

PAKISTAN OPENS TALKS WITH
BANNED ISLAMIST PARTY WORLD

SENSEX PLUNGES 883 PTS AS COVID
WOES RESURFACE BUSINESS

VARDHAN: CONG FUELLED
VAX HESITANCY BACK PAGE



TUESDAY | 20 APRIL 2021

Stricter curbs in Punjab till Apr 30

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 19
As Covid cases rise rapidly, the Punjab Government on Monday ordered stricter curbs, including extension of night curfew by an hour from 8 pm to 5 am and closure of bars, cinema halls, gyms, spas, coaching centres and sports complexes in the state from Tuesday till April 30.

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, who chaired a Covid review meeting, directed the police department to strictly enforce the restrictions.

The rates for RT-PCR and rapid antigen test (RAT) by private labs have been reduced to Rs 450 and Rs 300 (additional charges for home collection of samples) in a bid to promote increased testing.

Gatherings of more than 20 persons, including for weddings and cremations, have been banned across the state. A prior approval from the district administration will be needed for all gatherings of more than 10 persons, except for cremation. All weekly markets have also been ordered to remain closed.

Those having attended any large gathering would have to be mandatorily home-quarantined for five days and tested

IN BRIEF

Composer Shravan tests +ve, critical

MUMBAI: Shravan Kumar Rathod of the popular composer duo Nadeem-Shravan is critically ill and in hospital. He had recently tested Covid-positive. Shravan reportedly has co-morbidities. He is currently in Raheja Hospital, Mahim, Mumbai. — IANS

Britain places India on travel 'red list'

LONDON: Britain has added India to its travel "red list", which bans all travel from the country and makes a 10-day hotel quarantine must for UK residents. The Health Secretary said, "Anyone who is not a UK or Irish citizen... cannot enter the UK if they have been in India in the last 10 days." — PTI

HP schools to remain closed till May 1

SHIMLA: Due to surge in Covid cases, the Himachal Pradesh Government has decided to keep all educational institutions, schools, colleges and universities, closed till May 1. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by CM Jai Ram Thakur here on Monday. INSIDE

IAF Chief Bhadauria leaves for France

NEW DELHI: Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria on Monday left for France. "The visit of Chief of Air Staff from April 19 to 23 will enhance potential avenues for strengthening interaction between the two air forces," the Indian Air Force said. — PTI

Dhindsa, Brahmpura to float new party

CHANDIGARH: SAD (Democratic) chief Sukhdev Dhindsa and SAD (Taksali) chief Jathedar Ranjit Brahmpura on Monday announced dissolution of their parties to form a new party. INSIDE

THE TRIBUNE CHD | THE TRIBUNE CHD WWW.TRIBUNEINDIA.COM

THEATRES, GYMS SHUT

- Night curfew extended by an hour from 8 pm to 5 am
- Bars, cinemas, gyms, spas, coaching centres, sports complexes shut till April 30
- Restaurants, hotels open for takeaway and home-delivery from Monday to Saturday
- Gatherings of more than 20, including in weddings and cremations, banned
- Those flying into Punjab need negative RT-PCR test report not older than 72 hours
- Number of passengers in buses, taxis and autos cut to 50 per cent of capacity
- Recruitment test for patwaris put off; MBBS, BAMS, nursing examination to be held online

LOCKDOWN IN MOHALI ON RAM NAVAMI

as per protocol, said officials. Health Secretary Hussain Lal said by May 5, the state was projected to receive 6,000 cases a day if urgent steps were not taken in high-burden Ludhiana, Mohali, Jalandhar, Amritsar and Patiala districts. The CM directed that RAT booths be set up at bus stands and railway stations to screen passengers.

Vaccine for all above 18 from May 1

Need to buy from open market | States, pvt hospitals to procure directly from makers

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

All Indian adults will be able to access Covid vaccinations from the open market starting May 1 with the government on Monday announcing a liberalised inoculation policy to fight a punishing second wave that saw record 2,73,810 cases and 1,619 deaths today.

Under the new plan, vaccine makers will need to reserve only 50 per cent of their doses for the Union Government from May 1 and can offer the rest to states and the open market. All imported vaccines will be available in the open market for anyone to buy.

The manufacturers would need to declare the prices for the 50 per cent stock (meant for other than Union Government sources) before May 1 to enable states, hospitals and private establishments to procure it based on transparent pricing declarations.

The Liberalised and Accelerated Phase-3 Strategy of the National Covid-19 Vaccination Programme was finalised today at a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who said that by April 30, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

EDIT: DELHI'S COVID CRISIS

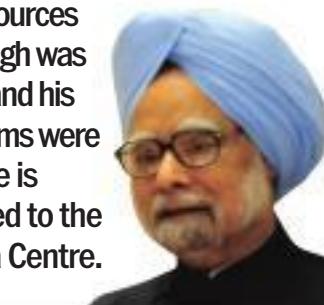
2,73,810 CASES IN 24 HRS | 1,50,61,919 TOTAL CASES | 1,619 MORE FATALITIES | 1,78,769 TOTAL DEATHS



RUSHING HOME: Migrants rush to board buses for their villages after lockdown announcement in Delhi. PTI

MANMOHAN TESTS +VE, ADMITTED TO AIIMS

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (88), who tested positive for Covid-19, was admitted to AIIMS with mild fever on Monday. The Congress veteran and his wife had taken the first shot of the vaccine at AIIMS on March 4 and the second dose on April 3. Medical experts said antibodies to the virus normally develop two weeks after the second dose. Sources said Singh was stable and his symptoms were mild. He is admitted to the Trauma Centre.



6-day Delhi lockdown triggers exodus

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

As health systems reached breaking point, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a six-day lockdown in the national capital saying the government could not have people dying on the roads and hospital corridors.

The lockdown triggered an exodus of migrants. Thousands gathered at Anand Vihar ISBT here to catch a

ESSENTIAL SERVICES EXEMPTED

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ All essential services will continue to run without any restriction | of private doctors and nurses |
| ■ No curbs on movement of pregnant women and patients | ■ Passengers going to airport or railway station exempted, provided they produce ticket |
| ■ All modes of transportation—buses, metro, autos, taxis and others—can run as before | ■ No pass required for inter-state and intra-state movement of essential and non-essential goods |
| ■ No restrictions on the services | |

SUMMER VACATION IN SCHOOLS ADVANCED

Delhi Government on Monday advanced summer vacation in all schools. The vacation, which was to start from May 11 till June 30, has been rescheduled from April 20 to June 9.

bus back home, despite Kejriwal appealing them not to rush back home, assuring the lockdown would not be extended. A senior police officer said maximum force had been deployed at the ISBT.

Mukesh Pratap, who works at a cloth factory and a native of UP's Bareilly, said he wanted to return home. "Lockdown will definitely affect our livelihood, so it is better for us to be with our families at home," he said.



Curtail election schedule: Didi

CHAKULIA (WB), APRIL 19

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee today urged the Election Commission to reconsider its decision to stick to the original poll schedule, as she stressed that wrapping up the last three phases of poll on a single day or at the most two days would check the spread of Covid to some extent. — PTI

HC: Lockdown in 5 UP cities

PRAYAGRAJ, APRIL 19

The Allahabad High Court today ordered a complete lockdown in five cities in Uttar Pradesh till April 26. The cities are Lucknow, Prayagraj, Kanpur, Varanasi and Gorakhpur. Responding to a public interest litigation (PIL), the Bench, comprising Justice Siddhartha Verma and Justice Ajit Kumar, directed the state government to strictly enforce the curbs. — IANS

China talks wasteful: Rahul

NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi today accused the Centre of jeopardising India's national security, and termed its talks with China as "wasteful".

"Chinese occupation of Gogra-Hot Springs and Depsang plains is a threat to India's strategic interests, including the DBO airstrip," he said on Twitter. "National security jeopardised by GOI's wasteful talks. Our nation deserves better."

SECURITY JEOPARDISED

National security massively jeopardised by GOI's wasteful talks. Our nation deserves better.

Rahul Gandhi, CONG
from Hot Springs, Gogra and Depsang in eastern Ladakh.

The Congress on Sunday asked the Centre to explain why disengagement talks with China had "not yielded results" at other friction points in eastern Ladakh. — PTI

No proof young more vulnerable: ICMR

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) today shared data from hospitalised Covid patients during the first and the second waves of the pandemic to show that there was no evidence of the younger people being at greater risk today than before.

The council also said the proportion of deaths among those admitted was the same in 2021 as in 2020.



A family waits to be tested at a Delhi hospital on Monday. PTI

70% of the patients above the age of 40

More than 70 per cent of the hospitalised Covid patients in both waves have been over 40-year-old, show data from 9,485 patients—6,642 between September and November 2020 and 1,405 between March and April 2021, collected from 40 hospitals across India.

"There is no overarching extra risk to the youth of

becoming Covid-positive in the current wave. There is no shift in the age prevalence of Covid in India and the old continue to be more vulnerable," said Member Health NITI Aayog VK Paul, chairman of the National Expert Group on vaccination.

The ICMR analysis, however, shows many more patients are in need of oxygen today than in 2020, although the proportion of those who died is the same—9.6 and 9.7 through the peaks of two years.

Eye on elections, HP seeks early hearing in SC against NGT order

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, APRIL 19

Keen to regularise the over 25,000 unauthorised constructions, the Himachal Government has sought an early hearing of the petition in the Supreme Court against the National Green Tribunal (NGT) order, seeking relaxation in the construction norms.

Urban Development and Town and Country Planning (TCP) Minister Suresh Bhardwaj, who also happens to be the local Shimla MLA,

MAJORITY OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN SHIMLA

- BJP govt wants over 25,000 unauthorised constructions, including 10K in state capital and suburbs, regularised
- Several influential people, including politicians, bureaucrats and realtors, are owners of these illegal structures.

has said a request has been made for an early hearing of the petition already filed in the Supreme Court.

With Assembly elections due next year, the Jai Ram

Thakur regime is keen that some solution to the long-pending issue can be found at the earliest.

The highest number of such structures (over 10,000) is located in Shimla town and its suburbs. Several influential people, including politicians, bureaucrats and realtors, are owners of these unauthorised structures.

The state government has moved the SC against the November 2017 NGT order, which not only barred fresh constructions in the already

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

REMDESIVIR ROW

Sena sees plot to disturb Mahalaw & health order

MUMBAI, APRIL 19

The Shiv Sena today slammed BJP leaders Devendra Fadnavis and Pravin Darekar for objecting to Mumbai police's grilling of a pharma firm's top executive over alleged stocking of Remdesivir vials, and wondered if there was a conspiracy to disturb the law and health order.

An editorial in the Sena mouthpiece "Saamana" accused the BJP of having a clear agenda that the Maharashtra Government should fail in handling the Covid situ-

ation, and charged it with making efforts in that direction with the help of the Centre.

It said the state government and the Opposition should be unanimous at least on the issue of saving lives of people and no one should seek political mileage out of pyres of people dying for want of the drug. — PTI

Before quitting, ex-IG flagged plan to submit challan against Badals

JUPINDERJIT SINGH & BALWANT GARG
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 19

Days before the Punjab and Haryana High Court quashed his investigation into Kotkapur police firing case, Kunwar Vijay Pratap (IG whose resignation was accepted today) had written to the Punjab Police and Home Department on the challan to be submitted against former CM Parkash Singh Badal and his son Sukhbir Badal.

The ex-IG, who resigned on April 14, in the letter dated March 15, also brought to the notice of the government through the Punjab DGP, Director of Bureau of Investigation, and the Additional Chief Secretary, Home, that the Akali leaders had threatened him. He also specifically said the government and the state legal department did not take any action on his complaint about receiving threats from the accused.

He also sought protection for the witnesses in the case, citing the mysterious death



RESIGNATION ACCEPTED

Punjab Govt on Monday accepted the resignation of IG Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh. He had resigned on April 14, days after the HC quashed the investigation carried out by him in the Kotkapur case.

SUKHBIR THREATENS DEFAMATION SUIT

Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal has said he will file a defamation suit against the IG for making "false claims" in the letter.

of one of them, Surjit Singh, in January 2020. The Tribune has a copy of the letter.

The letter contains a detailed note about the entire investigation and legal points. None of the officers to whom the letter was addressed responded to The Tribune's queries.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

SKM launches 'Phir Delhi Chalo' to bolster agitation

MUKESH

Panic as hospital switches to buffer stock of oxygen

AMRITSAR, APRIL 19

Amid reports of ongoing oxygen shortage at hospitals, Guru Nanak Dev Hospital, associated with the Government Medical College, here had to switch to its buffer stock after exhausting its supply.

The hospital administration said the buffer stock was maintained so that suppliers could be notified about the demand in time. However, this created panic among family members of patients at the hospital.

Later, Minister for Medical Education and Research OP Soni clarified a "situation" had arisen which was tackled immediately. "There is no shortage of oxygen in any medical college in the state," he said. Medical Superintendent Dr KD Singh said: "We always keep a buffer stock of



NO SHORTAGE

◆ The oxygen stock was replenished immediately. There is no shortage in any medical college of the state.

OP Soni, MEDICAL EDUCATION MINISTER

oxygen for such situations. This morning, we had to use oxygen from this stock. We immediately informed our suppliers and the stock was replenished." — TNS

Ropar councillor flouts isolation norms, booked

ROPAR, APRIL 19

The local police have booked a municipal councillor for violating home isolation norms meant for Covid-19 patients. The councillor, Inderpal Singh Raju Satyal, allegedly left his home during the election of municipal council's president on April 15 at 11 am.

Satyal had written to the authorities saying he was suffering from Covid-19 but wanted to cast his vote. He even reached the council office in his car. The director allowed him to cast his vote through video conferencing.

Later, Covid-19 patient tracking officer Monika Yadav lodged a complaint with the police that Inderpal had left his home on April 15 in a car to attend a meeting. Following this, he was booked. — TNS

Elderly couple dispels jab fears

BARNALA, APRIL 19

Amid rumors about authenticity of the vaccine, a nonagenarian couple — Surjit Kaur (96) from Gugga Madhi and Krishan Singh (92) — got the jab at a camp organised at the Municipal Council Office, Tapa.

It has given a push to the drive as many are seeking inspiration from them. Senior officers said the campaign against Covid had been going on in full swing in Barnala and senior citizens were volunteering to get vaccinated.

"Vaccination is must to prevent this disease and people should follow the instructions of the government," said Surjit, who could not walk properly and was given the jab and honoured in the auto rickshaw in which she had reached the camp. Krishan said they were fine and people should come forward to get vaccinated.



Krishan Singh, 92, gets vaccinated in Barnala. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Barnala SDM Varjeet Walia honoured the couple and the health department team. Barnala DC Tej Partap Singh Phoolka said: "So far, 31,293 doses of vaccine have been administered."

He said senior citizens had responded well. He appealed to all people above 45 years to get vaccinated. He said vaccination camps were being held regularly at the district's grain

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 19

CM Capt Amarinder Singh today urged the Centre to send immediate supply of vaccine and also give quick approval for two new oxygen plants in the state amid concerns over depleting stocks of both. On the availability of vaccine, the Chief Secretary told the CM that the situation was critical, with only three days of stocks left, but the Centre has assured that more would be coming soon.

Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan said though Indian Oil Limited (OIL) was providing the state with oxygen supplies,

Three-day stock left



the situation was a matter of concern. A close watch was being kept on the demand-supply situation at both government and private hospitals, she said. A committee was

84 DEATHS, MOST IN SECOND WAVE

- While 4,653 cases were reported in Punjab in the past 24 hours, 84 persons succumbed to the virus, the highest number of fatalities in the second wave

- Most cases were reported from Mohali at 792, followed by Ludhiana (758). Most deaths were reported in Amritsar (12) and Ludhiana (10)

coordinating with the Centre in this regard, Mahajan said.

Health Secretary Hussan Lal said three plants had been operationalised since the last surge and two plants at med-

ical colleges in Amritsar and Patiala were awaiting the Centre's approval. While there was shortage currently, supplies were being diverted from one district to another to meet the requirement.

The meeting was informed that vaccination appeared to be having a positive effect in the police department, with only one vaccinated official testing positive in the past 24 hours, and a total of only 397 positive cases among those who have been immunised.

The CM directed all departments to maximise vaccination and urged industries to take responsibility for getting their employees vaccinated.



20% govt centres shut amid vaccine shortage

RUCHIKA M KHANNA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 19

The shortage of vaccine is hitting the state's strategy of inoculating more people and stopping the Covid surge.

For the past two days, vaccine stock at several government-run centres has dried up, forcing the government to shut 20 per cent of these centres. Besides, several private hospitals have suddenly been eliminated as vaccination centres after a new rule made it mandatory that only Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-pannelled hospitals

are being organised by politicians for their constituents and as many vaccine doses are being diverted there.

The state health department denied the charge. Hussan Lal, Secretary, Health, said all eligible persons were getting vaccinated, and anyone organising special camps was being issued vaccine doses. "This is not being done at the cost of cutting back on the vaccination programme being run through the designated vaccination centres," he said.

Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu said though they had set up the infrastructure to vaccinate 3 lakh persons a day, they were not getting enough vaccine to meet the target.

"With some centres closed, patients are left in the lurch. Strangely, while some non-pannelled hospitals have been eliminated, some camps are being organised by politicians for their constituents and as many vaccine doses are being diverted there."

The closure of vaccination centres is confusing those who are scheduled to get their second dose.

Hinting at political bias in dose administration, Dr GS Grewal, a Ludhiana-based doctor who is also former president of Punjab Medical Council, told *The Tribune*:

BSNL offers free service to boost vaccination drive

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, APRIL 19

In a bid to boost the Covid-19 vaccination drive in the district, telecom operator BSNL has announced free mobile phone services (data and calling) for the first two months for those getting the jab. A camp will be organised at the BSNL office in Bharat Nagar on April 20 where people can get themselves vaccinated.

A public announcement regarding the offer was made by the BSNL via loudspeakers in different parts of the city today. Gyan Singh, deputy manager, Bathinda circle, said: "Covid-19 is spreading at a rapid rate so it's the need of the hour that maximum people get vaccinated to prevent the further spread. While the

health department and government are doing their job diligently to prevent the spread, we also decided to do our bit. We have introduced an offer for those who get vaccinated at the camp on April 20."

"Those interested can bring along their Aadhaar card and can get a new pre-paid connection, which will be free of cost for the first two months, after getting the jab. The regular plan charges will be applicable thereafter. We hope it will encourage residents to get vaccination."

Harmeet Singh, a resident said: "The offer is a welcome step and will give a boost to the vaccination drive."

Farmers, arhtiyas protest gunny bag crisis

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FATEHGARH SAHIB, APRIL 19

Gaurav Tikait, son of farmer leader Rakesh Tikait, said their struggle would continue until the three farm laws were repealed and a law on the MSP was enacted.

Accompanied by other farmer leaders and actor Sonia Mann, he paid obeisance at the Golden Temple and prayed for the success of the farmers' struggle.

He was in Amritsar to attend a farmers' event at Kukranwala village. "The movement will succeed and the government will have to relent. The Centre was bent on suppressing the farmers' agitation, but it has ended up being more intensified. Now, the Covid-19 threat has been made an excuse to scuttle the movement, but it will have no impact," he said. Meanwhile, the SGPC honoured the visitors with siropas. — TNS

He said although the state government had allowed the use of old gunny bags, commission agents had been asked to purchase them on their own and the amount would be reimbursed later.

Bharmajra said the commission agents had refused to buy the gunny bags from their own pockets. They get Rs 46 per quintal as commission, whereas gunny bags



Farmers protest the shortage of gunny bags near the Sirhind canal bridge on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Dharna in Sirhind

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHAMKAUR SAHIB, APRIL 19

A number of farmers on Monday staged a dharna on the Sirhind canal bridge in protest against the shortage of gunny bags in the local grain markets.

They blocked roads from all sides, including Ropar, Chamkaur Sahib, Ludhiana and Bela. They flayed the government for its failure to make available the required quantity of bags for wheat lifting in the markets of Chamkaur Sahib, Bela, Gagron, Hafizabad and Bassi Gujran villages.

Commission agents said they were finding it difficult to lift the procured wheat.

Following an assurance by local Sub-Divisional Magistrate HS Atwal that there will be no shortage of bags in any market, the protesters lifted the dharna after two hours.

District Food Supply Controller Sabir Singh said there would be sufficient supply of gunny bags from tomorrow as the government had made more arrangements for it.

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SAD factions join hands, to float party

Name to be announced in first week of May | Say no collaboration with AAP

Tribune News Service



Jathedar Ranjit Singh Brahmpura (L) will be the patron of the party, while Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa will be the president.

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 19
In a major political development, SAD (Democratic) president Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa and SAD (Taksali) president Jathedar Ranjit Singh Brahmpura today announced dissolution of their respective parties to form a new party in the first week of May.

"We are forming a new political party. Its name will be announced in the first week of May," Dhindsa said.

"We know that Punjab needs

a new political front to give an alternative to the existing skewed political choices for people. We have had several rounds of discussions to decide our way forward. These will be made

public soon. And, we are not collaborating with AAP, despite all guesses," Dhindsa said.

Jathedar Brahmpura will be the patron, while Dhindsa will be the president of the new party, it was decided.

A six-member committee has been constituted to work out the details of the party. The committee included Jathedar Ujagar Singh Badali, Jathedar Mahinder Singh Hussainpur, Karnail Singh Peermohammad, Jagdish Singh Garcha, Ranjit Singh Talwandi and advocate Shin-

derpal Singh Brar members.

Dhindsa and Jathedar Brahmpura said a strong organisational structure would be formed by the new party in the first week of May and a fourth front would be formed in coordination with like-minded parties to defeat the major parties. The leaders, jointly, said PM Narendra Modi was urged to give up his stubbornness and accept the demands of farmers and provide relief to the protesters who had been agitating for months now.

Man killed in cracker blast

FATEHGARH SAHIB, APRIL 19

One person was killed and another critically injured in a cracker blast near Tibbi village here this morning.

The incident occurred when a large quantity of illegally manufactured crackers was being transported on a makeshift three-wheeler from Maloud village in Khanna to Amloh town. The deceased has been identified as Ravinder Kumar, a resident of Somalikhari village. He was sitting on the three-wheeler with the stack of crackers. Driver Surinder Singh, a resident of Malaudkheri in Khanna, was critically injured and taken to



Police officials inspect the mangled remains of the three-wheeler.

the Civil Hospital, Amloh.

The police have registered a case. Ravinder was transporting firecrackers, used in marriages, along with a bag of potash, used to manufacture crackers, to Amloh. As the vehicle passed over a speed-breaker, Ravinder was tossed into the air but landed on the potash bag, triggering a blast. — OC



AAP leaders protest near the official residence of CM Capt Amarinder Singh in Chandigarh. PRADEEP TEWARI

AAP protests delay in justice to kin
FIRING CASES Leaders detained on way to CM residence

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 19
Alleging collusion between Capt Amarinder Singh and the Badal family, AAP MLAs today protested the "delayed action" against the accused and justice to the families of the Bebal Kalan and Kotkhpura firing incidents.

Leader of the Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema along with MLAs Sarveet Kaur

Manuke, Kular Singh Sandhu, Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, Amarjeet Singh Sandhu, Jai Kishan Singh Rodi, Kulwant Singh Pandori, Manjot Singh Bilaspur and Jagtar Singh Jagga Hissowal protested against the government and the Badals.

The police detained the AAP MLAs on their way to gherao the CM residence. Cheema

said instead of saving the culprits, Capt Amarinder should have taken immediate action by making arrests. He alleged that both CM and the Badals worked in collusion and made multiple attempts to derail the probe. "Since the Badals have withdrawn the cases against Capt Amarinder, the latter is now paying that debt with interest," he alleged. — TNS

Sidhu said according to the Constitution, only the Home Minister could give political order regarding arrest of the perpetrators of the sacrifice

CM alone can order arrest of guilty: Sidhu

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 19

Days after Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu accused his government of cheating people of the state by failing to punish those involved in the sacrifice of Guru Granth Sahib, he has targeted the CM who also holds the portfolio of the Home Department.

In a reply to former AAP Dakha MLA HS Phoolka, who had asked Sidhu to take action as justice had not been done in the 2015 sacrifice incidents, the former Cabinet minister said there was need to shake those who had the executive power of the state, especially the CM-cum-Home Minister.

Sidhu said according to the Constitution, only the Home Minister could give political order regarding arrest of the perpetrators of the sacrifice

Says demand for justice cost him Cabinet berth

and subsequent police firing.

"While being a minister for 27 months, I raised my voice in the Cabinet against the delay in taking action against the perpetrators of the crime. In 2019, while campaigning for the Congress, I again demanded that those behind the crime should be given exemplary punishment. Because of that, my ministry was changed from the Cabinet and I resigned," said Sidhu, adding that nothing would be achieved by calling the Vidhan Sabha session because it was only in the hands of the Home Minister of the state. — TNS

Principal thrashes student, probe on

RORO, APRIL 19

A video has gone viral purportedly showing a local government school principal thrashing a girl student. The authorities said an investigation had been initiated.

In the video, the principal is seen slapping the student and pulling her hair after calling her onto the stage during the school assembly. While the face of the victim was not visible, the clip seemed to be all as were seen in woollen clothes. Education Minister Vijay Inder Singh said a three-member committee would probe the matter and submit its report within 15 days. The principal had been asked to proceed on leave. — TNS

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Ex-IG Kunwar looking to join AAP, says Majithia

Tribune News Service

MAJITHIA, APRIL 19
Former minister Bikram Singh Majithia today said former IG Kunwar Vijay Partap Singh, who recently tendered resignation following adverse comment by the Punjab and Haryana HC over the Kotkhpura firing case probe, was gearing up to join the AAP and that his vendetta against the SAD had been exposed.

Majithia said the ex-IG had indulged in politics while flouting the service rules.

"He was challenged by a police functionary and not by the SAD in the court. Earlier also, the head of the SIT — ADGP Prabodh Kumar — and three other members, including IG Arun Pal Singh, had disassociated themselves from the IG's findings in writing and refused to become party to politicisation

Accuses officer of vendetta against SAD, flouting service rules

of the case. The court had rejected his findings and directed the government to disassociate him from the probe. His political aspiration was to join the AAP ahead of 2022 elections," he said.

The SAD leader alleged the Congress continued to steer the case with the intention of implicating the SAD and its senior leadership in the case.

On health services, Majithia asserted the mortality rate in the state had been the highest in the country. "People are not getting beds. If they get beds, there are no ventilators. Similarly, forget Remdesivir, even Dolo tablets are unavailable."

He said all this was the result of government's lack of preparedness to fight Covid-19. "Health Minister Balbir Sidhu knew it and chose to get treated at a private hospital. Patients were being exploited by private hospitals and even scams of Covid testing by labs too had hit the headlines," he said.

Majithia was addressing mediapersons during the election of office-bearers of the Majitha Nagar Council.

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FMG-03/04-2021

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Sr. No.	Post Name	Post(s)	Consolidated Remuneration	Place of Posting/ Duration
1.	Additional Chief Executive Officer (Technical)	1	Rs 15000/- pm	
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4.	Software Expert (PHP)	1	Rs. 40000/- pm	

Complete details regarding non-refundable Application Fee, Application Form, Eligibility Criteria, Post-qualification Experience, Place of Posting etc. are available on the website nielit.gov.in/chandigarh. Candidates are advised to go through these details carefully for determining their eligibility before applying. Candidates are required to apply online on the above mentioned website from **20.04.2021 (11:30 a.m.) to 26.04.2021 (5:00 p.m.)**. Applications will be accepted through online mode only.

Website: nielit.gov.in/chandigarh

Enquiry: 01881-257061, 2570032

davp 06141/11/0001/2122

DIRECTOR

Supdt shifted over singer's visit to Ldh jail

LUDHIANA, APRIL 19
Ten days after Ludhiana Central Jail Superintendent Rajiv Arora hosted Punjabi singer Karan Aujla on the prison premises, the officer has been charged and transferred to Chandigarh.

The action by the Prisons Department follows an inquiry into the incident by DIG (Jails) SS Saini, who was assigned the probe by ADGP (Prisons) PK Sinha. Jails Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa had ordered the inquiry following media reports.

Jail norms were flouted during Karan Aujla's visit on April 8.

Principal Secretary (Prisons) DK Tiwari told *The Tribune* the department had transferred the jail superintendent from the Ludhiana jail to the state headquarters in Chandigarh following receipt of the inquiry report.

"Departmental action will follow," he said, adding the action was taken after the minister approved the report to this effect.

The ADGP (Prisons) said he had submitted the report to the state government for suitable action. — TNS

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08.04.2021 at 9 A.M.

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CLASSIFIEDS**ADMISSION NOTICE**

Admission open for Class XI, Session 2021-22 Stream: Science, Humanities, Commerce. (Open Sub choice as per new education policy) Viveka Foundations Boarding (Boys) Day boarding Co-educational Sr. Sec. School Mansimbal Palampur, Distt. Kangra, HP. CBSE Affl. No. 630139 Website: www.vivekafoundations.com Facebook: vivekafoundations. For Registration 94185-54311, 94182-48911, 93188-51765. (CL21007796)

MEDICAL/SURGICAL

Covid beds with ventilator and Ecmo facility available, New Lifeline Hospital, Zirakpur. 98141-04203. (CL21007787)

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Vikas Makkar s/o Sh. Kewal Krishan Makkar r/o House No. 110, Civil Lines, Patiala, have changed my minor daughter's name from Sristi to Sristi Makkar. (CL21007325)

I, Gurases Singh s/o Nirbhay Singh r/o # 124, St.No.2, Kaka Singh Enclave, Patiala (Punjab), have changed my name to Gurases Singh Jassar. (CL21007583)

I, Suresh Gool s/o Suraj Bahadur Goel r/o Good Earth Colony, Patiala has changed my name as Suresh Kumar Goel. (CL21007707)

I, Neeraj s/o Naresh Kumar, H.No. B-1/940, Ram Nagar, Jalandhar, have changed my name to Neeraj Rai. (CL21007725)

I Amanat s/o Makhan Singh, 22372/A, Shant Nagar, Bathinda have changed my name to Amanat Singh. (CL21007768)

Concerned note that I Darshana Kumari d/o Surjeet Singh after marriage have permanently changed my name to Darshan Kaur w/o Parvinder Singh r/o Mamumajra P.O. Nagla, Distt. Kulkashetra. (CL21007779)

I, Jagveer Singh s/o Balwinder Singh, Village Gehri Buttar, District Bathinda declare that my daughter Manpreet Kaur is out of my control. I disown her from my moveable-immovable property. Anybody dealing with her will do at his own risk. (CL21007751)

I, Manik Saini s/o Shamsher Singh R/o 16, Amar Nagar, Mahesh Nagar, Ambala Cantt, declare in my Middle standard/ Matriculation/ Senior Secondary certificates issued by Board of School Education, Haryana, my mother's name wrongly recorded as Kujinder Devi instead of Kujinder Devi Kaur. Concerned note. (CL21007758)

I, Army No. 4001007 L/NK Gajender Singh s/o Sh. Mahinder Singh Village Udaipur PO Saru, Tehsil & Distt. Chamba (H.P.), declared that my mother's name and date of birth is wrongly entered as Jamna Devi & 02.04.1948 in my Army service record. Her correct name is Jamma & date of birth is 01.01.1960 as per Aadhar Card. Concerned please note. (CL21007762)

I, Army No. 4001007 L/NK Gajender Singh s/o Sh. Mahinder Singh, Village Udaipur PO Saru, Tehsil & Distt. Chamba (HP) declared that my wife's name & date of birth is wrongly entered as Seema Devi & 03.03.1981 in my Army Service Record. Her correct name is Seema Kumari & date of birth is 03.03.1980 as per Aadhar Card. Concerned please note. (CL21007764)

I, Sonika Devi w/o Shambhu Kumar of H. No. 17B/ 81, near I.T.I., Green Avenue, Pimpagar, Punjab, India presently in Ghana of House Number 1B, 34 Oroko Avenue, Kokomlele-Accra in the Greater Accra region of the Republic of Ghana have changed the name of my minor daughter Aastha to Aastha Patel subject to approval of Indian High Commission in Ghana. (CL21007765)

I, No.JC-413991-L Subedar Vijay Singh R/o 80, V.P.O. Boh, Ambala Cantt, declare in my service records my wife, Karamjit Kaur, birth date wrongly recorded as 16.07.1977 instead of 16.07.1973. Concerned note. (CL21007766)

I, Kusum Lata spouse of No. 095923H MCPOAFOI Hon/Lt. Jatinder Kumar, Vill. Jahlwan, PO. Jalpeth, Teh. Jodginder Nagar, Distt. Mandi, HP declare that I have changed my name Kusum Lata to Kusum Kumari, Date of birth 11 July 1957, Vide Aff. No. 16AA317498, Dt 19.4.2021. (CL21007797)

COURT NOTICE
(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Ms. Pratima Singla
Civil Judge,
(Junior Division),
Ludhiana.

Ranjit Grewal
Versus
Daljit Singh Grewal
CNR No.:
PBLOD-009638-2019
Next Date: 04.05.2021
Publication issued to:
Daljit Singh Grewal s/o Col.
Gurcharan Singh Grewal R/o 386-L, Model Town, Ludhiana.

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 04.05.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar
Dated, this day of 05.02.2021

Sd/-
Additional Principal Judge
Family Court-1,
Jalandhar.

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Preeti Sahni
Principal Judge,
Family Court,
Jalandhar.

Bobby w/o Sunil Kumar d/o Sadhu Singh. Address: Rented House of Amarjit Kaur bearing No. 11, backside Chintpurni Mandir Ghara PS Div. 7, Jalandhar.

Vs.
1) Sunil Kumar s/o Charan Dass Address: 101, Village Sabbalow, Near Urban Estate, Phase II, Jalandhar.

2) Charan Dass s/o Nanan Chand Address: 101, Village Sabbalow, Near Urban Estate, Phase II, Jalandhar.

3) Simran alias Jaspal w/o Sulinder Kumar. Address: Mohalla Lalari Road, Near Railway Station Khanna, Distt. Ludhiana.

4) Sulinder Kumar. Address: Mohalla Lalari Road, Near Railway Station Khanna, Distt. Ludhiana.

CNR No.: PBLOJ-011576-2019
Next Date: 04.05.2021
Petition Under Guardian and Wards Act Publication issued to:

1) Sunil Kumar Father: Charan Dass 101, Village Sabbalow, Near Urban Estate, Phase II, Jalandhar.

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 04.05.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar
Dated, this day of 10.03.2021

Sd/-
Civil Judge,
(Junior Division),
Jalandhar.

BUSINESS

Business funds available at nominal interest rate. Contact: 76528-25450 (Mon-Fri) 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. (CL21007545)

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529 sq. yards corner side park in Sec. 36, Chandigarh only FF for sale 97017-0001. (CL21007669)

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COURT NOTICES

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)
(Succession Case)

In the Court of
Ms. Rajwinder Kaur-I,
Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division),
Mukerian.

Pritam Singh son of Chhangon son of Thakru resident of Village Hir Beh, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur and others

Versus
General Public
CNR No.

PBHOCO-000115-2021

Next Date: 04.05.2021

Application Under Section 372 of Indian Succession Act 1925

Notice 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 04.05.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=hoshiarpur

Dated, this day of 23.03.2021.

Sd/- Ms. Rajwinder Kaur-I,
Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division),
CL21007613 Mukerian.

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Harreet Kaur Kaleka
Additional Principal Judge,
Family Court-1, Jalandhar.

Jaspal Singh aged about 32 years s/o Surjit Singh r/o H.No. B-3-2880 Saipur Road Shahkot, Tehsil Shahkot, District Jalandhar.

Versus
Rakhi Hallan d/o Raj Kumar wife of Jaspal Singh r/o Village Mujaffarpur (Pallian Khurd) Tehsil Nawanshahr, District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar.

Petition under Section 13 of Hindu Marriage Act for dissolution of Marriage by a decree of divorce.

CNR No.
PBBLJ-01-012767-2019
Next Date: 04.05.2021
Publication issued to:

Rakhi Hallan
D/o: Raj Kumar wife of Jaspal Singh r/o Village Mujaffarpur (Pallian Khurd) Tehsil Nawanshahr, District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar.

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 04.05.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar
Dated, this day of 05.02.2021

Sd/-
Additional Principal Judge
Family Court-1,
Jalandhar.

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of

Preeti Sahni
Principal Judge,
Family Court,
Jalandhar.

Bobby w/o Sunil Kumar d/o Sadhu Singh. Address: Rented House of Amarjit Kaur bearing No. 11, backside Chintpurni Mandir Ghara PS Div. 7, Jalandhar.

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1) Sunil Kumar s/o Charan Dass Address: 101, Village Sabbalow, Near Urban Estate, Phase II, Jalandhar.

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3) Simran alias Jaspal w/o Sulinder Kumar. Address: Mohalla Lalari Road, Near Railway Station Khanna, Distt. Ludhiana.

4) Sulinder Kumar. Address: Mohalla Lalari Road, Near Railway Station Khanna, Distt. Ludhiana.

CNR No.: PBLOJ-011576-2019
Next Date: 04.05.2021
Petition Under Guardian and Wards Act Publication issued to:

1) Sunil Kumar Father: Charan Dass 101, Village Sabbalow, Near Urban Estate, Phase II, Jalandhar.

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 04.05.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar
Dated, this day of 10.03.2021

Sd/-
Civil Judge,
(Junior Division),
Jalandhar.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Ludhiana

CORRIGENDUM TO RECRUITMENT NOTICE NO.14792

Due to technical reason, the Application Forms for the post of APO as advertised via Notice No.14792 dt.13/04/2021 will now be accepted offline and the date of receiving of the filled Application form as per instructions available on <http://ludhiana.nic.in> is extended up to 30.04.2021 (5.00 PM). The instructions and application form is available on <http://ludhiana.nic.in>.

Sd/- Additional Deputy Commissioner(Dev.)-cum-Additional District Programme Coordinator (MNREGA) Ludhiana DPR/Pb/3830

DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH & MEDICAL EDUCATION, PUNJAB, MEDICAL EDUCATION BHAWAN, SECTOR-69, MOHALI

PH. NO. 0172-5287760

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible doctors for filling up the posts of Senior Residents Govt. Medical College, Patiala/Amritsar. The last date of receipt of applications in the office of Director, Research & Medical Education, Punjab was 07.05.2021 (Friday) up to 5.00 pm. Keeping in view the COVID-19 situation, this date has been preponed. Now the last date of receipt of applications is 29-04-2021, (Thursday) up to 5.00 pm. The detail regarding instructions to apply for the post, Proforma and No. of seats are available on the website www.punjabmedicaleducation.org.

Sd/- For Director, Research & Med. Education Pb.

DPR/Pb/3824

ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਡਿਪਟੀ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ-ਕਮ-ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਕੇਅਰਡੀਨੇਟ, ਮਹਾਤਮਾ ਗਾਂਪੀਂ ਨੇਂਗ ਸਰਵੇਰ ਰੋਡ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ।**ਭਰਤੀ ਇਸ਼ਤਾਵਹਾਰ**

ਮਹਾਤਮਾ ਗਾਂਪੀਂ ਨੇਂਗ ਸਰਵੇਰ ਆਪਣੀ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਕੇਅਰਡੀਨੇਟ, ਸਹਾਇਕ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਅਫਸਰ, ਤਕਨੀਕੀ ਸਹਾਇਕ, ਗਰਮ ਰੁਹਾਗਰ ਸਹਾਇਕ, ਡਾਟਾ ਐਚੀ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ, ਅਕਾਊਂਟਿਸ਼ਨ ਸੈਨੇਕਟ, ਦਫ਼ਤਰੀ ਸਹਾਇਕ ਅਤੇ ਕੰਪਾਇਂਟਰ ਸਹਾਇਕ ਦੀ ਭਰਤੀ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਯੋਗ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂਦਾਰਾਂ ਪਾਸੋਂ ਮਿਤ

Bed shortage in F'bad, G'gram

Situation under control, state has capacity for 11,000 beds: Vij

GEETANJALI GAYATRI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 19

With Haryana witnessing a sharp spike in the Covid cases, the availability of beds in Gurugram and Faridabad hospitals is fast dwindling. The active cases in Gurugram district increased from 5,548 to 12,195 in the past week while, in Faridabad, the number of such cases has gone up from 1,947 to 5,548.

In Gurugram district, there are 2,261 beds reserved for Covid patients. Only 10 of the 491 ICU beds are vacant. Of the 233 ventilator beds, only three are vacant. The number of beds with oxygen facility is slightly better, with 138 of 1,533 such beds are vacant.

Sources say that in Gurugram and Faridabad, it was observed that some patients had started paying up to reserve beds, causing a shortage.

"To check this tendency, the district administration had formed a team and appointed Duty Magistrates assisted by medical teams to scrutinise records of patients getting admitted to hospitals," said



In Faridabad, a three-member committee will inspect hospitals and identify patients who do not need hospitalisation. FILE

PRECARIOUS SITUATION

GURUGRAM

	Total	Vacant
ICU beds	491	10
Ventilator beds	233	3
Beds with oxygen	1,533	138



FARIDABAD

396 ISOLATION BEDS	188 ICU BEDS
236 OCCUPIED	90 OCCUPIED

Gurugram Deputy Commissioner Yash Garg.

He admitted there were hardly any beds available in private hospitals of Gurugram. "Those not requiring

hospitalisation are being immediately discharged. Once a patient is discharged, new one is admitted. In view of the high number of cases, the dis-

trict administration has identified 17 hotels that can serve as Covid care centres as and when needed."

In Faridabad, of the 396 isolation beds, 236 are occupied. In all, 90 out of 188 ICU beds reserved for Covid patients are occupied, while 11 of the 35 ventilators are in use.

Civil Surgeon Dr Randeep Punia, "We have formed a three-member committee which will inspect hospitals and identify patients who do not need hospitalisation. That way, beds can be made available to the needy."

He added a list of buildings which could double up as makeshift hospitals in case of an emergency was drawn up during the last wave of infection. "We have the equipment and machines ready. If required, a facility of about 5,000 beds can be created," he said.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Anil Vij said, "The state has a capacity of 11,000 beds. The district administrations of Gurugram and Faridabad have been authorised to identify buildings and facilities, including hotels, for expansion. The situation is under control."

More than 40k cases in week; 252 of UK strain

SUSHIL MANAV

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 19

The state witnessed more than 40,000 cases of Covid in the past week even as 252 more cases of the UK variant surfaced. This has been stated in a report from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) received on Monday.

The infection recorded in the past week are four times the cases recorded in January and February put together and 50 per cent more than the total cases registered in January, February and March.

The mortality rate has also gone up considerably. In the past one week, 147 people passed away because of Covid. This is more than the number of deaths in February and March. In all, 10,414 cases witnessed from March 29 to April 4; 18,748 cases from April 5 to 11; and 40,090 cases last week (from April 12 to 18).

Though the cumulative positivity rate stands at 5.23 per cent, the current daily positivity rate has gone up to 16.66 per cent, the highest ever.

The "R naught" (R0) value, which indicates how contagious is the disease, has surged to 1.24 from 1.00 to 1.01 during January and February. The number of active cases

DEATH RATE GOES UP

The mortality rate has gone up. In the past one week, 147 people passed away because of Covid. This is more than the number of deaths in February and March

■ The 'R naught' (R0) value, which indicates how contagious is the disease, has surged to 1.24 from 1.00 to 1.01 during January and February

6,842 CASES IN 24 HRS

With 6,842 fresh cases on Monday, the tally has reached 3,63,813. Gurugram reported a maximum of 1,809 cases. The toll reached 3,448 with state reporting 33 more deaths.

has reached 42,217.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Anil Vij said, "The state has no plan to clamp lockdown in the state." "Of the 42,000-odd active cases, about 30,000 are under home isolation. Doctors will visit them once in two days and provide

them with kits containing preventive and curative medicines, and oximeters," he said, adding there was 270 MT of medical oxygen against the demand for 60 MT.



Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana



Haryana Government
Facilitating
Corona patients
during
Home Isolation



Kit, Medicines,
Immunity Boosters,
Masks, Gloves,
Disinfectants,
Sanitizers and
Home Isolation Booklet
for such patients



Mobile Health Teams
regularly monitoring such patients by visiting their house

Control Room set up
for the convenience of citizens which includes

30 helplines



Panchkula, Gurugram & Faridabad

8558893911

For Other Districts

108

Tele-Consultation for Health Consultation

1075

For more information visit :
<https://www.coronaharyana.in>

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

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COMMITTED FOR STRENGTHENING OF COVID-19 TREATMENT AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT IDENTIFIES 16 PRIVATE HOSPITALS MEETING REQUIREMENTS FOR COVID-19 TERTIARY CARE*

AMRITSAR

- ◆ SG RD MEDICAL COLLEGE AMRITSAR
- ◆ FORTIS ESCORTS HOSPITAL
- ◆ DR KARAM SINGH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
- ◆ IVY HOSPITAL
- ◆ MAHAJAN HOSPITAL

SAS NAGAR

- ◆ FORTIS HOSPITAL
- ◆ MAX SUPERSPECIALITY
- ◆ SGHS SOHANA
- ◆ INDUS HOSPITAL
- ◆ IVY HOSPITAL

LUDHIANA

- ◆ DAYANAND MEDICAL COLLEGE (DMC)
- ◆ CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE (CMC)
- ◆ FORTIS HOSPITAL
- ◆ MOHANDAI OSWAL HOSPITAL
- ◆ SATGURU PRATAP SINGH HOSPITAL

BATHINDA

- ◆ ADESH MEDICAL COLLEGE



ADOPT COVID APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOURS



WEAR A MASK



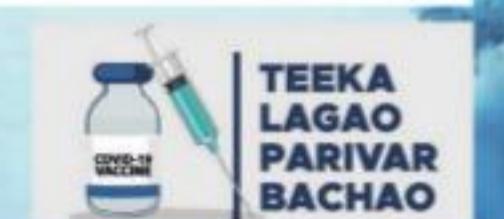
MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE



ENSURE HANDWASH/ SANITIZATION



COVER MOUTH & NOSE WHILE COUGHING/SNEEZING



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, PUNJAB

DIAL 104
TOLL FREE
MEDICAL HELPLINE

24x7
Days

*Patient will be charged for treatment as per rates notified by Government

Qualifications & Experience : As per Haryana Govt./PGIMS, Rohtak/MCI norms.
Salary : As per Haryana Govt./PGIMS Rohtak

The undersigned reserves the right to cancel all or any recruitment(s) without assigning any reason.

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DPR/Pb/3837

DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR STATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Sector-56, S.A.S Nagar, Mohali

RECRUITMENT OF SENIOR RESIDENTS/TUTORS
No. AIMS/2021/667 Dated: 19.4.2021

Walk-in-Interviews for filling up the 24 posts of Senior Residents/Tutors in the various departments for Dr. B.R. Ambedkar State Institute of Medical Sciences, Mohali are going to be held on 30-04-2021 (Friday) at 10:00 AM. The details of posts, application form etc. are available on the website. Candidates are expected to bring all their documents and id proofs.

www.punjabmedicateducation.org/mohali

Sd/- Director Principal, Mohali

Maharaja Agrasen Medical College, Agroha (Hissar) – 125047 Haryana
(Recognized by MCI)
Website: www.mamc.edu.in Phone No. 01669-252000-01 (2204)

RECRUITMENT

Applications are invited for the following post of faculty in the various departments. The applications in the prescribed format (available on our website) should reach in the office of Director MAMC, Agroha on or before 26.04.2021 by 3.00 p.m. by post/email i.e. director@mamc.edu.in. The candidates are requested to visit the website regularly for date of interview, notifications, update, corrigendum and amendments etc., if any, with respect to advertisement.

1	Professor	TB & Chest 01 (Gen), Urology 01 (Gen), Cardiology 01 (Gen), Nephrology 01 (Gen)
2	Associate Professor	Gen. Medicine 03 (02Gen+01SC), Gen. Surgery 01(SC), Radiology 01 (Gen), Orthopaedics 01 (Gen), Anaesthesia 01 (Gen)
3	Assistant Professor	Gen. Medicine 01 (Gen), Gen. Surgery 01 (SC), Obst & Gynaec 01 (Gen), Anaesthesia 01 (Gen), Radiology 02 (Gen), Dentistry 01 (Gen on contract basis) Nephrology 01 (Gen)

Qualifications & Experience : As per Haryana Govt./PGIMS, Rohtak/MCI norms.
Salary : As per Haryana Govt./PGIMS Rohtak

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The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Delhi's Covid crisis

Lockdown won't resolve healthcare inadequacies

CAUGHT off guard yet again, the Delhi Government has imposed a six-day lockdown in a desperate attempt to tackle the resurgence of coronavirus cases in the national capital. Almost every third sample is turning out to be Covid-positive, even as the daily caseload has gone past 25,000. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal claims that Delhi has withstood three waves of the pandemic and would deal successfully with the fourth one as well. His optimism belies the bitter fact that Delhi's healthcare system repeatedly came under severe strain last year and has now practically crumbled amid the alarming surge in cases. On Sunday, Kejriwal sent a belated SOS to PM Narendra Modi and Union Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal, pleading them to ramp up bed capacity in Central government-run hospitals and ensure uninterrupted supply of medical oxygen. The CM informed them that less than 100 ICU beds were available in Delhi and there was an acute shortage of oxygen in the city's hospitals. Central and state governments must explain why they didn't do the needful at the right time to prevent the meltdown.

It would be naïve to expect that the lockdown would break the chain of transmission and give the authorities breathing space to get their act together. Even the CM has admitted that the lockdown is no solution. What's worse, the restrictions may hamper the movement of people who wish to get themselves tested or vaccinated. Past experience should have spurred the state government to be well prepared for the worst by making adequate provision for hospital beds, medical equipment and oxygen. The blame game between the AAP dispensation and the BJP-ruled civic bodies is a pointless exercise that is rubbing salt into the wounds of Delhi's hapless residents.

It's been almost a year since Delhi Police constable Amit Kumar, hailing from Haryana, succumbed to Covid-19 after a couple of hospitals failed to give him timely treatment. Unfortunately, nothing has changed on the ground after his untimely death as frontline workers as well as ordinary people continue to fall prey to official apathy and mismanagement in the Capital.

Asian lives matter

Massacre of Sikhs reflects spurt in hate crimes

MARKING the latest chapter in the ugly history of hate crimes against American-Asians is the senseless massacre of four Sikhs in a mass shooting at their workplace in Indianapolis, US, in which over 90 per cent staffers are of Punjabi descent. This dark stain paints the spurt in hate crimes in the country that, as one traumatised victim rued, was reflective of the 'hard and cruel world we live in'. It comes within a month of the firing spree at Asian-owned spas in Atlanta that left eight dead. The worst Sikh massacre in the US claimed seven lives when a shooter targeted a Wisconsin gurdwara in 2012. Pulling the trigger in all these cases was a lone white gunman.

The land of dreams and opportunities that draws thousands of immigrants from Punjab every year has, unfortunately, failed to address their concerns of safety. Awareness campaigns regarding Sikh men who are at times confused with Muslims because of their turbans and unshorn hair since 9/11 are needed to improve their image. Though every heartbreaking incident prompts an outcry and some soul-searching, the US has not made effective changes to its policies that contribute to such insane behaviour. The country's lax gun ownership laws have not been tightened. Neither has hate crime been made more stringent by upgrading it from a mere misdemeanour to a felony.

Vitriol and violence against Asian-Americans — fuelled by bias against gender, race, orientation and religion — has skyrocketed since the pandemic began. A California State University report has found that anti-Asian hate crimes surged nearly 150 per cent in 2020, while overall hate crimes fell by 7 per cent. The spread of the hate virus that is striking the Asian communities is partly attributed to former President Trump's xenophobic and Covid-related anti-China rhetoric. The inflammatory and scapegoating atmosphere must be contained. Hope shines from President Joe Biden's acknowledgement of the racially motivated hate crimes and promise of exploring opportunities to combat them. Asian lives matter. Their maltreatment — beating, insulting, spitting and yelling at, and killing — infringes upon their rights.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The human spirit lies open to God alone, for it is a fathomless depth. — Seraphim of Sarov

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1921

PASSIVE RESISTANCE AGAIN.

WE have again another instance of successful application of Satyagraha or passive resistance by the people of about fifty villages in the Poona District against the decision of the authorities to dispossess them of their agricultural lands for some commercial purpose. We have already published telegrams from Poona which give us a full account of the manner in which the villagers resisted engineers and others who began to proceed with their constructional programme on the lands of the cultivators. The methods adopted were entirely peaceful and involved the willing endurance by the Satyagrhis or passive resisters of the hardships and sufferings inflicted by the new owners of their lands. It is obvious that the latter could not have proceeded with their operations without causing what appeared to be a serious loss of life and injury to hundreds of men, women and children who lay down on their lands and refused to be removed. Consequently the work of the industrial company had to be stopped for the day, and it remains to be seen whether they will make another attempt to break the spirit of the passive resisters or give up the scheme. For one thing it is satisfactory to know that some of the educated men from Poona are guiding the movement in order to see that no violence is resorted to and the true spirit of Satyagraha is maintained throughout the struggle. That struggle, however, appears not to end so soon, considering the persistent attitude of the Bombay Government and the resolution of the Tata Company. The latter want large areas of land for their hydro-electric scheme, which is a most desirable undertaking, and that land can only be selected in the most useful locality from the engineering standpoint. It is obviously not possible for the Tata Company to manage without acquiring the land and without dispossessing its owners of the only means of their livelihood and disturbing their traditional occupations.

Love more vital than vaccine

We are passing through intense fear as the virus unsettles everything



AVIJIT PATHAK

SOCIOLOGIST

Love, whether it is of this world or the other, leads us to the Lord who is the Lord of all. — Jalaluddin Rumi

At a time when the process of vaccination has just begun to arouse some hope in the possibility of combating the Covid-19, the aggressive return of the virus is once again taking us to a psychic domain filled with fear, anxiety and a sense of meaninglessness. We rise up every morning, and we begin to consume the new statistics of death. We are repeatedly reminded of the chaotic and overcrowded crematoriums and the shortage of ICU beds and ventilators in our hospitals. We find ourselves wounded and crippled. For us, it seems, there is no sunrise anymore; no flower blooms; and no bird sings. Is it the end of prayers, gratitude and life-affirming vibrations? Or, is it like being surrounded by the all-pervading darkness, and remain obsessively preoccupied with only one question: Can the vaccines save us?

Well, modern biomedicine can possibly give us the most efficient means to minimise the impact of the virus; and hence, the process of vaccination has its significance. Yet, we should not forget that the vaccines alone cannot give us back what we seem to have lost—the quest for a meaningful living (not merely a survival strategy with masks and sanitiser) amid the psychic storm and existential uncertainty. It is high time we began to realise that love—our ultimate quest—is no less important than the vaccines. And what is this



IN THE DARK: Life seems to have lost its creative abundance. PTI

Vaccines alone can't give us back what we seem to have lost—the quest for a meaningful living amid the psychic storm and existential uncertainty.

love—the fountain of life energy in a dark world?

Well, the gospel of modernity—with its ceaseless urge to conquer the world and establish human supremacy over the earth, and the vital energy it generates through the logic of unlimited techno-economic development and consumerism—is not comfortable with death. However, the fact is that death is implicit in birth, and to live with awareness is to die with grace, or to die meaningfully is to live and love intensely. But then, as modernity abhors death, it makes life superficial. In fact, modernity has not actually conquered fear; instead, despite the glitz of techno-capitalism, we live with chronic fear: the fear of old age, the fear of losing our material possessions and the fear of death. The virus has once again shown that we are terribly fearful. Hence, despite our instrumental reasoning and the proliferation of 'life coaches' with a mix of psychology and spirituality,

we are broken. As moderns, we are not as powerful as we think ourselves to be.

To acknowledge and internalise the reality of death in the very rhythm of life is not to fall into the trap of a nihilistic suicidal tendency. Nor does it mean that you and I would not congratulate our scientists, researchers and doctors who have come forward with the vaccines. Essentially, it means the ability to accept that the future—even after the vaccine—would remain unknown; and to live is not to be obsessed with the fear of 'tomorrow', and what actually matters is the reality of this very moment when you and I are alive. Let this moment be lived with gratitude, and with absolute mindfulness. If we miss the aliveness of this very moment, even the right dose of the vaccines will not be able to fundamentally alter our fear-centric living with all sorts of psychic nervousness.

Only with this mindfulness can we cultivate the spirit of connectedness.

Because to live deeply and intensely here and now is to hear the chirping of birds, feel the warmth of the sun and experience the boundless laughter of a child. Indeed, at this intense moment of living, one breaks the egoistic wall of separation; one becomes the butterfly, the sun, the tide in the ocean; in other words, one becomes the universe. And this confluence removes all sorts of fear. Instead, what grows is the abundance of love. Imagine the intensity of fear we are passing through as the virus unsettles everything. This is the fear of loneliness which is further intensified because of social distancing; this is the fear of losing the warmth of human touch; and this is the fear of being stigmatised and left alone in the ICU of a hospital. In a very paradoxical way, the virus is teaching us that our egoistic pride is an illusion; and nothing matters more in life than love—the touch of a friend, a healer, or an illuminating sunset one likes to see with one's beloved. This love is the ultimate medicine; it is more powerful than the vaccine.

What an ugly world we have created! With inflated egos, reckless consumerism and arrogance of technology, we have erected huge walls of separation—life from death, finite from infinite, body from soul, reason from poetry, and science from the aesthetics of living and dying. The result is the all-pervading fear, or a sense of meaninglessness. Under 'normal' circumstances, we seek to hide from this spiritual impoverishment through our 'productivity', or our indulgence with the entertainment industry. And now as the irresistible Covid-19 has disturbed this normalcy, we are at a loss. Be it the anxiety over the efficacy of the vaccine, or the dependence on psychiatric drugs to combat depression and panic attack—life seems to have lost its creative abundance. This is the major existential crisis the pandemic has made us exposed to.

Are we ready to redeem ourselves through a process of spiritual transformation?

A champion runner at 90

RAJAN KASHYAP

HOW does one describe an amateur athlete whose athletic career begins in 1979, at the age of 50, when professional runners have long since retired? This was Bhupinder Banta Singh, who set an Asian record for women in her age-group in the 100 metres sprint event at the world athletics championship for veterans at Hanover, (then) West Germany. In 2009, at 80, she moved heaven and earth to travel to Helsinki, Finland, with little financial sponsorship, to win a silver medal in a similar event for veterans. It was, in Shakespeare's words, 'a fine frenzy' was the defining force that carried her to the icy country.

My association with Bhupinder began on the tennis courts at Chandigarh Club, where she was the most regular among all members. Tennis was her first love. Running was a fun thing. She was naturally gifted. She confessed that she realised her potential as a runner during the chance international exposure. Her lasting craze was for tennis. At first blush, the young male players with whom she chose to play, would scoff at the idea of opposing a woman, old enough to be their mother, even grandmother. When the group discovered her skills, especially her ability to retrieve difficult shots, the disdain turned into cheers.

The convention at the club required the loser to pay for evening tea. She broke the norms in her inimitable manner. If she lost, she paid for tea on the courts. If she won, she invited the entire group to a scrumptious high tea at her elegant home in Sector 8. It was on one such occasion, when we were enjoying her hospitality that she introduced us to her husband, Banta Singh. To our dismay, he had been severely incapacitated, and was confined to a wheelchair for years. We felt guilty at having required Bhupinder to treat us so lavishly, when she would have been attending to her husband. Such was her zest, however, that she was ever the perfect hostess, even when Banta Singh was bedridden. Bhupinder travelled abroad even as she was coping uncomplainingly with her long crisis at home. For her, life was to be lived well.

I recall that she was the life and soul of every party to which she was invited. At the wedding of our daughter, Bhupinder led the gidda

with Punjabi songs, and later was the most graceful of dancers in the ballroom. She moved smoothly, in 6-inch heels, the envy of us who were flat-footed.

Banta Singh died about 20 years ago. That sad event was followed just about seven years ago by the tragic loss of both her sons, one a serving Brigadier. I was amazed at her fortitude in the hours of suffering.

Bhupinder Banta Singh passed away at the age of 92 years on April 17. During one weak moment, she had confessed to me that her only regret in life was that she was not tall. I was at pains to assure her that with her courage in adversity, in my eyes, she stood taller than all of us. She would have liked her passing to be celebrated, and not mourned.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Out of govt hand

The unexpected surge in corona cases has put a question mark on the government's ability to tackle this pandemic. The health system has collapsed. There is a shortage of oxygen, beds in hospitals, ventilators, etc. The sufferer is left to die. When the alarm bells are ringing all over the world, our politicians are engaged in elections. For them, winning over Didi is more important than the coronavirus. The PM, along with his team, is busy in well-planned rallies, whereas oxygen plants are being set up only now. They were not proactive. The severity of the second wave was well known in advance, but the elections diverted the attention of the government machinery.

JASWANT SINGH, CHANDIGARH

Alarming Covid caseload

Reference to 'Shortages all around'; there is an urgent need to strike a balance between pandemic mitigation efforts and public activities. While restrictions on movement and businesses are already in place across cities in the country, a return to last year's lockdown would be disastrous for the economy. At the same time, Covid cases can't be allowed to grow at the cur-

rent pace. Healthcare infrastructure is again stretched in several states. In such a scenario, the minimum that the authorities must do is to prevent potential super-spreader events at all costs. It's welcome that though a bit late, PM Modi has called for observing the Kumbh symbolically. The long-drawn Bengal election is proving to be another unsafe event, with political parties holding large rallies.

EL SINGH, BY MAIL

Ban election rallies

It is very painful and unfortunate that the political parties are holding large public rallies and road shows in West Bengal despite the huge surge in Covid cases. The health system across the country is on the verge of collapse. It is surprising that our political leaders are not concerned about the health and wellbeing of the public. When they are not following Covid protocols, how can they expect the public to do so? The Election Commission must ban all public rallies and road shows in the ongoing Assembly elections in public interest.

SACHIN GARG, KAITHAL

Vaccine wastage

Himachal Pradesh deserves acco-

lades for zero wastage of the Covid vaccine against the permitted wastage of 5 per cent. Obviously, it was possible because the state health department used the vaccine doses to be administered in a well-planned manner. However, in Maharashtra alone, 5 lakh doses of vaccines were wasted due to mismanagement and casual approach. The same is true of other states except Kerala. This apathy on the part of Maharashtra and other states, where the vaccines were wasted more than the permissible limit, amounts to criminal negligence, especially at a time when people are running the risk of losing their life due to vaccine shortage.

MAHESHWER SHARMA, BY MAIL

Struggle continues

Apropos of the article 'For growth, revive the spirit of entrepreneurship', when Jawaharlal Nehru became the Prime Minister, he had to revive the agricultural sector through Five Year Plans to address the questions of poverty and rural starvation. Every PM has contributed positively in one way or the other in nation-building and the only difference was in their 'choice of priorities'. Indira Gandhi strength-

ened us militarily by inflicting defeat on Pakistan, Manmohan Singh opened our economy to the outside world and Narendra Modi has boosted infrastructure development. In the present times, big businessmen, traders and corporate houses have gained immensely in wealth during the lockdown period, but the farmers, daily wagers and small traders have been facing hardships.

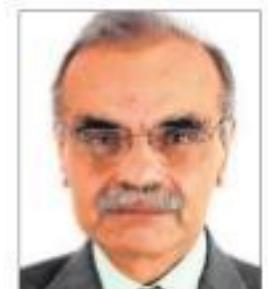
RAJ BAHADUR YADAV, FATEHABAD

Communism in India

The article 'Why communism has not done better in India?' (*The Sunday Tribune*) analyses an intriguing phenomenon. India has experienced subjugation, first under the Muslims and then under the British. No other nation of India's stature has seen such a long spell of foreign subjugation. When finally the yoke of foreign rule was thrown away, there was no question of accepting any ideology of foreign origin. The Indian Marxists owe their allegiance to Russia and China. Why did this kind of thinking not develop in West Bengal? This state has produced tall nationalists, leaders, saints, scholars and artists. The writer has not provided any answers for this.

KIRAN SHARMA, SUNDERNAGAR

Military upgrade must factor in fiscal reality



AMIT COWSHISH

EX-FINANCIAL ADVISER,
ACQUISITION, MoDRAHUL BEDI
SENIOR
JOURNALIST

Aatmanirbharta or self-reliance by sourcing military equipment locally. But in its misdirected zeal, the MoD fails to realise that such inchoate initiatives, though cursorily appealing in an optics-driven environment, are either unviable, or worse, hugely expensive, or both in the medium term once implemented.

Initially proposed 17 years ago by the then Finance Minister Jaswant Singh whilst presenting the interim budget for 2014-15, the DMF proposition has recently been resurrected as a magical 'silver bullet' to dissemble innumerable flaws and complexities in the MoD's hidebound procurement procedures. This is despite repeated warnings by senior federal officials that transferring funds to, and defraying moneys from the DMF too would necessitate parliamentary approval, analogous to the regular budgetary exercise, apart from exacerbating the burgeoning fiscal deficit.

Simply stated, the projected DMF is in no manner comparable to a current account to 'park' surplus funds for the services to tap into whenever required.

The DMF's proposed quantum, however, is unknown, but according to the 15th Finance Commission's estimates, it could be around Rs 1,88,000 crore for the five-year period from 2021 to 2026.

If so, it would make it an average of Rs 37,600 crore per annum for all three services, a paltry amount by any standards, considering the gargantuan amounts needed for military modernisation.

There is yet another related complication; if the DMF funds remain unutilised for three years — a distinct possibility, given the MoD's extended acquisition processes — all unspent resources will revert to the Consolidated



Other than creating a non-lapsable Defence Modernisation Fund financed largely by monetising some 31,550 acres of military land, including 20,000 acres on which Military Farms, founded in 1887, were located and another 8,000 acres occupied by abandoned airstrips and sundry camping grounds, and reducing service salaries and pensions, the MoD is also trying to source military equipment locally. But in its misdirected zeal, the MoD fails to realise that such inchoate initiatives are either unviable, or worse, hugely expensive.

TASK CUT OUT: Under General Rawat as the CDS, efforts are afoot to modernise the defence forces. PTI

Fund of India. Hence, it may be far easier to append such a meagre sum to the regular budgetary allocation, instead of routing it through the DMF.

Furthermore, monetising defence land cannot be a lasting solution to bankroll the DMF, as the family silver can only be sold once. Thereafter, the DMF will need to be financed via taxation or borrowing, or both, suppressing allocation to other crucial sectors of the economy, thereby running the entire scheme aground if the government fails in augmenting future revenue collections.

And, though General Rawat has also proposed numerous ideas to contain salaries and pensions — equalling 54

per cent of the overall defence budget in the current fiscal — like limited colour service, extension of retirement age and graded pensionary benefits, serving and retired military personnel have summarily resisted all such 'demoralising' schemes. This influential lobby has outright condemned them as impractical and unworkable, seriously threatening to nobble General Rawat's recommendations.

Indigenously sourcing defence materiel, though a laudable objective, too needs to be rooted in fiscal reality as it cannot, under any condition, immediately deliver financial dividends and effect savings. The *Aatmanirbharta* mantra is simply another

er refrain many in the government swear by without adequate data to support their belief that it will immediately usher in financial frugality.

If anything, indigenous production of military equipment desperately needed by India's military like helicopters, submarines, combat aircraft, tanks, and even small arms, amongst others, is in the initial years, invariably more expensive than importing it till domestic manufacturing accomplishes amortisation. Domestically, this latter goal is wobbly as India's military is the sole customer for this kit and the export of major platforms and systems, vaunted as yet another 'silver bullet' remains, for now a mirage.

One simple illustration concerns the long-pending proposal by the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) to domestically licence-build 6,50,000 Russian Kalashnikov Ak-203 assault rifles. The OFB has reportedly costed each Ak-203 rifle initially at around Rs 86,000, amortised over time to average around Rs 80,000 per unit. Embarrassingly, the recent import of 1,44,800 assault rifles from the US-based Sig Sauer to meet the Army's urgent operational needs was considerably cheaper. Each Sig Sauer SIG 716 rifle was priced at \$990 (around Rs 74,000) — Rs 12,000 and Rs 6,000 cheaper than an Ak-203 rifle's initial and amortised cost, respectively, projected by the OFB.

There are numerous other such instances. In July 2006, for example, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had castigated Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for licence-building Russian Sukhoi Su-30MKI multi-role fighters for almost twice the amount it would have cost to import them directly.

The CAG revealed that the total cost of locally building 140 Su-30 MKI projected by the MoD in 2002 was \$4.91 billion, but it nearly doubled to \$8.71 billion soon thereafter. And though there is irrefutable logic in augmenting domestic defence production, it needs selective implementation as it defies logic for the Indian defence industry to reinvent the wheel.

In conclusion, the MoD's bandolier of silver bullets to expedite military modernisation and augment operational capacity needs serious and practical re-evaluation backed by objective statistical analysis. To reward Chinese strategist Sun Tzu's counsel, tactics without strategy is merely the noise before chaos.

Neutrality of CAPFs should not be compromised

MP NATHANAEAL
FORMER IG, CRPF

THE death of four young men at a polling booth in Sitalkuchi area of Cooch Behar during the fourth phase of polling in West Bengal on April 10 has led to allegations that the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel were responsible for the incident. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has accused Union Home Minister Amit Shah of using the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) that comprise the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the CISF to intimidate the voters to vote for the candidates of a particular party.

Quite a few versions are floating around about the firing incident at Sitalkuchi, one of which is that a 14-year-old boy who had accompanied his mother to the polling booth, fainted outside while his mother was inside the booth. When other women around him were trying to revive him, some CISF personnel went to them and offered to take him to the hospital which later led to a fracas between them. According to another version, word had gone around that the boy was assaulted by the CISF men which irked the villagers and they tried to attack the CISF personnel. In the melee, some villagers attempted to snatch the weapons of the CISF personnel who had to open fire in 'self-defence'.

During basic training, it is hammered

**DUTY-BOUND:** The CAPFs must not be dragged into political controversies. PTI

into every paramilitary trainee's brain that his service weapon has to be guarded at all times because it will protect his life as long as he is in possession of it. Hence, any attempt to snatch the weapon will be fully resisted and drive the person to retaliate by firing — not just to safeguard the weapon in his possession, but also to disperse the unruly mob that could have endangered his life and that of his colleagues.

Having served in the CRPF for nearly

four decades and having been involved in the conduct of elections all over the country several times, this writer never once came across any such instance where the CAPF personnel intimidated or asked any voter to vote for any particular party. The neutrality of the CAPF was never questioned. On the other hand, almost all political parties demanded the deployment of CAPFs, more particularly the CRPF, which has earned the reputation of being fair and impartial in the conduct of elections in every corner of the country.

The very composition of the sections, platoons, companies and battalions is such that every section

would normally have personnel from different states and religions and thereby every battalion is a mini-India in itself with no political affiliations. Such a mix of personnel would by itself hinder any person from showing any bias or leaning towards any political party.

All personnel of the CAPFs are considered to be on deputation to the Election Commission of India (ECI) when they are engaged in the smooth conduct of the elections. Prior to polling, senior officials of the ECI brief all commanders of the CAPFs about the way they are to perform their job and the rules that need to be strictly adhered to, though a majority of them are well conversant with the way the polling booths are to be secured. These commanders then brief all their personnel and depute them to various booths.

While the elections are on, the battalion and company commanders move in the area of deployment of their men to ensure that the elections are conducted smoothly and to sort out any problems that may crop up.

The heavy dependence of the ECI on the CAPF can be gauged from the fact that a senior CRPF official is designated as the senior coordinator for elections in all states with a control room in New Delhi. Not just the movement of CAPFs from different corners of the country to the states where elections are to be held are coordinated, even the deployment is coordinated with the nodal officers

designated in every state.

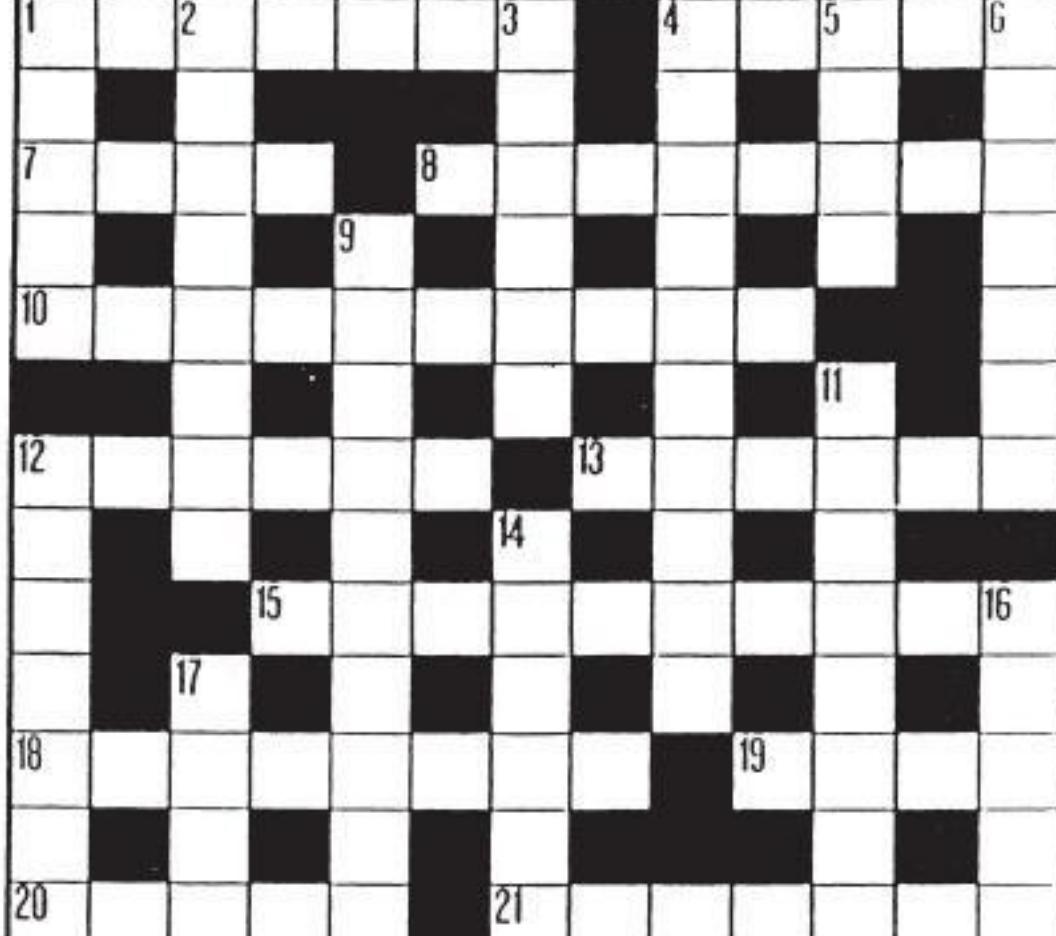
In recent years, allegations have been levelled against individuals from the CAPFs of playing a partisan role and intimidating voters, but these are exceptions. Exemplary punitive action is called for against such elements who attempt to thwart the democratic process of holding free and fair elections and dent the image of the CAPFs.

The nature of duties related to elections are too arduous and hectic and call for utmost perseverance and dedication of a high order. Moving from place to place for weeks after weeks to conduct elections saps one's energy. It speaks volumes of their grit and determination that they remain composed and go about their duties faithfully, shouldering the onerous responsibility of guarding the vital element of our democracy — the elections.

Between 2013 and 2017, 13 CRPF personnel lost their lives while on election-related duties. They trudge miles after miles to reach the remotest villages in far off places so that no eligible voter is deprived of his right to exercise his franchise. In states affected by Left wing extremism or insurgency and terrorism, they ensure safe conduct of polling at grave risk to their lives.

The Central Armed Police Forces have so far been apolitical and their neutrality is their asset, on which they pride themselves. Let us not pull them into the vortex of politics, lest our democratic values get compromised.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Stool pigeon, 9 Iron Age, 10 Ditch, 11 Tang, 12 Meteoric, 14 Naples, 16 Groove, 18 Decorate, 19 Waif, 22 Chore, 23 Elusive, 24 Golden goose.

Down: 2 Thorn, 3 Oval, 4 Prefer, 5 Gadgetry, 6 Ontario, 7 Sitting duck, 8 Chicken feed, 13 Befriend, 15 Piccolo, 17 Stew, 20 Amiss, 21 Juno.

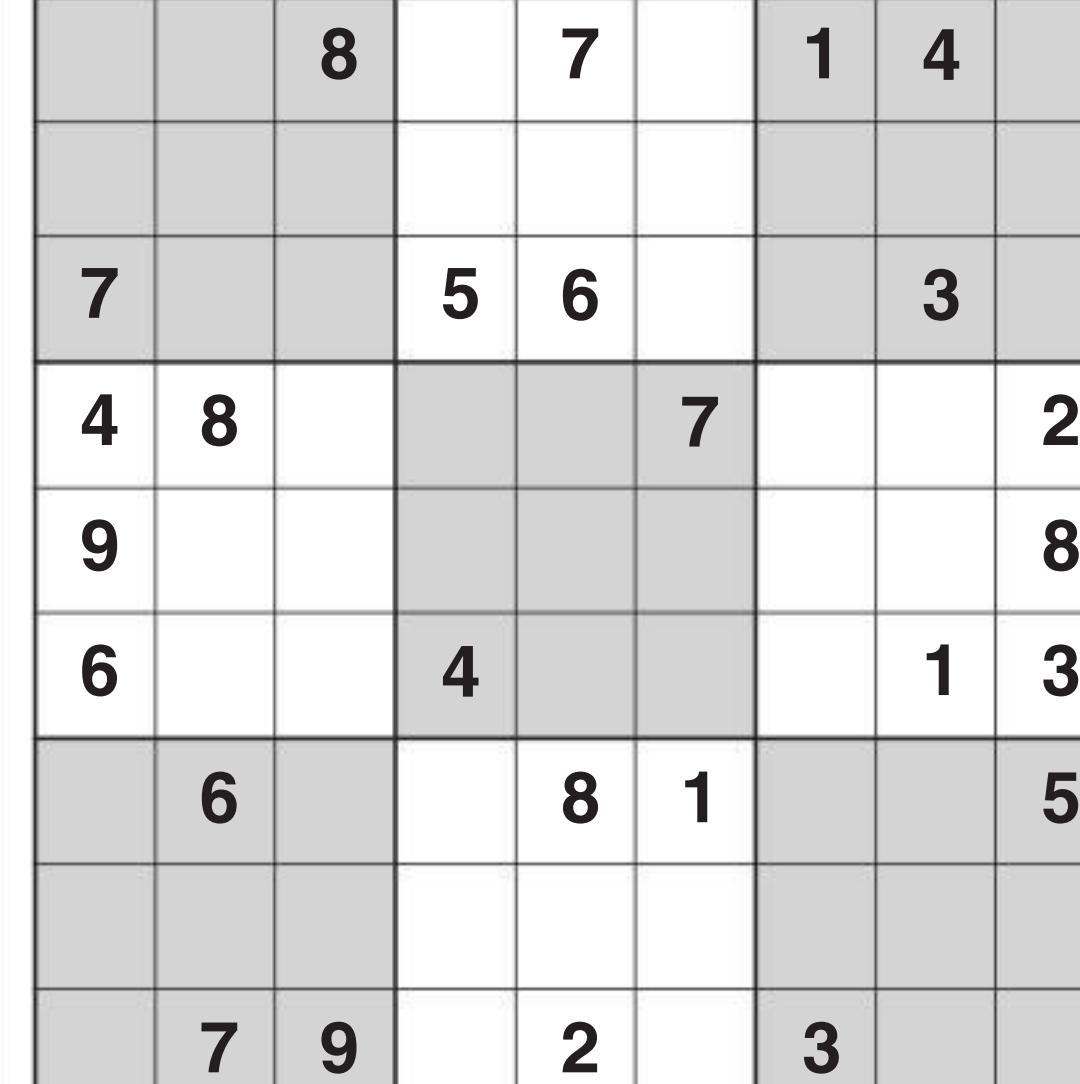
ACROSS

- 1 Given an unsuitable role (7)
- 4 To mock (5)
- 7 Spiritual teacher (4)
- 8 Dawn (8)
- 10 Perfect (10)
- 12 Perceive presence of (6)
- 13 Tube of a gun (6)
- 15 Inaccessible (3,2,5)
- 18 Conquer (8)
- 19 Spanish painter 1746-1828 (4)
- 20 Receiver of stolen goods (5)
- 21 Generally supposed (7)

DOWN

- 1 Conjuring tricks (5)
- 2 Unruffled calm (8)
- 3 Emotional shock (6)
- 4 Make oversubtle distinctions (5,5)
- 5 Wild drunken revelry (4)
- 6 Decisive (7)
- 9 Kindly but stern critic (5,5)
- 11 Escape from confinement (5,3)
- 12 Fall asleep (4,3)
- 14 Of an earlier period (6)
- 16 A hidden stock (5)
- 17 Thin (4)

SU DO KU



MEDIUM

CALENDAR

APRIL 20, 2021, TUESDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2078
■ Shaka Samvat	1943
■ Chaitra Shaka	30
■ Vaisakha Parvishtha	8
■ Hijri	1442
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 8, up to 12:44 am	
■ Dhriti Yoga up to 7:43 pm	
■ Punar Nakshatra up to 6:53 am	
■ Moon in Cancer sign	
■ Shridurgashthmi	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

2	7	8	4	6	5	1	9	3
4	9	6	3	1	7	2	8	5
3	1	5	8	2	9	7	4	6
7	4	1	5	3	6	8	2	9
8	6	3	7	9	2	4	5	1
5	2	9	1	4	8	3	6	7
1	3	2	9	5	4	6	7	8
9	8	4	6	7	1	5	3	2
6	5	7	2	8	3	9	1	4

FORECAST

SUNSET: TUESDAY 18:53 HRS

SUNRISE: WEDNESDAY 05:49 HRS

Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Rainy	Foggy

CITY MAX MIN

Chandigarh	36	19
New Delhi	37	19
Amritsar	33	18
Bathinda	32	16
Jalandhar	33	17
Ludhiana	31	18
Bhiwani	35	21
Hisar	35	19
Sirsia	33	21
Dharamsala	21	11
Manali	19	07
Shimla	22	10
Srinagar	20	08
Jammu	31	18
Kargil	07	01
Leh	03	-02
Dehradun	33	17
Mussoorie	21	10

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Notice Inviting E-Tenders - original

MD-cum-CEO, Dharamshala Smart City Limited invites online tenders from the eligible bidders for the following work:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost of Work	Ernest Money Deposit	Whether Tender Document Fee and EMD exemption permitted to MSME's	Cost of Tender Document	Date of Issue of Tender Document online	Last date of online submission of Bids	Date of opening of Pre-Qualification & Technical Bid
1	Construction of Playgrounds in Govt. Senior Secondary Boys School, Dharamshala.	Rs. 2,18,70,959/-	Rs. 4,37,420/-	Yes	Rs. 10,000/-	20.04.2021 05.00 p.m.	03.05.2021 05.00 p.m.	04.05.2021 03.00 p.m.

Note: 1. All the tender documents can be downloaded from the website: www.hptenders.gov.in

2. All Addendum/Corrigendum's will only be published in the above website.

3. For any queries please contact us at dcstender@gmail.com or phone no. 01892-226677/226075.

Sd/- Managing Director-cum-CEO,
Dharamshala Smart City Limited.

DI-1282

Punjab State Seeds Corporation Ltd. Kheti Bhawan, 4th Floor, Near Dara Studio, Phase - VI, SAS Nagar Mail id: punseed.chd@punjab.gov.in | CIN U01122CH1976PLC003640 | www.punseed.com

Short Term e-tender notice for the appointment of the labour Contractors

E-tenders are invited by the Corporation for appointment of the labour contractors at the seed processing plants at Kartarpur, Kotkapura, Ladhawal, Sohal and Abhara for Crop Year 2021-22.

E-tenders will be received and opened as under:

- Date of applying & submission of e-tender 20.04.2021 at 10.00 AM to 27.04.2021 at 05.00 PM
- Date of Opening of Technical Bid 28.04.2021 at 11.00 AM
- Date of Opening of Financial Bid After opening and evaluation of Technical Bid
- Form fee Rs. 1000/-
- Ernest Money Rs. 75000/- (Per Plant)

Bidders are required to register themselves at the Government portal <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and get the user id, password etc. E-tender notice, detail of work, Terms and Conditions are also available at Govt. portal <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. EMD, tender form fees and processing fees have to be deposited through online mode only through same tendering portal. Any further communication or Corrigendum will be uploaded online only. For any query, email on punseed.chd@punjab.gov.in or contact on mob. 8544718919.

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH

TENDER NOTICE-2021-22/02

Sealed tenders are invited for licensing out following Shops/sites at PGI, Sector 12, Chandigarh.

Sr. No.	Shops/sites	Last date for downloading of tender forms from PGI Website	Last Date and time for submission of tenders and opening of Tender document/Technical Bid	Price Bid shall be opened on
1.	Built up Chemist Shop (measuring 9'4" x 12'-6" x 2') at Level 2, New OPD Block for sale of medicines, drugs and surgical items, PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh	11.05.2021 (Tuesday) up to 04.00 p.m.	12.05.2021 (Wednesday) up to 01.00 p.m., and Technical Bid shall be opened at 02.00 p.m.	13.05.2021 (Thursday) Price Bid at 04.00 p.m.
2.	Built up space for Food/Shacks counter (for sale of tea/coffee, Cold Drinks, Snacks & Packaged meals/food etc.) on 4th floor, Advanced Eye Centre, PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh.	11.05.2021 (Tuesday) up to 04.00 p.m.	12.05.2021 (Wednesday) up to 01.00 p.m., and Technical Bid shall be opened at 02.00 p.m.	13.05.2021 (Thursday) Price Bid at 04.00 p.m.
3.	Built up Shop No: 11; New Shopping Complex, PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh.	11.05.2021 (Tuesday) up to 04.00 p.m.	12.05.2021 (Wednesday) up to 01.00 p.m., and Technical Bid shall be opened at 02.00 p.m.	13.05.2021 (Thursday) Price Bid at 04.00 p.m.
4.	Built up Shop No: 21; New Shopping Complex, PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh.	11.05.2021 (Tuesday) up to 04.00 p.m.	12.05.2021 (Wednesday) up to 01.00 p.m., and Technical Bid shall be opened at 02.00 p.m.	13.05.2021 (Thursday) Price Bid at 04.00 p.m.
	Built up Shop No:- 29; New Shopping Complex, PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh	11.05.2021 (Tuesday) up to 04.00 p.m.	12.05.2021 (Wednesday) up to 01.00 p.m., and Technical Bid shall be opened at 02.00 p.m.	13.05.2021 (Thursday) Price Bid at 04.00 p.m.

Tender form containing terms and conditions can be downloaded from PGI website and same can be submit personally in the office of Administrative Officer (Estates), PGIMER, Chandigarh along with Demand Draft/Banker's Cheque of Rs. 500/- payable at Chandigarh drawn in favour of Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh along with other documents. The Director, PGI, Chandigarh reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever without prior notice to the tenderers.

DI-1322

DIRECTOR

ਵਣ ਅਤੇ ਜੰਗਲੀ ਜੀਵ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਵਿਭਾਗ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਅਧੀਨ

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਸਮੂਹ ਨਾਗਰਿਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਗਰਮੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਮੌਸਮ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਕਰਕੇ ਵਣ ਰਕਬਿਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਅੱਗਾਂ ਲੱਗਣ ਦਾ ਖਤਰਾ ਵਧ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਸੜਕਾਂ, ਨਹਿਰਾਂ, ਡਰੇਨਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਰੇਲ ਪਟੜੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਲਗਦੇ ਖੇਤਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਕਣਕ ਦੇ ਨਾੜ ਨੂੰ ਅੱਗ ਲਗਾਉਣ ਕਾਰਨ ਨਾਲ ਲਗਦੀਆਂ ਵਣ ਸਟਰਿਪਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਅੱਗ ਲੱਗਣ ਦਾ ਖਤਰਾ ਬਹੁਤ ਜ਼ਿਆਦਾ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਇਲਾਵਾ ਗਜ ਵਿਚ ਬਲਾਕ ਫਾਊਂਸਟ, ਜੰਗਲੀ ਜੀਵ ਸੈਚੂਰੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਭੂਮੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਐਕਟ, 1900 ਦੀ ਧਾਰਾ 4/5 ਅਧੀਨ ਬੰਦ ਰਕਬਿਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਬਿਨਾਂ ਸੈਚੇ-ਸਮੱਝੀ-ਸਿਗਰਟ ਦਾ ਟੁਕੜਾ ਸੁੱਟਾਂ ਨਾਲ, ਸ਼ਹਿਦ ਇਕੱਠਾ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਿਆਂ, ਪਸੂ ਚਾਰਨ ਵਾਲਿਆਂ ਆਦਿ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਅੱਗ ਬਾਲਣ ਨਾਲ ਪਹਾੜੀ ਰਕਬਿਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਅੱਗ ਲੱਗ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਨਾਲ ਲਗਦੇ ਰਕਬਿਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਰੂਹਾਂ, ਪਲਾਂਟੇਸ਼ਨਾਂ, ਜੰਗਲੀ ਜੀਵਾਂ, ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਫਸਲਾਂ ਆਦਿ ਦਾ ਬਹੁਤ ਜ਼ਿਆਦਾ ਨਕਸਾਨ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਇਸ ਲਈ ਅਮ ਜਨਤਾ, ਖਾਸ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸਾਨ ਵੀਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਕਿਵੇਂ ਕਾਰਕ ਦੇ ਨਾੜ ਨੂੰ ਅੱਗ ਨਾ ਲਗਾਈ ਜਾਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਜੋ ਨਾਲ ਲਗਦੀ ਵਣ ਸੰਪਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਬਚਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕੇ। ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਇਲਾਵਾ ਬੀੜਾਂ ਦੇ ਆਸ-ਪਾਸ ਰਹਿਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਵਸਨੀਕਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਕੰਢੀ ਏਰੀਏ ਦੇ ਵਸਨੀਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਜਾਣਾਂਅਣ ਜਾਣਾਂਅਣ ਵਿਚ ਬੀੜੀ-ਸਿਗਰਟ ਆਦਿ ਦਾ ਟੁਕੜਾ ਨਾ ਸੁੱਟਾਂ ਜਾਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਜੋ ਵਣ ਸੰਪਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਜੰਗਲੀ ਜੀਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਅੱਗਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਬਚਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕੇ। ਜੰਗਲੀ ਜੀਵ ਸੈਚੂਰੀਆਂ, ਬਲਾਕ ਫਾਊਂਸਟ, ਕੰਢੀ ਏਰੀਏ ਵਿਚ ਰੂਹਾਂ ਅਧੀਨ ਰਕਬਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਅੱਗਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਬਚਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕੇ। ਜੰਗਲੀ ਜੀਵ ਸੈਚੂਰੀਆਂ, ਬਲਾਕ ਫਾਊਂਸਟ, ਕੰਢੀ ਏਰੀਏ ਵਿਚ ਰੂਹਾਂ ਅਧੀਨ ਰਕਬਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਅੱਗਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਬਚਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕੇ। ਜੰਗਲੀ ਜੀਵ ਸੈਚੂਰੀਆਂ, ਬਲਾਕ ਫਾਊਂਸਟ, ਕੰਢੀ ਏਰੀਏ ਵਿਚ ਰੂਹਾਂ ਅਧੀਨ ਰਕਬਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਪੂਰਾ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਦੇਣ ਦੀ ਖੇਤਰ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇ।

ਸ. ਸਾਧੂ ਸਿੰਘ ਧਰਮਸੋਤ
ਵਣ ਮੰਤਰੀ, ਪੰਜਾਬ।

ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾਵਾਰ ਅੱਗਾਂ ਦੀ ਰੋਕਬਾਨ ਲਈ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਨੰਬਰ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਹਨ:-

ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ	ਵਣ ਮੰਡਲ	ਸੰਪਰਕ ਨੰ.	ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ	ਵਣ ਮੰਡਲ	ਸੰਪਰਕ ਨੰ.
ਰੂਪਨਗਰ	ਰੂਪਨਗਰ	01881-222231	ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ	ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ	01874-222418
ਹੁਸ਼ਿਆਰਪੁਰ	ਹੁਸ਼ਿਆਰਪੁਰ	01882-250715	ਪਠਾਨਕੋਟ	ਪਠਾਨਕੋਟ	0186-2921857
	ਨਵਾਂ ਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਐਟ ਗੜ੍ਹਸੰਕਰ	01884-282031	ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ	ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ	0161-2550089
	ਦਸੂਹਾ	01883-283007	ਫਿਰੋਜ਼ਪੁਰ	ਫਿਰੋਜ਼ਪੁਰ	01632-220698
ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ.	ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ.	0172-2298000	ਫਾਜ਼ਿਲਕਾ	ਸ੍ਰੀ ਮੁਕਤਸਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ	01633-262220
ਜਲੰਧਰ	ਜਲੰਧਰ ਐਟ ਫਿਰੋਜ਼	01826-222537	ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ	ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ	0183-2585480
ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਭਗਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਗਰ	ਨਵਾਂ ਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਐਟ ਗੜ੍ਹਸੰਕਰ	01884-282031	ਬਾਠਿੰਡਾ	ਬਾਠਿੰਡਾ	0164-2271555
ਕਪੂਰਥਲਾ	ਜਲੰਧਰ ਐਟ ਫਿਰੋਜ਼	01826-222537	ਤਰਨ ਤਾਰਨ	ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ	0183-2585480
ਸੰਗਰੂਰ	ਸੰਗਰੂਰ	01672-234293	ਸ੍ਰੀ ਮੁਕਤਸਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ	ਸ੍ਰੀ ਮੁਕਤਸਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ	01633-262220
ਬਰਨਾਲਾ	ਸੰਗਰੂਰ	01672-234293	ਫਰੀਦਕੋਟ	ਫਰੀਦਕੋਟ	01632-220698
ਮਾਨਸਾ	ਮਾਨਸਾ	01652-227280	ਮੋਗਾ	ਫਿਰੋਜ਼ਪੁਰ	01632-220698
ਫਤਹਿਗੜ੍ਹ ਸਾਹਿਬ	ਪਟਿਆਲਾ	0175-2363852	ਪਟਿਆਲਾ	ਪਟਿਆਲਾ	0175-2921574
	ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ.	0172-2298000			

ਅੱਗਾਂ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਵਣ ਵਿਭਾਗ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਵਿਚ ਨਿਯੁਕਤ ਨੋਡਲ ਅੰਸ਼ ਦਾ ਵੇਖਾ ਹੋਣ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਹੈ:-

ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਨੂਪ ਉਪਾਧਿਆਈ, ਆਈ.ਐਚ.ਐਸ., ਵਧੀਕ ਪਟਾਨ ਮੁੱਖ ਵਣ ਪਾਲ, ਪੰਜਾਬ

ਟੈਲੀਫ਼ਨ ਨੰਬਰ 0172-2298000, ਵਣ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਦਾ ਹੈਲਪਲਾਈਨ ਨੰ. 0172-2298098



People line up for Covid testing at a hospital in Jammu. PTI

1,516 fresh Covid cases, six deaths

SRINAGAR, APRIL 19

J&K recorded 1,516 fresh Covid cases on Monday. The new patients include 231 travellers, pushing the tally to 1,48,208. Six deaths in the past 24 hours have raised the toll to 2,063, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, 768 were from Jammu and 748 from Kashmir. According to officials, Jammu district recorded a maximum of 451 cases, followed by 383 in Srinagar district and 110 in Baramulla district. The active cases have now reached 12,164 in the Union Territory, while 1,33,981 patients have recovered so far, they added.

Ladakh recorded 60 new Covid cases, taking the infection tally to 12,131. The death toll in Ladakh stands at 133, while 10,351 people have recovered since the outbreak of the pandemic last year.

'FOLLOW PROTOCOL'

- Dr Naveed Nazir Shah, superintendent of Srinagar's chest disease hospital, has urged people to take precautions to check the Covid spread
- Prevention is the best way to fight the virus, he added

regularisation of these unauthorised structures.

However, various courts, including the NGT and HC, have come down heavily on the successive regimes for encouraging the violators by bringing about six retention policies.

Eye on elections, HP seeks..

FROM PAGE 1

congested core area but also came as a hurdle in the regularisation of over 25,000 unauthorised constructions across the state. For now, the ball is in the SC court, where Himachal Government will seek one-time exemption for

the supply of Covid-19 vaccine exclusively from the 50 per cent reserve earmarked for the open market and will also need to declare what price they would charge per dose. "The eligibility through this (open market private) channel will be opened up to all adults above 18," said a government statement amid growing demands to allow inoculation for all adults.

The national vaccine drive that began on January 16 covered health and frontline workers, 60-plus and 45 to 59-year-olds with morbidities in the first phase and 45-plus people in the second. The policy came as India's Covid cases crossed 1.50 crore with 25 lakh cases added in 15 days and active cases surpassed the 19-lakh mark.

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
REGIONAL CENTRE, PATIALA ROAD,
NEAR GURUDWARA SRI NABHA SAHIB,
ZIRAKPUR (MOHALI), PUNJAB – 140603
F. No. SAI/RC/ZIR/2021-22/1st Batch Dated: 19.04.2021
NOTICE
Reference advertisement No. SAI/RC/ZIR/2021-22/1st Batch dated 9th April, 2021 regarding Engagement of Assistant Nutritionist in NCOE Dharamshala (HP). It is informed that the Walk-in Interview of Assistant Nutritionist is hereby postponed due to surge of Covid-19 till further order.
Director Incharge(Offg.)
Sports Authority of India
Regional Centre, Zirakpur.

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION FOR EMPANELMENT OF STATE QUALITY MONITORS FOR INSPECTION OF ROAD WORKS & LONG SPAN BRIDGE WORKS
The State Rural Road Development Agency invites sealed applications for empanelment of State Quality Monitors (SQMs) from Qualified/Experienced Retired Engineers of State (Executive Engineer & above) or Central Govt. Departments, individually who are interested to work as State Quality Monitors in Punjab State for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana project (PMGSY). Application must be delivered to the address below by 1500 hours (IST) up to May 13, 2021. The applicant should submit the application in an envelope duly sealed and marked "Application for Empangement of State Quality Monitor for Inspection of (Road Works OR Long Span Bridge Works OR Road & Bridge Works which is applicable)" For detailed document regarding Request for Empangement (RFE) of SQM for inviting application, PRDPA website <http://prdpb.gov.in> may be referred to. Chief Engineer, State Rural Road Development Agency O/o Punjab Roads & Bridges Development Board SCF 61-62, Phase-2, Sector 54, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali), Chandigarh, India - 160 055. Tel. +91 172 5134620, Email: rscrda.punjab@punjab.gov.in

HARYANA VIDHAN SABHA SECRETARIAT CHANDIGARH
(Advertisement No. 2/2021)
Applications are invited on prescribed format for two posts of Reporter (English), one post Reporter (Hindi), one post of Junior Engineer (Electrical), one post of Junior Scale Stenographer, one post of Record Restorer, four post of Chowkidar and one post of Frash, so as to reach the Secretary, Haryana Vidhan Sabha Secretariat, Chandigarh within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement by Registered Post only. The age of applicant shall not be less than 17 years or more than 42 years on the last date prescribed for submission of application. Upper age limit is relaxable in case of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Ex-Servicemen as per the Rules/Government instructions. Requisite qualification/experience/fee, other conditions and prescribed format may be downloaded from official website: www.haryanasassembly.gov.in. Application received other than prescribed mode and after prescribed last date will not be entertained.

R.K. NANDAL, SECRETARY

PRDH/1122/11/2022/2652/31/4

Annexure "A"

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Ph. No. 01907-251336, E-mail: ee-goh-hp@nic.in

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Executive Engineer, H.P. PWD Division Gohar (HP) on behalf of Governor of H.P., invites the item rates bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with H.P. PWD for the works detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Starting date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Construction of Indoor Sports Stadium in Govt. Degree College Basra (Gohar) Distt Mandi HP (Sh-C/o Building, W.S. and S.I., Septic Tank and rain water Harvesting Tank system).	10,24,20,694/-	03.05.2021	20,24,200	18.5.2021
2.	Construction of Science Lab in Govt. Sen. Sec. School at Fagwas, Tehsil Sundernagar, Distt. Mandi (HP). (SH-Construction of Building Portion, W/S & Rain Water Harvesting Tank and site development).	01,72,32,373/-	03.05.2021	345000	18.5.2021
3.	Construction of Science Lab in Govt. Sen. Sec. School at Chachiot, Distt. Mandi (HP). (SH-Construction of Building Portion, W/S & Rain Water Harvesting Tank and site development).	01,62,92,741/-	03.05.2021	326000	18.5.2021

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website: www.hptenders.gov.in.

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh Executive Engineer, Gohar Division, H.P. PWD Gohar – 175029.

2 militants gunned down in Shopian encounter

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

Two unidentified militants were killed in an encounter with security forces in Shopian district on Monday. The encounter went on till late in the evening. Combing operation was still going on at the time of filing of this report as the security forces had initial information about the presence of three militants at the encounter site.

According to security personnel, the joint forces of the police and the CRPF



launched a cordon and search operation in Zeipora of Shopian district after getting information about presence of militants, a police official said.

He said the search operation turned into an encounter after

SEARCH OPERATION ON

- There were reports about presence of 3 militants
- Two have been killed and a search operation is going on for the third one
- The identity of those killed is yet to be ascertained

militants opened fire on the security forces, who retaliated fittingly. The operation ended with neutralisation of two terrorists. Efforts are being made to ascertain their identity.

The search operation has been going on, sources said.

Before quitting, ex-IG had flagged...

FROM PAGE 1

Kunwar Vijay Pratap said he had already put in his papers and would not talk further on the issue.

Meanwhile, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal said in a statement that he would file a defamation suit against the ex-IG for making false claims in the letter.

The SAD president said the ex-IG was obsessed with targeting the SAD and the Badal family. "The ex-IG knew from the proceedings of the Kotkapura firing case in the high court that his probe would be cast aside. The latest allegation is a result of this deep-rooted frustration and aimed at politicising a case after wasting three years pursuing the political agenda of the Congress party.

"It is a clear case of gross misuse of his official position to please his political bosses rather than nailing the culprits in the case."

The ex-IG's letter said,

LETTER CITES THREAT

- The ex-IG's letter states, "The accused tried to put undue pressure. There is a threat to my life and that of my family."

"The accused tried to put undue pressure and even threat to the life of mine and my family (sic); however, I have maintained full professional attitude.... Threat, coercive and abusive language used by Sukhbir Singh Badal and Bikram Singh Majithia could not deter me from the righteous and rightful path.... The same has been reported to the competent authority from time to time. However, nothing from the state side has been done in this regard from the office of the Advocate General, Punjab."

On the status of investigation, he has written: "It is further submitted that the investigation of these cases has been completed in all respects. Sukhbir Singh, the then Deputy Chief Minister and in charge of Home Department, has been examined on 19.1.2019 by the SIT. Sardar Parkash Singh Badal, the then Chief Minister, has also been examined on 16.11.2018 by the SIT. One challan in respect of them is required to be submitted in the court of competent jurisdiction, as mentioned in the first challan presented on 27.05.2019 in FIR No. 12912018 (PS City Kotkapura). Similarly, one challan is also required to be filed in FIR No. 130/2015 (Behbal Kalan firing case)."

Flagging the threat to the witnesses, the ex-IG's letter said: "It is submitted that witness protection has become very crucial and indispensable at this stage in this case. It is a matter of fact that one of the key witnesses Surjit Singh died in January 2020 under mysterious circumstances."

Vaccine for all above...

FROM PAGE 1

government hoped to cover a significant number of the vulnerable and was, therefore, ready to expand.

The Central Government-run vaccination centres will continue as before to provide free of cost jabs to the already defined eligible population—health and frontline workers and everyone above 45 years of age.

From May 1, private hospitals will have to procure their supplies of Covid-19 vaccine exclusively from the 50 per cent reserve earmarked for the open market and will also need to declare what price they would charge per dose. "The eligibility through this (open market private) channel will be opened up to all adults above 18," said a government statement amid growing demands to allow inoculation for all adults.

The national vaccine drive that began on January 16 covered health and frontline workers, 60-plus and 45 to 59-year-olds with morbidities in the first phase and 45-plus people in the second. The policy came as India's Covid cases crossed 1.50 crore with 25 lakh cases added in 15 days and active cases surpassed the 19-lakh mark.

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
REGIONAL CENTRE, PATIALA ROAD,
NEAR GURUDWARA SRI NABHA SAHIB,
ZIRAKPUR (MOHALI), PUNJAB – 140603
F. No. SAI/RC/AD/2021 Dated: 19.04.2021
NOTICE
Reference advertisement No. SAI/RC/AD/2021 dated 10th April, 2021 regarding Engagement of Assistant Chef in NCOE Dharamshala (HP). It is informed that the Walk-in Interview of Assistant Chef is hereby postponed due to surge of Covid-19 till further order.

Director Incharge(Offg.)
Sports Authority of India
Regional Centre, Zirakpur.

DIVISION OF SUPPLY

- 1 Vaccine makers to reserve 50% doses for the Central pool
- 2 They will be free to give the rest to states or in the open market
- 3 Division of supply (50% Centre and 50% rest) will apply only to India-made vaccines
- 4 Imported vaccines will be entirely used in open market
- 5 The Centre, from its share, will allocate vaccines to states and UTs based on extent of infection

lation for all adults.

The national vaccine drive that began on January 16 covered health and frontline workers, 60-plus and 45 to 59-year-olds with morbidities in the first phase and 45-plus people in the second. The policy came as India's Covid cases crossed 1.50 crore with 25 lakh cases added in 15 days and active cases surpassed the 19-lakh mark.

Exam delayed

Jammu: The Army has postponed its common entrance examination for recruitment which was to be held in Sambab on April 25. — PTI

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

TENDER NOTICE

S.R. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN LACS	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS EMAIL
1.	Controller Printing and Stationery, Punjab, Chandigarh	Outsourcing of Manpower for the year 2021-22	20.04.2021/ 10.05.2021	20.00 THOUSAND	9814850158 pa.pbcpt2019@gmail.com
2.	Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 1, PWD (B&R) Branch, Ludhiana	Special Repair of Plan Road Bassian Jhoran Lakhather (ODR-08) Length 6.70 km.) Under Head 5054 RB-10 including Maintenance or Road for 5 Year (One Year Defect Liability Period & Four Year Maintenance Period)	10.05.2021/ 10.05.2021	6.94 LACS	9878721188 eed1ldnpbpwd@gmail.com
3.	Executive Engineer, Panchayati Raj, P.W.D. (C&M) Division, Ludhiana	The Laying of Sewage pipeline and Construction of Anaerobic baffled reactor at Village Dhanda, Block Ludhiana-1, Distt. Ludhiana	23.04.2021/ 17.05.2021	6.20 LACS	9814056538 xenprdpludhiana@yahoo.com
4.	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division (PWD) B&R Br., Gurdaspur	1. Repair of Road Cut on BTL DBN Road in Batala City 2. Heavy Patch Work on Various Link Roads M.C., Gurdaspur & Dharialwali 3. Normal Patch Work on 81 Nos. Roads M.C., Dharialwali & 39 Nos. Roads M.C., Kalanaur 4. Normal Patch Work on 73 Nos. Roads M.C., Gurdaspur	21.04.2021/ 03.05.2021	2.65 LACS	9646036125 eepdgdpwdph@gmail.com
5.	Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Fazilka	PROVIDING IMPROVED ACCESS TO WATER THROUGH HOUSEHOLD CONNECTIONS IN EXISTING WATER SUPPLY SCHEME CH, TALHI WALA, SUKHERA BODLA, BHAMBHA WATTU UTTAR & BADHA, BLOCK FAZILKA/JALALABAD, DISTT. FAZILKA (UNDER 2(a) (i)JJM)	22.04.2021/ 10.05.2021	1.04 LACS	86993-4903 eewss.divfazilkapb@yahoo.com
6.	Executive Engineer, Electrical Division PWD B and R, Patiala	1) Pdg Decorative pole lighting from Kali Mata Mandir to towards Bus Stand Patiala along right side of the Mall road 2) Pdg Decorative pole lighting from Kali Mata Mandir to towards Bus Stand Patiala along left side of the Mall road Patiala	16.04.2021/ 28.04.2021	39.30 THOUSAND	9780012365 eed1ptapwdph@gmail.com
7.	Controller of Stores, Punjab, Chandigarh	Rate Contract for the supply of Sanitary Napkins	20.04.2021/ 03.05.2021	20.00 THOUSAND</	

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unknown male person aged about 60 years, height 5'6", normal built, wheatish complexion, wearing grey colour jeans pant, was admitted brought dead in GMCH-32, Chandigarh, vide CR No. 210402792 from near Labour Chowk, Chandigarh on 05.04.2021. The dead body of deceased has been kept in mortuary. A DDR No. 77, dated 05.04.2021 has been lodged in PS-34, Chandigarh. The whereabouts of deceased are not known. His photograph is given above.

If anyone having any information/clue about the unidentified dead body, please inform to SHO, Police Station Sector-34, Chandigarh on Phone Nos. 9779580934, 0172-2676034, 2662697 or Police Control Phone No. 0172-2749194 or 112.

CHANDIGARH POLICE

MISSING

The General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely Khushboo D/o Santosh Pal R/o Jhuggi No. 202, Sanjay Labour Colony, Chandigarh aged about 14 years, Height 4'10", Wheatish Complexion, wearing colored top, blue jeans & green shoes, has been reported to be missing from her residence since 26.03.2021. In this regard, a case FIR No. 51 dated 27.03.2021 U/S 363 IPC has been registered in Police Station-Industrial Area, Chandigarh. The photograph of missing girl is given above.

In case of any clue about said missing girl, please inform to SHO, Police Station-Industrial Area, Chandigarh on Mobile No. 9779580929, Phone Nos. 0172-2679013, 2657344 or Police Control Phone No. 0172-2749194 or 112.

CHANDIGARH POLICE

Application Invited

Centre for Sub Tropical fruits, Ladwa, Kurukshetra invites proposal along with applications from interested firm/company/Farmer Cooperative Society/Farmers Society/FPOs for leasing out the Integrated Pack House at CSTF, Ladwa for the year 2021-22 on per month rental basis plus taxes if any. The facility is situated in the premises of CSTF, Ladwa, KKR. The interested stakeholders shall tender their lease rate after inspecting the pack house on "AS IS WHERE IS" basis. The proposal as well as financial bid is to be submitted up to 30/04/2021. The best proposal to be finalized by the constituted committee.

Details Integrated Pack House Facilities available at centre:

Sr. No.	Facilities	Capacity
1	Grading unit	2 MT/Hr
2	Cold storage	10 MT
3	Ripening Chamber	10 MT

For any query, may Contact +91-8629003032, Email: cstf Ladwa@gmail.com

Sd/- Deputy Director Horticulture, Centre for sub tropical Fruits Ladwa (Kurukshetra).

PRDH/1149/11/31/2022/2637/31/4

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN COMD**APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR, AWPO, CHANDIMANDIR****Qualitative Requirement**

- Mandatory
1. Retired Army Officer (Col/Lt Col)
2. Age: Between 54 to 59 years as on 01 Jun 2021.
3. Preferably:
(a) PSC/TSOC
(b) Computer literate
(c) Experience in Marketing and Placement in Private/Corporate Sectors will be an added advantage.
4. Should not be a case of S factor or any major medical disorder.
5. Should not have been dismissed from Military Service or discharged from Military Service being undesirable. Applicants to furnish a self-attested declaration to this effect.
6. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview. No TA/DA is admissible to candidates coming for interview.

- Notes
1. Selected Offr will be initially on probation for three months. On successful completion of probation period, the period of normal contractual service in AWPO will be for three years.
2. Consolidated monthly salary - Rs. 70,000/-.
3. Application along with bio-data to be forwarded to Aviation Branch, HQ Western Comd, Chandimandir by 05 May 2021. Candidates to quote their Mobile Number in the application.
4. Date of Interview - 12 May 2021.

DI-1278

NORTHERN RAILWAY**TENDER NOTICE**

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const.II, Northern Railway, Chandigarh, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the undernoted work:

- 1 Name of work and location Provision of longer loops at Ladawal, Samewal and Dhandari/Kalan Stations of Firozpur Division including Civil works, P-way works, Railway Electrification works and Electric general works.

- 2 Completion period of the work 15 (Fifteen) Months

- 3 Approx. Cost of work Rs. 1558.33 lacs.

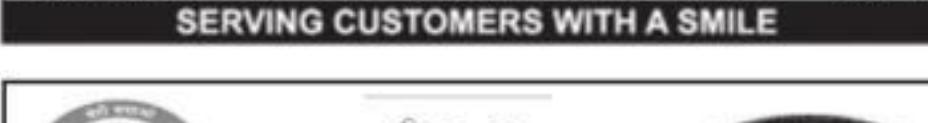
- 4 Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online) Nil

- 5 Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs. on 22.04.2021 date on IREPS website i.e. www.reps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs. on 13.05.2021.

- 6 Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender documents is available on website i.e. www.reps.gov.in. Above tenders documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.reps.gov.in from 29.04.2021 to 13.05.2020. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

Tender Notice No. 235-A/W/Const-II/CDG/03/2021-22 Dated : 19.04.2021 878/2021

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



vita
वीटा मिल्क बूथों का आबंटन

चंडीगढ़ (यूटी) हारिंगनगर बूथ धनास में चार मिल्क बूथ व एक मिल्क बूथ Highway Nest Mini NHAII Toll Plaza, Shambhu Barrier, Ambala (कुल बूथ पांच) में वीटा मिल्क बूथ का आबंटन हेतु इच्छुक व्यक्तियों से आवेदन आमंत्रित है। जो निम्नलिखित अनुसार है :-

Category	No. of Booth	Booth Location
Women/War widow	01	Site "B" Dhanas, Chandigarh
Ward of Milk Producers Society	01	Site "C" Dhanas, Chandigarh
Schedule Caste	01	Site "H" Dhanas, Chandigarh
Backward Class	01	Site "D" Dhanas, Chandigarh
General Public	01	Highway Nest Mini NHAII Toll Plaza Shambhu Barrier, Ambala

आवेदन प्रपत्र शर्तों सहित किसी भी कार्य दिवस को मिल्क प्लाट, अंबाला के कार्यालय से प्राप्त: 11.00 बजे से सार्व 4.00 बजे तक 500/- रुपये के नकद भुगतान पर प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं।

योग्यता मानदंड : पंचकूला वीटा मिल्क बूथ के लिए आवेदक उसी जिले का व धनास चंडीगढ़ वीटा मिल्क बूथ के लिए आवेदन हरियाणा और चंडीगढ़ का निवारी होना चाहिए। जिसकी शैक्षिक योग्यता मैट्रिक पास व आयु सीमा 18 से 55 वर्ष के बीच होनी चाहिए। आवेदन जमा कराने की अंतिम तिथि 10.05.2021 को 4.00 बजे तक है। आवेदन प्रपत्र के साथ धरोहर राशि के रूप में 50,000 रुपए का डिमांड ड्राफ्ट जो कि 'दी अंबाला जिला दुध उत्पादक सहकारी संघ लि., अंबाला' के पक्ष में देय हो, संलग्न होना चाहिए। धरोहर राशि के बाइंस व्याज नहीं दिया जाएगा।

बूथों का आबंटन हरियाणा डेवरी डेलवरमेंट को-आपरेटिव फैरडेशन लिमिटेड की नीति अनुसार गठित की गई कमेटी द्वारा किया जाएगा, जिसका निर्णय अंतिम होगा।

मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी,

दुध संघ अंबाला।

PRDH/1036/11/7/2022/2641/31/4

Oxford varsity launches human**challenge trial on reinfection**

To study how immune system responds to virus second time

LONDON, APRIL 19

Healthy young adults who have previously contracted Covid-19 will be recruited to take part in a new human challenge trial to study how the body's immune system reacts to the deadly coronavirus, for a better understanding to protect against the virus and also for more accurate tests.

The Oxford University led human challenge trial will look at what kind of immune response can stop people from becoming re-infected and also how the immune system reacts second time round. People aged between 18 and 30 who have previously been naturally infected will be recruited and re-exposed to the virus in a safe, controlled environment and paid around 5,000 pounds to be quarantined for 17 days at a hospital.

"Challenge studies tell us things that other studies cannot because, unlike natural infection, they are tightly controlled. When we re-infect these participants, we will know exactly how their



A passenger from New Zealand is received at the Sydney airport. AP

1ST OZ FLIGHT LANDS IN NZ SINCE BORDER CLOSURE

Melbourne: Hundreds of passengers from Australia landed in Auckland on Monday following the implementation of a travel bubble under which New Zealand allowed Australian flights for the first time since the borders were shut in March last year. The first flight took off Monday morning at 7 am (local

time) from the Sydney airport to Auckland following the opening of the travel bubble, which would allow Australians to visit New Zealand without going into quarantine and a permit. The two sides borders were shut in March last year after the coronavirus started spreading rapidly around the globe. PTI

immune system has reacted to the first Covid infection, exactly when the second infection occurs, and exactly how much

virus they got," said Helen McShane, Professor of Vaccinology at the Department of Paediatrics, University

EU TO BUY 100 MN MORE VACCINE DOSES

Berlin: Pharmaceutical company BioNTech and its US partner Pfizer say they would provide 100 million more doses of their vaccine to the European Union this year. The two companies said on Monday that the 27-nation group's executive Commission exercised an option to purchase the additional doses, bringing the total number of shots to be delivered to the EU in 2021 to 600 million. AP

TRACKING VIRUS

NATIONS	DEATHS
US	5,81,068
BRAZIL	3,73,442
MEXICO	2,12,339
UK	1,27,270
ITALY	1,16,927

WORLDMETRE

TILL APRIL 19, 11 PM

of Oxford and Chief Investigator on the study. The study will take place in two phases. —PTI

**GLOBE TROT**

BACK TO SCHOOL: Children at a school after it was reopened in Naples, Italy, on Monday REUTERS

Christie's to auction 'highest-estimated Asian artwork' in HK

HONG KONG: Auction house Christie's unveiled on Monday what it called "the highest-estimated Asian artwork" to ever go under the hammer, a Xu Beihong painting called "Slave and Lion", which it expects to fetch between \$45 million and \$58 million. The 1924 painting by Xu, who is regarded as one of the most important figures of Chinese realism, will go on public preview in Beijing and Shanghai this month before being auctioned in Hong Kong on May 24. REUTERS

Cairo museum opens Pharaonic mummies hall

CAIRO: With its dark-walled and dimly-lit open rooms, the crypt-like Royal Mummies Hall at Cairo's new National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation has opened to visitors for the first time, displaying 20 mummies of ancient kings and queens. The opening of the magnificent mummies hall on Sunday coincided with the International Day for Monuments and Sites, also known as the World Heritage Day. IANS

After talks with govt, Pak Islamist party releases 11 cops from captivity

LAHORE, APRIL 19

The banned radical Islamist party Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) on Monday released 11 police hostages after the first round of talks with the Imran Khan government, which buckled under the pressure of the terror outfit over its demand to expel the French ambassador over a blasphemous caricature published in France last year.

After declaring the TLP a proscribed outfit under terrorism laws and freezing its leadership's bank accounts last week, the Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government had announced there would be no talks with the terror outfit as the state would not allow it to challenge its writ.

However, after Sunday's clash between the law enforcement agencies and the

TLP workers in Lahore in which 11 policemen and Rangers were taken hostage by the radicals, the government held talks with the outfit leadership on Monday. Pakistan Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed in a video message said, "Talks have started with the TLP. It has released 11 policemen who were taken hostage and kept at its headquarters in Lahore." —PTI

BRUSSELS, APRIL 19

European Union foreign ministers on Monday assessing the bloc's strategy toward Russia in the wake of the military buildup on Ukraine borders and amid the weakening health of imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny. The diplomatic standoff between EU member state the Czech Republic and Russia over tit-for-tat diplomatic

expulsions following Prague's accusation that Moscow was involved in a 2014 ammunition depot explosion is adding further tension between both sides.

Diplomats said there was little to no chance of immediate new sanctions on Moscow, but they would seek to apply pressure nevertheless. In Germany, some politicians have called for an end to the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline project with Russia.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell already criticised the Kremlin for its arrest and treatment of Navalny on Sunday and insisted he should have access to medical professionals he trusts. —AP

<b

Wright Brothers moment, NASA lands copter on Mars

LOS ANGELES, APRIL 19

NASA's miniature robot helicopter 'Ingenuity' performed a successful takeoff and landing on Mars on Monday, achieving the first powered, controlled flight by an aircraft over the surface of another planet, the US space agency said.

The solar-powered whirrigig's debut on the Red Planet marked a 21st-century Wright Brothers

moment for NASA, which said success could pave the way for new modes of exploration on Mars and other destinations in the solar system, such as Venus and Saturn's moon Titan.

Mission managers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) near Los Angeles burst into applause as engineering data beamed back from Mars confirmed that the 4-pound (1.8-kg)



We can now say human beings have flown an aircraft on another planet. MiMi Aung, PROJECT MANAGER

twin-rotor helicopter had performed its maiden 40-second flight as planned.

The robot rotorcraft was programmed to ascend 10 feet (3 metres) straight up, then hover and rotate in place over the Martian surface for half a minute before settling back down on its four legs. JPL officials said data returned from Mars showed that this had in fact occurred.

During NASA's own coverage of the event livestreamed from JPL headquarters, NASA also displayed the first images from the flight. A black-and-white photo taken by a downward-pointing

onboard camera while the helicopter was aloft showed the distinct shadow cast by 'Ingenuity' in the Martian sunlight onto the ground just below it.

A snippet of color video footage captured by a separate camera mounted on NASA's Mars rover 'Perseverance', parked about 200 feet away, showed the helicopter in flight against the orange-colored landscape surrounding it. "We can now say that human beings have flown an aircraft on another planet," said MiMi Aung, 'Ingenuity' project manager. —Reuters

Rly official rescues kid in Thane, earns praise

NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

A Railway official from the Vangani railway station on Monday risked his life to rescue a child from being run over by a speeding train.

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal lauded the valiant effort. In a tweet, he said he spoke to Shelke and praised him. Shelke told Goyal that he only did his duty. "Very proud of Mayur Shelke, who has done exceptionally courageous act, risked his own life and saved a child's life," Goyal tweeted.—TNS

Vardhan's reply to ex-PM: Cong fuelled vax hesitancy

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



YOUR PARTY LEADERS TOOK JAB IN PRIVATE'

Some Congress leaders even shamed the vaccines in public but took their doses in private. A word of advice from you to them may have ensured better cooperation from these people.

Harsh Vardhan, HEALTH MINISTER

'APOLOGISE TO MANMOHAN'

Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot and former Maharashtra CM Ashok Chavan attacked Health Minister for his "contemptuous response" to the letter by Manmohan Singh and demanded an apology.

total cases, active cases or mortality is based on absolute num-

bers, which the Congress often tries to do, but the vaccination numbers continue to be touted as a percentage of the population covered," said Vardhan.

The Health Minister wrote it was shocking that senior members of the Congress were yet to utter a single word of gratitude towards the scientist community and that many Congress members and Congress-ruled states "had taken extraordinary interest in spreading falsehoods regarding the efficacy of these vaccines, thereby fuelling vaccine hesitancy".

"Some Congress leaders even shamed the vaccines in public but took their doses in private. A word of advice from you to them may have ensured better cooperation from these people," Vardhan said.

The minister said: "Irresponsible public pronouncements by some Congress leaders resulted in a below national average vaccination coverage of senior citizens and even front-line workers in some of the Congress-ruled states which had now become big contributors in the second wave and their test positivity ratio was alarmingly high."

NIA team visits Hiran's residence

NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

A team of NIA officials today visited the Thane residence of Mansukh Hiran, who was allegedly murdered days after an explosives-laden SUV was found near industrialist

Mukesh Ambani's residence in Mumbai, and met his family members in connection with his probe in the case.

Officials in the agency said, the NIA sleuths went to Hiran's residence at Vikas

Palms society in Thane this afternoon and interacted with his family members.

This is second time that senior NIA officials have visited Hiran's residence, the officials said. —TNS

Printed and published by Rajesh Ramachandran for The Tribune Trust
Printed at The Tribune Press, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.
Published at The Tribune, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.
RNI No. 15/57.
Copyright © The Tribune Trust. All rights reserved.
Telephones: 0172-2655066-72
Circulation: 0172-2670419, Advertisement: 0172-2670256, 257
Editor: Rajesh Ramachandran*
*Editor for purpose of PRB Act, 1867

MARUTI SUZUKI ARENA

This Navratri
BRING HOME A DIVINE BLESSING.
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SWIFT
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SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	HVPNL	REPAIRING OF H-TYPE OUTDOOR CABLE TRENCHES (ODCT) COVERS IN YARD AT 220 KV S/STN. HVPNL, KARNAL (NIT NO. 36/TSK/NL/2021-22 DT. 16-04-2021)	16.04.2021 23.04.2021	2.94 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
2.	HVPNL	REPLACEMENT OF 11 KV PANEL SET AT 220 KV S/STN SHAHABAD (NIT NO. 4/AMB/220 KV SHAHABAD/2021-22 DATED: 15.04.2021)	15.04.2021 29.04.2021	1.53 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
3.	HVPNL	CREATION OF 01 NO. 33KV LINE BAY AT 132KV S/STN. HVPNL, MADHOSINGHANA TO ACCOMMODATE 33KV S/STN. BAKRIANIA APPROVAL CODE 3B2350* (NIT NO. 01/XENTS/SRS/2021-22 DATED 16.04.2021)	16.04.2021 26.04.2021	3.26 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
4.	DHBVN	NIT OF SUPPLY, TESTING, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF ELECTRIC LINES UPTO 11KV VOLTAGE	13.04.2021 05.05.2021	05.69 CRORE	www.dhbvn.org.in	01662-223302 ceophisar@dhbvn.org.in
5.	UHBVN	ONE NO. JEEP FOR XEN TRW, UHBVN DHULKOTE (AMBALA)	CLOSING DATE 07.05.2021	4.45 LACS ANNUAL	www.uhbvn.org.in	9315334822 sestores@uhbvn.org.in
6.	UHBVN	ONE NO. ERTIGA/CAR FOR SE STORES & WORKSHOPS, UHBVN DHULKOTE (AMBALA)	CLOSING DATE 07.05.2021	5.30 LACS ANNUAL	www.uhbvn.org.in	9315334822 sestores@uhbvn.org.in
7.	UHBVN	NIT NO.1 SK/1/2021/2022 DATED 15.04.2021 FOR HIRING OF 1 NOS. VEHICLE (HALF BODY JEEP/ MAHINDRA CAMPER) OPEN FROM BACK SIDE FOR USE S.O.D.O (OP) SUB DIVISION UHBVN TAORARI UNDER XEN S/DIV. NO. 1, UHBVN, KARNAL.	CLOSING DATE 29.04.2021	6000/-	www.uhbvn.org.in	9315457383 xenopsu1karnal@uhbvn.org.in
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