



EAGER TO WORK WITH INDIA,
SAYS NEW ISRAEL PM WORLD

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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PM FOR GLOBAL UNITY TO CHECK
LAND DEGRADATION BACK PAGE

TUESDAY | 15 JUNE 2021

Novavax shot 90% effective, SII to produce it as Covovax

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14
US biotechnology firm Novavax on Monday announced that its Covid-19 vaccine demonstrated over 93 per cent efficacy against the predominantly circulating virus variants of concern and variants of interest and offered 100 per cent protection against moderate and severe disease.

The vaccine, which Serum Institute of India (SII) will produce in collaboration with Novavax for supplies at home and the world, has shown 90.4 per cent efficacy

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Centre to procure 20 crore doses of new vaccine



A woman being administered vaccine in Prayagraj on Monday. PTI

DRONE DELIVERY OF JABS	70,421 FRESH CASES
The govt has invited bids from companies for delivery of vaccines and drugs via drones. BACK PAGE	TOTAL DEATHS 3,74,305
	ACTIVE CASES 9,73,158
	3,921 DEATHS IN 24 HOURS

Death rate soars to 8% in Hry, 6% in Pb in a week

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 14
Punjab's case fatality rate (CFR), which is already highest in the country, has increased further. With 486 deaths and 8,343 cases, the state's CFR for the last week remained around 6 per cent, while the overall rate is 2.6 per cent.

Similarly, the weekly mortality rate in Haryana has risen to nearly 8 per cent. The state reported 280 deaths and 3,570 cases in the past seven days. — TNS

Formula for CBSE Class XII results likely this week

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14
After receiving inputs from experts on giving marks to CBSE Class XII students, the expert panel appears to be in favour of using a combination of scores from Classes X and XI, and internal assessment and pre-board result of Class XII, those familiar with developments say. The final decision

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

IN BRIEF

60 booked for razing BJP office stone

JHAJJAR: The police have booked 60 persons in connection with the uprooting of the foundation stone of BJP's district office on the Rewari road here on Sunday. No arrest has been made so far. **INSIDE**

Delhi HC sets aside Shivinder Singh's bail

NEW DELHI: The Delhi HC has set aside the bail granted by a trial court to Fortis Healthcare ex-promoter Shivinder Singh in a fund misappropriation case of Religare Finvest Ltd. — PTI

Sensex, Nifty maintain record run as RIL rallies

MUMBAI: Rising for the third straight session, Sensex ended 76.77 points higher at a new closing peak of 52,551.53, while NSE Nifty advanced 12.50 points to record 15,811.85. **BUSINESS**

Adani shares fall after report says a/cs frozen; erroneous, says group

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14
The shares of companies controlled by billionaire Gautam Adani went on a roller-coaster ride on Monday following a report that said accounts of three Mauritius-based funds owning a substantial portion of the group's stocks were frozen.

The shares recovered after Adani Group companies made separate filings to Indian bourses, terming the newspaper report as "bla-

EXPERTS FLAG QUICK RISE

- The quick rise in Adani stock prices has been flagged by many analysts
- Adani Total Gas shares have risen three times this year
- Adani Enterprises' shares up 213%, Adani Transmission 250%, Adani Power 183%



tantly erroneous and done to deliberately mislead the investing community".

The companies claimed they had confirmation from

the Registrar and Transfer Agent that the demat account in which these funds held the shares was not frozen. But there was no reaction from Sebi and National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) that would have set the matter to rest.

The Adani Group stocks dived in the morning to hit the lower circuit after reports claimed that the NSDL had frozen the accounts of three Mauritius-based funds, which owned over Rs 43,500 crore in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Chirag ousted, uncle Paras LJP party leader

Four of 6 MPs back him | Nitish behind move

MUKESH RANJAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14
Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar's "Operation Chirag" has succeeded with Hajipur MP Pashupati Kumar Paras ousting nephew Chirag Paswan as LJP leader in the Lok Sabha.

Four of the six LJP MPs on Monday elected Paras as their leader and met Speaker Om Birla, who accepted their proposal.

Sources said it was Nitish Kumar's two associates — party MP Rajiv Ranjan



Chirag Paswan



Pashupati Kumar Paras

(Lalan Singh) and Deputy Speaker of Bihar Assembly Maheswar Hazari — who ensured that the four LJP members rallied behind Paras. A senior leader said Nitish was unhappy with Chirag for having fielded

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

AICC panel on Punjab likely to meet Sonia today

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14
Punjab Congress factionalism is expected to be resolved soon with the AICC panel on the state expected to hold discussions with party president Sonia Gandhi tomorrow.

Efforts are underway to strike a balance in the power equation among Punjab leaders and give every community due representation.

Discussions are being held on potential replacements of PCC chief Sunil Jakhar, with CM Amarinder Singh keen on having a Hindu in the position and opposed to giving the post to ex-minister Navjot Singh Sidhu. — TNS

Talk of splitting UP amid BJP image makeover bid

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14
After reports of the BJP cutting Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to size during his recent visit to Delhi, the power corridors in Lucknow are again abuzz, this time with speculations about dividing Uttar Pradesh into smaller states.

In November 2011 when BSP supremo Mayawati was the CM, the Uttar Pradesh Assembly had passed a resolution favouring the division



TUSSLE WITH PM?

- PM didn't publicly wish Yogi on his birthday (June 5)
- Attempt may be made to limit him to Purvanchal

of the state into Bundelkhand (7 districts), Purvanchal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

8K vehicles in 60 hours, tourists throng Shimla

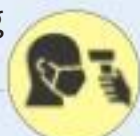
BHANU P LOHUMI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JUNE 14
With Himachal Pradesh scrapping the requirement of an RT-PCR report for entering the state, tourists are making a beeline to the Queen of Hills. Nearly 8,100 vehicles entered Shimla through Shoghi border in 60 hours from 8 am on Saturday till 8 pm on Monday.

From almost negligible bookings, the hotel occupancy touched 30 per cent, which is expected to go up to 60 per

VIOLATORS WARNED

- With travel restrictions eased, tourists are flocking to Queen of Hills
- To enforce Covid protocol, police presence has been increased
- The offenders will be fined ₹500 at the first instance
- Repeat offenders will face eight-day imprisonment or ₹5,000 fine, or both



cent in the coming days, said Sanjay Sood, president,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

200 days into stir, farmers eye poll-bound states

GEETANJALI GAYATRI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 14
Two hundred days of protest and counting... after having sustained the agitation against the Centre's three farm laws for over six months, the farmers are all set to replicate the "Punjab-Haryana model of agitation"

PROTEST STRATEGY TO BE REPLICATED

“Our protests will grow in the coming days. The protest strategy adopted in Punjab and Haryana will be replicated in UP and Uttarakhand. Darshan Pal, SKM LEADER



in the poll-bound Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand in the coming months.

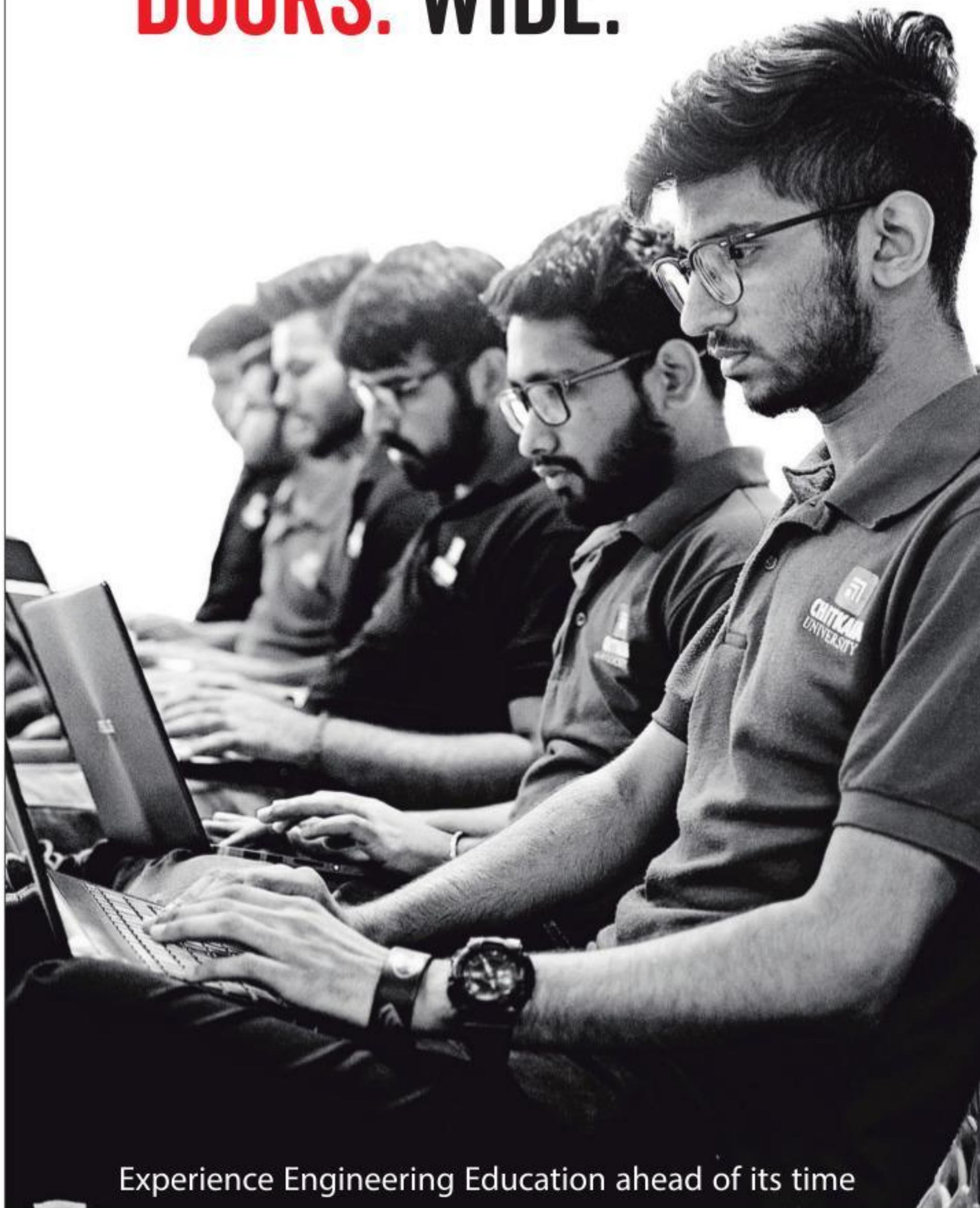
Though the Centre is yet to respond to the request of the farmers' organisations to

resume talks, those leading the agitation are in no rush and looking at spreading the agitation to states going to the polls next year.

“The West Bengal results have proved the dent we can make. If you think the BJP is not rattled in Punjab and Haryana and the Centre is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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Pact to regulate trans-fatty acid

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 14 The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Punjab, and Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER),

High levels causing Covid mortalities

Chandigarh, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen the implementation of trans-fat regulation in the state.

Signing the MoU, Kumar Rahul, Commissioner, FDA, said: “Excessive use of trans fats is one of the leading risk factors of Covid-related mortalities in the state.”

IIT breathing device allows oxygen flow without power

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROPAR, JUNE 14

To save lives in low resource areas and during transit, the Indian Institute of Technology-Ropar has developed a low-cost CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) therapy device.

CPAP machines use mild air pressure to keep a patient’s airways open to avoid collapse. The 3D printed, power-free device christened as “Jivan Vayu” can be used through a normal oxygen cylinder or main oxygen line to provide an accelerated flow rate without electricity.

The device is ready for medical testing and the team is currently seeking industrial collaboration for commercialisation of the device.

Dr Khushboo Rakha, who led the team, said as Covid-19 was spreading to villages and smaller towns, steady power supply was emerging as a key concern for those on medical equipment such as oxygen concentrators and ventilators. “It has been established that the use of existing CPAP machines, especially in the early stages of the infection reduces lung damage and

State’s fatality rate on the rise

From 4.2 per cent last week, CFR climbs to 6 per cent this week

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 14 Already highest in the country, the case fatality rate (CFR) has further increased in Punjab. Last week, the state’s overall CFR remained around 6 per cent. The state’s overall CFR is 2.6 per cent.

Though the number of cases and deaths started coming down last month, the casualty rate started increasing. It climbed to 4.2 per cent in the first week of June. This week (June 8 to 14), it rose further to 5.8 per cent.

At present, the overall CFR is 2.6 per cent, which means for every 100 confirmed cases, statistically 2.6 deaths were reported due to the virus. In April, it had come



down to 2.4 per cent. Punjab’s fatality ratio is the highest in country (1.2 per cent). Nine districts have over three per cent fatality rate. Sangrur tops the chart with 5.4 per cent, followed by Tarn Taran with 4.4 per cent; Barnala 3.8 per cent; Gurdaspur 3.6 per cent and Amritsar 3.3

per cent. Apart from this, Hoshiarpur has CFR of 3.2 per cent, Ferozepur 3.2 per cent, SBS Nagar and Rupnagar 3.1 per cent each. In the past seven days (June 7 to June 13), the state reported 8,343 cases and 486 deaths. Thus the state’s case fatality rate in

the past seven days remained at 5.8 per cent.

On an average, the daily number of cases last week came down to around 1,000. The number stood around 8,000-9,000 in mid-May. As far as deaths are concerned, the daily average deaths remained around 70. — TNS

No trained staff, Barnala shifts all ventilators to other districts

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BARNALA, JUNE 14

The lack of trained staff in Barnala has forced the health authorities to shift all eight ventilators to other districts.

The district has 3.7 per cent Covid Case Fatality Rate (CFR), which is third highest in the state after Sangrur (5.3%) and Tarn Taran (4.3%), while many strongly believe that many lives could have been saved had the authorities made ventilators functional here.

“The state government failed to arrange the required staff to run the ventilators and provide other required facilities, which has led to many deaths in the district. All claims of the government to have taken required steps are only on papers. We have not seen any improvement and the health department is still shifting Covid patients to other districts,” said Narain Dutt, president, Inquilabi Kendra Punjab.

Sources said to date 219 locals had died of Covid, of which highest number (79) is from Barnala Urban health block, followed by Dhanaula (65), Tapa (48) and Mehal Kalan (27). Currently, 127



NO LEVEL-3 FACILITY

- Barnala has only two Level-2 facilities — at Barnala and Mehal Kalan — while for L-3 patients, there is no arrangement and patients are forced to rush to Ludhiana, Patiala or Bathinda
- Sources say to date 219 locals have died of Covid, of which highest number (79) is from Barnala Urban health block, followed by Dhanaula (65), Tapa (48) and Mehal Kalan (27)

Covid patients are in home isolation, while 191 in Level 2.

The district has only two Level-2 facilities — at Barnala and Mehal Kalan — while for L-3 patients, there is no arrangement and patients are forced to rush to either Ludhiana, Patiala or Bathinda.

“My father died last month at the Sangrur Civil Hospital as we could not admit him in Barnala due to lack of facilities,” said a Barnala resident on the condition of anonymity. However, some health officials countered the allegations, saying the lack of facilities alone could not be blamed as late testing and late admis-

Caseload drops in Muktsar

MUKTSAR, JUNE 14

The Covid graph is rapidly falling in the district with 869 persons having recovered and 314 testing positive in the past one week.

Data suggests the daily number of fresh cases has remained below 100 during the past one week. As many as 68 persons had tested positive on June 7; 48 on June 8; 45 on June 9; 51 on June 10; 62 on June 11; 13 on June 12 and 27 on June 13.

Similarly, as many as 184 persons recovered on June 7; 120 on June 8; 117 on June 9; 138 on June 10; 72 on June 11; 134 on June 12 and 104 on June 13 in the district.

The district currently has 432 active cases. Health officials said the death rate had

314 test positive, 869 recover in a week



also fallen with 19 persons succumbing to the virus in the past one week.

The rural populace too has now shown willingness to get vaccinated with 98 per cent of those over 45 years at

COVID METER

Cases	629
Critical	188
Active	11,913
Deaths	33

DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Jalandhar	98	3
Amritsar	55	2
Ludhiana	52	1
Hoshiarpur	42	2
Bathinda	38	1
Total	588,525	15,602

Dhulkot village having been vaccinated. A senior government doctor said collective efforts had finally borne fruit. “We still urge the public to follow the Covid guidelines,” he said. — TNS

Free coaching for kids who lost parents to Covid

BATHINDA, JUNE 14

Coming to aid of students who lost their parents to COVID-19, a premier private institute that provides coaching classes for competitive exams such as IIT-JEE and NEET preparation, has decided to launch a humanitarian initiative of offering free coaching classes to them.

The institute has decided to assist students who lost their mother or father that were the family’s sole breadwin-

Will help prepare for IIT-JEE, NEET

ners. The move will help students in resuming their dreams and reducing the looming hardships. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla’s had recently announced that students preparing for engineering or medical entrance tests who had been orphaned due to the Covid-19 crisis would be provided with free coaching and accommodation in Kota. The lower house speaker requested coaching institutes across the nation to follow suit. The institute’s free coaching proposal is in line with the request. — TNS

Hoteliers seek relief on pattern of R’sthan, Guj

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, JUNE 14

Hit hard by the pandemic, Punjab hoteliers have sought a relief package on the pattern of Rajasthan and Gujarat. The Punjab Hotel Association has written a letter to CM Capt Amarinder Singh demanding salary of staff for six months, deferment of electricity charges for six months, deferment of water sanitation, licence fee and property tax, and waiver of the excise permit renewal fee.

Association president Satish Arora said, “The Gujarat and Rajasthan Governments have waived the property tax as well as fixed charges in electricity bills of hotels, resorts, restaurants and water parks affected by the pandemic for one year. Similarly, we also want that the Punjab Government should give us a relief package for the survival of the industry in the state.”

Arora said they had also appealed to PM Narendra Modi to provide relief to the hospitality industry that was on the verge of collapse. Arora said, “We have writ-

CHARTER OF DEMANDS	
■	Deferment of electricity charges for six months
■	Deferment of licence fee and property tax
■	Waiver of excise permit renewal fee
■	Extension in EMIs for a year and loan interest waiver

ten a letter to the Chief Minister, seeking immediate support from the government to save the hospitality sector from ‘imminent collapse’ and have urged him to take steps for it.” He said the condition had become so bad that five-star hotel Hyatt Regency in Mumbai had suspended its operations as it did not have money to pay salaries to its staff.

Arora said, “The hospitality sector has been totally ignored in the pandemic. Due to this, a large number of hotels and eating joints have already shut down.” Arora said with businesses closing, the hotel industry was unable to repay nearly Rs 1,200 crore loans. Therefore, he urged the RBI to extend EMIs for at least a year and waive interest on the loans.

Fazilka villagers threaten stir over canal water theft

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FAZILKA, JUNE 14

With the tail-end villages in the Jalalabad area suffering due to the theft of canal water, agitated farmers have decided to start an indefinite blockade on the Fazilka-Ferozepur highway from Tuesday.

A deputation of the Bhartiya Kisan Union (Ugrahan) led by its district vice-president Gurwinder Singh Mannewala, along with other office-bearers and some officials of the canal department, visited the Nizamwah distributary and its minor canals Barkatwah and Paizwah.

Mannwala alleged the

Officials claim illegal pipes removed, promise water for sowing



deputation noticed that pipes were illegally laid underground to draw canal water by some influential persons in connivance with

the ruling party leaders. He also alleged the water courses were altered in an arbitrary manner to draw more water from the canals. The



<< A dried up Barkatwah minor canal in Fazilka; and an illegal pipe laid to draw water.

BKU leader further alleged canals hadn’t been cleaned before the commencement of the sowing season. Farmers resented the fact that

the sowing of paddy had already begun on June 10 and the canal department had failed to provide the desired water for the transplantation.

He said they had been approaching the officials concerned for the past three months regarding the problems but to no avail, thus they had decided to block the Fazilka-Ferozepur highway on Mamujoyia Toll Plaza from June 15 for an indefinite period. However Executive Engineer, Canals, Jagtar Singh claimed the pipes had been removed and the water would be released in a day. He added the cleanliness of the canals had already been done.



Devotees partake of sweetened water on the martyrdom day of Guru Arjan Dev at Golden Temple in Amritsar. SUNIL KUMAR

Guru’s martyrdom day observed

AMRITSAR, JUNE 14

Amid the Covid-19 threat, the martyrdom day of Guru Arjan Dev was observed in a subdued manner today. The ‘bhog’ of ‘akhand path’ of Guru Granth Sahib was per-

formed at the historic Gurdwara Ramsar where the Guru had edited Guru Granth Sahib and wrote Sukhmani Sahib. This year, no grand event was organised, except for ‘chhabeels’. — TNS

Cycling champion living in poverty

PARVESH SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, JUNE 14

A 19-year-old state cycling champion, Baljit Kaur, who has won four gold, two silver and three bronze medals and also competed at the national level, has been forced to transplant paddy along with her mother to earn a living.

Kaur lives in a rented accommodation with her mother and younger brother, who works in a private company. Her father died in 2016. Despite writing repeatedly to officials, she has not received any financial help from the government.

“My mother worked as a maid to arrange money for my diet. During training session, I used to cross this road cycling. Little did I know at that time that I would have to trans-



NO HELP FROM GOVT

“I haven’t received any financial help from the state government. I have visited various offices and met many NGOs, the only thing they offer is assurance.

Baljit Kaur, STATE CYCLING CHAMPION

plant paddy in the fields along the very road to make ends meet” said Kaur, standing in a group of labourers in a field at Hareri village of the district.

She said whenever she won any competition, she received numerous calls from NGOs and officials, assuring her all help. But the assistance never came. Pursuing bachelor of arts, she prepares for her exams

during night. Her mother Parmjit Kaur said after the outbreak of Covid-19, she lost her job as maid and with that whatever meagre income she was earning. “The Punjab Government should not make false claims about promotion of sports in the state. Authorities have failed to offer any help even to a state champion like Baljit,” she said.

RUCHIKA M KHANNA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 14

Farmers in the state have gone in for cotton cultivation on a much bigger scale this year. The area under cultivation of the “white gold” has gone up by 52,000 hectares this year.

Data available from the Agriculture Department shows that against 2.51 lakh hectare area under cotton last year, the crop had been sown on 3.03 lakh hectares. An assured market at the minimum support price MSP announced by the government has led to the new confidence among farmers in the cotton crop.

“Last year, almost 80 per cent of the cotton crop was procured by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) at the MSP of Rs 5,825 a quintal. The remaining was bought



Workers pick cotton in a field in Bathinda. FILE

STUDY FINDS BT COTTON BENEFICIAL

A study on the impact of Bt cotton has been published by PAU, SKUAST and Amity University scientists. It has found that:

- Bt cotton has resulted in economic & environmental benefits
- There’s reduction in the use of highly hazardous insecticides
- Yield has been stable for 13 years, 2015 being the only exception

by private traders at rates varying between Rs 5,900- Rs 6,000 a quintal,” Rajnish Jain,

a leading commission agent for cotton in Maur, said. The Centre yesterday

increased the MSP by Rs 200 (Rs 6,025 a quintal for long staple variety). “Price is the biggest deciding factor for farmers, and the last two seasons saw farmers getting good returns, leading to more area under cotton crop,” Director, Agriculture, Sukhdev Singh Brar said, adding that this has helped in reducing the area under water-guzzling paddy.

Harsimran Singh, a young cotton grower from Mansa: “The farm laws have also forced many farmers to have a rethink on growing paddy, as fear looms large that MSP on wheat and paddy would stop. Also, private buying of cotton is much more than the private buying of non-basmati padd at a higher rate than the MSP,” he said, explaining why farmers in Malwa belt have gone in for cotton cultivation.

Two unidentified youths on a motorcycle picked up the bag and sped away. The farmer followed the suspects on a motorcycle and caught hold of them at some distance. As Kewal tried to get the bag back from them, one of suspects fired a shot from a pistol, killing him on the spot.

Baghapurana sub-division DSP Jaswinder Singh and other police officials from the local police station visited the scene. The body was sent to the district hospital at Moga for a post-mortem examination.

The DSP said a case under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code and relevant sections of the Arms Act had been registered against two suspects at the Baghapurana police station and efforts were on to nab them. The police of nearby districts have been put on alert. Further investigations were in progress.

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(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

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Vipan Kumar Mittal
Versus
General Public
CNR No.:
PBLD01-003567-2021
Next Date: 01.07.2021
Publication issued to:
General Public

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 01.07.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

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Dated, this day of
26.05.2021.

Sd/-
Additional District and
Sessions Judge,
CL20110698 Ludhiana.
(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Ms. Monika Goyal
Additional District and
Sessions Judge,
Ludhiana.
Vipan Kumar Mittal
Versus
General Public
CNR No.:
PBLD01-003569-2021
Next Date: 01.07.2021
Publication issued to:
General Public

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 01.07.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

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Sangrur MC collects EPF but ‘fails’ to deposit in a/c of staff

Workers allege ₹7 crore embezzlement in 9 years, demand probe

PARVESH SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, JUNE 14

The Sangrur Municipal Council (MC) has failed to pay the employees’ provident fund (EPF) to its sanitation staff for the past nine years.

The authorities say it has happened due to financial problems, but the sanitation staff have written to the higher authorities against the alleged embezzlement worth crores of rupees. “We have demanded a high-level inquiry and appropriate action against officials who have embezzled around Rs 7 crore of our EPF. If the government wants us to end our month-long strike in Sangrur city, it must take quick action. Apart from regularisation of the contractual staff, we have also been demanding the deposition of all EPF into the accounts of the staff,” said Ajay Bedi, Sangrur president of the Safai Karmchhari Union, Punjab.

He said there were 180 employees in the sanitation



Garbage dumped in the open in Sangrur. TRIBUNE PHOTO

CIVIC BODY PROMISES PAYMENT

MC Executive Officer Ramesh Kumar says they have passed a resolution to sell a piece of land to the Army and deposit the money into the EPF accounts of all employees

wing of the Sangrur MC, of whom 150 were regular, while the rest on contract. “We got to know about the embezzlement of our EPF amount three years ago and since then, we have been meeting various officials, but to no avail,” alleged another employee on the condition of anonymity.

In their complaint sent to the National Commission for

Scheduled Castes Chairman Vijay Sampla and local government authorities, they have alleged that the Sangrur MC had been deducting EPF from their salary, but it was not being deposited into their EPF account for the past nine years. They also alleged they were not even aware of their EPF account number. “Some of the members of their fami-

lies have died in the past 8-9 years as due to lack of financial resources, they could not provide them required treatment. They could not withdraw money from their EPF account due to the non-deposition of the money into their accounts. Around Rs 7 crore have been embezzled. But if we also calculate the interest on the amount, it will be more than Rs 10 crore,” said Jatinder Kalra, state coordinator of various BJP cells. MC Executive Officer Ramesh Kumar said they had passed a resolution to deposit the entire amount into the EPF accounts of the employees. “We have passed a resolution to sell a piece of our land to the Army and the amount we will receive will be deposited into the EPF accounts of all employees. I joined here three years ago and since then, I have been trying to solve their problem by writing to the seniors. But due to financial problems, we have not been able to do so,” he added.

Man killed in road mishap

ABOHAR, JUNE 14

A flour mill owner was killed and four others were injured in separate road accidents today.

Nazam (24) of Chak 43PS village died on the spot, while his friend Raman (30) was critically injured when a mini truck reportedly collided with a Tempo near Balluana village. Pawan Kumar and Sonia were hurt in road mishap while Rohtash was injured in a fire incident. — OC

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Swaraj Singh s/o Jaspreet Singh r/o 41, Industrial Area, Phase-1, Sirsa, have changed my name to Swaraj Singh Nagpal. (CL21022773)

I have changed my minor daughter name Neha to Neha Saint. Ashok Kumar s/o Jai Dev, VPO Ramsaran Majra, Tehsil Ladwa, Distt. Kurukshetra. (CL21022789)

I, Dalveer Kaur w/o Amritpal Singh Brar Village Mangala (Sirsa), have changed name to Dalveer Kaur Brar. (CL21022795)

I, Amritpal Singh s/o Jasmal Singh Brar Village Mangala (Sirsa), have changed name to Amritpal Singh Brar. (CL21022796)

I, Seema w/o Rakesh Kumar Makani, 326A, Court Colony, Sirsa, have changed name to Rajni Rani. (CL21022798)

I, Karan son of Shri Chander Mohan Grover resident of Flat No. 701, Block Q, Maya Garden Phase II, Zirakpur, District SAS Nagar, Mohali, Punjab, do hereby solemnly declare that I have changed my name from Karan to Karan Grover. (CL21022753)

I, JC- 353481 X, NB sub. Sanjeev Kumar s/o Shankar Dass, Unit 107 Engineer Regiment 56 APO, Vill. Jhagrian, PO Dhaned, Teh. & Distt. Hamirpur HP, declared that in my Army service record my wife's name is wrongly entered as Smt. Nirmala Devi but her correct name is Smt. Nirmala Devi as per Aff. No. C110131. (CL21022806)

I, Mantaran Singh Ghuman (name on passport) s/o Parupkar Singh Ghuman r/o Panchsheel Vihar, Barewal Road, Ludhiana have, for all intents and purposes changed my name to Mantaran Singh Ghuman. That both shall be treated as one and the same person. (CL21022807)

I, Vinakshi Rani w/o Sh. Satpal r/o Village Deeg, Tehsil Pundri (Kaithal), have changed my name to Kavita. In future I will be known by Kavita. (CL21022820)

I, Jiwan Kumar s/o Sh. Durga Ram r/o Village Bhail, Post Office Baroti, Tehsil Barsar, Distt. Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh, have changed the name of my daughter (minor) Akshita Thakur to Akshita Thakur. (CL21022831)

I, No. 2691920M Hav. Raj Kumar s/o Sh. Gian Chand, r/o Vill. Bassa, PO Sudli, Tehsil Dalhousie, Distt. Chamba (HP), declares to correct my daughter's name from Retika to Ritika & my wife Sandesh Kumari DoB from 20.04.1981 to 09.05.1979, in my Army records. Please note. (CL21022838)

I, Swardeep Kaur Saran daughter Jarbajung Singh, resident Village Baghe Wala, Tehsil & District Fazilka, have changed my name to Swardeep Kaur. (CL21022844)

I, hitherto known as Gurleen d/o Harasdeep Singh residing at H.No. 639, S.S.T. Nagar, Patiala, Punjab 147001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Gurleen Sidhu. (CL21022848)

I, Kumari Tanuja, d/o Laiq Ram r/o Village Rangori P.O. Sarahan, Tehsil Rampur Bushahr, Distt. Shimla H.P. declare that I have changed my name from Kumari Tanuja to Tanuja. Please note. (CL21022858)

Meeting workers’ demands to cost state ₹243 crore

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 14

It is a long-drawn out process before the services of 4,022 contractual ‘safai karmacharis’ are regularised and another 15,362 outsourced workers are taken on contract by the Local Government Department in its various civic bodies across the state.

As the decision involves annual financial implication of nearly Rs 243

Cabinet panel to meet tomorrow to find solution

Category	Sanctioned posts	Working on regular basis	Vacant posts
Safai karmacharis	18,556	12,432	6,124
Sewer men	2,769	1,559	1,210

crore, the issue is being taken up in the coming meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee, reconstituted to review the old Act for regularising services of ad hoc, contractual, dai-

ly wagers and outsourced employees, on June 16.

Demanding regularisation of services, the sanitation workers have been on a strike for the past month in different civic

bodies. To regularise the services of 4,022 contractual employees, the department faces an annual financial burden of Rs 42 crore and for bringing 15,362 outsourced employees on contract, it needs another Rs 201 crore, said a senior government functionary.

The workforce can be regularised or the outsourced can be brought on contract once the Cabinet Sub-Committee, comprising Local Government Minister

Brahm Mohindra, Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal, Rural Development and Panchayat Minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Technical Education Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and Cooperation and Jails Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, makes recommendations on repealing the old Act of 2016 and framing a new one to provide relief package to employees of the state.

Local Bodies Minister Brahm Mohindra said to move forward, the sub-committee was meeting on Wednesday to work out a formula to end the impasse. He said due to efforts of the department and MLAs, the strike had already ended in Muktsar, Patiala, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Jalandhar and some other places after a series of parleys were held with representatives of different workers’ unions.

DC rejects plea for fresh autopsy, kin move HC

KOLKATA ENCOUNTER Family refuses to perform Jaipal’s cremation

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FEROZEPUR, JUNE 14

The cremation of slain gangster Jaipal Singh Bhullar, who was shot in an encounter in Kolkata last week, could not take place for the third day here as Deputy Commissioner Guralp Singh Chahal rejected the family’s plea of a fresh post-mortem citing jurisdiction issue.

The family has now moved an application in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. In the plea before the HC, counsel Simranjit Singh has demanded a

ANOTHER AIDE NABBED

- The police arrested an aide of deceased gangsters Jaipal Bhullar and Jaspreet Singh Jassi in Kurali.
- He has been identified as Sumit Kumar, a resident of Meham village in Haryana, and recovered several SIM cards from him.
- The police said the suspect was nabbed from the Kurali bypass. Sumit was produced in the court and sent to six-day police remand on Sunday. TNS

fresh post-mortem at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, or AIIMS, Delhi, to ascertain the nature of injuries on the body.

Talking to *The Tribune*, the DC said since the inci-

dent took place beyond his jurisdiction, it was not possible for him to accept the application. “Hence, it has been rejected as the case does not fall under my purview,” he said.

Earlier, alleging “foul play”, Jaipal’s family had

refused to perform cremation demanding another post-mortem to ascertain the facts. Jaipal’s father Bhupinder Singh Bhullar had submitted an application in this regard to the DC yesterday. The body was brought here on Saturday evening amidst tight security.

During the day, SDM Amit Gupta along with senior officials again met Jaipal’s family at his residence here to prevail upon them to perform the cremation. But the family reportedly refused to budge, demanding a fresh post-mortem.



PRTC workers protest at the bus stand in Bathinda on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: PAWAN SHARMA

Conductor ‘harassed’, staff stage protest

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, JUNE 14

Members of the Punbus PRTC Contract Workers’ Union staged a protest after a conductor was allegedly harassed by a PRTC official. The members suspended work for hours, demanding action against the official.

Mandeep Singh, presi-

dent of the union, said: “Ravinder Singh, a conductor from Bathinda depot, had gone to Patiala for training at the PRTC head office. While returning in a bus, a PRTC official during checking reprimanded him for carrying an ID proof exceeding validity and prepared a report to initiate action against him.”

“Ravinder works for the

PRTC and does not deserve ill-treatment from a department official for carrying an ID proof exceeding its validity. We demand suspension of the official for harassment.” The protesters blocked the entrance and exit points of the bus stand, leading to traffic congestion on the main road, causing inconvenience to commuters.

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ABOHAR, JUNE 14

Continuing their strike for the 31st day over the alleged delay in payment of wages by the Municipal Corporation for the past six months, regular and ad hoc sanitation workers held a protest near the Valmiki Mandir at Sant Nagar here.

To express solidarity with them, community members from different colonies came at the temple and formed an action committee.

The participants said sanitation workers had played an important role in the battle against Covid but they were not being paid. The administration had terminated the services of five employees and asked 22 employees, who were on the verge of retirement, to produce a medical fitness certificate, which was illegal and unconstitutional.

Sources in the MC said GST share was awaited by civic bodies to pay wages and action against some employees was taken on administrative grounds.



Sanitation workers protest in Abohar. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Locals dump waste in open

BATHINDA, JUNE 14

With sanitation workers continuing their strike for the fifth day on Monday, garbage is not being lifted from residential areas and its disposal has become a big concern for residents.

Left with barely any alternative, residents have started disposing garbage in vacant plots and other public areas.

Harmeet Singh, a city resident, said, “Heaps of garbage are lying unattended in many places and the recent rain has made matters worse.

Urge state govt to resolve impasse

Foul smell emanates in public places and with the prevailing unhygienic conditions, residents are vulnerable to many diseases. It is a grave concern and the government must come up with a solution at the earliest.” On the other hand, sanitation workers said they would continue their strike till their demands were met. — TNS

Need to curb fraud by travel agents: HC

SAURABH MALIK

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 14

Nearly two decades have elapsed since the Punjab and Haryana High Court directed the chief secretaries of Punjab and Haryana to intervene for “avoiding repetition of the Malta boat tragedy”, in which 283 youngsters wanting to go abroad lost their lives. Yet, the menace of cheating innocent persons continues unabated. It has now compelled the High Court to direct curbing with a heavy hand the propensity to cheat by fake travel agents.

Justice Lalit Batra asserted it could not possibly be denied that the tendency and frequency of cheating innocent persons and misappropriating huge amounts by fake travel agents had been increasing day by day and was required to be curbed with a heavy hand. The observations came on a pre-assert bail filed by a person accused of cheating a youngster of Rs 24 lakh for sending him to the US. The Bench was told that instead of sending the complainant to the US, he was sent to Mexico from where he was deported to India.

Justice Batra ruled the custodial interrogation was certainly required for complete and effective investigation. Its denial to the investigating agency would leave glaring loopholes and gaps adversely

Says misappropriation by fake firms increasing



affecting the probe. The High Court had, in April 2003, asked the chief secretaries to look after the “interest of poor prospective non-resident Indians, rather than confining their concern to those well-settled migrants who have already made a fortune abroad, so as to avoid repetition of Malta boat tragedy”. The authorities concerned were also asked to explore the feasibility of using the print, audio or electronic media for educating the masses about the pitfalls.

The High Court since then passed a slew of directions for preventing gullible people from getting lost in the wilderness while looking for greener pastures abroad. The Bench made it mandatory for the travel agents to mention their registration number in advertisements. Directions were also issued to Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh to initiate suitable action against television channels and advertisers in case broadcast advertisements were not by registered agents.



ਮੁਕਤ ਚਿੰਤਿ ਨਿਲੇ ਸਲ ਕਾ ਸਲ ਰੂਪਾ ਕਮ ॥
ਸੋਰੀ ਸੋਰੀ ਕਰੀ ਸ੍ਰਿਗੁਰੂ ਬੀਰਾ ਕਮ ॥
With profound grief and sorrow we inform that our most respected and beloved
Sardarni Paramjit Kaur
W/o Jawahar Singh
left for heavenly abode on 6th June 2021
In fond memory of the departed soul Kiran and Anim Ardas will be held at Gurudwara Sahib, Sector 35, Chandigarh On 16th June 2021, from 11.30 AM onwards
Grief Stricken
Jawahar Singh
Dr. Jaspreet Singh, Dr. Diljit Kaur
Benipal and Gill Family
M: 9872803918, 9814052970



A woman receives a jab in Gurugram on Monday. S CHANDAN

Cases dip, but death rate shows upward trajectory

SUSHIL MANAV
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 14

Even as the Covid curve continues to dip steeply, the mortality rate still shows upward trajectory as 280 persons died against 3,570 cases with weekly fatality rate of nearly 8% in the past seven days in Haryana.

With over 40 people succumbing to the virus daily during the past one week despite the new cases dipping to 500 daily on an average, the cumulative mortality rate of the state has also moved up to 1.17% from 0.87% in April-end, when the cases were at its peak in the second wave.

The pandemic trajectory has witnessed a steep dip in Haryana during the past six weeks—from 1,01,009 (May 3 to 9) to 78,530 (May 10 to 16), 43,601 (May 17 to 23), 17,361 (May 24 to 30), 6,902 (May 31 to June 6) and 3,570 cases from June 7 to 13.

The number of weekly deaths has also been coming down from 1,119 (May 3 to 9) to 1,080 (May 10 to 16), 827 (May 17 to 23), 709 (May 24 to 30), 491 (May 31 to June 6) and 280 fatalities from June 7 to 13.

However, the dip in the number of deaths has not been proportionate with the steep fall in the cases, as weekly fatality rate (deaths divided by number of new infections) kept rising from 1.10% to

COVID METER		
Cases	268	
Recovered	812	
Active	4,077	
Deaths	40	
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Sirsa	14	5
Hisar	27	4
Gurugram	21	3
State total	7,66L	9,032

1.37%, 1.89%, 4.08%, 7.11% to 7.84%, respectively, during these six weeks.

The sharp rise in the weekly fatality rate led to a sharp upward trajectory of cumulative mortality rate that has gone up from 0.87% towards April-end to 1.17% on this Sunday.

Meanwhile, as far as the active cases in the state are concerned, six districts of Haryana — Sonapat, Jhajjar, Mahendragarh, Charkhi Dadri, Nuh and Palwal — have 100 or lesser active cases.

Five others — Panchkula, Fatehabad, Kaithal, Rohtak and Rewari — have cases between 100 and 200, Ambala, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra, Jind, Bhiwani and Faridabad have cases between 200 and 300, Karnal, Panipat and Gurugram have between 300 and 400, while Hisar and Sirsa have the maximum active cases between 400 and 500.

Living together different from live-in relationship, says HC

SAURABH MALIK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 14

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that living together was different from a live-in relationship. Mere claim of two adults living together for a few days was not enough to hold they were truly in a live-in-relationship — an alliance accorded “some legitimacy” by the legislature. Certain conditions were required to be fulfilled by the partners for attaching legitimate sanctity to such a relationship.

Justice Manoj Bajaj ruled that the concept of the live-in-relationship between two adults of opposite gender had received recognition in India also, as the legislature had injected some legitimacy to this kind of alliance while promulgating the “Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005” and liberally

‘CONDITIONS NEED TO BE FULFILLED’

The mere claim of two adults living together for a few days is not enough to hold that they are truly in live-in-relationship. Certain conditions were required to be fulfilled by the partners for attaching legitimate sanctity to such a relationship.

defining “domestic relationship” in Section 2(f).

But some sections of society were reluctant to accept such relationships despite this elasticity. It was required to be constantly borne in mind that a relationship’s length, coupled with the discharge of certain duties and responsibilities towards each other, made such relationships akin to marital relations.

The Bench was hearing a

12 F’bad cops booked for murder

Eight Nuh villagers arrested, 200 booked for attacking policemen

SUMEDHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURUGRAM, JUNE 14

The Nuh police have booked 12 Faridabad police personnel for murder by allegedly torturing a 24-year-old youth, Junaid, in custody after picking him up in a cyber-crime case.

The police have also arrested eight persons and booked 200 for attacking cops while protesting the youth’s death two days ago.

The FIR names Sub-Inspectors Rajesh and Surjit, Assistant Sub-Inspectors Narendra and Javed, Head Constables Naresh and Dalbir and SHO Basant. Five other unidentified cops have also been named in the FIR.

The case was only registered when Junaid’s relatives and neighbours thronged the Bichhor police station.

Talking to *The Tribune*, Asif, a Punhana resident who was also picked up along with Junaid on May 31, said: “They separated



A clash had erupted between the police and Punhana villagers after the death of a youth in custody on Saturday. FILE PHOTO

CUSTODIAL DEATH CASE

On May 31, the Faridabad police detained Junaid and five of his companions in a cybercrime case as they were coming back from a wedding in Rajasthan. They were all taken to Faridabad, but no case was registered. Junaid’s family claims they were kept in police custody overnight and thrashed. Junaid died on June 12, sparking clashes between Punhana villagers and the Nuh police.

three of us with a better physique and thrashed them. I was lucky to have a leaner body and was thus saved from the canecharge and was let off after being punched, kicked and sit-ups. Their

informer or agent from the nearby village approached our families and made them pay money for our release. The cops then took my chain and even phone with its bill after two days of release.”

School owner shot dead

HISAR, JUNE 14

Enraged over the murder of a private school owner of the village, residents of Alipura village in Jind district today blocked the Jind-Patiala highway for three hours. Alleging negligence by the police, they demanded the arrest of the accused.

The victim has been identified as Suresh Kumar (48). The incident occurred when Kumar had gone out for morning walk. He had gone some distance from his house

when two motorcycle-borne youths confronted him. The accused fired seven rounds at him, killing him on the spot.

Eyewitnesses informed the police about the incident. The assailants threatened the passersby, who witnessed the murder, with dire consequences and rode away.

Jitender Khatkar, DSP, said the police had now provided protection to the family and registered a case of murder against 11 persons. — TNS

3 cr saplings to be planted this year: CM

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 14

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has directed the officials of the Forest Department to work extensively on the scheme regarding contribution of people in the intensive plantation drive. The CM was presiding over a review meeting of the Plantation Campaign and Geo-Tagging Scheme of the Forest and Wildlife Department here today.

A target has been set to plant three crore saplings in the state this year. Haryana Forest and Wildlife Minister Kanwar Pal was also present at the meeting. The Chief Minister said this year would be known as ‘Oxy-Van’ year and officers should work with this mindset.

Babus get post-retirement bonanza

PRADEEP SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 14

The BJP-JJP government, headed by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, seems to be quite liberal with former bureaucrats, with almost 20 appointments happening since February-March last year.

In fact, the recommendation of the name of former IAS officer TC Gupta as the Chairman of the Right to Service Commission (RTS) by a high-level committee, headed by the Chief Minister, shows that the Khattar government was following in the footsteps of the former Congress government in the rehabilitation of the former officials on prestigious posts. The government appointed two former chief secretaries on important posts immediately after their superannuation. While DS Dhesi was appointed Chair-

BENEFITS GALORE

In the three years of his first tenure, CM Khattar, unlike his predecessor Bhupinder Hooda, resisted the temptation of re-employment of retired officers. However, the powerful bureaucratic lobby ultimately prevailed on him. The re-employment of the former officers on plum posts entitles them to retain government accommodation, besides pay and perks



man of the Haryana State Electricity Commission (HERC), Keshni Anand Arora was accommodated as the Chairperson of the Haryana State Water Authority. Dhesi was ultimately shifted to the Chief Minister’s Office (CMO) as Chief Principal Secretary to the CM.

In the three years of the first tenure, which began on October 24, 2014, Khattar, unlike his predecessor Bhupinder Singh Hooda, resisted the temptation of re-employment of the retired officers. However, the powerful

bureaucratic lobby ultimately prevailed on the CM, apparently under pressure from the party high command.

Prominent among former IAS officers getting plum postings included Dhanpat Singh, State Election Commissioner, Navraj Sandhu, Chairperson, Haryana State Police Complaint Authority (HSPCA), Ramesh Chand Verma, HSPCA Member, P Raghavendra Rao, Chairman, State Finance Commission, and Surina Rajan, head of the Pay Grievances

Redressal Commission to implement the recommendations of the Seventh Pay Commission. The IPS officers, RK Pachnanda, Chairman of the HERC, and KK Mishra, Member of the HSPCA, have also been adjusted by the coalition government. Besides, a former Indian Forest Service officer Alok Verma was elevated to the constitutional post of the Chairman of the Haryana Public Service Commission (HPSC).

The re-employment of the former officers on prestigious positions entitles them to retain government accommodation, besides pay and perks.

Subhash Lamba, president, Sarv Karamchari Sangh, alleged that “the appointment of the retired officers on plum posts is unnecessary burden on the state exchequer, especially at a time when the state is facing economic downturn.

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Marketing Division
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

We propose to identify and shortlist parties who are interested to leverage the unutilized built-up spaces/vacant spaces at our Retail Outlets located in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to market their products/services on commercial basis for the following facilities:
PUC Booth, Vulcanizing Kiosk, Snack Bar, Quick Service Restaurant, Dhaba, Convenience Store, Vehicle Insurance Kiosk, Ready to Eat Vending Booth, ATM, Tyre & Battery Accessory Store, Courier Services Kiosk, E-Commerce Store etc.
For complete details & list of retail outlets please visit our website <https://www.iocl.com/Talktous/SupplierNotices.aspx>.
Your expression of interest should reach us latest by 29/06/2021, 1700 hrs.

F.No. N-15/8/2020-NI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)
Appointment of Director, National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation, Sehore, Madhya Pradesh
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MSJ&E), Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Government of India invites applications for the post of Director, National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR), Sehore, Madhya Pradesh, an autonomous body under the administrative control of this Ministry. Post carries pay as per Level 14 of Pay Matrix (Rs. 144200-211800) with admissible allowances and is to be filled up on Deputation/Short Term Contract initially for a period of 2 years which may be extended on yearly basis, after review of the performance, up to 5 years.
Detailed advertisement, eligibility conditions and application format etc. are available on the website of the Department, www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in and on website of Department of Personnel & Training www.dopt.gov.in. The last date for receipt of applications would be 45 days from the date of publishing of advertisement in Employment News.
Navin Kumar
Under Secretary to the Government of India
davp 38117/11/0002/2122

Himachal Pradesh Forest Department
Government of Himachal Pradesh
through
Society for Improvement of Forest Ecosystems Management & Livelihoods in Himachal Pradesh (Regd) for implementation of the JICA assisted PIHPFEM&L, Shimla (ID-P269)
Ref. No. Tender/JICA/Vol-I Dated: 14.06.2021
Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)
Sealed tenders for **“Hiring of Vehicle on Rent basis”** [Bolero Camper/equivalent utility vehicle (with the make of the equivalent vehicle)] under JICA assisted PIHPFEM&L are hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of Society of the Project from the eligible and approved firms/proprietary firm(s), company/Co-operative Societies/Firms/Registered Contractors and other organizations. The detailed tender document can be viewed and downloaded from the website <https://hpforest.nic.in> as well as <https://www.jicahpforestryproject.com> from June 15, 2021 (10:00 AM). The last date for submission of the tender is 30.06.2021 up to (12:30 PM). The Society has the right to extend or cancel the tender/bids without declaring any reasons thereof.
Chief Project Director (JICA-PIHPFEM&L)
Potters Hill, Summer Hill, Shimla-5 (H.P.)
DPR/HP/155

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT-CUM-MEMBER SECRETARY, ROGI KALYAN SMITI, DR. R.P. GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE, KANGRA AT TANDA, HIMACHAL PRADESH
Office: TANDA — 176002, India
Phone: 01892-287187, Fax: 01892-287187
Website: <https://www.hptenders.gov.in>
E-mail: medical.supdt.tanda@gmail.com
Tender Ref. No.: HFW-H(DRPGMC)MS/RKS/- 4023 Dated: 14.06.2021
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
E-tenders are hereby invited for rate contract of various drugs and consumables/items required for the treatment of COVID-19 patients for supply to **Dr. R.P.G.M.C. TANDA AND OTHER MEDICAL COLLEGES AND HEALTH INSTITUTIONS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH** during the World Health Emergency declared by the WHO in respect of outbreak of Corona Virus. The detailed tender document can be viewed and downloaded from website: <https://hptenders.gov.in> from **16.06.2021 to 08.07.2021 up to 1.00 P.M.** The last date and time for submission & uploading of filled in tender documents is **09.07.2021 up to 1.00 P.M.** The Tender will be opened on **09.07.2021 at 3.00 P.M.** All subsequent corrigendum, modifications and clarifications in respect of this tender will be published only on aforesaid websites only. The bidders are advised to visit the aforesaid website regularly. The **Dr. R.P.G.M.C. TANDA** reserves the right to reject/accept any or all the tender offers without assigning any reason.
Sd/- Medical Superintendent-cum-Member Secretary, RKS, Dr. RPGMC, Tanda.
DI-4365

60 booked for razing BJP dist office stone

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JHAJJAR, JUNE 14

The city police have booked 60 persons in connection with the uprooting of the foundation stone of BJP’s district office on the Rewari road here yesterday.

Three of them have been identified as Jitender, alias Babla of Raiya village, Amit, alias Chintu of Chhara village, and Virendra Dagar of Islampur village (Delhi), while others are unknown.

Rajesh Duggal, SP, said a case had been registered under Sections 148, 149, 153-A, 427, 447 and 506 of the IPC on the complaint of Hari Prakash, a local worker of the BJP, in this respect. However, no arrest has been made so far. “Investigation is underway and those involved are being identified on the basis of pictures and videos of the incident,” Duggal added. In his complaint, Hari



A protesting farmer at the BJP office site in Jhajjar. FILE PHOTO

Prakash alleged that the accused carrying bam-boo sticks and iron rod came to the site around 11 am on Sunday and started raising slogans against the BJP. Thereafter, they damaged the foundation stone. They also abused the state government and elected public representatives, he added.

The foundation stone was laid by BJP state president Om Prakash Dhankar on Sunday in the presence of Rohtak MP Arvind Sharma. The protesters reached there after two hours of the foundation laying ceremony and uprooted the bricks used for the foundation.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Principal Chief Materials Manager
Headquarters Office, Baroda House,
New Delhi-110001, Mail ID: salenr365@gmail.com
No.: 117-S-Sales-Auction Programme-2021-22 Dated: 11.06.2021
e-AUCTION NOTICE No. July/2021
E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc. Scrap, Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Scrap Rail and other scrap P.Way material. Used lead Acid Batteries/ Used oil/Refused oil will be sold only to recyclers registered with State Pollution Control Board. Auction programme is as under:-
e-AUCTION DATES For July, 2021

S. No.	Depot conducting auction	1st round	2nd round	3rd round	4th round
1	Alambagh/Lucknow 0522-2451257	6	13	20	27
2	Shakurbasti 011-27015387	7	14	22	28
3	Jagadhari 01732-252388	5	12	19	26
4	Sr.DMM/LKO 0522-2234756	5	12	19	26
5	Sr.DMM/FZR 01632-244154	1	8	15	27
6	Sr.DMM/UMB 0171-2611203	7	14	22	28
7	Sr.DMM/MB 0591-2413141	1	8	15	27
8	Sr.DMM/DLI 011-23365311	6	13	20	27

E-Auction will be held from 10.00 AM on wards as per above programme.
1. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in.
2. The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations.
3. To participate in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with the details on last sold rates in auctions are available at www.railnet.gov.in.
4. For further details regarding registration and other conditions of e-auction, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in.
(Prankur Gupta)
Dy. CMM/S&P
1299/2021
Serving Customers with a Smile

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
“NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER”
Online bids on items rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Kaza, District Lahoul and Spiti Himachal Pradesh on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in three covers for the undermentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Department/PWD/CPWD/other department and Govt. undertaking departments.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	E/Cost	E/ Money	Cost of Form	Time
1	C/o Flow Irrigation Scheme Khagas Nallah to Lari in GP Tabo, Distt. L&S (HP) C/o Desilting Device, Pattra Cutting form RD 0 to 640 = 640mts and Providing and Laying Jointing and testing of API 5L-Gr. 56200mm dia flange/butt welded steel pipe in gravity main from TD 0 to 1485 = 1485mts	Rs. 8399950/-	Rs. 116500/-	Rs. 800/-	Six
2	C/o Flow Irrigation Scheme Khagas Nallah to Lari in GP Tabo, Distt. L&S (HP) (Sh:- C/o Steel Bridge for Nallah X-ing of Gravity main Pipe of 200mm dia. C/o Delivery Tank and Laying, Jointing and Testing of PN2.5 Class, PE-63 HDPE pipe of 50mm dia provided at each outlet Chamber, Total length = 6000Rmt.	Rs. 1522462/-	Rs. 30337/-	Rs. 400/-	Six
3	C/o Flow Irrigation Scheme Khagas Nallah to Lari in GP Tabo, Distt. L&S (HP) (Sh:- Laying, Jointing in trenches of HDPE Pipe for distribution System of Various (OD) 75mm, 90mm, 140mm, 160mm, 200mm, Tee & reducers with flange, P/F Cast iron Sluice Valves 80mm, 100mm, 150mm, 200mm dia, Fixing of GMS tube pipe 50mm dia, C/o P/L C.C 1:2.4 and C/o Outlet/Sluice valve Chamber.	Rs. 14,84,707/-	Rs. 29,694/-	Rs. 400/-	Six

1. Tender documents and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <http://hptenders.gov.in> by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.
2. As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency at the earliest.
3. **KEY DATES WILL BE AS UNDER:-**
1 Date of online publication 12/6/2021, 5.00 P.M.
2 Downloading of e-tender Documents From 12/6/2021 at 5.00 P.M. up to 18/6/2021 at 5.00 P.M.
3 Date of submission of e-tendering From 12/6/2021 at 5.00 P.M. up to 18/6/2021 at 5.00 P.M.
4 Physical submission of earnest money deposit and cost of tender form Up to 19/6/2021, 11.00 A.M.
5 Date of opening bid 11:30 A.M. on 19/6/2021
(i) Cover-1 Eligibility Criteria and Technical Bid
(ii) Cover-2 Financial Bid Shall be intimated separately
6 Site Visit —
7 Pre-Bid Meeting —
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Kaza.
HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK DPR/HP/1543

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

G7 must act fast

Group not doing enough to fight Covid, climate change

BEING the first face-to-face meeting between the leaders of seven affluent democracies after the outbreak of Covid-19, much was expected from the Group of Seven (G7) summit in terms of addressing the globally critical issues of overcoming the ongoing pandemic, preventing future ones and fighting climate change. However, the Cornwall event flattered to deceive. The grouping — comprising the US, the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan — promised to provide 1 billion doses to vaccine-starved countries. This figure is well short of the 11 billion doses the World Health Organisation says are needed to vaccinate at least 70 per cent of the world’s population to put an end to the pandemic that has claimed over 3.8 million lives worldwide so far. The disappointment at this insufficient allocation was articulated by former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who said the lack of a more ambitious vaccination plan was ‘an unforgivable moral failure’.

India, a special invitee to the summit, used the platform to seek the support of the grouping on lifting patent protections for Covid-19 vaccines. Building international consensus on this issue is a key step towards ensuring equitable access to vaccines globally. New Delhi also rightly reminded the G7 of its unfulfilled promise of delivering \$100 billion annually to climate finance. The governments of the seven countries had made a pledge at the United Nations in 2010 to do the needful, only to drag their feet later.

On the climate crisis, the G7 has come up with the ‘Build Back Better for the World’ plan that promises to offer financing for infrastructure in developing countries to help expedite the global shift to renewable energy. Projected as a green alternative to China’s Belt and Road Initiative, it is being seen as a belated move in the run-up to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) to be held in November. There have been enough of slogans and optics. The seven nations must lead the way with concrete actions to demonstrate their commitment to safeguarding global health and environment. After all, it’s a race against time to protect our fragile planet.

SAD-BSP alliance

Wooing Dalits to stage a comeback

THE SAD-BSP alliance stitched ahead of the Punjab Assembly elections due early next year is an attempt by the Akali Dal and Mayawati-led BSP to revive their political fortunes jointly in the state. When the SAD severed ties with the BJP after a partnership of 23 years last September over the issue of farm laws, rumbles of a political churning in the state were felt. Not surprisingly, the SAD has come back full circle by cosying up to the BSP, its successful ally of the 1996 Lok Sabha elections. While the duo then swept the LS polls, winning 11 of the 13 seats, replicating the feat is an uphill task as much water has flown under the bridge since then.

In the past 25 years, while oscillating between being the principal party in power and the main opposition party, in the 2017 Assembly elections, the SAD-BJP combine was shockingly relegated to the third position by the fledgling AAP. Even as the SAD is still struggling to overcome the blots of sacrilege cases and corruption allegations, shaking off the tag of it initially being anti-farmer even after breaking up with the BJP is an added hurdle. Meanwhile, the BSP has suffered an erosion of vote share. Though there are nearly 32 per cent Dalit votes in the state, its share was a mere 1.59 per cent on the seats it contested in 2017. This sharp fall from the around 13 per cent vote share a quarter of a century ago is a sure pointer that the BSP’s hold over Dalits has slipped. Its loss of votes of Valmikis (Hindu Dalits), Mazhabis (Sikh Dalits), Ravidasias and Ad-dharmis has been largely the gain of the Congress and the AAP.

With the BSP and the SAD giving a strong message of politico-social uplift of the backward classes and minorities, as also a Dalit deputy CM, they hope to stage a comeback riding on the huge block of Dalit votes. Judicious seat distribution can tilt the balance — considering other issues, if not towards the treasury benches, at least towards the Opposition.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm. — Winston Churchill

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1921

A TRIANGULAR CONTEST.

NO Indian will resent the *Statesman* of Calcutta joining in the controversy between Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Bepin Chandra Pal regarding the relative parts played in the English nation’s make-up by the characteristics of justice and fear, and thus making it a triangular contest. The concern that the average Britisher feels in the good name of his country and people is one of the most interesting traits in his character, and the Indian who is just as sensitive on this score as the Englishman can have no feeling for it except that of admiration. The only effect of the advent of this new antagonist is to confound the real issue. The very first step he takes is by way of magnifying the difference between the two Indian leaders. Their views are well-known. Not for the first time has Mahatma Gandhi stated his opinion that “Englishmen do not yield to justice pure and simple,” that “justice is too abstract for their common sense,” that they “respond to justice when it is allied with force,” and that “they do not mind whether it is brute force or soul force.” As for Mr. Pal, who that has cared to follow his numerous speeches and writings does not know that in his opinion the utility of non-co-operation lies in the fact that it makes the moral pressure which it brings to bear upon a Government so irresistible as to leave no choice to it except to yield to the popular demand, and that this moral pressure is, in its last analysis, nothing more than “a euphemism for fear of mortal physical consequences”? Nor does anyone need to be told that in Mr. Pal’s opinion “politics in the present stage of our development is but another name for a balancing of national self-interest, which is little weighed by any honest ethical considerations”. What anyone can see at once is that there is more in common between the two views than there is difference between them.

Above board and beyond

‘Standardised’ exams alone should not judge the sum total of academic worth



AVIJIT PATHAK
SOCIOLOGIST

WITH the cancellation of the board exams, many of our youngsters and their parents, I assume, are passing through some sort of psychic bewilderment and anxiety. Even though at this time of the pandemic, nothing should matter more than the safety of these students, some of them, it seems, are still angry. It is not surprising. As the prevalent practice of education is integrally related to the centrality of standardised tests and exams, one is conditioned to believe that there is no other way to evaluate one’s worth, or intellectual/cognitive development; and hence, not to get an opportunity to compete, and write this mystified exam (with enhanced palpitation, sleepless nights and temple visits), or not to be graded, ranked and hierarchised by a centralised/ value-neutral authority is to lose what matters in this hyper-competitive society: fighting spirit and achievement orientation. The quality of education, it is feared, is bound to decay if there is no board exam.

However, there are educationists and pedagogues amongst us who think somewhat differently. Even under normal circumstances, as they remind us, the one-sided emphasis on centralised tests has disastrous consequences. First, in a society like ours characterised by highly stratified schooling and uneven distribution of social and cultural capital, the board exam cannot be said to be ‘neutral’. Even though a student of a municipality school located at a slum in Delhi and a student of an international school in Mumbai are asked



REAL TEST: The cultivation of a creatively nuanced critical consciousness is the need of the hour. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Should parents, teachers and educators bother to think of the real exam that no board has ever visualised?

to read the same texts and write the same exam, they are by no means equal participants in this race. Possibly, this sort of exam legitimises and sanctifies the already existing social inequality through the rationale of ‘meritocracy’. And second, they would argue that the ritualisation of exams distorts the higher goal of education. The spirit of learning/unlearning with joy and wonder is sacrificed; what really matters is the ‘war instinct’—the strategy of writing the ‘correct’ answer, and reducing every discipline into a set of ‘knowledge capsules’ for quick consumption. In this age of inflated marks, 100% in physics does by no means indicate the arrival of a young Einstein; or, for that matter, 99% in English (even though it can assure your child’s admission in a branded college) is no guarantee that William Blake and Charles Dickens fascinate her. In other words, this hype over exams needs to be demystified.

This debate can go on. But then, what all of us would concede that neither the CBSE nor the ICSE can

prepare our youngsters to face the most important exam the pandemic has made them confront. And it is important to realise that the preparedness for life (yes, as the pandemic has shown, it is not a picnic party; it is inseparable from death, pain, suffering and impermanence) is not to memorise the 10 reasons for the downfall of the Mughal Empire, or to solve a differential equation, or to merge with the IIT/IIM nexus. Can the prevalent system of education, with excessive stress on bookish knowledge, instrumental intelligence and ‘success’ mantras really prepare our children to become sensitive to life and associated existential questions?

Look at them, feel their stress and anxiety, and experience their psychic nausea as they consume the statistics of death and see the taken-for-granted world crumbling in front of their eyes. I am not saying that they should feel eternally sad. As a teacher, I have no hesitation in saying that a lesson in physics or history has its own role, and this academic engagement can also prove to be therapeutic. And

youngsters ought to study and expand their horizons. Yet, as the pandemic is teaching us, our children ought to cultivate something deep—beyond the official curriculum. And without this awakened intelligence, life cannot be lived meaningfully as they would enter the world and experience the new reality. What are the qualities they need to cultivate to face this real exam of life?

First, the art of perseverance and endurance is the most important lesson to be learned. When darkness prevails and everything around looks bleak, it is important to acquire the courage to wait, retain the conviction that this too will pass, and the light of new dawn is as real as the intensity of dark night. ‘I can think, I can wait, I can fast’ — Siddhartha (the protagonist of Hermann Hesse’s novel) reminded us of this important lesson of life that every seeker (a student is a seeker, not an exam warrior) ought to learn in order to pass through the complex trajectory of existence: life and death, pain and pleasure, and peaks and valleys. Second, the nuanced art of empathy is yet another important lesson to be learned. Should our youngsters remain obsessed with egotistic success? Or is it more important for them to understand and feel the pain of migrant workers, the trauma of those who have lost their nearest ones simply because there was no oxygen cylinder, or the helplessness of those who have lost their jobs? And third, the cultivation of a creatively nuanced critical consciousness is the need of the hour. This is not about cramming CBSE political science questions; this is the ability to see the ugliness of the narcissistic political class, the exploitative character of Indian society, the harshness of vaccine inequality, and yet strive for the ethics of care in the post-pandemic world.

Should parents, teachers and educators bother to think of this real exam that no board has ever visualised?

Lalaji to Balaji, the link of kindness

MR ANAND

IN the early 1990s, I was working in Kochi. I used to have breakfast from a roadside shop run by one Sethu. He used to send to my place of work daily in the morning a parcel of four *idlis* and a *vada* through his help named Balaji, aged about 14.

Balaji was a smart boy. One day, I asked him to tell me about his home, parents and the place he came from. He was from a small town in Tamil Nadu. His father died when he was eight, bringing his schooling to a premature end. To help his mother, who toiled as a house maid to bring him up and his four siblings, he came to

Kochi and joined Sethu’s pavement shop as his help.

The small boy opened his heart to me and revealed his intense longing to have a ‘tiny hotel’ of his own. ‘If only I have Rs 3,000, I will go to my hometown and start an eatery. But from where and whom will I get this big amount?’ he said.

The sadness in his eyes which carried this distant dream touched my heart and I decided to help him. The following morning, I readied the amount and waited for Balaji. He came and handed me my breakfast and was about to leave when I thrust a sealed cover containing six Rs 500 notes into

his hand. The boy was speechless when he opened the envelope. The very next day, he left Kochi for his hometown to turn over a new leaf in his life.

The man who inspired me to help the boy was Jim Corbett. In his book *My India*, he dedicated a chapter to one Lalaji. Corbett found Lalaji lying on the banks of the Ganga, literally dying of cholera at a place called Mokameh Ghat in Bihar. He took the hopelessly sick person to his house and nursed him back to health. When he recovered, Lalaji narrated to Corbett how since his grain business failed, he was wandering from

town to town like a beggar.

When the time came for Lalaji to leave, Corbett placed in his hand Rs 500 and asked him to restart his business. Rupees 500 in the 1920s was not a small sum. Lalaji took the amount, promising to repay it in a year, revived his business, became well-to-do again and returned the amount to Corbett within a year.

Though I never met Balaji again, I came to know that he started his own tea-and-snacks shop and came up in life. I was also told by his ex-employer that he married, had children, built his own house and that his mother was leading a cool retired life.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Higher education

All is not well with the higher education institutes of the country, although *The Tribune* has rightly pinpointed a slight improvement in the scenario (‘Higher education uptick’). A majority of institutes are private and very expensive. Institutes run by the government do have higher intake but they don’t produce the best of the lot. The government should get a message from the pandemic that the country needs not only more colleges (especially medical and nursing), universities and many more hospitals — rather than huge statues and temples — but also more job opportunities. To save itself from facing the music again in the future, the authorities should revisit what the country desperately needs from the institutes of higher learning.

SUNIL CHOPRA, LUDHIANA

Illegal homes

Refer to the demolition of illegal structures; these structures did not come up in one year. It was a continuous process for the past many years. The question arises, why was construction not stopped then? Actually, it happened because of corruption by MC officials or political leaders. The SC can take suo motu cognisance of the rampant corruption which has made so

many families homeless. Hence, the matter needs to be investigated by a high-powered inquiry committee under the supervision of the SC to inquire how all this happened. The responsibility may be fixed and the damages may be recovered from the persons held guilty. This would set an example.

DS HOODA, ROHTAK

Congress defection

With Jitin Prasada’s defection to the BJP, fresh rumblings within the Congress underscores why a convincing opposition interrogation of the BJP remains a non-starter. Troubles in Punjab and Rajasthan and the party’s never-ending soul search about leadership yet again demonstrate that, nationally, defection from the Congress is a key BJP advantage. Congress’ problems are well-known, those belonging to Rahul Gandhi’s generation linked their political fortunes to his rise, but now they stare at an uncertain future. There remain doubts over his leadership and electoral appeal. The prospects of the Congress returning to power at the Centre are limited. Nationally, the BJP is at a difficult moment, but the Congress and other anti-BJP parties seem as ineffectual as before. Despite the recent backlash against the NDA government on its Covid-19 mismanagement, the BJP

remains favourite for 2024. At a time when the BJP is defensive about its governance, the entry of defectors from the Congress also helps shift the narrative back to its political appeal.

EL SINGH, BY MAIL

What’s going on?

Something has gone wrong in the functioning of the BJP. It has an agenda to topple the elected government of opposition parties. First, it toppled the MP Government, and then, rushed to break governments in Rajasthan, Goa, Assam, etc. Then, it used money and muscle power to defeat Mamata, but was unsuccessful. Amit Shah and Modi remained in West Bengal for more than 50 days and lost the way in tackling the pandemic. Now, they are inducting Congress members. But Mamata is moving fast and Roy is back in the TMC, and others are in line to join the party. It would be better if they mend their ways and think about the betterment of the nation and show maturity in their functioning.

SUBHASH C TANEJA, GURUGRAM

Unpalatable platter

Reference to ‘Something light: Redefining North Indian breakfast menu’, as a senior executive in an MNC, I had to travel often to different parts of the country. As I grew up in Bangalore, breakfast was always diffi-

cult for me when I had to travel. It was difficult to eat, and more so in these health-conscious days, fried food like *puris*, *bondas*, *pakoras* and *jalebi* or *jammuns* as breakfast are a no-no. I would either eat bread or keep a few packets of biscuits which would suffice, and tea was always available everywhere. In the South, there is a wide choice of breakfast items that need not be *idli* or *vada*. Darshini’s started in Bangalore and spread to other parts of Karnataka and continues to be very popular. This idea of self-service restaurants is yet to catch up in other southern states and is non-existent in some.

HN RAMAKRISHNA, BENGALURU

Money trap

After the 2008 global financial crisis, governments and central banks in advanced economies vowed that they would not let the banking system hold policy hostage, let alone threaten economic and social wellbeing. Years later, they have only partly fulfilled this pledge. Policymakers also introduced ‘de-risk’ measures. They increased capital buffers, enhanced on-site supervision, and banned certain activities. Though they succeeded in reducing the systemic risks, they failed to understand and monitor closely enough what then happened to this risk.

SC DHALL, ZIRAKPUR

BJP can't afford to let UP slip out of its hands



YOU can cock a snook at the Prime Minister if you are a Mamata Banerjee. But not if you are a CM of the BJP, not even if you are Yogi Adityanath, a Hindutva icon most in demand after Narendra Modi.

Yogi Adityanath went to Delhi last week to sue for peace. The upshot of the visit: he agreed to go in for a cabinet reshuffle he had been resisting. The BJP brass read out the riot act to him about all that had gone wrong in UP.

Unless the situation spins out of control, Yogi Adityanath will continue as the chief minister and lead the party into elections. For an alternative at this juncture is a risky proposition with only seven to eight months left for the polls. The Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the BJP president have gone into the damage control mode.

Very few BJP MLAs reportedly spoke in Adityanath's favour to party leaders BL Santhosh and Radha Mohan Singh who were sent to Lucknow to ascertain their views. They played his mishandling of the second wave of Covid, for working through a handful of bureaucrats and ignoring MLAs and ministers. There were complaints, and these are long standing ones, about Adityanath being partial to the community he belongs to, the Rajputs, known to be as aggres-

sive as the Yadavs when they are in power. This has alienated the Brahmins, who are large in number in UP (around 12 per cent) and traditional supporters of the BJP.

The cabinet reshuffle in Lucknow is expected to give an important role to AK Sharma, a bureaucrat-turned-politician who is a confidant of the Prime Minister, sent to UP to be his eyes and ears in Lucknow. Sharma resigned as a secretary in the Union government earlier this year, and was made a BJP MLC. The buzz was that the PM wanted him to be made the deputy chief minister and be given the Home department. Yogi Adityanath had so far resisted this move.

The prospective reshuffle in Lucknow is also expected to give a berth to Jitin Prasada, who left the Congress to join the BJP. Like AK Sharma, he too is expected to be brought in as an MLC in July.

Jitin Prasada's exit from the Congress comes at a time when the BJP is smarting under its defeat in West Bengal. Though he had lost the last three elections he contested, in 2014, 2017 and 2019, the BJP is creating a hype around his name to signal the Brahmins that the party is mindful of their concerns.

It is also sending another message and this is to potential entrants who may be looking at the party as a possible haven — that if they cross over, their interests would be taken care of. An integral part of the BJP's poll strategy has been to wean away important leaders from other parties on the eve of elections to bolster its prospects.

This was a message of the appointment of a former Congressman Himanta Biswa Sarma as the chief minister of Assam. The elevation of Jyotiraditya Scindia as a Union Minis-



ter, which is on the cards, would do likewise. He has been waiting in the wings for the promised prize since he crossed over with 22 MLAs, bringing down the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh last year.

Finally, the PM is expected to go for the long overdue cabinet reshuffle in Delhi soon. There are many vacancies to fill after the exit of allies like the Shiv Sena, Akali Dal, and Ram Vilas Paswan's LJP.

Another poll season is not far away. Eight elections are due in 2022 — in UP, Punjab, Manipur, Goa, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir. It goes without saying that UP will determine the BJP's prospects in 2024. It is not in power in large states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. If you add Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Kerala to it, the loss of UP will put it out of power in states accounting for more than 250 Lok Sabha seats. The BJP cannot afford to let UP slip out of its hands.

The UP poll is likely to be a four-cornered fight. Already, Amit Shah has reached out to smaller parties, like the Kurmi-dominated Apna Dal and the Nishad Party. The non-Yadav OBCs and the most backward castes (MBCs) have been an important catchment area for the BJP.

Mayawati is likely to go it alone. From all accounts, she may consider supporting the BJP afterwards if it falls short of the magic numbers.

The Samajwadi Party and RLD have already forged an understanding. The farmers of western UP, particularly the Jats, are looking at the new RLD chief Jayant Choudhary with favour, after his support to the Kisan agitation. Akhilesh Yadav does not seem to be in a mood to tie up with the Congress this time, as he did in 2017. The Congress brings nothing to the table except inflated demands for seats. The Muslims, Akhilesh calculates, would gravitate to his party as the main challenger of the BJP, as it happened in West Ben-

gal, rather than getting divided.

The Bengal victory has already spurred the non-BJP regional parties into action. Having joined the BJP in 2017, Mukul Roy's *ghar wapsi* in the Trinamool Congress was a big setback for the BJP. He is already in touch with 20 BJP MLAs in West Bengal with a view to bringing some over to Mamata's side.

In Bihar, HAM party leader Jitan Ram Manjhi is in touch with the RLD leaders and spoke to Lalu Yadav in New Delhi last week.

Poll strategist Prashant Kishor, who delivered West Bengal and Tamil Nadu to the TMC and DMK and who knows many regional satraps well, had a three-hour meeting with Sharad Pawar in Mumbai to look ahead. Will he now play the role of a *'sutradhar'* in getting together the non-BJP parties for 2024?

These are some straws in the wind. Everything will hinge on Uttar Pradesh. The outcome of UP-2022 will

These are some straws in the wind. The outcome of UP-2022 will depend on how much ground the BJP manages to recover with the correctives it is trying to put in place. It is not going to be easy. People forget economic hardships, but it is more difficult to forgive the loss of loved ones due to the government's insensitive handling of the situation. Talk to people in Baghpat or Lucknow, there is palpable anger against the party.

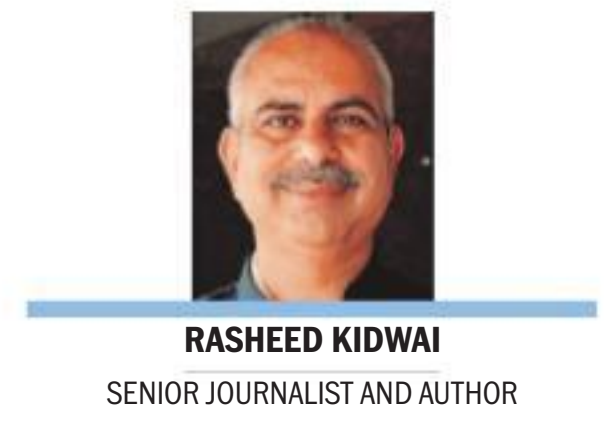
DAMAGE CONTROL: Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath held meetings with PM Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP chief JP Nadda in New Delhi last week. **PII**

depend on how much ground the BJP manages to recover with the correctives it is trying to put in place. It is not going to be easy. People forget economic hardships, but it is more difficult to forgive the loss of loved ones due to the government's ineptitude and insensitive handling. Talk to people in Baghpat or in Lucknow, there is palpable anger against the party.

The PM's image has also taken a beating. By calling Yogi to Delhi, and pulling him up, the Prime Minister is trying to mitigate the damage, by coming across as a leader who intervenes when things go wrong. But will his word carry weight as it used to at one time?

Much will also depend on Akhilesh Yadav. In 2012, the red-capped Akhilesh had hit the road on his cycle, and taken his party to victory. The Samajwadi Party won in the recent panchayat polls by default. It will take more than 'default' to recapture the state in 2022.

Defection, dissidence rouse Congress from stupor



The Congress has witnessed the defection of Jitin Prasada to the BJP, besides rumblings in Punjab and Rajasthan. Sonia Gandhi tried to broker a truce between Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh and his detractors. Prasada's exit worked as a wake-up call, with the Congress high command summoning Sachin Pilot to break the ongoing impasse with Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

IN this hot summer, both the Congress and the BJP are feeling the heat. The Congress has witnessed the defection of former Union minister Jitin Prasada to the BJP, besides rumblings in Punjab and Rajasthan. A committee set up by the AICC 'interim president' Sonia Gandhi tried to broker a truce between Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh and his detractors.

Prasada's defection worked as a wake-up call, with the Congress high command summoning Sachin Pilot to break the ongoing impasse with Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. Pilot is said to have declined an offer to be AICC general secretary at the Congress' national headquarters, insisting that first his supporters should be rehabilitated in the Gehlot cabinet and the Rajasthan unit of the party.

The gulf between Rahul Gandhi's and Sonia Gandhi's thinking is reportedly widening. Sonia is said to be keen to prevent further desertions, while Rahul is apparently in favour of letting all those go who wish to switch sides or opt for 'greener pastures'. It is believed that Sonia has agreed to grant a Rajya Sabha berth to 'G23' member Ghulam Nabi Azad with the help of ally DMK. Rajya Sabha byelections are due in Tamil Nadu.

On another plane, poll strategist Prashant Kishor went to Mumbai to call on Maratha strongman Sharad Pawar. Kishor and Pawar are said to be working on a plan to bring all non-



TWIST: The BJP has got Jitin Prasada (R) on board months before the UP polls. **PII**

BJP/NDA regional players such as Mamata Banerjee, MK Stalin, Uddhav Thackeray and Jagan Mohan Reddy on board to work out a *mahagath-bandhan* against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. There is a lack of clarity about the role of the Congress, the Left and parties like the Biju Janata Dal that can serve as important players in a big grouping against Modi.

For the first time in seven years, the BJP is looking a tad vulnerable. And it's not just about the poor state of economy or the inept handling of the Covid-19 catastrophe, but the disquiet from within. Dissident

activity within the ruling BJP in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh is reaching a crescendo. In Bhopal, Cabinet ministers were heard taking potshots at one another, staging a walkout and mocking senior bureaucrats in the presence of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

While the political situation in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh is alarming, Uttar Pradesh seems to be heading for a point of no return. Uttar Pradesh is set to go to the polls early next year. It is said that the road to Delhi goes via Lucknow. In the context of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the

importance of UP is paramount. Once again, more than tactless handling of the Covid-19 second wave, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath faces a virtual revolt from a sizeable chunk of BJP MLAs. The recently concluded panchayat polls have been far below the expectations of the ruling party and some internal assessment points at 'not so bright' outcome in the 2022 Assembly polls. More importantly, there are reports of growing differences between Delhi (BJP leadership) and Lucknow (Yogi Adityanath). These differences relate to the appointment of a senior bureaucrat from the Prime Minister's Office as a BJP MLC in Uttar Pradesh and abortive attempts to make him the Deputy Chief Minister in the politically most significant state of the country. Yogi supporters perhaps felt that a Deputy CM, a Delhi *darbar* appointee, may act as a 'super chief minister' or undermine the political authority of the incumbent chief minister.

Some sections of the media and political analysts are speculating that the BJP top brass is toying with the idea of bifurcating or trifurcating Uttar Pradesh. Such a move is fraught with danger. Ideally, the Prime Minister should mull over the idea of setting up the Second States Reorganisation Commission (SSRC) so that a clinical and professional exercise is conducted. After all, there have been legitimate and historic agitations for the creation of Vidarbha (Maharashtra) and Gorkhaland (Bengal). Why

should Uttar Pradesh be accorded importance simply because it is BJP-ruled and any bifurcation or trifurcation would result in more BJP-ruled states? The advocates of this move point at a state Assembly resolution passed during Mayawati's rule in 2011 that has been gathering dust in the North Block. The resolution had recommended the division of Uttar Pradesh into four units: Uttaranchal (eastern UP), Awadh (Central UP), Bundelkhand and 'Harit Pradesh' (western UP).

Any move to set up the SSRC would open a Pandora's box. The States Reorganisation Act of 1956 was a major reform of the boundaries and governance of the country's states and territories. Although many additional changes to state boundaries — including the creation of new states like Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand — have taken place since 1956, the States Reorganisation Act remains the most extensive change in state boundaries since Independence. The States Reorganisation Commission was headed by Justice Fazl Ali, a retired judge of the Supreme Court.

All eyes are now on Modi and Yogi on how they negotiate the Uttar Pradesh tangle. If the Uttar Pradesh CM manages to stay on till the 2022 Assembly polls and prevents a bifurcation/trifurcation move, he would emerge as a power centre in the BJP where the scope for more than the big two has remained non-existent.

QUICK CROSSWORD

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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Battle royal, 9 Abreast, 10 Torso, 11 Then, 12 Relevant, 14 Abroad, 16 Handel, 18 Appalled, 19 Gait, 22 Thigh, 23 Measure, 24 War of nerves.
Down: 2 Agree, 3 Tsar, 4 Either, 5 On the map, 6 Air raid, 7 Martial arts, 8 Hostilities, 13 Ballyhoo, 15 Replica, 17 Vermin, 20 Azure, 21 Fair.

SU DO KU

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V. EASY

CALENDAR

JUNE 15, 2021, TUESDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat2078

■ Shaka Samvat1943

■ Jyeshtha Shaka25

■ Aashadh Parvishte1

■ Hijari1442

■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 5, up to 10.57 pm

■ Vyagatha Yoga up to 9.00 am

■ Aashle Nakshatra up to 9.42 pm

■ Moon enters Leo sign 9.42 pm

■ Aashadh Sankranti

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

472189365

968325471

153764982

517496238

289537614

634218759

326841597

895672143

741953826

FORECAST

SUNSET: TUESDAY 19:25 HRS

SUNRISE: WEDNESDAY 05:21 HRS

Sunny

Partly Cloudy

Cloudy

Rainy

Foggy

CITY

MAX

MIN

Chandigarh

34

25

New Delhi

36

26

Amritsar

35

26

Bathinda

30

24

Jalandhar

33

26

Ludhiana

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Bhiwani

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23

Hisar

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Sirsa

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24

Dharamsala

29

19

Manali

28

16

Shimla

26

15

Srinagar

29

15

Jammu

35

24

Kargil

16

09

Leh

13

06

Dehradun

31

20

Mussoorie

27

13

TEMPERATURE IN °C

epaper.tribuneindia.com

2,787 e-passes issued but 5,000 vehicles enter state

Either cops on entry points liberal or tourists using other routes

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JUNE 14
The number of vehicles entering the state from various borders is higher than the e-pass issued for the purpose.

As many as 7,201 persons entered Himachal yesterday on 2,787 e-passes but the Shimla police claimed that 5,000 vehicles arrived in Shimla. If this is the case, then either the police, manning the entry points, are being liberal in allowing vehicles without an e-pass or some other routes are being used by tourists.

As per data available with the IT Department, 31,961 persons have entered Himachal since June 11. As many as 5,711 tourists on 2,338 e-passes reached borders till 5 pm today. A total of 1.79 lakh people have visited since May 15 on 88,242 e-passes.

To provide respite to the tourism sector, the government announced opening of the borders of the state and the condition for tourists to carry the RTPCR report has been lifted. Hoteliers and other stakeholders had demanded that the RTPCR report should not be mandatory as this was discouraging tourist arrivals.



Vehicles move slowly due to congestion in Shimla. AMIT KANWAR

TOURIST ARRIVALS

Date	Persons entered HP	e-passes issued
June 11	9,586	3,991
June 12	9,278	3,852
June 13	7,201	2,787
June 14	5,711	2,338

The Cabinet, at its last meeting, had given the approval for several relaxations, including resumption of public transport and doing away with the RTPCR report for anyone entering the state.

Long queues of tourist

vehicles at various inter-state borders like Parwanoo, Una and Kangra are giving nightmares to the locals, who fear that such unhindered entry could pose a risk to their safety. Many people have echoed their concerns on

the social media by remarking “welcome corona” and that the safety of the locals cannot be compromised for hoteliers’ benefit.

Responding to a query about the huge influx of tourists, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said today that the entry of people would be monitored through registration in the Covid e-pass software.

The persons desirous of entering the state were now required to enter their particulars in the software and the details were being shared with the stakeholders.

However, the government will have to put in place some foolproof mechanism to ensure that there is proper record and people enter only after obtaining an e-pass, which is still mandatory.

Popular tourist destinations like Kufri, Mashobra, Chail, Kasauli, Dalhousie, Kullu-Manali and Dharamsala-McLeodganj are witnessing a heavy rush of vehicles.

HP had witnessed the worst-ever spike in Covid cases in April-May. The experience still haunts people with many families losing more than one member.

LALIT MOHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, JUNE 14
The Forest Department today handed over the possession of 82 hectares of forestland at Dehra in Kangra district to the Registrar of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh (CUHP).

RK Dogra, Divisional Forest Officer, Dehra division, in an order stated that the Director of Higher Education Department had deposited the required fee of Rs 1 lakh, hence the possession of 82 hectares at Dehra was handed over to the Registrar of the CUHP for the construction of a campus.

It is for the first time that land has been provided to the CUHP since its inception in 2010. Now, the university authorities can on its own start the construction of the south campus at Dehra. The future of the north campus to be set up in Dharamsala is still uncertain, as the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has not yet approved the proposed land.

Sources said that the land at Dehra was transferred to the CUHP due to the tireless efforts of Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur. Dehra comes under the Hamirpur parliamentary constituency represented by Anurag. It is one of the most backward areas of Kangra

Land for D’sala campus not yet cleared, Cong alleges bias against Kangra LS seat



The temporary campus of the CUHP at Dehra in Kangra district.

district and Anurag had been trying to bring the CUHP campus to Dehra since 2010 when the university was established. However, it has stirred up a political controversy, as Congress leaders termed it as discrimination against the Kangra parliamentary constituency.

Sudhir Sharma, AICC secretary, said that while the land at Dehra, which is in the Hamirpur Lok Sabha constituency, had been transferred in the name of the CUHP, the land at Dharamsala was still awaiting clearance. This shows that the government was biased against the Kangra parliamentary constituency. The Congress would start an agitation over the shifting of

the CUHP campus from Dharamsala to Dehra.

“As per the original proposal, the main campus of the CUHP was to be set up at Dharamsala. However, now we are being told that it will be set up at Dehra. I suspect that the whole CUHP campus has been shifted to Dehra,” he said.

Another Congress leader GS Bali said if the whole campus was to be located at Dehra, why the prestigious project was delayed for 10 years. It was the BJP government that had proposed two campuses of the university at Dharamsala and Dehra. However, due to infighting in the BJP over the location of the main campus, the project was delayed, he alleged.

Manali-Keylong Volvo run a success

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JUNE 14
In a boost to tourism in Lahaul and Spiti, the Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) conducted a successful trial of a Volvo bus from Manali to Keylong today.

“It’s a big day for the people of Lahaul and Spiti as well as the HRTC. We took a Volvo bus for the first time from Manali to Keylong,” said HRTC MD Sandeep Kumar. The HRTC is now mulling to start a Volvo from Keylong to Delhi. “Once the corona restrictions ease and the inter-state bus service is allowed, we will start a direct Volvo between Keylong and Delhi,” said Sandeep Kumar.

Sandeep Kumar believes the Delhi-Keylong Volvo service will offer a major thrust to tourism in the valley. In another first, the HRTC also plied two electric buses from

HRTC also plies two electric buses via Atal Tunnel

Manali to Keylong.

“These two buses will ply between Keylong to Manali via Atal Tunnel. One will go in morning and return in afternoon, the other will go in evening and return the next morning,” he said.

“The availability of a Volvo and two electric buses will facilitate the travel of both locals and tourists. It’s going to boost tourism in a big way in the valley,” said Sandeep Kumar.

Besides, the HRTC will shortly conduct a trial run of a Tempo Traveller from Manali to Chandertal. “This service, too, will play a major role in promoting tourism. We intend to conduct the trial run within a week,” he said.

AMBIKA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, JUNE 14

At a time when the shortage of doctors is plaguing the health department at the time of Covid pandemic, nearly one-third posts of ayurveda doctors are lying vacant for the last several years in Himachal Pradesh.

With as many as 49 serving doctors superannuating this year, the situation would further worsen. The vacancies of ayurveda doctors had risen to about 422 as against the sanctioned strength of 1,148. However, overall vacancies in the department were as high as 935 in different categories as per a Vidhan Sabha reply furnished by the government in March this year.

The last batch of 100 doctors was recruited in July 2019 on direct basis while in July 2018 as many as 100 doctors had been recruited batch wise, informed sources in the department. With the state’s ayurveda minister himself being a



ENGAGED IN HEALTH MISSION

“A handful of ayurveda graduates are engaged in the NHM where they are expected to screen children as per allopathic system. Rajiv Kumar, DOCTOR

BAMS doctor, unemployed doctors were disappointed over the lack of employment avenues.

Appalled by the lack of recruitment avenues, Rajiv Kumar, an unemployed doctor, said, “Sixteen years after completing Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) doctors are still awaiting appointment. With minuscule appointments having been made a few years ago, pass-outs of successive batches have been left in the lurch.”

“A handful of ayurveda graduates have been engaged in the National Health Mission where they are expected to screen children as per allopathic system,” said another jobless ayurveda graduate.

“Students often avail loans to study BAMS and they have meager resources to set up private clinics equipped with all modern facilities. Even the few who join private hospitals have to practice allopathic medicine, thus

leaving little scope for practising the rich ayurveda system. The existing scenario will push this much-valued ancient system into the backburner,” said another unemployed youth Rakesh Kumar.

Ayurveda doctors have been engaged in various Covid duties like sampling, monitoring mobile teams, vaccination, etc, in Covid hospitals and centres. “Availability of ayurveda doctors can help strengthen the vaccination coverage as paucity of staff was often hampering speedier vaccination,” said an allopathic medical officer with the possibility of a third wave looming large.

Director Ayurveda Dr DK Rattan said, “A proposal to recruit ayurveda doctors was under the consideration of the state government in the view of the Covid pandemic and relevant information pertaining to consolidated vacancies was sent to the government recently.”

HRTC resumes service on 1,226 routes after 1 month

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JUNE 14
The Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) resumed operations on 1,226 routes, around 30 per cent of the total routes it operates on in the state, today, after over a month. Public transport was suspended last month, when the government imposed a curfew to check the spread of Covid-19.

Of the total routes resumed, 1007 were local routes and 219 were long intra-district routes, said Regional Manager DS Negi.

The bus services have been resumed with 50 per cent occupancy. The driver, conductors and passengers have been asked to adhere to the Covid protocol. The resumption of bus services has brought a huge relief to a vast section of the society that does not own private vehicles.

“I was stuck at home, ever since the buses were suspended. I work in a courier



Passengers throng the ISBT in Shimla on Monday.

company in Shimla, but had no means of reaching the city, in the absence of bus services. With the resumption of bus services, I could resume my job,” said Krishan Kumar from Jubbarhatti.

Meanwhile, some private operators also plied their buses, despite the state Private Bus Operators’ Union’s decision to contin-

ue their strike and keep their fleet off the road.

“We have to pay salaries to our drivers and conductors,” said Vivek Sharma, a private bus operator from Shimla. “Everyone is suffering at the moment. We agree to the demands of our union, but this is not the time for an indefinite strike,” he said.

Met office forecasts wet spell till June 20

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JUNE 14

The local Met office has issued a yellow warning of thunderstorm and lightning in low and middle hills in districts of Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Solan and Sirmaur for the next three days and predicted wet spell in the region till June 20.

Light to moderate rain lashed parts of Himachal. Dharamsala was the wettest with 59 mm of

rain, followed by Kangra (24 mm), Dalhousie (15 mm), Tander (14 mm), Manali (12 mm), Karsog (11 mm), Shahpur (7.5 mm), Chamba (6 mm), Mandi (4 mm) and Kalpa (3 mm) and Nahan (2 mm), while Shimla also received intermittent rain.

The maximum temperature was 3-4°C below normal, and Una was the hottest in day with a high of 35.4°C. Keylong in tribal Lahaul and Spiti was the coldest at night, recording a low of 9.6°C.



Commuters enjoy a walk on The Ridge in Shimla on Monday.

326 new cases, 7 deaths in state

SHIMLA, JUNE 14

As many as 326 Covid cases were reported in the state today, taking the tally to 198,876. Besides, 7 persons died of the virus—three in Mandi and two each in Kangra and Shimla. — TNS

COVID METER			
Samples tested	21,78,258		
Recovered	191,041		
Active	4,732		
Positive	198,876		
Deaths	3,382		
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT			
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS	
Bilaspur	12,451	76	
Chamba	10,747	136	
Hamirpur	14,130	243	
Kangra	45,292	1,006	
Kinnaur	3,168	37	
Kullu	8,676	154	
Lahaul & Spiti	2,676	17	
Mandi	26,684	378	
Shimla	24,731	590	
Sirmaur	15,155	204	
Solan	22,061	306	
Una	13,105	235	
Total	198,876	3,382	

599 fresh Covid cases, nine deaths in J&K

SRINAGAR/LEH, JUNE 14
J&K on Monday recorded 599 fresh cases, taking the infection tally to 3,08,011, while nine more deaths pushed the toll to 4,195, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 161 were from the Jammu division and 438 from the Kashmir division.

Srinagar district recorded the highest of 161 cases, followed by 62 in Kupwara district. The active cases have dropped to 13,532 in the Union Territory, while 2,90,284 patients have recovered from the infection so far. The death toll due to the disease rose to 4,195 as nine patients died in the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, officials said there were 20 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory as one fresh case has surfaced.

Ladakh recorded more recoveries than new cases as 105 people got discharged from hospitals after battling Covid, while only 17 new cases were added.

As per the media bulletin released by the Directorate of Health Services, Ladakh,



A medic administers a Covid vaccine dose in Srinagar on Monday. PTI

LADAKH RECOVERIES OUTPACE NEW CASES

Ladakh has recorded more recoveries than new cases as 105 people were discharged while only 17 new cases surfaced

The active cases have come down to 658. A total of 197 people have died due to Covid in the UT so far, including 143 in Leh

a total of 17 new positive sample reports have been received. Out of the total positive reports, 16 were reported in Leh and one in Kargil, officials said.

A total of 2,651 sample reports in the Union Territory, including 1,972 in Leh and 679 in Kargil, were found negative. Officials said the latest update took the Union Territory's overall tally to 19,561, including

16,161 in Leh and 3,400 in Kargil.

With this, the active cases have come down to 658. A total of 197 people have died due to Covid in the Union Territory so far, including 143 in Leh. As many as 105 patients were also discharged during the period after successful treatment, taking the number of recoveries to 18,706 or over 94 per cent of the total cases. — PTI

Northern Command delivers medical help

JAMMU, JUNE 14
The Army's Northern Command on Monday handed over a large number of Covid-related material, including oxygen concentrators, PPE kits, face masks and steam inhalers to Udhampur district administration, a defence spokesman said. This was the second time in the past three weeks that the Udhampur-based Northern Command provided such a large quantity of essential medical supplies in the district. The items were

handed over to Udhampur District Commissioner Indu Kanwal Chiebi by the Station Commander, Udhampur Military Station, on behalf of Northern Command as part of proactive assistance to the civil administration.

"The Northern Command has taken concrete steps towards establishing special Covid care centres, sensitising the public on precautions, provisioning dedicated Covid care to ex-servicemen, etc." the spokesman said. — PTI

Militants fire at security forces

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14
Militants opened fire at a security forces' patrol party in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday. No casualty was reported in the incident, the police said.

"Terrorists fired upon a patrolling party of security forces at Khushipora-Achal in Anantnag district," a police official said.

Two days ago, terrorists had opened fire at security men in Sopore, killing two policemen and two civilians. The attack had left three others injured. — PTI

Tamdeh preparations



People purchase pitchers ahead of Tamdeh, a traditional Dogri festival, in Jammu. PTI

Chirag...

FROM PAGE 1
candidates only against the JD(U) during the 2020 Assembly polls, which cost the party 30 seats.

Addressing the media, Paras lauded Nitish Kumar as "vikas purush". He claimed that most LJP workers were unhappy with the turn of events in Bihar during the Assembly elections. He also said the LJP would continue to be part of the BJP-led NDA and that "Chirag can remain a part of the party."

Paras, who has the backing of Chirag's cousin Prince Raj (Samastipur), Mehboob Ali Kaiser (Khagaria), Veena Devi (Vaishali) and Chandan Singh (Nawada), said "wrong decisions" had led to the LJP being marginalised in Bihar.

Restore UT's statehood: NC

JAMMU, JUNE 14
National Conference leader Devender Singh Rana has sought immediate restoration of statehood to J&K and safeguarding of the permanent residents' rights in land and jobs. "The promise held out in parliament about restoration of statehood should be fulfilled forthwith," Rana, the provincial president of the NC, said during an interaction with party functionaries of Rajouri district through virtual mode.

Calling for further reinvigoration of the NC at the grass-roots level, Rana said the blend of experienced senior colleagues and enthusiastic youngsters would lead J&K

FIRE-AFFECTED FAMILIES GIVEN RELIEF

The National Conference on Monday distributed essential items as relief to the fire-affected families in Baramulla district. The party called upon the administration to assess the loss and provide satisfactory compensation at the earliest.

to surmount all its challenges on all fronts.

"Though the pandemic times have imposed certain limitations in the wake of mandatory social distancing, yet the cadre should intensify the campaign to reach out to the people and gear up for meeting the challenges," the NC leader said.

Rana exhorted the cadre to brace themselves for a big role in the near future, as the "people have greater expectations from

the party, which has a track record of public service and balanced development of all regions besides welfare of all, irrespective of caste, creed, region or religion."

Referring to the political situation, Rana said the challenges were manifold and the National Conference sought a better life for the people by carving out a major role for them in the decision-making process, which is the essence of democracy. — PTI

Bear mauls man to death

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14
Barely a fortnight after a five-year-old girl was killed by a leopard, a man was mauled to death by a bear in the forests of Budgam district on Monday.

Sources said the man was grazing his cattle in Ladermad forest when he was attacked by the animal. The victim has been identified as Mohammad Ramzan of Surasay village in Chadoora tehsil of Budgam district.

Incidents of man-animal conflict have increased in Kashmir during the last decade. This is attributed to mindless encroachment of natural habitats of wild animals because of competition for food and space. — IANS

Ultra found dead in lake

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14
A local militant, hailing from Shopian district, was found dead in Anchar lake here on Sunday evening, officials said. Locals spotted the body in Anchar lake, an area falling under the jurisdiction of Soura police station.

An identity card was found on the body which revealed his identity as Amir Ahmad Malik, a resident of Zainapora in Shopian. The deceased went missing in October 2020 and he joined the terror outfit, Resistance Front, a shadow outfit of Lashkar-e-Taiba.

According to officials, the circumstances of the militant's death are being ascertained. — PTI

FROM PAGE 1

Talk of splitting UP amid BJP image makeover bid

(21), Awadh Pradesh (21) and Paschim Pradesh (26).

Though Adityanath had on an earlier occasion rejected any such plan to divide the state, maintaining his government believed in "uniting, not dividing", the buzz is a message on similar lines was conveyed to him by the BJP leadership during his recent two-day visit to Delhi.

While Mayawati's proposal was then dismissed by most parties, including the BJP, as a "political gimmick", the saffron party is now learnt to be in favour of smaller states as these were "easier to govern". Incidentally, the late Ajit Singh of the Rashtriya Lok Dal was also in favour of carving out 'Harit Pradesh' in western UP, the current hub of farm politics.

Whether such an exercise was possible, or plausible, remains to be seen, the

speculation has also stemmed from reports of alleged differences between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Adityanath over various issues. The decision to divide UP is being seen as a way to "limit" Adityanath to Purvanchal, his key support region.

Apparently, the central leadership is upset over the manner the CM has been managing the BJP's affairs in the state and the way he has been doing his public outreach "without giving due prominence to the PM".

Much was read into the PM not wishing Adityanath publicly on his birthday a couple of days ago, the colour of 'kurta' (green) that Home Minister Amit Shah wore when the CM called on him in Delhi and a relatively under-toned or muted response by senior leaders to his Delhi visit.

Adani shares crash after...

four Adani Group firms. The reports triggered a selloff in shares of six Adani companies before the group came out with the denial.

The report claiming freezing of accounts emerged days after a sharp rally in his group stocks made Gautam Adani the second-richest person in Asia. Several analysts had then flagged the quick rise in share prices held mostly by overseas funds with very little public float.

Adani Total Gas shares have jumped three times this year, Adani Enterprises has risen 213 per cent, Adani Transmission nearly 250 per cent and Adani Power 183 per cent. Last week, the BSE had sought a clarification from Adani Power after its shares rose 20 per cent in two consecutive sessions. The company responded by terming the rise as "market driven".

Novavax shot 90% effective...

overall in late stage clinical trials and 91 per cent efficacy in high-risk populations. The development augurs well for India, which will procure 20 crore doses of Covovax (SII to produce and market Novavax vaccine by this name), a recombinant nanoparticle protein-based jab.

The SII is already producing the Covishield vaccine developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca.

The Government of India has already factored in 20 crore Covovax doses in the larger pool of 2 billion it expects to make available for the national inoculation drive between August and December.

The Covovax stock would be key to the overall Indian vaccine plan as the government gears to inoculate the entire 95 crore adult population requiring 1.9 billion doses.

The Novavax study enrolled 29,960 participants across 119 sites in the US and Mexico to evaluate the efficacy, safety



A STEP CLOSER

Today, Novavax is one step closer to addressing the critical and persistent global public health need for additional Covid-19 vaccines, Stanley C Erck, NOVAVAX CHIEF

and immunogenicity. It laid an emphasis on recruiting a representative population of communities and demographic groups most impacted by the disease.

"Today, Novavax is one step closer to addressing the critical and persistent global public health need for additional Covid-19 vaccines," said Novavax president Stanley C. Erck. The company intends to file for regulatory authorisations in the

guidelines or face action. "We welcome the tourists, but want them to abide by the norms. The violators will be fined Rs 500 at the first instance. Repeat offenders will be sentenced to eight days in prison or imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 or both," the advisory cautioned. Mohit Chawla, SP, Shimla, said, "We have deployed 10 reserves in the district (seven for enforcing curbs and three for internal mobilisation). Besides, 200 personnel are on traffic duty in addition to patrolling teams, which will guide the tourists."

8K vehicles in Shimla...

Shimla Hotel and Restaurant Association. MK Seth, president, Tourism Industry Stakeholders Association, said, "We have appealed to the hotel owners to strictly abide by the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and avoid overcrowding on their premises."

The tourism industry, which suffered heavy losses in the peak season last year and this year as well, is hoping for a revival with the easing of curbs. The state police today issued an advisory asking the tourists to wear masks, maintain social distance and follow Covid

Formula for CBSE Class XII results likely this week

on the issue is likely this week.

Viva voice may also play a role in calculating results of the examinations that have been cancelled due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic in the country.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) appears to be also considering giving grades to students, instead of marks. Sources say the panel consulted principals of several schools to devise a fair criterion for alternative assessment. — TNS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYUSH
Financial Assistance for Skill Development in Ayush Sector
CORRIGENDUM
Please refer to our avertissement carried in The Tribune dt 11.6.21 on page No. 8. In the second line of Sr. No. 2, the amount for midterm course may please be read correctly as 3.00 lakh instead of 13.00 lakh published wrongly. Rest remains the same.
davp 17201/11/0011/1212

HIMACHAL PRADESH
JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Offline bids on item rate basis are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Fatehpur Himachal Pradesh on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh two covers for the under mentioned work from the Eligible Contractors/Firms enlisted with H.P. IPH Department:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time	Cost of Form (In Rs.)
1.	Imp. of LWSS Fatehpur (DC Deposit in Tehsil Fatehpur District Kangra (HP) (SH: Supply and Erection of Submersible Pumping Machinery)	2,12,500.00	4,250.00	2 Months	250/-
2.	R/M of T/Well Panjassara in Tehsil Fatehpur District Kangra HP SH: Supply & Installation of submersible pumping machinery 1 set of 30 HP (Under CRF)	3,00,000.00	6000.00	3 Months	250/-
3.	Providing functional household tap (FHTC) in Village Minia Bhatoli (Rehan Road) etc. through proposed aug. of LWSS Rehan and Dehri (in Village Rehan Khas and surrounding Villages) in Tehsil Fatehpur District Kangra under Jal Javeen Mission.	4,82,769.00	9655.00	3 Months	250/-
4.	Providing functional household tap (FHTC) in Village Minia Bhatoli (Rehan Road) etc. through proposed aug. of LWSS Rehan and Dehri (in Village Rehan and surrounding villages) in Tehsil Fatehpur District Kangra Under 'JMM'.	4,82,769.00	9,655.00	3 Months	250/-
5.	Providing functional house hold tap (FHTC) connection in Retrofitting to left out NC/PC Hab. of CV Gurial Bari, Larth Dalwara, Manot etc. in Fatehpur constituency District Kangra HP under JMM (SH: Providing and installation of FHTC (Functional Household Tap Connection to Village Pangoli etc. Habitations under Fatehpur constituency area.	4,33,075.00	8,662.00	15 Days	250/-
6.	Retrofitting to left out NC/PC Hab. of CV Gurial Bari, Larh, Dalwara, Manot etc. in Tehsil Fatehpur District Kangra HP under JMM SH: Providing and installation of FHTC (Functional Household Tap Connection) to Villages Jagnoli under Jagnoli Panchayat.	4,33,075.00	8,662.00	15 Days	250/-
7.	Providing functional household tap (FHTC) connection in villages Jagnoli and Chatta in Tehsil Fatehpur District Kangra SH: Providing and installation of FHTC (Functional Household Tap Connection) to Villages Jagnoli under Jagnoli Panchayat.	3,20,520.00	6,410.00	15 Days	250/-
8.	Providing functional house hold Tap (FHTC) connection in villages Bhind, Polyan, Khaiyar etc. through Existing LWSS Khaiyar in Tehsil Fatehpur District Kangra HP under JMM SH: Providing and installation of FHTC (Functional Household Tap Connection) to Village Khaiyar under Khaiyar Panchayat.	3,18,320.00	6,366.00	15 Days	250/-
9.	Providing functional house hold Tap (FHTC) connection in villages Bhind, Polyan, Khaiyar etc. through Existing LWSS Khaiyar in Tehsil Fatehpur District Kangra HP under JMM SH: Providing and installation of FHTC (Functional Household Tap Connection) to Village Mangarh under Polyan Panchayat.	3,19,200.00	6,384.00	15 Days	250/-
10.	C/o 12 No. T/Wells in Fatehpur area in Tehsil Fatehpur District Kangra HP SH: Providing Laying Joining and Testing of MSERV pipe 200 mm dia in Rising main of T/Well Manoh Sihal (from RD 730 Mtr to RD 888 Mtr).	4,98,173.00	9,963.00	15 Days	250/-

Last date of filing the tender is 18.06.2021 up to 11:00 a.m. The tender forms and other detailed terms and conditions can be obtained from the website www.hpip.org

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Fatehpur,
District Kangra (HP) 176053.

DPR/HP/1532 "Him Suchna Avam Jan Sampark"

HIMACHAL PRADESH
JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Sunder Nagar on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the undermentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with any department or govt. undertaking.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Cost of tender form	Time
1.	Providing LWSS to PC Habitation in GP Kanaid, Bhour, Dugrain, Chhater and upper Behli in Tehsil Sunder Nagar, Distt. Mandi H.P. (SH:- Laying, jointing and testing of Rising main 80,100mm dia and supplying and erection of pumping machinery with its allied accessories) JMM phase -7th & 11th	14,35,153/-	28710/-	400/-	Three Months

Schedule of tendering:-

1	Bid submission start date	11.06.2021	11.00 a.m.
2	Bid submission end date and time	18.06.2021	Up to 11.00 a.m.
3	Opening of Cover 1	19.06.2021	11.30 a.m.
4	Opening of Financial bid	Date and place to be notified separately	

Terms and Conditions:-

i. The e-tender documents shall be uploaded in two covers:-
ii. Cover-1 shall contain scanned copies of "Eligibility information".
iii. Cover-2 shall contain Financial Bid on prescribed form.

2. Cover-1 shall contain scanned copies of following "Eligibility information" (scanned copies to be uploaded in pdf file).
i. All payment regarding purchase of bid document and deposit of earnest money shall be through online mode (e-payment) only. The contractor/firm are advised to open bank accounts with core banking solution branches (with NEFT/RTGS facility).
ii. Certificate of contractor registration with any department or undertaking as his or her class of enlistment with the condition that he is to get himself registered with HP Jal Shakti Vibhag before award of work.
iii. PAN No., GST registration.
iv. Scanned copy of undertaking that I have carefully studied all the terms and conditions stipulated in the contract document before quoting the rates in the BoQ chart and also visited the site of work before quoting the rates.
v. Authorization letter regarding digital signature certificate (DSC) of the person authorized by the registered tenderer.
vi. In case of pumping machinery scanned copy of curve chart.

3. Cover-2 shall contain "Financial bid" and will be opened only of those contractor/firm whose documents in cover-1 are found in order.

4. The contractor will have to submit the proof of registration EPF under Employees Provident & Miscellaneous Provision Act., 1952 within one month after acceptance of tender by competent authority and before award of work. Failure to observe this condition shall render the tender of the contractor liable to summary rejection.

5. The clarification, if any, will be taken from the successful contractor only in respect of error and omission, technical aspects and in no case on financial bid.

6. Earnest money of L1, L2 and L3 shall be retained for a period of 120 days.

7. If opening day is a holiday, the tenders shall be opened on next working day at the same time.

8. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.

9. The tenders of the contractors/firms who fail to fulfill the eligibility criteria will be summarily rejected.

10. Instructions for e-tendering:-
i) The contractor should register himself on website <https://tenders.gov.in> and obtain user ID, password, before bidding.
ii) Entire tender process will be carried out online through above mentioned website. Contractors/firms are advised to procure e-Token/Digital signing certificate from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency.
iii) Before submission of online Bids, Bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all necessary documents have been uploaded with the bid.

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Sunder Nagar.

NO. EE IPH SNR ES Tender/2021 2689-2740 Dated 11.06.2021 DPR/HP/1526

Farmers eye poll-bound states...

indifferent to our protest, it is not so. We are firming up our plans for the poll-bound states and will fan out in every village and colony. The government will not be able to ignore our presence. The 200 days of protest has already proved to show that the farmers are going nowhere," says Haryana BKU leader Gurnam Singh Charuni.

While the protests against BJP leaders will continue in Haryana and laying of foundation stones will not be allowed, the farmers are focusing on the June 26 programme to submit a memo-

randum to Governors against the laws. The programme is being organised to mark seven months of the protest and also the day Emergency was declared in India in 1975.

"We are in a state of undeclared emergency under the present government at the Centre. Our protests will grow in the coming days," Samyukt Kisan Morcha leader Darshan Pal explains, adding that the protest strategy of Punjab and Haryana will be replicated in UP and Uttarakhand to "expose" the BJP.

Though the numbers at Tikri

and Singhu have dropped as compared to the initial months, the farmers maintain that they have no more reason to use these protest sites as a show of strength.

"Farmers of every village from Punjab and Haryana visit the protest site on a rotation basis. We have shown our strength to the government. Everyone will come back to the protest sites when the programme to campaign against the BJP in election-bound states is finalised," says BKU (Rajewal) leader Pargat Singh.

epaper.tribuneindia.com



GLOBE TROT



DOG SHOW: Attison, a Komondor dog, competes in the Working Group judging at the 145th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York on Sunday. REUTERS

Pak SC stops demolition of Hindu dharamshala

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Supreme Court has ordered the Karachi administration to stop the demolition of a Hindu dharamshala and leasing out the heritage property here. Dr Ramesh Kumar, a co-opted member of a commission on minorities, stated the Evacuee Trust Property Board leased out the property to a private person, who was demolishing the dharamshala to construct a commercial plaza. **PTI**

10-yr-old US boy drowns after saving sister

HUDSON: A 10-year-old boy who died in the Big Sioux River saved one of his younger siblings who had fallen into the water. The body of Ricky Lee Sneve was recovered on Saturday, Lincoln County sheriff's officials said. Ricky jumped in to save his sister and got her to shore, but when his father and siblings turned around, Ricky was missing. **AP**

NZ to apologise for raids on Pacific community

WELLINGTON: New Zealand is to apologise to the Pacific community which felt "targeted and terrorised" during police raids searching for overstayers in the 1970s, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Monday. The so-called "Dawn Raids" were carried out between 1974 and 1976. **REUTERS**

NATO gets tough, designates China as 'systemic' challenge

Beijing opposes mention of Hong Kong | Says West shouldn't meddle in its affairs

BRUSSELS, JUNE 14

NATO leaders designated China as presenting "systemic challenges" in a summit communique on Monday that marked a forceful stance for the Western military alliance, declared a priority for US President Joe Biden after the Trump years.

In a diplomatic victory for Biden, who has urged his fellow NATO leaders to stand up to China's authoritarianism and growing military might, the final statement branded China a security risk to the Western alliance.

The language, which will now set the path for alliance policy, comes a day after the Group of Seven rich nations issued a statement on human rights in China and Taiwan that Beijing said slandered its reputation.

"China's stated ambitions and assertive behaviour present systemic challenges to the rules-based international order and to areas relevant to alliance security," NATO leaders said in a commu-



US President Joe Biden and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at a NATO summit in Brussels on Monday. REUTERS

NATO IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT

"I want entire Europe to know that the United States is there. NATO is critically important to us. Both Russia and China are not acting in a way that is consistent with what we had hoped. **Joe Biden, US PRESIDENT**

DON'T WANT ANOTHER COLD WAR: JOHNSON

■ British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Monday the NATO alliance did not want a new Cold War with China

■ "When it comes to China, I don't think anybody around the table wants to descend into a new Cold War with China," he said on arrival at the NATO summit in Brussels

■ "But I think people see challenges, they see things that we have to manage together, but they also see opportunities," Johnson added.



nique after their summit.

Biden also told European allies the alliance's mutual defence pact was a "sacred obligation" for the United States — a marked shift in tone from his predecessor Donald Trump, who had

threatened to withdraw from the alliance and accused Europeans of contributing too little.

"I want all Europe to know that the United States is there," said Biden. "NATO is critically important to us."

China's embassy in London said it was opposed to mentions of Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Taiwan, which it said distorted the facts and exposed the "sinister intentions of a few countries such as the United States". — Agencies

Global caseload tops 175.8mn

WASHINGTON, JUNE 14

The overall global Covid caseload has topped 175.8 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 3.79 million, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

In its latest update on Monday morning, the University's Centre for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload and death toll stood at 175,884,287 and 3,799,649, respectively.

TRACKING VIRUS	
NATION	DEATHS
US	615,053
BRAZIL	487,476
INDIA	374,305
MEXICO	230,148
UK	127,904
WORLDOMETER TUE, JUNE 14, 11 PM	

The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of

cases and deaths at 33,461,575 and 599,768, respectively, according to the CSSE.

In terms of infections, India follows in the second place with 29,439,989 cases.

In terms of deaths, Brazil comes second with 487,401 fatalities.

Meanwhile, Britain reported another 7,490 Covid cases in the past 24 hours, bringing the tally to 4,565,813, according to official figures released on Sunday. — IANS

Murthy's kin drawn into tax dispute

LONDON, JUNE 14

Cloudtail India Private Limited, the online retailing joint venture of Infosys co-founder NR Narayana Murthy's firm and Amazon.com, faced a 5.5 million pounds demand, including interest and penalties, from tax authorities after it paid "meagre" taxes over the past four years, a media report said on Monday.

Amazon reportedly developed independent sellers such as Cloudtail, as "special mer-



Rishi Sunak

chant" which enjoyed more than 35 per cent of total sales on the platform until 2019.

It said it is not known what the tax dispute is about and the company said it was con-

testing the bill, adding that since the "matter is sub judice, we are unable to comment".

Following the report, the office of UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak, who is son-in-law of Murthy, was forced to comment. "Reaching an international agreement on how large digital companies are taxed has been a priority for the chancellor since he took office," said a spokesperson for his UK Treasury office. — PTI

BUSINESS

USD \$	EURO €	POUND £	JPY ¥	YUAN ¥	CAD C\$	AUD A\$	SGD S\$	HKD HK\$
₹73.29	₹88.80	₹103.41	₹0.67	₹11.44	₹60.24	₹56.56	₹55.23	₹9.44

BSE

76.77
52,551.53

NSE

12.50
15,811.85

GOLD

₹48,760
Mumbai (MCX)

SILVER

₹71,900
Mumbai (MCX)

SCOPE webinar on myths and realities of Covid

Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) in collaboration with Famhealth recently held '3M (Mindfulness, Meditation & Medication) Covid Protocol: Today & Tomorrow (Myths and Realities)' with Dr HK Chopra, cardiologist, Medanta Moolchand Heart Institute, Delhi. Ms Soma Mondal, chairperson, SCOPE were among present.

PowerGrid lays stone of two primary health centres

As part of the CSR initiative, Kailash Rathore, executive director of PowerGrid, recently laid the foundation stone of Primary Health Centres at Mallanwala and Kassowanna in Ferozpur district. Kulbir Singh Zira, MLA, and Gurpal Singh Chahal, district magistrate, Ferozpur, were also present.

IDP Education, Air Canada in pact for discounted airfares

IDP Education has entered into a pact with Air Canada to help international students avail budgeted air travel. The tie-up would allow Canadian education aspirants applying via IDP to fly from any part of the world to Canada with a 15% discount on Air Canada flights.

Zodiac opens flagship store in Sangrur

Zodiac has opened a flagship store in Sangrur. It is home to three premium, menswear brands, each positioned to address a specific target consumer.

Ashok Leyland announces changes in top management

Ashok Leyland has announced senior-level organisational changes to strengthen the sustainability agenda through its environment, social and governance (ESG) initiatives. NV Balachander, currently president HR, communication and CSR, has been given additional charge as president-ESG. Amanpreet Singh has been appointed president & head of HR. He is currently vice-president, Group HR, Hinduja Group.

NFL nets record profit of ₹343.46 crore in 2020-21

NFL has achieved a profit before tax of Rs 343.46 crore during 2020-21. It registered a net profit of Rs 249.63 crore. During 2020-21, it sold 50.10 lakh MT of urea compared to 47.93 LMT recorded in previous year.

IMA Jalandhar organises zoom meeting on ECMO

A zoom meeting was organised by the Indian Medical Association, Jalandhar, on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) by Dr Vivek Gupta, head, Anaesthesia, DMC, Ludhiana. It was attended by over 70 doctors.

Allen announces blended coaching programme

Allen Career Institute has announced admission to various courses. Given the current Covid situation, a double advantage (online+offline) is provided to the students. They can begin their preparation from home and later study in the classroom or continue their studies online.

Vivo launches all-new smartphone Y73

Vivo has launched smartphone Y73. Priced at Rs 20,990 for 8GB+128GB storage (expandable up to 1TB), it offers 3GB extended RAM where users can run up to 20 apps at the same time without a hitch.

SoftTech Engineers Ltd announces AmpliNXT

SoftTech Engineers Ltd has launched hybrid corporate venture programme, AmpliNXT, to integrate the benefits of an incubator, accelerator, and a corporate venture. It offers tailored support, industry experts, entrepreneurs, and domain experts.

Amazon Fashion announces wardrobe refresh sale

Amazon Fashion has announced a wardrobe refresh sale starting from June 19 to 23. Prime members can make the most of this sale from June 18.

Southern Health Foods unveils iron-fortified women's drink

Southern Health Foods Pvt Ltd has launched Manna iStrong — an iron-fortified multigrain instant drink mix for women. It is made with eight grains, including three super grains and has 100% RDA of iron, vitamin C, vitamin B9 and B12 in every two serves.

New Holland announces 60 days warranty extension

New Holland has announced 60 days warranty extension on all its equipment whose warranty is expiring between May 1 and June 30.

Deendayal Upadhyaya university ranks 96th

Deendayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University has been ranked 96th in the country and first among UP State University by QS (Quacrelli Simmonds) World University Rankings.

Axis Mutual Fund rolls out 'Axis Quant Fund'

Axis Mutual Fund has launched 'Axis Quant Fund' following a fundamentally driven quantitative approach to investing. It aims to identify the strongest bottom-up stock opportunities to invest into while accounting for both risks and return prospects.

TaMo, Tata Power install EV charging stations in Chandigarh

Tata Motors and Tata Power have installed a high-speed CCS2 EV charging station at RSA Motors in Chandigarh. Now, the company operates the largest charging network of three chargers in Chandigarh and six in Punjab.

Navi General Insurance unveils EMI-based health insurance

Navi General Insurance has introduced an option for customers to buy health insurance via a monthly subscription (EMI) instead of paying the annual premium upfront. Health insurance policies can be purchased at EMIs starting as low as Rs 240 per month.

Sensex, Nifty maintain record run as RIL rallies

Global cues, dip in Covid cases add to momentum

MUMBAI, JUNE 14

The Sensex and Nifty erased initial losses to finish at fresh lifetime highs on Monday, buoyed by brisk buying in market heavyweight Reliance Industries. Positive global cues and a declining trend in new Covid cases added to the momentum, traders said.

Rising for the third straight session, the Sensex ended 76.77 points higher at its new closing peak of 52,551.53. Similarly, the NSE Nifty advanced 12.50 points to a record 15,811.85.

Reliance Industries topped the Sensex gainers' list with a jump of 1.46%, followed by Bajaj Finance, ONGC, Infosys, PowerGrid, L&T and IndusInd Bank.

On the other hand, Kotak Bank, HDFC, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Auto, NTPC, Maruti



THIRD STRAIGHT SESSION OF GAINS

■ Rising for the third straight session, the Sensex ended 76.77 points higher at its new closing peak of 52,551.53. The Nifty advanced 12.50 points to a record 15,811.85

■ Reliance Industries topped the Sensex gainers' list with a jump of 1.46%, followed by Bajaj Finance, ONGC, Infosys, PowerGrid, L&T and IndusInd Bank

and HDFC Bank were among the major laggards, shedding up to 1.51%.

Meanwhile, shares of Adani Group companies plunged

after reports said the NSDL has frozen the accounts of the three foreign funds that are among the top stakeholders in the firms. — PTI

I-T portal continues to face glitches

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

A week after the Income Tax Department's much-publicised new e-filing portal went live, users continued to face technical glitches ranging from longer than usual logging time, inability to respond to notices and not all features functioning yet, chartered accountants said on Monday. — PTI

Wholesale inflation zooms to 12.94%

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

The wholesale price-based inflation accelerated to a record 12.94% in May, on account of rising prices of crude oil, manufactured goods and a low base of last year.

This is the fifth straight month of uptick seen in the wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation.

"The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly WPI, was 12.94% for May, 2021 (over May, 2020) as compared to (-) 3.37% in May 2020.

RETAIL INFLATION AT SIX-MONTH HIGH OF 6.3%

■ Retail inflation rose to 6.3% in May, breaching the RBI's comfort level, on the back of costlier food items, government data showed on Monday

■ Inflation in the food basket was 5.01% in May, significantly up from 1.96% in April



manufactured products as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said. — PTI

BRIEFLY

RIDGELAND (USA)
Lahiri finishes 25th after shooting 4-under
Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri carded a 4-under 67 in the final round to finish a creditable tied-25th at the Palmetto Championship here. Lahiri gave himself a fast start with four birdies in the first five holes, but then cooled off for a 4-under. Lahiri ended with a total of 5-under 279. The 22-year-old South African Garrick Higgo won the title by one stroke.

KAUNAS (LITHUANIA)
Malvika wins RSL Lithuanian International crown
India's Malvika Bansod defeated Rachael Darragh of Ireland in straight games to clinch the women's singles crown at the RSL Lithuanian International badminton tournament here. The third-seeded Indian got the better of fourth seed Darragh 21-14 21-11.

HALLE (GERMANY)
Federer wins on return to grass in Halle
Roger Federer made a winning return to the grass courts with a hard-fought 7-6(4) 7-5 victory over qualifier Ilya Ivashka at the Halle Open today. The Swiss has not played a competitive match on grass since his Wimbledon final defeat by Novak Djokovic almost two years ago.

JAKARTA
Indonesian doubles star Kido dies of heart attack at 36
Indonesian badminton player Markis Kido, an Olympics doubles gold medalist, has died aged 36 from a heart attack. The doubles specialist won gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics partnering Hendra Setiawan, a year after the pair won the men's doubles title at the World Championship in Kuala Lumpur. He also won the World Cup title in 2006 and Asian Games gold four years later, also partnering Setiawan. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

WORLD CUP/ASIAN CUP QUALIFIER
INDIA VS AFGHANISTAN
STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP
HUNGARY VS PORTUGAL 9:30PM
FRANCE VS GERMANY 00:30AM
(WEDNESDAY)
SONY TEN, SONY SIX

Afghans stand in India's way

All eyes on Chhetri & Co. as Blue Tigers look to progress in Asian Cup qualifying

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 14
It all boils down to this game for India. Up against Afghanistan in the joint 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup qualifiers in Doha tomorrow, a bunch of things are at stake for India. Atop the list is securing a spot in the third round of qualifying for the AFC Asian Cup. This task has been rendered a bit easier after Oman defeated the Afghans 2-1 on Friday. Now, just a draw from their final game of the second round would see India through. A defeat must be avoided at all costs if India are to finish third in their group, a requisite for a Round 3 berth. It would also be an improvement over the fifth place finish in Round 2 during the 2019 Asian Cup qualifying.

Next in the line is a personal goal. Sunil Chhetri, the heart of the 2-0 win against Bangladesh, must be rubbing his hands together at the prospect of entering the all-time top-10 goalscorers' list. He's just one goal short of the feat.

With his double strike against Bangladesh, the India captain eclipsed Argentina's Lionel Messi as international football's second-highest scorer among active players. With



India coach Igor Stimac talks with the players during a training session ahead of the game. AIF

a hat-trick, Chhetri will equal Brazilian legend Pele's tally. At 36, a veteran "but going on like 25" as coach Igor Stimac had put it, the evergreen Chhetri will certainly look to feed his tally of 74 goals.

Stubborn Afghans

Form and past record both swing India's way and anything less than a win will be considered a let-down after their dominating show against neighbours

GROUP E STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	Pt
QATAR	8	7	1	0	22
OMAN	7	5	0	2	15
INDIA	7	1	3	3	6
AFG	7	1	2	4	5
BAN	7	0	2	5	2

*Read under Team, Played, Won, Drawn, Lost, Points

Bangladesh. However, the Afghans are no pushovers — they can be stubborn at the back and fast on the break. Though 45 rungs below India in the FIFA

rankings, Afghanistan could prove to be quite a handful as they showed in their last pool meeting in 2019. India had survived a scare after scoring an injury-time equaliser in a 1-1 draw. World No. 105 India will be keen to set the record straight against their No. 149-ranked opponents.

India will need other faces than Chhetri to step up. The likes of striker Manvir Singh and midfielder Brandon Fernandes

must put on their scoring boots and take some burden off their captain. Had Manvir not been wasteful, the opener against Bangladesh would have arrived sooner. On the other hand, Brandon was the fulcrum as India saw 75 per cent of the ball against Bangladesh. He has provided three assists out of the five goals India have scored in the qualifying campaign so far and must kick it up a notch against Afghanistan.

Slam book! Djokovic going the right way

PARIS, JUNE 14
Novak Djokovic has a real shot at becoming the first man in more than 50 years to win all four Grand Slam titles in a calendar year after the Serb added the French Open to his Australian Open title on Sunday, seven-time Major winner Mats Wilander said.

The claycourt Grand Slam has been the most difficult Major for Djokovic to win, Sunday's victory only his second at Roland Garros, and he heads to Wimbledon next where he is the two-time defending champion.



Novak Djokovic with the trophy in front of the Eiffel Tower. AP/PTI

The 34-year-old world No.1 is a force to be reckoned with

on hardcourts too, having won a record nine titles in

Melbourne and three US Open trophies, making him a favourite to win at Flushing Meadows in September.

Djokovic agreed it was possible he could match the achievement of Rod Laver, the last man to win all four singles titles in 1969, and that he could even complete a 'Golden Slam' by adding the Olympics title at the Tokyo Games. "We are now heading into the season where we would have to put Novak as the favourite to win Wimbledon most probably, favourite at the US Open because of

what he does on hardcourts," Eurosport pundit Wilander said. "So yes, it's on and the way he looks — he looks young, so fresh at the end, he looks scary good."

Djokovic displayed mental strength and physical fitness on Sunday to come back from two sets down and beat Greek 22-year-old Stefanos Tsitsipas after battling for four hours and 11 minutes, the exact time he took to get past 13-time French Open winner Rafa Nadal in the semifinals less than 48 hours earlier. — Reuters



Brazil players celebrate a goal against Venezuela. REUTERS

Brazilians quick off the blocks

SAO PAULO, JUNE 14
Brazil kicked off a Copa America tournament that has been opposed by some members of its own team with a 3-0 win over Venezuela here.

COPA AMERICA

Marquinhos, Neymar and Gabriel Barbosa scored in the opener at the Mane Garrincha stadium in Brasilia on Sunday, less than a day after several Venezuelan players tested positive for Covid-19. South American soccer's governing body, CONMEBOL, chose Brazil as host less than two weeks ago, despite its alarming Covid figures, after Argentina and Colombia were dropped as co-hosts. Despite his opposition to staging the tournament in his home country, Brazil captain Casemiro said the defending champions intended to retain their trophy.

"It could be a friendly, Copa America, World Cup qualifiers, we play it to win," he said.

Nice move Colombia

Cuiaba (Brazil): A surprising choreographed move gave Colombia a 1-0 win against Ecuador in its first match.

Edwin Cardona scored the winner at the Arena Pantanal in Cuiaba in the 42nd minute of a tense game on Sunday.

The decisive moment started when midfielder Cardona took a free-kick close to the edge of the Ecuadorian penalty box. Instead of shooting, he exchanged three short passes with Juan Guillermo Cuadrado, who moved the ball forward to where Miguel Borja was waiting.

Borja headed the ball back to Cardona, who had run toward goalkeeper Pedro Ortiz and scored with a right-foot shot. — AP

AMSTERDAM, JUNE 14
Denzel Dumfries picked a pretty good time to score his first international goal.

After missing an open chance in the first half, Dumfries helped set up two goals in the second and then headed in an 85th-minute winner on Sunday night to give the Netherlands a 3-2 win over Ukraine at the European Championship.

"I kept believing that a chance would come and then you have to be in the right place," Dumfries said. The winning header came only minutes after Ukraine had scored two late goals to equalise. The victory vindicated Netherlands coach Frank de Boer's decision to play a 5-3-2 formation at the Euro 2020 with Dumfries and Patrick van Aanholt as wingbacks instead of the 4-3-3 attacking formation favoured by many Dutch fans.

"We dominated, created chances, and that is what we want to see," De Boer said.

Oranje squeeze

Dumfries saves the day for the Netherlands

Gem of a game: France, Germany meet early

Munich: France and Germany usually play each other in the latter stages of major soccer tournaments. Not this time. The teams will meet in the group stage of a European Championship or World Cup for the first time on Tuesday when they open their Euro 2020 campaigns in Munich. Their last match at a major tournament came in the semifinals of Euro 2016. Antoine Griezmann scored twice for France in the 2-0 victory over then World champions Germany in Marseille. Germany has never really recovered, and though the French lost to Portugal in the final five years ago, they went on to win the World Cup two years later. Remarkably, no player in Germany's current squad has ever scored in a European Championship match. Thomas Muller, who has played 11 tournament games, missed a penalty in the 2016 quarterfinals shootout win over Italy. AP

The Dutch were playing in their first major soccer tournament in seven years. The last time was at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, when they reached the semifinals. Stand-in Netherlands captain Georginio Wijnaldum put the 1988 European champions in the lead in the 52nd minute with a power-

ful shot to ignite a five-goal second half. Wout Weghorst made it 2-0 in the 59th.

A cross from the right by Dumfries set up the first and his run into the box caused havoc in the Ukraine's defence for Weghorst's goal. "Fantastic evening for him," Wijnaldum said. — AP



Netherlands' Denzel Dumfries scores the winner against Ukraine. REUTERS

WTC winner to get \$1.6 million and Test Mace: ICC

DUBAI: The winner of the upcoming World Test Championship final between India and New Zealand will walk away with a prize money of \$1.6 million along with the Test Championship Mace, the International Cricket Council said today. The final will be played in Southampton from June 18. The losing team will get \$800,000, ICC said.

Rahane offers Test batting tips to Mithali & Co

NEW DELHI: Playing close to the body, working on mindset and setting small targets are some of tips that Indian men's Test team vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane gave to Mithali Raj & Co ahead of their first red-ball game in seven years, against England. According to sources, Rahane, a Test specialist with 73 games and over 4500 runs under his belt, was requested by women's team head coach Ramesh Powar for a session, primarily with the batters before they left for England. The India-England Test will start on Wednesday. PTI

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEN-II/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-30/06/2021 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in document section on the portal.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
09.06.2021	16.06.2021	30.06.2021/15:00 Hrs

Sr.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	18-2021-22-DRM-FZR	Extension of passenger Platform, upgradation of infrastructure at Hoshiarpur station under ADEN Jalandhar Cantt., Raising of low/rail level passenger platform under ADEN Pathankot and Provision of 6m-wide FOB, development of station, circulating area, upgradation of passenger amenities at Phagwara station under ADEN LDH.
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer
	5,88,29,079.72	45 Days
		Period of Completion
		06 Months

Similar nature of work - Any Civil Engineering Work other than track work.

Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.
Tender Notice No:- 770-W/169/WA-1/FZR/ 18-2021-22-DRM-FZR
Date: 14.06.2021 1307/2021

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

RESTORATION OF TRAINS IN KANGRA VALLEY

For the convenience of rail passengers, Railways have decided to restore the following Special Trains in Kangra Valley Railway section from the dates shown against each :-

Train No. & Name	Date of Restoration
04601 Pathankot Jn-Joginder Nagar Special Exp.	from 15.06.2021
04602 Joginder Nagar-Pathankot Jn Special Exp.	from 16.06.2021
04647/48 Pathankot Jn - Bajinath Paprola - Pathankot Jn - Special Express Train	from 15.06.2021

ADDITIONAL STOPPAGES PROVIDED TO SPECIAL EXPRESS TRAIN

Train No. & Name	Additional Stoppages	Train No. 04647	Train No. 04648
		Arr.	Dep.
04647/04648 Pathankot Jn - Bajinath Paprola - Pathankot Jn Special Express Train	Nurpur Road	09:19	09:20
	Guler	11:05	11:06
	Kangra Mandir	12:05	12:06
		17:51	17:52

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., must be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any kind of information such as arrival/departure timings and stoppages enroute, the passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 • Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in & download Railmadad app.

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION, AMBALA CANTT

Tender Notice No. RE/UMB/EL/Advt..226 **OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE** Date: 10.06.2021

Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, Ambala Cantt. for & on behalf of the President of India invites **OPEN E-TENDERS** on web site www.ireps.gov.in for the following works. Tender may submit their original/revised offer up to prescribed closing time & date. No tender will be accepted manually.

Tender No. & Tender Title	App. Cost (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Completion Period (Months)	Cost of tender document (₹)	Date of closing
RE/UMB/EL/Gr-288, 293/G04 Work of Electrification of staff quarters Type IV (04 Unit), Type-III (14 Unit) & Type-II (30 Unit) at Fazilka, in Kotkapura-Fazilka Section of Gr. 288 at Batinda in Batinda-Ganganagar section of Gr.-293 and at Abohar in Batinda-Ganganagar Section of Gr.293 of Northern Railway.	74.62 Lakhs	Nil	12 Months	Nil	09.07.2021 at 15.00 hrs

Tender documents are available on Railway website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in and the same can be downloaded from there. Earnest Money deposit (EMD) in respect of E-tendering will only accepted through net banking and payment gateway Only. Details of bank account number and technical details have been provided for in the software (IREPS) to which prospective registered tenders will have access at the time of tendering. **Note:** Technical and Financial Eligibility and all other terms & conditions, may be seen in Tender document and downloaded from Railway website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No.PR./38/2021
Satya Adv.

Dy CEE/RE/FZR
for & on behalf of the President of India

“SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE”

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDERING

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. NIT- 06/UMB-2021-22. DATED 14.06.2021

Open tenders through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Engineer/Coordination, Northern Railway, Ambala from the willing contractors for following work upto 15.00 hrs. on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter.

S. No.	Name of work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Date of closing & opening
1.	Annual repair, white washing, C/washing and painting to staff quarters, Service buildings & RPSF premises in Railway colony for the period ending 30.06.2022 in the section of SSE/W/Jagadhari workshop under ADEN/Jagadhari workshop under SR. DEN/III/UMB.	7797975	12 Month	07.07.2021
2.	Annual repairs, white washing and Painting to staff Qrs. and Service Building From Solan (excluding) to Shimla under ZONE C (Approachable & Non Approachable locations) & ZONE D (Shimla) on KLU-SML section for the Period Ending 30.06.2022 in the section of SSE/W/Shimla Under ADEN/Shimla.	9388733	12 Month	07.07.2021
3.	Annual repairs, white washing and Painting to staff Qrs. and Service Building at KALKA under ZONE-A, from Kalka (ex. Kalka) to Solan (incl.) on KLU-SML. Sec. under ZONE-B (App. & Non Approachable locations) for the Period Ending 30.06.2022 in the section of SSE/W/KLU Under ADEN/Shimla.	10780277	12 Month	07.07.2021
4.	Annual repair, white washing, C/washing and painting to staff quarters & service buildings under Zone Rajpura for the period ending 30.06.2022 in the section of SSE/W/Rajpura under ADEN/Rajpura.	10578579	12 Month	07.07.2021
5.	Rebuilding of Bridge No. 88 at Km. 45/9-11 between DBN-NBA section in the section of ADEN/PTA.	4297042	06 Month	07.07.2021
6.	Annual repair, white washing and painting of staff quarters & service buildings for the period ending 30.06.2022 under zone no. 3 from DLI (excl.) to JHL (excl.) and 4 from JHL (excl.) to HSR (excl.) in the section of SSE (W) SAG under ADEN/PTA.	3159018	12 Month	07.07.2021
7.	GIS Mapping of Indian Railways' off track Assets using Hand Held devices in the section of ADEN/BTI, ADEN/PTA, ADEN/SIR & ADEN/RPJ over Ambala Division.	1689594	06 Month	07.07.2021
8.	Replacement of failed Tubewell No. 7 in Railway Colony Bathinda in the section of Sr. DEN-II/UMB.	2301836	03 Month	07.07.2021
9.	(i) Bathinda Cantt. - Katar Singh Wala - TRR (P) 4.668 Km. (P) in the section of SSE/P. Way/BTI under ADEN/BTI. (ii) Assistance to welding team for AT welds in the section of Sr. DEN-II/UMB. (iii) TRR (P) of 1.614 Km. on Delhi-Bathinda-Firozpur Cantt. section (Km. 295.56 to 296.34 on DLI-BTI & Km. 297.407 to 298.841 on BTI-SGMR section).	8110680	12 Month	07.07.2021

NOTE:

- Tenderers are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN/TIN/GST as per conditions.
- Tenderers should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of works tenders.
- For detail, please log on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in
- GST will be levied as per GST Act. 2017.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

1293/21

Year after Galwan clash, friction points remain

AJAY BANERJEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

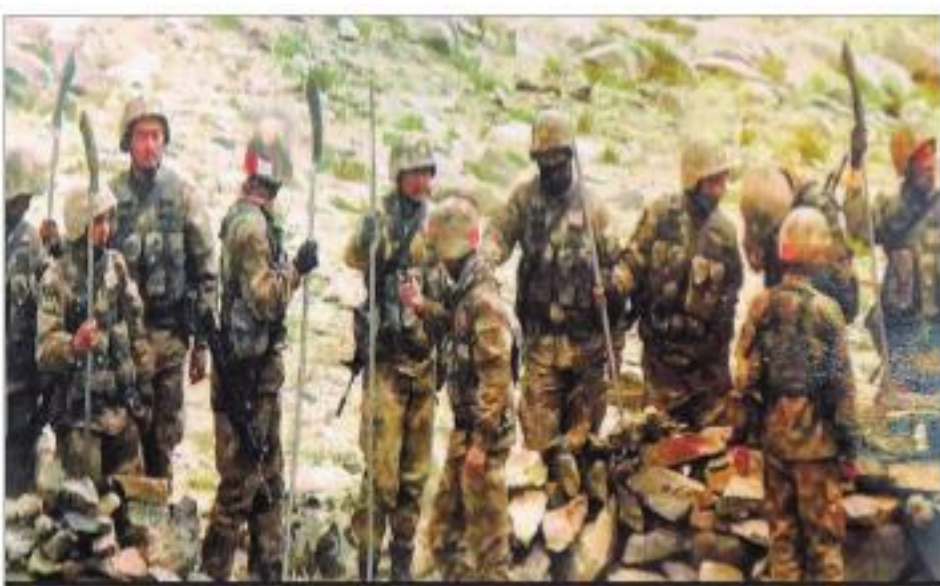
A clash between Indian and Chinese troops on the intervening night of June 15 and 16 at Galwan in eastern Ladakh last year has set a new template for military readiness along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

All agreements stitched for maintaining peace along the LAC since 1993 now stand breached. The two nuclear-armed acrimonious neighbours maintain a deployment of armed troops within cannon-shot range of each other and talks to disengage and de-escalate broke down on April 9. The matters don't look to get sorted out in the next

few months, in an assessment within the Indian security establishment.

India has made it clear that pulling back troops from friction points along the LAC could be done only after the Chinese army "disengaged" from areas like Gogra, Hot Springs and the Depsang plains. So far, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China has been inflexible to this suggestion. As of now, the "disengagement" has happened only at one sector — Pangong Tso.

Both sides have fighter jets, armed helicopters, tanks, artillery guns, air defence missiles, UAVs and thousands of troops lined up on either side of the 823-km LAC in eastern Ladakh.



The clash at Galwan was the first fatal event since 1975 when a team of Assam Rifles was ambushed by the PLA in Arunachal Pradesh. Before that, a fully armed class had ensued in 1967 at Nathu La in Sikkim.

At Galwan, 20 Indian Army soldiers, including an officer,

were killed in action. More than 900 troops on each side were involved in a physical clash, which started on the night of June 15 last year. It lasted several hours — in three phases — and ended in the early hours of June 16. Most of the deaths occurred as sol-

NO BREAKTHROUGH

- India-China talks to disengage in eastern Ladakh broke down on April 9
- Both sides have jets, artillery guns, missiles, UAVs lined up on either side
- The Galwan clash nullified all LAC peace pacts signed since 1993

China's People's Liberation Army soldiers near Mukhpari peak. FILE

diers fell off the cliffs into a narrow valley and the Galwan river at an altitude of 15,000 ft. Some died due to hypothermia and others due to injuries.

Stones, steel poles and bamboo poles with nails embred on them were used by the Chinese to attack the Indian troops. The

PLA also suffered fatal casualties even as no bullets were fired in the clash. The casualties would have been manifold had bullets been fired.

The incident had occurred after a round of talks to withdraw from the stand-off. The PLA had built a fresh post and set up arctic tents at vantage position on the south bank of the Galwan river. The post gave the Chinese better position to target the vital 255-km Darbuk Shayok Daulat Baig Oldie (DSDBO), India's only link to Depsang, Murgu and Karakoram Pass.

The post, some 5 km from the DSDBO road, has been removed but the movement backwards has only been by a couple of kms.

PM for global unity to tackle land degradation

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

Terming land as the fundamental building block for supporting the lives and livelihoods, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for reduction of the tremendous pressure on land and its resources.

"Clearly, a lot of work lies ahead of us. But we can do it. We can do it together," the Prime Minister said while addressing the UN High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought on Monday.

The PM listed steps taken to deal with the land degradation. The Delhi Declaration of 2019 called for better access and emphasised gender-sensitive transformative projects. In India, over the last 10 years, around 3 million hectares of forest cover have been added. This has enhanced the combined forest cover to almost one-fourth of the country's total area, the PM informed.

India is on track to achieve its national commitment of land degradation neutrality, he said. "We are also working towards restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. This would contribute to India's



India working towards restoring 2.6 cr hectares of degraded land by 2030

commitment to achieve an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent," said the PM.

The PM gave the example of the Banni region in Rann of Kutch in Gujarat to illustrate how restoration of land could start a virtuous cycle. In Banni region, land restoration by developing grasslands helped achieve land degradation neutrality. In the spirit of South-South cooperation, India is assisting fellow developing countries to develop land restoration strategies. A Centre of Excellence is being set up in India to promote a scientific approach towards land degradation issues. "It is mankind's collective responsibility to reverse land damage caused by human activity," he concluded.

China, India, Pak expanding nuclear arsenal, says report

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

The number of nuclear warheads which are ready and deployed to fire have increased globally, while closer to home, China is in the middle of a significant modernisation and expansion of its nuclear weapon inventory. India and Pakistan also appear to be expanding their nuclear arsenals, said a report of leading think tank released on Monday.

Swedish think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its "Yearbook 2021", which assesses the current state of armaments, disarmament and international security. In this report is an 80-page detailed reference on nuclear weapons.

"A key finding is that despite an overall decrease in the number of nuclear warheads in 2020, more have been deployed with operational forces," the report said.

The world has nine declared nuclear-armed states — the US, Russia, the UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and the North Korea — which together possess an estimated 13,080 nuclear weapons at the start of 2021. This marked a decrease from the 13,400 that SIPRI estimated these states possessed at the beginning of 2020.

Despite this overall decrease, the estimated num-

RUSSIA, US POSSESS 90% OF GLOBAL N-WEAPONS				
Country	Deployed warheads	Other warheads	2021	2020
USA	1,800	3,750	5,550	5,800
Russia	1,625	4,630	6,255	6,375
UK	120	105	225	215
France	280	10	290	290
China	-	350	350	320
India	-	156	156	150
Pakistan	-	165	165	160
Israel	-	90	90	90
North Korea	-	(40-50)	(40-50)	(30-40)
TOTAL	3,825	9,255	13,080	13,400



ber of nuclear weapons currently deployed with operational forces increased to 3,825 from 3,720 last year.

Around 2,000 of these — nearly all of which belonged to Russia or the USA — were kept in a state of high operational alert. The UK and France are the other two who have deployed warheads. China, India and Pakistan are not listed in the report as having "deployed" such weapons with operational forces.

"The overall number of warheads in global military stockpiles now appears to be

increasing, a worrisome sign that the declining trend that has characterised global nuclear arsenals since the end of the cold war has stalled," said Hans M Kristensen, Associate Senior Fellow with SIPRI's nuclear disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation programme.

Russia and the US together possess over 90 per cent of global nuclear weapons. Both have extensive programmes under way to modernise their nuclear warheads, missile and aircraft delivery systems and production facilities.

BJP workers in WB re-inducted into Trinamool after dharna

KOLKATA, JUNE 14

At least 50 BJP workers in Bengal's Birbhum district, who had crossed over from the TMC ahead of the April-May Assembly polls, were on Monday re-inducted into the Mamata Banerjee camp after

they staged a sit-in, demanding that they be taken back.

The disgruntled BJP workers held a dharna outside the TMC office, with posters in hand that claimed they regretted switching camps in the run-

up to the elections.

A district BJP leader said these party workers had no other option but to rejoin the TMC as ruling party members had been "perpetrating atrocities on them" since the Assembly results last month. — PTI

Centre invites bids for jab delivery via drones

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

After the successful trial run of the plan to use drones for Covid-19 vaccine delivery, the government on Monday invited bids from companies with expertise in the area.

The bid requires the use of unmanned aerial vehicles capable of covering aerial distance of a minimum 35 km, vertical takeoff and carriage of at least 4-kg payload. The vehicles should be able to return to the command station after the specified delivery.

The bid document, prepared by the Indian Council of Medical Research which led the pilot project in Telangana to try the drone delivery of jabs and drugs, says the aim of the project is to ensure last mile coverage.



"The main objective of the proposed work is to develop a medical supplies delivery model and its feasibility in the field practice area by using UAVs in remote inaccessible areas in selected locations in India," the ICMR document says.

The successful bidders will first have a 90-day engagement for the project which would be extended depending on outcomes.

Conditional exemption for experimental drone flights for vaccine delivery was earlier approved to expand vaccine delivery.

AIIMS to start recruitment for Covaxin trial on kids from today

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

A day after the India task-force of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission urged prioritisation of vaccinations in children with co-morbid conditions, AIIMS, New Delhi, said it would start recruiting children for Covaxin trials.

The AIIMS team has completed initial screening of potential recruits for the vaccine trials in Indian children. The top Indian paediatricians in their research published on behalf of the Lancet Commission have recommended "urgent prioritisation for vaccination among at-risk kids".

"As of June 11, India had administered 24.6 million doses of vaccines and we applaud the judicious approval of Covaxin clinical trials (Phase II/III) in children of 2 to 18 years," said the experts.



CISF TO GUARD COVAXIN FACILITY AT HYDERABAD

New Delhi: The CISF has taken over the security of vaccine manufacturer Bharat Biotech's manufacturing facility in Hyderabad. A decision in this regard was taken by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) last week with an aim to protect it against any terror threat or sabotage that may lead to a biological disaster. TNS

MONUMENTS, MUSEUMS TO REOPEN TOMORROW

Kolkata: All Centrally protected monuments, sites and museums will be reopened on Wednesday, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) said on Monday. Monuments and museums and sites protected by the ASI were closed on April 15 due to the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. TNS

The USA and the UK have already initiated vaccination in their respective populations.

The US has vaccinated more

than 6.5 million adolescents between 12-17 years with at least one dose and about 3 million with both doses.

'Misleading': Centre counters Delhi on ration card scheme

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

The Centre on Monday told the Supreme Court that the Delhi Government's claim that it had launched One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme in the national capital was "misleading", as it was launched only in one circle in Seemapuri area.

"Only a handful of transactions conducted in a single circle with about 42 ePoS (electronic point of sale) machines cannot be considered as implementation of the ONORC," the Centre told the SC in a written submission.

In the absence of its full implementation, migrant workers won't be able to avail benefit of their quota of subsidised foodgrain in Delhi under the National Food Security Act, it said.

"Further, unless the national portability transactions are rolled out formally in all the

'Launched only in one circle in Seemapuri'

FPSs (fair price shops) of all circles of NCT Delhi, in which more than 2,000 ePoS machines have been supplied and waiting for operation, it can't be considered as implementation of the ONORC," the Centre said.

The SC had on Friday asked the West Bengal Government to immediately implement the ONORC scheme to enable migrant workers to get ration at the place of their work in other states as well. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had told the court that West Bengal, Delhi, Chhattisgarh and Assam governments had not implemented the ONORC scheme.

The Centre maintained that the ONORC enables migratory NFSA beneficiaries to access the public distribution system (PDS).

Ayodhya land deal: Congress for SC-led probe into 'scam'

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

The Congress on Monday alleged a scam in the purchase of a piece of land in Ayodhya by the Ram Temple Trust demanding a Supreme Court-monitored probe with the trust rejecting all accusations as "misleading and politically motivated".

Hours after Champat Rai, general secretary of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust rebutted the charges, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala asked the apex court to take suo motu cognizance of the issue.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said Shri Ram personified justice and deception in his name was unrighteous. The Congress alleged that original owners of the land sold it for Rs 2



Cops try to stop Congress women wing workers protesting against the alleged Ram Mandir Trust land scam in Lucknow on Monday. PH

PROTEST OUTSIDE CM YOGI'S RESIDENCE

- UP Cong women's wing stages protest near Yogi's residence
- Temple trust must clarify if money collected misused: Raut
- Misuse of donations of devotees insult to faith: Priyanka

crore to two people namely Ravi Tiwari and Sultan Ansari who then sold the

land (12,080 sq m) to the temple trust at a premium price of Rs 18.5 crore.

Monsoon makes strong start in Pb, Hry

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 14

Monsoon has hit the region early on a positive note with the agrarian states of Punjab and Haryana receiving higher than normal rainfall in June so far.

From June 1 to June 14, Punjab received 38 mm rain against the normal of 14.7 mm for this period, account-

ing for a surplus of 158 per cent, according to data compiled by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

In Haryana, rain was surplus by 146 per cent. The state received 33.7 mm rain against the normal of 13.7 mm for the aforementioned period. In Himachal Pradesh, the surplus

was relatively lower at 26 per cent. The hill state received 42.2 mm rain against the normal of 33.5 mm for the said period.

However, due to approach of mid-latitude westerly winds further progress of monsoon over remaining parts of north-west India is likely to be slow, according to the IMD. — TNS

Year on, CBI says probe into SSR case on track

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

The CBI today said its probe into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput was on track, as all aspects behind the actor's unnatural demise on June 14 last year were being looked into.

A CBI official said, "The agency's probe related to the actor's death is still continuing and all aspects related to it are being looked into meticulously."

The official said the CBI had been conducting probe into Rajput's death in a systematic



Sushant Singh Rajput

way. "Certain media reports attributed to CBI investigation are speculative and not based on facts. It is reiterated that as a matter of policy, the CBI does not share details of ongoing probe," he added. — TNS

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