellow  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Your efforts for being in good health will pay you well this week. You feel energetic, creative, and versatile. There is a purpose in life, and you want to recreate your life. You will get busy in various activities like Yoga, Pranayam and some healing up exercises to keep yourself fit and rejuvenated. Spiritualism will help restore your confidence and live a meaningful life. On the career front, you may find things going much better. A powerful person is likely to support you. This is a good time to ask for a raise or to seek employment that pays more if you are so inclined. Overall, your career front is looking up. In the context of love, it's important to remember that no relationship can stand up to constant analysis. Try to give your beloved some breathing space.

**Lucky number 11**  
**Lucky colour** Pastel Blue  
**Lucky day** Thursday



### AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

The week starts with never-ending activities like meeting, attending to guests etc. This will give you no time for yourself. You are working hard. There are chances you may hurt yourself or get bruised. Stay focused while you drive and use all safety measures to avoid any unpleasant situation. On the work front, you feel at ease as things are going in your favour. Great things come in a small package and this is what is going to happen with you. There will be new opportunities at the job, and those who are unemployed will get that job in their desired field. On the personal front, your partner may put things in some challenging situations and give you excuses for not accepting your relationships. Be patient.

**Lucky number 7**  
**Lucky colour** Brown  
**Lucky day** Thursday



### CANCER June 21-July 22

This week positive energy flows in your veins. You must use this energy in some creative pursuits. This can be a very creative time for you, and a good time for you to dream, play and be inventive as a child. On the professional front, things are likely to go your way. This seems to be an excellent time career-wise. A raise or promotion is certain for those who work in the private sector. Stay focused and the approach of a senior official will help make your work easy. On the relationship front, you need to talk to your partner face to face to sort out the mess which has been created knowingly and unknowingly between you two. Take out some time and plan a romantic endeavour to boost up your love life.

**Lucky number 17**  
**Lucky colour** Silver  
**Lucky day** Saturday



### SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week you will feel a great deal of stamina. You will be filled with confidence and be in the best of your health. Do not hesitate to consider alternative ways to treat or deal with health challenges. Professionally, the way your career graph is going, you need a break and professional counselling. Seek some advice from your senior for better results. To maintain control over your domain and to achieve mastering in your trade someone's guideline will give a boost to your career. Join a virtual professional course/seminar or workshop to increase your skills. On the love front, there will be tension. A rejection or break up might be faced. The singletons will remain single. This is the time to make thoughtful bonding whether in love or marriage.

**Lucky number 13**  
**Lucky colour** Rose Gold  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



### PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you are advised to avert anger and aggression. Listen to your body and treat it accordingly. Seek the advice of an elder in the family, maybe your mother or aunt. Her homemade remedies will bring you relief from your current health problems. Workwise, you will follow your gut instinct and try your level best to achieve what you want in life. Those who are waiting for the final verdict in court in legal hassle will be pleased to get the case in their favour. Those in media, opposition, and justice etc fields will do well this week. On the personal front, love is not happening, neither you have time to think about the matters of the heart. The existing relationships too may suffer due to the lack of understanding and busy schedule.

**Lucky number 3**  
**Lucky colour** Peach  
**Lucky day** Saturday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



## ASTROTURF

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

# Of learning and wisdom

Complex dynamics of man and the universe calls for necessary awareness. That alone would help articulate ways and means to steer life in conformity with the design parameters underlying our existence and secure its smooth run. We need to be aware of our individual as well as collective worth and limitations. For, we are all born ignorant and unaware, primarily driven just by our instincts. We are however, also born with an inherent urge to learn, expand one's reach and evolve.

The process of learning begins ever since the child begins to respond to suggestions. However, seeing the enormity and complexity of our life mechanism, as also limitations of mind and intellect, it is simply inconceivable to get to know the whole at one go. It does not come about easy either. That evidently calls for a well-articulated step-by-step learning process, as would India's age-old concept as scripted in the following verse from Atreya Samahita mean.

"JanmanajayateSudrah/  
Samaskaratadwijaucchayate/  
Vedapathibhavetaviprah/  
Brahmajanatiibrahmanah".

Literally it means that by birth we are

born ignorant. Having learnt how to engage with the living world would mean being born the second time. Submitting to formal education, one becomes knowledgeable. And having realised the realities of life in holistic terms, one becomes wise.

Mind it: By birth one begins with a clean slate, apparently not carrying any impression of worldly object or experience in mind that could serve as a guiding principle. Although armed with all the faculties of mind to comprehend a thing or to act on their own, they do not have any image in mind that may provide them the right lead. They do not have enough of spoken words stock either to describe an object or express their feelings. Obviously, therefore, they would need a lesson in how to engage with the world around.

The children are, however, abound with energy, and curious to know everything that would come in sight. With all that, their minds keep jumping from one object to the other in succession. So, they suffer from attention deficiency.

Accordingly, they are to be first given a lesson in the basics, in a manner befitting their age, as would be needed to conduct



themselves with ease. Evidently, they are first taught the civic and moral conduct norms. That qualifies them to relate well with the environment and conduct themselves in an orderly manner. Having been brought up to this level will literally mean being born afresh the second time.

Ground is thus laid down to step into the next course of learning, as the mind will still not be at rest. It will continue with its inherent urge to further expand its reach and strike. One is then provided with opportunity for exposure to various disciplines vital to our qualitative existence. Here, a reference to the word "Veda" as reflected in the above verse does not necessarily mean Veda parse. Vedas here implies all the acquired treasures of knowledge covering different aspects of life, be they philosophy, medicine, astronomy, warfare, justice.

However, it was necessary for every seeker to undergo a mandatory grooming process before being allowed exposure to the particular subject of learning. Purposely so that character is built, strength of mind is increased, vision and intellect get expanded. The whole process was directed towards the seeker getting well-grounded so that s/he could

approach the subject with an open mind without any egotistical preconditioning whatsoever. The purpose, obviously, is to invoke the spirit of an honest seeker as is usually evident in a curious child. In the process, the seeker develops enough of mental and moral control. That enables him/her to put in all acts together to pursue the learning process in the right spirit following an open enquiry system. The seeker, thus groomed, qualifies to easily grasp true import of the lessons imparted, both explicit as well as hidden between the lines.

It is pertinent to note here that in the ancient India's tradition, most of the knowledge treasures were purposely scripted in formulated language. It was supposedly done so in order that one could have in store, enough of memory implants in the least possible space and words possible. It needs to be appreciated here that but for honing one's intellect thoroughly well, it would not be possible to see through the truths veiled under the express words.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at  
Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272  
Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com