

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | VOL 141 NO.132 | 14 PAGES | ₹5.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2021-2023 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

US TRIES TO QUELL ISRAEL,
PALESTINE VIOLENCE WORLD

RECONSIDER TIES WITH CRYPTO EXCHANGES,
RBI TELLS LENDERS BUSINESS

CONSIDERING LIVE TELECAST OF
SC PROCEEDINGS: CJI BACK PAGE



FRIDAY | 14 MAY 2021

Expecting 200 cr doses by Aug-Dec, will cover 95 cr adults: Top govt aides

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MAY 13 Amid a growing clamour for Covid vaccines and stock shortages across states, the Centre today said it was expecting that over 200 crore doses would become available in India between August and December this year, reaching up to 300 crore by the first quarter of 2022.

Noting that India had inoculated 32 per cent of its people aged 45 years and above with single dose as against 27 per cent in France, 34 per cent in Germany and 46 per cent in the US, top government advisers today said the rate of vaccine coverage in India was "a matter to be proud of".

Chairman of the empowered group on vaccines VK Paul projected the availability of 216 crore vaccine doses in India between August and December 2021, saying that the country would soon have enough stocks to cover 95 crore adults who would require 190 crore doses.

The projected availability of over 200 crore doses includes 75 crore doses of Covishield, 55 crore doses of Covaxin, 15.6 crore doses of Sputnik V (vaccines licensed in India) and stocks of the yet to be licensed vaccines — Bio E vaccine (projected availability of 30 crore doses between August and December); Zydus Cadila DNA vaccine (5 crore doses),

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

3,62,727 FRESH CASES
TOTAL DEATHS 2,58,317 ACTIVE CASES 37,10,525
4,120 DEATHS IN 24 HOURS

FB CAMPAIGN TO FIGHT COVID 'MISINFORMATION'

Facebook on Thursday said it would roll out a campaign in the coming weeks to "educate and inform people" about how to detect misinformation related to Covid-19. PTI

MODI TO TALK TO DM'S OF 100 HIGH-BURDEN DISTRICTS

PM MISSING ALONG WITH O₂, MEDICINES

The PM is also missing, along with vaccines, oxygen and medicines. All that remain are the Central Vista Project and GST on medicines. Rahul Gandhi



Increase aid to India: Lawmakers to Biden

WASHINGTON, MAY 13

Fifty-seven US Congressmen have written to President Joe Biden, urging him to bolster America's Covid-19 assistance to India.

"The sharp increase in cases has overwhelmed India's healthcare system. We must do our part to quell the virus everywhere it persists," the lawmakers said in a letter to Biden on Wednesday.

"We are extremely concerned with regard to India's deadly second wave. India is now the epicentre of the pandemic," said the letter initiated by Congressman Brad Sherman. WORLD

Covishield dose gap widened to 12-16 wks

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MAY 13 India today increased the interval between the two doses of the Covishield vaccine from 6-8 weeks to 12-16 weeks after an expert panel recommended changes based on the experience in the UK.

"The Health Ministry has accepted this recommendation of the Covid Working Group for extension of the gap between the first and second doses of Covishield vaccine to 12-16 weeks," an official statement said.

The group chaired by leading vaccinologist NK Arora relied on studies from the UK that established the efficacy of AstraZeneca vaccine reached 82.4 per cent after the second dose in people

POST-RECOVERY, JAB AFTER 6 MTHS MULLED

The working group is learnt to have recommended that Covid-positive patients defer their vaccinations for six months after recovery instead of the present 4-8 weeks post-recovery.

with a dosing interval of 12 weeks or more. If the two doses were given less than six weeks apart, the efficacy was only 54.9 pc. "It's a science-based decision. We started with a dosing interval of 4-6 weeks for Covishield which was raised to 6-8 weeks. The UK and WHO recommended an interval of over 12 weeks between the two doses of Covishield. In the UK,

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Running a
**COACHING
CENTRE?**
Scan & Watch!

TCY online
98789-58555

Should we hang
ourselves over vax
shortage: Minister

BENGALURU, MAY 13 Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers DV Sadananda Gowda on Thursday sought to know whether people in the government should hang themselves for failure to produce vaccines. He was talking to media persons here. — PTI

Govt: Virus will find new pathways, curbs the key

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MAY 13 The Centre on Thursday said the virus would ultimately go to villages as its natural course was to look for vulnerable populations to infect.

VK Paul, who leads the government's Covid response team, said, "The virus will ultimately go to the villages. Finding new transmission pathways, when it does not find enough people to infect in cities, it will travel to villages. Containment is the key." Paul also said while it

Provide food, ration for stranded migrants, SC tells Delhi, Haryana, UP

NEW DELHI, MAY 13

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to open community kitchens in the NCR for stranded migrant workers amid the current wave of Covid-19 and facilitate transportation for labourers who want to return home.

Passing a slew of interim directions to ameliorate the miseries of migrant workers facing difficulties in the wake of the recent surge in Covid-19 cases and restrictions imposed in several

FACILITATE MOVEMENT

The Bench directed that the district administration, in coordination with the police, may identify such stranded migrant labourers and facilitate their transport either by road or train.

parts of India, the apex court directed that dry ration be provided to them in the national capital region (NCR) under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme' or any other scheme by the Centre and

governments of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

A Bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan and MR Shah said the Centre may also issue instructions to the Ministry of Railways to take necessary and adequate measures to cater to the needs of migrant workers.

The top court passed the order on an application filed by three activists who sought directions to the Centre and states to ensure food security, cash transfers, transport

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UPSC prelims exam to be now held on Oct 10

NEW DELHI, MAY 13

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has postponed the June 27 civil services preliminary examination to October 10 in view of the alarming Covid situation.

The commission conducts civil services examination annually in three stages — preliminary, main and interview — to select officers of Indian Administrative Service, Indian Foreign Service and Indian Police Service. The notification for the UPSC prelims exam to fill 712 vacancies was issued on March 4. — TNS



Bodies found buried near Ganga in Unnao

PROBE ORDERED

After the matter came to light, a sub-divisional magistrate was sent to the spot for a probe. He will submit his report soon. Ravindra Kumar, UNNAO DM

NHRC ISSUES NOTICE

The NHRC has issued notices to the Union Jal Shakti Ministry, UP and Bihar after receiving complaints about bodies found floating in the Ganga in the two states.

Our Patan tehsil area, Unnao District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar rushed officials to the spot and ordered a probe.

The first such incident was reported four days ago from the bordering Buxar district in Bihar, where the district administration retrieved 71 bodies from the Ganga.

After locals informed the administration about the bodies buried on the Bakas ghat with some

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Centre, Punjab spar over 'faulty' ventilators

VISHAV BHARTI & BALWANT GARG
Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, MAY 13 A blame game has erupted between the Centre and state government over supply of 'faulty' ventilators to Punjab under the PM Cares Fund.

The state had claimed that around 90 per cent ventilators sent by the Centre were faulty and non-functional. Countering the charge, the Union Government said the state's infrastructure to run



STATES FAILED TO INSTALL EQUIPMENT: CENTRE

The Centre said a few more states, which were supplied ventilators, failed to install the machines in hospitals. The Union Health Secretary wrote to seven such states on April 11 to get the installation expedited. However, authorities in Punjab said as soon as the necessity arose, the ventilators were put into service and most performed poorly.

the equipment was faulty, not the ventilators.

In a statement, the Union Health Ministry said among

ventilators installed at Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and Hospital (GGSMCH), Faridkot, 88 ventilators were supplied by Bharat Electronics Limited and five by AgVa Healthcare.

"There are issues/problems with the infrastructure, including non-availability of required pressure in the central oxygen gas pipelines. Further, the consumables like flow sensors, bacteria filters

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EDIT: VENTILATOR FIASCO

Pb to inoculate 18+ kin of health staff from today

CHANDIGARH, MAY 13

Faced with shortage of vaccine amid the second wave, the Punjab Cabinet has decided to join the COVAX facility alliance for global sourcing and procurement of Covid vaccines at best price, becoming the first state to take such an initiative.

The Cabinet has also decided to start from tomorrow vaccination for families of healthcare workers in government

and private sectors as well as those suffering from co-morbidities in the 18-44 years' category. It also approved the purchase of Covaxin for industrial workers for whose vaccination the industry has expressed willingness to pay.

The decisions were taken at a Cabinet meeting held to review the situation. INSIDE

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IN BRIEF

Oli PM again, Oppn fails to get numbers

KATHMANDU: KP Sharma Oli, as leader of the largest party in Nepal's Parliament, was re-appointed PM on Thursday as Opposition parties failed to muster the numbers. WORLD

Court junks Kalra's anticipatory bail plea

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Thursday dismissed the anticipatory bail plea of Navneet Kalra in connection with alleged black-marketing of oxygen concentrators. — PTI

Qaida man seeks nod to work as doc in Tihar

NEW DELHI: Sabeel Ahmed, an alleged Al-Qaida member and doctor lodged in Tihar, has moved a Delhi court seeking to assist prison staff in treating infected inmates. — PTI

Khattar blames farm stir for spike in villages

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, MAY 13 Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar today blamed the ongoing farmers' agitation against three agricultural laws for a spike in Covid-19 cases in rural areas.

"The rise in cases in rural areas is because of the (farmers') dharnas. Many villages have seen a spike as people are coming from and going back (to dharna sites)," Khattar said while addressing a virtual press conference here today. The CM said he had appealed to farm leaders last month to suspend their agitation till the pandemic was brought under control.

Again urging the farm leaders to end the stir, he said they should understand the situation. "They say they will take the vaccine, but will not get tested. If we do not conduct tests, how will we know who is infected? Therefore, they should come forward to get



AID FOR BPL FAMILIES

■ BPL families who have lost a member to Covid in second wave to be given ₹2 lakh each ■ 20% of vaccine supply reserved for frontline workers — electricity, roadways, public health staff and scribes ■ Over 3,000 cylinders have been refilled and delivered to homes so far, the CM said

the tests done," he said, adding that everyone should have faith in the healthcare system. On the alleged gang-rape of a West Bengal woman at the Tikkri border, he said the police were conducting investigation. "Whoever is found guilty, strict action will be taken against them," he added.

EC panel to identify flaws during Assembly polls

NEW DELHI, MAY 13

The Election Commission has decided to set up a panel to identify shortcomings during the recently held five Assembly polls. Elections were held in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry. The 'core committee' has been tasked to identify shortcomings in the Election Commission's

regulatory regime, and the gaps in implementation and enforcement at the level of state chief electoral officers and district officials. The committee will also look into the need to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework to allow the commission to ensure more effective compliance of guidelines, including Covid-19 norms. — PTI

Guv shown black flags in Cooch Behar

COOCH BEHAR, MAY 13

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar was on Thursday shown black flags at Sitalkuchi, where four villagers died after firing by central forces during the elections, while "go back" slogans were raised at Dinhata during his visit to Cooch Behar district to meet people "affected" by the post-poll violence.

Earlier in the day, the Governor said he was shocked by incidents of attacks following



the West Bengal Assembly elections. "The country is facing a Covid crisis and West Bengal is facing twin challenges of the pandemic and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Rising positivity rate in Himachal's 4 districts a worry

SHIMLA, MAY 13

A high positivity rate of 26.3 per cent in Himachal has placed the state's health services under a tremendous strain. The positivity and fatality rate has been on the rise for the past one week with 66 deaths recorded on Wednesday and 63 on Thursday. The count is too high for a small state like HP. The state saw a jump of 6 per cent in positivity rate within a week. The fatality rate stands at 1.42. The active cases have touched a record 40,000 while the total cases since the outbreak of the pandemic have crossed the 1.50 lakh mark.

Weddings and Kumbh returnees have proved to be super-spreaders. Even though the state government claims to produce more oxygen than is required, families who have lost their dear ones blame non-availability of the life-saving

gas for the deaths. Alarmingly, the positivity rate has crossed 30 per cent in four districts — Sirsa (38.4%),

Shimla (34.10%), Solan (31.10%) and Mandi (30.60%). Even though the government has imposed a Covid

curfew, the damage has already been done. The recent decision of the government to restrict the number of invitees to weddings to 20 has come rather late.

Kangra has been the worst-hit, reporting 1,277 new cases and 15 deaths on Thursday. Managing the swelling number of patients requiring hospitalisation has become a daunting task for the district administration. — TNS

Book CM, ministers for Covid deaths: AAP

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 13
The Aam Aadmi Party today said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Punjab Government were playing politics on ventilators purchased through PM Cares Fund.

AAP said Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu and Medical Education Minister OP Soni were responsible for the deaths due to non-availability of ventilators and other health services in the state and a case of murder under Section 302 of the IPC should be registered against all of them.

AAP legislator Kultar Singh Sandhu said the deaths of Covid patients in Punjab were due to the non-availability of ventilators which were to be provided by the state government. He said he had taken up the matter with the government on September 8, 2020, against the poor quality ventilators sent through PM Cares Fund. The matter was also taken up at a high-level meeting held on March 5, 2021, at Baba Farid Medical College which was attended by the Medical Education Minister along with senior



INCREASE HEALTH BUDGET TO 25%

- AAP senior leader and Leader of Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema has appealed to CM Capt Amarinder Singh to increase the annual budget for health services to 25 per cent to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic in a proper manner
- Cheema demanded a special session of the Legislative Assembly at the earliest to discuss the plan to formulate a strategy to deal with the pandemic

officers. He said during the meeting it was informed 14 ventilators were not working properly. He demanded that instead of fixing these ventilators, the government should arrange new and better quality ventilators.

In a first, state to join global alliance to procure vaccines

Drive for healthcare workers' families in 18+ category starts today

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 13

Faced with the shortage of vaccine amid the second wave of the Covid pandemic, the Punjab Cabinet has decided to join the COVAX facility alliance for global sourcing and procurement of Covid vaccines at best price, becoming the first state to take such an initiative.

The Cabinet has also decided to start from tomorrow vaccination for families of healthcare workers in government and private sectors as well as those suffering from co-morbidities in the 18-44 years' category. It also approved the purchase of Covaxin for industrial workers for whose vaccination the industry has expressed willingness to pay.

Reviewing the Covid situation, CM Capt Amarinder Singh directed a judicious use of the limited available stocks of vaccine as the positivity rate for the week ending May 12 stood at 14.2 per cent and CFR at 2.1 per cent. The Health Department was also directed to kick-start the



A woman gets Covid vaccine at a centre in Jalandhar. TREBUNE PHOTO

NOD TO PURCHASE OF ₹152.56-CR MEDICAL STUFF

- The Cabinet on Thursday gave the approval for the procurement of hospital material worth ₹152.56 crore by various departments. It also cleared the recruitment of 250 MBBS medical officers through Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot, after taking the recruitment process out of the purview of PPSC
- As many as 192 medical officers were given their appointment letters on Thursday. Ministers OP Soni and Brahm Mohindra raised the issue of inadequate salaries of medical staff

vaccination drive for the priority groups from schools and other buildings to prevent crowding at government hospitals.

Briefing the Cabinet, Dr Gagandeep Kang, a special invitee, said with the preliminary

vaccination data showing vaccines working better against Covid than expected, including against the mutant B.1.617 variety, a targeted response to the vaccination programme was needed. She suggested more extensive use of Cov-

ishield as it offered high efficacy even with a single dose, while the second dose could be extended up to 12 weeks. Dr Kang suggested that the Government of India should be requested to include obesity in the list of comorbidities for vaccination priority.

Health Secretary Hussan Lal informed the Cabinet that of the 30 lakh Covishield doses ordered by the state government, the Serum Institute of India had so far confirmed 4.29 lakh, of which one lakh had been received.

Lal further apprised the Cabinet that for the 45+ age group, the last tranche of Covishield vaccine (1,63,710 doses) was received on May 9, taking the total to 42,48,560. As many as 3,45,000 doses were given to the armed forces, while the total utilisation stood at 39,03,560. For Covaxin in the 45+ category, the last tranche of vaccine received was of 75,000 doses (May 6), taking the total received to 4,09,080, of which utilisation till date was 3,52,080, leaving the availability of only 57,000 now.

Establish mini care centres: SAD to Capt

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 13

Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal today requested CM Capt Amarinder Singh to take immediate measures to establish mini Covid centres, accelerate the vaccination process, reemploy medical staff and put a cap on treatment charges of private hospitals, besides waiving power bills for six months to save lives and give relief to people.

Addressing a press conference here, the SAD president said it was of utmost importance to save lives and to do so the need of the hour was to establish mini Covid centres with Level-1 and 2 facilities in all blocks of the state.

He said people needed access to basic care and oxygen upon being infected by the virus and the mini Covid centres could give them immediate relief. He said the SGPC had already taken an initiative in this regard and the government could replicate this model across the state. He said the SAD was ready to provide 'langar' service at the Covid centres opened by the government. Sukhbir also appealed to the



CAP TREATMENT COSTS

Cap treatment charges of private hospitals, which are charging ₹2.5 lakh to ₹3 lakh in the name of hospitalisation. Similarly, private institutions are charging as much as ₹10,000 for a simple CT-scan. Sukhbir Singh Badal, SAD CHIEF

government to reemploy all doctors and paramedical staff who had superannuated in the last one year for an additional year. He said similarly interns and nursing students should also be hired to fill in the crucial gaps and ensure there was no shortage of manpower. "Black marketing of medicines should be stopped immediately," he said, calling for subsidising the treatment of Covid patients.

Admn ropes in panchayats, religious bodies

SANGRUR, MAY 13

Witnessing a sharp rise in Covid cases in rural areas, the Sangrur health department authorities have sought the help of panchayats and formed special committees in villages. Besides, officials are taking the help of religious organisations to increase vaccination.

"We have been requesting panchayats to help us. They can play a big role in vaccination of all villagers. All should understand that vaccination is

COVID METER		WORST-AFFECTED DISTRICTS	
DISTRICT	CASES	CASES	DEATHS
Cases	8,491	1,335	25
Critical	429		
Active	79,950	991	8
Deaths	184	877	12
		577	10

must to prevent the further spread of Covid," said Dr Anjna Gupta, Civil Surgeon, Sangrur.

Of the 23 deaths in the past 24 hours in the district, a majority were from villages, including Khanauri Mandi,

Namol, Shahpur Kalan, Chattha, Duggan, Maniana, Sheron and others.

The sudden spurt of deaths has panicked residents, with many of them blaming the health authorities for delay in

vaccination. Some residents alleged the government had failed to provide required facilities to rural areas and were unnecessarily blaming them for the spread of virus.

Sangrur Deputy Commissioner Ramvir said their teams have been visiting all villages to provide them required facilities. The Barnala administration has formed an army of volunteers to go from door to door to create awareness about Covid. — TNS



Policemen help health officials conduct Covid tests along highways in Abohar. TREBUNE PHOTO

Ropar police start outreach programme

ROPAR, MAY 13

In a bid to arrest the spread of virus in the district, SSP Dr Akhil Chaudhary has directed the police to approach at least 10,000 persons directly and seek their cooperation in roping in general public on the Covid-19 guidelines and the role of police in enforcing these.

Will make people aware of norms

Chaudhary said at a time when the virus had claimed 300 lives in the district, policemen were on their toes to save lives and had to take tough decisions at times. He said people would be contacted to seek their cooperation.

"There are 10 police stations in the district and 10 policemen from each station will call up 10 prominent persons of their area..." he said. — TNS



14 May, 2021

"Bhagwan Parshuram Ji is the great symbol of strength and wisdom. He taught us to face every challenge with bravery. Let us take inspiration from Bhagwan Parshuram Ji and combat this pandemic with courage while following COVID-19 guidelines."

- Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana



Govt. of Haryana

Railways cancels 16 trains due to low occupancy

FEROZEPUR, MAY 13

To meet the target of 1,000 Covid sampling each day, services of all police stations in Abohar Sub-Division are being availed. CM Captain Amarinder Singh had recently directed to increase testing from 90,000 to 2 lakh each day across the state.

Health workers have been deployed at police stations and on roadside nakkas to collect samples. A Pepsu Road-

O₂ demand jumps fourfold in Barnala

BARNALA, MAY 13

Authorities in Barnala have been struggling hard to ensure the supply of medical oxygen cylinders as its consumption has increased from 50 to 200 cylinders per day in the past 14 days.

Deputy Commissioner TPS Phoolka has banned oxygen cylinders' use for non-medical purposes to meet the rising demand. Since Barnala does not have its own oxygen plant, the administration has to send their trucks with empty oxygen cylinders to Mandi Gobindgarh for refilling. The entire process of refilling takes around 20 hours before officers receive filled cylinders back.

SDM Varjeet Walia and DSP Lakhvir Tiwana have formed



200 CYLINDERS REQUIRED DAILY

● Daily consumption has risen from 50 to 200 cylinders. We have recovered cylinders from repair shops, manufacturing units and other places to meet the demand.

Varjeet Walia, BARNALA SDM

teams of Tehsildar and SHOs each to confiscate all oxygen cylinders, which were put to non-medical use in the market in violation of the orders.

DSP Lakhvir Tiwana said the Barnala police were working round the clock with the administration to serve the public during this pandemic. "Our teams have confiscated 125 such cylinders," he said.

DC Phoolka has also started a 24-hour Covid helpline to extend all help to district residents. "Government employees will be working in three shifts each to answer the Covid queries and provide all necessary help. People can call at the numbers 01679-230032 and 75280-34032 and get the help anytime they want to," said Phoolka. — TNS

Muktsar labs continue to 'fleece' patients

ARCHIT WATTS

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUKTSAR, MAY 13

Even though the state government has capped the charges for chest CT-scan at Rs 2,000 in private hospitals and diagnostic centres, locals claimed some private centres were fleecing suspected Covid patients. Notably, the number of Covid patients is increasing day by day, spreading panic among locals. In such a situation, some diagnostic centres are making quick money by fleecing people.

Sukhjinder Singh Kaom, president, AAP's youth wing,

Up to ₹4,000 being charged for CT-scan



Muktsar district, said, "My relative yesterday underwent a chest CT-scan at a diagnostic centre in the town. The diagnostic centre charged Rs 2,500. The staff said they were charging Rs 500 extra for sanitising the machine. I have lodged a

complaint in this regard with the Chief Medical Officer."

Some residents said they even paid Rs 3,000 to 4,000 for chest CT-scans in the recent past. "Some doctors in the district are charging a hefty fee from the patients due to the Covid panic. There is hardly any check on it. Health officials should conduct a surprise check at private hospitals and diagnostic centres to catch them red-handed," they said. After getting complaints, the Congress too has opened a help desk in Muktsar and Gidderbaha towns.

No oximeters in 'Fateh' kits, patients seek probe

Say price of device has gone up manifold during second wave

PARVESH SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



JUST ONE PLAIN SO FAR

- Multipurpose Health Worker Ravinder Sharma, who supplies kits in Sangrur city, feigned ignorance
- "To date, we have received only one complaint and we are looking into the matter. We are only supplying kits. We have no role in its preparation," he said

missing from the kits since the last month. "I and my wife had tested positive on April 22 and received our kits on April 24. But oximeters were missing from both the kits. We had informed health officials, but nobody took an action. Senior authorities must withdraw oximeters from the list of 20 items if they are unwilling to

supply it to patients," said a 70-year-old man.

AAP leader Inderpal Singh demanded a high-level inquiry and alleged that black marketing of oximeters had peaked. "If authorities have mentioned oximeter on the list, they must provide it to all patients," he said.

The kit includes pulse oximeter with a year's warranty, digital thermometer, steamer, hand sanitiser, glycol tablets, vitamin-C, vitamin D-3, vitamin zinc tablets, topcid, amunity plus liquid, tab doxy-cyclin, tablet ivermectin, Dolo 650 mg, multi-vitamin tablets, cough syrup, Betadine gargles, Levo Cetirizine tablets, face masks and balloons.

MPHW Ravinder Sharma, who supplies kits in Sangrur city, feigned ignorance and said to date he had received only one complaint on Tuesday morning and he was looking into the matter. "We are only supplying kits and we have no role in its preparation," he added.

Poor patients can dial '181' or '112' for free food at home

CHANDIGARH, MAY 13
Beginning Friday, the poor and underprivileged Covid patients across the state can call up 'Hunger Helpline'

numbers '181' or '112' for delivery of free cooked meals on their doorstep through the Punjab Police department.

The initiative was announced

during a Cabinet meeting by CM Capt Amarinder Singh. He said: "We will not allow anyone sleep hungry in Punjab."

Such patients can dial these

numbers any time of the day or night and will be provided cooked food at their home by the police, through Covid kitchens and delivery boys.

As part of the facility, which will become operational from 10 am on Friday, needy patients anywhere in the state can call up the helpline. — TNS

Control rooms to monitor oxygen, bed availability

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 13
To tackle rising caseload in the state, the Punjab Government has constituted two dedicated control rooms to streamline oxygen supply and availability of beds.

The oxygen control room is being headed by senior IAS officer Rahul Tewari with officers Tanu Kashyap, Abhinav Trikha, Pradeep Aggarwal and Shaukat Ahmed Pairi as members. The control room for hospital bed availability will be under the supervision of IAS officer Ajay Sharma with officers Vijay Naamdeo Zaade, Mohammad Tayyab, Vipul Ujjwal and Praveen Kumar Thind as members.

Chairing a meeting of the oxygen control room, Tewari said the functions of both control rooms could be accessed by public on website statecovidcontrolroom.punjab.gov.in.

He said oxygen availability was being assessed regularly and arrangements were being made to tackle any exigency. It was the priority of the state government to ensure unhindered oxygen supply and availability of beds to patients, he added.

He said regular updates regarding availability of oxygen and beds would be made available to public through social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter.

DSGMC in dock over Big B's ₹2-cr donation

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, MAY 13
The Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee leadership has come under fire for accepting donation from actor Amitabh Bachchan.

A 1984 Sikh riot victim, Bibi Nirpreet Kaur has approached the Akal Takht Jathedar against it, demanding summoning of DSGMC chief Manjinder Singh Sirsa to the Takht for praising someone allegedly involved in inciting the riots.

The SGPC, too, has criti-



Role of Amitabh Bachchan questioned in anti-Sikh riots.

refrained from commenting over whether Sirsa should be held accountable for the 'lapse' or the money be returned. "I have no idea about whether the money was

donated through cheque or cash to the DSGMC," she said.

Asked about complaints reaching the Takht, she said any Sikh devotee could lodge a complaint or submission. "Only jathedar who occupies the highest Sikh temporal seat can take a call on it," she said.

Akal Takht Secretariat officials said a letter from Bibi Nirpreet Kaur had been received via e-mail, lodging protest on the DSGMC accepting donation from Bachchan. "At present, jathedar-jis is abroad. It will be brought to his notice once

he returns," said an official.

A similar complaint was received from the All India Sikh Students Federation. Patron Karnail Singh Peer Mohammad said the Takht must take Sirsa to task. "Sirsa was well versed with the role of Bachchan in the anti-Sikh riots. How could he commit such a blunder by accepting money from him? Did Sirsa ever mention thousands of other donors the way he praised a man who had instigated mob against Sikhs?" he claimed.

₹3,000 allowance for construction workers

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 13
To mitigate sufferings caused due to loss of livelihood of construction workers amid the Covid restrictions, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh today announced subsistence allowance/cash assistance of Rs 3,000 to all construction workers registered with the Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Welfare Board.

The CM, who is also the chairman of the board, said the subsistence allowance of Rs 3,000 would be paid in two instalments of Rs 1,500 each, the first one to be released immediately and the second by June 15.

The state government had extended a helping hand to distressed construction workers last year too, amid the first wave of the pandemic. It had then provided a financial assistance to the tune of Rs 174.31 crore, giving Rs 6,000 each to 2.91 lakh construction workers registered with the board.

The board has nearly three lakh registered construction workers across the state. The livelihood of these construction workers has been adversely impacted.



3 LAKH TO BENEFIT

- The Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board has nearly three lakh registered construction workers
- Last year, the state government had paid ₹6,000 each to 2.91 lakh construction workers

ed in the wake of various restrictive measures and advisories issued from time to time to combat the current situation arising out of recent spike in Covid cases.

The progress of the ongoing construction projects at several places had either stopped or temporarily slowed down, thus severely impacting the income and livelihood of such workers. The Chief Minister said that the financial assistance was aimed at bringing some immediate relief to the construction workers in these difficult times amid pandemic.

The board has nearly three lakh registered construction workers across the state. The livelihood of these construction workers has been adversely impacted.

192 medical officers hired

Capt Amarinder Singh, the Health Department was making efforts to ensure adequate manpower, he said.

The Punjab Government had filled more than 10,000 posts of paramedical and other staff, including medical officers, between 2017 and 2021. Sidhu congratulated the new appointees on the start of a new career in the department and encouraged them to discharge their responsibilities honestly and diligently in various health institutions of the state.

Wishing all a new dawn, where we can live in peace and harmony, in a world free from disease and pandemic. Eid Mubarak to one and all."

Capt. Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Punjab

On the auspicious occasion of

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I, Babloo alias Bobby Ram S/o Sh. Munshi Residence of H.No. 62, Palsaura, Sector 55, Chandigarh have changed my name to Babloo. (CL21013320)

I, Gurcharan Singh Saini s/o S. Jagat Singh r/o 121-G, Gobind Nagar, Model Town, Patiala, declare that my son Sukhman Singh Saini and his wife Harpreet Kaur are not in my control. I disown them from all my moveable/ immovable property. Anybody dealing with them shall do so at their own risk. (CL21013194)

We, Surinder Kumar s/o Sh. Pyare Lal and Baby w/o Surinder Kumar r/o 656, Phase- II, Ram Darbar, Chandigarh declare that our daughter Khushi Badguri is out of our control. We disown her from all our moveable/immovable property. We shall not be responsible for any of her acts and anybody dealing with her shall do so at their own risk. (CL21013498)

I, Sunita w/o Madan Lal, Madan Lal s/o Mangat Ram, 157, Luxmi Nagar, Jandiali, Ambala City, disown our son Sandeep Kumar, his wife Santosh Rani from our moveable- immovable properties. As they are out of our control. Anybody deals them at own risk. Concerned note. (CL21013500)

My son Jatinder Kumar (Gagan), his wife Simran (Reetu), their son Rupesh Kumar and daughter Dipika were out of my control, so I disowned them from my property through The Tribune dated 18.7.2013. Now all of them in my control. So I return back above notice. Radhey Shyam s/o Sardar Singh r/o Kotkapura, District Faridkot. (CL21013536)

CM announces fiscal help for BPL families

State to pay ₹2 lakh to kin of Covid victims

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 13
The Haryana Government has decided to pay the premium of the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) under which the BPL families are paid Rs 2 lakh after the death of the insured person.

Besides the poor, who have lost their family members prematurely during the second Covid wave and for some reason could not fill the form for the benefit of this scheme, will be given Rs 2 lakh by the state government. This was announced by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar while addressing a digital press conference here on Thursday.

He urged the poor families to fill up the form so that they could get the benefit of the PMJJBY by May 31.

For this, the first instalment of the premium must be in the account of the holder. As soon as the instalment is deducted from the account, the premium would be deposited in it by the government, he said. The scheme was for people between the ages of 18 to 50 years with an annual premium of Rs 330, he said.

For the eligible BPL families, the premium of this scheme will be deposited in their account every year in future also after deducting it from their accounts.

The CM said there were 17,000 oxygen beds in private and government hospitals of the state, of which about 13,500 were occupied. He



A girl gets a jab at a vaccination centre in Gurugram on Thursday.

BENEFITS FOR UNREGISTERED TOO

- ₹2 lakh will also be given to the poor, who lost their kin prematurely during the second Covid wave and for some reason couldn't fill the form for the scheme
- The CM urged the poor families to fill the form by May 31 so that they could get the benefits of the PM's insurance scheme

said though private hospitals contribute 60 per cent of the oxygen beds but a few of them were charging more than the rates fixed by the government. He said strict action would be taken against defaulters, if caught overcharging, under the Criminal Act and could lead to repercussions like shutting down oxygen supply and de-registration.

Khattar said the delivery of oxygen was being done at home on the doctor's pre-

Tikri sexual assault: SIT gets victim's phone after 5 days

RAVINDER SAINI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JHAJJAR, MAY 13

After five days of registering the case, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the sexual assault on a Bengali woman at the Tikri border finally received the cellphone of the victim on Thursday.

Significantly, the SIT chief had on Wednesday said the cellphone was with the victim's father who went to West Bengal for some rituals and would hand it over to the



PROBE UNDERWAY

Today, a person known to victim's father, who is also associated with the SKM, handed over the phone to us. All those persons, whose names have appeared in the investigation will be summoned.

DSP Pawan Kumar, SIT CHIEF

police after his return in a couple of days.

Clarifying the issue, DSP Pawan Kumar, the SIT

chief, said on May 10, the victim's father was asked to hand over the cellphone for investigation but he went out of station. "On Thursday a person known to him, who is also associated with the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), handed over the victim's phone to us. Moreover, Kavita, a co-accused, and two advocates were also questioned about the case as it came to the fore during investigation that they too were aware of the incident. All those persons whose names have appeared in the

investigation will be summoned," he added.

Countering the allegations of the victim's father that he had accused only two persons in the complaint but the case had been booked against six, the SIT chief said the names of all suspects were mentioned in the complaint hence they had been named in the FIR. Their role in the case was being investigated from various angles. They knew about the incident and hiding the facts was also an offence, he added.



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COVID-19 BED AVAILABILITY IN

GOVERNMENT & PRIVATE HOSPITALS

	OXYGEN BEDS	ICU BEDS (Without Ventilator)	ICU BEDS (With Ventilator)
	Total Available	Total Available	Total Available
Government Hospitals	3970 1818	577 56	386 24
Private Hospitals	6382 1385	1321 191	981 141
Total (Govt. + Pvt.)	10352 3203	1898 247	1367 165

Figures as on 13.05.2021 5.00 pm
Issued by:
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, PUNJAB



Screen all villagers in 10 days, officials told

CHANDIGARH, MAY 13

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar gave directions to sanitise every village of the state, while presiding over the meeting of DCs and nodal officers here today, to review the plans for conducting health screening in rural areas.

Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala was also present, while Health Minister Anil Vij joined the meeting through videoconferencing.

The CM said 8,000 teams had been formed to conduct door-to-door screening in rural areas, of which 1,000 would start functioning in an active manner, soon. He said every person should be screened within 10 days.

He said refilling and home delivery of oxygen cylinders for the home-isolated should be arranged on time.

Patients, who have registered on the prescribed portal, should get the cylinder as soon as possible, he said. For this, PCR facility should also be availed, he said. The DC concerned should ensure cylinders at their level for the patients.

Twenty vehicles each had been given from the Police Department in every district, while five mini road-



State to go for global tenders to buy vaccine

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 13
Health Minister Anil Vij said that global tendering would be done for the purchase of Covid vaccine for the people of the state.

The Health Minister said that with this decision of the government, the vaccine would be made available for the citizens of Haryana over the age of 18 years soon. This is a major step taken by the Haryana Government for the vaccine.

He informed that free vaccine would be given to all citizens above 18 years of age in the state.

Vij said that there is a need to review oxygen allocation. He has raised this matter in front of the Centre in a meeting of Health Ministers from across the country in a video conference. He said that 700 MT oxygen is being given to 85,000 active patients in Delhi and 258 MT oxygen is being given to more than one lakh active patients in Haryana.



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Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh announces 24/7 'Bhojan Helpline'
"I am proud that Punjab Police will deliver cooked meals to feed the poor & needy on Punjab di dharti 24/7"

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS, PUNJAB

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

The buck stops with WHO

Reform global body to make it pandemic-ready

A YEAR and a half after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic that has claimed over 33 lakh lives and infected more than 16 crore people worldwide so far, an international panel has observed that the global catastrophe was preventable. The inescapable question is: who all are responsible for failing to prevent it? The Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR) has stated in its report that the delayed declaration of an international health emergency by the World Health Organisation (WHO), coupled with various governments' tardy response to the warnings, caused the virus to spread around the globe in no time.

Indeed, the WHO hasn't exactly covered itself in glory in these challenging times. During the early months of the pandemic, the UN agency kept insisting that mask-wearing was not recommended for the general public. It was only in June last year that the global body reversed its stand on this crucial matter. Though there were telltale signs that the virus was of Chinese origin, the WHO preferred to walk a diplomatic tightrope, sparking allegations that it was going soft on China. A probe into the origins of the coronavirus materialised as late as January this year when China finally allowed a team of international experts to visit Wuhan, Covid's original epicentre. The investigation, however, proved to be a damp squib as the world didn't get any conclusive answers.

The IPPPR has stressed the need for empowering the WHO to send investigators at short notice to track down new disease outbreaks and publish their findings without delay. This recommendation is in itself an admission of the global organisation's incapacity to take decisive action. The report comes ahead of the May 24-June 1 meeting of the World Health Assembly, the WHO's decision-making body. The 194 member states need to go beyond discussing the panel's findings and suggestions. What's needed is consensus on promptly initiating reforms to transform the global pandemic preparedness and response system, starting with pushing the WHO to put its own house in order. All the deliberations will be of no consequence if the world remains ill-equipped to stave off another Covid-like apocalypse.

Ventilator fiasco

First fix machines, then accountability

STOCK-TAKING, unfortunately, starts only once the blame game for the mess reaches the doorsteps of those in charge. Brought to its knees by the second wave of Covid-19, the public health system has a lot of answering to do on why and how the available life-saving devices could not be put to use, resulting in avoidable deaths. Media reports have pointed to scores of ventilators, manufactured under the PM Cares Fund last year, lying unused at government facilities across the country; several had not even been unpacked till some time ago. Some states, including Punjab, have now put the onus on the manufacturers, claiming faulty and unreliable functioning of the devices. The makers say minor adjustments by their engineers could have resolved the issues, while hinting at technical inadequacies at the facilities.

Several questions deserve answers. Why should quality-tested machines encounter glitches or fail the test of trust and reliability? Who failed to raise the red flag? Who chose not to respond timely to calls for repairs or technical assistance? Why the casualness all around? Why should there be a shortage of technicians trained to operate sophisticated machines? Over 4,000 is the daily recorded death toll. There is no time to lose, the only way forward is to quickly set the house — however disorganised and chaotic — in order. Get the devices running as fast as possible, make contractors duty-bound to have maintenance staff on call, ensure the doctors' apprehensions are addressed, and hold emergency training sessions.

PM Cares Fund has been mired in controversy over the lack of transparency surrounding it. It is difficult to fathom the hesitancy in making public the priority and account sheets, but the ventilator fiasco does demand accountability — from the manufacturers, the Centre and the states. When public welfare is the goal all three swear by, clearly something is missing. As the country prepares for the third wave and foreign aid pours in, it would be a colossal disaster if the institutions falter in course-correction on even basics.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any. — Alice Walker

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

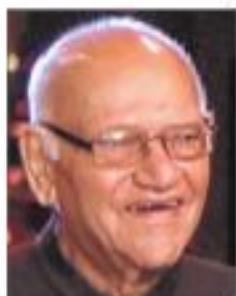
LAHORE, FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1921

MR. MONTAGU ON TURKISH PEACE.

MR. Montagu's reply to the Indian Moslem deputation on the question of the revised terms of the Turkish Treaty is probably intended to conciliate and convince the Indian Mahomedans that the British authorities have given their very best consideration to Indian representation and every possible concession to their views has been made. As far as the Secretary of State for India is concerned, he has repeatedly pressed the views of Indian Mahomedans on his colleagues in the Government and this has already had the effect of making certain changes favourable to Turkey and with these the Indian Moslems ought to be fairly satisfied. He admitted that all that asked for has not been, and indeed cannot be, conceded in the settlement of rightly disputed matters in which several parties are concerned. But what Mr. Montagu wanted to impress on the Indian Moslem deputation was that the fullest possible concession had been made to Indian views and its advocacy was so far successful to effect certain material changes. He also referred to the important points urged by the deputation which, however, were not accepted — viz., their views on the restoration of Thrace to Turkey, the internationalisation of the Strait, the separation of Mesopotamia and Palestine etc, but he pointed out that these did not affect the future safety of Turkey or its religious suzerainty. The most important demand, viz., the supreme authority of the Kaliph has been fully recognised and protected and the proposed constitution of an Arab Kingdom secures the religious claims and interests of all Moslem nationalities in regard to their holy places. Mr. Montagu wanted to reassure the Indian Moslem deputation that their presence in London and their representation of Indian views were most effective in securing the best possible terms to Turkey under the circumstances.

Post-election mayhem

The MHA and ECI must share blame for creating a new 'format' of law enforcement

TRYSTS AND TURNS
JULIO RIBEIRO

A READER of my column deplored the fact that I had uttered 'not a single word of mourning' (sic) for those who were murdered in cold blood in post-election violence in Bengal. I have one awkward explanation to offer; besides others that will be advanced — I am technology illiterate! I write my articles in long hand on Mondays, send them to my secretary in the office, and now lately, during the lockdown, to her home on Tuesday morning, correct the draft that very evening and forward the final version to her on Wednesday for despatch. So, developments after Wednesdays find no place in the writings.

Mamata's victory was front-page news. The disturbances were not so prominently featured. In Bengal, post-election violence has been reported over time, as consistently as clashes during electioneering. During the first few elections, the violence enveloped supporters of the Congress and the Left, then those of the CPM and the Trinamool Congress (TMC), and now the TMC and the new entrants in Bengal's political arena, the BJP.

Tensions, quarrels and fistcuffs are common during election times in most states. The exuberance of youth finds more outlets during victory marches and celebrations. Normal police *bandobast* keeps the revellers and the hotheads in check but the BJP has changed the rules of the game in Bengal by emasculating the state police machinery during these elections and replacing it with a massive paramilitary presence that seems to have taken over the control of law and order.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has used its inherent powers to replace the key players in the police setup, the DGP and the ADGP (Law



FIRST THINGS FIRST: The Central team should begin its inquiries with the firing at Sitalkuchi. Who deputed an armed CISF party at the spot? PTI

No party can claim innocence. And since lumpen elements are used for murder and chaos, we have to be sure of who did what, when and where.

and Order). If the replacements were not able to pull their weight, things were bound to go wrong. The usual practice in vogue was for the ECI to indicate the officers suspected to be unduly friendly with ruling party politicians, as voiced by the opposition parties and order their replacement. The choice of replacements was mutually agreed between officials of the ECI and the state's senior bureaucrats.

In my time, the power to distribute or allocate duties to the paramilitary was left to the state government. The rules of deployment seem to have changed in Bengal this time around. If the ECI has now been saddled with keeping order on the streets, it will be difficult, nay impossible and unfair, to blame Didi's administration for the post-election violence till she is again sworn in and competent officers are again in charge of quelling disturbances. The earlier rules were very clear. Outside forces, even those not asked for by the state, were squarely under the state government's control. They worked under a Magistrate if trouble was expected and under the command of the senior-most state police officer present, if there was no Magistrate

deployed. If this time-tested arrangement was disturbed, then the fault lay with the Union Home Ministry or the ECI, whoever was responsible for weakening the authority of the state.

From newspaper reports it did appear to a practised eye, like that of this old policeman, that the Home Ministry had taken over control from the state. This offered Mamata the excuse for freeing the state police from its responsibility to answer for post-election vandalism. To my mind, the blame should now be shared by the Home Ministry and the ECI for creating this new format of law enforcement where no one appears to be in charge when troubles start.

The ministry has despatched a team of four senior officials, headed by an Additional Secretary, to probe into the violence that followed the election results. Several BJP supporters and some TMC men also lost their lives. The team will find it difficult to blame the MHA, and even more difficult to point a finger at its own political boss. The team should begin its inquiries with the firing by the CISF at Sitalkuchi. Who deputed an armed CISF party to that spot? Did its man-

A fighter till the very last

RAMNIK MOHAN

IN the morning, I had a telephonic conversation with some friends. Among the many things we talked about, the one that stood out in all was asking after the health of Mahavir Narwal, our common friend and acquaintance. I knew that he had been admitted to a hospital after being infected with Covid and was fighting it out on oxygen support. The update in the morning was that he was likely to be put on a ventilator. In the late evening came the news that Covid had taken him away from us.

Two things were universally known about him — his joie de vivre and his never-say-die spirit. Like many oth-

ers, his daughter Natasha had been incarcerated under various sections of the law, including the dreadful UAPA, for around a year now. Not once did he give up on her or on the struggle that ensued in the courts for justice. Never did he meet and greet all and sundry without a welcoming smile, even during this period of great stress and uncertainty, compounded by the surge of the dreaded virus. Conversations with him on the phone too were always full of the same spirit, the voice as strong and chirpy as ever. One called for an update, hoping to buttress his spirits, but all conversations ended as they began — on a positive note.

'Dissent is decent' is what he said in

an interview. The quip aptly characterises the essence of the democratic spirit that has to have space for all shades of opinion without fear of reprisal. Occasionally, if not often, I had serious differences of opinion with him. He always took it in his stride in a cool and composed manner, giving space to me and what I had to say. Never once did the exchange take an ugly turn. This, indeed, was the hallmark of a man deeply sensitive, caring and considerate towards the point of view of others. He put into practice what he said, never letting go of his decency, just as he never let go of his fighting spirit in the face of injustice.

One knows not what dark thoughts might have clouded his

mind in his battle for justice for Natasha, especially at times when he was with himself, alone. All his life he had aligned himself with social causes and with institutions engaged in the spread of the scientific temper. The confidence that comes from the combination of the deep well of ideas, working on the ground and unflinching faith in the march of enlightened, progressive thought perhaps acted as an anchor for him. That probably helped him stay the course even in the face of adversity. Grace under pressure is what characterises him for me.

Adieu, friend — the one who effortlessly created a niche for himself in the hearts of many.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Electoral reforms

Mamata Banerjee deserves to be congratulated for her resounding victory in the Bengal elections. Her victory is a notice to the BJP that regional satraps are more close to the masses of their states and cannot be taken lightly. The BJP under the PM, Union Home Minister and several chief ministers of different states ran a vigorous campaign against her to prevent her from coming to power in the state for the third time. The time has come to introduce certain changes in the Constitution. Whenever there are Assembly elections, at least the PM should not participate in the campaign. Modi's jibe against Mamata boomeranged on the BJP.

RAVINDER KUMAR JAIN, LUDHIANA

Book culprits under NSA

With reference to '67 held in 15 days for black marketeering of oxygen cylinders, Remdesivir', the Haryana Police truly deserve people's appreciation for having arrested unscrupulous elements. The accused should be booked under the NSA and not merely under IPC and the Disaster Management Act. Further, as this matter concerns the health of all state subjects, it's also incumbent upon each one of us to lend a helping hand by informing the police about any sus-

pected/evident black marketeering.

KUMAR GUPTA, PANCHKULA

DSGMC must shun politics

Refer to 'Sikh bodies object to DSGMC accepting Rs 2 cr from Bachchan'; it is unfortunate that even during this unprecedented crisis, polities is being played over the charity made with humanitarian intent. The DSGMC is already doing an excellent job of providing medical services in the Capital. We need to rise above such petty considerations to unitedly face the human catastrophe with whatever resources.

JAGDISH CHANDER, JALANDHAR

Free medicare for all

Reference to 'Covid hotspots'; the ground reality is alarming. The common man is anxious about the Covid test and the implications if the report is positive. Faith in the health system stands shattered due to unethical practices. The need of the hour is to restore the faith of the masses in the medical system which can only be possible with the strengthening of the government system and provision of services with no burden on the sick. After this phase is over, restructuring of the whole system is required, with free medical treatment for all and without any consid-

eration of the rich or poor.

KRISHAN BHATIA, HANSI

Covid in rural India

The current rapid spread of Covid in rural areas will have deeper repercussions compared to urban areas, which being primarily engaged with its treatment, could dip into savings to be able to contend with problems of supplies of drugs, vaccines or oxygen. The rural sector that perennially had uncertain income is in double jeopardy today, as Covid not only threatens their health, but also livelihood. The latest figures in MGNREGS show a dip by half in attendance due to fear of the virus and the sickness itself. This, when the current budget for women and child welfare has been cut by 20%. Engaged in the singular pursuit of vaccines and drugs and statistics of metropolises, the government would need to show as much concern over food security and enabling financial schemes for our rural cousins. Gross neglect will take an unprecedented toll on rural health and the national economy.

RAMESH GUPTA, NARWANA

India, it is freely used. Similarly, dexamethasone is highly recommended for patients. The British PM has claimed that dexamethasone has saved millions of lives in the UK and the US. Remdesivir is expensive but dexamethasone costs just Rs 10 per injection. The medical fraternity must explain this — why what's good for the world is not good for us?

RAMESH GUPTA, NARWANA

Make official statement

When it is being alleged that from being a leader in vaccine production, India has been reduced to a vaccine beggar due to the failure of the government, it is the duty of the Government of India to come forward and give its version, rather than depend on some BJP leaders to speak for it. It reflects poorly on PM Modi. All the government's decisions seem like knee-jerk reactions to the fast-spreading pandemic. It did nothing to ramp up the production of vaccines in the country. Even when Russia swept up all idle capacities in India to manufacture Sputnik V, the government failed to see the devastation that the second wave had wreaked in other countries and act accordingly.

SC DHALL, ZIRAKPUR

Confusing prescriptions

Worldwide, leading medical authorities have claimed that the use of Remdesivir is not recommended for Covid-19 treatment, but in

Letters to the Editor, typed in double space, should not exceed the 200-word limit. These should be cogently written and can be sent by e-mail to: Letters@tribunemail.com

Devastating pandemic raging in rural UP



YOGENDRA YADAV

NATIONAL PRESIDENT, SWARAJ INDIA

period — about three times of what you would expect normally.

If this ratio is projected for the entire state with a population of 23.5 crore, about 4.7 lakh excess deaths could have taken place during this period. These excess deaths could be attributed to the second wave of the pandemic. Compare that to the official figures of Covid deaths: just 2.5 lakh for the entire country and merely thousands for UP since the pandemic began last year.

Even unofficial projections don't get the scale of expected deaths. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, an independent global health research centre at the University of Washington, estimates that by the end of August, UP may have 1.7 lakh to 2.1 lakh deaths due to Covid. This looks like a gross underestimate.

Even if we take the ratio of deaths per thousand for the last 50 days to be a conservative 2.5 (lower than the 3.005 that we found in our crude survey) and project it to just the next 50 days as well, UP is likely to witness at least seven lakh additional deaths due to Covid in the months of April, May and June.

For the entire year, assuming that we don't have a lethal third wave, the figure could be well over 10 lakh deaths.

This is not just a calamity; we are in the midst of a public health catastrophe, one of the worst this century.

My colleagues and I have also been tracking media reports on how the pandemic is panning out in rural UP. While we work on a fuller report, our initial impression is that at every stage of response to the epidemic — from testing to cremation — people in UP are facing desperation and defeat.

One thing is clear. Official statistics give you no idea of the devastating pandemic that is raging through rural UP. The state is officially reporting



about 20,000 cases per day now. This is a joke. Widespread ignorance, lack of nearby or adequate testing facilities, official and unofficial caps on testing, and inordinate delays in test reports have meant that in village after village, virtually no one has been tested, even as scores of people complain of a 'strange fever'. There is a callous and deliberate under-reporting of deaths.

Then, there are reports about a large number of dead bodies washing up along the banks of the Ganga. Media reports suggest that the public and private health infrastructure in UP began crumbling by mid-April, just when the second wave began. Newspapers are full of reports of shortage and black marketeering of drugs like Remdesivir and equipment like oximeters, even in the big cities. Ambulances and hearses were hard to find. Hospital beds were already

unavailable by the third week of April.

And then, like everywhere else, there is oxygen shortage. Lack of oxygen leading to the death of a hospitalised patient was reported by a newspaper as early as April 22 from an Etawah district hospital. While the crisis of oxygen in the metros gets attention, the situation in the small towns of UP is infinitely worse. There is rampant black marketeering of oxygen and even attempts to loot oxygen cylinders.

What was the response of the government? To be fair, a pandemic like this one is a challenge to any government. The challenge is manifold in a state like UP with dismal medical infrastructure. Granting all these limitations, it must be said that the response of the UP Government has been shocking, arguably the worst response anywhere in the country.

For the record, the government

If the number of all deaths in a village in the last 50 days exceeds one per 1,000, you are looking at 'excess deaths'. If it is more than 1.5, you can be sure it reflects a significant deviation, a major disease. If it is over two — more than double the number of deaths we would normally expect — we are looking at a calamity.

ALARMING: Uttar Pradesh is likely to witness 7 lakh additional deaths due to Covid-19 in the April-June quarter. PTI

marketing. He reportedly asked officials to take action under the National Security Act and 'seize the property' of those who spread 'rumours' and propaganda on social media and try to 'spoil the atmosphere'.

In one of the most brazen cases of Covid denial, the state government forced schoolteachers to conduct panchayat elections through the state. More than 577 teachers reportedly died in the process. Despite the Supreme Court orders to not harass whistleblowers and critics, the UP government went ahead with booking those who drew attention to the gravity of the situation. Barring a few exceptions, the media in UP has limited itself to pointing out local problems and has not questioned the state government and the CM.

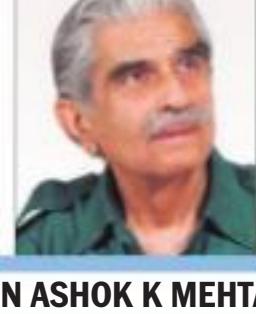
The story of UP is not unique. Now we know that this second wave has spread deep and fast in rural India across the country. We hear similar stories of the collapse of the medical infrastructure in many poorer states. Attempts to 'invisibilise' the number of cases and deaths have been reported from many states, including Gujarat and Delhi. Adityanath is not the only self-obsessed leader occupying the CM's chair.

Yet, a combination of it all — depth of rural penetration of Covid infection, poor quality public health infrastructure, collapse of private health services, lack of planning or response by the government and sheer political callousness — makes rural UP the epicentre of one of the worst and preventable disasters in 21st-century India, and, perhaps, the world.

Saving rural UP from this catastrophe must be a national mission. The time to act was yesterday. But we can still save many lakh lives. We must act now.

Views are personal

British defence policy review has lessons for India



MAJ GEN ASHOK K MEHTA (RETD)

MILITARY COMMENTATOR

LONG delayed, the India-UK meet was marred by the virulent spike of Covid-19 in this country that resulted in the Indian delegation, led by Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, being confined to a London hotel. A key defence engagement was curtailed, though a British battle strike group led by aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth will this month embark on its maiden voyage of 'tilt towards Indo-Pacific'. The mission follows 'once in decades' integrated review of British defence and foreign policy which has lessons for India whose strategic and security thinking is still British-oriented.

India is on the cusp of the most wide-ranging defence reforms since the Kargil Review Committee report 2001 was partially implemented. At the heart of tumultuous change is the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Department of Military Affairs and Theatrisation — the three combine the most dynamic integration of civil-military staff and jointness in tri-services. On April 7, CDS General Bipin Rawat made a compelling presentation at Vivekanand Foundation, Delhi, about the nuts and bolts of transformation. Even as these fundamental reforms were being implemented, intrusions similar to the ones at Kargil were executed by the PLA across the LAC last year, triggering a set of operational re-adjustments and rebalancing of forces. The stand-off in Ladakh was accompanied by the ongoing pandemic which has exposed the need for greater investment in health and social security even as Rs 21,000 crore was



NEW STRUCTURE: The appointment of the CDS heralded far-reaching changes. PTI

immediately necessary for emergency acquisitions for the new deployment.

The government ordered the transformation more to reflect its political will in implementing its election manifesto (like it did with OROP) than an intent to revitalise the defence reforms process. Otherwise, it should have gone for a more holistic integrated review of security, defence development and foreign policy rather than fast-tracking and polishing up the existing products. As the third largest armed forces (after China and US), India is unique as it has never produced a defence White Paper or a National Strategy doctrine or a Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). Surprisingly, Parliament has never demanded one. The US and even China are required to present such reports periodically.

We can learn from the UK, now a medium power out of Brexit which has in the

new era of Great Power competition recently published its Integrated Review (IR) of security, defence and foreign policy based on SDSR 2015, setting out ambitions for the UK's role in the world for the next decade along with matching resources.

Integrated Review is billed as the most far-reaching policy document since the end of Cold War, engaging all departments of government to produce a unified vision of the UK's role in the world, sketching its interests with priorities for a global Britain. In addition to Integrated Review, two adjunct papers accompany: Defence Command Paper and a Defence and Industrial Security Strategy. Dovetailed is a capability and deterrence review, tied to the Comprehensive spending review and Modernisation defence programme with additional funding of £16.5 billion till 2024-25.

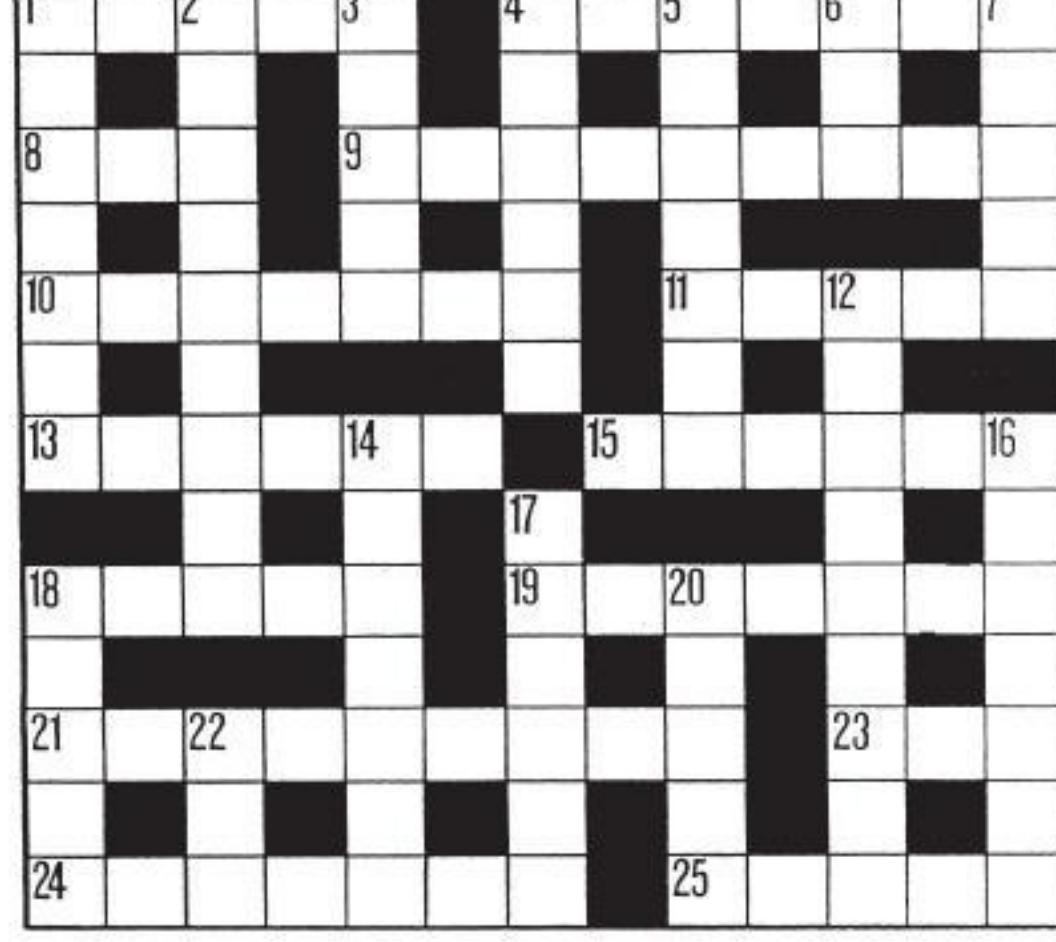
For defence of British interests across multiple domains and acquiring global influence, reliance is put on the Royal Navy's new carrier battle group with the Royal Marines and a future commando force that will secure shipping lanes and uphold the freedom of navigation operations in a rules-based international system. This month, HMS Queen Elizabeth, accompanied by the battle group will make its Indian Ocean and South China Sea debut in a return after half a century following the suspension of East of Suez operations. The CBG will reflect a meaningful tilt (not pivot) to the Indo-Pacific without weakening response to Europe where Russia remains the greatest threat. China is mentioned as an economic and security challenge. Greater reliance is placed on minimum credible nuclear deterrence to compensate for reduction in conventional capabilities. The nuclear warhead cap has increased from 180 to 260 warheads. The Defence Command Paper makes clear that while NATO will cover Russia, the Indo-Pacific tilt will lean on China. But global Britain will not be able to do another Falklands.

General Rawat's confidence in India's capability for prosecution of a full-spectrum war and projection of interests abroad while ensuring prosperity at home are achieved through a whole-of-government approach, but his observation that not having a national security strategy did not mean "we do not possess the framework and experience" struck a jarring note not in sync with his outstanding handling of the transformation process. When the

appointment of the CDS suddenly appeared in the *Gazette of India* on the last day of December 2019 (Rawat was to retire the next day), along with his Charter of Duties, no one was wiser on how the troika of defence and security reforms was born. Especially the DMA, an innovation that is unique to India and seems a perfect fit. Unlike in the US, the UK and other democracies, an Integrated Review or SDSR is ordered periodically by the government, and its team members and mission are widely known. The last significant effort towards defence and security reforms was during the UPA-II by the Naresh Chandra Task Force which recommended a watered-down CDS as permanent chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee. Though the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was keen on its implementation, it never saw the light of day as the then Defence Minister AK Antony was unwilling to allow the diminution of his Defence Secretary by the CDS.

So, it is a minor miracle that Modi 2.0 not only appointed a full-fledged CDS but also the DMA which has made the Defence Secretary irrelevant as most of his charter and responsibility has shifted to the CDS/DMA, leaving mainly the defence policy with him. Why the government kept such a wide-ranging orbit of transformation under wraps, is unclear. Let's be clear: no SDSR or IR was done, otherwise a two-and-a-half front war might have been avoided. A legitimate opportunity was missed to institutionalise the SDSR and IR for arriving at apex reforms, cohering all departments of the government.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Take in hand, 8 Lapse, 9 Thunder, 10 Glitter, 11 Dregs, 12 Speech, 14 Grouse, 17 Aerie, 19 Passing, 21 Outsize, 22 Epoch, 23 Out on a limb.

Down: 2 Apprise, 3 Event, 4 Nature, 5 Asunder, 6 Dodge, 7 Arm's length, 8 Legislator, 13 Coexist, 15 Uniform, 16 Spleen, 18 Ratio, 20 Shell.

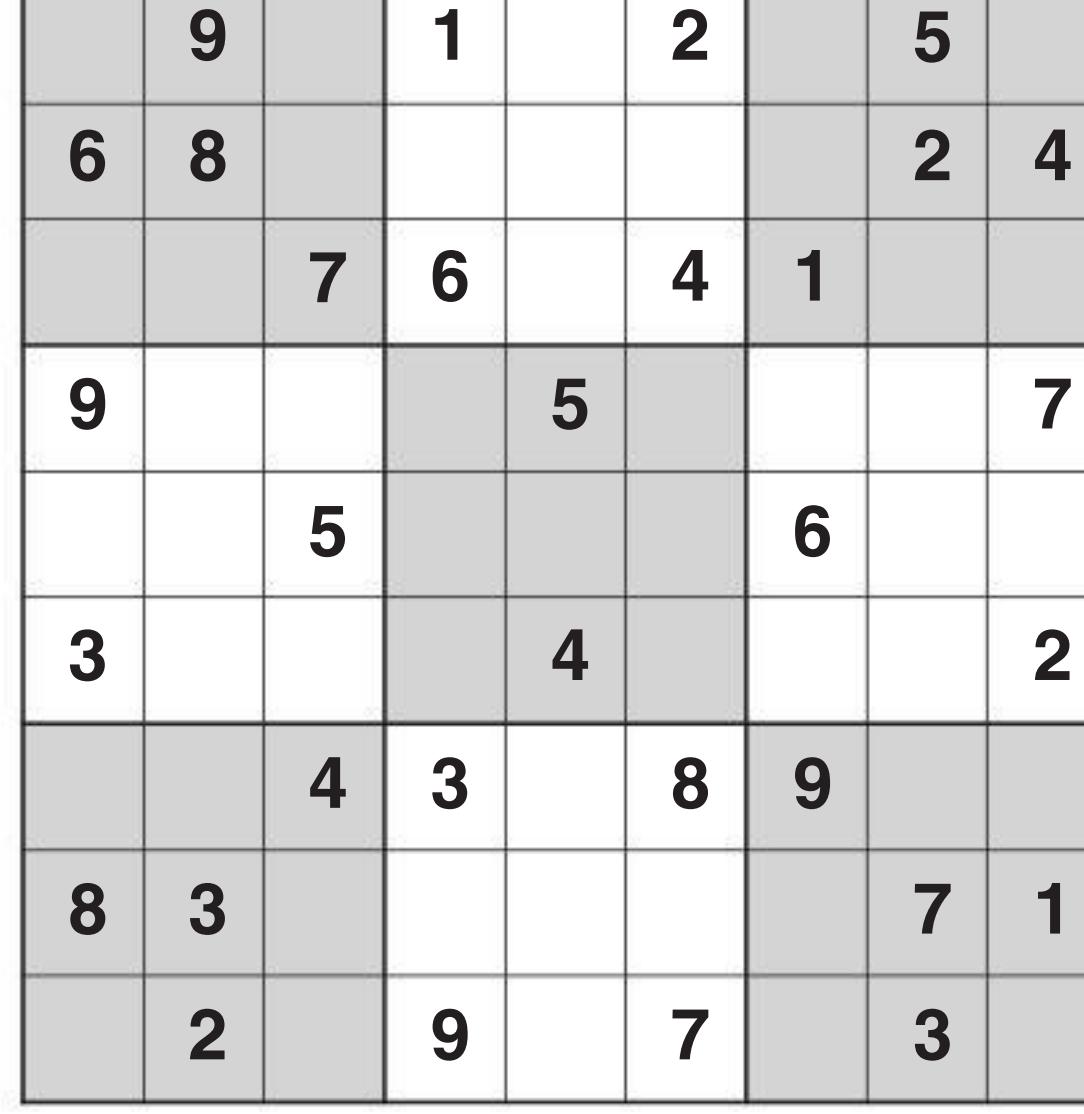
ACROSS

- 1 Inexact (5)
- 4 Floorshow (7)
- 8 Division of a play (3)
- 9 Unwise (3-6)
- 10 Be uncomfortably hot (7)
- 11 Dispute accuracy of (5)
- 13 A subtle distinction (6)
- 15 Swiss city (6)
- 18 Manufacturer (5)
- 19 To advance (7)
- 21 French national heroine (4,2,3)
- 23 Immerse momentarily (3)
- 24 Mitigate (7)
- 25 Noisy and unruly (5)

DOWN

- 1 Effective cooperation (7)
- 2 Under intense strain (2,3,4)
- 3 Proclamation by authority (5)
- 4 A stalk vegetable (6)
- 5 Abrupt in manner (7)
- 6 Fit out (3)
- 7 In modern times (5)
- 12 A coloured cosmetic (3,6)
- 14 To rust (7)
- 16 Waste away (7)
- 17 Recently (2,4)
- 18 Of greater importance (5)
- 20 Happen again (5)
- 22 Entirely (3)

SU DO KU



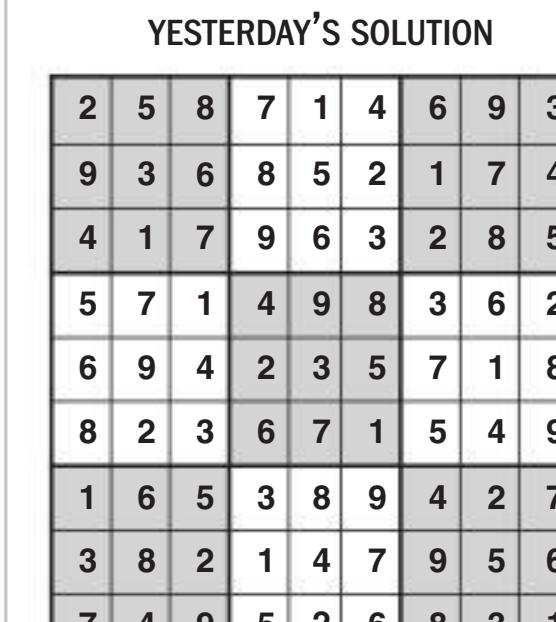
EASY

CALENDAR

MAY 14, 2021, FRIDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2078
■ Shaka Samvat	1943
■ Vaisakha Shaka	24
■ Jyeshtha Parvishtha	1
■ Hijri	1442
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 2, up to 5:39 am	
■ Sukarma Yoga up to 1.46 am	
■ Rohini Nakshatra up to 5:45 am	
■ Moon enters Gemini sign 7:14 pm	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



FORECAST

SUNSET: FRIDAY 19:08 HRS
SUNRISE: SATURDAY 05:29 HRS

CITY	MAX		MIN	
	Rainy	Foggy	Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Chandigarh	32	21	22	23
New Delhi	36	22	19	20
Amritsar	32	22	19	20
Bathinda	33	22	20	21
Jalandhar	30	20	19	20
Ludhiana	33	20	19	20
Bhiwani	32	23	22	23
Hisar	37	23	22	23
Sirsia	38	22	21	22
Dharamsala	28	14	13	14
Manali	22	10	9	10
Shimla	23	12	11	12
Srinagar	23	10	9	10
Jammu	34	19	18	19
Kargil	11	5	4	5
Leh	07	1	0	1
Dehradun	31	18	17	18
Mussoorie	17	11	10	11

TEMPERATURE IN °C

In Kangra, O₂ cylinder regulators in short supply

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Kangra admin requests ministers, Anurag for help

are procured, the problem of cylinder shortage can also be sorted out.

The sources say that the district administration is unable to procure oxygen regulators because of its acute shortage in the country. The administration has urged the state government for help in procuring oxygen regulators. It has also requested ministers in the state government and Union Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur for help to procure or import oxygen regulators.

They say that generally oxygen regulators are imported. These days, several countries have banned commercial flights from India and so the import of oxygen cylinder regulators increases, the present supply might prove to be insufficient," he added.

Besides, there is a shortage of cylinder regulators in Una and Chamba districts as well. The sources say that regulators are not available in markets as many people are keeping oxygen support systems at their homes. Earlier, only hospitals or industries used these regulators.

Deputy Commissioner, Kangra, Rakesh Prajapati admits that there is a shortage of oxygen cylinder regulators in the district. He says that the government is trying to procure regulators and he hopes that these will be available with the Kangra health authorities at the earliest.

He says that the bed capacity in the district has been raised to above 500. "There is enough supply of oxygen and oxygen cylinders in the district. However, if the number of Covid patients increases, the present supply might prove to be insufficient," he added.

MAHARAJA AGRASEN MEDICAL COLLEGE, AGROHA (HISAR) Expression of Interest

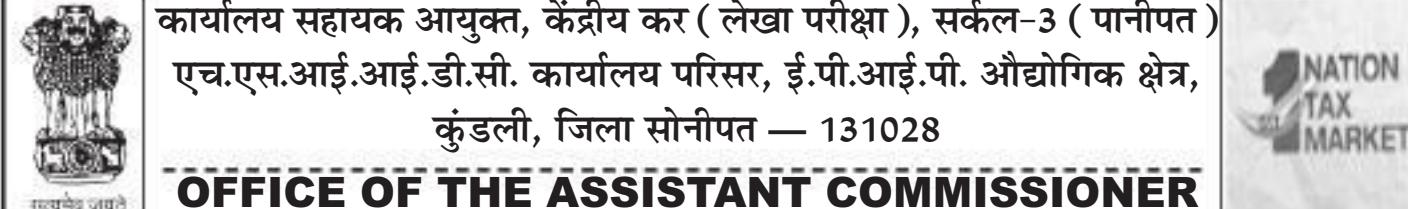
Bids/Tenders are hereby invited online from the eligible approved Architect from Govt. Departments/Bodies Corporations etc. for the following work.

Sr. No.	Name of Work with Tender ID	Earnest Money (₹)	Compl. Period (in days)	Start & Expiry Date of Tender	Cost of Tender Form (₹)
1.	Engagement of Architectural + MEPF design Consultant for preparation of Architectural drawings/Structural design/drawings as per IS 456 or latest IS Code including proof checking, Air Conditioning/Solar Systems, Ei/PH/Fire Fighting/Sewerage System/CCTV/LAN, roads, MGPS, Modular O.T., I.C.U., Radiation bunker, etc. and any other Allied Services drawings based on eco friendly, energy efficient, Soil investigation, Survey, Detailed estimate on HSR (Haryana Schedule of Rates latest) basis. BoQ, approval from AERB, Detail Project Report for construction of Cancer Hospital & Research Institute for MAMC Agroha. (2021_HRY_171616_1)	100000/-	730	14.05.2021 to 27.05.2021	15000/- (Non-refundable)

Note:- For further details and e-tendering schedule visit <https://etenders.hry.nic.in>

DI-2683

Director



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER CENTRAL TAX (GST AUDIT), CIRCLE-3, PANIPAT HSIIDC COMPLEX, EPIP INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, KUNDLI, SONEPAT (HARYANA) — 131028

TENDER NOTICE FOR HIRING OF OFFICE PREMISES

Tenders are invited for hiring suitable office buildings with modern infrastructure as per the table below in the cities mentioned therein:-

Sr. No.	Place	Name of Office	Tender ID	Space required (carpet area) approx. (S)	Nodal Officer	Address/Tel No. of Nodal Officer
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1.	Panipat City	Audit Circle-3 of CGST Audit Commissionerate, Panchkula	2021_DREV_629813_1	3500 sq. ft.	Assistant Commissioner, Audit Circle-3	1st Floor, HSIIDC Office Complex, EPIP Industrial Estate, Kundli, District Sonipat - 131028 (9811469452)
2.		Division-Panipat of CGST Commissionerate, Panchkula	2021_DREV_629763_1	5844 sq. ft.	Deputy Commissioner, CGST Division, Panipat	Gandhi Mandi, Panipat - 132103 (9599043591)

Total Area Required 9344 sq. ft.

Note: Both the above offices are to be located in the same building premises; therefore, only those bids/tenders will be entertained which offer both the above required office space in one single building.

2. The interested bidders may download the Tender Documents from the Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> or www.cbcg.gov.in or can be searched at E-portal with Tender IDs given in above table, w.e.f. 14.05.2021 at 09:00 hrs.

3. Bids shall be submitted online only at CPPP website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> with all the requisite documents [preferably signed with Digital Signature (DS)]. The tender shall be submitted online in two parts, viz. (i) Technical Bid and (ii) Financial/Price Bid along with other documents as mentioned in the tender documents. Bidders are advised to follow the "Instructions for online Bid submission" provided in the Annexure-IX for online submission of bids. No tender shall be accepted/entertained by fax, e-mail or submitted in person or any other such means and beyond the specified date/time as given in the CRITICAL DATE SHEET in tender document i.e. 14.06.2021 at 1800 hrs. Separate tender shall be submitted for each place.

4. The rent will be approved by the competent authority on the basis of assessment and recommendation of CPWD and the owner should be willing to accept the rates/rent as approved. The Department reserves the right to amend any/all terms and conditions, as deemed necessary. The Commissioner further reserves the right to reject/accept any or all of the bids at any time without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- (Hira Lal)
Assistant Commissioner,
CGST (Audit) Circle-3

DI-2708

HARYANA AGRO INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED (A Haryana State Undertaking)

CIN No. U51219HR1967SGC041080
EPBX: 0172-2561317, 2560920
Fax No.: 0172-2561310, 2561313
Website: haic.co.in

ADVERTISEMENT

WALK-IN INTERVIEW

Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, popularly known as HAICL is looking for highly motivated and result oriented individuals for creating a successful network of retail chain stores. The details of vacancies are as under:

Sr. No.	Class of Expert	Qualifications	Experience	Emoluments (in Rupees)
1	Manager Operation (IT) - 01 Post	Essential: Bachelor Degree in engineering with specialization in Computer Sciences or I.T. from any University or Institute of India or abroad Preference will be given to those candidates, having knowledge of ERP, CRM, POS and other IT features.	6-10 years of Experience in design and development of I.T. Systems and having worked at Senior level positions in Government Organizations or large Organization. Experience in the field of ERP of FMCG's products, Retail ventures, food products items for understanding Retail venture project.	6-12 Lac per annum
2	Manager Public Relation - 01 Post	Essential: MBA Marketing/Postgraduation in Public Relations/ Equivalent Postgraduation in relevant Field. Preference will be given to those candidates, having knowledge of Creative Designing, Content Writing & Brand Building.	With a relevant experience of 6-10 years of developing media relation strategy, seeking high level placements in print, broadcast and online media. Essential experience of at least 4 years in content writing, Creative Designing and Creating Brand Building.	6-12 Lac per annum
3	Junior Manager (Procurement) - 02 Posts	Essential: MBA in Business Administration/Marketing or equivalent Postgraduation in Supply Chain/Logistics, Food processing, Plant operations.	3-5 years' experience in procurement of products like Food grains/FMCG/consumables. Essential experience of at least 3 years in category section 06 reputed brand and essential commodities i.e. Spices, Pulses, Flour mixes, Rice, Sugar etc. advisable to have experience in ERP.	4-6 Lac per annum
4	Junior Manager (Marketing-Sales) - 01 Post	Essential: MBA with specialization in Marketing and knowledge of Financial Planning and Strategy, Marketing Concepts, Positioning, People Management, Territory Management, Sales Planning, Competitive Analysis, Understanding the Customer, Product Development, Client Relationships, Creative Services.	3-5 years' experience in I.T. enable sale of leading FMCG brands and Essential commodities i.e. Spices, Pulses, Flour mixes, Rice, Sugar etc. Preference will be given to candidates who having experience in ERP/POS/IT enable sales.	4-6 Lac per annum

Interested candidates possessing the required qualification and experience may submit their applications/bio-data along with self-attested copies of all relevant documents to the Managing Director, Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bays No. 15-20, Sector-4, Panchkula latest by 27.05.2021 or through e-mail at haicpk@gmail.com. The eligible candidates shall be called for WALK-IN INTERVIEW on 01.06.2021 at HAICL Campus as per the condition of imposition lockdown, however, incase lockdown extended, Interview will be conducted through Video Conferencing. Candidates will be further shortlisted but selection will be based on physical interview. The date of physical interview will be conveyed later on to shortlisted candidates as per lockdown circumstances/extension.

Please note that no TA/DA shall be paid for attending the interview.

Candidate should be made it convenient to free on the interview day in case of interview conducted through Video Conferencing.

Phone: EPBX- 0172-2561305, (Ext. No. 215), 0172-2560920, 2561317, E-mail id: haicpk@gmail.com, haicwpr@gmail.com and website:

Sd/-
For Managing Director,
HAICL, Panchkula.

O₂ quota doubled to 30 MT

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, MAY 13

The Central Government has enhanced the liquid oxygen quota of Himachal from 15 metric tonnes (MT) to 30 MT following a request by the state government.

Inox Air Products, Barotiwala, will provide the additional supply to the state. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur had requested the Union Government for more oxygen to the state in view of rising demand for medical oxygen following the spurt in Covid cases.

As many as 2,100 patients in the state were on oxygen support till last evening and their number is rising with the increase in Covid cases on a daily basis, said state coordinator for oxygen Arindam Chaudhary.

"The installed capacity of various oxygen manufacturing plants is 75 MT per day, which also includes private manufacturing plants, while utilisation is around 55 MT per day,"

Barotiwala firm to provide additional supply



SIX PRESSURE SWING ADSORPTION PLANTS

The state has six pressure swing adsorption plants at Shimla, Kangra, Mandi, Tanda, Chamba and Mandi. Eight private manufacturers are also providing medical oxygen to the state. Four new licences have been granted to plants at Kala Amb, Nagri in Kangra, Barotiwala and Kullu.

4,937 FRESH CASES

63 DEATHS IN 24 HOURS

ACTIVE	TALLY
40,008	1,50,673
HIGHEST DEATHS UNA (16)	HIGHEST CASES KANGRA (1,277)

said Chaudhary.

Given the transit time required to refill oxygen cylinders from various manufacturers in the state, the demand to enhance the oxygen quota was felt urgently. "There is no shortage of oxygen in the state and this additional quota will help in meeting the increasing demand in the coming days," said Chaudhary.

The state has six pressure swing adsorption plants at Shimla, Kangra, Mandi, Tanda, Chamba and Mandi. Eight private manufacturers are also providing medical oxygen to the state.

These manufacturers are Inox Air, Barotiwala; Himalaya Gases, Baddi; Indo Gases, Baddi; Mahalaxmi Oxy Plant, Mandi; Himalaya Oxygen, Sirmaur; JK Gases, Gagret; Mandav Air Agency, Mandi; and Mandav Air Agency, IGMC, Shimla.

Four new licences have been granted to plants at Kala Amb, Nagri in Kangra, Barotiwala and Kullu.

No Covid facility in Dehra area, patients suffer

LALIT MOHAN

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, MAY 13

Residents of Dehra, one of the remotest areas of Kangra district, have demanded that a Covid hospital should be set up in the area.

Om Prakash Sharma, a resident of Sunhet village in the subdivision, talking to The Tribune, said his oxygen level dipped to 80 after he got infected with coronavirus.

His family members took him to the Dharamsala Zonal Hospital.

Proposal to set up facility in ayurvedic hospital, says DC

Sharma said, "I was lucky that my family took me to the hospital in time by a car. There were many poor persons in Dehra who are dependent on public transport. Such persons are dying as they cannot afford to go to Dharamsala or Tanda hospitals as public transport has been banned."

Sharma said the people had demanded a Covid hospital in Dehra so that they could get treatment nearby.

Kangra Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Prajapati said there was a proposal to set up a Covid centre in an ayurvedic hospital in the area.

Sources, however, said the authorities would not be able to set up a hospital due to shortage of oxygen beds and other infrastructure.

Dehra is part of the parliamentary constituency of Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur.

Shortage of ICU beds, 6 die in a week

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PALAMPUR, MAY 13

There is an acute shortage of ICU beds in private and government hospitals, including Tanda medical college, in Kangra district. As a result, six persons have died of Covid in the district in the past one week.

Vishesh Arora (34), a resident of Ghuggar, died of Covid last week as he could not get an ICU bed. Subhash, a resident of Maranda, also lost his life to the

Only 60 ICU beds with ventilators in Kangra hospitals

virus yesterday in the absence of an ICU facility.

Information gathered by The Tribune reveals that the Central Government had given 250 portable ventilators to the state under the PM CARES Fund last year for use in different hospitals. The state government

could not provide ventilators to the state under the PM CARES Fund last year for use in different hospitals. The state government could not provide ventilators to the state under the PM CARES Fund last year for use in different hospitals. The state government

ambulance could charge Rs 10 per km whereas an ambulance with life support equipment such as ventilators could charge a maximum of Rs 40 per km.

Prajapati said that parents were complaining that some schools and colleges had odd timings of online classes and teachers of some schools were taking classes even during night hours.

Kangra is the worst-hit district by the pandemic. There are over 12,000 active cases in the district, admitted to different hospitals or in home isolation. There are merely 60 ICU beds equipped with ventilators in private and government hospitals.

<p



Security men stand guard near a closed market area on Eid-ul-Fitr in Srinagar on Thursday. PTI

Amid surge, low-key celebrations in Valley

SRINAGAR, MAY 13

Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations in Kashmir were a low-key affair on Thursday as the faithful marked the culmination of the fasting month of Ramzan by offering the thanksgiving prayers in small congregations at local mosques by observing social distancing in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

No Eid prayers were offered for the fourth consecutive time at the major mosques and shrines of Kashmir as police enforced a strict curfew in most parts of the Valley, including Srinagar city, officials said.

People offered the Eid prayers in small congregations at local mosques,



People greet each other after Eid-ul-Fitr prayers in Jammu. PTI

mostly early in the morning, they added.

At many places, the police asked the mosque management committees not to use loudspeakers and to conclude the prayers quickly.

The Valley continues to remain under a lockdown in the wake of a surge in the number of Covid cases. Curfew-like restrictions were imposed across the valley on Wednesday. — PTI

Provide food, ration...

FROM PAGE 1
facilities and other welfare measures for migrant workers who are facing distress due to the curbs clamped in several parts of the country amid the pandemic. "NCT of Delhi, state of UP and state of Haryana (for the districts included in the NCR) shall open community kitchen at well-advertised places (in the NCR) for stranded migrant labourers so that they and their family members who are stranded could get two meals a day," the Bench said.

"NCT of Delhi, state of UP and state of Haryana (for the districts included in the NCR) shall ensure that adequate transport is provided to stranded migrant labourers (in the NCR) who want to return to their home," it said.

"Dry ration to migrant workers in the NCR under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme or any other scheme be provided by the Union of India, NCT of Delhi, state of UP and state of Haryana utilising the public distribution system prevalent in each state with effect from May 2021," the Bench said. — PTI

Bodies buried in Unnao...

FROM PAGE 1
photographs of the bodies going viral on social media," a senior official said.

The Unnao DM is reported to have said, "After the matter came to light, a sub-divisional magistrate was sent to the spot for a probe. He will submit his report." He went on to add that the Baksar ghat "touches the border of many districts and people go there to cremate bodies".

"We will take appropriate action," Kumar said. A team of the local police conducted a search operation in the area and found several bodies, sources in the district administration said, but refused to give the count. Authorities in the districts concerned believe that the relatives of the victims who succumbed to the virus might not have had the money or might not have found space for the last rites.

He said senior functionaries in the Health Department had clearly informed the Centre too, he said.

"The Centre should have provided a long-term annual maintenance contract.

Dr Raj Bahadur, VC, Baba Farid University

OF HEALTH SCIENCES, FARIDKOT

lators were faulty that is why the Government of India sent its engineers for repairs."

Dr Raj Bahadur, Vice-Chancellor of Baba Farid Universi-

India, Pak armies exchange sweets at LoC on Eid-ul-Fitr

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 13

Less than three months after the Indian and Pakistan armies agreed to hold ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC), the two armies on Thursday exchanged sweets to mark Eid-ul-Fitr.

Troops exchanged sweets and pleasantries at four border crossings in Jammu & Kashmir at the LoC-Tithwal on Kishanganga river in Tangdhar, Kupwara; Kamman-Aman Setu in Uri; Poonch-Rawalakot and Mendhar-Hotspring in Poonch district. The ceremony is seen as a confidence-building measure in the backdrop of recently agreed ceasefire between both countries.

The tradition of exchanging sweets between India and Pakistan on major festivals like Eid, Holi, Diwali and respective National days was revived and meetings were held.

The exchange of sweets and pleasantries was conducted with full adherence to all Covid-protocols by both sides. Sweets and compli-



Soldiers from India and Pakistan exchange sweets on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, along the LoC in Poonch. PTI

CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURE

- The ceremony is seen as a confidence-building measure in the backdrop of recently agreed ceasefire between both nations.
- The tradition of exchanging sweets on festivals like Eid, Holi, Diwali and respective national days has been revived.

ments were exchanged by the representatives of both armies in an atmosphere of bonhomie and festivities, the spokesperson of the Indian Army said from Srinagar.

Covishield dose gap...

FROM PAGE 1

millions have been inoculated with the second dose at 12-16 weeks apart from the first," said VK Paul, chairman, National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration.

No changes were recommended for Covaxin dosing with two shots still to be taken 28 days apart.

The working group is also learnt to have recommended that Covid-positive patients defer their vaccinations for six months after recovery instead of the present protocol of 4-8 weeks post recovery.

It suggested that pregnant women be given an option to inoculate and lactating women be allowed to get vaccines any time after the delivery. These two suggestions are still under deliberations.

Expecting 200 cr doses by Aug-Dec: Govt

FROM PAGE 1

Serum Institute's Novavax (20 crore), Bharat Biotech's nasal vaccine (10 crore), Gennova's messenger RNA vaccine (60 lakh doses).

Paul said 1.5 lakh doses of Sputnik V that arrived in India recently would become available in the market next week and domestic production of Sputnik would start by July. Zydus Cadila vaccine is in the last stage trials and will apply for licensure soon.

"We expect over 2 billion doses to be made in India over August to December. Everyone will get vaccines. It takes time. Even the US, which had sufficient stockpiles, has inoculated only 46 per cent of its people aged 45 and above despite starting a month before India. We have covered one-third of our peo-

ple over 45 years with a single dose. While we humbly accept all other narratives, this positive narrative is also a reality and we must feel proud of it," Paul said.

He defended the Centre's liberalised policy, saying it was drafted after states urged more say in the vaccine procurement.

"States wanted flexibility, they indicated this. There was also a demand for private sector availability of vaccines. That is why a liberal vaccine policy came. We now invite Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson manufacturers to come and produce in India," said Paul.

Central Govt, Punjab spar over 'faulty' ventilators

INFORMATION GIVEN

We have been regularly informing the state government regarding the malfunctioning ventilators. The Centre should have provided a long-term annual maintenance contract.

Dr Raj Bahadur, VC, Baba Farid University

OF HEALTH SCIENCES, FARIDKOT

lators were faulty that is why the Government of India sent its engineers for repairs."

Dr Raj Bahadur, Vice-Chancellor of Baba Farid Universi-

ty of Health Sciences, Faridkot, said they had been regularly informing the state government regarding the malfunctioning ventilators.

He said senior functionaries in the Health Department had clearly informed the Centre too, he said.

"The Centre should have provided a long-term annual maintenance contract with the machines," said the Vice-Chancellor, adding that only one engineer of a company reached the Faridkot medical college to rectify the problem.



People wait to undergo an RT-PCR test in Kolkata. PTI

4,356 new cases, 55 deaths

SRINAGAR, MAY 13

J&K on Thursday recorded 4,356 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking the tally to 2,33,763, while 55 deaths in the past 24 hours pushed the toll to 2,967, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 1,771 were from Jammu division and 2,585 from Kashmir division of the Union Territory.

The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest of 872 cases, followed by 624 in Jammu district and 304 in Anantnag district.

The number of active cases has reached 52,848 in the UT, while 1,77,948 patients have recovered so far.

Meanwhile, the police have arrested 92 persons and lodged 41 FIRs, besides realising fine to the tune of Rs 76,090 from 460 persons for violating Covid guidelines in the Kashmir valley, a police spokesman said.



Patients' relatives wait for food outside the Government Medical College & Hospital in Jammu on Thursday. PTI

May take NGOs' help to fight Covid, says minister

NEW DELHI, MAY 13

To solve the problem of lack of human resource, NGOs and social volunteers may be called to assist in the fight against the pandemic, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Thursday. During a meeting with principals of government medical colleges in Jammu and Kashmir to review Covid-19 management, he also said post-graduate and final-year undergraduate medicine students may be engaged at government medical colleges and other associated hospitals.

The audit of oxygen cylinders and ventilators must be conducted, and the same should be published for equitable distribution in time of distress for critical patients and to dispel doubts among the people, he added. — PTI

Guv shown black flags...

FROM PAGE 1

owing allegiance to the ruling Trinamool Congress after the election results were announced on May 2.

Women were seen wailing and falling at the Governor's feet claiming that all their belongings had been looted and the men had fled their homes to escape attacks.

BJP MP Nisith Pramanik accompanied Dhankhar during his visit to the areas, where the saffron party has alleged loot and attack on its workers by goons owing allegiance to TMC.

TMC spokesman Kunal Ghosh, accusing the Governor of partisan attitude, claimed that Dhankhar went to the houses of some BJP workers selectively. He also claimed that Dhankhar was working at the bidding of the BJP and was taking along its leaders during his visit. — PTI

Israeli air strikes condemned

SRINAGAR, MAY 13

Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), an amalgam of various religious organisations in J&K, has condemned the Israeli "aggression" on Palestinians and described it as a sheer violation of basic human rights. — PTI

IndianOil
CIN - L23201MH1959G010138
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

IndianOil proposes to engage with interested parties to make comprehensive study for demand assessment/sales potential of fuel and non-fuel products at various way side amenities advertised by NHAI/Govt. Agencies.

Parties may visit the <https://ioc.com/TalktoSupplierNotices.aspx> section of our website <https://ioc.com> for more information.

ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research Karnal- (Haryana)

Online Interview

The On-line Interview through Zoom App for the positions of "SRF" is to be held on 31st May, 2021 at ICAR - IIWBR, Karnal (Haryana). The last date of receipt of application through E-mail (neeraj.kumar@iwr.cnr.gov.in) in prescribed format is 24-05-2021. For more details viz. title/duration of projects, number of positions criteria, emoluments, educational qualifications, date/time of online Interview, other terms & conditions & application form for the positions, please visit our website-<https://iwrbr.icar.gov.in> Sr. Administrative Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR REGISTRATION & PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS FOR ALLOTMENT OF L-1BF LICENSE IN THE STATE OF HARYANA FOR THE YEAR 2021-2022.

In continuation of original Public Notice published on 09.05.2021, it is hereby intimated that in view of the current situation arising out of technical glitches on the portal regarding PAN validation service at the time of VAT registration, the last date for submitting online application for registration & participation in the process for allotment of L-1BF license is further extended up to 18.00 Hours on 18.05.2021. The list of eligible applicants shall be published on 19.05.2021 at 11.00 Hours.

Excise & Taxation Commissioner, Haryana

PRDH/1037/1124/2022/2932/31/4

ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (A STATUTORY BODY OF GOVT. OF INDIA)

North Western Regional Office

5th Floor, DTE (PB) Building, Plot No. 1-A, Sector-36-A, Dakshin Marg, Chandigarh 160 036, Ph. 0172- 2661201/2613326

e-TENDER NOTICE FOR HIRING OF TAXIES

This is in reference to earlier published e-Tender ID No. 101-95/NWRO/Admin./2020/01 regarding Hiring of Taxies on Daily Basis for this office through e-Wizard portal (URL: <https://mhrd.euniwizard.com>). The last date of submission of e-Tender has been extended up to 28/05/2021 at 23:59 Hrs. and Technical Bids will be opened on 29/05/2021 at 11:00 Hrs. Those who have already submitted this e-Tender are required to re-submit the Financial Bid as per new format. For Further Details, visit AICTE website (<http://www.aicte-india.org>) and e-Wizard website (<https://mhrd.euniwizard.com>). Advt. No.: AICTE-NWRO/05/03/2021 Director & Regional Officer

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD

A CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION UNDERTAKING

E-TENDER NOTICE

Notice for inviting e-tenders for allotment of Build-up-Dwelling Units on Free Hold Basis in U.T., Chandigarh.

"It is hereby notified for the information of general public that e-tenders are invited for the sale of Built-up Dwelling units. There will be 79 Built-up Dwelling Units and e-tenders shall be invited individually for each of the Built-up Dwelling Units.

1. The E-tender Process is open for all the citizens of India as well as NRIs/PIOs above 18 years of age. The persons already having any property (Residential or Commercial) can also participate in the E-Tender.
2. The Built-up Dwelling Units shall be allotted to the highest eligible bidder, quoting above the reserve price of the Built-up Dwelling Units. In case of more than one bid quoting the same high price is received, the allotment shall be determined by draw of lots among the bidders quoting the same high price. Since the completed Dwelling units are being sold, no GST is applicable on the Sale Price.
3. All willing participants may visit the official website www.chbonline.in for information to know the procedure. The detailed procedure for e-tenders and submission of earnest money (EMD), is available on the official website www.chbonline.in.
4. In order to submit e-bids, every prospective bidder is required to get himself/herself registered at <https://etenders.chd.nic.in>.
5. The Terms & Conditions and the detailed List mentioning localities/sectors of Built-up Dwelling Units and reserve price can be downloaded from the official website of the Chandigarh Housing Board www.chbonline.in in Tenders/Auction Section.
6. For inspections of the dwelling units, the prospective bidders may contact the following CHB site offices in the respective Sectors:-

Days and Dates for Inspection 18th, 21st, 25th and 28th May 2021 between 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM

CHB site offices to facilitate inspection of Units	Sector-38 (W)	At DU No. 4788-A



GLOBE TROT



COLOURS OF PROTEST: Students demand resources for a university during a protest in Barcelona, Spain. REUTERS

Nepali climber scales Mt Everest twice in four days

KATHMANDU: Mingma Tenji Sherpa, a 43-year-old Nepali mountain guide, has created a world record by scaling Mount Everest twice in the shortest span of time within a season. Sherpa of Sankhuwasabha district first reached the summit of the Everest on May 7 as a member of a rope-fixing team, and then scaled it again on May 11, said Mingma Sherpa, chairman of Seven Summit Treks. PTI

Singapore police probe hate crime against Indian family

SINGAPORE: The Singapore Police is investigating another hate crime against an Indian family for not wearing a mask during the pandemic, days after a man of Chinese ethnicity was arrested for allegedly assaulting a woman of Indian origin. A 47-year-old man is accused of uttering offensive remarks towards an Indian family for not wearing his mask at Pasir Ris Beach Park. PTI

57 Congressmen urge Biden to bolster Covid help to India

WASHINGTON, MAY 13 Fifty-seven US Congressmen have written to President Joe Biden, urging him to bolster America's Covid assistance to India. "The sharp increase in cases has overwhelmed India's healthcare system. We must do our part to quell the virus everywhere it persists," the lawmakers said in a letter to Biden on Wednesday.

"We are extremely concerned with regards to India's deadly Covid second wave. India is now the epicenter of the Covid pandemic. Today marked India's deadliest day, with 4,205 deaths reported, carrying the total number of confirmed deaths to more than 2,50,000," said the letter initiated by Congressman Brad Sherman, the Democratic Chair of the Congressional India Caucus.

"India's latest surge of Covid infections is a humanitarian crisis that requires our assistance. As long as Covid persists in India, there is the potential for additional variants that could pose a serious threat to a vaccinated Ameri-



A Serbian army officer receives a dose of the Chinese Sinopharm vaccine in Belgrade on Thursday. REUTERS



MIXING VACCINE DOSES INCREASES SIDE-EFFECTS: STUDY

London: Mixing the doses of different types of two-dose Covid vaccines has been found to be safe but increased the frequency of mild to moderate symptoms, a new UK study led by the University of Oxford

has found. Researchers have been investigating the immune responses of volunteers given a dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine followed by the Pfizer/BioNTech jab, and vice versa, since February. PTI

ca," Sherman said.

In the letter, the Congressmen relayed to the administration that India remains in need of additional medical equipment, supplies and other vital resources to emerge from this crisis.

They requested the adminis-

stration to provide oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators, oxygen generator plants, cryogenic oxygen tanker/container, Remdesivir, Tocilizumab and ventilators/BiPAP to India.

"To the extent it is possible, we hope that you will

work to provide India with vaccines," they said.

"With this in mind, we welcome recently announced plans to make available sources of raw materials to help India manufacture more vaccines," the Congressmen wrote. — PTI



Pro-Israel and pro-Palestine protesters confront each other at Times Square in New York City, US, on Wednesday. REUTERS

Jaishankar mum as US tries to de-escalate Israel-Palestine conflict

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 13

India has remained a conspicuously underplayed voice on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict even as the US said it was deeply engaged across the board with the Israelis, Palestinians and other countries in the region to call for and push for de-escalation.

"We strongly condemn the rocket attacks coming out of Gaza that are targeting innocent Israeli civilians, and Israel has a right to defend itself. Palestinians have a right to live in safety and security, and the most important thing going forward now is to take down the violence, to de-escalate, and that's exactly what we're working toward," said US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken.

India, in the middle of receiving emergency medical supplies from Israel, has not commented on the conflict. Minister for External Affairs S Jaishankar retweeted a post by Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan on the killing of an Indian caregiver in Israel. "We have condemned these attacks and the violence in Jerusalem, and urged restraint by both sides," he said in a second tweet.



Israeli troops mass at Gaza border

Gaza: Israeli troops massed at Gaza's border on Thursday and Palestinian militants pounded Israel with rockets. Days of violence between Jewish Israelis and the country's Arab minority worsened with synagogues attacked and fighting breaking out on the streets of some communities. REUTERS

US NSA Jake Sullivan has been engaged with his Israeli counterpart while Blinken in a phone call to Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi also discussed the violence in Jerusalem, in particular on the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount and in Sheikh Jarrah.

US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman has been engaged as well and Washington is sending its senior official to the region.

Oli PM again as Oppn fails to muster numbers

KATHMANDU, MAY 13

KP Sharma Oli, in his capacity as leader of the largest political party in Nepal's Parliament, was reappointed as Prime Minister on Thursday after the Opposition parties, riddled by factionalism, failed to secure majority seats in the House to form a new government.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari has reappointed CPN-UML Chairman Oli, 69, as Prime Minister; after he lost a trust vote in the House of Representatives on Monday.

The President's office, in a



JSP REFUSES SUPPORT

Although Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba had received support from CPN Maoist chairman Pushpakamal Dahal 'Prachanda', he could not get support from the Janata Samajwadi Party (JSP).

President Bhandari will administer the oath of office and secrecy to Oli at a ceremony at Shital Niwas on Friday. The President had asked the Opposition parties to come up with the support of majority lawmakers to form a new

government by 9 pm on Thursday after Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, lost the vote of confidence in the House on Monday.

Oli will now have to take a vote of confidence at the House within 30 days, failing which, an attempt to form a government under Article 76(5) would be initiated.

Should both the steps fail, the House may face another dissolution and the country will move towards the direction of early elections, The Himalayan Times reported. — PTI

President Bhandari will administer the oath of office and secrecy to Oli at a ceremony at Shital Niwas on Friday. The President had asked the Opposition parties to come up with the support of majority lawmakers to form a new

2 held in Bangladesh for plotting attack on Parl

DHAKA, MAY 13

The counter-terrorism police in Bangladesh have arrested two people for plotting an attack on Parliament and instigating others to join them, according to a media report.

The arrested persons have been identified as Abu Sakib, 22, a member of the banned militant outfit Ansar Al Islam, while the other Ali Hasan Osama is a radical orator.

Sakib opened a Facebook group and urged everyone to

use social media to urge people to attack Parliament building

come with a sword and a flag with Islamic phrases to attack the parliament building, bdnews24 said in a recent report. However, no one responded to his request.

Sakib was detained from outside the Parliament building on May 5. Osama was arrested on May 6. — PTI



GOLD
₹45,720
Mumbai (MCX)



SILVER
₹71,130
Mumbai (MCX)

BUSINESS

USD \$ EURO € POUND £ JPY ¥ YUAN ¥ CAD \$ AUD \$ SGD \$ HKD \$

₹73.41 ₹88.74 ₹103.07 ₹0.67 ₹11.39 ₹60.62 ₹56.69 ₹55.04 ₹9.47

Markets remained closed on Thursday on account of Id-Ul-Fitr

Reconsider ties with crypto exchanges, RBI tells lenders

MUMBAI, MAY 13

The RBI is informally urging lenders to cut ties with cryptocurrency exchanges and traders as the highly speculative market booms, despite a Supreme Court ruling that banks can work with the industry, three sources said.

The guidance comes as India is crafting a law to ban cryptocurrencies and penalise anyone dealing in them, which would be among the most sweeping crackdowns on the new investing fad in the world. But with the Covid crisis engulfing the country, no one is sure when such a Bill may be passed, adding to investors' confusion.

The RBI in 2018 had forbidden banks from dealing in all transactions related to bitcoin and other such assets. That dictat was challenged by the crypto exchanges and



The guidance comes as India is crafting a law to ban cryptocurrencies and penalise anyone dealing in them, which would be among the most sweeping crackdowns on the new investing fad in the world.

in March 2020, the Supreme Court overruled the RBI ban and allowed lenders to extend banking facilities to them. With investors continuing to rush into the hot new asset class, however, regulators appear to be gearing up for another try.

Thousands of new users are

piling into the system every day at a time when the prices of major digital currencies have been on the rise. There are over 10 million crypto investors in India with total holdings of over 100 billion rupees (\$1.36 billion), according to industry estimates. No official data is available. — PTI



GoAir rebrands itself as Go First

MUMBAI, MAY 13

After being in the skies for 15 years, Wadia Group-owned GoAir has rebranded itself as 'Go First' as the airline focuses on ultra-low-cost business model amid the aviation industry grappling with pandemic headwinds.

The announcement on Thursday also comes amid reports that the airline was preparing for an initial share sale to raise funds for its ambitious expansion plans. The Go First as ULCC (ultra-low-cost carrier) would operate single aircraft type across its fleet, which currently has both Airbus A320 and A320Neos (new engine option) planes in operation, it said. — PTI

Reliance Industries Ltd and its partner BP Plc of the UK, who are bringing a second set of gas discoveries in their Bay of Bengal KG-D6 block, had offered 5.5 million standard cubic meters per day of additional gas in the auction for a flexible tenure of between 3 to 5 years.

Gas users companies like Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Reliance O2C, GAIL Gas, Adani Total Gas Ltd, Torrent Gas, Torrent Power and gas trading companies like GAIL, Shell and IGS were locked in the intense bidding

Intense bidding for KG-D6 gas; RIL bags maximum supplies

NEW DELHI, MAY 13

As many as 14 users across sectors slugged it on a third party electronic platform for seven-and-a-half hours to secure natural gas supplies from the eastern offshore KG-D6 block before the oil-to-chemical (O2C) unit of Reliance Industries Ltd bagged most of the supplies, sources said.

Reliance Industries Ltd and its partner BP Plc of the UK, who are bringing a second set of gas discoveries in their Bay of Bengal KG-D6 block, had offered 5.5 million standard cubic meters per day of additional gas in the auction for a flexible tenure of between 3 to 5 years.

Gas users companies like Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Reliance O2C, GAIL Gas, Adani Total Gas Ltd, Torrent Gas, Torrent Power and gas trading companies

■ Gas users companies such as Indian Oil Corp, Reliance O2C, GAIL Gas, Adani Total Gas Ltd, Torrent Gas, Torrent Power and gas trading companies like GAIL, Shell and IGS were locked in the intense bidding

At the end of the intense bidding war, Reliance O2C walked away with 3 mmmscmd of supplies, offering better prices than competitors

like GAIL, Shell and IGS were locked in the intense bidding war on the e-auction that happened on May 5, sources in the Reliance-BP consortium said. At the end of the intense bidding war, Reliance O2C walked away with 3 mmmscmd of supplies, offering better prices than competitors, they said.

India Gas Solutions (IGS) — a gas sourcing and marketing joint venture of Reliance

and BP — bagged another 1 mmmscmd, while IOC got a similar volume. The remaining volume was picked by Adani Gas (0.15 mmmscmd), IRM Energy (0.10 mmmscmd), GAIL (30,000 cubic meters per day) and Torrent Gas (20,000 cubic meters per day).

This is the third auction that Reliance-BP conducted on a third party independent platform approved by the DGH. — PTI

Punjab comes up with plan to boost exports

CHANDIGARH, MAY 13

The Punjab Government has come up with a plan to give boost to ease of doing business besides promoting exports. Chief Secretary Vinod Mahajan approved the initiative — a first by any state in the country.

Chairing the state-level export committee's meeting, she said the state government has prepared the Punjab State Export Plan 2021-26 in order to implement 'district as export hub scheme' and 'one district one product scheme'. This will transform the state into an export power house and promote local products with an objective of increasing volume of exports, synergies of various schemes of the Centre and the State, besides increasing efficiency in supply chains and augmenting export infrastructure, products and market diversification. — TNS

Vedanta posts Q4 profit of ₹6,432 cr

NEW DELHI, MAY 13

Vedanta Ltd on Thursday reported a consolidated profit of Rs 6,432 crore for March quarter 2020-21 on the back of various factors, including better volumes and lower cost of production.

The company's income in the period under review increased to Rs 29,065 crore from Rs 20,382 crore in the same period a year ago.

Vedanta Group CEO Sunil Duggal said the company's

Jio tops chart in download speed

NEW DELHI, MAY 13

Reliance Jio topped the 4G speed chart with data download rate of 20.1Mbps while Vodafone was ahead of others in upload speed at 6.7 Mbps in April, according to the latest data from telecom regulator TRAI. Jio has almost three times higher download speed compared to its closest competitor Vodafone.

Vodafone recorded download speed of 7Mbps in April, according to TRAI's data updated on May 11. It was followed by Idea and Bharti Airtel with download speeds of 5.8 Mbps and 5 Mbps, respectively. — PTI

Despite Covid, registration of new firms up 32% in FY21

INCORPORATION OF NEW COMPANIES

State/UT 2018-19 2019-20 2020-21

State/UT	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Haryana	5,796	5,931	7,703
Punjab			

Srikanth clings to slim Tokyo hopes

His chances are over, but former No. 1 waiting for BWF statement



“Just waiting to see what BWF says about this whole qualification things, so yeah holding on to some hope”

Kidambi Srikanth

whatever I think it will naturally be to make my qualification possible.”

Taking a break

There is no tournament scheduled till August and his home state Telangana too has gone into a lockdown. Srikanth said he would now take a break from training.

“I have taken a break. They are trying to get some permission for training. If we get that then probably from next week I will start training,” said Srikanth.

Asked if the BWF could have done anything differently, Srikanth said: “Now we can say a lot of things because the tournament is not happening but we really don’t know what is happening between the organisers and BWF. So, I don’t know what else can be done, maybe BWF can communicate things better to players.” — PTI

Was in mental agony after Tokyo snub: Chinki

NEW DELHI, MAY 13
Pistol shooter Chinki Yadav says she was wracked by mental agony after she was excluded from the Tokyo Olympics squad despite winning a quota place in 2019.

“It is difficult to explain the mental suffering I went through on being dropped from the squad for the Olympics. My gold medal-winning performance in the New Delhi World Cup in March (2021) was overlooked. But support from parents has helped me come out of depression,” Chinki said on the phone from Bhopal.

A shooter wins an Olympics quota place for the country and not for self.

Last month, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) excluded the pistol

Bhopal shooter had won Oly quota in 25m pistol event

shooter from the Tokyo-bound squad and instead named rifle shooter Anjum Moudgil in the list.

NRAI didn’t consider Chinki among India’s top-2 shooters in the 25metre pistol event and picked up Manu Baker and Rahi Sarnobat ahead of her. A country can field only two shooters in a discipline. Anjum, incidentally, had earned a quota place in the 10m air rifle event but will compete in the women’s 50m rifle 3 Positions category and the mixed 10m air rifle event. — IANS

pandemic travel restrictions on Turkey that would have prevented fans flying in.

ROME
Nadal beats Shapovalov after saving 2 match points



Rafael Nadal booked a spot into his 16th quarterfinal at the Italian Open in dramatic fashion, having to save match points and rally from a set down in a three-and-a-half hour epic against 13th seed Denis Shapovalov. Nadal won 3-6 6-4 7-6(3).

MADRID
Atletico beat Sociedad, move closer to Spanish title
Atletico Madrid homed in on the La Liga title with a 2-1 win over Real Sociedad yesterday to move four points clear at the top. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

EPL
NEWCASTLE VS MAN CITY
00:30AM (SATURDAY)
STAR SPORTS

Tokyo-bound players taking a break

With no events lined up, Olympics-bound shuttlers such as PV Sindhu, B Sai Pra-neeth and the men’s doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy have decided to take some time off. “Definitely disappointed that all the three events got cancelled. I have been training for seven weeks but now just training without purpose makes no sense,” world No. 15 Pra-neeth said. “I, at least, have Olympics to look forward to and I plan to start training again from next week.”

Chirag said “it is difficult to stay motivated” in such uncertain times. “We trained for one-and-a-half months for India Open but the situation worsened. Now we are left with no events after constant planning and training,” he said. “Me and Satwik have decided to relax a bit... the main training for the Olympics will be just one-and-a-half months before the event.”

Sindhu too will take the week off. “Coach Park (Tae Sang) had put a good amount of load on Sindhu till last Monday, so now he asked her to take her mind totally off badminton,” Sindhu’s father PV Ramana said.

Powar back with women's team

Ex-offie earlier coached team in 2018, stint ended in dispute with Mithali Raj

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 13

Former Indian men’s team off-spinner Ramesh Powar was today appointed the Indian women’s team head coach, replacing another former India cricketer, WV Raman. Powar thus returns to the job he held for a few months in 2018.

The 42-year-old Powar was picked up for the job by the Madan Lal-led Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), which interviewed a total of eight candidates, including Raman. The others in the running for the job were former India wicketkeeper Ajay Ratra and four female candidates, including former chief selector Hemlata Kala.

“The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announces the appointment of Mr Ramesh Powar as the Head Coach of Team India (Senior Women). The BCCI had advertised for the post and received over 35 applications,” a BCCI statement read.



Powar’s first assignment as coach would be a tour of the UK that includes a Test match against England, which begins on June 16. The team is also scheduled to tour Australia before the World Cup

«Ramesh Powar has replaced WV Raman as the Indian women’s team head coach. FILE

Indies. Mithali had been omitted from the playing XI in India’s eight-wicket semi-finals loss to England. She later wrote a letter to BCCI, accusing Powar and former women’s team captain Diana Edulji — then a member of the Committee of Administrators supervising BCCI’s operations — of actions that left her “deflated, depressed and let down”.

Mithali had alleged that Powar “was out to destroy and humiliate” her, and

cost him the job.

Powar had countered by saying that Mithali “threw a lot of tantrums and created chaos in the team”.

Following this, T20 team captain Harmanpreet Kaur and senior player Smriti Mandhana had written to the BCCI, requesting that Powar be retained as the coach.

However, Powar’s contract as coach was not renewed.

Raman, who had been named coach in December 2018, coached the team to the final of the T20 World Cup in Australia last year.

However, the ODI and T20I series defeats to South Africa — after the team had been inactive for one full year due to the Covid-19 pandemic — seem to have cost him the job.

After Powar had left his post as the women’s team coach, he worked at the National Cricket Academy and with the India A sides. In February this year, he took over as the coach of Mumbai’s men’s team. Under him, Mumbai won the 50-overs Vijay Hazare Trophy title.

Oly-bound walker Irfan tests positive at SAI centre

NEW DELHI, MAY 13

Olympics-bound race-walker KT Irfan is among five elite track-and-field athletes who have tested positive for Covid-19 at the Sports Authority of India’s Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

“At least five elite athletes tested positive for Covid-19 when tests were conducted on Friday. They have been kept isolated from others,” a source at the SAI Centre said, adding: “Four male players and 1 female player and 4 support staff tested positive for Covid-19.”

“The female player had come from home. The players were tested on 6th and their results came positive on 7th. They received their first vaccine dose on 29th April,” the source added. “One male player and one female player were not vaccinated. They were tested again on the May 10 and their results would be in tomorrow.” — PTI

BRIEFLY

BIRMINGHAM

Sharma T-70, Sandhu, Bhullar even lower

All four Indian golfers in action, including Shubhankar Sharma and Ajeetesh Sandhu, endured a disappointing opening round at the British Masters. Sharma (73) was the best among the Indians at Tied-70, while Sandhu (74) was T-94 as the European Tour moved to the UK.

SSP Chawrasia (75) was T-115 and Gaganjeet Bhullar (77) was T-140 after the first round.

IN BRIEF

NEW DELHI
₹5 lakh each for families of hockey stars: Rijiju

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju today announced financial support of Rs 5 lakh each for the bereaved families of former hockey players MK Kaushik and Ravinder Pal Singh, who recently lost their lives to Covid-19. Both Kaushik and Singh were a part of India’s 1980 Olympics gold-winning team.

LONDON

Champions League final moved to Porto

The all-English Champions League final will be held in Porto with 12,000 fans from Chelsea and Manchester City, UEFA confirmed today. The May 29 showpiece was moved from Istanbul due to England imposing tougher



“On the concept of Antyodaya, the Government is making efforts to provide health facilities and financial assistance to the patients with ease. In this direction, the State Government has made new announcements to help BPL Covid patients”

- Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

Under Mukhya Mantri & PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

Persons in the **age group of 18 to 50 years**, belonging to the family with annual income below 1.80 lakh or BPL family **can get the benefits of this scheme**

At First
Must register under
Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana from May 15, 2021

After Registration Under
Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, must fill the form in the bank by May 25, 2021

Insurance premium of
Rs. 330 per person shall be paid/reimbursed by State Government

Family of such person will be provided **compensation of Rs. 2 lakh** in case of natural death due to any reason including Covid **after May 31, 2021**

The form is titled "PRADHAN MANTRI JEEVAN JYOTI BIMA YOJANA BANK'S NAME _____". It contains sections for "CONSENT/ DECLARATION FORM", "ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF AGENT/BANK", "ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF AGENT/BANK", "Assurance Details as per Bank / KYC records", "ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF AGENT/BANK", and "ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF AGENT/BANK". There are several checkboxes and fields for personal information like Name, Date of Birth, Address, etc.

In case of death (due to Covid-19) of any person in the age group of 18 to 50 years in the period from March 1st, 2021 to May 31st, 2021, such BPL family shall be provided **ex-gratia compensation amount of Rs. 2 lakh**

Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana (MMPSY) portal <https://cm-psy.haryana.gov.in> will be opened again for registration from 15th May, 2021

The registration can be done directly online by the beneficiary or through a CSC/Local Operator

Follow the Covid-19 Safety Norms



Considering live telecast of SC proceedings: CJI



CJI NV Ramana during a virtual meet in New Delhi. PTI

WAS A SCRIBE ONCE

66I was a journalist for a brief time. That time we did not have car or bikes. We used to travel on bus as we were directed not to avail conveyance of organisers of the event.

NV Ramana, CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

"Small issues are bound to arise, which should not be unnecessarily magnified. I request everyone to be patient, to be encouraging and supportive to the technical team to ensure that the application works without any problems," he said.—PTI

More foreign aid



An aircraft carrying 176 ventilators from Germany and 324 oxygen cylinders from Finland arrives in New Delhi. PTI

US spares Delhi, slams China for rights violation

Tribune News Service

Int'l panel has said India should be a 'Country of Particular Concern'

that the Biden administration will also follow a similar course.

Though Pakistan is on the CPC list, it has been given a waiver from sanctions along with Nigeria and Saudi Arabia, both major oil producing nations because "there were important national interests of the US requiring the exercise of the waiver authority".

Blinken did not mention India while he named several others such as Iran, which "continues to intimidate, harass, and arrest members of minority faith groups".

In Myanmar, military coup leaders were responsible for ethnic cleansing and other atrocities against Rohingya.

Modi to release ₹19K crore under kisan scheme

NEW DELHI, MAY 13 Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 8th instalment of financial benefit under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme on May 14 at 11 am via video-conferencing.

This will enable the transfer of more than Rs 19,000 crore to more than 9.5 crore farmer families. Under the scheme, a financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year is provided to eligible beneficiary farmer families.—TNS

Cadaver donation pioneer dies of Covid in Kolkata

KOLKATA, MAY 13 Being a pioneer of the cadaver donation movement, it was only natural that Braja Roy, who died in Kolkata on Thursday, would pledge his body for medical research.

However, having been found Covid positive before his death, his organs cannot be transplanted. Roy was 84. His associates have decided to hand over his body to the State Health Department for conducting pathological autopsy to gain an insight into Covid.—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.

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Telephones: 0172-2650066-72

Circulation: 0172-2670419, Advertisement: 0172-2670256, 257

Editor: Rajesh Ramachandran*

*Editor for purpose of PRB Act, 1867

epaper.tribuneindia.com



We express gratitude towards all Government and Private Healthcare Workers for their tireless efforts in fighting this pandemic. The families of all Healthcare Workers are welcome to get Vaccinated free of cost at these centres.

Under the stewardship of **Capt. Amarinder Singh**

Chief Minister, Punjab

and able guidance of

S. Balbir Singh Sidhu

Health & Family Welfare Minister, Punjab

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB LAUNCHES

FREE COVID VACCINATION

FOR PEOPLE SUFFERING WITH SPECIFIED

CO-MORBIDITIES IN 18-44 YEARS AGE GROUP

FROM 14TH MAY, 2021



If you are in the age group of 18-44 and suffering with any of the following co-morbidity, you may visit your nearest COVID Vaccination Centre (List of Centres given below)

LIST OF CO-MORBIDITIES (DISEASES) COVERED

- 1. Heart Failure with hospital admission in past one year.
- 2. Post Cardiac Transplant/Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD)
- 3. Significant Left ventricular systolic dysfunction (LVEF <40%)
- 4. Moderate or Severe Valvular Heart Disease
- 5. Congenital heart disease with severe PAH or Idiopathic PAH
- 6. Coronary Artery Disease with past CABG/PTCA/MI AND Hypertension/Diabetes on treatment
- 7. Angina AND Hypertension/Diabetes on treatment
- 8. CT/MRI documented stroke AND Hypertension/Diabetes on treatment.
- 9. Pulmonary artery hypertension AND Hypertension/Diabetes on treatment.
- 10. Diabetes (> 10 years OR with complications) AND Hypertension on treatment.
- 11. Kidney / Liver/ Hematopoietic stem cell transplant: Recipient/On wait-list.
- 12. End Stage Kidney Disease on haemodialysis/ CAPD.
- 13. Current prolonged use of oral corticosteroids/ immunosuppressant medications.
- 14. Decompensated cirrhosis
- 15. Severe respiratory disease with hospitalizations in last two years/FEV1 <50%.
- 16. Lymphoma/ Leukaemia/ Myeloma.
- 17. Diagnosis of any solid cancer on or after 1st July 2020 Or currently on any cancer therapy.
- 18. Sickle Cell Disease/ Bone marrow failure/ Aplastic Anemia/ Thalassemia Major
- 19. Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases/ HIV infection.
- 20. Persons with disabilities due to Intellectual disabilities/ Muscular Dystrophy/ Acid attack with involvement of respiratory system/ Persons with disabilities having high support needs/ Multiple disabilities including deaf-blindness
- 21. Obesity (BMI >= 30 kg/m²)
- 22. Any other multiple chronic morbidities as determined by a treating physician.

LIST OF COVID VACCINATION CENTRES (18-44 YEARS CO-MORBID CATEGORY)

Amritsar

- 1 Radha Swami Satsang Bhawan, Dera Beas , Mall Road, Amritsar
- 2 Radha Swami Satsang Bhawan, Dera Fatahpur, Chabal Road, Amritsar
- 3 Community Hall, Ranjit Avenue, D Block, Amritsar
- 4 Ayurvedic Hospital, Verka
- 5 New OPD Building, Manawala
- 6 Govt. Sr Sec School Lopoke
- 7 Radha Swami Satsang Ghar Ajnala
- 8 Sidana Polytechnical College, Khyala Kalan, Block Lopoke
- 9 Residential Complex, SDH , Baba Bakala
- 10 Radha Swami Satsang Ghar, Chaugavan

Barnala

- 1 Radha Swami Dera Raikot Road, Barnala
- 2 Market Committee Mehal Kalan
- 3 Baba Ravidas Gurudwara Nai Basti, Dhanaula
- 4 Gurudwara Guptpsar, Chanawal
- 5 CHC Bhadaur
- 6 Radha Swami Dera, Tapa

Bathinda

- 1 GNM Training School, Bathinda City
- 2 Khalsa School, Talwandi Sabo
- 3 Paro Mai Mandir (Phul)
- 4 Guru Gobind Singh Refinery, Raman
- 5 Govt. Sr. Sec. School (Boys), Bhagta
- 6 Auditorium, CHC Ballianwali
- 7 Govt. Sr. Sec School (Girls), Goniana
- 8 Govt. Sr. Sec School (Girls), Sangat

Faridkot

- 1 Garg Multi Speciality Hospital, Fardikot
- 2 Govt. Senior Sec School Boys, Kotkapura
- 3 Govt. Senior Sec School Boys, Jaito
- 4 Market Committee Sadiq
- 5 Old Hospital Building, Bajakhana

Fatehgarh Sahib

- 1 Mata Gujri College,FGS
- 2 Baba Banda Bahadur College,FGS
- 3 Desh Bhagat College, Mandi Gobindgarh

Fazilka

- 1 Govt. S.S.S. (Girls), Fazilka, Opp. DH Fazilka
- 2 Govt. S.S.S. (Girls), Abohar, Near SDH, Abohar
- 3 Govt. S.S.S. (Girls), Jalalabad (W)
- 4 Govt. S.S.S. (Girls), Arniwala S.S.
- 5 Govt. S.S.S. (Girls), Khui Khera
- 6 Govt. S.S.S. (Girls), Sitto Gunno
- 7 Govt. Middle School, Wahab Wala, Near CHC Wahab Wala
- 8 Govt. S.S.S., Jandwala Bhimeshah, Near PHC Jandwala Bhimeshah

Ferozepur

- 1 Govt. Sr Sec School Officer Colony, Ferozpur
- 2 Swami Savle Parkash Vidiya Mandir, Zira
- 3 Govt. Sr Sec School,Mamdot
- 4 Govt. Sr Sec School Makhu
- 5 Govt. Boy Sr Sec School, Guhrurahsahi
- 6 Primary School, Ferozeshah

Gurdaspur

- 1 Govt. Senior Sec School Boys, Gurdaspur
- 2 Govt. Senior Sec School for Boys, Dharampura, Batala
- 3 D.A.V Primary School Qadiani
- 4 Senior Sec School Boys, Kalanaur
- 5 Senior Sec School for Girls, Dera Baba Nanak
- 6 Govt. Senior Sec School, Naushera Majha Singh
- 7 Govt. Senior Sec School, Dhanpur
- 8 Senior Sec School, Bham
- 9 Govt. Senior Sec School, Dorangla
- 10 Govt. Senior Sec School, Behrampur
- 11 Govt. Senior Sec School, Bariar village, Ranjit Bagh
- 12 Govt. Senior Sec School, Bhullar
- 13 Govt. Senior Sec School for Girls, Fatehgarh Churian
- 14 Govt. Senior Sec School, Kahnuwan

Hoshiarpur

- 1 Kesho Mandir, Nai Abadi, Hoshiarpur
- 2 Govt. Senior Secondary School, Bhangala
- 3 Vishkarma Mandir, Sec-1, Talwara

Jalandhar

- 1 Community Hall, Phillaur
- 2 Govt. Sr Sec School, Kartarpur
- 3 Govt. Sr Sec School, Kala Bakra
- 4 Govt. Sr Sec School, Lohian
- 5 Red Cross Bhawan, Lajpat Nagar, Jalandhar
- 6 Govt. Sr Sec School Girls, Adampur
- 7 Govt. School Mauwal, Mehatpur
- 8 Municipal Council, Nakodar
- 9 RTC PAP inside PAP complex, Jalandhar
- 10 SHC Mansoorpuri Vacant Building Barapind

Kapurthala

- 1 Radha Swami Satsang Bhawan, Markfed Chowk

Ludhiana

- 1 Govt. School for Girls, Charankanwal Chowk, Macchiwara
- 2 Sub Centre Dehlon
- 3 Govt. Sr. Sec Boys School, Village Roorian, Maloud
- 4 Govt. High School Dhandari Kalan, Sahnawal
- 5 Govt. High School for Girls, Hathur
- 6 Govt. Sr. Sec School, Kunkalan
- 7 GHG, Khalsa College, Gurusr Sudhar
- 8 Govt. Sr. Sec School, Manupur
- 9 Blossom Convent School, Sidhwani Bet
- 10 Govt. Primary School, Mansuran, Pakhowal
- 11 Sub Centre Payal
- 12 Govt. Sr Sec School, Khanna
- 13 Govt. Sr Sec School for Boys, Jagraon
- 14 Ajitsar Girls Sr Sec School, Raikot
- 15 Govt. Sr Sec School Chandigarh Road, Samrala
- 16 Govt. Sr Sec School Sekhewal, Ludhiana City
- 17 Gurudwara Sahib Indrapur, Tajpur Road Ludhiana City
- 18 Govt. Primary School, Sukhdev Nagar, Urban estate, Phase 1, Jamalpur
- 19 Potohar Sr Sec School, Khud Mohalla, Ludhiana City
- 20 Govt. High School, Haibowal Kalan, Ludhiana City
- 21 Govt. Model School, Dholewal Road, Ludhiana City
- 22 Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Gali no. 8, Muradpura
- 23 Sukhmani Sahib Gurudwara, Dugri, Phase 2
- 24 Geeta Mata Mandir, Pakhowal Road (Till indoor stadium is operational)

Mansa

- 1 Govt. Sr Sec School for Boys, Mansa
- 2 Govt. Sr Sec school for Boys, Sardulgarh
- 3 Govt. Sr Sec School for Girls, Budhlada

Moga

- 1 DM College,Moga
- 2 Guru Nanak College,Moga
- 3 SD College, Moga
- 4 Govt. College, Mudki Road,Moga

Pathankot

- 1 Govt. Sr Sec School, Gharota
- 2 Govt. Sr Sec School, Bhungal Badhani
- 3 Veterinary hospital near Civil Hospital, Pathankot
- 4 Shri Sai Mandir Taragarh, Naroot Jaimal Singh

Patiala

- 1 Govt. Senior Secondary School, Model Town no.1, Patiala
- 2 Govt. High School, Tripuri
- 3 Satsang Bhawan Rajpura Road, Tripuri
- 4 Bhawalpur Bhawan, Rajpura
- 5 Lions Club, Rajpura
- 6 Aggarwal Dharamshala, Samana
- 7 Ripudaman College, Nabha
- 8 Govt. Senior Secondary School, Nabha

RupNagar

- 1 Dehar Elementary School, Chamkaur Sahib
- 2 Sr Sec School, Ropar
- 3 ITI Nangal
- 4 Community Centre Kiratpur Sahib (AJOULI)

Sangrur

- 1 ITI, Moonak
- 2 Gurudwara Akal Parkash Sahib, Sherpur
- 3 GPF Dharamsala, Lehraggera
- 4 Multipurpose Cooperative Agricultural Service Society, Amargarh
- 5 Police Lines, Sangrur
- 6 Sanatan Dharam Dharamsala, Dhuri
- 7 Govt. Sr. Sec School, Fatehgarh Panjrahan
- 8 Shaheed Udham Singh ITI, Sunam
- 9 MGMM Sr. Sec School, Ahmedgarh
- 10 Gurudwara Sahib, Kauhrian
- 11 Govt. Sr Sec School, Dirba
- 12 Govt. Sr Sec School for Boys, Longowal
- 13 Dharamsala Satta Chowk Malerkotla
- 14 Grain market Office, Bhawanigarh

S.A.Nagar

- 1 Hall in Nagar Nigam Centre, Kurali
- 2 Communiy Centre, Derabassi
- 3 SDH Kharar, Old Training Centre
- 4 Community Centre, Phase-7, Mohali

Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar

- 1 Govt. Sr Sec School for Girls, Rahon
- 2 Govt. Sr Sec School, Usmanpur
- 3 Govt. Sr Sec School, Saroya
- 4 Govt. Sr Sec School, Surapur
- 5 Baba gola Girls School, Banga
- 6 Govt. Sr. Sec School, Chandigarh Road, Nawanshehar
- 7 Govt. Sr Sec School, Aur
- 8 Govt. Sr Sec School, Mukandpur
- 9 DAV School, Kathgarh
- 10 Mount Carmel School, Balachaur

Sri Muktsar Sahib

- 1 Govt. Girls School, Muktsar
- 2 Thrajwala Construction Sites, Lambi

Tarn Taran

- 1 SDM Office, Tarn Taran
- 2 Govt. High School, Mianwind
- 3 Govt. High School, Chabhal
- 4 Govt. High School, Sarhali
- 5 Govt. High School, Gharyala

IMPORTANT