

WORLD 6JAPAN, US, FRANCE HOLD MILITARY
DRILL EYEING CHINA PRESENCE**MONEY 7**GST COUNCIL TO
MEET ON MAY 28**SPORT 8**ENG IPL STARS LIKELY
TO MISS NZ TESTS

Established 1864

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI
RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD
VIJAYWADA

CHANDIGARH, SUNDAY MAY 16, 2021; PAGES 8-4 ₹3

sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



Delhi's death rate 4th in world; Maha follows suit

UP too has high
Covid fatality rate

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

When it comes to death, Delhi has emerged as one of the most favorite hunting grounds for coronavirus across the globe. With a case fatality rate (CFR) of more than 5 per cent, the national Capital is now only behind Poland, Mexico, and Romania on the daily casualty chart. Delhi's CFR is way above the national average of 1.2 pc.

While the caseload continued to show a downward trajectory across the country, the rise in CFA is worrisome. On Saturday, Maharashtra too recorded a high CFA of 2.6 per cent. The daily Covid-19 infections dropped further to 34,848 in Maharashtra, while the number of daily deaths surged to 910 in the State.

Delhi's neighbour Uttar Pradesh also recorded a relatively high case fatality ratio of around 2 per cent. The State logged in a caseload of 12,513 and a death tally of 281 during the last 24 hours.

On Saturday, the national Capital recorded 6,430 new



Delhi Govt to set up 11 oxygen banks; home delivery in 2 hours

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government is setting up oxygen concentrator banks for patients in home isolation. At least 200 oxygen concentrators will be set up in each of the 11 districts and oxygen will be delivered in two hours to patients in need, said Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday.

"Patients who are not enrolled under the home isolation protocol of the Delhi Government may call 1031 and avail the oxygen concentrator facility," he said.

Kejriwal said, "If patients in home isolation require oxygen,

our team will ensure the oxygen concentrator reaches their home within two hours. A technician will also accompany the team who will explain to the family members how to use the oxygen concentrator. However, our team of doctors will first ensure whether the person needs oxygen."

Covid-19 IN INDIA
TOTAL CASES: 2,46,71,967 (+2,99,484)
DEATHS: 2,70,124 (+3,880)
RECOVERED: 2,07,68,937 (+3,42,266)
ACTIVE: 36,22,713
MAHA: 53,44,063 (+34,848)
K'TAKA: 21,71,931 (+41,664)
KERALA: 21,18,264 (+32,680)
UP: 16,09,140 (+12,513)
DELHI: 13,87,411 (+6,430)

Industrialist Prakash Hinduja fined ₹1,270 crore for tax violations by Geneva court

J GOPIKRISHNAN ■ NEW DELHI

A court in Geneva has fined Indian industrialist Prakash Hinduja 157 million francs (₹1,270 crore) for tax violations.

According to Swiss newspaper Gotham City and Le Temps, the Geneva Court imposed the fine on Hinduja for claiming tax exceptions by showing his Monaco residency, while he was actually living in Geneva.

"The Geneva tax authorities suspect the billionaire of Indian origin Prakash Hinduja of staying in his villa in Cologny (GE) until April 2018, when he had officially settled in Monaco in 2007," reported Gotham City.

"In July 2018, the Geneva public prosecutor sought to collect information on Prakash Hinduja and members of his family on behalf of the cantonal

tax authorities, in the context of criminal proceedings, according to a judgment of the Federal Court rendered on April 21 (5A_1042/2020).

In April 2019, the Federal Tax Administration opened its own investigation into this case, which targets several individuals. The following month, the Geneva tax authorities declared two receiverships, amounting to 154 million francs for cantonal and municipal taxes, and 3 million for federal taxes," reported Le Temps.

Hinduja Group controls Ashok Leyland, IndusInd Bank and Gulf Lubricants. The Indian origin conglomerate having business across the world was started by late PD Hinduja in early 1940s. The Hinduja Group's companies are controlled by holding companies situated in tax havens like Mauritius and Geneva.

From Kerala to Bengal, impact of elections on Covid-19 surge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The impact of aggressive campaign and massive mobilisation by political parties

in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry in the run-up to the Assembly polls are seen as the principal reasons for massive spread of

corona in these States and Union Territory.

The judiciary, World Health Organization, and health experts have unequivocally agreed that the election-related mobilisation paved the way for a later day Covid-19 surge.

Here is a reality check:

3% positivity rate before Bengal campaign, 34% after elections

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With corona cases spiraling up by the day, Bengal health data experts have started questioning whether March-May electoral extravaganza played the main villain in pushing up cases in the State.

According to State Government reports, while in the second week of March when election campaigns had just started the rate of corona infections was just about 3-4 per cent of the total RT-PCR tests done, the figure leaped up to 31 per cent in the first week of May when the election

Total cases: 10,94,802
Total Deaths: 12,993
Case fatality ratio: 1.2%
Recovery rate: 86.8%
Avg growth rate: 2%

process ended.

"You do not need rocket science to prove that election rallies with thousands of people made a perfect recipe for disaster and the disaster is in front of you to see ...Bengal had a pretty controlled affair till the month of March and the cases started jumping up with each electoral phase...", said Dr Kajal Krishna Dey.

TN contained virus, polls unleashed it

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu has seen both the extremes of the pandemic Covid-19 during the last year. The State succeeded in controlling the transmission of the pandemic in the initial days when delegates of Tablighi Jamaat congregation held at New Delhi returned to Tamil Nadu in the first week of March 2020. Though the pandemic peaked by mid-2020 the total lockdown, had helped the authorities in bringing down the number of newly diagnosed cases from 40,000 in mid-2020 to below the 500 marks by February 2021.

Total cases: 15,31,377
Total Deaths: 17,056
Case fatality ratio: 1.1%
Recovery ratio: 86.1%
Avg Growth rate: 2.1%

PUDUCHERRY SEES 60 TIMES JUMP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On February 26, when the Election Commission of India announced the schedule of Assembly polls, the Union Territory of Puducherry recorded just 29 Covid-19 cases and zero death. The total caseload stood 39,669 and the death figure at 667.

Ten and a half weeks down the line, the UT has seen 60 times jump in corona cases. The UT is recording at an average of 1,800 new cases and 25 deaths every day during the last week.

Total cases: 80,947
Total death: 1,099
Case Fatality ratio: 1.4%
Recovery ratio: 77.1%
Avg growth rate: 2.4%

Poll fever changed it all in Assam

PNS ■ GUWAHATI

Assam lived with little trace of coronavirus till the electioneering picked up and leaders descended on the State from all parts of the country amid massive mobilisation of people and resources on the ground.

When the poll schedule was announced on February 26, the State recorded just 34 cases and one death in a 24-hour period. People lived without any fear of Covid, which was just beginning to show an uptick in other parts of the country in the early second week of February.

But that was it. The poll fever changed it all.

Total cases: 3,19,630
Total death: 2,060
Case fatality ratio: 0.6%
Recovery ratio: 85.8%
Avg growth rate: 1.7%

Two police officers shot dead in Punjab

Ludhiana: Unidentified car-borne persons allegedly shot dead two Punjab Police officers in Jagraon town, about 45 kilometres from here, on Saturday, police said.

Deputy Superintendent of Police G S Bains said Assistant Sub-Inspector Bhagwan Singh died on the spot while critically injured ASI Dalwinder Singh succumbed to injuries on the way to hospital. Both were posted in the state's Criminal Investigation Agency (CIA) in Jagraon. Senior police officers, including Inspector General of Police Ludhiana range Nau Nihal Singh, rushed to the spot. Police said assailants managed to escape after the incident, which took place near the new grain market. *Agencies*

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Pouring water on the hopes of people on plasma therapy for Covid-19 treatment, a study has found that it's no silver bullet and its usage is not effective on virus patients. In other words, it has no effect on disease severity or mortality.

Plasma therapy is basically using blood plasma from recovered patients and infusing it into newly infected patients. Doctors have been divided over its efficacy with several of them from across India have been recommending the therapy, asking the patients to



arrange for plasma. They believe that it helps to transfer antibodies from recovered patients to new patients. It is said to boost the immune response of a new patient.

However, a team of doctors after conducting the

Randomised Evaluation of Covid-19 Therapy [recovery] trial, said in the "In recovery, the largest clinical trial of convalescent plasma for any infectious indication, we did not find evidence that high-titre convalescent plasma improved

survival or other pre-specified clinical outcomes in patients hospitalised with Covid-19.

"Whether convalescent plasma would benefit other patient groups is unknown and would need to be evaluated in other, adequately powered, randomised clinical trials," the study published in The Lancet said.

The trial is underway at 177 NHS hospitals from across the UK. Earlier, other studies including India's ICMR-PLACID Trial, as well as Argentina's PlasmaAr Trial have also shown that plasma therapy has no benefit on hospitalised Covid patients.

Israeli airstrike destroys Gaza tower housing AP, other media



A ball of fire erupts from a building housing various international media, including The Associated Press, after an Israeli airstrike on Saturday in Gaza City

AP ■ GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

An Israeli airstrike on Saturday targeted and destroyed a high-rise building in Gaza City that housed offices of The Associated Press and other media outlets. Hours later, Israel bombed the home of Khalil al-Hayeh, a top leader of Gaza's ruling militant Hamas

group. The Israeli military said Al-Hayeh's home served as part of what it said was the militant group's "terrorist infrastructure." Al-Hayeh is a senior figure in the Hamas political leadership in Gaza, and the attack marked a further escalation, signaling that Israel is going after Hamas'

top leadership, and not just military commanders. His fate after the strike was not immediately known.

Earlier, AP staffers and other tenants safely evacuated the building after the military telephoned a warning that the strike was imminent within an hour.

Modi orders audit as many ventilators lying unutilised

PM stresses on curbing spread in rural areas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday took serious view of reports about ventilators lying unutilised in storage in some States and directed that an immediate audit of installation and operation of ventilators provided by the Central Government should be carried out.

Chairing a high-level meeting to take stock of the Covid-19 situation in the country, the Prime Minister asked for a distribution plan for ensuring oxygen supply in rural areas where, he said the spread of virus must be prevented.

The Prime Minister asked States to be "transparent" while



reporting their cases "as high numbers does not mean that they have not done enough to contain the virus."

He said localised containment strategies are the need of the hour and instructed that testing needs to be scaled up further, with use of both RT-PCR and Rapid Antigen tests, especially in areas with high test positivity rates.

Modi asked for augmentation of healthcare resources in rural areas to focus on "door to door testing and surveillance."

India's corona situation 'hugely concerning', says WHO chief

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India's Covid-19 situation remains hugely concerning, with several States continuing to see a worrying number of cases, hospitalisations and deaths, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Friday, warning that the pandemic's second year will be "far more deadly" than the first for the world.

Ghebreyesus added that the WHO is responding to the Covid-19 surge in India and has shipped thousands of oxygen concentrators, tents for mobile field hospitals, masks and other medical supplies.

"India remains hugely concerning, with several states continuing to see a worrying number of cases, hospitalisations and deaths," he said at the daily media briefing.

"And we thank all the stakeholders who are supporting India," the WHO Director-General said.

Steroid misuse sets off black fungus attacks post Covid: Guleria

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Misuse of steroids is a major cause behind rising cases of black fungus, also known as mucormycosis infection, among vulnerable Covid-19 patients, including those suffering from diabetes, AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria on Saturday said, asking the doctors to follow Government protocol while dealing with such drugs.

He said that patients who are diabetic or Covid-19 positive and are taking steroids have an increased chance of contracting the fungal infection as it could lead to weakened immune systems.

"It is thus all the more important to properly follow protocols of infection control practices at hospitals," he said, indicating that during Covid-19, patients prescribed heavy and prolonged steroid doses can have weakened immune

systems.

Mucormycosis spores are found in soil, air, and even in food, said the AIIMS chief while addressing a press conference here on Saturday. He said that the black fungus can affect the face, infecting the nose, orbit of the eye, or brain, which can even cause vision loss. He added that it can also spread to the lung.

In a new advisory over black fungus infection, the Centre has asked people to be extra careful regarding infection protocols since the fungus enters the body through a cut, scrape, burn, or other types of skin trauma when the skin comes in contact with fungal spores in the environment.

Dr Guleria also said that the mucormycosis fungal spores are of low virulence and usually do not cause infection.

‘I’m having loads of fun working with kids’

LAVINA TANDON, who plays Jhanjharika in *Nikki Aur Jadui Bubble*, a fantasy show on Dangal TV, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about her role, the challenges faced and fun that she is having shooting with the kids

■ **What is Nikki Aur Jadui Bubble about?**

It is a kids’ fantasy show where there is the real world and the magical one which merge together. Sometimes our characters are in the real one sometimes in the magical. It is about a girl, Nikki; it’s her story. Her father is a great magician and passes on his talent and world to his father without him realising this.

■ **What’s your character here?**

I play the grey shade here — Jhanjharika. I am also a magician and a powerful one at that amongst the women in the world of magic. She was not always evil but then a competition took place and she lost. She wanted the coveted bubble which has immense power and the bubble went to Nikki’s father played by Himmanshoo Malhotra. From here on, my character becomes negative and I become the evil witch and my job is to trouble everyone.

■ **How did you come on board the project?**

I was shooting for another project as an assistant intern. But I keep getting scripts since I have done other shows. I have worked for Dheeraj Kumar earlier as well and my experience was good and saw no reason to say no. I went and gave the audition. After three weeks I got a confirmation call. But I was shooting in Goa for a web series and told the team that once I am done, I will be on board.

■ **It is a kid’s fantasy show, are you having lots of fun?**

We had lots of fun. There are no adults in the scenes with me. There are adults but we are never in the same frame. The good is that there is gossip, the atmosphere is stress-free. There is a negativity like there might be in other

adult shows — she got this costume, I didn’t; she got this jewellery, I didn’t. There is no such thing here. Kids are natural, they have no pretense. They come, shoot and go back to their studies. We spent a lot of time together and chatted and generally had fun. I learnt a lot from them as well. They are so full of energy.

■ **Were there any challenges since you are working with kids?**

There were no challenges working with the kids like I said the kids in the show are extremely intelligent. I psyched myself saying that it is a kids’ show so I need to have patience working with them. But they are quick learners. The challenge came in the form of getting into the look. I have two —one the normal and the other the evil witch. Switching and change in costume was time consuming.

■ **How did you get into acting?**

I never had plans to get into acting. Acting chose me. I was 12 when my mother’s friend was coordinating for a show — *Tum Bin Jaaon Kahaan* on Zee TV — that had a requirement for a girl with curly hair. It was a show by Aruna Irani Production House. I went for the audition and got selected. The minute I stood in front of the camera they chose me since I fit their character to a T. I shot 70-80 episodes. But then my Class VII finals came and I had to leave the show. But I kept getting work sometimes back-to-back.

■ **Hero Bhakti Hi Shakti Hai was a role you did and grabbed eyeballs. What made the show popular?**

It was one of the few superhero shows. Back then, there was just *Shaktiman*. *Hero Bhakti*... became

popular because the story was interesting and attracted the kids. Also, every week there was a new character that kept the interest. Kids back then watched TV. Today, they are glued to their mobiles, video games and social media.

■ **Is there a role that you hated doing?**

No, not really. I never put myself in a position where I ended up hating doing something. Acting is my profession. If I don’t love I can’t do justice to the characters I have done.

■ **W h a t next?**

At present, I am not willing to work on anything due to the pandemic. I was even scared to go out to buy groceries let alone step out to shoot. But I am committed to *Nikki Aur*... so I will shoot for it but no new projects for the time being.



WEEKLY NATTER

ASIM RIAZ TURNS RAPPER

The heartthrob of the young generation, Asim Riaz has a huge surprise in store for us. The livewire who has amassed the love of people as an actor and featuring artist has yet another talent that he stages for the world on Eid. Riaz debuts with a fiery rap titled *Back To Start* released under India’s leading record label, Sony Music India.

The teaser of the rap that dropped not long ago got the Asim Riaz squad excited scaling up the anticipation around it as it releases today. Making this year’s Eid special, Asim opens about his struggle and hustle in his debut as a

rapper through the song. *Back To Start* has been penned and performed by Asim.

Asim says: “We take a look around us and we see that everything is changing and so much of the good change is being embraced. I had *Back To Start* with me since 2015 and I wanted to polish it till I was ready to put it out there for the listeners. I’m very pumped that it’s releasing. My wish for everybody this Eid is to have the strength to embrace changes and hustle their way forward.”

Released by Sony Music India, *Back To Start* is now available on all streaming platforms.

CINDERELLA TO LAUNCH WORLDWIDE IN SEPTEMBER

Kay Cannon’s *Cinderella* featuring an all-star cast including Grammy nominated singer/songwriter Camila Cabello, Idina Menzel and Billy Porter, will launch exclusively around the world in over 240 countries and territories on Prime Video this September. The highly anticipated musical incorporates pop songs from contemporary global artists and original songs by Camila Cabello and Idina Menzel.

“*Cinderella* is a classic we all know and love, but this time with a modern unique twist and starring the sensational Camila Cabello and an all-star cast. Producer James Corden and the filmmaking team have taken this beloved fairytale and revamped it with a fresh, empowering perspective that will resonate with audiences and families around the world. We couldn’t be more

excited for our global customers to sing and dance along to director Kay Cannon’s reimagination of this classic story,” said Jennifer Salke, Head of Amazon Studios.

Cinderella is a musically-driven bold new take on the traditional story you grew up with. Our heroine (Cabello) is an ambitious young woman, whose dreams are bigger than the world will allow, but with the help of her Fab G (Billy Porter), she is able to persevere and make her dreams come true.

Written for the screen and directed by Kay Cannon with covers of songs written by some of the top-selling musical artists of all time, *Cinderella* has an all-star cast that includes Idina Menzel, Minnie Driver, Nicholas Galitzine, with Billy Porter and Pierce Brosnan. Producers are Leo Pearlman, James Corden, Jonathan Kadin and Shannon McIntosh.

RASHMI AGDEKAR BECOMES CAUSE AMBASSADOR

After many Bollywood celebrities being tested positive for Covid-19 and understanding the hard times actress, Rashmi Agdekar opens up about duty towards fighting the disease and helping the country by being a cause ambassador. Agdekar has blown the audience’s mind with her brilliant performance. The young and talented actress started her acting career in 2017, in the web series *Dev DD*. Since then she has played various critically acclaimed roles in several web series and movies. Celebrities like Varun Dhawan and Kartik Aryan have also joined initiatives as cause ambassadors are contributing during these tough times by sharing verified information with their followers, Rashmi Agdekar herself being a Covid survivor understands the need to support people at this hour and has

therefore become the cause ambassador for the campaign *Find a Bed*. The actor says: “In these tough times, many volunteers, NGOs, students, entrepreneurs etc are doing a lot of groundwork and helping people in need. If all these people are doing the actual hard work, the least I can do is amplify it. As a responsible citizen, it is my duty to spread awareness as much as I can in my capacity during this second wave. Being a Covid survivor myself, I know how much it takes a toll mentally and physically. Anyone in need of beds in their area or nearby can use this website (www.findabed.in) to search. This will hopefully reduce the stress of running from one hospital to another in an emergency.”

On the work front, Rashmi Agdekar played the lead role in the MX player web series *I’mMature* which was critically acclaimed. The young and talented actor made her big-screen debut in Bollywood with *Andhadhun*.

TELLY TALE

DANCE IT OUT

Colors’ *Dance Deewane* is a show that never stops to surprise, impress and entertain the viewers. In the upcoming episode, special guest dancers who garnered a lot of fame with their deewangi for dance like Yogesh Shaw, Alok Shaw, Siza, Kishen Bilagali, Rupesh Bane, Tejas Varma, Sagar, Jayshree, Mukul, Akash and Vaishnavi will perform in pairs with the *Dance Deewane* contestants. The performances surely will be filled with entertainment, passion, and a whole lot of swag.

The most highlighted dance performances of the evening were by Alok and Aman who impressed Madhuri. Even Gunjan’s performance with Sagar



Bora on the *Mirchi* song was spellbinding. After Gunjan’s performance, Dharmesh Yelande couldn’t hold back his praises and was in complete awe of her. He said: “I’m speechless. The stage is different every time and the level at which you dance is very high. I would like to thank Sagar too as he is so good and catches the audience’s attention. When he performs in his group, we only look at him. Today I could feel that my one eye was on Gunjan and the other on Sagar because this *jodi* is just amazing.”

Pallavi and Siza sent Madhuri Dixit on a nostalgia trip when they performed a medley of her songs choreographed by her guru Saroj Khan. Madhuri was extremely touched and gave them ₹101 as token of appreciation. The chocolate boy of *Dance Deewane* season 1 Kishen Bilagali danced on an extremely scintillating performance with Arundhati, the dance raised the temperature of the set.

‘I HAVE NEVER DONE A SCREEN TEST’

Over the past few years, Raima Sen

has performed a host of impactful roles in movies and OTT series and has dazzled audiences with her beauty and stellar acting skills. For those eagerly awaiting her next project, Raima will be seen next in Amazon Prime Video’s upcoming series *The Last Hour*. Raima shared her experience of getting auditioned and her selection for Nyima’s role.

Talking about Nyima’s character and on bagging the role, the actor spoke about her experience of giving a screen test for the first time and shared her thoughts on it. Giving it her best shot with the help of a stellar director Amit Kumar by her side, it sure seems that Raima had a blast on set with the cast and packed a punch on the show that is all set to keep us on the edge of our seats.

On auditioning for the role and her character, Raima shares: “In all these years in the industry, I have never done a screen test. When I learnt that Amit wanted to do a screen test for my character in Calcutta, I first avoided it, as I have always had a phobia of auditions. Later, I gathered my strength and somehow decided to do it. I first thought I am never going to get this part but surprisingly, I got a confirmation call from him in a couple of days. I am very happy and excited to be a part of this series. With all my work, I’ve always tried to understand the vision of the director and then added my own individuality to it which helps me stay focused on my character. My director Amit told me what he expected from the character, but at the same, asked me to keep it real and feel it. His guidance and my vision helped me get the best out of me. It was such a great experience shooting for the series.”

The Last Hour stars Sanjay Kapoor, Shahana Goswami, Karma Takapa, Robin Tamang, and Shaylee Krishen along with Raima Sen. It will exclusively stream on Amazon Prime Video from the May 14, 2021 in more than 240 countries and territories.

HIBA’S FAVOURITE SEHRI DELICACY

Hiba Nawab aka CP in Sony SAB’s Jijaji Chhat Parr Koi Hai was in Bareilly with her family and friends during Ramadan.

Get up close and personal with Hiba as she gets candid about her favourite Ramadan memory, the food she loves, and how is she spending her Ramadan in her hometown this year.

Talking about the holy month of Ramadan, she said: “I believe the most



vital part about this sacred month is fasting and praying, which means *ibadat*, by keeping *rozas* and by reading the Quran. We celebrate this month by cherishing each and every moment and by worshipping. I think it is essential to help people in need and do charity. My fondest memory for the holy month of Ramadan dates back to the days I observed my first roza. I was eight years old and was super excited about it. We eat some delicious dishes this month, and this year I am in Bareilly with my family and friends after so long to celebrate the month of Ramadan and Eid. I avoid eating fried food across the year, but I grab a bite of spicy and fried food to my heart’s content during this time of the year. My favourite *sehri* delicacy is *khajia*, I love to eat sweet dishes as I have a sweet tooth. My resolution for Ramadan is to do more of *ibadat*.”

ATHARVA ASKS A TRICKY QUESTION

Sony SAB’s *Wagle Ki Duniya* –



Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey continues to keep the audience glued to the show with exciting and relatable day to day. In the upcoming episodes, we see how Atharva gets frustrated with his parents as they keep calling him a ‘kid’ in certain situations but ‘old enough’ as per their convenience otherwise.

Atharva feels his parents’ behaviour is unfair towards him as they change their stance about his age and maturity according to the situation, which irritates him. As a protest, the innocent Atharva decides to go on a hunger strike. Rajesh and Vandana try to calm him down and request him to not go on a hunger strike so instead Atharva puts a condition, that for the next three days if anyone refers to him as ‘old enough’, the person will have perform an act of punishment as decided by him.

The question is, will the Wagles’ come to a common conclusion for this problem or will Atharva’s frustration increase? What is the punishment Atharva has in mind?

Pariva Pranati, essaying the role of Vandana, said: “As artists, we always endeavour to bring a smile on the faces of our fans and I feel so lucky and blessed that with the role of Vandana, I am able to do it. The upcoming track is very interesting not only for the kids who love the show but also for the parents as well. We have all faced this situation growing up, parents wanting us to behave maturely in certain situations and enjoy like a kid in certain other. The challenge put by my son, Atharva would be interesting to watch and the climax of that challenge would be very intriguing in a way that would reveal a different facet of Atharva. We all are working very hard and putting our heart and soul into the episodes. I would like to request the audience to keep watching the episodes from the comfort of their homes!”

Sheehan Kapahi, essaying the role of Atharva, said: “Baccha ya Bada? This is a confusing question, and the upcoming track will address this dilemma brilliantly. Throughout our show’s journey, we have always tried to bring highly relatable topics, which I feel has struck the right chord with our viewers. For kids of my age, this is the biggest question in our minds, and for our parents, they are probably facing similar questions too. How will my parents react to this question? The upcoming episodes will unravel the mystery.”

Plan Your Stay At Home Sunday

Give your Sundays a perfect start by cooking some delicious meals. How about Fluffy Banana Walnut Pancakes or Almond Cinnamon Tart for breakfast? Here are the recipes.

FLUFFY BANANA WALNUT PANCAKES

Ingredients
Maple Walnut Cream:
■ 1/2 cup California walnuts
■ 1/4 cup water
■ 1 tablespoon pure maple syrup
■ 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
Pancakes:
■ 1 medium-size very ripe banana
■ 3/4 cup milk
■ 2 tablespoons melted butter, plus additional tablespoons for skillet
■ 1/3 cup liquid egg whites
■ 1 cup flour
■ 2 tablespoons sugar
■ 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
■ 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
■ 1/4 teaspoon salt
■ 1/3 cup chopped California walnuts
Preparation:
■ To prepare maple walnut cream, place all ingredients in a



small food processor and process until light and fluffy.

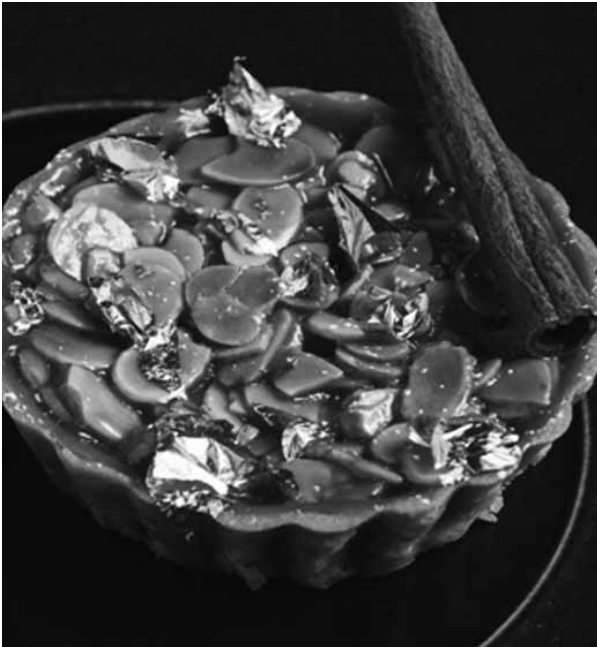
■ Mash banana with a fork in a large bowl and stir in milk and melted butter. Stir together dry

ingredients in a medium bowl and stir into banana mixture, being careful to not overmix. (A few small lumps are ok)

— California Walnuts

ALMOND CINNAMON TART

Ingredients
■ 1 cup almond flake
■ 150 gm monaco biscuit
■ 2 gm cinnamon powder
■ 200 gm fine sugar
■ 200 ml fresh cream
■ 60 gm unsalted butter
Method:
■ Roast the almond flake in preheated oven at 180 degree celsius for 4 minutes or till golden in colour.
■ For toffee sauce, caramelise sugar, add 40 gms of butter followed by cream and thoroughly mix it
■ For monaco crumble, crush biscuits and mix 20 gm of butter with it. spread this mixture in 6inch mould and bake at 160 degree celsius for 10 min.
■ In a bowl mix, roasted almond slivers and toffee sauce and pour this mix over biscuit crumble in the mould.
■ Bake the mix set in mould in a preheated oven at 180 degree celsius for 15 min.



■ Serve once done and demould the tart. serve with

vanilla bean ice-cream.
— Almond Board of California

500-bed hosps each in Panipat, Hisar to open today

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To augment arrangements to control COVID-19 pandemic, Haryana Government has set-up 500-bed temporary COVID hospitals each in Panipat and Hisar which will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar today

Apart from these, two more hospitals (100 bed Field Hospital and 300 Bed Covid Care Centre) have also been constructed in Gurugram which too will be inaugurated.

The temporary COVID Hospital established in village Bal Jattan near the refinery in Panipat has been named Guru Tegh Bahadur Sanjivani COVID Hospital. Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, and Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij will also be present at the inauguration of the hospital. 25 doctors and 150 para-medical staff have been appointed for the functioning of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sanjivani Hospital.

A statement said that since the hospital built near the refinery in Panipat is far away from the city, a police outpost has been set up near it. Roads have been built to connect the hospital blocks. Apart from the ambulance of the Health



Department in the hospital, five mini bus ambulances from Haryana Roadways and two ambulances from the refinery will also support the movement of patients to the COVID Hospital. Five ambulances from the Police Department will give their support for this hospital as well.

The hospital in Hisar is named after former Deputy Prime Minister, Chaudhary Devi Lal Sanjivani Hospital. The supply of oxygen in this hospital will be as per the flow of 7.1 liters per bed per minute, which will be supplied from the oxygen plant of Jindal Steel Industries, the statement said. A supply of 8 MT of oxygen has been arranged per day. Hisar's COVID Hospital, set up at Jindal Modern School, is divided into four blocks. Oxygen points have been added to all beds. Apart from the doctors, paramedical staff as well as medical interns have also been

political parties and said that Corona is a very huge disaster and we have to fight against it together. He said that the farmers' organizations can do the agitation for their demands even after the situation gets normal.

He said that in the first wave of Covid, a maximum of 3,000 cases came up daily but this time around 16,000 cases are coming on a daily basis. Due to this, the health system

hired here. Five ambulances have been deployed in the hospital. The 100-bed COVID Field Hospital at Tau Devi Lal Stadium in Gurugram has been set up by Vedanta. It has 20 ICUs and 80 oxygen beds. Vedanta will provide all the necessary medical equipment for the treatment of COVID patients. Apart from this, a 300-bed COVID Care Centre has been set up in Sector 67 of Gurugram in joint collaboration of M3M, CII Air Force and Doctors for You NGO.

Meanwhile, CM Khattar said that in this global pandemic of Covid-19, the Central and State Governments are strenuously working towards controlling the on ground situation and delivering their best in this hour of pandemic crisis.

Addressing a virtual program, Khattar called upon social organizations as well as

initially faced a massive pressure. Along with doctors, beds, there was also a crisis of oxygen. But the situation was soon brought under control. At present, the state is getting 282 tonnes of oxygen. Oxygen is being supplied to the homes of needy patients in collaboration with about 350 organizations. Essential items like beds, concentrators and ventilators are being contributed by social organizations.

Haryana declares black fungus as notified disease

Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij on Saturday said that black fungus has been declared a notified disease in the State. Now, if any cases of this disease are found, the doctors will have to report them to the concerned chief medical officer (CMO), Vij said. the black fungus infection, also known as mucormycosis, is caused by a fungus called mucor. Now, if a patient is diagnosed with black fungus in any government or private hospital of the state, it will have

to be reported to the CMO of the district concerned so that appropriate steps can be taken to prevent the disease, he said.

Senior doctors of PGIMS, Rohtak will conduct meetings through videoconferencing with all the doctors who are treating coronavirus patients in the state and inform them about the treatment of black fungus. Recently, several states have flagged cases of COVID-triggered mucormycosis, especially among patients who are diabetic.

Curfew extended in Himachal Pradesh till May 26

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The Himachal Government on Saturday decided to extend the coronavirus-induced curfew in the State till May 26. The decision to extend the curfew was taken in a State Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. The Cabinet reviewed the COVID-19 situation in the State and expressed concern over the sharp surge in the number of COVID-19 cases in the State. To break the virus chain, the Cabinet decided to extend the Corona Curfew in the State till 6 am on May 26, an official statement said.

It was decided that to check the exodus of labourers and workers, all shops dealing with construction materials would also remain open on Tuesday and Friday in a week for three hours.

The Cabinet also decided to allow hiring dead body vans to all the Medical Colleges and Zonal and Regional Hospitals and hospitals with bed capacity of 200 and above. It also decided that the forest department would provide free wood for cremation of corona deceased where forest rights are enforced

and forest corporations would provide fuel wood in other areas. All the MCs would be allowed to hire dead body vans.

The Cabinet also decided that no marriages would be allowed to hire marriage palaces, community halls and tent houses and outside catering and DJ/Band. Marriage would be only held in houses or Courts with the restriction of 20 persons. There will also be no procession of Barat.

It also gave its nod to procure CT Scan 128 slice and MRI 1.5 Tesla Machines worth Rs. 20 crore in Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru Government Medical College, Chamba to facilitate the people. It accorded its approval to ex post-facto permission to the executing agency of Makeshift Covid-19 Hospital at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Government Medical College, Ner Chowk Mandi to include construction of one labour room and one operation theatre etc.

HIMACHAL LEADS IN OVERALL VACCINATION, SAYS CM

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Saturday said that Himachal Pradesh is leading other States for the vaccination

for the eligible age groups and so for over 21 lakh doses of vaccine have been administered to the people of the State. He said a total of 16,97,128 first doses and 425,766 second doses of vaccine had been given to eligible people till May 14. He said the State has covered 31 percent of the eligible citizens and as per the date and the State wise progress of vaccination, the next State is Chattisgarh which has covered 25 percent of the eligible population.

CM INAUGURATES OXYGEN PLANT IN NAHAN MEDICAL COLLEGE

Thakur virtually inaugurated a 300 LPM capacity PSA Oxygen plant in Dr. Y.S. Parmar Government Medical College Nahan in Sirmour district from Shimla. Speaking on the occasion, he said till now oxygen cylinders had to be replaced after every two hours and with this plant, the dependence on labour and transportation would decrease significantly. He said a Refrigerated Centrifuged and Real Time PCR Machine worth Rs. 32 lakh provided to the medical college would help in fast testing of the COVID-19 patients.

Punjab CM asks PM to make Gol single agency for vaccine procurement, distribution for 18-44 category

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make the Central Government the single agency for procurement and distribution of vaccine for 18-44 age group.

"Vaccination of the entire eligible population, especially in a pandemic situation, is the responsibility of the Central Government as any non-inclusion can undermine the rest of the collective effort," the Chief Minister said in a letter to Modi.

Citing the experience of the past three weeks, when various states "have been making their individual efforts to source the vaccine from domestic producers as well as from abroad,"

the Chief Minister said the Government of India (GoI) should immediately undertake sourcing of all vaccine, as a single agency. The GoI should ensure vaccine distribution across all States and Union Territories through clinical establishment for proper vaccination of the 18-44 age group.

Capt Amarinder pointed out that he had even earlier suggested that, in view of the modalities of supply chain management, it would be operationally and financially most expedient if the entire procurement and supply of vaccine is done through the Union Government for all age groups, including persons in the 18-44 years group where States have been allowed by the Centre to directly procure vaccine.

Punjab's first O2 express on way to Bokaro to lift 40 mt LMO

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With the rolling out of Punjab's first Oxygen Express towards Bokaro on Saturday morning, the State will soon be in a position to lift its full 80 MT O2 quota, needed to further boost up its stock of life-saving medical ingredient.

Senior IAS officer supervising the Oxygen Control Room, Rahul Tiwari said that the department has overcome the difficulty of tanker heights and of agencies to carry the O2 supplies vital in the state's fight against the deadly virus.

We have been able to procure and put in use two ISO containers that fit in the HBL requirements of the railways and regards bringing in an agency we have roped in the services of MARKPED, our time tested organisation of Punjab, to fasten up and

streamline the O2 procurement process to ensure there is no shortage of oxygen anywhere in the state.

Tiwari said the state has been planning aggressively to foresee its need of oxygen in coming days and the government has also been pushing the central government to increase its quota of tankers to lift all allotted Oxygen in a smooth and timely manner.

The rail express left through Dapper on its way to Bokaro, the Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan also tweeted about it lauding the incessant efforts of Oxygen Control Room Officers and MARKPED.

40 PERCENT OF PUNJAB'S COVID DEATHS IN LAST 44 DAYS

Around 40 per cent of the total Covid-19-related fatalities in Punjab took place in the last

forty-four days, indicating the severity of the second wave of the Coronavirus pandemic, data revealed.

Punjab had reported a total of 6,868 deaths due to the infection as on March 31. The death toll rose to 11,477 as on May 14, showing 4,609 more people succumbing to the disease since April 1 this year, the state Health Department's data revealed. The health officials had earlier pointed out that the delay in approaching hospitals for treatment by patients with severe symptoms and comorbidities were the main reasons behind fatalities.

Punjab witnessed a record 217 deaths because of the contagion in a single day on May 11. The state has been seeing more than 100 fatalities daily for the past several days. Ludhiana is one of the worst-affected districts in Punjab as it has registered 538 deaths

between April 1 and May 14, as per the data. Besides, Amritsar reported 515 more deaths due to the contagion between April 1 and May 14.

During the same period, Patiala saw 396 deaths, Bathinda 349, Mohali 307 and Jalandhar 301, as per the data. The case fatality rate in rural areas is 2.6 per cent as against 0.8 per cent in urban areas, officials said. Apart from this, Punjab has added 2,44,250 fresh cases of infection in the last 44 days. The state had a total of 2,39,734 cases as on March 31. It went up to 4,83,984 between April 1 and May 14, as per the Health Department data. Ludhiana, Mohali, Bathinda, Patiala, Jalandhar and some other districts have witnessed a sharp rise in infections. Punjab's positive rate on Friday stood at around 11 per cent.

Punjab to demand more oxygen tankers from Centre, says Chief Secy

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To bridge the gap between the rising demand and supply of the medical oxygen in the State, Punjab Government would demand additional oxygen tankers from the Centre to speed up the supply chain of the life-saving gas in the state from far and near, chief secretary Vini Mahajan said Saturday.

Besides, Punjab has also expedited the process of procuring on its own more oxygen tankers from different parts of the country and abroad.

Mahajan was chairing a high-level meeting to review the availability, need and distribution of the medical oxygen in the state besides taking stock of the ongoing initiatives to check the further spread of devastating

second Covid wave in the state.

Briefing the present status of the supply chain of oxygen to Punjab from different parts of the country, Principal Secretary Transport K Siva Prasad said the efforts have also been intensified to bring oxygen tankers from Belgium and Australia. "Hopefully, the supply of oxygen tankers from Australia and Belgium will reach Punjab soon," he added.

Rahul Tiwari, who is supervising the Oxygen Control Room, said Punjab's first oxygen express train left for Bokaro in Jharkhand on Saturday morning to pick up its 80 metric tonne (MT) quota of oxygen, which would further strengthen the stock of life-saving medical supplies in the state. He said the services of Markfed were being used to further speed up the process of oxygen procure-

ment and ensure that there was no shortage of the life-saving gas in the state.

Principal Secretary, Water Supply and Sanitation, Jaspreet Talwar, while sharing the district-wise information of Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants, said a total of 44 PSA plants would be set up in Punjab at a cost of Rs 4.71 crore for which several NGOs and big companies have come

forward to help the Punjab Government in this endeavour.

Regarding the status of oxygen concentrators in the state, the Chief Secretary was informed that Punjab has around 1,060 concentrators at present, which were being distributed in the districts as per the requirement, while more concentrators would be available soon and would be sent to the districts as per the need.

Haryana Government's
Commendable Steps to Help People
During Covid-19

Sh. Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

<p>Ch. Devi Lal Sanjeevani Hospital, Hisar</p> <p>Inauguration by Sh. Manohar Lal Chief Minister, Haryana</p> <p>Presided over by Sh. Dushyant Chautala Deputy Chief Minister, Haryana</p> <p>August presence Sh. Anil Vij Health Minister, Haryana</p> <p>Sh. Ranbir Gangwa Vidhan Sabha Deputy Speaker, Haryana</p> <p>Sh. Brijendra Singh M.P., Hisar Sh. Kamal Gupta M.L.A., Hisar</p> <p>Sunday, 16th May, 2021</p> <p><small>Oxygen Supply by </small></p>	<p>Guru Teg Bahadur Sanjeevani Hospital, Bal Jattan, Panipat</p> <p>Inauguration by Sh. Manohar Lal Chief Minister, Haryana</p> <p>Presided over by Sh. Dharmendra Pradhan Union Minister for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Steel</p> <p>August presence Sh. Anil Vij Health Minister, Haryana</p> <p>Sh. Sanjay Bhatia M.P., Karnal</p> <p>Sunday, 16th May, 2021</p> <p><small>Oxygen Supply by </small></p>	<p>COVID Hospitals & Centres setting up in Gurugram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospital with facility of 100 oxygen-equipped beds in collaboration with Hero Group and Doctors For You, NGO in Govt. Women College, Sector-14, Gurugram. COVID Field Hospital of 100 bed capacity in collaboration with Vedanta Group in Tau Devi Lal Stadium Medicity, Sector-38 with 20 I.C.U beds and 80 oxygen-equipped beds at one place. COVID Care Centre with 300 bed capacity in Sector-67, Gurugram with joint collaboration with CII, M3M, Indian Air Force and Doctors For You, NGO. <p>Inauguration by Sh. Manohar Lal Chief Minister, Haryana</p> <p>August presence Rao Inderjit Singh Union Minister of State (Independent Charge)</p> <p>16th & 17th May, 2021</p>
---	---	--

Other New Hospitals in the State for COVID Patients

- In Faridabad, 100-bed hospital started at Medical College, army doctors and paramedical staff have been given its responsibility.
- In Karnal, A new Field Hospital with 100 oxygen-equipped beds started.
- In Assandh, arrangement of 20 oxygen-equipped beds at Community Health Centre and 10 oxygen-equipped beds at COVID Care Centre.
- In Sirsa, 150-bed COVID Care Centre started at Baba Tara Charitable Hospital and Research Center.
- In Rohtak, 400 oxygen-equipped beds installed in P.G.I., Rohtak, 600 other oxygen-equipped beds to be installed soon.
- 70-bed hospital set up at Mankind Pharma in Civil Line, Gurugram also having facility of oxygen.

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana www.prharyana.gov.in @Cmohry @DiprHaryana

Stay Alert, Stay Safe

SUKHBIR BADAL ASKS FOR EVIDENCE ON SACRILEGE

Chandigarh: Shiromani Akali Dal president Sardar Sukhbir Singh Badal on Saturday said that Congress and AAP leaders who claim to have "concrete proof on who planned, sponsored & executed the sacrilege against Shri Guru Granth Sahib ji should publicly place that evidence before the Khalsa Panth, the Court, the SIT and the people in general." In a statement, Badal also urged Congress leaders Capt Amarinder Singh, Sunil Jakhar, Navjot Sidhu, S S Randhawa and others like Bhagwant Mann to share with the SIT and the judiciary why they deliberately hid the truth on an issue of such profound religious importance for so many years, thus inflicting and prolonging grievous agony to Sikh hearts and souls. Why have they never even thought it proper to place the proofs they have in the public domain?" asked the former Punjab Deputy Chief Minister.

6 time MP, ex-Guv, Union Min Raghunandan Lal Bhatia passes away at 100

PNS ■ AMRITSAR

Senior Congress leader and six-time MP from Amritsar Raghunandan Lal Bhatia passed away after a brief illness at a private hospital in Amritsar. He was 100.

He was first elected to the Lok Sabha in 1972 from the Amritsar parliamentary constituency, and again re-elected from the same seat in the 1980, 1985, 1992, 1996 and 1999 elections as a member of the Congress. Bhatia had also served as the Governor of Kerala from 2004 to 2008 and the governor of Bihar from 2008 to 2009. He had also served as the minister of

state for external affairs in 1992.

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh expressed grief over the death of Raghunandan Bhatia. "Saddened to lose former Governor & Senior Congress Leader & six-time MP, Raghunandan Lal Bhatia Ji. My thoughts and prayers are with his family members in their hour of grief. May his soul rest in peace," the chief minister tweeted.

Punjab Congress leader and MLA Raj Kumar Verka condoled the demise of Raghunandan Bhatia, describing him as "Bhishma Pitamah" of the Indian politics.

Hry Govt hiding figures of Covid infected, deaths, alleges State Cong

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Congress President Kumari Selja on Saturday attacked the BJP-led government in the state, alleging that it is hiding figures of COVID-19 infected and fatalities. She also said black marketing of medicines, which are required for treatment of coronavirus patients, and oxygen cylinders has broken all records.

"The spread of the coron-

avirus is increasing rapidly in the state. Instead of preventing it, the government has been making false statements and claims. The figures of those infected and deaths are being hidden," the Congress leader said, adding that there was a huge shortage of doctors and health workers in hospitals.

"People are not getting treatment. For the last several days, the situation in rural areas has become worse," she

told an online press conference. Selja said that medicines required for treatment of COVID-19 patients and oxygen are being black-marketed in the state. "This time, black marketing has broken all records. Patients in the state are neither getting oxygen on time nor beds. There is a huge lack of ventilators and the government is sitting blindfolded," she added.

Selja said that the COVID-19 cases in Haryana are con-

tinuously increasing, but the vaccination campaign is going on at a very slow pace. The positivity rate is 45 per cent in three districts and more than 40 per cent in one district of the state, the Congress leader claimed. She said at the same time, the positivity rate in 11 districts is more6

than 30 per cent. Besides this, it is more than 25 per cent in four districts and more than 10 per cent in three districts, she added.

On an average, around 60,000 tests are being done daily in the state which is only around 2,000 in a population of 10 lakh, she said. The state unit chief also said that at this time, Haryana is getting only 258 metric tonnes of oxygen. The central government should at least double the oxygen quota of the state. The government should increase the number of RT-PCR tests and speed up the pace of testing, Selja suggest-

ed.

Permanent place of testing should be made in villages, she said. Selja said that COVID hospitals with bed facilities of 500 to 1,000 should be built in each district with the help of the army. COVID-19 patients should get free medicines and treatment, and besides this, everyone should get a vaccine at no cost, Selja said, adding that the Haryana government should bear this expenditure.

217 deaths, 6,867 fresh Covid-19 Cases in Punjab

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

There was no respite in the number of fatalities in Punjab as 217 more persons lost their lives on Saturday while 6867 fresh Covid-19 cases took its tally to 4,90,755. 217 more deaths took the toll to 11693. State now has 77789 active cases, according to a medical bulletin.

Of the latest deaths, 26 were reported from Amritsar, 24 from Bathinda, 20 from Fazilka, 19 from Patiala, 18 from Ludhiana, 15 from Sangrur, 11 from Jalandhar, the

bulletin stated.

Ludhiana reported the maximum number of fresh cases at 1132, followed by 35 in SAS Nagar and 515 in Bathinda, it said. As many as 8125 coronavirus patients were discharged after they recovered from the infection, taking the total number of cured persons to 4, 01, 273, it added. There are 429 critical patients who are on ventilator support while 9902 are on oxygen support, the bulletin said. So far, 81,40, 404 samples have been collected for testing in the state, it said.

Pressure Centre to accept farmers' demands: Hooda to Haryana Govt

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Former Haryana chief minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda on Saturday asked the state government to pressure the Centre to accept demands of farmers protesting new farm laws so that they could return home from agitation sites near the Delhi borders.

Farmers have been camping at Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders of the national capital since late November, demanding the repeal of the three farm laws and a legal guar-

antee for the minimum support price on crops. Describing the farmers' demand as legitimate, Hooda said as "among the agitators are thousands of farmers from Haryana, it becomes the responsibility of the Haryana government to pressure the Union government by supporting the demands of farmers".

"The state government should persuade the Centre to accept the demands of the farmers so that the path of their homecoming could be paved," he said in a statement here. Urging the Centre to adopt a

prevailing coronavirus pandemic.

When all sectors of the economy were completely demolished during the COVID-19 period, it was farmers who took care of the country's economy, he said. "Agriculture was one such sector whose growth rate was positive. If the government takes a positive initiative in this difficult coronavirus epidemic, then it will have a positive effect across the country. Farmers will work in their fields with double vigour and speed up the pace of development," he said.

Hooda, who is also the Leader of Opposition in the Haryana Assembly, demanded that the state government continue procuring wheat. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, a large number of farmers have not been able to sell their wheat crop yet, he said. "Until all farmers sell their crops, the procurement should continue," he said.

4,140 more patients recovered in J&K

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A high level team of experts from New Delhi to study the high mortality rate of Covid-19 patients in Jammu, 63 more patients succumbed to the deadly virus taking the tally of deaths to 3,090 while total active positive cases stood at 51,475 as 3,677 fresh cases of coronavirus were detected across the region on Saturday.

Significantly, 4,140 more Covid-19 patients were recovered and discharged from various hospitals including 1,086 from Jammu Division and 3,054 from Kashmir Division.

Meanwhile, the corona curfew was also extended by the UT administration till May 24.

On the other hand to cover the left over population in the age group of 45 plus across Jammu district special vaccination camps are being organised across 100 centres in Jammu to vaccinate them.

So far around 98% of estimated 45+ population in

Jammu given first shot till date.

According to a statement issued by the office of Principal, Government Medical College, Jammu, "As per the recent sequencing data analysis of positive Covid-19 patients received from NCDC, New Delhi, B.1.617 variant is responsible for the recent surge in Covid-19 cases in Jammu division.

Dr. Shashi Sudhan Sharma said that the Department of Microbiology at GMC, Jammu besides testing of Covid-19 samples is also coordinating with NCDC New Delhi for routine sequencing of positive sample and as per the latest report received from them UK Variant was reported in >60% samples in March, 2021.

However, in April the %age of UK Variant dropped to 47% and B.1.617 increased from 5.8% to 38%.

Dr. Sharma further added that till date 434 samples have been sent to NCDC from Jammu Division among which a report of 64 samples is still awaited.

No decision yet on lockdown in Tripura, says Tripura CM

Agartala: Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb said on Saturday that no decision has been taken yet on imposing lockdown in any part of the state, even as Covid-19 cases continued to jump.

Speaking to reporters while visiting Covid care facilities in the Sepahijala district, Deb said such a decision is taken when healthcare experts and the administration collectively feel the necessity.

"There is no decision on lockdown yet," he said, adding that all updates will be made public.

In the Sipahijala district, 200 new beds have been prepared at two Covid care facilities, and more than 1,400 beds are being prepared at two other centres.

Meanwhile, a door-to-door survey has started in three containment zones in the Agartala Municipal Corporation (AMC) area.

The State Government has decided to conduct rapid antigen tests in all houses in the AMC area, Health Department officials said. Tripura recorded 449 new Covid-19 cases on Saturday, pushing the tally to 40,055.

The number of active cases climbed to 3,781.

With three more fatalities, all in the West Tripura district, the death toll rose to 426.

Bengal announces full lockdown till May 30

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

With the number of corona cases galloping up to about 22,000 cases per day the Bengal Government on Saturday announced a full lockdown till May 30.

"The Government has taken the steps in view of rising number of cases," Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay said

Bandopadhyay said the State would go for a full lockdown whereby all the private offices, schools and colleges would remain closed. The bazars selling vegetables, fruit etc would remain open as usual from 7-10 am every day while the local trains, metro services, inter-state bus and train and ferry services would remain closed he said. The local trains had already been sus-

pending last week.

While intra-state goods trucks movement would be restricted to essential supplies no private cars, taxis and auto movement would be allowed, he maintained adding the auto repairing shops and petrol pumps would however remain open. The banks would function from 10 am to 2 pm and cinema, bars, eateries, spas, malls and parlours would also remain closed he maintained adding anyone violating the orders would be dealt with strongly under pandemic laws.

Meanwhile, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday lost her second brother Ashim Banerjee to corona infection. He was undergoing treatment at a city private hospital in South Kolkata. He was cremated at the designated Nimtalla Mahasmashan (funeral) Ghat.

AP clocks 22,517 new cases, 98 deaths

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

The cumulative coronavirus positive cases touched 14,11,320 in Andhra Pradesh as 22,517 infections were added afresh in the 24 hours ending 9 am on Saturday.

The state also reported 98 Covid-19 fatalities while 18,739 patients had recovered in a day, the latest bulletin said.

The last one lakh cases also came in five days as the state logged over 20,000 cases per day since May 11.

The total recoveries increased to 11,94,582 and toll to 9,271, the bulletin said.

The active caseload in the state was now 2,07,467.

East Godavari district reported 3,383 fresh cases, Anantapuramu 2,975 and Chittoor 2,884 in 24 hours.

SPS Nellore and Vizianagaram added close to 1,000 new cases each while eight other districts registered between 1,000 and 2,000 each.

Anantapuramu reported 12 fresh Covid-19 fatalities, SPS Nellore 11, East Godavari ten, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram nine each, Chittoor and Srikakulam eight each, Guntur and West Godavari seven each, Krishna, Kurnool and Prakasam five each in a day.

Kadapa reported two more deaths.



Jammu & Kashmir highway wears a deserted look during lockdown, on the outskirts of Jammu on Saturday

STATE BANK OF INDIA
PERSONAL BANKING BRANCH, PHAGWARA(50707)
DISTT. KAPURTHALA-144401
UNAUTHORIZED ABSENCE FROM DUTY 2ND NOTICE
Mr. Gurwinder Singh S/o Late Sh. Paramjit Singh, House No. 896 C, Adarsh Nagar, Phagwara-144401
Please refer to the memo No. 218 dated 07.01.2021 calling upon you to report for duty. It is observed that you are continuing to be absent from duty since 03.10.2020.
The above position is highly irregular and in contravention of the rules governing your service in the Bank. You are, therefore, hereby advised to report for duty within 30 days of the date of this notice. If you fail to do so, you will be deemed to have voluntarily retired from service on the expiry of this notice, in which case you would also be liable to pay to the Bank one month's pay and allowances in lieu of the notice.
(BRANCH MANAGER)

Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rajesh S/o Dharam Singh R/o Kabirpur , Sonipat declare that my Son Ashish and his wife Kavita are out of my control. So I disown them from my movable/immovable property. Any body deals with them at own risk.

I, Mukesh Jai S/O Ram Parshad Jain R/O 3750 St.15 New Madhupuri Sunder Nagar, District Ludhiana declare that my Brother Vikas jain and his wife Neha Bansal are out of my control. So I all stop relation from my side.

I, Ram Parshad Jain S/O Dalip Chand R/O 3750 Street No.15 New Madhupuri Sunder Nagar, District Ludhiana Declare That My Son Vikas Jain And His Wife Neha Bansal Is Out Of My Control So I Disowned Them From My All Movable And Immovable Properties.

I, Sheela Jain W/O Ram Parshad Jain R/O 3750 Street No.15 New Madhupuri Sunder Nagar ,District Ludhiana Declare That My Son Vikas Jain And His Wife Neha Bansal Is Out Of My Control So I Disowned Them From My All Movable And Immovable Properties.

I, Army No. 5349523W Rank Hav. Rudra Bahadur Pun of (Unit) 3/4 GR (CHINDITS) C/o 56 APO Mamun in my Service record my wife Bhitin Maya Pun DOB wrongly written as 01-07-1975 instead of 10-6-1975.

I, Service No. JC-768648F Rank Sub Maj Gyan Prakash Unit 7014 EME Bn C/o 56 APO R/O Vill. Bankal (Dih) Po Bhikari Rampur Distt. Bhadohi U.P. declare that my wife Anju Dubey date of birth 01.07.1975 wrongly entered in my Army record. her correct date of birth is 30.05.1976.

I, Banak Sandip Nilkantha VPO Kharashi Tehsil Lakshmi District Bhandara (Maharashtra) in my service record my Father's name wrongly recorded as Nilkantha instead of Nilkanth Tikaram Banak Vide affidavit No. AT489122 Dated 11 May 2021 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Banak Sandip Nilkantha VPO Kharashi Tehsil Lakshmi District Bhandara (Maharashtra) in my service record my Mother's name wrongly recorded as Sarswata Banak instead of Sarswata Nilkanth Banak Vide affidavit No. AT489250 Dated 13 May 2021 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Lahashad Devi Mother of No. 15619371F Hav Raj Kishor Singh VPO Motha Tehsil Bikramganj District Rohtas (Bihar) in my son's service record my name wrongly recorded as Lahashad Devi instead of Lahaso Devi Vide affidavit No. AT489249 Dated 13 May 2021 Before notary public Pathankot.

I, No. 15616622P Hav Ranjit Chaudhari resident of Village Punal Po Goh Tehsil Daudnagar District Aurangabad (Bihar) in my service record my daughter's name wrongly recorded as Archana instead of Archana Kumari Vide affidavit No. AT489120 Dated 11 May 2021 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Amit Malik S/o Vedpal R/o Nearby Auto Stand, Ugrakhedi, Distt. Panipat declare that my mother name is accidentally entered Sunita Devi in the my 8th, 10thand 12th School Certificates. But my Mother's correct name is Anita Devi. Make all related note.

I, Vinay Sharma S/o Ashok Kumar Sharma R/o # 3236-15, G.T.B Nagar, Sector 14, Kharar, Mohali, declare that the name of my Father in my passport (bearing no J7349821) has been Wrongly Written as Ashok Kumar Instead of Ashok Kumar Sharma.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Reshma Spouse Of JC-4064478F Nb Sub Khachu Mangutkar Resident at Vill-Bambarge PO-Bambarge Teh- Belgaum Dist Belgaum (Karnataka) Have Change to my name From Reshma to Reshima Mangutkar.

I, Pradnaya Daughter Of JC-406414W NB Sub Khachu Mangutkar Resident at Vill-Bambarge PO-Bambarge Teh- Belgaum Dist Belgaum (Karnataka) Have Change to my name From Pradnaya to Pradnaya Mangutkar.

I, Aditi Daughter of JC-406478F Nb Sub Binam Kumar Resident at Vill- Hathi Tola PO- Maner Teh- Danapur Dist-Patna (Bihar) Have change to my name From Aditi to Aditi Rai.

I, Neelam Spouse of JC-406478F Nb Sub Binam Kumar Resident at Vill- Hathi Tola PO- Maner Teh- Danapur Dist-Patna (Bihar) Have change to my name From Neelam to Neelam Kumari.

I, Manpreet S/o Mahinder Singh R/o Dhanoura, Ambala. Have Changed my Name from Manpreet To Manpreet Singh.

I, No. 4564448H Ex Hav Ramesh Pal R/o Budion,Sohana, Tehsil Barara, Distt. Ambala. Have Changed my Children Name from Achal To Aanchal Rani & Labish To Lavish Kumar.

I, No. JC 673057P Nb Sub Mahendra Singh Kholiya of Unit 946 TPT COY ASC Type 'C' C/o 56 APO. Have Changed my Wife Name from Sheela Devi To Sheela Kholiya.

I, Rajni w/o Kumar Sushel r/o h.no.2074 ward no 4 saraswati vihar colony panipat declared Rajni and Kumar Rajni both are my name but in future my name Kumar Rajni Attachments area.

I, Navroop Kaur Momi D/O Gurinder Singh R/O House No 108 Urban Estate Kapurthala, have changed my name to Navroop Kaur.

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

ADARSH SUBHASH TAYAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Jind Chungi , 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 (Math's, English, Physical Science& Life Science)- 01 Each
•Assistant professor Teaching in Pedagogy of Health & Physical Edu.-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 -
•HOD-01,
Assistant Professors-
•(1) Perspectives in Education-04
•(2)01 Each in Pedagogy in History, Pol.Science, Geography, Economics, Physical Science, Life Science, Chemistry, Mathematics, 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. GOVT. NORMS
Apply Within 14 Days to the Chairman with 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,astcollegehansi@gmail.com

The Bhogpur Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd. Bhogpur
Tender Notice No. BCSM/28 dated 13.05.2021
Department : The Bhogpur Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd. Bhogpur.
Tenders are invited for the following:
(E-Tender)

S.No.	Item	Quantity
1	Sale of Sugar as per monthly Sugar Quota received from Chief Director (Sugar), Govt. of India	Appx. 20,000 qtls

E-tender for sale of sugar, specific quantity & quality on daily basis will be uploaded by the mills upto 12.00 Noon which may be downloaded and submitted upto 4:45 PM and the same will be opened on 5:00 PM on same day. For detail log day to : www.eproc.punjab.gov.in
(Sealed Tender)

S.No.	Item	Quantity
A	Supply Items	As per NIT
B	Job Work	As per NIT

Closing Date & Time : 07.06.2021 at 05:00 PM for Supply Items.
07.06.2021 at 05:00 PM for Job work
Opening Date & Time : 10.06.2021 at 11:00 AM for Supply Items
11.06.2021 at 11:00 AM for Job work
For detail log into : www.bhogpurcsml.com
Note: For any enquiry/help regarding sealed tenders contact on 99151-12559. Any Corrigendum (s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.
GENERAL MANAGER

PUBLIC NOTICE
ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3 rd Floor Shah Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh. Delhi-110005
The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	M/s. Tarlochan Singh Amarjit Singh, Inderjit Kaur, Kulwinder Kaur, Amarjit Singh, Tarlochan Singh. Represented By Partner Tarlochan Singh , Amarjit Singh, 26 Grain Market Kotise Khan, District Moga Punjab A/c No:-382205500059	1. Wasika No.1142 Dated 27.12.2013, Khasra No.20M/5/1, 6, 14, Khatta No.69/76, Village Nasirpur Janiya, Hsadbast No.309, Tehsil- Dharamkot & Distt. Moga Punjab. 2. Wasika No.1141 Dated 27.12.2013, Khasra No.20M/5/1, 6, 14, Khatta No.69/76, Village Nasirpur Janiya, Hsadbast No.309, Tehsil- Dharamkot & Distt. Moga Punjab. 3. S.C.F No.54, situated at Grain Market, Kot Isse Khan Tehsil- Dharamkot & Distt. Moga Punjab.	16-Apr-2021, Rs. 63,24,085.71/-	30-05-2020
2.	M/s. New Dhillon Commission Agent, Kulwinder Kaur, Veera , Jasbir Singh, Proprietor Jasbir Singh Mandi Patti, Tarn Taran, Patti Punjab., A/c No:-150505004657	Ward No.11, Khasra No.198/129, Khata/Khatoni No.460/699, Hsadbast No.170, Mutation No.11866 & 11867, Patti, Distt.- Tarn Taran Amritsar Punjab	15-Apr-2021, Rs. 38,69,128.31/-	31-08-2020
3.	Tarlok Cold Drinks, Tarlok Singh , Karandeep Singh, Represented By Proprietor Karandeep Singh, Shakti Nagar Near Emc, Hospital I/s, Lahori Gate Amritsar Punjab, A/c No:-231605000541	Khana Shumari No.3112/1X - 17, Inside Gate Hakima, Katra Hakima, Under Municipal Corporation, Tehsil & Distt. Amritsar Punjab	15-Apr-2021, Rs. 34,68,979.61/-	31-08-2020
4.	Jai Ambay Agro Foods, Surinder Kumar, Represented By Proprietor Surinder Kumar S/o Ram Chander, Scf 4-a, Phase II ,new Grain Market, Sirhind Road Patiala Punjab, A/c No:-251305000105	House No.4-A, New Anaj Mandi, Phase II, Sirhind Road, Patiala Punjab	17-Apr-2021, Rs. 29,27,926.27/-	31-08-2020
5.	Shree Gurdev Associates, Kampal Singh, Harneet Kaur, Scf 6 New Grain Market, Malout Punjab. A/c No:-151905001792	Shop No.106, Ground Floor, Skymall, Bhatinda Road Malout Punjab	15-Apr-2021, Rs. 6,86,803.37/-	31-08-2020
6.	Malka Trading Co. Rajesh Kumar, Sukhbir Rani, Represented By Proprietor Rajesh Kumar, S/o Balwant Chand Sharma, Vop: Amarkot, Tehsil: Patti, Taran Amritsar, Punjab. A/c No:-050505002371	Khasra No.90/23/2/1, Khata/Khatoni No.265/796, Hsadbast No.85, Sub Tehsil- Khem Karan & Distt.- Tarn Taran, Amritsar Punjab	17-Apr-2021, Rs. 31,68,522.5/-	02-05-2020
7.	M/s Pattu Kheti Store, Sukhpreet Kaur, Gurbhej Singh, Village Miana Wala, Harharh, Mianwala, Khem Karan, Patti, Tarn Taran Amritsar Punjab. A/c No:-361005001049	Property No.145/06, situated at Ward No.6, Sub Tehsil- Old Khem Karan, Patti & Distt. Tarn Taran Amritsar Punjab	15-Apr-2021, Rs. 20,28,496.13/-	31-06-2020

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : May 15, 2021
Place: Punjab
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Israeli airstrike on Gaza home kills 10

AP ■ GAZA CITY

An Israeli air raid in Gaza City killed at least 10 Palestinians, mostly children, early on Saturday in the deadliest single strike since the battle with Gaza's militant Hamas rulers erupted earlier this week. Both sides pressed for an advantage as cease-fire efforts gathered strength.

The latest outburst of violence began in Jerusalem and has spread across the region, with Jewish-Arab clashes and rioting in mixed cities of Israel. There were also widespread Palestinian protests Friday in the occupied West Bank, where Israeli forces shot and killed 11 people.

The spiralling violence has raised fears of a new Palestinian "intifada," or uprising at a time when there have been no peace talks in years. Palestinians were set to mark Nakba (Catastrophe) Day on Saturday, when they commemorate the estimated 7,00,000 people who fled or were driven from their homes in what is now Israel during the 1948 war surrounding its creation. That raised the possibility of even more unrest.

US diplomat Hady Amr arrived on Friday as part of Washington's efforts to de-escalate the conflict, and the UN Security Council was set to meet Sunday. But Israel turned down an Egyptian proposal for a one-year truce that Hamas

rulers had accepted, an Egyptian official said Friday on condition of anonymity to discuss the negotiations.

Since Monday night, Hamas has fired hundreds of rockets into Israel, which has pounded the Gaza Strip with strikes. In Gaza, at least 126 people have been killed, including 31 children and 20 women; in Israel, seven people have been killed, including a 6-year-old boy and a soldier.

Rocket fire from Gaza and Israel's bombardment of the blockaded Palestinian territory continued into early Saturday, when an airstrike on a three-story house in a refugee camp in Gaza City killed eight children and two women from an extended family.

Mohammed Abu Hatab told reporters his wife and five children had gone to celebrate the Eid al-Fitr holiday with relatives. She and three of the children, aged 6 to 14, were killed, while an 11-year-old is missing. Only his 5-month-old son Omar is known to have survived.

Children's toys and a Monopoly board game could be seen among the rubble, as well as plates of uneaten food from the holiday gathering.

"There was no warning," said Jamal Al-Naji, a neighbour living in the same building. "You filmed people eating and then you bombed them?" he



An Israeli airstrike hits the high-rise building housing *The Associated Press'* offices in Gaza City on Saturday

AP

said, addressing Israel. "Why are you confronting us? Go and confront the strong people!"

Shortly afterward, Hamas said it fired a salvo of rockets at southern Israel in response to the airstrike.

A furious Israeli barrage early Friday killed a family of six in their house and sent thousands fleeing to UN-run shelters. The military said the operation involved 160 warplanes dropping some 80 tons of explosives over the course of 40 minutes and succeeded in destroying a vast tunnel network used by Hamas.

Palestinian march in Paris defies ban, is met by tear gas

Paris: French riot police fired tear gas and used water cannons Saturday in Paris as protesters supporting Palestinians in the Gaza Strip defied a ban on marching in the French capital. Hundreds of people marched peacefully in other cities in France and elsewhere in Europe.

In Paris, protesters scattered and played cat-and-mouse with security forces in

the city's northern neighborhoods after their starting point for a planned march was blocked.

Paris police chief Didier Lallemand had ordered 4,200 security forces into the streets and closed shops around the kick-off point for the march in a working-class neighborhood after an administrative court confirmed the ban due to fears of violence.

AP

Japan, US, France hold military drill eyeing China presence

AP ■ KIRISHIMA TRAINING AREA (JAPAN)

Dozens of Japanese, American and French troops landed amid pouring rain from a CH-47 transport helicopter onto a grassy field at a training area in southern Japan, part of Saturday's joint scenario of defending a remote island from an enemy invasion.

The three nations' first joint drills on Japanese soil — dubbed "ARC21" and which began Tuesday — come as they seek step up military ties amid growing Chinese assertiveness in the region.

Japanese soldiers and their counterparts from the French army and the U.S. Marine Corps also conducted an urban warfare drill using a concrete building elsewhere at the Japanese Self-Defense Force's Kirishima Training Area in the southern Miyazaki prefecture. Around 200 troops took part in Saturday's exercises.

On Saturday, the three countries were also joined by Australia in an expanded naval exercise involving 11 warships in the East China Sea, where

tensions with China are rising around the island of Taiwan.

The drills come as Japan looks to bolster its military capabilities amid a deepening territorial row with China in regional seas. Japan is increasingly concerned about Chinese activity in and around Japanese-claimed waters surrounding the Japanese-controlled Senkaku islands, which Beijing also claims and calls Diaoyu. Since the end of World War II, Japan's constitution has limited the use of force to self defense. Japan in recent years has continued to expand its military role, capability and budget.

Japan's Vice Defense Minister Yasuhiko Nakayama, who observed the exercise, stressed the significance of French participation in the joint exercises regularly held between Japan and the U.S., and often with Australia.

"It was a valuable opportunity for the Japanese Self-Defense Force to maintain and strengthen its strategic capability necessary to defend our remote islands," Nakayama said.

UN chief: Foreign fighters in Libya are violating cease-fire

United Nations: The UN chief said foreign fighters and mercenaries remain in Libya in violation of last October's cease-fire agreement and called for their withdrawal and an end to violations of the UN arms embargo, saying these are "critical elements" for lasting peace in the north African country and the region.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a report to the UN Security Council obtained Friday by The Associated Press that the smooth transfer of power to a new interim government, which took power in March, "brings renewed hope for the reunification of the country and its institutions" and for a lasting peace.

But he said progress must continue on the political, economic and security tracks to enable elections to go ahead on December 24. Libya has been wracked by chaos since a NATO-backed uprising toppled longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011, and split the oil-rich North African country between a U.N.-supported government in the capital, Tripoli, and rival authorities based in the country's east, each backed by armed groups and foreign governments.

Saudis to host meeting of Muslim nations' FMs

Dubai: Saudi Arabia has called for foreign ministers of the world's largest body of Muslim nations to hold a meeting Sunday. The gathering is to discuss Israeli acts of violence against Palestinians and the Israeli police's use of force against protesters at Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

The kingdom will host the virtual summit, gathering ministers of the 57-nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation "to discuss the Israeli aggression in the Palestinian territory," particularly acts of violence in the vicinity of Al-Aqsa Mosque, the body said Saturday.

The Saudi-headquartered OIC includes countries Iran, Turkey, Indonesia and a range of Muslim majority nations.

The sanctity of Al-Aqsa mosque, one of Islam's holiest sites, is a sensitive and emotive issue for Muslims around the world. The OIC was formed 51 years ago in response to a Jewish extremist arson attack on the Al-Aqsa Mosque in east Jerusalem.

Indian-American policy expert Neera Tanden appointed WH senior adviser

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Indian-American policy expert Neera Tanden has been appointed as a senior adviser to US President Joe Biden, two months after she withdrew her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget due to stiff opposition from Republican senators.

Tanden has been entrusted with two tasks — launch a review of the US Digital Service, and plan contingencies that could result from the Supreme Court's consideration of Republican lawsuits seeking to strike down the Affordable Care Act.

Tanden, 50, is currently the president and CEO of a progressive think-tank, Center for American Progress (CAP). She expected to join the White House team on Monday.

"Neera's intellect, tenacity, and political savvy will be an asset to the Biden administration," CAP founder and director John Podesta said.

He said the White House has made remarkable progress combating numerous once-in-a-generation challenges — from vaccinating millions of Americans to delivering real

Iran's hard-line judiciary chief registers for presidential run

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran's judiciary chief, a hard-line cleric linked to mass executions in 1988, registered on Saturday to run in the Islamic Republic's presidential election next month, a vote that comes as negotiators struggle to resuscitate Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

The cleric, Ebrahim Raisi, is among the more prominent hopefuls — he garnered nearly 16 million votes in the 2017 election. He lost that race to Iran's relatively moderate President Hassan Rouhani, whose administration struck the atomic accord.

Raisi's close ties to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his popularity — due partly to his televised anti-corruption campaign — could make him a favorite in the election. Analysts already believe that hard-liners enjoy an edge as Rouhani is term limited from running again.

The public has widely grown disenchanted with Rouhani's administration after 2018, when then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the nuclear deal.

Raisi, wearing a black turban that identifies him in Shiite tradition as a direct descendant of Islam's Prophet Muhammad, offered fiery remarks to jour-



Ebrahim Raisi, head of Iran's judiciary leaves a news conference after registering his candidacy for the June 18 presidential elections at the elections headquarters of the Interior Ministry in Tehran, Iran on Saturday

AP

nalists at the Interior Ministry as he registered. He vowed that if he wins the June 18 vote, corruption will be "dried up."

"Those who founded and partnered with the current situation can't claim they can change it," Raisi said. "People are complaining about the current situation. They are upset. Their disappointment is on the rise. This should be stopped."

The 60-year-old sought to strike a populist note, urging the public to donate to his campaign and "turn their homes into election headquarters" as he wasn't wealthy.

"We need individuals who believe in change," he said.

Raisi had been named as a

possible successor to Iran's 82-year-old supreme leader, leading some to suggest he wouldn't run in the race. His entry immediately saw some hard-liners announce they would withdraw, raising Raisi's prominence further among the candidates.

A February telephone survey conducted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the Toronto-based organization IranPoll found Raisi with an approval rating of 27 per cent, the highest among likely candidates. The survey found 35 per cent undecided; the poll interviewed 1,006 Iranians and had a margin of error of 3.09 per cent.

GLOBE TROTTER

12 KILLED IN TORNADO STRIKES IN CHINA

Beijing: Twelve people were killed and over 300 injured when two powerful tornadoes walloped Chinese cities of Wuhan and Suzhou on Friday night, leaving a trail of destruction of houses.

PAK: 11 DEAD AS VEHICLE PLUNGES INTO CANAL

Lahore: Eleven people, including seven children, of the same family were drowned after their vehicle plunged into a canal in Pakistan's Punjab province, rescue authorities said. The accident happened on Friday in Sheikhupura district, some 50 kms from Lahore, when the vehicle heading towards Khanqah Dogran from Qila Didar Singh skidded off the road and plunged into the canal.

ETHIOPIA AGAIN DELAYS NATIONAL ELECTION

Nairobi: Ethiopia has again delayed its national election after some opposition parties said they wouldn't take part and as conflict in the country's Tigray region means no vote is being held there.

Kid reporter who interviewed Obama at White House dies at 23

West Palm Beach (US): The student reporter who gained national acclaim when he interviewed President Barack Obama at the White House in 2009 has died of natural causes, his family says. Damon Weaver was 23 when he died May 1, his sister, Candace Hardy, told the Palm Beach Post. Further details were not released. He had been studying communications at Albany State University in Georgia.

Weaver was 11 when he interviewed Obama for 10 minutes in the Diplomatic Room on Aug. 13, 2009, asking questions that focused primarily on education. He covered school lunches, bullying, conflict resolution and how to succeed.

Weaver then asked Obama to be his "homeboy," saying then-Vice President Joe Biden had already accepted.

"Absolutely," a smiling Obama said, shaking the boy's hand. He used that meeting to later interview Oprah Winfrey and athletes like Dwyane Wade.

"He was just a nice person, genuine, very intelligent," Hardy said. "Very outspoken, outgoing. He never said no to anybody." Weaver got his start in fifth grade when he volunteered for the school newscast at K.E. Cunningham/Canal Point Elementary in a farm community on the shores of Lake Okeechobee.

China successfully lands its rover on Mars



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, members at the Beijing Aerospace Control Centre celebrate after China's Tianwen-1 probe successfully landed on Mars, at the centre in Beijing, Saturday

UJVN LIMITED
H.O. "Ujjawal" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135- 2763808, Fax: 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

e-Tender Notice

दिनांक: 15.05.2021

पत्र सं. 355, Office of the (Executive Engineer (Test), Ganga Valley, UJVNL, Haridwar), invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :

Tender No. - 01/UJVNL/EE(Test)/GV/2021-22
Name of work- Supply Installation Testing and Commissioning of Fixed Type On Line DC Insulation Monitoring System for Chilla Power House
Estimated cost: 78,40,698.00 + GST
Date of availability of bid document on website: 17.05.2021 (11:00 Hrs)
Last date for submission of bids on website: 17.06.2021 up to 17:00 Hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in" **Executive Engineer (Test),**
"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

INDO COTSPIN LIMITED			
REGD. OFFICE : 78 K.M. DELHI MILE STONE, NH-1, G.T. ROAD, VILLAGE JATTIPUR, POST BOX NO. 3, POST OFFICE SAMALKHA, PANIPAT -132103 (Haryana) CIN:- L111HR1995PLC032541 Website:www.indocotspin.com Email ID:rajpalaggarwal2000@yahoo.com, info@indocotspin.com Statement of Standalone Audited Financial Results for the Quarter/Year Ended March 31, 2021			
PARTICULARS	(Amount Rs. in Lacs)		
	3 MONTHS ENDED 31.03.2021 Audited	31.03.2021 Audited	CORRESPONDING 3 MONTHS ENDED IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR 31.03.2020 Audited
Total Income from operations (net)	313.72	816.08	997.37
Net Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary activities after Tax	17.25	4.77	10.64
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Extraordinary Items)	17.25	4.77	10.64
Paid Up Equity Share Capital Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of Previous Year)	420.05	420.05	420.05
Earnings Per Share (before Extraordinary Items) (of Rs. 10/- each): Basic and Diluted (in Rupees)	0.41	0.07	0.25
Earnings Per Share (after Extraordinary Items) (of Rs. 10/- each): Basic and Diluted (in Rupees)	0.41	0.07	0.25
NOTE: (i) There is no qualification on the audit report for the quarter/ year ended 31st March, 2021 (ii) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Year Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of the Quarterly/Year Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchange websites: www.bseindia.com , www.nseindia.com , www.scriindia.com , www.bseindia.com , www.nseindia.com , www.scriindia.com tele-91-9896034879			
For Indo Cotspin Limited Sd/- Bal Krishan Aggarwal Managing Director DIN No. :00456219			
Place: Panipat Date: 15/05/2021			

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR Telefax :- 0194-2496089, Email Id:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in (Short-term)

GIST of E -NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2021-22/20/e-tendering Dated:-12-05-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work:- SITC of Open-well Submersible Pumping Units along with allied Mechanical works for water supply at Govt. Chest Disease Hospital, Srinagar.
Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs) :- 1.45
Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees) :- 200
Time of completion (in Days) :- 05
AA Accorded Vide No :- 08-MCS of 2021, Dt: 27-04-2021
TS. NO :- MHCHD/TS15 of 05/2021

1. The tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from **12-05-2021 (18.00 hrs).**

2. The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from **13-05-2021 (10.00 hrs). to 19-05-2021 (14.00 hrs)** in two (02) cover.
3. The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on **19-05-2021 (16.00 hrs)** or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar
No. DIPK-1587/21 Dated:- 15.05.2021

GST Council to meet on May 28

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a growing chorus over the GST Council meeting not being convened for over seven months, the Union Finance Ministry on Saturday announced that the next meeting of the panel that decides on taxes on goods and services will be held on May 28.

After over a dozen central and state levies such as excise duty, service tax and VAT were subsumed in a nationwide Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017, the Council, headed by Union Finance Minister and including representatives of all states and union territories, was mandated to meet every quarter to deliberate on issues at hand.

The GST Council last met on October 5, 2020 to finalise contours of borrowings by states to meet shortfall in tax revenues. The meeting got extended and ended on October 12.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will chair the 43rd meeting of the GST Council on May 28, her office tweeted.

“Smt @nsitharaman will chair the 43rd GST Council meeting via video conferencing at 11 AM in New Delhi on 28th May 2021. The meeting will be attended by MOS Shri @ianuragthakur besides Finance Ministers of States &

UTs and Senior officers from Union Government & States,” it said.

Opposition party-ruled states have been complaining about not holding the GST Council meeting in recent weeks. West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra earlier this week wrote to Sitharaman seeking urgent convening of the meeting to discuss the issue of compensation shortfall to states

and other pending items.

“You are kindly aware that the GST Council was mandated to meet once in every quarter. Unfortunately, this solemn mandate has been violated twice over, by not calling a meeting of the Council for two consecutive quarters - not even virtually.

“This has undermined a federal institution, where all states are represented irrespective of political parties, regions or size of population, along with the Government of India. I fear that not holding meetings regularly also lead to a trust deficit,” Mitra wrote.

When GST was implemented, states were promised that they will be compensated for any shortfall in tax revenues arising out of their taxes being subsumed in a national GST, for the first five years.

This was to be done by levy of a cess, on top of the GST rate, on certain luxury and sin goods.

Power consumption grows nearly 19 pc in 1st fortnight of May

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Power consumption in the country grew by around 19 per cent in the first fortnight of May to 51.67 billion units (BU) over the same period last year, showing recovery in industrial and commercial demand of electricity, according to the power ministry data.

Power consumption in the first fortnight of May 2020 was 43.55 BU. The power consumption in the entire month of May last year was 102.08 BU.

During the first fortnight of May this year (from May 1 to 14), peak power demand met or the highest supply in a day touched the highest level of 168.78 GW (on May 6, 2021) and recorded growth of over 15 per cent over 146.54 GW (peak met) recorded in the same period in 2020 (on May 13, 2020).



The power consumption in April grew nearly 40 per cent to 118.08 BU.

Power consumption in April 2020 had dropped to 84.55 BU from 110.11 BU in the same month in 2019, mainly because of fewer economic activities following the imposition of lockdown by the government in the last week of March 2020 to contain the spread of deadly COVID-19.

The power consumption also fell in May 2020 to 102.08 BU from 120.02 BU in May 2019.

Similarly, peak power demand met or the highest power supply in a day also slumped to 132.73 GW in April last year from 176.81

GW in the same month in 2019, showing the impact of lockdown on economic activities.

Power engineers body demands mass vaccination

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Power Minister R.K. Singh requesting that all the states be directed to hold mass vaccination camps to cover electricity personnel on top priority basis and be treated as frontline workers.

Shailendra Dubey , Chairman AIPEF said as many as 1,000 power sector employees and engineers have succumbed to Covid-19 and more than 15,000 have been infected from the virus.

In Maharashtra, a total of more than 7,100 power employees are Covid positive and about 210 have died. While, in Uttar Pradesh, more than 4,000 power sector employees are suffering from coronavirus and there have been 140 casualties.

Covid pushes India’s Pharma industry growth to 59% in April



IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

The fresh wave of Covid-19 in the country has pushed up sales of medicines and resulted in exponential growth for the pharmaceutical sector.

According to total sales audit data from world’s largest pharmaceutical market research firm IMS Health, the Indian Pharma Market (IPM) grew 59 per cent yoy in April, 2021 vs 16 per cent yoy in March, 2021 due to the low base effect in April, 2020 and sharp surge in Covid-19-relat-

ed sales.

On the MAT (moving annual turnover) basis, IPM grew 9.6 per cent, primarily driven by pricing growth of 4.3 per cent and new product launch growth of 4.6 per cent. Volume growth was muted at 0.8 per cent.

According to a report from Emkay Global Financial Services, all major therapies posted high double-digit growth in April 21.

Within Chronic therapies, Cardiac therapy grew 22 per cent.

NTPC augments Covid care facilities across India, adds over 500 oxygen beds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned NTPC has augmented COVID care facilities across the country and added more than 500 oxygen supported beds besides 1,100 isolation beds at its plants in different states.

The company has set up COVID care centres with facilities of 200 oxygen supported beds and 140 isolation beds in Badarpur, Noida and Dadri, it said in a statement.

It has also set up a 500-bed COVID health centre at Sundargarh in Odisha where 20 ventilators have been provided. “NTPC Ltd has added more than 500 beds with oxygen support and more than 1,100 isolation beds across plants in various states to provide support to the critical COVID care,” the statement said. Besides the COVID care centres that are operational in Dadri, Korba, Kaniha, Ramagundam, Vindhyachal, Barh & Badarpur, NTPC will



be setting up additional facilities at North Karanpura, Bongaigaon and Solapur as well. Other hospitals are on their way to increase the number of beds with oxygen facilities, it said. Meanwhile, NTPC has inoculated over 70,000 employees and associates across its operations. The massive vaccination drive continues across plant locations.

NTPC has also started vaccinating those who are in the age bracket of 18-44 at many of its plant locations. Vaccination drives have been undertaken across NTPC stations in coordination with respective state administrations. The company is running 24X7 control rooms across plants for better coordination for patients across sites which is coordinated by a special task force.

The task force also helps in coordination for hospital beds and other treatment facilities across various empanelled and non-empanelled hospitals. The control rooms also coordinate for procurement of medicines, hospital equipment and services.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Desh Deep Chawla & Mr. Sumit Chawla were joint owners of Property No. 154, area measuring 112.50 sq. mtrs. in Block-A, Sector-48, Noida, "the said property" by virtue of Transfer deed dated 15.10.2011. Further Mr. Sumit Chawla became the owner of ½ share of his late father Mr. Desh Deep Chawla vide a mutation letter dated 21.02.2019, in the record of Noida Authority. All persons including other legal heirs of late Mr. Desh Deep Chawla are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to someone who is taking loan for purchase the said property from ICICI Bank Ltd., if anybody has any objections upon the ownership of Mr. Sumit Chawla in respect of the said property to sale (Mortgage, and any kind of objection, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. (Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 201, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph: 011-41112827-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Tendering Tender Notice No. 19/2021
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) N.E. Railways Izatnagar For and behalf of president of India invites "OPEN" e-tender through on Line (E-tendering) for the following work. **S.N.: 1, Description of Works:** Zone No.1. MQP to LC No. 250A (Both In.) Chaulpa colony, Bareilly city colony, station front colony at Bareilly city. **Approx. Value:** Rs. 52,25,017.00. **S.N.: 2, Description of Works:** Zone No.2. L.C. No. 250A (Ex) to L.C. No.244 B (in) Station Colony, Loco sheds Station Bareilly City. **Approx. Value:** Rs. 34,85,772.00. **S.N.: 3, Description of Works:** Zone No. 3. L.C. No. 244B to BPR (Both ex.) Loco Colony, station colony, S.E./ works /P. way/Sig., ADEN/Line office/IZN, SMG Line, station colony, CBJ Line plant and colony / IZN. **Approx. Value:** Rs. 57,40,561.00. **S.N.: 4, Description of Works:** Zone No. 4. Divisional Hospital and medical colony (north of IVRI road) Izatnagar. **Approx. Value:** Rs. 49,28,974.00. **S.N.: 5, Description of Works:** Zone No. 5 Divisional office, BRI office etc. including office colony Izatnagar. **Approx. Value:** Rs. 43,26,021.00. **S.N.: 6, Description of Works:** Zone No. 6. Mech. Workshop. Including workshop administrative building and store Depot. Izatnagar. **Approx. Value:** Rs. 70,94,625.00. **S.N.: 7, Description of Works:** Zone No.7. Officers colony Road no.1 to 7 (Kaliwari) all inclusive at Izatnagar. **Approx. Value:** Rs. 87,11,938.00. **S.N.: 8, Description of Works:** Zone No. 8. Kaliwari (Ex) to New modal colony & DSL shed at Izatnagar. **Approx. Value:** Rs. 70,84,063.00. **S.N.: 9, Description of Works:** Zone No. 9. Bhojipura (Inc.) to Lalkuan (Ex.). **Approx. Value:** Rs. 59,22,550.00. **S.N.: 10, Description of Works:** Zone No. 10. Makrandpur (Ex) Ujhayani (Inc.). **Approx. Value:** Rs. 48,05,742.00. **S.N.: 11, Description of Works:** Zone No. 11. Ujhayani to kasganj (Ex.Both). **Approx. Value:** Rs. 45,68,883.00. **S.N.: 12, Description of Works:** Zone No. 12. Kasganj (In.) to MHA (Ex.) up to km.253/0. KSJ(In)up to km.417/0 and Jafari colony, Mal godam colony at Kasganj]. **Approx. Value:** Rs. 63,53,674.00. **S.N.: 13, Description of Works:** Zone No.13. Kasganj L.xing no. 310 to PTI. (Inc.) upto km. 204/0. **Approx. Value:** Rs. 38,90,700.00. **S.N.: 14, Description of Works:** Zone No. 14. PTI. (Ex.) to FGR (Ex.). **Approx. Value:** Rs. 69,20,305.00. **S.N.: 15, Description of Works:** Zone No.15. FGR (Inc.) to KLJ (Ex.) up to Km.132/0. **Approx. Value:** Rs. 52,22,384.00. **S.N.: 16, Description of Works:** Zone No.16. FGR (EX) Km.132/0 to ARL (Ex.). **Approx. Value:** Rs. 74,90,845.00. **S.N.: 17, Description of Works:** Zone No. 17. CPA (EX) up to km. 2/2 and BRT branch line to ARL(Inc.). Km.65/0. **Approx. Value:** Rs. 79,37,728.00. **S.N.: 18, Description of Works:** Zone No. 18. MHA (Inc.) Km.253/0 to MSN (Ex.). **Approx. Value:** Rs. 49,67,482.00. **S.N.: 19, Description of Works:** Zone No. 19.MSN (Inc.) to MRT up to L.xing no.357 (Inc.). **Approx. Value:** Rs. 70,67,353.00. **S.N.: 20, Description of Works:** Zone No. 20. MRT up to L. xing no.357(Ex.) to MTJ (Ex) including R.E. colony & Delhi Lajpat nagar officer's rest house. **Approx. Value:** Rs. 53,55,684.00. **S.N.: 21, Description of Works:** Zone No.21. Pillibhit station yard and all Pillibhit colony. **Approx. Value:** Rs. 1,15,44,000.00. **S.N.: 22, Description of Works:** Zone No. 22. Bhojipura (Ex.) to Mallani (EX.) & Pillibhit (EX.). **Approx. Value:** Rs. 43,03,000.00. **S.N.: 23, Description of Works:** Zone No. 23 PBE (Ex.) to TPU (Inc.). **Approx. Value:** Rs. 54,29,950.00. **S.N.: 24, Description of Works:** Zone No. 24. PBE (ex.) to SZP (INC.). **Approx. Value:** Rs. 26,28,800.00. **S.N.: 25, Description of Works:** Zone No. 25. MB (Ex.) to RMR (Inc.). **Approx. Value:** Rs. 88,76,100.00. **S.N.: 26, Description of Works:** Zone No. 26. LKU (Inc.) to KGM (Inc). **Approx. Value:** Rs. 99,12,335.00. **S.N.: 27, Description of Works:** Zone No. 27. Holy day home at NNT & RKT & other rail establishments of hill area under SE/works/NNT. **Approx. Value:** Rs. 43,18,057.00. **S.N.: 28, Description of Works:** Zone No. 28. LKU (Ex.) to RMU (EX.). **Approx. Value:** Rs. 80,32,273.00. **S.N.: 29, Description of Works:** Zone No. 29. Lalkuan (Ex.) to Kashipur (Ex.). **Approx. Value:** Rs. 65,14,800.00. **Note:- E.M.D. Money of S. No. 1 to 29: Rs. NIL, Cost of Tender Forms of S. No. 1 to 29: Rs. NIL, Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter of S. No. 1 to 29: 30.06.2022.**
1. Online e-tender can be submitted up to 15.00 hrs of dated 10.06.2021.
2. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) CPROW-28 Izatnagar
Do Not smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

NO NEGATIVE RT-PCR REPORT 4 pilots spends 21hrs in aircraft

PNIS ■ NEW DELHI

Four pilots as well as cabin crew members of SpiceJet's Delhi-Zagreb flight had to reportedly spend 21 hours, almost a day onboard the aircraft they operated from Delhi to Croatian capital Zagreb this Tuesday before flying the Boeing 737 back home as there was a sudden change in rules making negative RT-PCR test results mandatory for anyone coming from India.

The crew were not allowed to come out of the plane and they conducted the return flight to Delhi -- after the 21-hour rest period -- without passengers or cargo. The two commanders and as many first officers had to spend their lay-over inside the aircraft in Zagreb airport before flying the plane back to Delhi without any passengers or cargo. “Prior to departure from



India, email confirmation was received from Croatian authorities that RTPCR is not required for crew,” the airline’s spokesperson said. SpiceJet says the crew was on board for 21 hours.

On arrival in Zagreb on Tuesday, the crew, including four pilots, as well as cabin crew members, was told that the

orders have changed. “Due to sudden and massive increase in COVID cases in India, they were then instructed that RTPCR test is required. This came as a surprise,” the airline’s spokesperson said.

SpiceJet had operated flight SG-9035 on May 11 on Delhi-Tbilisi-Zagreb with two sets of pilots, meaning four pilots. As

the crew had not undergone the mandatory RT-PCR test, Croatian authorities did not allow them to alight from the aircraft, said people in the know.

Since the crew could not fly back immediately due the FDTL (flight duty time limitation) restrictions, bedding, food and water was provided in the aircraft, according to the spokesperson.

“Aircraft was cleaned. DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) permission was obtained. Crew rested in the aircraft for 21 hours (as mandated by regulation).

The unfolding Covid catastrophe in India has seen some countries suddenly change their rules for crew and passengers from the country. Sometimes these changes happen when aircraft are on their way from India to those countries.

India to become major production hub for ACC batteries: ICEA

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) has welcomed the Rs 18,100 crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme that has been approved for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery storage in the country.

In a statement, ICEA that represents mobile and component manufacturers such as Apple, Motorola, Nokia, Foxconn, Wistron, Flextronics, Lava, Vivo and others, said that it would promote newer and niche cell technologies in the country.

“We at ICEA believes that the PLI scheme would give thrust to ‘Make in India’ initiative and will attract huge investments of Rs 45,000 crore plus in the coming years. With this push for ACC batteries, the sector would witness robust growth in the coming years,” said Pankaj Mohindroo, Chairman, ICEA.

ACC batteries are the new generation of advanced storage technologies which stores electric energy as electrochemical and convert it back to electric energy as and when required. The ACC covers major sectors, which are consumer electronics, mobiles, electric vehicles, advanced electricity grids, solar rooftop etc.

Mohindroo said that we need to work on securing the raw material supplies for these core technologies specially lithium and cobalt.

“Our import burden of Rs 20,000 crore will also turn into a big opportunity and would make the country a major hub in producing clean energy,” he added.

The ACC battery storage manufacturers will be selected through a transparent competitive bidding process.

The manufacturing facility would have to be commissioned within two years. The incentive will be disbursed thereafter over five years.

Airtel rolls out Covid support initiatives for customers on its digital platform



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel has rolled out a range of Covid support initiatives for customers by leveraging its digital platform.

With this, the telco joins a growing list of companies that have introduced digital tools to help people amid the deadly second wave of the pandemic.

Airtel has integrated easily accessible bouquet of Covid support resources and related information in the Airtel Thanks app's Explore section, the company said in a statement.

“Covid SOS aggregates verified and updated contacts

for important supplies such as medicines, oxygen, plasma donors, ambulance, hospital beds, and testing centres. With a few clicks, the platform connects users to these service providers/resources and tries to ensure that users do not have to waste precious time to access this data,” the statement said. The information available on ‘Covid SOS’ is verified by their teams,

it said and added the platform is powered by Airtel IQ. “Airtel Thanks users can also book a vaccination slot for themselves and their loved ones through the app,” the statement said.

Jet Airways’ annual general meeting on June 8

New Delhi:The annual general meeting of Jet Airways, which suspended operations more than two years ago, will be held on June 8, according to a regulatory filing.

The affairs of the full service carrier, which is currently undergoing an insolvency resolution process, is being managed by resolution professional Ashish Chhawchharia.

The meeting, scheduled to be held on June 8, will consider and adopt the company’s audited standalone financial statements for the financial year ended March 31, 2020 together with the reports of auditors.

PTI

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

E-Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1.The Executive Engineer, Karchham Division, HPPWD: Bhaba Nagar Distt Kinnaur H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of Contractor	Time allowed
1.	C/O Eklavya Model Residential School at Nichar (SH:- C/O Dining block i/c WS & S.I and site development)	Rs. 62,33,290/-	Rs. 95,000/-	Rs. 2,000/-	" C "	18 Month
2	Periodical Maintenance of NH-22 to village Ralli Annual Maintenance Plan for the year 2021-22 (Sub Head:- Providing and laying 20mm thick premix carpet and seal coat in Km. 0/00 to 1/00	Rs. 12,53,012/-	Rs. 25,100/-	Rs. 500/-	"D"	Three month
3	Periodical Maintenance of NH-22 to village Ralli Annual Maintenance Plan for the year 2021-22 (Sub Head:- Providing and laying 20mm thick premix carpet and seal coat in Km. 2/00 to 3/00	Rs. 13,97,340/-	Rs. 27,950/-	Rs. 500/-	"D"	Three month

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). *Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender

3. Key Dates:

1.	Date of Online Publication	31.05.2021	10:00 HRS
2.	Document Download Start and End Date	31.05.2021	10:30 HRS upto 11.06.2021 17:00 HRS
3.	Bid Submission Start and End Date	31.05.2021	10:30 HRS upto 11.06.2021 17:00 HRS
4.	Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	14.06.2021	upto 10:30 HRS
5.	Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	14.06.2021	11:00 HRS

4. **TENDER DETAILS:**
The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:
I) Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/ Eligibility Information".
ii) Cover2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.
5. **SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:** The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in **C/O Executive Engineer, Karchham Division HP.PWD, Bhabanagar** as specified in Key Dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.
6. **BID OPENING DETAILS:** The bids shall be opened on 14.06.2021 at 11:00 HRS in the office of **Executive Engineer, Karchham Division HP.PWD, Bhabanagar H.P.**, by the authorised officer. The tenderers are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.
7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 90/120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.
8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

HIM SUCHANA AVM JAN SAMPARK
RO 0802/21-22
Dated 14.05.21

Executive Engineer, Karchham Division, HPPWD: Bhaba Nagar Distt. Kinnaur (H.P.) on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

S No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Cost of Tender form
1	C/o Link road from Harizan basti Mahadev in GP Ghanetta Km 0/0 to 0/500 (SW:- P/L G-III & PCC work at RD 0/0 to 0/200)	3,46,880/-	7000/-	Three Months	350/-
2	C/o Additional accommodation to GSSS Dehan (SW:- P/L Kota stone & Earth filling)	1,33,441/-	2700/-	Two Months	350/-
3	C/o Health Sub Centre at Malag (SW:- C/o B/wall, V-shape drain & grating)	1,03,508/-	2100/-	Three Months	350/-
4	Restoration of rain damages on Arla to Bhawarna Km 0/0 to 6/0 (SW:- C/o R/wall at RD 1/200 to 1/225)	1,25,736/-	2600/-	Two Months	350/-
5	C/o link road from Darang Block to Madhaya Marg Gadlara Jamwal Awadi & Harizan Basti via Forest Hut to link NH-20 Km 0/0 to 3/780 (SW:- P/L CC Pavement work in Km 2/115 to 2/265 & 2/405 to 2/495) (Under NABARD)	4,03,363/-	8100/-	Three Months	350/-
6	C/o Link road from Harizan basti Mahadev in GP Ghanetta Km 0/0 to 0/600 (SW:- P/L G-III & PCC work at RD 0/0 to 0/360) (Leg-II)	4,08,491/-	8200/-	Three Months	350/-
7	C/o link road from Darang Block to Madhaya Marg Gadlara Jamwal Awadi & Harizan Basti via Forest Hut to link NH-20 Km 0/0 to 3/780 (SW:- P/L CC Pavement work in Km 3/490 to 3/595) (Under NABARD)	2,11,501/-	4300/-	Three Months	350/-
8	C/o link road from Neugal Bridge to Upper Meniha via Thala Km 0/0 to 2/200 under NABARD RIDF-XXIII (SW:- P/L CC Pavement V-shape drain & edge wall at RD 0/565 to 0/710)	4,62,782/-	9300/-	Three Months	350/-
9	A/R & M/O various roads under Dheera Sub-Division HPPWD Dheera (SW:- P/L Thermoplastic paint on Bhadori Bridge to Dain road Km 0/0 to 4/0, Link road to village Bharath Km 0/0 to 2/0)	4,93,080/-	9900/-	Three Months	350/-
10	C/o Way side facilities on link road Daroh Garh Sapral upto Bairghatta Km 0/0 to 9/0 (SW:- C/o Rain Shelter at PTC Daroh at RD 0/950) (Deposit work)	1,54,259/-	3100/-	Three Months	350/-
11	A/R & M/O various roads under Dheera Sub-Division HPPWD Dheera (SW:- P/L Thermoplastic paint on Jhareth Kanya Devi road in between Km 0/0 to 5/0)	3,28,720/-	6600/-	Three Months	350/-
12	C/o link road Parour rest house to Parour Dheera Naura road via Baan at Km 0/00 to 1/00 (SW:- Imp. & Widening of road in Km 0/195 to 0/315, C/O 900mm dia HP culvert at RD 0/225, 0/540 & 0/735 & P/L Soiling in Km 0/0 to 0/700)	4,72,540/-	9500/-	Three Months	350/-
13	A/R & M/O rest house at Thural (SW:- C/o R/wall towards nallah side)	4,96,707/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-
14	A/R & M/O link road Dagera to Lulehar (SW:- P/L CC Pavement in Km 0/500 to 0/650)	2,05,470/-	4200/-	Three Months	350/-
15	A/R & M/O Naura Kiarwan road (SW:- C/o U-shape drain in Km 2/820 to 2/880)	49,813/-	1000/-	Three Months	350/-
16	A/R & M/O of bridges on Hamirpur Sujanpur Thural Maranda road Km 24/135 to 59/775 (SW:- P/L 25mm thick mastic asphaltting on bridge at RD 34/995 (Sukad Khad Crossing No.I) & 33/230 (Sukad Khad Crossing No. II))	3,20,934/-	6500/-	Three Months	350/-
17	A/R & M/O of bridges on Hamirpur Sujanpur Thural Maranda road Km 24/135 to 59/775 (SW:- P/L 25mm thick mastic asphaltting on bridge at RD 34/720 (Crossing No. II)	4,12,771/-	8300/-	Three Months	350/-
18	A/R & M/O on various roads under HPPWD Sub-Division Dheera. (SW:- Supplying of Hot Permex Material at plant site for Dheera & Rajhoun section)	4,50,520/-	9000/-	Three Month	350/-
19	A/R & M/O on various roads under HPPWD Sub-Division Thural (SW:- Supplying of Hot Permex Material)	4,70,480/-	9500/-	Three Month	350/-
20	A/R & M/O on various roads under HPPWD Sub-Division Bhawarna (SW:- Supplying of Hot Permex Material)	4,74,500/-	9500/-	Three Month	350/-
21	A/R & M/O on various roads in Daroh section under HPPWD Sub-Division Bhawarna (SW:- P/L Patch work)	4,80,500/-	9700/-	Three Month	350/-
22	A/R & M/O on various roads in Bagolu da ghatta & Thural section under HPPWD Sub-Division Thural (SW:- P/L Patch work)	4,84,480/-	9700/-	Three Month	350/-
23	Restoration of rain damages on Parour Dheera Naura road (SW:- P/L Tarring work in both side extended portion in Km 8/850 to 10/00)	4,82,885/-	9700/-	Three Month	350/-
24	A/R & M/O link road from Kharouth to Ghanetta via village Mahant Nagar (Kabrian) (SW:- P/L Tarring work in Km 0/00 to 0/110 & 0/870 to 1/00)	1,66,280/-	3400/-	Three Month	350/-

Terms & Conditions:-
Following documents should accompany the application for tenders.
1. Sale tax No. with latest Sales tax clearance certificate.
2. Copy of G.S.T. number.
3. Valid copy of Registration.
4. Machinery will be of the contractor where required.
5. Certificate regarding possession of machinery.
6. Telegraphic/Fax tenders are not acceptable.
7. The tender documents can be received by registered/ Insured post which should be received in this office on or before the date of opening of tender by 11.00 A.M positively.
8. Contractor should have successfully executed two works of similar nature of 1/3 amount of estimated cost or similar single work of amount equal to estimated cost during the last preceding three years.
9. The Contractor will have to submit affidavit along with application for issue of tender that he has not more than two works in hand. Next tender will be issued only after completion of previous works in hand.

HIM SUCHANA AVM JAN SAMPARK
RO 0744/21-22 Dated 14.05.21

Executive Engineer, Bhawarna Division, HPPWD. Bhawarna

Raman alleges smear campaign against him

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sacked as women's cricket team coach, WV Raman has alleged that a "smear campaign" against him has gained unwarranted traction and urged the BCCI president Sourav Ganguly to stop it.

In a mail that has also been marked to National Cricket Academy head Rahul Dravid, Raman wrote it will be "extremely disconcerting" if his candidature was rejected due to reasons other than "my incompetency as a coach".

In a surprising move, Raman was not retained as the head coach of the senior women's team by the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) which picked Ramesh Powar for the top job.

It was under Raman that Indian team cherished a runner-up finish at the women's T20 World Cup last year.

"I presume you might have been told different views about my style of functioning and work ethic. Whether those



views conveyed to the officials of the BCCI had any impact on my candidature is of no consequence now," Raman wrote in the letter.

"What is important is that the smear campaign seems to have gained some unwarranted traction with some BCCI officials which needs to be halted permanently. I am prepared to give an explanation should you or any of the office

bearers require it."

He said he was not used to "moaning and whining" but was bringing up the issues in case the BCCI president wishes to do a course correction.

"If I were to be rejected due to my incompetency as a coach, there is no argument on a judgment call at all. But what will be extremely disconcerting is if my candidature was rejected due to any other

are serving a mandatory 10-day quarantine after returning from the currently-suspended IPL, are likely to miss the two Tests against NZ, starting on June 2.

Their isolation period expires at the weekend, leaving little more than two weeks before the first Test at Lord's.

"The timeline is considered too tight for the (IPL) returning players, meaning calls up are expected for the

likes of Ollie Robinson, Craig Overton and James Bracey," according to a report in *BBC Sport*.

"While fitness levels could be managed, the lack of red-ball practice could be a concern — particularly with other options having spent several weeks competing in the County Championship," said another report in *The Independent*.

reasons," said the former India opener who played 11 Tests and 27 ODIs between 1988 and 1997.

"Especially if it was due to allegations from people who were more focussed on achieving their personal objectives at the expense of the overall hygiene and welfare of the Indian women's team and the pride of the country."

The stylish former left-handed batsman's letter to the two former captains is sure to ruffle a few feathers given that it has always been the coaches who have either stepped aside or sacked following fall-outs with players, most notably ODI captain Mithali Raj.

While Raman's letter didn't name anyone, it is understood that he was writing about the star culture that prevails in the team, which he said is probably doing more harm than good.

"If some people in the system have been highly accommodative to the extent of being seemingly obsequious to an

accomplished performer for years on end and if that performer feels constrained to adhere to the culture, then I would leave it to you to decide if the coach was asking for too much.

"In a coaching career spanning 20 years, I have always created a culture in which the team always comes first and insisted on no individual overriding either the game or the team."

He said "paying heed to only one individual's views while disregarding everyone else's over a long period of time has resulted in gaping holes in the process and the system".

"The time has come for you two accomplished former legends to salvage women's cricket falling which things could gather momentum in the wrong direction," he warned.

"I have some suggestions that might help in the improvement of women's cricket. I will be delighted to share those if you are interested," he signed off.

Shafali gets maiden ODI, Test call-ups

New Delhi: Rookie wicketkeeper-batter Indrani Roy from Jharkhand was rewarded with maiden Test and ODI call-up for India's tour of England next month but senior left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad missed out as she is recovering from Covid-19.

The 29-year-old Gayakwad is also nursing an injury.

The Neetu David led selection panel made a course correction with teen batting sensation Shafali Verma and seasoned pacer Shikha Pandey making it to all three squads after their South Africa home series snubs.

"This time Neetu and her colleagues didn't go for any outrageous experiments. Shafali and Shikha were two of the earliest names listed in all three squads. There was one Swetha Verma of UP whose name was discussed but it was found that she hasn't even scored 200 runs in a season," a source close to

developments said.


Sneh Rana and Indrani were two stellar performers in the National One Day competition and thus got their call-ups.

The controversial picks of the last time like Monica Patel, C Prathyusha have been dropped from the squad altogether in the team selection meeting which was keenly followed by BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah.

Indrani was rewarded for her string of scores which included 103 against Chattisgarh, 86 against Karnataka and 49 against Railways in the final.

Rana on her part was the Player of the Final for her all-round show while representing Indian Railways. As expected Mithali Raj will lead the team for the one-off Test and three ODIs while Harmanpreet Kaur will take over the reins during the three T20 Internationals.

PUBLIC NOTICE



Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3 rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh. Delhi-110005

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Ritesh Trading Co. Rajender Kumar, Mukesh Davi, Santosh Davi Represented By Proprietor Rajender Kumar Shop No. 44, New Anaj Mandi, Village -Alewa, Dist:- Jind, Haryana. A/c No.215805002301	Property 1: Shop No.44, New Grain Market, Tehsil Alewa & Distt. Jind Haryana, Property 2: Shop No.49, Khewat No.1204, Khata No.1607, Murabba No.184, Kila No.25 & Murabba No.211, Kila No.4, 5, 6/1/1, 7/1/1 Old Anaj Mandi, Tehsil Alewa & Distt. Jind Haryana And Property 3: Commercial Shop at Situated in Old Anaj Mandi, Tehsil Alewa & Distt. Jind Haryana	21-Apr-2021, Rs. 71,07,710.25/-	31-08-2020

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : May 15, 2021
Place: Haryana

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Sealed item rate tender on Form No. 6&8 are invited by the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HPPWD, Mandi (H.P.) for the works at Sr. No. 1 to 7 from the approved and eligible electrical contractors enlisted in appropriate class in HPPWD (Electrical) department, and for the work at Sr. No. 8 from the OEM of HVAC System/ Authorized agency of OEM / approved Firm for executing specialized job by HPPWD Department (Electrical) and for the work at Sr. No. 9 from the OEM of Lift / Authorized agency of OEM, so as to reach in his office on or before 07.06.2021 upto 10.30 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11:00 A.M in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The application for issuing of tender form will be received in his office against cash payment Rs. 350/- (Non-refundable) for each work on or before 05.06.2021 up to 01:00 P.M. and the tender forms can be had from his office on same day. The application for the purchase of the tender documents should be accompanied with earnest money of each work separately in the shape of National Saving Certificate/FDR/ Call Deposit / Bank draft of any Schedule Bank / Post Office duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HPPWD, Mandi (H.P.). Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will be rejected. The receipt of application for issue of tender forms by post shall not be entertained / considered in any case. The tender forms shall be issued to registered Contractors or their authorized representatives. The copy of enlistment / renewal order and valid Electrical License shall be attached with the application for purchase the tender document.. The ambiguous / telegraphic / conditional / fax / E-mail or by post tenders shall also not be entertained / considered in any case. The tender shall be issued to those Contractors / Firms who are found eligible, suitable and competent. The decision of the Executive Engineer regarding suitability / eligibility / competency of Contractors/ Firms shall be final binding on the Contractors / Firms applying for the issuing of the tender. The offer for the tenders shall be kept open for 120 days. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reasons, if there happens to be any holiday the same will be opened on next working day.

Work No. 1:- C/o Four Rooms at Government High School at Sari, Tehsil – Dharmpur, District – Mandi HP (SH: Providing E.I therein) Estimated Cost: Rs. 113087/-only, Earnest money: Rs. 2300/-only, Time allowed: - Along with civil work

Work No. 2:- C/o Four Rooms at Government High School at Cholangarh, Tehsil – Dharmpur, District – Mandi HP (SH: Providing E.I therein) Estimated Cost: Rs. 113087/-only, Earnest money: Rs. 2300/-only, Time allowed: - Along with civil work

Work No. 3:- C/o Ayurvedic Health Centre at Syoh, Tehsil – Dharmpur, District Mandi H.P (SH: Providing E.I therein) Estimated Cost: Rs. 262605/-only, Earnest money: Rs. 5300/- only, Time allowed: - Along with civil work

Work No. 4:- C/o Government High School at Hallan, Tehsil – Manali, District – Kullu HP (SH: Providing E.I and accessories therein) Estimated Cost: Rs. 139873/-only, Earnest money: Rs. 2800/- only, Time allowed: - Along with civil work

Work No. 5:- C/o 2 Nos. Type-II Quarters of Medical Department at Sajao Piplu, Tehsil – Dharmpur, District – Mandi HP (SH: Providing E.I therein) Estimated Cost: Rs. 146427/-only, Earnest money: Rs. 2950/- only, Time allowed: - Along with civil work

Work No. 6:- C/o Four Rooms at Government High School at Rakhera, Tehsil – Dharmpur, District – Mandi HP (SH: Providing E.I therein) Estimated Cost: Rs. 113087/-only, Earnest money: Rs. 2300/-only, Time allowed: - Along with civil work.

Work No. 7:- C/o 100 Bedded Hospital at Sandhol, Tehsil – Dharmpur, District – Mandi HP (SH: Laying of Conduit pipe therein) Estimated Cost: Rs. 156600/-only, Earnest money: Rs. 3150/- only, Time allowed: - Along with civil work.

Work No. 8:- Repair and maintenance of HVAC System (Chiller Plant) of carrier make installed at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Govt. Medical College and Hospital at Nerchowk, (SH: Servicing / Descaling of HVAC Plant System and minor repair in Chilling plant Estimated Cost: Rs. 356000/-only, Earnest money: Rs. 71500/- only, Time allowed: - Two Months

Work No. 9:- Repair and maintenance of and servicing of 8 Passenger Lift Elevator installed at Judicial Court Complex Mandi District – Mandi HP w e f 01.07.2021 to 30.06.2024 Estimated Cost: Rs. 389292/-only, Earnest money: Rs. 7800/- only, Time allowed: - Three Years

Executive Engineer, Electric Division, HPPWD, Mandi(H.P)

RO 0775/21-22
Dated 14.05.21

HIM SUCHANA AVM JAN SAMPARK

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1.The Executive Engineer , Shimla Division No-III, HPPWD , Shimla-3 on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors registered with HP.PWD, for the work as detailed in the table.

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Starting date of downloading Bid	EMD	Cost of Tender	Deadline for submission of Bid
1	C/O Multi Story parking and office accommodation (Armedale Phase-III) (SH:- Providing and placing Modular Pumping Items).	Rs. 87,44,477/-	27-05-2021	Rs. 1,20,000/-	Rs. 2000/-	04-06-2021
2	C/O Smart pedestrian path leading from Cart road to Mall road adjoining Metropole Shimla (Under Smart City project).	Rs. 31,28,986/-	27-05-2021	Rs. 54,500/-	Rs. 1500/-	04-06-2021

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application without assigning any reason.

RO 0755/21-22 Dated 14.05.21

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

HIMACHAL PRADESH IRRIGATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR E-TENDERING

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Anni District Kullu (H.P.) invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work through e-tendering process:-

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Cost of tender
1	C/O LIS Gurga Khad to C.V Manjhadesh for Horticulture land in G.P Chowai in Anni Block Distt. Kullu (H.P) SH:- Laying, jointing of HDPE pipe 32mm & 40 mm OD and C/O 6 Nos Storage tanks of different cap. at different locations) (1st Stage)	1382052.00	27641.00	6 Months	400/-
2	C/O LIS Gurga Khad to C.V Manjhadesh for Horticulture land in G.P Chowai in Anni Block Distt. Kullu (H.P) SH:- Laying, jointing of HDPE pipe 50mm & 63mm OD and C/O 9 Nos Storage tanks of different cap. at different locations) (1st Stage)	1984357.00	39687.00	9 Months	400/-

Last Date of filling/ uploading the tender through e-tendering:-18-05-2021 up to 05:00 P.M.
The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from the website www.hptenders.gov.in or from office of above Executive Engineer, up to date specified above.
RO 0724/21-22 Dated 14.05.21

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

OFF LINE NOTICE INVITING TENDRE

The Executive Engineer JSV Division Barsar invites off line tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from eligible contractors for the following work (s) through offline process:-

Name of Work:-Stock storage under Jal Shakti Sub Division Barsar Distt. Hamirpur (HP) (SH:-Providing and supplying of Hydraulic Pipe Bender with Hinged Frame 213 C and 213 D)
i) Estimated Cost:- 326681/- ii) Earnest Money:-6533/- iii) Time of completion:- 01 Month iv) Cost of Form:- 250/-
Last date of submission of tender 17.05.2021 up to 11:00 A.M and same will be opened on 11:30 A.M

T Last date of sale of the tender from divisional office 13.05.2021 up to 4:00 P.M. The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be shown from the website or from office of above Executive Engineer up to date specified above
Note: - The department will not responsible for any online/offline electronic media problem at website.
RO 0737/21-22 Dated 14.05.21

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK



The impact of the pandemic on the youth is disruptive. While they are actively helping others, they are also simultaneously dealing with immense emotional turmoil of their own, writes Dr CHANDNI TUGNAIT, as she suggests ways to move beyond it to create a life outside of it

THE FIGHT FOR SANITY

The present scenario, with the rise in Covid-19 cases and deaths, is nothing short of a nightmare. Most people are experiencing mixed emotions and a lingering feeling of, “I don't feel like doing anything”. This is not only because of the news and information overload on social media, but also the fact that people are losing their near and dear ones without as much of a hint.

The pain, overwhelm, fears, anger, social isolation and uncertainty are not only impacting the youth but even the kids. The years 2020 and 2021 have changed not just how we live or work but also how our children study and play. While the working youth seem to be grappling with the situation, whether it is loss of a job, business, medical facility, or life, the kids are a witness to it all. The impact is much more than what meets the eye. The confused feelings, unprocessed emotions, unclear thoughts and panicky actions are leaving a deep impact on our mental and emotional health as well.

The immediate and the long-term mental health impacts of the pandemic on the kids is difficult to estimate. However, the cases of anxiety, stress and depression amongst children between the age group of 5-16 years has seen a huge spike in the last one year. While initially they felt relieved with the online classes, the severity of the pandemic and the impact of the changes in their lives (and that of their parents) soon began to dawn upon them. The common complaints that I get from parents these days is lack of focus, lack of physical exercise, over-eating, irritability, anxiety, bouts of anger, fears and sadness in kids.

Ironically, all this is being experienced by the parents as well. No matter how we conduct ourselves in front of our children, they know exactly what is happening around us. The TV, news, social media, conversations on phone and with each other, the quarantine of a family member, life-threatening situations, the panic on our faces — they can sense it all.

The schools are rushing with the syllabus online because the education of the child is important but are we considerate towards their mental health? How are the current experiences and unprocessed emotions going to impact these children as adults?

Our mental health impacts how we respond, feel, think and act. Our behaviour, decision-making and physical health is all linked to our mental health. Hence, it is essential to give love and assurance and impart coping skills to not only the adults but also to the children.

The pandemic has reshaped the world beyond imagination. The suffering in India has gone to the level of basic requirements of food, shelter, medical facility and transport not being met for a large part of the population. The situation is grim with high levels of insecurity and chaos.

Of late, there is propensity for blame towards the authorities. It's never easy to lose a loved one, never. The fear, anger, blame, guilt — the whole gamut of emotions is all justified. But what is also important is to pause for a moment and accept all these emotions and begin to process them. Situation is grim for everyone (in some way or the other). What we need in today's times is prayer, compassion, love and gratitude.

The impact of the pandemic on the youth is disruptive. While they are actively helping others, they are also simultaneously dealing

with immense emotional turmoil of their own.

The fact is that as a country we do not have a strong medical infrastructure *vis-à-vis* our population. We all know this (we knew it all along). But what we didn't know is the severity of the virus and how it could take away our loved ones away from us, forever, in a matter of hours. We are all guilty at some level. We all have to take the ownership for the present situation in order to change it. Despite knowing the safety protocol, a large part of the population didn't follow it. Do we always need a lockdown to exhibit appropriate behaviour? Do we know someone who doesn't wear masks, someone who went for the Diwali party at a friend's house with 20 others, someone who couldn't wait to travel to Goa, Kerala, Maldives, someone who refuted the existence of covid all together?

Now is not the time to find faults with self or others but to change the focus to what good is happening around us and how can we make it better. The brain is extremely powerful in amplifying whatever we focus upon. Till we keep complaining about our present circumstances, our mind will focus on it. The more we talk about it, write about it or feel negative about it, the more we reinforce the same neural pathways in our brain that keep adding to the misery. To change this, let's focus on the good around us.

Look around, there are many people trying to help with oxygen cylinders, connections in hospitals for beds, arranging plasma, food, support, counselling, therapies and more. Not everyone is trying to bribe, blackmail or take advantage of the situation. It is commendable how the youth is also coming forward to offer assistance, structure communities and make a difference.

Research shows that over 70% of the youth is deeply traumatised with the uncertainty the pandemic has created whether it is with respect to life, relationships, social interactions, forms of expression, health and lives of their loved ones or the disruption in future prospects for education and employment for the youth.

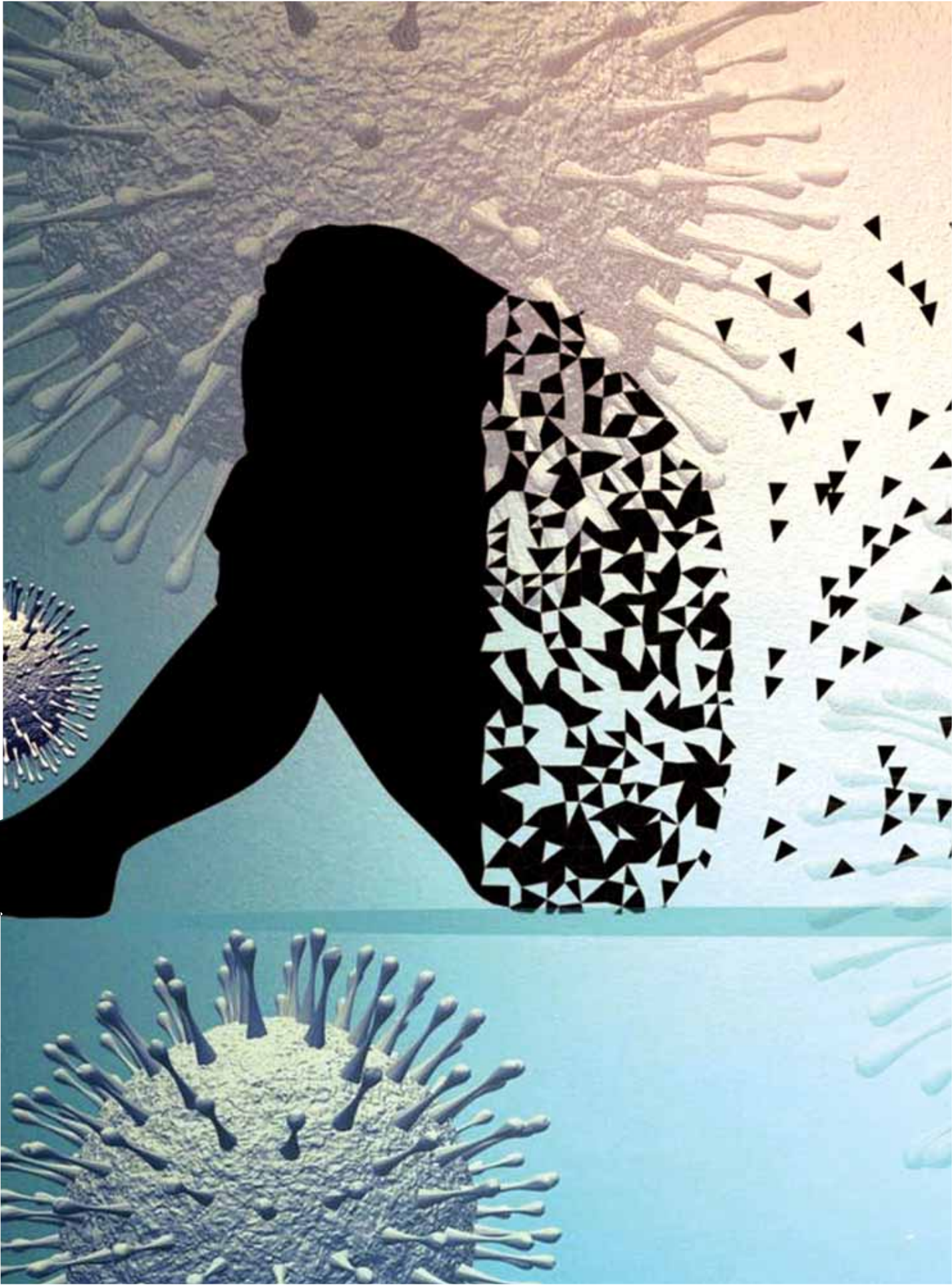
In addition to the grief and loss, there is an impending feeling of doom as over 43% of youth are uncertain about their future career prospects. Many even contemplate suicide. This darkness remains unnoticed as we are fighting to survive this situation.

Despite all odds, the youth is stepping up, raising their voice, offering support, structuring communities, enabling groups and volunteering in ways more than one to fight the situation.

While we should offer them social and psychological support to deal with all this, we should also come up with measures to protect this generation from being permanently scarred by this crisis — physically, mentally, socially, emotionally, financially and behaviourally. Initiatives by the government as well as private sector organisations will help in the long run though immediate support in the form of counselling, therapy, and open communication can go a long way.

The future of our nation lies with our youth and it's of grave importance that we do not take this lightly by letting their life be in a quandary.

There are many people bracing and surviving the virus amidst all the deaths, there



RESEARCH SHOWS THAT OVER 70% OF THE YOUTH IS DEEPLY TRAUMATISED WITH THE UNCERTAINTY THE PANDEMIC HAS CREATED WHETHER IT IS WITH RESPECT TO LIFE, RELATIONSHIPS, SOCIAL INTERACTIONS, FORMS OF EXPRESSION, HEALTH AND LIVES OF THEIR LOVED ONES OR THE DISRUPTION IN FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT FOR THE YOUTH

are many who are offering relentless care and prayers for humanity at large. There is help and compassion in many places, if not all. Hold onto that and allow yourself to be a conduit for more compassion, gratitude and assistance in any way possible instead of fear and uncertainty.

Coronavirus is probably going to be here for a long time. But we have to move beyond it to create a life outside of it, responsibly.

Some points to take into consideration are:

- **Process emotions, don't vent nor bottle them up:** Allow open communication to address the stressors. Listen and express deeply without judgments and in case of chronic stress or anxiety, seek support from an expert.
- **Respond, don't react:** There is already a lot going on in everyone's lives. Don't snap at people at home or even on other people's social media feed. We can share our views without attacking others.
- **Operate from love and compassion and not fears and anger:** Say a kind word, offer support, just hold the space for others to be themselves and accept the situation but do not cause panic with minute-by-minute update of statistics.
- **Be responsible, not reckless:** Follow the safety protocol. Even if you have recovered from Covid, do not act as if all is well. Our actions inspire many others and by being responsible we save not just ourselves but many people around us. The parties, social gatherings, important meetings, can all wait or be done online. Life is precious.
- **Help in any way possible, don't panic:** When someone you know is in a crisis, get valid connects, check the sources, be mindful, take precaution, help in every way possible and pray for the best. This is all we can do

currently. Also, limit the news and social media intake to up to 15-30 minutes a day to be well apprised of the situation and not be engulfed by it.

- **Do your bit, refrain from judging self and others:** Judgment only takes us away from action thereby delaying results. Be proactive and sensitive to the battles everyone is going through.
- **Take care of yourself:** You can't pour from an empty cup. So, take care of yourself — eating habits, sleep, exercise, breathing and mindfulness practices, get vaccinated and be in the attitude of gratitude.
- **Ask:** “What can I do today to make a difference?” instead of complaining.

It's imperative we come together from the space of love, compassion and gratitude to fight the pandemic. There's no other way. No act is small. No prayer is negligible. No support is trivial. Looking around and complaining and blaming will only cause more pressure on our emotional, mental and physical well-being.

Operate from awareness and take care of self and others. We are undeniably in a crisis and there are faults at every level — from the root to the top. However, this is not the time to find faults and indulge in blame-game.

It's time to focus on “what can I do to make a difference today?” and then purely from a space of compassion, ACT; without worrying about the results.

Will we be able to save the world? I don't know. But what I do know is that with that one act a day, and thirty acts a month, we can create ripples of change. It all matters. Choose change over complaints. We always have a choice.

The writer is a renowned Psychotherapist & the founder of Gateway of Healing and Life Artistry

In conclusion, we can state that there is the omnipotent God to both protect us and reward us, some rogue souls notwithstanding.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

Hawks cash in on Israel-Hamas war

Gaza has once again grabbed the headlines. In East Jerusalem, blood-stained streets and smoldering tyres are telltale signs of a gory fight between the Israeli security forces and the Hamas. The region is witnessing the worst violence since the 50-day war that took place in 2014. Today, the bitter truth for Israel is that Hamas, an Islamic militant group, controls the sensitive Gaza region.

Palestinians live under Israeli settler colonialism. Their fear is based on experience of torture, daily bout of humiliations, constant denial of basic freedoms, absence of dignity of life, living and labour, imprisonment and finally maiming and killing. So it is very natural that every Palestinian born there will have the basic instinct to fight against the Israeli occupation. The hatred is growing towards Israel and its security forces. And if it goes like this for any longer, war-like situation will be a daily affair.

The moot point is what Israel wants? Israel wants total control over East Jerusalem. The current conflict has emerged because of the forced expulsion of Palestinian families from the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah. Some sources say the lands occupied by these families were originally under Jewish ownership. But the Palestinians see this as an extension of an Israeli policy to displace as many Palestinians as possible from Jerusalem. The final aim is to reclaim and retain a majority Jewish identity in the city.

Will Palestine ever get the desired independent land? No, at least for the foreseeable future. It must be said here that the struggle and jihad for Palestine will continue. The Islamic resistance movements like the Hamas, meaning strength, will keep challenging the very identity of the Israeli state. In fact, the Hamas Covenant which consists of 36 articles clearly highlights how the group will take the Islamic movement further. Article 15 of the Covenant says that the jihad for the liberation of Palestine is an individual duty.

It says, "The day that enemies usurp part of Muslim land, jihad becomes the individual duty of every Muslim. In face of the Jews usurpation of Palestine, it is compulsory that the banner of jihad be raised. To do this requires the diffusion of Islamic consciousness among the masses,



Smoke rises following Israeli airstrikes on a building in Gaza City on Friday

AP

both on the regional, Arab and Islamic ummah levels. It is necessary to instill the spirit of jihad in the heart of the nation so that they would confront the enemies and join the ranks of the fighters."

Palestinians have resisted Israeli occupation and colonisation for decades now. Anger on the Palestinian street has grown. People are raising the banner of protest against Israel. They claim that Israel is making concerted efforts to erase the Palestinian identity from the land.

For now, Tel Aviv has rebuffed any discussion for ceasefire. It vows to continue the offensive. Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, is in favour of stepping up its Gaza strikes. He said, "At the conclusion of a situational assessment, it was decided that both the might of the attacks and the frequency of the attacks will be increased."

He also commented that "Hamas and Islamic jihad paid... and will pay a very heavy price for their beligerence... their blood is forfeit". This indicates that Israel will continue its offensive. There is a possibility that this will add fuel to the fire over the decade's long crisis in West Asian region.

The spokesman for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said he is saddened by the increasingly large number of casualties, including children, from Israeli air strike in Gaza and of Israeli fatalities from rockets launched from Gaza. He called for maximum restraint by the Israeli security forces. The UN has warned that the planned expulsion of the Palestinian families from East Jerusalem by Israel could amount to war crimes. But it also lashed out at the Hamas for the indiscriminate launch of rockets and mortars towards Israeli population centres.

Meanwhile, the US postponed a UN Security Council meeting on the ongoing flare-up between Israel and the Hamas for the next week. The discussion was supposed to take place this week, but the US is trying to make room for diplomacy so as to avert the worst situation in the contested Gaza territory. The US, a key ally of Israel, has confirmed on multiple occasions that the latter has the full right to defend itself as the terrorist groups from Gaza have launched about 1,750 rockets into its territory. However, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has brushed aside all speculation that Washington

is trying to torpedo the crucial talks altogether. President Joe Biden said, "One of the things that I have seen thus far is that there has not been a significant overreaction."

Around the same time, Israel has been pummeling Gaza with air strikes, levelling buildings leading to killing of dozens of people. Biden has already touted Israel's right to self-defense amid rocket attacks from the Hamas that have killed dozens of people. Thus the White House clarified that Jerusalem must be a place of co-existence.

The European Union, a group of 27 nations, too has criticised the Hamas for the war, by saying that Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel were totally unacceptable. And the EU called on all sides to aim for de-escalation and to prevent more civilian casualties. At the same time, EU foreign policy chief Joseph Borrell condemned eviction of Palestinian families in East Jerusalem. He also called the evictions illegal, saying it only serves to fuel tensions.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson aired his view that "the UK is deeply concerned by the growing violence and civilian casualties and we want to see urgent de-escalation of tensions". Arab League chief

Ahmed Aboul Gheit called the Israeli air strikes indiscriminate and irresponsible.

However, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, a known bete noire of the Israel state, said "Zionists understand nothing but the language of force, so the Palestinians must increase their power and resistance to force the criminals to surrender and stop their brutal acts." Meanwhile the 57-member group of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation voiced its concern over the deteriorating security scenario in East Jerusalem.

Now, as international call for restraint has been raised, both the Hamas and Israel must understand that they are simply killing innocent civilians. War is not the solution to the land problem. The current crisis is only offering the radical elements on both sides a chance to advance their agenda.

The massive deployment of ground troops by the Netanyahu Government on the border signals a broader offensive in the coming days. Moving armed forces near Gaza raises the possibility of an invasion and a bloody war. The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) is preparing for all kinds of eventualities and an esca-

lation at the moment. Such deployment of forces took place only in 2014.

As the war continues, global media reports that most of the rockets fired by the Hamas are being blocked by Israel's Iron Dome Defence System. However, some of the rockets that got through the superior defence circuit killed only a few people on the side of Israel. On the other hand, the attacks launched by Israel through its air force over Gaza have been more deadly, with a reported death toll over 90 so far. The Iron Dome is designed to selectively deal with rocket attacks. And also this system intercepts those enemy rockets that head for populated areas. The IDF claims that the Iron Dome is around 90 per cent effective. However, the sources say even a high probability intercept rate can make the Hamas efforts to destroy populated areas purely ineffective. It is to be noted here that the Iron Dome system was made with American finance.

The constant struggle for Palestine to establish its sovereign identity has become a permanent irritant for Israel. On the other hand, Israeli attempt to maintain its status quo and further expand and also to evict illegal Palestinian occupants (according to Tel Aviv) from East Jerusalem foment an ever greater war in the region. The Hamas wants the Jews dead and the state of Israel eliminated. For them, it is not about Israel, but this is ultimately about the Jews.

Today, situation in East Jerusalem is terribly unnerving. It is time for the Israeli garrison state to talk peace. The Hamas, only by working as a proxy, will find it really difficult to bring a solution to the Palestinians. Only result would be death of civilians. And the hawks will be happy. When the deadly, Covid-19 is killing millions across the globe, Tel Aviv and the Hamas must not venture out to take more lives anymore.

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions of national and international repute across the country after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the Journal of Global Studies, an international research journal)

Tel Aviv's concerted efforts to evict 'illegal' Palestinian settlers from East Jerusalem and Hamas' ceaseless attempts to destroy Israel and Jews are the biggest hurdles in arriving at a peaceful solution. The ongoing war offers the hawks from both sides the much sought-after opportunity as they have some political axe to grind



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

The biggest problem, more relevant to India, is the presence of an extremely high educational hierarchy, which places MBBS course at the top while degrading all other health professionals and scientists. However, when it becomes difficult for qualified doctors to treat patients with the existing knowledge, the role of virologist, geneticist, veterinary doctor, microbiologist, pharmacologist and immunologist becomes crucial to understand the properties and origin of the new virus to develop medicines and vaccines



NIKITA RAWAT

Systemic flaws in Indian health sector exposed

The second wave of Covid-19 has exposed our lack of preparedness for any medical emergency as India has not been able to meet any basic medical requirements that do not need complicated technology or high investment i.e. medicines, oxygen, ventilators, PPE kits, vaccine, etc. Had we faced any other medical emergency related to a virus deadlier than SARS-Cov or some other deadly radiation (as faced by Japan after nuclear attack), probably Indian population would have halved by now.

Covid-19 has provided the nation an opportunity to introspect problems in our health-care system to effectively deal with the ongoing pandemic (which doesn't seem to get over before 2022), and any potential health emergency in the future. Rather than squarely blaming any past or present government at the Centre or State, the purpose of this column is to shake our policy makers to realise the systemic flaws and bottlenecks in the way of development of robust and inclusive health infrastructure in India.

First, we need to recognise that the human health is interconnected with his surrounding environment, including living species i.e. various animals, birds, etc. Rudolf Virchow, a famous German physicist and pathologist, also known as Father of Modern Pathology, coined a term called Zoonosis to refer to any infectious disease which is transmitted from animals to humans. A zoonotic disease is caused by virus, bacteria, fun-

gus, etc, and travels from animals to human. He asserted that there are no dividing lines, nor should there be between animal and human medicine.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization's report "World Livestock 2013" states an important fact that 60 per cent of all new infectious diseases that emerged in last three decades are zoonotic diseases. Viral outbreaks in recent years like nipahvirus, ebola virus, swine flu (H1N1) virus, avian influenza (H5N1) virus, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS CoV) are all zoonotic viruses. According to World Health Organization (WHO), zoonotic pathogens represent a clear threat to global health. The entire world is at higher risk of future pandemics, primarily of animal origin and combating it would require good co-ordination among medical science, veterinary science, environmental science and other biological sciences.

Realising the importance of this coordination, William Osler, the father of modern medicine and founder of the discipline of veterinary pathology, and Calvin Schwabe (chairperson of a new Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at the University of California) advocated "one medicine" for all.

The second systemic flaw is more relevant to India. It is the presence of an extremely high educational hierarchy, which places MBBS course at the top while degrading all other health professionals and



Photo: Ranjan Dimri

scientists. This mindset is so deep rooted that any talented student pursuing a course in virology, immunology, nursing, physiotherapy or non-allopathic medical courses, etc, is considered inferior because of his/her inability to secure admission to an MBBS course. On the one hand, this hierarchy demoralises other allied fields, and on the other, it paves the way for undue interference by MBBS doctors in the other fields. This leads to a barrier in the development of these fields. Moreover, Indian doctors despite their huge potential, rarely take up medical research as it is less remunerating compared to consultancy, which is highly paid.

A lot of services that can be taken care of by these professionals cannot be performed by MBBS doctors. When a new and unknown disease first hits

a country, the role of doctors/nurses becomes vital. They are expected to treat/care patients with the existing medications/knowledge. When it becomes difficult to treat patients with the existing framework, then the role of virologist, geneticist, veterinary doctor, microbiologist, pharmacologist and immunologist becomes crucial to understand the properties and origin of the new virus to develop medicines and vaccines. After developing vaccines, nurses play an important role in vaccinating the people. Depending on the kind of disease, if it causes complications relating to mobility, muscular contractures, etc, among patients, then the role of physiotherapist becomes important; and if complications make the patient physically disabled or orthopedically handicapped

then begins the role of prosthetist and orthotist to figure out devices to help them.

The risk of zoonosis has increased due to the present human activities such as demographic alterations, increased movement across various continents, disturbing natural phenomenon and over exploitation of the environment. It brings the environmentalist into the picture. Thus, it is clear that an integrated approach toward a public health emergency is an effective way to deal with the unknown disease. Creating a hierarchy between the professions of the same sector can weaken our fight against any disease.

Moreover, these professionals (virologists, immunologists, orthotics & prosthetics, physiotherapist, occupational therapist) could have played a very crucial role during the

ongoing pandemic to meet the shortage of health workers, by being given a very short training. It is worth mentioning here that the educational courses studied by these professionals have a lot of syllabi common with MBBS course. Unfortunately, we have failed to utilise their huge potential.

Thirdly, India has a huge shortage of doctors which is reflected by the indicator of population served by a doctor, which is one of the highest in the world. Despite availability of huge talent, this artificial shortage is due to unnecessary stringent rules to establish a medical college and limited medical seats. Devi Prasad Shetty, one of the leading cardiologists in India, suggested that the Government can build around 300 new medical colleges without any cost which can offer 30,000 new seats. He argued that medical education can be provided to the students even in a single building and for practical training they can be taken to hospitals. According to him most governments refrain from creating new medical colleges since it requires an investment of around ₹450 crore and a time span of around 5 years. Further, the annual maintenance cost of a medical college is also around ₹150 crore. Educating medical students in a simple building without health infrastructure and training them practically in hospitals is the simplest and most cost-effective way of meeting the current demand for doctors.

Lastly, gradual withdrawal of most successive govern-

ments from health infrastructure has resulted in the shortages of hospital beds, oxygen, ventilators, etc. We can clearly notice an obsession of all governments with health insurance schemes especially for the last two decades, rather than expanding existing public health infrastructure. It is worth mentioning here that health insurance generate additional burden on the existing health infrastructure rather than creating any new health infrastructure. If the same amount that has been spent on health insurances by all governments in last two decades had been used to expand health infrastructure, it would have expanded our medical facilities by around 10 per cent, which would have not only provided a lot of jobs but also saved the lives of lakhs of people. Moreover, we can find numerous reports of misuse of insurance schemes by private hospitals by inflating bills through unnecessary medical testing. This has depleted most of the insurance coverage.

It is high time when all Governments in India (Centre or State) should come together to prepare a roadmap to abolish all systemic flaws in our health system. Let us learn from this pandemic and prepare ourselves better for any other such threat to human life in the future.

(The writer is currently pursuing masters in prosthetics and orthotics from Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities, New Delhi)

