



PROVIDE MORE AID TO INDIA: US  
LAWMAKERS TO BIDEN WORLD

# The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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ANTIGUA PROBES CHOKIS'S  
'ABDUCTION' BACK PAGE

TUESDAY | 8 JUNE 2021

## Centre to provide states free vax for all adults from June 21

PM Modi announces return to centralised procurement

Pvt hospitals can buy 25% jabs, max service charge ₹150/dose

Free foodgrain scheme for 80 cr poor extended till Nov

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

The government on Monday pledged free Covid vaccines for adults from June 21. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the decision to revert to the old system of centralised procurement of 75 per cent doses for free distribution to the states, as was the case before May 1.

The PM said private hospitals could continue to procure 25 per cent of the vaccines, but their service charge would be capped at Rs 150 (as against Rs 300 at present) per dose over the fixed price of the vaccine.

Noting that the return to the centralised procurement was rooted in the demand of states, which felt the previous system (before May 1) was good, the PM in an address to the nation today said, "As many states, having realised the challenges of vaccine planning and supplies, demanded reconsideration of



Passengers at a Delhi Metro station as services resumed on Monday.

1,00,636 FRESH CASES

TOTAL DEATHS 3,49,186 ACTIVE CASES 14,01,609

2,427 DEATHS IN 24 HOURS  
AIIMS STARTS SCREENING KIDS FOR VAX TRIALS

The screening of children for trial of Covaxin, India's first indigenously developed Covid-19 vaccine, among those aged between 2 and 18 started at AIIMS in New Delhi on Monday.

2ND COVISHIELD DOSE AFTER 28 DAYS FOR...

- Students studying abroad
- Those joining work abroad
- Indian contingent for Olympics

ENSURE SAFETY OF DOCTORS: IMA TO PM

In the wake of incidents of assault on doctors by relatives of patients, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Monday sought PM Narendra Modi's intervention in ensuring "optimum milieu" for medical professionals so that they can work without fear.



the vaccination strategy and reverting to the pre-May 1 system, the government has decided that the 25 per cent vaccination work set aside for states will now be undertaken by the Centre. This will be rolled out in two weeks.

"From June 21, the Govern-

ment of India will provide free vaccines to all Indian citizens above 18 years. It will buy 75 per cent production of vaccine manufacturers and provide doses to states free of cost. No state would have to spend anything for the vaccines. The Centre will provide

free vaccines to all citizens."

The PM also announced the extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana until Diwali. "Till November, 80 crore people will continue to get a fixed amount of free foodgrain every month.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## New treatment guidelines drop ivermectin, zinc, vitamins, HCQ

ADITI TANDON  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

India on Monday issued a new clinical protocol for Covid treatment and dropped all commonly used treatments for mild patients of the infection, including antibiotics, hydroxychloroquine (HCQ), ivermectin and antiviral drug favipiravir.

WHO chief scientist Soumya

DGHS norms at variance with ICMR advisory

NO ANTIBIOTIC FOR MILD CASES

- No antibiotics or antiviral drug favipiravir for mild patients
- No steam inhalation (people doing this in excess)
- Hydration, good diet, positive

mindset, social connection important for recovery

Remdesivir, tocilizumab use only in severely ill cases, as per fresh DGHS norms

Swaminathan today hailed the new evidence-based guidelines developed by the

Director General of Health Services (DGHS) who said

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Evict encroachers from Aravalli forest land: SC

SATIYA PRAKASH  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered the eviction of encroachers from around 10,000 residential structures constructed illegally at Lakkarpur Khori village in Aravalli forest area of Faridabad district in Haryana.

A Bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar ordered the Faridabad Municipal Corporation and district police to evict the illegal occupants from the government land and file a compliance report in six weeks.

"Land grabbers can't take refuge under rule of law and talk of fairness," the top court said, rejecting a plea filed by five encroachers against the demolition/eviction drive.

The Bench, however, said

SEEKS COMPLIANCE REPORT IN 6 WEEKS

- At least 10,000 houses are constructed illegally at Lakkarpur Khori village in Aravalli forest area
- The SC asked the Faridabad MC and district police to evict illegal occupants and file a compliance report in 6 weeks
- It said petitioners' demand for rehabilitation could be considered separately

the petitioners' demand for rehabilitation could be considered independently.

The petitioners had challenged the Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran Rehabilitation Policy to the extent it limits the cut-off for rehabilitation to 2003 and sought a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Ensure roll Nos. to SC students, NCSC tells Punjab Govt

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 7

National Commission for Scheduled Castes chief Vijay Sampla today asked Punjab to ensure immediate release of roll numbers to 2 lakh SC students in private colleges.

DO YOUR DUTY

It's the duty of the state to ensure SC students do not face any hardship.

Vijay Sampla, NCSC CHIEF

The Joint Association of Colleges had announced that the roll numbers were being withheld as the Punjab Government had failed to reimburse SC post-matric scholarship funds amounting to Rs 1,549 crore. The amount pertains to the 2017-18 to 2019-20 period. —TNS

## BJP wants Dalhousie renamed as Netaji Nagar; Cong opposes move

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, JUNE 7

A controversy has erupted in Himachal Pradesh over a proposal to rename Dalhousie, a famous hill station in Chamba district, as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Nagar, a demand made by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy and being opposed by the Congress.

Swamy is learnt to have written to state Governor



Bandaru Dattatreya in this regard. The town is named after Lord Dalhousie, who

was the Governor General of India during the British rule.

In 1992, the BJP government under CM Shanta Kumar had even issued a notification renaming the town, but the subsequent Congress regime withdrew it, said Swamy. BJP leaders claim Netaji had visited the town in 1937. Opposing the suggestion, senior Congress leader and Dalhousie MLA Asha Kumari has written to Chief

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



PUNJAB EXTENDS CURBS TILL JUNE 15; SHOPS OPEN TILL 6 PM

- Punjab on Monday extended Covid restrictions till June 15 with certain relaxations
- Shops will now remain open till 6 pm; pvt offices are permitted to function with 50% staff
- 7 pm to 6 am curfew on weekdays, including Saturdays
- Regular weekend curfew to continue on Sundays
- Gatherings up to 20 at weddings, cremations
- Restrictions for those entering Punjab done away with
- All recruitment exams will be conducted offline
- Sports training for national, global events permitted — TNS

JABS ON PRIORITY FOR STUDENTS GOING ABROAD, SAYS PUNJAB CM

### IN BRIEF

#### 18 killed in fire at Pune sanitiser firm

PUNE: At least 18 persons, mostly women, were killed in a major fire that broke out in a sanitiser manufacturing factory in Pune district on Monday. Around 10 other workers are feared trapped or missing in the incident. BACK PAGE

#### 'Hard landing', 3 IAF pilots escape unhurt

NEW DELHI: Three IAF pilots had a narrow escape on Monday when their helicopter made a 'hard landing' near Daulat Baig Oldie in Ladakh, abutting China. 'Hard landing' implies uncontrolled landing from very low altitude. — TNS

#### Adhikari booked for Yaas relief 'theft'

KANTHI (WB): An FIR has been registered in Purba Medinipur district against BJP MLA Suvendu Adhikari for his alleged involvement in theft of relief material sent after cyclone Yaas hit the state, the police said on Monday. — PTI

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# Fatality rate over 3% in 9 districts

Sangrur 5.3%, Tarn Taran 4.3% | Mansa, Mohali fare better with 1.5%

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 7  
As the number of cases and deaths have come down, the casualty rate seems to have emerged as a new problem for the state. The case fatality rate (CFR) in the last seven days remained at 4.2 per cent. Apart from that the overall CFR of the state's nine districts is over 3 per cent.

At present state's overall CFR is 2.6 per cent, which means for every 100 confirmed cases 2.6 have passed away from the virus. Around three weeks ago the same had come down to 2.4 per cent. Punjab's fatality rate is the highest in the country, which is 1.2 per cent.



Sangrur has the highest fatality rate of 5.3 per cent. It is followed by Tarn Taran (4.3 per cent), Barnala (3.7 per cent), Gurdaspur (3.5 per cent) and Amritsar (3.3 per cent). Among

COVID METER		
Cases		1,293
Critical		250
Active		19,995
Deaths		82
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Bathinda	145	9
Ludhiana	135	6
Amritsar	133	8
Jalandhar	113	4
Hoshiarpur	86	2
Total	5,80,829	15,160

other districts which has three or higher fatality rate includes Hoshiarpur (3.2 per cent), Ferozepur (3.1 per cent), SBS Nagar and Rupnagar (3 per cent each).

# Group of paediatric specialists to list guidelines for third wave

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 7  
Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh today announced a group of specialists in paediatrics to frame protocols and handhold private hospitals for enhancing paediatric beds and treatment protocols, while rolling out a detailed action plan in preparation of a possible third wave of Covid in the state.

The group will comprise specialists from GMCs, Department of Health, PGI & IAP Punjab Chapter, said the Chief Minister, while directing the Health and Medical Education departments to put into action a comprehensive plan to deal with the next wave, if and when it comes.

Chairing a virtual Covid review meeting, the Chief Minister took stock of the preparations under way for the third wave and ordered creation of storage capacities for oxygen for a minimum of three days in all government medical colleges, with piped oxygen to be made available in government hospitals.

At least 375 MT oxygen should be available with the state at any given time, he said, stressing the need to pre-



A health worker collects a swab sample of a child. FILE

## ENHANCE OXYGEN STORAGE, SAYS CM

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has ordered creation of storage capacities for oxygen for a minimum of three days in all government medical colleges. He directed deputy commissioners to identify paediatric Covid L2 and L3 beds in private sector (at least 1,000)

pare for peak supply logistics. The Chief Secretary said the state had received 500 oxygen concentrators today against the World Bank Loan for Water Surface Supply projects, and another 2,500 were on the way. The CM directed DCs to identify paediatric Covid L2 and L3 beds in private sector (at least 1,000), with experts to advise the district administration on paediatric treatment protocol/medicines.

He asked the officials to increase the number of

RTPCR machines for Covid testing of children, besides increasing ICU and oxygen capacities, augmenting infrastructure and manpower, and increasing surveillance and testing across the state.

Amid indications of damage caused by the third wave in some countries as much as 25 per cent higher than the second wave, the CM ordered creation of surge capacity in equipment, recruitment of doctors, specialists, nurses, technicians, etc.

## Cases dip in Muktsar

**Muktsar:** The Covid graph has come down sharply in Muktsar district with 105 persons having tested positive in the district during the past two days. As many as 68 persons tested positive on Monday, while 37 were infected on Sunday. As many as 11 persons have succumbed to the virus in the past two days. Of these, seven deaths were reported on Sunday. — TNS

# Priority jab for students flying abroad

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 7

Students from Punjab planning to go abroad for studies will now be prioritised in the vaccination process in the 18-45 age group, CM Captain Amarinder Singh said today.

At a high-level virtual Covid review meeting, the CM directed the Health and Medical Education departments to allow districts to use up to 10 per cent of the doses for the 18-45 group for priority categories other than those approved at the state level.

"Besides students seeking to go abroad, caregivers of elderly persons and other urgent priority groups may be included in the list," he said. Captain Amarinder also asked the departments concerned to proactively vaccinate all persons in the categories already prioritised by the state government in the

# In Ludhiana, cremations with Covid norms almost double the official toll

HARSHRAJ SINGH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LUDHIANA, JUNE 7

Amid the ongoing second wave of Covid-19, over 2,100 more deaths were registered by the Municipal Corporation of Ludhiana in May as compared to the deaths registered in the corresponding month in 2020 and 2019.

According to the records, the birth and death registration wing of the MC registered 3,256 deaths in May, three times more as compared to the fatalities in the same month last year. In May 2020 and 2019, as many as 1,083 and 1,121 deaths were registered, respectively.

In April 2021, the MC recorded 1,824 deaths as compared to 667 and 1,256 deaths in the corresponding month in 2020 and 2019, respectively. As per the media bulletin issued by the health department, 624 deaths due to Covid-19 were confirmed between May 1 and May 31 in Ludhiana district.

However, the number of bodies that were cremated with Covid protocol at the six cremation grounds of the city under the MC's jurisdiction in May 2021 is



Last rites being performed at a crematorium in Ludhiana. FILE

higher than the deaths confirmed by the Health Department in Ludhiana district in May 2021. Over 1,150 bodies were cremated following the Covid protocol at the cremation grounds in May.

A member of marshals or volunteers' team, which has been deployed by the MC for the cremation of the infected bodies, said they had conducted around 850 cremations with the Covid protocol at the cremation grounds in Barewal, Model Town, Dana Mandi, Daresi and Sunet in

Ludhiana city during May.

Besides, 318 bodies were cremated with the Covid protocol in May at the cremation ground in the Dholewal area of Ludhiana, said Ranjodh Singh, president, Ramgarhia Education Council.

Sources said a number of persons who died of the virus were also cremated at the cremation grounds in various other parts and rural areas of the district.

"The correct number acts as an important tool for epidemiologists and for dealing with the situation, one should

## DEATH SURGE

FATALITIES ON MC RECORD

2021	DEATHS
May	3,256
April	1,824

2020	
May	1,083
April	667

OFFICIAL COVID TOLL

2021	
May	624
April	231

understand the true number of deaths," a city doctor said.

Civil Surgeon Dr Kiran Gill said: "Sometimes, the primary cause of death is other than Covid-19. If a patient is Covid positive, but he died due to any other reason, the body is also cremated with the protocol. Our committee conducts a review meeting daily and then confirms the deaths due to Covid-19."

MC Commissioner, Pardeep Kumar Sabharwal said the civic body was following the process based on the documentation.

# Health Dept appoints 16 medical officers

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 7

Health and Family Welfare Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu today handed over appointment letters to 16 medical officers (specialist).

Sidhu said to provide jobs opportunities to youth under 'Ghar Ghar Rozgar Yojana', the health department had made recruitment against 11,200 posts from 2017 to 2021. Director, Health Services, recruited 1,041 medical officers (general), 601 medical officers (specialist), 34 medical officers (dental), 324 medical laboratory technicians, 1,336 multi-purpose health workers, 418 pharmacists, 1,313 staff nurses, 161 radiographers, eight ECG technicians, 55 operation theatre assistants and 60 steno

## Recruitment of 242 specialists under way



typists. He said more recruitment would be done shortly, while walk-in interviews to recruit 242 specialists were under process to overcome the shortage of specialists in government hospitals. He said all appointments were being made by the Department of Health and Family Welfare in a transparent manner on the basis of merit. — TNS

# F'kot hospital struggles with 'faulty' machines

BALWANT GARG

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, JUNE 7

Even though the second wave is showing signs of ebbing in the state, there seems no respite for Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and Hospital (GGSMCH), Faridkot. From May 21 to June 5, as many as 219 persons, including 93 women, have died of Covid-19 at GGSMCH.

The high deaths rate here is attributed to patients reaching the tertiary care centre in a critical condition. Having capacity of 450 beds, the medical college has presently about 140 indoor patients from nine districts of the state. Many of these patients are in critical condition and they reached the hospital after a lot of deterioration in their health, said doctors here.

To make the things worse, most ventilators received through the PM CARES Fund at the medical colleges are still non-functional. Despite engineers from the Army Hospital in Ferozepur reaching here with a on-the-wheel workshop-cum-laboratory to repair the ventilators for three days and the mechanics from the ventilator-maker company making rounds to repair the machines, 51 of the total 88 ventilator received under PM CARES Fund are still defunct.

As many ventilators are malfunctioning despite repeated repairs, anaesthetists are not confident of



Technicians from the Army repair ventilators in Faridkot.

## ARMY REPAIRS VENTILATORS

**Chandigarh:** The Western Command has chipped in to repair non-functional ventilators and other medical equipment at the 450-bed isolation facility in Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and Hospital, Faridkot. A team led by Col Parul Anand repaired 207 unserviceable medical equipment, including 70 ventilators, multi-parameter monitors, syringe infusion pumps, oxygen concentrators, nebulisers and defibrillators, worth crores of rupees. TNS

using them, said the authorities here. Now we have stopped certifying the repair of these ventilators. We have asked the visiting engineers and mechanics to let us use the ventilators for minimum 24 hours, then we will certify about its functional status, said the authorities.

# No ventilator, Sangrur saw 411 deaths last month

PARVESH SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, JUNE 7

The Health Department officials may have their own excuses, but the fact that the district witnessed 411 Covid deaths alone in May has confirmed the worst fears of residents that the government badly failed to ramp up the facilities here. The case fatality rate (CFR) of 5.3 per cent here is the highest in the state.

As per sources, so far, the district has witnessed 796 Covid deaths, of which the highest 121 are from Sangrur block, followed by Longowal (115), Moonak (84), Kauhrian (75) and others. Of

the total 604 deaths from January to date, 411 happened in May alone.

The lack of health facilities coupled with reluctance for testing and admission for Covid treatment is proving fatal for patients. Besides, family members of the infected, too, have been facing social stigma as relatives and neighbours start distancing themselves from them.

"My grandfather died with Covid last month. Our family was unwilling to go to hospital after getting information about the lack of required health facilities there," said a resident of Sangrur.

WAVE OF FATALITIES		
2021	CASES	DEATHS
May	5,764	411
April	2,986	110
2020		
May	92	0
April	6	0

Before the elevation of Malerkotla as district this week, Sangrur had two level-2 facilities at the Civil Hospital, Sangrur, and Malerkotla, while Dhuri hospital has

## NO LEVEL-2 FACILITIES

"The government failed to create even level-2 facilities for residents in Khanauri, which is on the Haryana border. We have to come to Sangrur even for basic health facilities. The Health Department has done nothing for us.

Khushvinder Singh, KHANAURI RESIDENT

dedicated facilities for pregnant women. But still patients of many areas, including Khanauri, Moonak, Lehra, Kauhrian and Dirba, have to cover a long dis-

# Cases dip, but black fungus still a concern

8 deaths, 66 cases in Bathinda so far | Focus on preventive measures

SUKHMEET BHASIN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, JUNE 7

Though the district is reporting a sharp decline in the fresh Covid cases, there is a steady rise in the number of those infected with black fungus. Eight deaths and 66 cases of mucormycosis have been reported in the district so far.

As compared to the last month, the district has seen a steady drop in the Covid-infected persons, bringing the positivity rate down significantly. Health officials said people were being made aware of black fungus so that it could be prevented and patients could be treated at the right time.

Nodal officer Dr Yadwinder Singh said: "Of the 66 cases of



A doctor operates upon a black fungus-infected patient. PTI

## INDISCRIMINATE USE OF STEROIDS, ANTIBIOTICS

"The high prevalence of fungal infection in Covid-recovered patients is due to indiscriminate use of steroids, antibiotics and prophylactic use of antifungals. Dr Yadwinder Singh, NODAL OFFICER

black fungus, half are from outside the district. There is no need to be scared of the infec-

tion, but it is important to take precautions. Patients with any other illness are more vulnera-

ble to it." He said the infection was being treated at AIIMS and Adesh Medical College in the district. "The treatment protocol has been worked out for optimum usage of the available drugs. While patients with severe problems will be given intravenous injections, those with mild or moderate symptoms will be treated with tablets," he said.

Dr Singh said: "The high prevalence of fungal infection in Covid-recovered patients is due to indiscriminate use of steroids and antibiotics for Covid treatment, prophylactic use of antifungals and contamination of nasal prongs and pipelines used for oxygen supply." In Bathinda, 890 have died of Covid so far.

# Covid helpline for pregnant women

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 7

Covid positivity among pregnant women has emerged as a new concern for the state. During a recent screening of rural areas, 292 pregnant women have been reported positive.

Of these, 231 have been discharged and 61 cases are still active. The state has now set up a helpline in Chandigarh for pregnant women.

Dr Areet Kaur, Mission Director, National Health Mission, said daily monitoring of active cases was being done from the state headquarters.

The helpline numbers — 0172-2744041 and 2744040 —

## RISING MORTALITY

In April, six pregnant women died due to Covid, while in May, 20 lost their life to the virus.

will be operational from 9 am to 5 pm every day.

According to experts, pregnant women were already immunocompromised, making the number of cases a worry. The cases were discovered when under Punjab Government's Corona Mukht Pind Abhiyan, a door-to-door screening programme, was launched on May 21. Till June 5, over 1.72 crore persons or nearly 60 per cent of state's total estimated population had been screened.



# Mohali land transferred ‘without paying’ stamp duty, probe on

State exchequer suffers loss worth crores | Report to be submitted by June 10

SANJAY BUMBROO  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**MOHALI, JUNE 7**  
Eyebrows are being raised over the transfer of 120 acres of land in two villages of Mohali district allegedly without paying the stamp duty, causing a loss of several crores to the state exchequer.

The Mohali Deputy Commissioner has marked an inquiry into the case and told the Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) to submit a report by Thursday.

As per the information, 120-acre land in two villages of Bairampur and Manak Majra in Mohali district has been transferred from Emaar MGF to MGF Developers in pursuance of demerger of companies as per the scheme of arrangement approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in its 2018 judgment.

Sources said MGF had filed an application to the Mohali Sub Divisional Magistrate on March 16, which was sent to the tehsildar for further



## PARALLEL FILE CREATED TO ‘AVOID’ PAYMENT

■ In Bairampur and Manak Majra villages of Mohali, 120-acre land has been transferred from Emaar MGF to MGF Developers in pursuance of demerger of companies

■ Sources say MGF filed an application March 16, which was sent to the tehsil-

dar, who objected to the non-payment of stamp duty

■ The tehsildar was shifted and the land was transferred by creating a new case file. The revenue officer said a parallel file was created to transfer the land, while the original case file was pending

action. The then tehsildar had kept the case file pending for legal verification. She had also raised objections over the non-payment of stamp duty by MGF Developers.

During the pendency of the case, the then tehsildar was transferred and the land was transferred to MGF Develop-

ers by creating a new case file. When the DC asked the District Revenue Officer (DRO) to submit his report, the latter in his reply, seeking action in the case, had stated that a parallel file had been created to transfer the land, while the original case file was pending. The DRO had further

quoted the NCLT order: “While approving the scheme, we further clarify that this order shall not be construed as an order in any way granting exemption from payment of stamp duty, income tax, GST or other charges, if any, and payment in accordance with law in respect of any permission/ compliance with any other requirement which may be specifically required under any law.”

Further, the scheme of arrangement approved by the NCLT said: “All agreed costs (including without limitation transaction costs, taxes, stamp duties) of the reorganisation will be borne by the demerged company and resulting company as agreed.”

MGF officials did not respond to the repeated calls made by this reporter.

Deputy Commissioner Girish Dayalan said: “I have marked an inquiry into the case. Further action will be taken if the report finds any loss to the state exchequer.”



SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal with party workers near the residence of Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu in Mohali on Monday. vicky

# Dismiss Health Min for ‘vax scam’: SAD

**MOHALI, JUNE 7**

Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Badal today demanded immediate dismissal of Health Minister Balbir Sidhu over “vaccine and Fateh kit scams” and asserted that in case this was not done till June 15, SAD would gherao the CM’s residence.

He said, “Instead of giving free vaccines to people, the government sold vaccines at a hefty profit to private institutions and also allowed the latter to fleece people. Sidhu is

## Stage dharmas at PM’s house: Balbir Sidhu

directly responsible for this and in case he is not dismissed, we will approach the Governor as well as the court for justice.” He claimed that under “Fateh Kit scam”, the price of medical kits was jacked up by inviting one tender after another despite the fact that the first tender was valid for a six-month period. — TNS

# AAP targets govt over ‘Fateh’ kits

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, JUNE 7**

The AAP today targeted the Capt Amarinder Singh-led Congress government by alleging a multi-crore scam in the purchase of “Fateh” kits.

Addressing a press conference here today, state party president Bhagwant Mann and Punjab affairs in charge Jarnail Singh claimed the government had already embezzled crores of rupees by selling vaccines to private hospitals.

They claimed the government had on April 3 completed a tender for purchase of kits at Rs 837.78 a piece to be supplied in six months. However, on April 20, the



## UNLICENSED FIRM

“The government procured 50,000 kits at ₹1,226.40 per unit through a second tender, even though the company does not have a medical licence.

Bhagwant Mann, STATE AAP CHIEF

government, ignoring the first tender, agreed to procure kits at Rs 1,226.40 a piece through a second tender, they alleged.

“The government procured 50,000 kits at Rs 1,226.40 per unit through the second tender, even though the company concerned does not have a medical licence,” they claimed.

On May 7, a separate ten-

der was issued for more kits and an agreement was reached to further procure kits at the rate of Rs 1,338.

“Through the third tender, the Congress government procured 1.50 lakh kits at Rs 1,338 per unit,” they alleged. Mann said Captain Amarinder had no moral right to remain as the Chief Minister and must resign immediately from the post.

# SIT to probe illegal liquor factory case

**MUKTSAR, JUNE 7**

The district police have formed a special investigation team (SIT), headed by SP (PBI) Muktsar Kulwant Rai, to probe the illegal liquor bottling plant case of Badal village.

On May 22, the Excise Department had recovered a large number of empty and filled bottles of the Indian made foreign liquor (IMFL), country liquor, fake holograms, labels, caps, etc. from an orchard at Badal village.

## Bail plea of three accused rejected

A senior police officer claimed as per the land records, the orchard was owned by Gurwinder Singh of Badal village. “We have summoned him to join the probe,” he said.

The AAP had lodged a protest outside the Lambi police station against the Congress government’s alleged failure in taking action against those running the illegal liquor bottling plant. — TNS



Nearly 40,000 hectares have been brought under the crop this year, against 28,000 hectares last year. FILE

# In Muktsar, more area under cotton cultivation this season

ARCHIT WATTS  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**MUKTSAR, JUNE 7**

The state Agriculture Department has got success in increasing the area under cotton cultivation this season in Muktsar district. For instance, this year nearly 40,000 hectares have been brought under cotton cultivation in the district. The area under cotton crop last year was nearly 28,000 hectares.

Though the initial figures of the department were “inflated” last year, as per Revenue Department’s survey, the total area under cotton crop in the district was assessed at nearly 28,000 hectares. “We have strictly told agri-

## HIGH MSP MAIN REASON

“The main reason for the increase in the area is MSP on cotton and direct purchase by the CCI last season. Gurpreet Singh, AGRICULTURE OFFICER, MUKTSAR

culture development officers (ADOs) to give accurate figures this time. As per our survey, the target of bringing total 40,000 hectares under the cotton cultivation in the district this season has been achieved. The main reason behind the increase in the area is MSP on cotton and direct purchase by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) last season,” said

espouse our cause, rather than seeking votes,” said Nirbhay Singh Dhudike and Rajinder Singh Deepsinghwal, president and vice-president of the union. The union leaders blamed the parties, both ruling and those desirous of staking claim to rule the state, for favouring corporate houses and privatisation. — TNS

# Won’t allow political events: Union

**CHANDIGARH, JUNE 7**

The Kirti Kisan Union has decided to oppose all parties holding political events in rural areas. The protest will continue until the three farm laws were repealed. The decision was taken during a meeting of the union held today.

“Parties should think of the future of agriculture and

the union leaders blamed the parties, both ruling and those desirous of staking claim to rule the state, for favouring corporate houses and privatisation. — TNS

# Kinnow growers reap double profit

**FAZILKA, JUNE 7**

Horticulturists have been fetching double the price of kinnow in advance contracts this year as compared to the previous year, in Fazilka district. Though kinnow shall hit the market in December, traders and orchardists started entering into advance con-

tracts, about two weeks ago.

Sushil Periwal, a kinnow producer, who cultivated the fruit on 80 acres in Khippanwali village, said he has signed a contract at Rs 18-20 per kg, while last year the price was Rs 8-10 per kg. He said the horticulturists were apprehensive of low yield this year due to less flow-

ering, but the high price was likely to make up for the loss.

Prem Babber, another producer, said other lemon species, including malta and mausami, were also fetching a high price. Lachhman Singh, Assistant Director, Horticulture, said some farmers were even getting Rs 20-25 per kg. — OC

# Rice millers wary as FCI verifies stock

RUCHIKA M KHANNA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, JUNE 7**

The suicide by a rice mill owner at Dhariwal in Gurdaspur district today, allegedly during physical verification of his paddy and rice stocks, has brought to the fore fear among millers in Punjab and their opposition to the move by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

Last week, the government foodgrain agency ordered verification of stocks — both paddy and rice — at rice mills. The FCI has even stopped accepting custom-milled rice till the time the verification is done, which started four days ago. This comes following complaints of pilferage of rice meant to be delivered to the FCI, and mismatch in stocks.

Punjab had procured 203 lakh metric tonne paddy in the kharif marketing season 2020-21. This is way over the productivity of actual land under paddy cultivation, raising suspicion of bogus billing.

Interestingly, the order by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for physical verification of rice and paddy stocks was initially passed for Punjab alone. After objections were raised by Finance Minister

## ‘BOGUS’ BILLING

■ Punjab procured 203 lakh metric tonne paddy in the kharif marketing season 2020-21

■ This is way over productivity of actual land under paddy cultivation, raising suspicion of bogus billing

Manpreet Singh Badal, the ministry asked for verification in other states as well.

While the FCI is within its rights to physically verify its stocks kept at rice mills for milling, industry insiders and officials in the Punjab Food and Supplies Department say the rice or paddy at most mills are more than the stocks shown in the books.

“This is because the delivery of rice is not taken by the FCI on time (March 31 each year). This leads to higher levels of broken rice in the stocks because of the warmer weather after March. The mill owner is supposed to give a certain amount of rice, and because the stocks are not lifted by the FCI on time, he buys rice and gives to the FCI to make up for the broken rice,” says a senior officer in department. One of the reasons for delay in delivery of custom-milled rice from mills to the FCI godowns is lack of storage space with the FCI.

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**HSIIDC**  
**e-Auction Schedule for Allotment of Industrial Plots in IMT Faridabad & Sector-34-35, UV Gurugram**

HSIIDC had opened the registration for participation in e-auction for allotment of industrial plots in IMT Faridabad and Sector-34-35, UV Gurugram w.e.f. 01.01.2021 with closing date as 15.02.2021. The schedule of e-auction for the same is as under:

Auction Name	Auction ID	Date of E-auction	No. of Plots on offer
IMT Faridabad - 450 SQM	160	14.06.2021	15
IMT Faridabad - 3645 SQM	163	14.06.2021	01
IMT Faridabad - 4500 SQM	164	14.06.2021	01
Sector 34-35, U.V. Gurugram 930.44 SQM	171	14.06.2021	01
IMT Faridabad - 1012.5 SQM	159	15.06.2021	09
IMT Faridabad -1800 SQM	161	15.06.2021	06
IMT Faridabad -2500 SQM	162	15.06.2021	02
Sector 34-35, U.V. Gurugram 1650 SQM	172	15.06.2021	01

i) The Round-1 of each E-auction shall start at 7.00 AM on the scheduled date. ii) The standard closing time of Round-1 of each E-auction shall be 11.00 AM on the scheduled date. All subsequent rounds shall be of 10 minutes duration, subject to extension as below. iii) There will be unlimited extensions. The auction time of the round(s) will get extended by 10 minutes in case of receipt of any bid in the last 5 minutes. iv) In case the e-auction does not conclude till 9.00 PM, the e-auction will pause at 9.00 PM (The round in progress at 9.00 PM shall continue even after 9.00 PM till its closing) and fresh round shall re-start at 7.00 AM the next day. v) The minimum bid increment has been kept at Rs.200/- psm in all categories. vi) The H-1 payment shall be scheduled after acceptance of bids by the competent authority, payable within 72 hours of scheduling. vii. The no. of plots indicated above are tentative and HSIIDC shall reserve to itself the right to withdraw any site from auction or add any site for auction at any stage without assigning any reason.

All registered bidders may please note the above for participation in e-auction on scheduled date and please note that no separate notice shall be sent in this regard. The detail of plots on offer can be seen on the e-auction portal [hsiidc.bids.in](https://hsiidc.bids.in) and [www.hsiidc.org.in](https://www.hsiidc.org.in).

For further details, including process of e-auction, please refer to the e-auction brochure available on e-auction portal [hsiidc.bids.in](https://hsiidc.bids.in).

**Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited**  
HSIIDC  
A State Government Undertaking

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

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**I, Jyoti d/o Karamjit Singh** residence of # 1848/A, Sector 43-B, Chandigarh- 160044, have changed my name to Jyoti Sharma w/o Vishal Sharma after my marriage. (CL21020414)

**I, Sukhpreet Singh Wander s/o** Jaskaran Singh resident Village Banwala Hanwanta, P.O. Jandwala Kharta, Fazilka (Punjab), Distt. Fazilka, have changed my name to Sukhpreet Singh. (CL21020415)

**I, Kavita d/o Gurjant Singh** and w/o Navroz Sharma # B-15/ 384, Red Road Hoshiarpur, changed my name to Kavita Sharma after marriage. (CL21020425)

**I, Vijay Goyal s/o Bal Chand Goyal,** House No. 2, B-Block, Sirsa, have changed name to Vinay Kumar Goyal. (CL21020453)

**I, Kapil s/o Balwan resident VPO** Baland, Rohatk- 124001, have changed my name to Kapil Barak. (CL21020469)

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# SIT questions more top cops

## Saini may be quizzed today

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 7

The special investigation team (SIT) probing the Kotkapura police firing incident has issued summons to former SAD MLA Mantar Singh Brar besides questioning a number of senior police officials regarding the sequence of events leading to the firing in October 2015 on a mob protesting sacrilege incidents.

The SIT, led by ADGP LK Yadav with IG Rakesh Aggarwal and DIG Surjit Singh as the members, questioned DIGs Ranbir Singh Khatra and Amar Singh Chahal today.

It also put posers to former Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sukhmandar Singh Mann and Charanjit Singh besides Inspector Pritpal Singh.

Former DGP Sumedh Singh Saini was likely to be questioned today. Sources said the panel would call him again after listening to other police officials, bureaucrats and politicians who were either on the protest site or were involved in the decision-making process to use force

## KOTKAPURA FIRING

■ Suspended IG PS Umranangal did not appear before the probe panel, saying he was indisposed. He is likely to appear on Tuesday

■ Those questioned included DIGs Ranbir Singh Khatra and Amar Singh Chahal; former SSP Sukhmandar Singh Mann and Inspector Pritpal Singh

against protesters.

Suspended IG PS Umranangal did not appear before the probe panel today. He sought excuse for today saying he was indisposed. He is likely to appear tomorrow.

The special investigation team showed the official video clips of the police firing and alleged clash with protesters. People were protesting the series of sacrilege incidents in the region.

Sources said the probe panel wanted to ascertain who ordered the firing at the mob.

It is also trying to know if the police opened fire at a peaceful gathering of protesters or if the mob was unruly.

# Malerkotla set to get girls' college

## CM inaugurates 23rd district; stresses women empowerment

MALERKOTLA, JUNE 7

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh today virtually inaugurated Malerkotla as the 23rd district of the state. Stressing women empowerment, the CM said: “We have deputed women officers in the district to help area women in best possible way.”

He digitally laid the foundation stone of Nawab Sher Mohammed Khan Government Medical College at a cost of Rs 500 crore. The first installment of Rs 50 crore has been sanctioned. He also laid the foundation stone of Government College for Girls, to come up at a cost of Rs 12 crore and a new bus stand (Rs 10 crore), besides unveiling a women police station. The CM announced a grant of Rs 6 crore for development under the Urban Environment Improvement Programme.

Interestingly, the wife of Malerkotla's last ruler Nawab Iftikhar Ali Khan, Begum



Cabinet Minister Razia Sultana at the plaque of a new bus stand.

## LAST RULER'S WIFE NOT INVITED

■ The wife of Malerkotla's last ruler Nawab Iftikhar Ali Khan, Begum Sahiba Munawwar-ul-Nisa, was not invited to the event by the administration

■ “Only a few persons were invited. Owing to Begum's old age, we decided not to invite her, keeping the pandemic in mind,” said T Benith, SDM

Sahiba Munawwar-ul-Nisa, was not invited to the event by the administration.

“Begum Sahiba couldn't have attended the function uninvited. She has, however, thanked the CM for announcing develop-

ment projects for the district. If the administration invites her in the future, she will attend the event,” said Mohd Mehmood, private secretary to the Begum.

“Only a few persons were invited to the event. Owing to

# Cash, weapon looted at petrol pump

PATIALA, JUNE 7

Five to six unidentified persons looted cash and a weapon from a petrol pump at Baran village on the Sirhind road on Tuesday morning. The men stopped at the petrol pump and attacked an employee and the security guard after asking him to fill their car with fuel.

“Four of them entered the cabin, robbed the cash and also took my weapon with them,” said the security guard at the petrol pump. “They robbed over Rs 10,000 and also took along a locked drawer from the petrol pump cabin, after locking us inside the room,” he said.

The Anaj Mandi police station has registered a case

against the unknown persons. The police said the incident took place at 2.30 am and efforts were on to nab the accused. DSP (City-2) Saurabh Jindal said they were trying to get the footage from the nearby CCTV cameras, as the petrol pump cameras had failed to pick the registration number of the vehicle. — TNS

# 425-kg poppy husk seized

ABOHAR/SRIGANGANAGAR, JUNE 7

The Rajasthan Police seized 400 kg of poppy husk and 1,100 gm of opium by intercepting a truck and a car (bearing Punjab registration number) near Nimbahera.

A team led by Shambhupura, SHO, seized the poppy husk that was packed in 16 bags and hidden under salt bags in the truck, and the opium was seized from the car.

Harvinder Singh (34) of Fatehgarh Sahib and Avtar Singh (45), along with truck driver Amrik Singh (42) of Patiala, were arrested under the NDPS Act. The vehicles used to smuggle the consignment have also been impounded.

Meanwhile, 25 kg of poppy husk was seized from a car that was intercepted near Daliyanwali village on Sunday. Sub-Inspector Jaiveer Singh said Jagnandan Singh of Chak Kera village had been arrested under the NDPS Act. — OC

# Sangrur villagers block road over police ‘inaction’

ASSAULT ON YOUTH Dharna lifted after assurance by officials

SANGRUR, JUNE 7

Residents of Gagadpur today protested in front of the Sangrur Police Lines alleging police inaction in a case of assault on a youth, Varinder Singh. The dharna was lifted after police officers promised prompt action.

“Varinder was attacked on April 14 and an FIR was registered at the Longawal police station, but the police have failed to arrest the suspects. My friend has suffered a fracture in legs and has been admitted to a hospital. We brought him here in an ambulance today to register our protest,” said Kuljinder Singh, youth's friend.

As per the allegations, four persons attacked Varinder when he was returning home from a factory at Ubhawal. The police had later booked unidentified persons. The protesters today



Residents protest in front of the Sangrur Police Lines. TRIBUNE PHOTO

raised slogans against the police alleging inaction and blocked the Sangrur-Barnala road.

“My son was brutally assaulted and we have been taking him to various hospitals, while the suspects roam freely. We have received threats. If anything happens to our family, the police will be held responsible,” claimed Sukhwinder Kaur, Varinder's mother.

His sister Kamjit Kaur alleged: “We are from a poor fam-

ily and the suspects may attack other members too. My brother had been helping a friend in a police case against the suspects, which led to the attack.”

Sunam DSP Baljinder Singh said a probe was being conducted by the Sangrur SP. “The police had registered a case on April 14. During initial probe, the name of Bharpur Singh came to light. Further investigations are on. We will take further action thereafter,” said the DSP. — TNS

# Joblessness no plea to deny alimony: HC

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 7

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has made it clear that an estranged husband cannot in any manner escape the moral and legal responsibility of maintaining his legally wedded wife and minor daughter. The Bench also made it clear that an able-bodied person could not take the plea of unemployment to avoid paying maintenance.

The assertion by Justice HS Madaan came in a case where the petitioner-husband had claimed that he was unemployed and the monthly maintenance amount of Rs 9,000 awarded by the family court was on the higher side.

Justice Madaan asserted the husband was an able-bodied person. He had denied working as a lecturer in some college on a monthly salary of Rs 40,000. Rather, his claim was that he was unemployed. But the fact remained he was an able-bodied person.



Says no relief for able-bodied person

Considering the facts and circumstances and also his probable earning capacity, the maintenance amount of Rs 9,000 was granted. Such amount could certainly be not taken to be on the higher side keeping in view the trend of rising prices of even the basic necessities and in light of his probable income and the economic status of the parties.

“It is moral as well as legal responsibility of the revisionist/petitioner to maintain his legally wedded wife, unable to maintain herself as well as his minor daughter. The revisionist cannot escape that responsibility in any manner,” Justice Madaan said.

# ‘Dhadis’, SGPC at odds over wages

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, JUNE 7

A conflict has erupted between the ‘dhadis’ and the SGPC over the remuneration and performance hours at the Akal Takht.

Dhadis (balladeers) are traditional performers who stage traditional ‘diwan’ and sing ballads with a ‘sarangi’, a string instrument, and a ‘dhad’, a small drum.

The tradition was started by sixth Sikh master Guru Hargobind at Akal Takht. They earn their income from donations by pilgrims. Two factions — Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Shiromani Dhadi Sabha and Miri Piri Shiromani Dhadi Sabha — have been performing at the Takht, which had set separate timing.

Baldev Singh MA from Sri Guru Hargobind dhadi group said: “Amid the Covid-19 crisis, the SGPC has withdrawn the remuneration of Rs 7,500 to each jatha that was earlier being paid on every occasion of ‘sangrandh’ and ‘masya’.”

The performance timing was reduced by three hours. Besides, if any jatha member was absent owing to domestic



Dhadis stage a protest in Amritsar on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## MUST QUALIFY TEST

“Only those ‘dhadis’ who qualify our test and comply with Sikh rehat maryada will be allowed to perform.

— SGPC Dharam Parchar committee member

or medical reasons, the entire jatha was denied permission to perform,” he said. The Takht has constituted a three-member panel of SGPC's Dharam Parchar Committee to resolve the issue.

The ‘dhadis’ staged a protest outside the residence of SGPC panel member Sukhwash Singh Pannu peacefully by reciting ‘jaap’ from 11 am to 1 pm.

SGPC's Dharam Parchar committee members Ajaib Singh Abhiyaasi and Pannu

said: “Since both Dhadi factions engaged in altercations, they were dissolved. As per Takht directions, a test was conducted. Of 60 jathas, only 31 qualified. As per the norms, they could be allowed to perform. They would have to comply with the dress code and perform as per the time allotted to them.”

Meanwhile, Miri Piri Dhadi group head Kulvinder Singh agreed to the Takht decision, but demanded restoration of remuneration.

# Bank transfers ₹24L to fraudster's account

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROPAR, JUNE 7

A case of a fraudster getting Rs 24 lakh transferred into his account by posing as a businessman's relative has come to light here.

Vijay Gupta, director, MH Auto, a company dealing in two-wheelers, learnt about the fraud when a bank official rang him up to confirm whether he had asked for the transaction.

The bank official had received a call from the fraudster, but was misled by the truecaller ID, which showed him as “director of MH Auto”.

A sum of Rs 14.83 lakh was transferred to the fraudster's account through two bank transactions. The amount was withdrawn immediately from two branches in Delhi and Jalandhar. A third transaction of Rs 8.9 lakh was, however, withheld by the bank after the fact came to light.

Gupta said his company's account was with a State Bank of India branch here. On June



Suspect poses as bizman's nephew, withdraws ₹14.83L

3, a bank official contacted him to confirm whether he had asked his nephew to get the money transferred to another account.

However, Rs 23.7 lakh were withdrawn from his account through three transactions. When the bank learnt about the fraud, the officials withheld the third transaction. The bank assured the customer of refunding the entire money, said Gupta.

Ropar SSP Akhil Chaudhary said the bank officials had lodged a complaint in this regard. DSP Talwinder Singh had been assigned the probe.





Farmers protest outside the mini-secretariat in Karnal on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: SAYEED AHMED

## Revoke ‘unjustified’ tubewell norms, demand protesters

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**KARNAL, JUNE 7**  
Scores of farmers under the banner of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) staged a demonstration at the mini-secretariat here today in protest against the new norms introduced by the power corporation concerning the release of tubewell connections.

As per the new rules, no connection will be released for land which falls under the command area of a canal.

Besides, it has become mandatory for farmers to get a no-objection certificate (NOC), which would clarify that their land does not fall under the command area of a canal, from the Irrigation Department. If the NOC is not obtained, the fee for the new tubewell connection would be refunded to farmers.

The farmers demanded that the new rules must be withdrawn.

### FEE DEPOSITED SEVEN YEARS AGO

“Thousands of farmers had deposited the fee around seven years ago. Now, the power corporation says the fee would be refunded if we don’t get the NOC from the Irrigation Department. Is this justified?”

Sukhdoyal, KARNAL FARMER

Sukhdoyal, another farmer, said: “From tomorrow, farmers across the state will protest against the power corporation’s unjustified norms. Thousands of farmers had deposited the fee around seven years ago. Now, the power corporation says the fee would be refunded if we don’t get the NOC from the Irrigation Department. Is this justified?”

## Two farmers released, SKM calls off sit-in at police stations

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**HISAR, JUNE 7**  
The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) today called off a plan to hold protests at all police stations in the state after the release of two arrested farmers on bail late last night. They have lifted the dharna from the Tohana police station.

The two farmers were arrested for allegedly trying to gherao JJP MLA Devendra Singh Babli’s residence last week.

“Ravi Azad and Vikas Sisar were released from jail in the early hours after which today’s programme to gherao all police stations in the state has been put off,” Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Joginder Ghansi Ram Nain told the media here.

Farmer leaders said the Fatehabad administration had agreed to cancel FIRs against protesters.

SKM leaders, including Rakesh Tikait, Joginder Singh Ugrahan and Gurnam Singh Charuni, held a meeting with district officials today.

After the meeting, Tikait said the police had agreed to release another activist Makhan Singh. “The process for his release has been set in motion.”

Speaking to reporters after coming out from jail, Azad said the farmers’ agitation against the three controversial farm laws had now become a “people’s movement”.



BKU leader Rakesh Tikait addresses farmers in Tohana on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

### CASES TO BE WITHDRAWN

- Farmer leaders say the Fatehabad administration has agreed to cancel FIRs against protesters
- SKM leaders, including Rakesh Tikait and Gurnam Singh Charuni, held a meeting with district officials on Monday
- After the meeting, Tikait said the police had agreed to release another activist Makhan Singh

### FIGHT FOR HONOUR

“This is a fight for farmers’ honour and the Union Government will have to roll back the farm laws. Ravi Azad, ACTIVIST

“This is a fight for farmers’ honour and the government will have to roll back the farm laws,” said Azad.

A large number of farmers led by BKU leader Rakesh Tikait have been staying put in the Sadar police station compound in Fatehabad since Saturday.

On June 1, Babli had faced a protest by a group of farmers who showed him black flags and raised slogans. He had alleged that some of the

protesters resorted to unruly behaviour and smashed the windscreen of his SUV.

Farmers, however, had accused Babli of using abusive and threatening language.

Subsequently, two FIRs were registered. In one of the cases, the police had booked about 50 persons under Section 307 (attempt to murder) of the IPC.

Makhan Singh was arrested in connection with the

attempt-to-murder case.

On June 3, another FIR was registered against Sisar, Azad and others for allegedly trying to gherao Babli’s residence in Tohana.

The protesters had also sought the registration of a case against Babli for alleged hurling abuses at them.

The Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) MLA, however, had expressed regret over uttering “inappropriate” words against farmers.

## Gang of cyber criminals busted in Palwal

Five arrested | Committed fraud of ₹31 lakh in a span of 7 days

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**PALWAL, JUNE 7**  
With the arrest of five persons, including a woman, the district police have claimed to have busted a gang of cyber criminals for committing a fraud of Rs 31 lakh in a span of seven days. The police have registered a total of 43 FIRs in this period.

SP Deepak Gahlawat, said the gang committed the fraud online by cracking the Aadhar enabled payment system (AEPS) and withdrew the money secretly. Revealing that while the money was withdrawn fraudulently between May 24 and June 2, he said the gang could have duped many more, if it was not busted. Though no cash has been recovered, the



The accused in custody of the Palwal police on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

police have frozen the account having an amount of Rs 10 lakh.

“Some more accounts of the accused identified as Rohit Tyagi (33), Chitrnanjan (28), Amir Husain (27), Kiran (28) and Tula Ram (40) which are to be accessed, are expected to lead to the recovery of

more money,” says the SP. While Rohit hails from Ghaziabad, Chitrnanjan, Amir and Kiran hail from Delhi. The fifth accused Tula Ram, a resident, has reported to have helped in providing the records of the customers.

Revealing the modus operandi, he said the copies

of the land registration deeds were acquired from record room here by the accused who prepared a rubber clone of the finger print on the document with the help of a machine and shortlisted the Adhaar numbers linked to the bank accounts.

He said as the AEPS requires an electronic transaction processing platform, accounts were created online by submitting the documents. The fraudsters used the app of the electronic transaction processing platform and initiated transactions using a biometric device and cloned rubber finger print. As soon as the transaction got completed, money went into the wallet of the electronic platform from then it was transferred into their bank account.

## LTC restored, Covid ‘warriors’ to benefit

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, JUNE 7**  
“Covid warriors” belonging to three departments—police, health and medical education—will be among the beneficiaries as the Khattar Government has restored leave travel concession (LTC) for a section of its employees. “In order of incentive ‘Covid warriors’ in this difficult time, LTC to the employees of the three departments will be allowed. However, the LTC would be released from the 2021-22 Budget and no diversion will be allowed,” an order of the Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) said.

The LTC, which was suspended for a year in April 2020 due to financial crunch in the wake of the Covid pandemic, will now be restored on “first come, first serve” basis. The state government employees and pensioners are entitled to one-month salary/ pension by way of LTC.

Pensioners above the age of 70 years will also be entitled to LTC this year.

### THE BENEFICIARIES

- Police, health and medical education staff
- Pensioners above 70 years of age
- Government employees who retired in 2020
- Those retiring in 2021 will get the benefit in the month of their retirement
- Other employees to get LTC in 2022 and 2023

Besides, the employees, who retired in 2020 and applied for LTC but could not avail it, will be another beneficiary of the new order.

The employees, who are set to retire in 2021, will get LTC in the month of their retirement. Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had announced moratorium on new recruitments and LTC for a year in April last year in the backdrop of the Covid crisis. Besides, following in the footsteps of the Centre, the state government had already announced freeze on DA hike.

## Cases dip, but 16 dists in red zone

SUSHIL MANAV  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, JUNE 7**  
Sixteen of 22 districts of Haryana are still in the red zone with their cumulative positivity rate more than 6 per cent even as at 6,902, the weekly cases of Covid have dipped to an 11-week low.

At 491 deaths in the past seven days, the mortality rate is disproportionate to the new infections in the state. A positivity rate above 6 per cent is categorised as critical one while the desirable rate as per the ICMR norms is less than 2 per cent.

With 11.59 per cent, Gurugram has the highest positivity rate among all districts of the state, followed by Faridabad with 11.55 per cent, Panipat 10.11 per cent, Hisar 9.49 per cent, Panchkula 8.86 per cent, Fatehabad 8.51 per cent and Sonapat 8.50 per cent.

Karnal district has cumulative positivity rate of 8.36 per cent, Mahendragh has 8.33 per cent, Jind 8.23 per cent, Sirsa 7.60 per cent, Bhiwani 7.38 per cent, Yamu-

COVID METER		
Cases	640	
Recovered	1,674	
Active	8,024	
Deaths	39	
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Bhiwani	52	3
Yamunanagar	59	2
Sirsa	55	2
State total	7,62L	8,75L

nanagar 7.37 per cent, Rewari 7.33 per cent, Ambala 7.20 per cent and Kurukshetra 6.03 per cent.

Nuh is the only district to have a desirable positivity rate of 1.82 per cent and is placed in the green zone while five other districts are in the orange zone with positivity rate higher than 2 per cent and lower than 6 per cent.

With 5.81 per cent, Rohtak has the highest positivity rate among districts in the orange zone followed by Palwal 4.55 per cent, Kaithal 4.28 per cent, Jhajjar 3.98 per cent and Charkhi Dadri 3.69 per cent.

**PUNJAB MANDI BOARD**  
[www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in)  
Tender Notice No. 12 (2021) Date: 07.06.2021  
Secure Online Submission of Tenders  
E-mail- [pmb.xencpat@punjab.gov.in](mailto:pmb.xencpat@punjab.gov.in)  
0175-2364136

**SHORT TIME TENDER NOTICE**  
Executive Engineer (C) Punjab Mandi Board, Composite Office Building, N.G.M. Sirhind Road, Patiala invites bids from eligible bidders enlisted with Punjab Mandi Board for “Upgradation of Bridges under MC Dakala and MC Samana, Construction of Canteen Complex MC Samana Distt. Patiala and New Construction of Building at MC Chanarthal Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib”. Approximate value of various works is Rs. 428.47 lac.  
For details, terms and conditions of the notice inviting bids, refer to website [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in) Corrigendum, if any, will only be issued on website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (C),  
Punjab Mandi Board, Patiala.

DPR/Pb/5133

**KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA OCF**  
Sector 29-B, Chandigarh — 160030  
Phone No.: (0172)2650502, 2658645  
E-mail: [kvocf29chd@gmail.com](mailto:kvocf29chd@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://chandigarhocf.kvs.ac.in/>  
(School No. 24704)(CBSE AFFN No. 2600005)

**GORRIGENDUM WALK-IN INTERVIEW**  
This refers to our earlier notice regarding walk-in interview to prepare the panel for the contractual teachers for the session 2021-22 for KV OCF, Sector 29-B, Chandigarh. There are partial modifications of the above mentioned notice due to weekend lockdown in Chandigarh. The date of interview for the following posts has been changed.

Sr. No.	Post and Subject	Published Date	Modified Date
1	PRTs	12th June 2021, Saturday Timings: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	14th June 2021, Monday Timings: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
2	Music Teacher		
3	Yoga Teacher		
4	Sports Coach		
5	Art Teacher		
6	Counsellor		

Interested candidates for the above said posts will attend the walk-in interview on 14th June, 2021.  
Interview for rest of the posts remains unchanged. For further details please visit school website <https://chandigarhocf.kvs.ac.in/>. In future any further CORRIGENDUM/ addendum will only be uploaded in website <https://chandigarhocf.kvs.ac.in/>. Hence all applicants are required to check the website regularly.

Sd/- Randhir Singh,  
Principal.

DI-3988

## Former I-T officer gets 4-yr jail in bribery case

**PANCHKULA, JUNE 7**  
Stating that corruption in a civilised society is a disease like cancer, a special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court in Panchkula on Monday sentenced a former Income Tax (I-T) officer to four-year rigorous imprisonment for accepting a bribe of Rs 2 lakh.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 3 lakh on him.

The convict, identified as Nitin Garg of Bathinda, the then I-T Deputy Commissioner deployed in Sirsa, was held

guilty under Sections 7 and 13 (1) (d) read with 13 (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

He was sentenced to three years and four years each under Sections 7 and 13 (1) (d) read with 13 (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, respectively. These sentences will run concurrently and the period of detention already undergone by the convict, during the investigation/trial will be set off against the period of substantive sentence awarded to him. The court acquitted another accused, Prince, in the case. — TNS

## Now, dera chief tests negative, still in hospital

GURUGRAM, JUNE 7

A day after testing positive for Covid in antigen testing, Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh has tested negative in his RT-PCR report.

According to highly placed sources in the CMO’s office, he has tested negative in the report generated today.

Singh’s close aide Hon-eypreet reportedly visited him at Medanta hospital today and registered herself as his attendant. She has been handed an attendant card that is valid till June 15, revealed sources. But the hospital authorities continue to be mum.

Meanwhile, heavy police deployment has been made at the hospital. — TNS

**NOTICE**  
This is to inform that Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) is having a Retail Outlet in Morinda, District Rupnagar with licensees 1) Sh. Rattan Chand S/o Sh. Babu Ram, 2) Sh. Arun Gupta S/o Sh. Vishwa Nath, 3) Sh. Anil Gupta S/o Sh. Vishwa Nath and 4) Sh. Naresh Kumar S/o Late Sh. Bai Nath carrying on business in partnership under the firm name and style of M/s Babu Ram & Sons.  
New Sh. Arun Gupta S/o Sh. Vishwa Nath and Sh. Anil Gupta S/o Sh. Vishwa Nath both residing at Ward No. 5, Sugar Mill Road, Morinda, Tehsil Morinda, Distt. Rupnagar have applied to Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) for reconstitution of the said retail outlet dealership in the name and style of M/s Babu Ram & Sons, Morinda, District Rupnagar as partnership firm with following as signatories: 1) Sh. Rajesh Gupta S/o Late Sh. Rattan Chand S/o Sh. Babu Ram, 2) Sh. Arun Gupta S/o Late Sh. Vishwa Nath, 3) Sh. Anil Gupta S/o Late Sh. Vishwa Nath and 4) Sh. Ashish Singla S/o Late Sh. Naresh Kumar S/o Late Sh. Bai Nath. We have been informed that other licensee Sh. Rattan Chand S/o Sh. Babu Ram and Sh. Naresh Kumar S/o Late Sh. Bai Nath have expired on 16th May 2012 and 07th January 1996 respectively and that the applicants (1) Sh. Arun Gupta S/o Sh. Vishwa Nath and Sh. Anil Gupta S/o Sh. Vishwa Nath) have been since then operating the dealership alone.  
In view of the demise of 1) Sh. Rattan Chand S/o Sh. Babu Ram, 2) Sh. Naresh Kumar S/o Late Sh. Bai Nath, BPCL has proposed to reconstitute the said dealership in name of 1) Sh. Rajesh Gupta S/o Late Sh. Rattan Chand S/o Sh. Babu Ram, 2) Sh. Arun Gupta S/o Late Sh. Vishwa Nath and 3) Sh. Anil Gupta S/o Late Sh. Vishwa Nath and 4) Sh. Ashish Singla S/o Late Sh. Naresh Kumar S/o Late Sh. Bai Nath as partnership firm in the name and style of M/s Babu Ram & Sons.  
In case any legal heir(s) of expired partners Sh. Rattan Chand S/o Sh. Babu Ram and Sh. Naresh Kumar S/o Late Sh. Bai Nath wish to file any objection and for claim any interest in any manner with regard to the reconstitution of the aforesaid dealership as above manner, the same may be intimated in writing to BPCL at the address given below within 30 days from date of publication of this notice. Please note that any claim/demand in this regard received by BPCL after the said period of 30 days will not be entertained/considered by BPCL under any circumstances.  
For Contact: Territory Manager (Retail) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. Opp. IOC LPG Plant, Suchindpur, Jalandhar (Punjab)-144009 Date : 07-06-2021

**HIMACHAL PRADESH TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD**  
**HOTEL HOLIDAY HOME, SHIMLA-171001**  
Tel No.:(0177) 2812890-94 E-mail:[hhdh@hptdc.in](mailto:hhdh@hptdc.in),  
website : [www.hptdc.in](http://www.hptdc.in)

No:HHH/ESSTT/TDCI-310 Dated:-07.06.2021

**CORRIGENDUM**  
Due to Covid-19 pandemic and further execution of Curfew w.e.f. 05.06.2021 onwards, the last date for opening Tender document published vide Tender Notice of even number dated 20.04.2021 & 05.06.2021 regarding leasing out of HPTDC Cafeteria, Bhararighat, Distt. Solan, is hereby postponed and re-fixed for 26.06.2021 instead of 05.06.2021. The timings as well as other terms & conditions will remain the same.  
Dy. General Manager,  
HPTDC, Hotel Holiday Home, Shimla.

**INDIAN RAILWAYS**  
**DIESEL LOCO MODERNISATION WORKS**  
PATIALA - 147003  
Tel : 2396000, 2396001, Fax No. : 91-0175-2306413

**Notice inviting Electronic Tenders**  
On behalf of President of India Principal Chief Materials Manager/DMM/Patiala invites tenders in electronic form for following items:  
e-Tender Notice No. 08 ET/2021-22

SN	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender closing date
1	03211560	S.S. Tube	15764 Meters	28.06.2021*
2	22211395C	Set of stainless steel Hardware	156 Sets	22.06.2021*
3	22211431	HASP and staple 90 MM	1156 Nos.	23.06.2021
4	20209469	Auxiliary Material-38	15 Kgs.	21.06.2021
5	01212299	Wearing Plate for Back Rest	312 Nos.	21.06.2021
6	21211123A	Temperature sensor	366 Nos.	22.06.2021*
7	02212975	Fiber Glass Flat Hose	70870 Mtrs	01.07.2021*
8	02211372A	Set of Rocker Assy	72 Sets	28.06.2021
9	22212366	Portable Fire Extinguisher 6KG capacity	552 Nos.	22.06.2021

Tender closing Time 15:00 Hrs.  
Item marked with \* is reserved for procurement from CLW approved Firms.  
The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website <http://www.irps.gov.in> or <http://www.dmm.indianrailways.gov.in> for detailed description of items & other terms and conditions of tender document. Please note that tenderers can submit their quotations only through <http://www.irps.gov.in>. 1238/2021  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB TENDER NOTICE**

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN LACS	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS E-MAIL
1.	Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation, Division No. 1, Moga	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme of Village Bija Pur and Gatti Kamal Ke, Block Dharamkot, Distt. Moga (Under PRWSSIP-1A(iii)/JMM	09.06.2021/ 09.07.2021	1.31 LACS	9779474950 <a href="mailto:xenrws_moga@yahoo.com">xenrws_moga@yahoo.com</a>
2.	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division (PWD) B&R Br., Gurdaspur	1. Construction of Video/Documentary Room at Ghalughara Memorial 2. Providing and Fixing	08.06.2021/ 17.06.2021	0.23 LACS	9646036125 <a href="mailto:eeepdgspwdpb@gmail.com">eeepdgspwdpb@gmail.com</a>
3.	Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Fazilka	PROVIDING IMPROVED ACCESS TO WATER THROUGH HOUSEHOLD CONNECTIONS IN EXISTING WATER SUPPLY SCHEME, PANCHAN WALI BLOCK & DISTT. FAZILKA (UNDER 2(a)(i)/JMM)	09.06.2021/ 21.06.2021	29.50 THOUSAND	8669349036 <a href="mailto:eeewss.divfazilkapb@yahoo.com">eeewss.divfazilkapb@yahoo.com</a>
4.	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division (PWD) B&R, Jalandhar Cantt.	4-LANING OF APPROACH ROAD TO ADAMPUR AIRPORT INCLUDING 5 YR. MAINTENANCE (Phase - 1) (R.D. 0.00 to 4.30 Km)	08.06.2021/ 03.07.2021	44.00 LACS	9872975288 <a href="mailto:eeepdjalpwpdpb@gmail.com">eeepdjalpwpdpb@gmail.com</a>
5.	Executive Engineer, Construction Div., PWD B&R Branch, Moga	Upgradation Lopon-Rauke Kalan Manuake up to Baghapurana-Nihal Singh Wala Road under PMGSY-III (Batch-II) PB-12060	07.06.2021/ 28.06.2021	23.02 LACS	8288829999 <a href="mailto:eeecdmogapwdpb@gmail.com">eeecdmogapwdpb@gmail.com</a>
6.	Executive Engineer, Provincial Div., B&R Branch, Bathinda	Construction of Sub-Divisional Complex at Rampura Phul, Distt. Bathinda (Punjab)	08.06.2021/ 25.06.2021	13.17 LACS	9876400313 <a href="mailto:xenbtprovi@gmail.com">xenbtprovi@gmail.com</a>
7.	Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Talwara (Hoshiarpur)	1. Prov. W/S Sch. VIII, Sherkwol P-I & Vill. Handhwal P-I, P-II Block: Hajipur, Distt. HSP. (NABARD-XXVII/ State Share) Bid Cost 8.42 + 9.22 + 58.92 Lac. 2. Bif. W/S Sch. to Vill. Jharera in Block Talwara of Distt. HSP. (13th F.C.) (Pkg-II) Bid Cost 64.04 Lac	08.06.2021/ 22.06.2021	2.81 LACS	9501099773 <a href="mailto:eeewss.divtalwarapb@yahoo.com">eeewss.divtalwarapb@yahoo.com</a>
8.	Executive Engineer, Water Supply and Sanitation Division No. 2, Jalandhar	PROVIDING WATER SUPPLY SCHEME, SEHJANGI, BLOCK JALANDHAR WEST, DISTT. JALANDHAR. (UNDER FRWSSIP 1a(iii)/JMM Project)	08.06.2021/ 29.06.2021	0.72 LACS	9872672747 <a href="mailto:eeewss.div2jalandharpb@yahoo.com">eeewss.div2jalandharpb@yahoo.com</a>
9.	Executive Engineer, Drainage Division, Gurdaspur	Work for Cleaning of Drain	15.06.2021/ 15.06.2021	0.00 LACS	978055430 <a href="mailto:drdgdivngsp@yahoo.in">drdgdivngsp@yahoo.in</a>
10.	Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation Division Mechanical, Patiala	Providing Improved Access to Water through Household connections in exiting Water Supply Scheme Majal Kalan & Khansian of Block Bhunerheri, Distt. Patiala under Sub-Component 2a(i)/JMM	09.06.2021/ 17.06.2021	19.70 THOUSAND	9876534192 <a href="mailto:ee_mech@yahoo.com">ee_mech@yahoo.com</a>

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND CORRIGENDUM & ADDENDUM, IF ANY, KINDLY VISIT:**  
[www.eproc.punjab.go.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.go.in), [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in), [www.pmsgsyntenders.gov.in](http://www.pmsgsyntenders.gov.in)

DPR/Pb/5152



# The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

## Probing Covid origin

World shouldn't let China's wild theories pose a hindrance

COVID-19 has claimed over 37 lakh lives worldwide in the past year and a half, leaving global economy in a shambles, yet the origin of the lethal virus continues to be shrouded in mystery. China's lack of transparency has been a major stumbling block. An investigation by an expert team of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in January-February this year virtually ruled out the hypothesis that the virus accidentally leaked from a maximum-security biological lab at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The probe was deemed inconclusive and unsatisfactory amid allegations that China did not give unrestricted access to the team, which was allowed to visit Wuhan a whole year after the outbreak of the pandemic. Of late, the lab leak theory has gained ground with the emergence of new evidence, prompting the US, the UK, India and other badly hit countries to raise the pitch for an in-depth probe into the matter.

With US President Joe Biden giving the American intelligence authorities 90 days to get 'information that could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion' on the virus' origin, China has harked back to the 2003 war on Iraq to counter the US. China fears that American agencies, which allegedly fabricated evidence about Iraq possessing weapons of mass destruction to justify the launch of the war, could do something similar in the case of the Covid investigation. This is a preposterous apprehension as there is no doubt that the virus originated from Wuhan — whether from a seafood market or a lab is yet to be ascertained. The two situations are simply not comparable. It's apparent that Beijing is resorting to diversionary tactics to stall attempts to find out the truth.

The entire world wants answers, not just America. What's needed is an unbiased scientific study by an international panel, not a political blame game aimed at scoring brownie points. The WHO must show a sense of urgency to wade through the sinister web of lies and half-truths. The sooner China's accountability is fixed, the better prepared we would be to face or even prevent any future pandemic.

## Punjab schools score well

But still a long way to go for reaching optimal level

THE efforts made by the Punjab Education Department to improve the standard of government schools in the past few years are producing results as the state has topped the Performance Grading Index (PGI) for 2019-20, released by the Centre. The huge leap this time from the 13th rank in the last report is a marker of the progress the state has made in one year in aspects such as learning outcomes and quality, access, infrastructure and facilities, equity and governance that are tracked by the index. With the majority of the states and UTs showing considerable gains in the quality of schools and education imparted, this competitive exercise — introduced three years ago — is on the desired path of goading the governments to take effective steps towards achieving the goals envisaged under the Right to Education.

The Punjab Government has been assessing the performance of schools at the state level for infrastructure, co-curricular activities, contribution of school managements and attendance, incentivising those found the best with monetary rewards. The annual evaluation has paid off with incremental gains in results, enrolments, infrastructural development and availability of teachers. However, while the progress made is commendable, there is still a long way to go for the transformational changes required to attain the optimal and desired outcomes.

Sustained multi-pronged interventions are needed to prioritise and fill the gaps identified by such gradings. The education system is beset by woes at every level. If it's the question of access and availability of sufficient staff in remote and border areas, political pull leading to overstaffing in big cities tilts the balance and raises a big question mark on the much-touted transparent transfer policy. The inability of most students to reach the standard of academic efficiency expected of them is symptomatic of a system that breeds disgruntlement among contractual teachers — who comprise a large chunk — as they are underpaid and exploited. The lockdown period has accelerated the need for ramping up infrastructure to create digital classrooms. The next grading exercise, covering this period of online tutoring, would assess the progress made in this regard.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Wide acceptance of an idea is not proof of its validity. — Dan Brown

### ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

## The Tribune.

LAHORE, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1921

### Scarcity of Water at Lahore.

IN a lengthy note which he has just issued to the public and which we publish on another page in this issue, the Municipal Engineer, Lahore, takes exception to certain remarks made in a recent issue of *The Tribune*, regarding the scarcity of water at Lahore and is pleased to observe that "criticism instead of being a help tends to excite public feelings unnecessarily and thus makes the task of the Committee more difficult." The ability to offer criticism which invariably suits the palate of those criticised is a divine gift which the average man does not possess, and it is no surprise to us to learn that in this case our criticism had not proved quite palatable to the municipal staff. But when the writer goes on to say that in our comments on the subject "the want of exact knowledge has been made up by several unauthorised assertions," it is permissible to one to enquire what precise assertions of ours he has in view. Re-reading our piece fairly closely, we find that we made three assertions; first, that "the scarcity of water at Lahore has assumed proportions never reached before, at any rate in recent years;" secondly, "municipal water was being utilised for objects less important than providing the people with a sufficiency of drinking water"; and thirdly, "the wells badly needed cleaning, specially with a view to the removal of mud and other similar substances." If these statements are "unauthorised," one would have expected the Municipal Engineer to have corrected them in his fairly elaborate note. As regards the first this is what the writer says:— The records of the past years can easily prove that the hours of supply then observed were practically the same as at present, although the consumption had doubled since last year and pumping cannot be done freely as the wells are being cleaned and the condition of the machinery has considerably deteriorated.

# Lakshadweep conundrum

Concept of UTs has become untenable, except in a few exceptional cases



MADHAV GODBOLE

FORMER UNION HOME SECRETARY AND SECRETARY, JUSTICE

THE changes initiated in the small, remote union territory (UT) of Lakshadweep by its new administrator, a former home minister of Gujarat, have disturbed the tranquillity of the place and caused a sharp public reaction not only in the archipelago but also in nearby Kerala and the country at large. New Delhi exercising remote control over this UT is what bothers me. The concept of UTs has become untenable, except in a few solitary, exceptional cases. I have looked at this question in depth in my forthcoming book, *India—A Federal Union of States: Fault Lines, Challenges and Opportunities* and have made suggestions regarding the future of UTs.

I am reminded of a story of Zarina, the queen of the Russian emperor, the Czar, over 200 years ago. One day, Zarina was walking in the palace garden when she saw a beautiful rose. She was so taken in that she was worried that someone would pluck it. She pleaded with the emperor to protect it. He said a sentry would be posted there immediately to protect the flower. A sentry stood at the flowerbed for years together, no questions asked. The story of UTs is just like that.

At the time of Independence, scattered over India, were six small areas administered directly by the Centre — Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara, Coorg, British Baluchistan, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Panth-Piploda. Because of their small size, they could not — except in the case of Coorg which had a Legislative Council of some kind —



RELOOK: It's essential to review the status of UTs in light of the Lakshadweep row. PTI

Changes initiated in Lakshadweep by its new administrator have caused a sharp public reaction not only in the archipelago but also in nearby Kerala and the country at large.

share in the system of representative government provided for in the Governors' provinces and for reasons historical and political they could not be merged in the neighbouring areas. BN Rau, constitutional adviser, did not suggest any change in their status as Centrally administered areas. The Provincial Constitution Committee met on June 9, 1947. By that time, it was clear that British Baluchistan would be a part of Pakistan. The committee decided to refer the question of the other Chief Commissioners' Provinces to the Union Constitution Committee. The latter recommended that as an interim measure, these areas should continue to be administered by the Centre and any change in this system could be considered subsequently.

In the joint meeting of the union and provincial committees held on July 18, 1947, the question of responsible governments for only Delhi and Coorg was considered. It was later decided that

Coorg, Ajmer-Merwara and Delhi should be designated as Lieutenant Governors' Provinces. N Gopalaswami Ayyangar called them the 'minor provinces'.

Currently there are eight UTs. The basic question whether UTs need to be continued has never been examined so far. This was also true in respect of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission, though it made recommendations pertaining to the administration of UTs.

The downgrading of J&K state into two UTs was a gross misuse of powers under Article 3 of the Constitution which gives powers to Parliament to form new states and alter areas, boundaries or names of existing states. Abrogation of Article 370 could have been done without downgrading the state, since it was already under President's rule. For long, Ladakh was demanding that it be made a UT. In view of continuing Chinese threat on the border, Ladakh should be continued as a

UT. The statehood of J&K must be restored as soon as the delimitation of its constituencies is completed. This is reported to be getting delayed due to non-cooperation of main parties in the state. After the upgradation of J&K as a state, legislative Assembly elections should be held at the earliest.

India's capital being located in the national capital region (NCR), the NCR will have to be continued as a UT. It is time the political parties reconcile themselves to this position. Whichever party comes to power at the Centre, it is unlikely to grant statehood to NCR.

Chandigarh has unnecessarily continued as a UT for a long time. Denial of Chandigarh to Punjab was as bad as the denial of Bombay to Maharashtra. I have discussed in detail the background of the decision leading to making Chandigarh a UT and have argued that there was no justification to deny it to Punjab. In fact, the Punjab problem could have been nipped in the bud if Chandigarh was given to Punjab. Haryana should now be enabled to build a new capital for itself and Central assistance should be given for the purpose. As for the contentious issues regarding the border areas between the Punjab and Haryana, a linguistic commission should be appointed with the well-accepted criteria, namely, language, contiguity, cultural relations, etc., with a village as a unit.

Andaman and Nicobar, being strategic border islands, should be retained as a UT. As for the other UTs, it is best that they are merged with the adjacent states. Special mention may be made of Puducherry. Its separate cultural identity can be continued to be preserved by making it a district in Tamil Nadu.

It is high time the question of the future of UTs is decided rationally on the basis of transparent criteria, rather than political compulsions or simply continuing with them as a vestige of the past.

# A green shoot of positivity

RISHABH KOCHHAR

AS an avid reader, nothing gives me more joy than receiving a book as a present, to the extent that I don't even mind receiving books that I have already read. Hence, it was natural for me to feel that there did not exist a gift more perfect than a book. But on World Environment Day, I realised how wrong I was when I received a highly thoughtful and considerate gift from my alma mater for judging a competition — a do-it-yourself plant kit.

Even though I have always been partial to gifting books to my near and dear ones, the only other gifts I like giving people are pots of bamboo shoots. And even then, it was always

for a reason — a colleague bagging a promotion, a friend preparing for an exam, or a relative recuperating from a bout of ill health — for bamboo trees are said to bring good luck and wealth when gifted.

In return, my friends and relatives have gifted me many a bamboo plant, too. But a do-it-yourself plant kit was a pleasant surprise. The heavy box containing a pot of soil, three recycled flower pots and three sets of basil, chili, tulsi seeds and ice-cream sticks to place in the plants to identify them after potting them. The best part was that it was eco-friendly, with everything natural, reused or recycled.

Gradually, I realised how fulfilling it is to watch your plants grow. Every morning, over a cup of black

coffee, realisation sets in as to how patient the entire process has made me. I recollected my childhood when for a school assignment, we all had to grow some gram seeds on a bed of cotton to understand the process of germination. I was thrilled when the gram seed finally sprouted. Decades later, watching my new plants was equally enthralling for me, even if I now have a few strands of white hair.

Plants have long been proven to spread positivity, apart from being a good source of oxygen. Having stayed in Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru for the better part of the last decade, greenery was generally to be found in parks or on the outskirts of cities, for which one had to travel far.

When I returned to Chandigarh last year, I discovered a new love for the natural foliage that lends the city its moniker — City Beautiful. With the monotony that has set in our lives because of the constant threat of the coronavirus looming large, I have long thought of trying out gardening to learn a new hobby. Fortunately, my kit arrived just when I was about to procrastinate.

They say that a thing of beauty is a joy forever. But a plant or a tree, if looked after well enough, gives us life and happiness beyond that — it spreads positivity, gives us fruits and vegetables, shade in the summer, and a home for birds. I guess we have finally found the perfect gift for all occasions — something that we can never have enough of!

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Pressure on pvt schools

Apropos of 'Pvt schools' right to privacy', the necessity of autonomy to the private players in the education sector is imperative. Expecting charity is delusive. The current system discourages potential talent with higher skills and passion for the noble profession of imparting education. In the era of competition, parents are willingly admitting their wards in these schools for better learning, according to their financial capacity. It is strange that despite various practical hurdles these schools are the first choice. The Right to Education makes it the responsibility of the state to provide free and compulsory education. Instead of appreciation of the work being done by private schools, the government is putting all kinds of pressure. Autonomy will facilitate the schools to discharge their social responsibility with greater commitment.

VIMAL KANT MAHAJAN, BY MAIL

#### Not a business

Reference to 'Pvt schools' right to privacy', the court has decided that education is essentially a charitable activity. It has been so in the past. There was a surge of private institutions, with the advent of the freedom movement. All those institutions were philanthropic in nature and substance.

Later, education became a lucrative business. No doubt, the contribution of the private sector in spreading quality education is immense and unparalleled. The government should strengthen its political will to spread quality education. Efforts, though not sufficient, are being made. Philanthropic associations should also increase the momentum in the direction. Education should not be allowed to run as a business. Let the private institutions accept the decision of the court and not run as a business.

S KUMAR, PANCHKULA

#### What a performance!

Refer to 'Punjab among top five performers in education'; the state education department, under the command of Krishan Kumar, a dedicated, sincere and hardworking officer, has achieved the top position in India. The department, which was earlier the worst affected, has been able to chart a new course. If such a positive change is possible in the education department, it may also be possible in other departments. What we need is a sincere, honest and able officer. The health, revenue and PWD, etc., should be on the priority list for improvement. The government is also bound to take note of the taxpayer's money being spent without

the desired results. Quality is sub-standard everywhere.

SUKHDEV SINGH, PATIALA

#### Punjab on top

It is a matter of immense pride that Punjab has topped the Performance Grading Index in school education with 929 points on the basis of 70 parameters. It has even left behind the so-called Delhi School Education Model, which has been placed sixth with 898 points. Punjab's performance is stated to have been achieved by way of transformational changes in the field of school education, like smart school policy, introduction of pre-primary classes, online education and distribution of free smartphones amid the pandemic.

SHADI LAL, BY MAIL

#### Economic push

Refer to deficit financing, the economy contracted by 7.5% in 2020-21. With millions left unemployed and pushed into poverty due to Covid-19, the government can opt for deficit financing. Government borrowing is not viable as currently the debt is 80% of the GDP, leaving the option of printing new notes. Deficit financing naturally leads to inflation, but this might be absorbed by the demand side problems the economy

is currently facing, along with decreased savings due to lockdown and sudden medical expenditure. Retail inflation is already high. Government investment should be increased, the healthcare sector and food supply should be subsidised further. The surplus should be directly given to the poor and to those who have lost their jobs or breadwinner of the family. Identifying them is another challenge as the government has not compiled concrete data for the same.

PRIYA DHIMAN, BY MAIL

#### Congress infighting

Apropos of 'Conflict in Punjab Congress', dissidence has been simmering in the state party unit in recent years, but now with the elections less than a year away, it has gained ground. Navjot Sidhu is a dyed-in-the-wool sycophant of the Gandhi family. He has been a thorn in the flesh of the CM and an incessant troublemaker from the outset. If the party leadership fails to nip the infighting in the bud, it shall pay a heavy price in the forthcoming elections. It ought to throw its weight behind the CM who is a seasoned politician and cannot be downplayed at the cost of megalomaniac individuals.

DEEPAK SINGHAL, NOIDA







# Paonta pharma firm fails to produce record, loses licence

Punjab Police had seized 30.2 lakh opioid tablets from the premises

AMBIKA SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**SOLAN, JUNE 7**  
The Assistant Drug Licensing Authority (ADLA), Nahan, has cancelled the licence of Paonta Sahib-based Unique Formulations from where the Punjab Police had seized 30.2 lakh pharma opioids tablets.

Sunny Kaushal, ADLA, Nahan, said that the management of Unique Formulations, Paonta Sahib, failed to produce any record pertaining to the seized drugs and its licence had been cancelled as it did not reply to the show-cause notice.

The Paonta Sahib police had also seized 745 kg of tramadol worth Rs 1.5 crore from the unit

STATE COPS IMPOUNDED 745 KG TRAMADOL

- The state police had seized 745 kg of tramadol worth ₹1.5 crore from Unique Formulations, Paonta Sahib, on May 30
- The Punjab Police had seized 30.2 lakh opioids tablets from the company premises
- Kala Amb-based Orison International has replied to the show-cause notice issued for its failure to abide by the new amendment to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act that requires a manufacturer to enter into an agreement with a marketer
- The new rule became applicable on March 1

on May 30 after registering a case under the NDPS Act and the IPC for cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy.

Kaushal said that they had received the reply of Kala Amb-based Orison International Pharmaceutical to the show-cause notice and examining it. The company had manu-

factured tramadol under licence and after obtaining product permission but it failed to abide by the new amendment to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act that requires a manufacturer to enter into an agreement with a marketer. This new norm became applicable on March 1.

A team of the Narcotic

Control Bureau (NCB), Delhi, had seized 10 lakh tablets of tramadol manufactured by Orison Pharma from Swiftline Transport, Noida, on June 3, said Additional SP Babita Rana, who is investigating the case.

She said that the record of the seizure made by the NCB had been secured from Orison Pharma. It was being verified that how many tramadol tablets the company had manufactured in the past and sold where.

It has also been learnt that another consignment of about 5 lakh tablets manufactured by Orison Pharma was seized yesterday from another transport company. Doctors prescribe tramadol for pain relief.

# Thakur meets FM, seeks help for ₹1,892-crore ADB project

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JUNE 7

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur today called on Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi and requested her to provide financial assistance to the state as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.

“Himachal Pradesh lacks resources for investment in infrastructure projects like expansion of Kangra airport and construction of Mandi airports. Hence, the financial assistance is of great significance for the development of the state,” he said.

He apprised the minister that a tourism project of Rs 1,892 crore proposed to Asian Development Bank (ADB) for funding was also awaiting approval. He requested her for the speedy



Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

approval to the project.

Thakur also urged for GST compensation due for the financial years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-2020 to be provided to the state. He sought her intervention in expediting negotiations with the World Bank for funding of Himachal hydro power and renewable power sector development programme.

He also raised the issue of allowing ropeway connecti-

ty as an alternate mode of connectivity under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. While discussing about the Bhanupali-Bilaspur rail line, Thakur requested her to consider all rail projects of national importance and funded entirely by the Central Government keeping in view the weak resource base of Himachal Pradesh. Sitharaman assured him of all possible help to the state.

# Notify 25 national highways, CM urges Gadkari

SHIMLA, JUNE 7

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur called on Nitin Gadkari Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways at New Delhi today and thanked him for sanctioning various projects under Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) worth Rs 193 crore to the state. He said that roads are the lifeline of the hill state and these would go a long way in strengthening the connectivity in the state.

He requested for speedy notification of 25 national highways approved in principle.

A discussion regarding four-laning of Shimla-Matour and Mandi-Pathankot National Highways was also held. He thanked the Union Minister for the overall improvement in the roads under National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and requested for proper maintenance of existing alignments of the national highways. — TNS

# 656 new cases, 18 fatalities

SHIMLA, JUNE 7

As many as 656 Covid cases were reported in the state today, taking the tally to 195,755. Besides, 18 persons died of the virus in the past 24 hours. Five deaths were reported in Shimla, four each in Kangra and Solan, two in Mandi and one each in Solan, Una and Hamirpur. The highest number of 129 cases was reported in Mandi. — TNS

COVID METER	
Samples tested	20,35,502
Recovered	181,972
Active	7,555
Positive	195,755
Deaths	3,299
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT	
DISTRICT	+VE DEATHS
Bilaspur	12,290 76
Chamba	10,381 127
Hamirpur	13,904 237
Kangra	44,614 983
Kinnaur	3,089 36
Kullu	8,537 150
Lahaul & Spiti	2,631 17
Mandi	26,157 364
Shimla	24,433 580
Sirmaur	14,955 200
Solan	21,878 298
Una	12,886 231
Total	195,755 3,299

# Covid positivity rate drops to 5.3 per cent in one week

29% recorded in May | Highest 8.3% in Kangra

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JUNE 7

The Covid positivity rate has dropped to 5.3 per cent from 29 per cent in the state in the past one week with eight districts reporting a percentage of below 5.

According to the data compiled by the Health department, 170 persons died of the virus, including highest 54 in Kangra, in Himachal between May 31 and June 7. The second highest number of 22 deaths took place in Mandi district, followed by 21 in Shimla during the week.

The state government has extended the curfew till June 14 in view of a high 29 per cent positivity rate reported last month. A total of 5,634 Covid cases were recorded in the state in the past one week.

The highest positivity rate of 8.3 per cent was reported in Kangra, followed by 7.7 per cent in Shimla, 6.2 per cent in Chamba, five per cent in Sirmaur district, 4.3 per cent each in Una, Hamirpur and Bilaspur dis-

DISTRICT	TOTAL TESTS	POSITIVE CASES	POSITIVITY RATE	DEATHS
BILASPUR	7,570	322	4.3	8
CHAMBA	8,874	551	6.2	7
HAMIRPUR	10,638	454	4.3	11
KANGRA	15,633	1,295	8.3	54
KINNAUR	2,887	142	4.9	1
KULLU	5,494	240	4.4	8
LAHAULSPITI	3,038	63	2.1	1
MANDI	17,974	749	4.2	22
SHIMLA	7,947	611	7.7	21
SIRMAUR	6,836	343	5	11
SOLAN	7,296	343	4.7	17
UNA	12,016	521	4.3	9
TOTAL	106,203	5,634	5.3	170

tricts, 4.2 per cent in Mandi and 2.2 per cent in Lahaul and Spiti. The situation in Lahaul and Spiti seems to be satisfactory.

Besides extending the curfew, the government has also decided to keep public transport, both inter-state and intra-state, suspended till the positivity rate declines further. On May 17, the positivity rate in the state rose to 28.9 per cent and the fatality rate to 1.52 per cent. Between

May 10 and May 16, an all-time high 439 deaths in a week were recorded in the state. Of the total 99,807 tests done, 28,817 people tested positive for Covid within a week, indicating very high transmission, especially in rural areas.

In May, Kangra, Solan, Sirmaur, Shimla, Mandi and Hamirpur districts had registered a high transmission rate of over 30 per cent, making the government worried.

# Ayush Dept to open four post-Covid care centres

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JUNE 7

The Ayush Department will open four post Covid rehabilitation centres in the second phase of the Ayush Ghar Dwar programme, a wellness programme aimed at the overall wellbeing of covid patients.

Enthusied by the response the first phase of the programme received from people, Health Minister Rajiv Saizal launched the second phase of the programme here today. In the second phase, the wellness programme will go beyond Covid patients to target sections individuals who have recovered from the disease, vulnerable sections like elderly and immune-compromised people and healthy segment too.

Expressing satisfaction over the success of the first phase, Saizal said over 10,000 Whatsapp groups were made and over 30,000 people were reached. Also, he said, as many as 37,000 virtual sessions were held to take care of their mental, physical, social and spiritual wellbeing.

In the second phase, the programme will look to address post-Covid stress disorder through Ayush rehabilitation centres that will be opened in Shimla, Mandi, Solan and Kangra. “The centres will provide a wide range of services such as lessons on diet, daily routine, meditation, yoga, pranayam, etc,” said Rakhee Singh, joint director, Ayush Department.

Also, the department intends to procure and distribute Ayush-64 medicine among a large number of people. “It has been recommended by Ayush for patients with mild to moderate symptoms. Over two lakh packs of medicine will be procured by the department for distribution,” said the joint director.

Congratulating Ayush and its collaborators, Art of Living and Yog Bharti Foundation for the successful first phase, the Health Minister said the programme was one of its kind in the country and directed the officials to make the second phase equally successful so that others states could also follow and benefit their residents.

# AICC secy to arrive today, hold talks with senior leaders

SHIMLA, JUNE 7

Himachal co-incharge and AICC secretary Sanjay Dutt will be holding consultations with senior leaders and party functionaries during his three-day visit to the state beginning tomorrow.

The visit of Dutt, who has been appointed co-incharge of Himachal, comes at a time when there is hectic lobbying among the Congress leaders over supremacy. Dutt, who hails from Maharashtra, will be meeting HPCC president Kuldeep Rathore and Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Mukesh Agnihotri, besides party legislators and party office-bearers in his madien visit.

Keeping in mind the curfew restrictions, the party will not hold any big workers’ meeting but Dutt will take feedback from all the senior state leaders. It is learnt that Dutt, after holding consultation with all party leaders and functionaries, will give his feedback to the high command. There has been a lot of news in social media on regrouping within the Congress with a little over one year left for the Assembly polls in the state. — TNS

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement System

Deputy Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, Jagadhri Workshop-135002, for and on behalf of the president of India invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S.No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1	61215316	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Heavy Duty Vertical Racking System	01 Set	05.07.2021
2	61215343	LHB Container with Devices	10 Nos.	05.07.2021

Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details.  
2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

Tender Notice No. : 61215316, 61215343

1233/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Tender Notice No. 7/2021-2022

Date: 07.06.2021

Dy. Chief Materials Manager, NRI, Store Depot Mech. Workshop, AMRITSAR for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

S.N.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Due Date
1.	62215107	Air Brake Set (Twin Pipe) For BRN 22.9M1 Wagon Consisting of 54 items with detailed description, drawing and specification as per attached Annexure-I	200 Set	01.07.2021
2.	62215108	Boogie Mounted Brake Systems (BMBS) for BRN 22.9M1 Wagon consisting of 42 items with detailed description, drawing and specification as per attached Annexure-A	200 Set	01.07.2021

NOTE:- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm who desires to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000. By Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

1232/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NOTICE INVITING BIDS FOR UNDERTAKING MANNUAL AS WELL AS ONLINE UPDATION (OMMAS WEBSITE) AND AUDIT OF PMGSY SCHEME MAINTENANCE FUND ACCOUNT - PUNJAB

State Rural Roads Development Agency intends to hire an auditor for undertaking Manual as well as Online updation (OMMAS WEBSITE) and audit of PMGSY Maintenance Fund Account of 22 Nodal Program Implementing Units (PIUs) and State Rural Roads Development Agency (SRDA) located in the State of Punjab for the period from 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2021.

The State Rural Roads Development Agency invites sealed bids from reputed Chartered Accountant firms having head office/branch office in the State/UT and empanelled with C&AG of India, who wish to undertake this work.

Bids must be delivered to the address below by 1430 hours (IST) on 21st June, 2021. The technical bids shall be opened on 21st June, 2021 at 1500 hrs (IST). If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of bids as specified, the bids shall be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The firm should submit the bid in an envelope duly sealed and marked "Bid for undertaking manual as well as online updation (OMMAS Website) of PMGSY Scheme Maintenance Fund Account-Punjab." with two envelopes may be contained in main envelope i.e. Financial Bid and Technical Bid.

For detailed Notice Inviting Bids including Terms of Reference, location of various PIUs and Minimum Eligibility Criteria, PRBDB website <http://prbdb.gov.in> may be referred to.

Chief Engineer, PRBDB  
State Rural Roads Development Agency,  
SCF 61-62, Phase-2, Sector-54, Mohali, Chandigarh, India -160 055  
Phone: 0174-2616161, 2616162-5134620, Fax: +91 172-5134640.

# Solan girl scales Nepal peak, gets rousing welcome at home

AMBIKA SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, JUNE 7

Baljeet Kaur, a resident of the non-descript Panjrol village in Solan, who has become the first Indian woman mountaineer to successfully summit 7,161-m Purnori peak in Nepal, received a rousing welcome on her arrival here last evening.

Having failed to scale Mt Everest by a mere 300 m six years ago due to technical reasons in 2016, Kaur's resolve to scale the world's highest peak was bolstered by this first achievement. She now plans to summit Mt Everest next year.

Baljeet said, "A small news clipping on mountaineering inspired me to delve into this profession while I was in school. Financial constraints, however, deterred me from pursuing



Baljeet Kaur

Part of 12-member team

Baljeet Kaur was part of a 12-member delegation which achieved this feat on May 12 in the Government of India-sponsored Everest Masiff Expedition-2021

this profession as it entails an expenditure of lakhs of rupees." On joining the Degree College, Solan, she joined the NCC, where an opportunity came her way and she secured a berth in an NCC girls' expedition to summit the Mt Everest in 2016. Though she missed the target by a mere 300 m, it provided the much-needed confidence.

In a bid to hone her skills, she continued to scale various mountains like Deotibba in Manali, Trishu peak in Uttarakhand, besides an Army post at Siachen, before being finally selected for this Mount Everest.Masiff-2021. "I decided to equip myself better by attending an advance course in mountaineering besides a course of skiing to enhance my adaptability to inclement weather and other challenges."

# Five held in murder case

PALAMPUR, JUNE 7

The local police arrested five persons today in connection with the murder of a 33-year-old woman. She was found murdered in a house in ward number 12 near Palampur town last week.

Initially, it was assumed that it was a natural death but in the post-mortem report, blood stains were found on the body. The report indicated that it was not a normal death, after which the police arrested five persons who were seen with the woman before her death.

Palampur DSP Amit Sharma confirmed that five persons had been arrested and their blood samples had also been collected for a DNA test, which is to be matched with the blood stains found on the body of the deceased. He said the woman belonged to Sahapur and was staying alone in a rented room. — OC



Cracks being filled on The Ridge in Shimla on Monday. PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

# Work set to begin on restoration of Ridge

SHIMLA, JUNE 7

Finally, the Public Works Department appears all set to float a tender to restore the sinking portion of the historic Ridge. "IIT-Roorkee has designed it and the estimate is also ready. We will float a tender by June 15 and award the work in July," said PWD Superintending Engineer Suresh Kapoor.

An IIT-Roorkee team did the geotechnical study of the sinking portion and submit its report to the PWD. "It took time to get the project going because of Covid. The IIT was closed and professors also contracted the virus. But now everything is in place

and the work will start at the earliest," said Kapoor.

The department was ready to float the tender in December with the structure design and construction plan. "They had sent us the tentative drawings, but the goods for construction drawings had not come. The final drawings have come this month," said Kapoor.

The project is being executed under the Shimla Smart City Mission with the budget of Rs 15 crore already approved. However, the PWD has pegged the estimate at Rs 25 crore now. "The revised estimate will soon be conveyed to the officials," said Kapoor. — TNS



## Nine oxygen plants arrive from Europe

SRINAGAR, JUNE 7  
J&K on Monday received nine medical oxygen plants from Europe which will be installed in various health facilities across the UT amid the Covid outbreak.

The fresh consignment was received by Kashmir Divisional Commissioner Pandurang K Pole, an official spokesman said. Out of the nine oxygen generation plants, five would be installed in Kashmir, while the rest would be installed in Jammu division, Pole said. He said five oxygen plants with generation capacity of 4,000 LPM shall be installed at Kupwara Community Health Centre (CHC), Pulwama District Hospital and Bemina Children Hospital with 1,000 LPM capacity each.

He added that 500 LPM generation capacity shall be installed at Chanpora CHC and Trauma Hospital, Bijnbehara. The official said the state-of-the-art plants imported from Europe shall enhance the health infrastructure and enable the medical authorities to tackle any Covid related exigencies efficiently. — PTI

## At 977, J&K daily cases lowest during 2nd wave

SRINAGAR/LEH, JUNE 7  
J&K on Monday saw 977 Covid cases and 16 deaths, the lowest since the beginning of the second wave of the pandemic. Officials said 288 cases and seven deaths were reported from the Jammu division and 689 cases and nine deaths from the Kashmir division while 4,178 patients were discharged from hospitals after recovery.

One new confirmed case of mucormycosis has been reported, taking the number of black fungus cases to 16. So far, 301,467 people have been infected with Covid in J&K, out of which 2,73,853 have recovered and 4,090 succumbed. The active cases are 23,524, out of which 8,723 are from Jammu and 14,801 from Kashmir.

Ladakh recorded 50 fresh Covid cases, taking the overall tally to 19,197, while the active cases in the region dropped to 1,089 after 131 more patients recovered from the deadly disease during the past 24 hours, officials said.

Ladakh, which started gradual unlocking on Monday



A medic administers a dose of Covid vaccine in Srinagar. PTI

### COVID CASES DIP IN LADAKH TOO

■ Ladakh recorded 50 fresh cases, taking the caseload to 19,197, while active cases dropped to 1,089 after 131 recoveries

■ Ladakh, which started gradual unlocking on Monday after a month-long lockdown, has witnessed 195 Covid deaths so far

morning after a month-long lockdown, has witnessed 195 Covid-related deaths since the outbreak of the pandemic last year. The worst-hit Leh had registered 141 deaths followed by 54 in Kargil.

Of the new cases, 38 persons tested positive in Leh, taking the infection tally in the district to 15,854, while 12 cases

were detected in Kargil pushing the district tally of infections to 3,343, officials said.

They said the number of cured patients had risen to 17,913 after the recovery of 120 patients in Leh and 11 in Kargil. With this, the active cases has come down to 1,089 – 904 in Leh and 185 in Kargil, the officials said. — IANS/PTI

FROM PAGE 1

# Central Govt to provide states free vaccine for adults from June 21

We will stand with the poor like a friend,” the PM said in the 33-minute address where he assured better vaccine supplies in the near future, informing the country that seven vaccines were under development and three in advanced stages.

He said two vaccines for children were also being tried and a nasal Covid vaccine was under test. In oblique references to the Opposition,

which has been questioning the government’s vaccine policy, the PM said there was no place for political bickering on the issue. “Inoculation based on vaccine supplies is a collective duty,” PM Modi said, warning citizens against disinformation and advising them caution in the face of the unlocking process as daily cases dropped to 1,00,636 today, at a 61-day low.

Defending the government’s record, the PM said that between January 16 and April 30, the vaccination was progressing well under the aegis of the Centre and people were waiting for their turn to get the jabs but then a range of questions were raised.

“Questions arose about the lack of choice for states. Some asked why the Centre was deciding everything.

Some sought flexibility in lockdowns, saying one size did not fit all. The argument was that health was a state subject. Demands for decentralisation of planning and priority to age groups came up. Several pressures were exerted. We decided not to object if states wanted to procure. But soon states realised the challenges and awakened to the reality of low global

## 48-day vacation in Jammu schools

JAMMU, JUNE 7  
Authorities in J&K on Monday announced a 48-day summer vacation for educational institutions up to Class XII, including recognised private schools, falling in the summer zone of Jammu division.

An official order said all government and recognised private schools up to Class XII falling in Jammu division (summer zone) would observe summer vacation from June 8 to 25 as per the past practice. Educational institutions switched to the virtual mode in April following a spike in Covid-19 cases.

BK Singh, Principal Secretary, School Education, however, said there would be an online interaction of teaching faculty with students at least once in a week. — PTI

## Chief Secretary Mehta takes charge, finally

SRINAGAR, JUNE 7  
Ending a week-long uncertainty, BVR Subrahmanyam on Monday handed over the charge of the office of the J&K Chief Secretary to Arun Kumar Mehta, officials said.

Mehta, an AGMUT cadre IAS officer of the 1988 batch, was appointed the Chief Secretary on May 29 while Subrahmanyam was posted as Officer on Special Duty in the Department of Commerce, Government of India.

While Mehta began working as Chief Secretary on May 31, Subrahmanyam did not hand over the charge immediately. The situation led to criticism from several quarters, like the National Conference and the Congress.

### UNCERTAINTY ENDS

■ Appointed on May 29, Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta began working in his capacity on May 31 without BVR Subrahmanyam officially handing over the charge to him

■ The uncertain situation led to criticism from several quarters, like the National Conference and the Congress

Subrahmanyam, a Chhattisgarh cadre IAS officer, was given the J&K charge in June 2018 and oversaw its transition to a UT after the Centre abrogated Articles 370 and 35-A of the Constitution. Mehta has a vast administrative experience. — PTI

## Militants’ aide held after 22 yrs

JAMMU, JUNE 7  
A man was on Monday arrested after a long hunt of 22 years for allegedly providing shelter and other logistics to militants in Reasi district.

Mohi-ud-din, a resident of Shikari village in Mahore area, had been evading arrest

after getting named in an FIR lodged under various sections of the Ranbir Penal Code for harbouring terrorists in 1999, a police spokesman said. A chargesheet was filed in a local court which issued a warrant in 2002, but the accused was on the run. — PTI

## UN should take note of rights violations: PDP

SRINAGAR, JUNE 7  
J&K Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday said the United Nations had to step in as “India’s own institutions had stopped taking notice of human rights violations”.

Mehbooba said anyone who raised voice against the wrong measures of the government was labelled as Pakistani agent. “A pity that our own institutions have stopped taking notice of such brazen human rights violations and instead the UN has to step in,” the former CM said in a tweet.

She was referring to a police chargesheet against Peoples Democratic Party youth wing president Waheed Para that alleged that he was an asset of Pakistan-based terror

## Cong demands restoration of statehood

SRINAGAR, JUNE 7  
The Congress on Monday demanded the restoration of statehood to J&K, stating that the move would infuse confidence among the people.

A spokesman of the J&K Pradesh Congress Committee said any delay in restoring the statehood was bound to cause more disconnect between the Centre and the UT people.

JKPCC president Ghulam Ahmad Mir said the Centre should fulfil its commitment to restore the statehood to J-K without further delay. “I believe that early restoration of statehood will indeed go a long way in taking away J&K out of the quagmire and confusion created after August 5, 2019,” he said. — PTI



INSTITUTIONAL FAILURE

“Our own institutions have stopped taking notice of brazen human rights violations. The UN has to step in,” Mehbooba Mufti, PDP president

groups. Mehbooba’s tweet was also in reference to reports that some UN rapporteurs had raised the issue of Para’s arrest by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for his alleged links to terror groups. — PTI

## SC: Evict encroachers...

stay on demolition of about 10,000 houses in the area.

As counsel Colin Gonsalves, representing the petitioners, said those evicted should be accommodated, the Bench shot back, “Who is asking this? Land grabbers! When you come to court you become honest and law abiding and on site, you don’t do anything lawful.”

“First the forest land has to be cleared. Don’t give us Covid excuses. File a compliance report. It may be a case where some people are hand in glove with the encroachers,” it said.

It ordered the local police to give necessary logistical support to enable the corporation to evict the occupants and clear all encroachments.

Noting that it had passed an interim order in February last year for the removal of encroachments, the Bench said it would be asking the civic body why the orders had not been followed so far.

## BJP wants Dalhousie...

Minister Jai Ram Thakur, claiming even the locals were against the proposal. “The sentiments of the Dalhousie residents should be given top priority while considering any such suggestion,” she said.

Manoj Chadha, Dalhousie municipal council president who is a BJP leader, too, is against renaming the town. He said Lord Dalhousie hadn’t even visited the town and had nothing to do with its name.

Those associated with the tourism industry claim the name Dalhousie gave the town an international identity and drew tourists from far and wide.

Chamba ruler Maharaja Shri Singh had in 1853 permitted the British to make a settlement, which came to be known as Dalhousie. British officer Lt Col Napier, who later became Lord Napier, created Dalhousie town and later named it after Lord Dalhousie.

## New guidelines drop...

mildly ill Covid patients would be fine with just paracetamol, cough syrup and budesonide inhalation and need not be prescribed any antibiotics or major drugs at all.

This means the currently in use and much prescribed HCQ, favipiravir, ivermectin, azithromycin, doxycycline, zinc and vitamins are not required clinically and have no evidence of benefit.

The DGHS advice, however, is at variance with the ICMR advisory, which recommends both ivermectin and HCQ in mild cases. For asymptomatic patients, the new guidelines do not even recommend a blood test or any drugs and clarify “no investigation and no medications are needed at this stage”.

Mild patients would need investigation and paracetamol if symptoms of fever, cough, fatigue and other classical Covid signs persist or deteriorate.

The guidelines say no to

Baba Ramdev’s Coronil and 2-DG drug for moderately ill patients and recommends monitoring of oxygen saturation, controlling comorbidities and giving steroids and anticoagulants as per medical advice. The guidance lays down clear indications for the use of tocilizumab drug in severely ill patients and also tells doctors how and when to prescribe. It stresses the need to recruit a hospital infection committee to ensure prevention from fungal infections like mucormycosis and spells out a clear use and dosage of amphotericin B, which is in short supply currently.

The new advice says no to irrational and rampant use of chest CT scans and indicates when to use a chest X-ray. “Exercise extreme caution when ordering a chest CT scan. Patients must remain socially engaged and stay positive,” the guidance says.

**ਪੰਜਾਬ ਜਲ ਸਰੋਤ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਨ ਤੇ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਨਿਗਮ ਲਿਮ., ਰੂਪਨਗਰ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਖ਼ਤਮ ਕਰਨ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਪਬਲਿਕ ਨੋਟਿਸ**

ਸ੍ਰੀ ਹਾਹਲ ਰਾਵਾ, ਟਿਊਬਵੈੱਲ ਉਪਰੰਤਰ ਪੁੰਡਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਕਲਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ, ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਅਤੇ ਡਾਕਮਾਨਾ ਸੂਰੀ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਅੰਬ, ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਊਨਾ (ਹਿਮਾਚਲ ਪ੍ਰਦੇਸ਼) ਹਾਲ ਨਿਵਾਸੀ ਭਿਵ ਮੰਦਰ ਵਾਲੀ ਗਲੀ, ਨੂਰਪੁਰ ਬੇਦੀ, ਡਾਕਮਾਨਾ ਨੂਰਪੁਰ ਬੇਦੀ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਆਨੰਦਪੁਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ, ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਰੂਪਨਗਰ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਪਬਲਿਕ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਮੈਨੇਜਿੰਗ ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਜਲ ਸਰੋਤ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਨ ਤੇ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਨਿਗਮ ਲਿਮ., ਮੁਹਾਲੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰਬਰ 3668/ਪਸਪ੍ਰਵਾਨ/ਐਡਮਿਨ-3, ਮਿਤੀ 23.04.2021 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਪਾਪਤ ਹੋਈ ਅਨੁਸਾਰੀ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਿਵਲ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ (ਦੰਡ ਅਤੇ ਅਪੀਲ) ਨਿਯਮਵਾਲੀ, 1970 ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰਬਰ 03/10/07-2ਪੀਪੀ2/8675, ਮਿਤੀ 05.06.2007, ਨੰਬਰ 12/83/2012-2ਪੀਪੀ2/1438, ਮਿਤੀ 12.10.2012 ਅਤੇ ਨੰਬਰ 02/01/2017-03ਵਿਧੁ/189, ਮਿਤੀ 12.05.2017 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਜਾਰੀ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਹਦਾਇਤਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਗਰਾਨ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ, ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਟਿਊਬਵੈੱਲ ਸਰਕਲ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਜਲ ਸਰੋਤ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਨ ਤੇ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਨਿਗਮ ਲਿਮ., ਮੁਹਾਲੀ ਦੇ ਦਫ਼ਤਰੀ ਹੁਕਮ ਨੰਬਰ 673-76/ਸੀਟੀ-1, ਮਿਤੀ 28.05.2021 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਅਣ-ਆਸ਼ਿਕਾਰ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ ਡਿਊਟੀ ਤੇ ਗ਼ੈਰ-ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਰਹਿਣ ਕਾਰਨ ਆਪ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਮਿਤੀ 09.07.2018 ਤੋਂ ਖ਼ਤਮ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀਆਂ ਗਈਆਂ ਹਨ।

**ਸਹੀ/- ਮੰਡਲ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ, ਟਿਊਬਵੈੱਲ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਮੰਡਲ, ਪਸਪ੍ਰਵਾਨ ਲਿਮ., ਰੂਪਨਗਰ।**

DPR/Pb/5126

**ਪੰਜਾਬ ਮੰਡੀ ਬੋਰਡ ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਸੂਚਨਾ**

**ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਨੰਬਰ 9 (2021) ਮਿਤੀ 07.06.2021**

ਕਾਰਜਕਾਰੀ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ (ਸ), ਪੰਜਾਬ ਮੰਡੀ ਬੋਰਡ, ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਇਨੀਲਸਟਿਡ ਠੇਕੇਦਾਰਾਂ/ਫਰਮਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਕੰਮਾਂ ਲਈ ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਟੈਂਡਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ:-

- ਮਾਰਗੀਤ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਫ਼ਤਹਿਗੜ੍ਹ ਚੂੜੀਆਂ ਅਧੀਨ ਪੈਂਦੀ ਲਿੰਕ ਸੜਕ ਅਲੀਵਾਲ ਭਾਲੇਵਾਲੀ ਰੋਡ ਉੱਪਰ ਰਿਪੇਅਰ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ 2020-21 (ਫੇਜ਼-3) (ਹੈਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਵਰਕ) ਸਰਮੀ ਅਧੀਨ ਹੋਵੇ ਪੈਚ ਵਰਕ ਕਰਨਾ।
- ਮਾਰਗੀਤ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਫ਼ਤਹਿਗੜ੍ਹ ਚੂੜੀਆਂ ਅਧੀਨ ਪੈਂਦੀ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਡੀ ਵਿਚ ਇੱਟਾਂ ਦਾ ਖੜਵੰਜਾ ਲਗਾ ਕੇ ਫੜ੍ਹ ਦੀ ਉਸਾਰੀ/ਵਾਧਾ ਕਰਨਾ।

ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> ਦਾ ਹਵਾਲਾ ਲਵੋ।

**ਨੋਟ:-** ਸੋਧ, ਜੇਕਰ ਕੋਈ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਕੇਵਲ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ 'ਤੇ ਹੀ ਜਾਰੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

**ਸਹੀ/- ਕਾਰਜਕਾਰੀ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ (ਸ), ਪੰਜਾਬ ਮੰਡੀ ਬੋਰਡ, ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ।**

DPR/Pb/5138

**Government of Punjab Short Term Tender Notice No. 9/XEN/ZA/O&M Dated: 04.06.2021**

The Department of Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana invites online bids for the following:-

Sr. No.	Items	Amount
1.	Prov. & Installation of 12.5 HP & 25 HP T/well	As per uploaded DNIT
2.	Prov. & Laying W/Supply & Sewer Lines	

**Closing Date & Time : 21.06.2021 till 01.00 PM**  
**Opening of Technical Bid : 22.06.2021 till 02.00 PM**  
**Opening of Financial Bid : Date will be fixed after technical bid opening**  
**For details log onto : [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in)**

**Note:** Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer-O&M, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.**

DPR/Pb/5131

**TENDER NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS**

Online tenders on percentage rate basis (above or below or at par the DNIT amount) for the below mentioned work are invited from the eligible contractors as per eligibility criteria mentioned in the tender documents :-

Name of the Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money
Construction of New Office Building of Amritsar Development Authority at Shri Guru Ramdass Urban Estate (Old Jail site), Ajnala Road, Amritsar.	₹ 10.45 Crore	₹ 15.45 Lac

**Tender Processing Fee :** As applicable **Period of Completion :** 15 months

Online availability of tender for bidding	Last date & time for submission of online bids	Date & time of Pre bid meeting at PUDA Bhawan, Green Avenue, Amritsar	Date & time of opening of technical bids at PUDA Bhawan, Green Avenue, Amritsar
From To			
07.06.2021 01:00 P.M.	28.06.2021 01:00 P.M.	28.06.2021 11:30 A.M.	30.06.2021 01:00 P.M.

- For detailed terms and conditions of the notice inviting bids refer to our website [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in).
- Due to Covid-19, Pre-bid meeting shall be conducted online. Link will be made available to the interested bidders who will contact the undersigned on email id [de.ph.puda.asr@gmail.com](mailto:de.ph.puda.asr@gmail.com).
- For any clarification/ difficulty regarding e-tendering process contact **85588-70067**.

**Divisional Engineer (PH) AMRITSAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PUDA BHAWAN, GREEN AVENUE, AMRITSAR**

**TENDER/RFP FOR SERVICES LIKE AMC, HOUSEKEEPING ETC. GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB**

**Tender/RFP Reference No. 21 of 2021 Dated: 25.05.2021**

The Department of Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board invites online bids for:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work
1.	Prov. & Lay. D.I. K-7 W/S Pipeline, Const. of Brick Masonry, F.V./ F.H. Haudies & all other works contingent thereto at Ward No. 8 at Garhshankar.

**Closing Date & Time : 17.05.2021 up to 04.30 P.M.**  
For details logon to : <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

**Note:** Any Corrigendum(s) to the Tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the above website only.

**Sd/- E.E., PWSSD, HSP.**

DPR/Pb/5151

**ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਲ, ਖਰੜ ਪਬਲਿਕ ਨੋਟਿਸ**

ਨੰ. 1020 ਮਿਤੀ: 03.06.2021

ਇਸ ਪਬਲਿਕ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਸਮੂਹ ਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਵਾਸੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਮਿਤੀ 15.01.2019 ਤੋਂ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਲ, ਖਰੜ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਵਿਚ ਪਸ ਹੋਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਨਕਸ਼ੇ ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਪਾਸ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ। ਨਗਰ ਕੌਲ, ਖਰੜ ਦੇ ਪਿਆਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਇਆ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਕਈ ਸਬੰਧਤ ਵਿਅਕਤੀਆਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਲ, ਖਰੜ ਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨ ਕਰਵਾਏ ਗਏ ਨਕਸ਼ੇ ਨਾਲ ਆਪਣੇ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਬਿਨਾਂ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਲ, ਖਰੜ ਦੇ ਪਿਆਨ ਵਿਚ ਲਿਆਏ ਛੇੜ-ਛਾੜ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਰੱਦ-ਬਦਲ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਕਿ ਇਕ ਅਪਰਾਧ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਨਕਸ਼ਾ ਪਾਸ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਹਦਾਇਤ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਆਪ ਨੂੰ ਜੋ ਨਕਸ਼ਾ ਆਰਗੀਟੈਕਟ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ, ਉਸ ਦਾ ਇਕ ਵਾਰ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਲ, ਖਰੜ ਦੀ ਬਿਲਡਿੰਗ ਸ਼ਾਖਾ ਵਿਚ ਆ ਕੇ ਮਿਲਾਨ ਕਰ ਲਿਆ ਜਾਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਆਪ ਨੂੰ ਭਵਿੱਖ ਵਿਚ ਨਕਸ਼ੇ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਦਰੁੱਤ ਦੀ ਟਿੱਕਤ ਦਾ ਸਾਹਮਣਾ ਨਾ ਕਰਨਾ ਪਵੇ ਅਤੇ ਨਕਸ਼ੇ ਦੀ ਪੁਸ਼ਟੀਕਰਤਾ ਦਾ ਵੀ ਪਤਾ ਲੱਗ ਸਕੇ। ਅਜਿਹਾ ਨਾ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਸੂਰਤ ਵਿਚ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਲ, ਖਰੜ ਦੀ ਕੋਈ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਹਵੇਗੀ ਅਤੇ ਕਸੂਰਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਮਿਲਾਫ਼ ਬਣਦੀ ਕਾਨੂੰਨੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ, ਜਿਸ ਵਿਚ ਪਰਚਾ ਵੀ ਦਰਜ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

**ਸਹੀ/- ਕਾਰਜਸਾਧਕ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ, ਨਗਰ ਕੌਲ, ਖਰੜ।**

DPR/Pb/5128

**Government of Punjab O/o Joint Development Commissioner Sector 62, Vikas Bhawan, S.A.S. Nagar (9872230835)**

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for appointing 18 posts of Ombudsmen for redressal of grievances under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The candidates may submit their complete Bio-data in the prescribed proforma along with the copies of experience and necessary qualification in the O/o Joint Development Commissioner, 3rd Floor, Vikas Bhawan, Sector-62, S.A.S. Nagar or can be emailed on [selectionjdc@gmail.com](mailto:selectionjdc@gmail.com) up to 30th June, 2021 by 5 P.M. Those who have already applied for the advertisement dated 23rd March, 2021 need not to apply again. Application form and other details may be downloaded from the official link <https://sites.google.com/view/rdpdp> from 15th June, 2021.

**Sd/- Commissioner M.G.-NREGA Punjab**

DPR/Pb/5146

**TENDER NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS**

Online tenders on percentage basis (above or below or at par the DNIT amount) for the below mentioned work are invited from the eligible contractors as per eligibility criteria of the SBD.

Name of the Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Tender Professing Fee
Work of construction of Water Works and related works in Sector 77, SAS Nagar	Rs. 8.43 Crore	Rs. 13.50 Lac	As per website

**Period of Completion: 12 months**

Online availability of tender for bidding	Last date & time for submission of online bids	Date & time of opening of tender in O/o Superintending Engineer (C-1), GMADA, Room No. 445, 4th Floor, PUDA Bhawan, Sector 62, SAS Nagar	
From To		Technical Bid Financial Bid	
05.06.2021 11:00 AM	06.07.2021 11:00 AM	06.07.2021 03:00 PM	After approval of technical bid

**Pre-bid meeting** On 16-06-2021 at 12:00 Noon in O/o SE (C-1), GMADA, SAS Nagar

- For detailed terms and conditions refer to our website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
- For any clarification/difficulty regarding e-tendering process contact **0172-2970263, 2970284**.

**Divisional Engineer (PH-2) GREATER MOHALI AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PUDA BHAWAN, Sector 62, SAS Nagar**

**ICAR - CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON BUFFALOES SUB-CAMPUS, BIR-DOSANJH, NABHA, DISTT. PATIALA (Pb)**

**File No. 3/Pur/RSN/2021-22/9 Dated: 07.06.2021**

**SHORT TIME E-TENDER NOTICE**

Online tenders in two bid system i.e. (1) Technical bid (2) Price Bid are invited from eligible bidders/firms/agency for supply of Cotton seed cake (Un-decorticated) 220 Quintal. Bid submission end date is 21.06.2021 up to 2.30 p.m. & will be opened on 22.06.2021 at 3.00 p.m. For details, logon to website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and our Institute website [www.cirb.res.in](http://www.cirb.res.in). The Tender ID is **2021\_DARE\_632813\_1**.

**Sd/- Asstt. Admn. Officer**

DI-3987

**UNIDENTIFIED**

General Public is hereby informed that unknown male person aged about 45 years, Height 5'-7", Dark complexion, thin body, wearing green colour hospital clothes, Black & white hair and moustache, was found lying unconscious near entry gate, Hospital, GMSH-16, Chandigarh on 22.05.2021. He was admitted to General Hospital, Sector-16, Chandigarh vide CR. No. 20210148988 for treatment. On 02.06.2021, he expired during treatment. In this regard, a DDR No. 07, dated 03.06.2021 has been lodged in Police Station Sector-17, Chandigarh. The legal heirs of deceased are not known. His photograph is given above.

If anyone having any information/clue about the whereabouts of the deceased, please inform to SHO Police Station-17, Chandigarh on Phone Nos. 9779580917, 0172-2700453, 2920993 or Police Control Phone No. 0172-2749194 or 112.

**CHANDIGARH POLICE**

**PUNJAB STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION Site No. 3, Sector-18A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh – 160018**

**VACANCY CIRCULAR**

The Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission, Chandigarh invites applications from eligible persons for filling up of 01 post of Sr. Private Secretary on deputation/contract basis. The details regarding eligibility criteria, qualifications, age, salary, term etc, other terms & conditions and procedure for submitting applications are available on the Commission's website [www.pserc.gov.in](http://www.pserc.gov.in). The applications complete in all respect should reach the undersigned latest by **28.06.2021**. Serving applicants should submit an advance copy of their application to the Commission within the specified period, however applications through proper channel shall be received **latest by 05.07.2021**. Applications received later or incomplete will not be entertained.

**Sd/- Secretary**

DPR/Pb/5135

**HIMACHAL PRADESH POWER CORPORATION LTD. (A State Government Undertaking) CIN : U40101HP2006SGC030591**

**(National Competitive Bidding) PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF MATERIAL (E-Auction Mode only)**

**LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS ON OR BEFORE 06-07-2021 UPTO 04:00 P.M.**

Online offer/proposal is hereby invited by the undersigned, for & on behalf of Managing Director, HPPCL from the interested, experienced, approved & reputed Bidders (registered member of any State/UT Pollution Control Board) for buying the materials as offered for sale on 'AS IS WHERE IS', 'AS IS WHAT IS', 'WHATEVER THERE IS' basis Ex-works Power House, Sainj HEP/Store, Matla, Sub-Tehsil-Sainj, Tehsil-Banjar, Distt.-Kullu-175134 (H.P.) on [National] Competitive Bidding Basis as briefly described hereunder:-

Lot No. & Name	1 & Lead Acid Batteries
Lot No. & Name	2 & E waste items.
Lot No. & Name	3 & Used Oil.

**Opening Date & Time of E-Auction : 07-07-2021 & 02:00 P.M.**  
**Closing Date & Time of E-Auction : 07-07-2021 & 04:00 P.M.**

The inspection of the material put on auction shall be permitted to interested bidders during working days only (w.e.f. 08-06-2021 to 06-07-2021 from 11:00 A.M. to 01:00 P.M.) with prior appointments only with concerned HPPCL officer/official.

For detailed E-Auction notification and other terms and conditions, please visit [www.hppcl.in](http://www.hppcl.in) or <https://www.tenderwizard.in/HPPCL> or Contact office of S.M. (E), Sainj HEP, Sarabai, Distt.-Kullu, H.P. Mob.: 7018296765, 7018334956, 7018607004. Email ids: [dgm.e.sainj@gmail.com](mailto:dgm.e.sainj@gmail.com), [smraj.e@gmail.com](mailto:smraj.e@gmail.com), [sm.e.sainj@gmail.com](mailto:sm.e.sainj@gmail.com)

**Sd/- Dy. General Manager (E)-cum-HOP, Sainj Hydro-Electric Project, HPPCL, SARABAI (Bhuntar), Distt.-Kullu, (HP)-175125.**



## 50 killed in Pak train collision



70 HURT	1,000 PASSENGERS WERE ON BOARD	20 TRAPPED	13 to 14 BOGIES DERAILED
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- At least 50 passengers were killed and 70 injured when two passenger trains collided near Dharki in Pakistan's Sindh on Monday
- The Army and paramilitary forces were deployed to carry out rescue operations
- The mishap took place when a train bound for Sargodha from Karachi derailed and fell on the opposite track and another train en route from Rawalpindi to Karachi rammed into it. PTI

## Much-debated Alzheimer's drug gets FDA nod

WASHINGTON, JUNE 7 The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Monday approved the first new drug for Alzheimer's disease in nearly 20 years, disregarding warnings from independent advisers that the much-debated treatment hasn't been shown to help slow the brain-destroying disease. — AP

## Mali junta leader sworn in as Prez after 2nd coup

BAMAKO, JUNE 7 Mali's coup leader Col Assimi Goita was sworn in Monday as president of a transitional government, solidifying his grip on power in the West African nation after carrying out his second coup d'etat in nine months. The inauguration ceremony came as Mali faces international isolation. — AP

## Russia confirms exit from overflight treaty

MOSCOW, JUNE 7 Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday signed a Bill to withdraw from an international treaty allowing surveillance flights over military facilities, following the US exit from the pact. The Bill was endorsed by Russian lawmakers after US officials told Moscow last month that President Joe Biden's administration had decided not to re-enter the Open Skies Treaty that the US left under President Donald Trump. As a presidential candidate, Biden had criticised Trump's withdrawal as "short-sighted". Moscow had signalled its readiness to reverse the withdrawal procedure and stay in the 1992 treaty if the United States returned to the agreement, but now Putin's signature seals the Russian withdrawal.

### US OPTED OUT LAST YR

The Bill, signed by President Vladimir Putin, was endorsed by Russian lawmakers after the US told Moscow last month that the Biden administration had decided not to re-enter the Open Skies Treaty. The US opted out of the treaty under then President Donald Trump in 2020.

al that would take effect in six months. Putin and Biden are set to have a summit in Geneva on June 16, a meeting that comes amid soaring tensions in Russia-US ties that have hit post-Cold War lows after Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, accusations of Moscow's interference in US elections, hacking attacks and other issues. — AP

# US lawmakers push for more vaccines, medical aid to India

WASHINGTON, JUNE 7

Several US lawmakers have urged the Biden administration to ensure that India receives enough Covid-19 vaccines and medical aid, saying the health crisis in the country was "devastating" and America has a responsibility to help its close allies defeat the pandemic.

The lawmakers called on the US Government to send more vaccines and medical assistance to India after President Joe Biden on Thursday announced that the US would allocate 75 per cent — nearly 1.9 crore of the first tranche of 2.5 crore doses — of Covid-19 vaccines from its stockpile to countries in South and Southeast Asia as well as Africa by the end of June.

Biden said the US would share the vaccine with many countries to fight the pandemic through the UN-backed Covax global vaccine sharing programme as part of his administration's framework for sharing 80 million (eight crore) vaccines globally



Nurses demand pay hike in Kielce, Poland, on Monday. REUTERS

### 300 INDIANS STRANDED IN CHINA TAKE JAB

Beijing: Over 300 Indians, who have managed to take the Chinese Covid-19 vaccine to comply with Beijing's stipulation for Indian travellers that mandates inoculation with its jabs, have urged the country to lift travel restrictions and permit them to return home to join their jobs and businesses. PTI

### 200 WORLD LEADERS URGE G7 NATIONS TO HELP VACCINATE THE POOREST

"The crisis in India is devastating and demands more action from President Biden. More vaccines and medical supplies are needed to help one of our most important

global allies fight this virus," Texas Governor Greg Abbott said. Republican Senator Ted Cruz said almost 300 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been administered in

### TRACKING VIRUS

NATION	DEATHS
US	6,12,366
BRAZIL	4,73,495
INDIA	3,49,186
MEXICO	2,28,804
UK	1,27,840

### CHINA JUNKS TRUMP'S \$10 TN RELIEF DEMAND

Beijing: China on Monday rejected former US President Donald Trump's demand to pay \$10 trillion as reparations to the world for the Covid spread, saying the accountability lied with politicians who ignored people's health. PTI

## GLOBE TROT



### Mini Liberty Statue heads to US for July 4 celebrations

PARIS: A replica of the Statue of Liberty, smaller but based on the original plaster cast of its big sister on Ellis Island, a gift from France, was given a sendoff on Monday ahead of a trip to the US, where it will be displayed on July 4 — American Independence Day. AP

### Bezos to ride his own rocket to space in July

WASHINGTON: Jeff Bezos will ride his own rocket into space next month, joining the first crew to fly in a Blue Origin capsule. The Amazon founder announced on Monday that he would take off on July 20 from Texas along with his firefighter brother Mark. AP

## Illegal immigrants staying in US can't apply for permanent status, says SC

WASHINGTON, JUNE 7

The US Supreme Court on Monday refused to let immigrants who have been permitted to stay in the US on humanitarian grounds apply to become permanent residents if they entered the country illegally, siding with President Joe Biden's administration.

The judges, acting in an appeal by a married couple from El Salvador who were granted so-called Temporary Protected Status, unanimously upheld a lower court ruling that barred their applications for

permanent residency, also known as 'green card', because of their unlawful entry.

The case could affect thousands of immigrants, many of whom have lived in the US for years. Biden, who has sought to reverse many of his Republican predecessor Donald Trump's hardline immigration policies, had opposed the immigrants in this case, placing the president at odds with immigration advocacy groups and some of his fellow Democrats.

A federal law called the

Immigration and Nationality Act generally requires that people seeking to become permanent residents have been "inspected and admitted" into the US. At issue in the case was whether a grant of Temporary Protected Status (TPS), which gives the recipient "lawful status", satisfies those requirements.

Justice Elena Kagan said "because a grant of TPS does not come with a ticket of admission, it does not eliminate the disqualifying effect of an unlawful entry". — Reuters

## Boost for Merkel's party ahead of Sept elections

BERLIN, JUNE 7

Chancellor Angela Merkel's centre-right bloc claimed momentum on Monday for the September election that will choose Germany's next leader after a larger-than-expected win in the last regional ballot before the nation votes. But the victory in a sparsely populated eastern state where it faced a challenge from the far right was mostly a triumph for the popular state governor.

Merkel's Christian Democratic Union won Sunday's election in Saxony-Anhalt

### Christian Democratic Union won Sunday's poll in Saxony-Anhalt

with 37.1 per cent of the vote, far ahead of the far-right Alternative for Germany, or AfD, with 20.8 per cent. Pre-election polls had pointed to a much narrower outcome.

Elections in Germany's 16 states are often influenced by local issues, yet are also seen as important bellwethers for the national mood. — AP

# BUSINESS

USD \$	EURO €	POUND £	JPY ¥	YUAN ¥	CAD C\$	AUD A\$	SGD S\$	HKD HK\$
₹72.80	₹88.56	₹103.14	₹0.66	₹11.37	₹60.28	₹56.44	₹55.01	₹9.38

### BSE

228.46  
52,328.51

### NSE

81.40  
15,751.65

### GOLD

₹47,510  
Mumbai (MCX)

### SILVER

₹71,000  
Mumbai (MCX)

## The Tribune CORPORATE BROADBAND

### Virtual dialogue organised on youth sustainable development

The Virtual Centre of Excellence for Social Welfare Administration under the aegis of Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners in special consultative status with Economic and Social Council of UN held South Asian Youth Sustainable Development Virtual Dialogue 2021 on World Environment Day in partnership with Punjab Energy Development Agency and The Climate Reality Project — India and econScious Society, Royal Thimpu College, Bhutan.

### SBI plants saplings on World Environment Day

SBI celebrated World Environment Day at its LHO, Chandigarh, on June 5. Anukool Bhatnagar, CGM, along with others planted saplings. A pledge was also taken by staff members for the conservation of environment.

### Aryans Group of Colleges holds webinar on ecosystem

Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, held a webinar on World Environment Day on the theme 'Ecosystem Restoration'. Dr Ranjana Sharma Garg, Mrs North India Queen 2019 and an environmentalist, interacted with students.

### Nephrologist Dr Vivekanand Jha joins Aykai Hospital, Ludhiana

Dr Vivekanand Jha, executive director, The George Institute for Global Health, India, Chair of Global Kidney Health, Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College of London, and past-president of the International Society of Nephrology, has joined Aykai Hospital, Ludhiana, as director, nephrology, transplant medicine and clinical research.

### Desh Bhagat varsity celebrates World Environment Day

Desh Bhagat University celebrated World Environment Day on June 5. Dr Zora Singh, Chancellor, emphasised that every individual should come forward for the conservation and restoration of ecosystem.

### Sonalika vaccinates 100% staff, sets up 3 PSA oxygen plants

Sonalika Tractors has announced that it has vaccinated 100% of its workforce with the first dose of the Covid vaccine in just two months. The company has also set up one PSA oxygen plant in New Delhi and two at Mohali.

### BHEL supplies medical oxygen to hospitals

BHEL has been working on a war footing to do its bit for the country amid the second wave of Covid. Its plants, located in Bhopal and Haridwar, have been supplying medical oxygen in and around their vicinity.

### Avon invests in bicycle sharing startup MYBYK

Avon Cycles has invested a significant amount in bicycle share startup MYBYK. It will use the funds to scale up deployment of technology, including introduction of electric pedal-assist bicycles and expand to new geographies.

### Mercedes introduces 'direct to customer' sales model

Mercedes-Benz has unveiled 'direct to customer' sales model, offering a better luxury buying experience to customers. Termed 'Retail of the Future', the model is a win-win situation for customers, franchise partners and the company.

### Indian Hotels makes progress towards sustainable future

Indian Hotels Company Ltd. (IHCL) has marked a milestone with 47 of its hotels achieving EarthCheck Platinum Certification, representing 11 continuous years of social and environmental impact by ensuring sustainable tourism management practices.

### DDU Gorakhpur University opens 'Zero Waste Campus'

Prof Rajesh Singh, VC, DDU Gorakhpur University, launched a non-profit company 'Zero Waste Campus' at the university campus on World Environment Day to convert its degradable waste into rich organic manure.

### McDonald's & BTS Partner to offer Supergroup's Favourite Order

McDonald's and BTS Partner will offer the Supergroup's Favourite Order in Punjab. The BTS Meal includes a 10-piece chicken McNuggets, medium fries, coke, and sweet chili and cajun dipping sauces inspired by popular recipes from McDonald's South Korea.

### Hitachi launches SideSmart air-conditioner in India

Johnson Controls-Hitachi Air Conditioning India Ltd. has launched SideSmart — the world's first slim modular side-throw VRF model air-conditioners. It is the world's first side throw model with a single module of 18 HP and with modular combination up to 72 HP.

### Trident donates 100 oxygen concentrators to DC, Barnala

Rajinder Gupta-led Trident Ltd has handed over 100 oxygen concentrators to Tej Partap Singh Phoolka, DC, Barnala, to help government fight the Covid. Gupta said oxygen concentrators with a capacity of 5 litre each will be distributed in various districts of Punjab, including Barnala, Fatehgarh Sahib, Fazilka, Moga among others.

### Parryware launches 'Parryware Safe-Buy' digital platform

Parryware has launched online platform 'Parryware Safe-Buy'. It enables consumers to explore, indulge and buy products online.

### Swaraj unveils 'Mera Swaraj Education Support Program'

Swaraj Tractors has launched 'Mera Swaraj Education Support Program' — an early career development initiative for engineering students that aims to create a future pool of competent engineers.

### Discovery+ announces largest content portfolio expansion

Discovery+ has announced largest content portfolio expansion to make it a go to app for the family. Over 100 new shows from kids and library content from A+E Networks will be added.

## NCLT approves Piramal's offer for bankrupt DHFL

Rejects former promoter Kapil Wadhawan's plea

MUMBAI, JUNE 7

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Monday gave its approval to Piramal Group's bid for bankrupt DHFL, subject to certain conditions.

The tribunal's Mumbai Bench, chaired by HP Chaturvedi and Ravikumar Duraisamy, said the approval is subject to the final judgment from the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) and the Supreme Court's judgment on Kapil Wadhawan in the matter. In its order, NCLT asked DHFL's (Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd) Committee of Creditors (CoC) to consider giving more money to small fixed deposit holders under the approved resolution plan.

"We are not remanding the plan back to CoC, we respect their commercial wisdom," it said.



### NOD SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS

- On May 25, NCLAT stayed the direction of NCLT asking the lenders of DHFL to consider the offer by ex-promoter
- The appellate tribunal had also clarified that its order should not come in the way for NCLT to decide on approval for the resolution plan selected by the CoC
- In January this year, the CoC voted in favour of selling DHFL to the Piramal Group under the IBC

NCLT also rejected former DHFL promoter Kapil Wadhawan's plea to get access to a copy of the resolution plan. Last year, Wadhawan had made his settlement offer

to the CoC. The offer was rejected by the creditors, citing lack of credibility and the valuations attached to the proposed asset sales. — PTI

## France fines Google \$268m for unfair trade practices

PARIS, JUNE 7

France's anti-competition watchdog decided on Monday to fine Google 220 million euros (\$268 million) for abusing its "dominant position" in the online advertising business, an unprecedented move, the body said.

Practices used by Google "are particularly serious because they penalise

Google's competitors" in certain markets and publishers of mobile sites and applications, the statement by the Competition Authority said.

"The authority recalls that a company in a dominant position is subject to a particular responsibility, that of not undermining," the statement said. — AP

## Sensex, Nifty scale fresh peaks; RIL leads charge

MUMBAI, JUNE 7

Equity markets mustered solid gains to close at all-time highs on Monday as risk sentiment improved after multiple states began easing Covid restrictions amid falling cases.

A sharp recovery in the rupee added to the momentum, even as lacklustre global cues capped the

gains, traders said.

After starting on a tepid note, the Sensex saw good buying in energy, IT and bank stocks in afternoon trade. It finally finished 228.46 points higher at its new closing record of 52,328.51. Similarly, the National Stock Exchange's Nifty surged 81.40 points to its all-time peak of 15,751.65. — PTI



BRIEFLY

**BUDAPEST**  
**Judoka Sushila provisionally qualifies for Olympics**  
Indian judoka Sushila Devi has provisionally qualified for the Tokyo Olympics by claiming the continental quota but her participation in the Games will be confirmed only after the final list of qualifiers is released on June 28. Sushila, who lost her first round at the World Judo Championship here on Sunday in the 48kg category, currently has 989 points, which puts her at seventh spot in the Asian list. “The information shown is provisional and only shows which judoka would be qualified, if the Olympic Games were today,” the International Judo Federation website stated. The continental quotas are allotted based on a judoka’s ranking in the region. Asia has 10 quota slots.

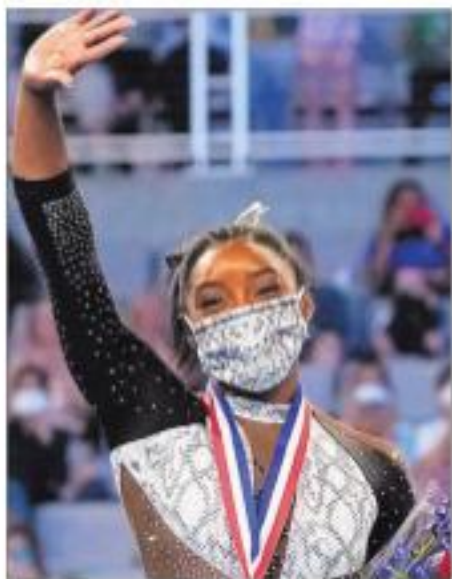
**PARIS**  
**Women’s archery team eyes top-3 finish to seal Oly berth**  
The Indian women’s archery team, led by former world No. 1 Deepika Kumari, reached here today to compete in their final Olympics qualification event on June 20. The women’s trio of Deepika, Anika Bhakat and Komalika Bari will have to finish in the top-3 to seal the last available berth for the Tokyo Olympics. While the men’s team has secured the Olympics berth, India so far has an individual quota among women, achieved by Deepika two years ago.

**NEW DELHI**  
**India’s tour of Sri Lanka between July 13 and 25**  
India will play three ODIs and as many T20Is in Sri Lanka between July 13 to 25. The Indian selectors are expected to pick plenty of fringe players for the limited-overs tour, with Shikhar Dhawan and Hardik Pandya in the fray for leading the side.

**BERLIN**  
**Osaka withdraws from pre-Wimbledon event**  
Naomi Osaka pulled out of next week’s Berlin WTA 5000 grasscourt tournament, raising doubts about the four-time Grand Slam champion’s participation at Wimbledon later this month. The decision comes after Japanese world No. 2 Osaka pulled out of the French Open last week on mental health grounds.

**LONDON**  
**Man City’s de Bruyne wins PFA Player of the Year award**  
Manchester City midfielder Kevin de Bruyne was named the Professional Footballers’ Association (PFA) Player of the Year for a second consecutive season after the Belgian led his side to the Premier League title. De Bruyne scored six goals and provided a club-high 12 assists as City wrapped up a third league title in four seasons, while they also lifted the League Cup and reached the Champions League final.

**FORT WORTH (US)**  
**Simone Biles claims another US Gymnastics title**



Simone Biles toned it down. A little anyway — and soared even higher. The 24-year-old gymnastics superstar claimed her record seventh US title Sunday night, delivering another stunning — and stunningly easy — performance that served little doubt the pressure surrounding her bid to become the first woman to win back-to-back Olympics championships in more than 50 years is only pushing her to even greater heights. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

TENNIS

FRENCH OPEN

STAR SPORTS SELECT 3:30PM

# A man for all seasons

Chhetri’s double helps India to first win in six years in WC qualifiers



Sunil Chhetri broke the deadlock in the 79th minute and added the second in injury time. AIFF

**DOHA, JUNE 7**  
Sunil Chhetri handed India their first win in six years in FIFA World Cup qualifiers as his brace downed Bangladesh 2-0 in their preliminary round match here today. Chhetri broke the deadlock in the 79th minute when he headed in Ashique Kuruniyan’s cross from the left. He then sealed the result by curling in a shot in added time. The double strikes meant India registered their first win in what was turning out to be one of their worst World Cup qualifying campaigns in many years. It was also their

first victory in World Cup qualifiers away from home in 20 years. Their last victory in World Cup qualifiers was a 1-0 result against Guam in November 2015 in Bengaluru. India are already out of contention for a berth in next year’s World Cup but remain in the reckoning for a place in the 2023 Asian Cup. Courtesy the result, India moved to six points from seven matches, while Bangladesh are at two points from seven matches. India next play Afghanistan in their last group league match on June 15. With his two goals, Chhetri

GROUP E STANDINGS					
Team	P	W	D	L	Pt
<b>QATAR</b>	7	6	1	0	19
<b>OMAN</b>	5	4	0	1	12
<b>INDIA</b>	7	1	3	3	6
<b>AFG</b>	6	1	2	3	5
<b>BAN</b>	7	0	2	5	2

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

— second-highest scorer among active players in international football — took his international tally to 74 goals.

**Missed chances**  
Coach Igor Stimac made three changes from the side that took on Qatar in the last match. India made a cautious

start, playing it among themselves while looking for gaps. India’s first real chance came in the 15th minute when Brandon Fernandes’s through ball found Manvir Singh in the clear inside the box. With only the rival goalkeeper to beat, Manvir failed to go for it quickly enough and allowed the rival defence to regroup in time. In the 35th minute, Chinglensana Singh’s header off a Brandon corner was cleared on the line by Riyadul Hasan. India missed more chances, with Chhetri and Subhashish Bose failing to find the target with their headers. — PTI

# Djokovic put to work as Coco schools Jabeur

**PARIS, JUNE 7**  
World No. 1 Novak Djokovic survived a massive scare before fighting back from two sets down against teenager Lorenzo Musetti to reach the French Open quarterfinals today after the Italian retired in the fifth set. Musetti, appearing in his first Grand Slam main draw, was inspired as he took the opening two sets on tiebreaks but crumbled and appeared to run out of energy as he managed one game thereafter before retiring at 4-0 down in the fifth set.

Djokovic was being outplayed and was facing his earliest Roland Garros exit since 2009, but the match swung his way in rapid fashion as he won the third set 6-1 in 24 minutes. The Serb won the fourth set 6-0 and was then cruising through the decider before Musetti decided he could not play on.

Holder Rafa Nadal cruised past Italian teenager Jannik Sinner 7-5 6-3 6-0 to reach his 15th Roland Garros quarter-final.

**Young guns**  
American teenager Coco Gauff reached her first Grand Slam quarterfinals with a crushing 6-3 6-1 defeat of Tunisia’s Ons Jabeur in the fourth round. “It means a lot to me, especially as I have lost in the fourth round a couple of times so it feels good to get over that hurdle,” the 24th seed told reporters. “Today I played probably



Coco Gauff crushed Ons Jabeur 6-3 6-1 on Monday; (below) Barбора Krejickova beat Sloane Stephens 6-2 6-0. REUTERS

“I was just happy that I started well. I think after the first point things got a little bit better, a little bit easier. Then I broke her. I just felt like, yeah, I can play, I can actually play her”  
Barбора Krejickova



my best match so far in the tournament.” The 17-year-old capitalised on a nervous start by Jabeur and never let her opponent off the hook in a clinical display. Jabeur, like Gauff a former junior French Open champion, tried to mix things up with her trademark drop shots but nothing

could disrupt her opponent’s flow. Gauff wrapped up the win in less than an hour on her fourth match point and is yet to drop a set in the tournament. She will face Czech Barбора Krejickova, who swept American Sloane Stephens aside 6-2 6-0, for a place in the semis. — Reuters

# NRAI prez Raninder calls out factionalism in shooting squad

**VINAYAK PADMADEO**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, JUNE 7**  
The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has warned its coaches of severe action should they indulge in any “immature” tiff amongst each other that may affect the performances or mental state of the shooters who will represent the country at the Tokyo Olympics. NRAI president Raninder Singh in a detailed letter to the pistol coaches has reminded all the coaches that the most important reason for all of them, including the federation, was to support the athletes achieve their Olympics dream. Raninder wrote the letter on May 29 in which he has assigned shooters to specific coaches and has also spelled

out ‘dos and don’ts’ for them regarding their interactions with shooters who have not been assigned to them. Calling the tiffs between them as petty and egoistical nonsense, Raninder has asked the coaches to not yell or squabble but control their temper during the run-up to the Summer Olympics. It is to be noted that reputed coach Jaspal Rana and ace pistol shooter Manu Bhaker had a big falling out during the ISSF World Cup earlier this year. The NRAI president tried to mediate twice to sort the matter out but once Manu refused to train under the famed coach he had to assign Ronak Pandit to assist the teen sensation. The NRAI president was unavailable for comments. While it was open knowledge,

the letter makes it clear that Pandit will coach Manu till at least the Tokyo Games. Rana will have only Abhishek Verma under his wings, while Ved Prakash and Samresh Jung have been asked to help out Rahi Sarnobat and Saurabh Chaudhary. Additionally, Pavel Smirnov and Samresh will help out Yashaswini Singh Deswal.

**Warning**  
The NRAI president has also told the coaches to avoid snide and hurtful comments that may impact the shooters. Raninder said that he was appalled at the factionalism and egoistical approach of the coaches and warned some of them to avoid the habit of using the media to deride any of the young shooters.

**Neeraj reaches Portugal, to compete on June 10**  
**NEW DELHI:** Olympics-bound star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has reached Portugal to take part in an event in Lisbon on June 10, which will mark his return to international competition after more than a year. Chopra hasn’t taken part in any international event after qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics in January last year in South Africa reached Lisbon on Sunday. He will compete at the Meeting Cidade de Lisboa (Meeting, City of Lisbon) on June 10 at Lisbon University Stadium. “We are trying for other events also, including the Karlstad Grand Prix in Sweden on June 22,” a source said. PTI

# Philippines’ Saso makes history

**SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE 7**  
Yuka Saso birdied the third playoff hole to beat Nasa Hataoka and become the second teenager to win the US Women’s Open after Lexi Thompson collapsed down the stretch. Saso overcame back-to-back double-bogeys early in the round to make the playoff. She then won it with a 10-foot putt on the ninth hole to become the first player from the Philippines to win a golf Major on Sunday. Saso matched 2008 winner Inbee Park as the youngest US Women’s Open champion at 19 years, 11 months, 17 days. Both players made pars at ninth and 18th in the two-hole aggregate playoff, sending the tournament to sudden death back at the ninth hole. That set the stage for Saso to win it just up the



Yuka Saso hoists the US Open trophy on Sunday. AP/PTI

road from Daly City, dubbed the Pinoy Capital of the United States for its large population of Filipinos. Thompson, who had a five-stroke lead after the eighth hole, played the final seven holes in 5-over for a 75 that left her a stroke back. Her approach shot on the par-4 18th ended up in the bunker

and then she missed a 10-foot putt to make the playoff. The only other players to finish under-par were Megan Khang and Shan-shan Feng, at 2-under. High school junior Megha Ganne played in the final group but shot 77 and finished 3-over as the low amateur for the tournament. — AP/PTI

**Ajeetesh finishes 29th**  
**HAMBURG:** Indian golfer Ajeetesh Sandhu endured a forgettable final round at the Porsche European Open to finish tied-29th after being in the reckoning for a top-10 finish here. Sandhu, hoping for his first top-10 in 20 months, did have five birdies but he also had three bogeys, a double-bogey and a triple-bogey in his 4-over 75 and fell from overnight 2-under to 1-over for 54 holes. The tournament had been reduced to three rounds. **Atwal T-49th**  
**RALEIGH (USA):** Indian golfer Arjun Atwal rounded off the week at the Rex Hospital Open with a flawless 3-under 68 to sign off tied-49th in the Korn Ferry Tour here. Atwal had rounds of 66-68-71-68 for a total of 8-under 276. AGENCIES

# Copa America drama eclipses World Cup qualifiers

**SAO PAULO, JUNE 7**  
South American World Cup qualifiers involving bitter rivals Colombia and Argentina, and Paraguay hosting Brazil, are being overshadowed by a possible player revolt against taking part in the upcoming Copa America. The South American tournament is scheduled to be played from June 13 to July 10 in Brazil. Copa America was originally set to be co-hosted by Colombia and Argentina. Colombia was forced to withdraw following social unrest and Argentina reportedly declined to host the continental tournament because of a worsening of the pandemic. It will now be hosted by Brazil, even though more than 470,000 Brazilians have

died so far from the coronavirus and analysts expect another wave of the virus to hit Brazil by late June. On the field, Brazil lead the round-robin tournament with 15 points, four ahead of second-placed Argentina. The top-four teams automatically secure a spot at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. The post-match news conference of Brazil coach Tite in Asuncion is more anticipated than the game itself. After the Selecao’s 2-0 home win against Ecuador, Tite said he and his players would make it clear whether they will participate in the next Copa America in a decision that mixes views on pandemic control and internal politics. Meanwhile, Argentina’s soccer federation says the

team will be present at Copa America as a reflection of “its sporting spirit throughout history,” but did not make clear if the team’s top players, including Lionel Messi, will be at the tournament. **Busquets tests positive**  
**Madrid:** Spain’s preparations for the Euro 2020 have taken a hit after captain Sergio Busquets tested positive for the coronavirus and is in danger of missing key games at the tournament. Meanwhile, Belgium’s Romelu Lukaku scored his 60th international goal to secure a 1-0 win over Croatia in their Euro 2020 warm-up on Sunday. Netherlands beat Georgia 3-0, while England beat Romania 1-0. — Agencies



# Choksi names 'Indian officers, mystery woman' in complaint

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

Fugitive businessman diamantaire Mehul Choksi, who is currently in Dominica, has named mysterious woman Barbara Jabarica, and Indian officers Gurmit Singh and Narindra Singh in his complaint filed with the Antigua and Barbuda Police. On June 4, the name of Gurmit Singh, a resident of India, was mentioned on the passenger list of the two vessels – Lady Anne and Callopie of Arne.

The passenger list of Callopie of Arne mentions the names of Gurjit Bhandal, a resident of Birmingham in the UK, and Gurmit Singh, a resident of India, according to the records of the Cobra tours.

In his complaint, Choksi, who is facing charges of entering Dominica illegally, has stated that he had been residing in Antigua and Barbuda for the last three years, and there he came in contact with Jabarica, who used to stay in his neighbourhood. He also stated that



## PROBE INTO CHOKSI'S 'ABDUCTION' BEGINS

■ The Antigua and Barbuda Police have commenced an investigation into the 'possible abduction' of Mehul Choksi from Antigua on May 23, 2021.

## 'WAS TRAPPED'

“The manner in which Jabarica conducted herself, including by not helping me get free from the said persons, and her subsequent lack of initiative in contacting the police points to the fact that she was an integral part of this entire scheme

■ According to media reports, PM Gaston Browne said Choksi's lawyers wrote to the police commissioner providing the names of the people he believed abducted him.

he had gone to meet Jabarica on May 23 at around 5 pm when he was abducted by 8 to 10 persons, claiming to be Antigua police officers. In his complaint to the police, Choksi alleged that the people who abducted him said they would be taking him to the St John's

police station. When he resisted and requested to contact his lawyers, "I was physically restrained and hit from all sides", the fugitive businessman said in the complaint. "I attempted to get away, but I was quickly overpowered, owing to being so heavily out-

numbered due to my poor state of health. My attackers continued to beat me mercilessly with bare hands and also used a taser (gun) on my face, hands and exposed skin, causing burns, bruises and immense pain. They further told me that if I continued to resist, they would file a complaint against me for obstruction of justice," Choksi said.

Choksi further said that the attackers put him on a wheelchair, as he was in almost comatose state. "I was unable to resist when they tied my hands, legs and body to the wheelchair. A gag was placed in my mouth obstructing my airways, causing me to gasp for air," he said. Choksi said that in the same state he was taken to the backside of Jabarica's house and was placed on what seemed like a very small watercraft. "Later, I was handed over to an officer and his team to take me to the central police station," he said. — TNS/Agencies

# ICMR's fourth sero survey to include kids aged 6 and above

Covaxin trials begin on 2 to 18-yr-olds at AIIMS-Delhi

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

India is gearing up to protect children from Covid amid a looming third wave with the ICMR on Monday saying that children aged six years and above would be included in its survey to be conducted in June to determine the level of infection in society.

This will be the fourth ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) sero survey across 70 districts, among them three from the region: Gurdaspur and Jalandhar in Punjab and Kurukshetra in Haryana.

ICMR chief Balram Bhargava today wrote a letter to all state chief secretaries asking them to prepare for the fourth sero survey and also to include children above six years in the list of respondents.

The screening of children aged 2 to 18 years began today at AIIMS, New Delhi, for Covaxin trials. The process involves screening of children to determine the



## TO BE CONDUCTED ACROSS 70 DISTRICTS: STUDY

■ Of the 70 districts chosen for the fourth sero survey, three are in the region: Gurdaspur, Jalandhar and Kurukshetra

Covid prevalence at 25% among adults as well as 12 to 17-year-olds

■ Sero surveys determine the level of infection in society

right candidates for the trials.

The Drug Controller General of India had on May 12 permitted phase two and three trials of Covaxin among two to 18-year-olds. Covaxin is currently approved for use in adults. As per protocol, 525 healthy volunteers would be recruited for the trial. The vaccine will be administered

through the intramuscular route in two doses at day 0 and day 28. Dr Sanjay Rai, Professor at the Centre for Community Medicine at AIIMS, said the screening of children for conducting Covaxin trial had started and the volunteers would be given the vaccine after their screening reports came. — TNS

# Rules eased for jawans seeking selection as officers

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

The Army has made a relaxation to the selection criteria for a segment of jawans, who seek to participate in the selection process to qualify as officers. The new rules will come into force from January 2022 and will be there as a pilot project for two years. These shall apply to jawans in the age bracket of 30-35 years and are eligible in the selection process as Special Commissioned Officers (SCOs).

The Army has sent out instructions to all units that

those participating in the selection process through Services Selection Board need not undergo the 'stage-1' of the selection process. This 'stage-1' entails a verbal test and participation in a group discussion, from which selections are made to qualify for the 'stage-2' of the selection process.

The SCO stream is one of the three opportunities offered to a jawan to become an officer at different stages of his career. First is the Army Cadet College for jawans between 22-27 years of age, the second is the



## INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED TO UNITS

The Army has sent out instructions to all units that those participating in the selection process through

Services Selection Board need not undergo the 'stage-1' process that entails a verbal test and group discussion

SCO followed by the Permanent Commission Special List for those above 42 years of age.

If the pilot project is successful, the criteria will be amended for the selection process of the

# 28,252 black fungus cases in India

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan today said India had so far recorded 28,252 cases of mucormycosis from 28 states. Of these, 86 per cent (24,370 cases) had a history of Covid infection and 62.3 per cent (17,601) had a history of diabetes.

Maharashtra has maximum number of mucormycosis cases (6,339), followed by Gujarat (5,486), Vardhan said, chairing the 28th meeting of the Covid Group of Ministers. He said India's recovery rate had risen to

## 83% of active cases in 10 states

93.94 per cent with daily new cases falling to a 61 day low of 1,00,636 as against 1,74,399 daily recoveries.

The minister said 83 per cent active cases were in 10 states and the remaining 17 per cent in 26 states and UTs. Seven states (Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand) have less than 1,000 active cases

and five states (Jammu, Punjab, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh) have less than 2,000 active cases.

The growth rate has declined from 14.7 per cent (May 5) to 3.48 per cent (today), he said, adding that India had administered 23,27,86,482 vaccine doses as of today and in the 18-44 age group, the first dose had been given to 2,86,18,514 people. The minister said India took 141 days to reach 23 crore mark in terms of cumulative doses administered, the second highest in the world after the US, which did in 134 days. — TNS

## IN BRIEF

### Mumbai-Kolkata flight hits turbulence

NEW DELHI: A few passengers on Vistara's Mumbai-Kolkata flight were injured on Monday as the aircraft encountered severe turbulence 15 minutes before landing, the airline said. "The turbulence caused injuries to a few passengers, who were provided first aid," a spokesperson for the airline said. — PTI

### FB's Spoorthi Priya is grievance officer

NEW DELHI: Social media giant Facebook has named Spoorthi Priya as its grievance officer for India on its website. The move comes in the backdrop of the new IT rules coming into effect that require significant social media intermediaries — those with over 50 lakh users — to appoint a grievance officer. — PTI

### Underwater protests at Lakshadweep

KOCHI: Residents of Lakshadweep on Monday held an underwater protest while others staged a 12-hour fast outside their homes, demanding recall of the islands' Administrator Praful Khoda Patel for his 'anti-people' measures and seeking withdrawal of a draft legislation on development. — PTI

# TMC to spread footprint across India: Didi nephew

Says party trying to help BJP workers return home

SHUBHADEEP CHOUDHURY  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, JUNE 7

TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Monday said his party aimed to spread its footprint in every nook and corner of the country and a plan to this effect would be ready in a month's time.

Addressing a press meet here, Banerjee, nephew of TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, also said that his party would take the BJP head-on in every state where it gets to gain a foothold. Banerjee, meanwhile, said party leaders were reaching out to the BJP to facilitate the return of saffron party workers, who had fled their homes fearing attack by TMC workers post-elections.

The Diamond Harbour MP and nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, widely perceived to be her political successor, claimed that post-poll violence stopped after Mamata took over as the Chief Minister. "There were some incidents of violence till the Election Commission was at the helm of affairs in Bengal," Abhishek said, claiming that after Mamata took charge as the Chief Minister, there was even a "single incident" targeting BJP supporters.

"You must have seen that our leaders are reaching out to

## WILL TAKE BJP HEAD ON

“We will take the BJP head-on in every state where the TMC builds its foundation.

Abhishek Banerjee, TMC NATIONAL GENERAL SECY



Jagdeep Dhankhar



Mahua Moitra

## GUV JUNKS NEPOTISM ANGLE

■ Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar said TMC MP Mahua Moitra's allegation that his family members and other acquaintances had been appointed as OSDs in Raj Bhavan was "factually wrong".

■ He said six officers on special duty were not part of his family.

their BJP counterparts, saying if there is anything stopping your people from entering villages, write to us and we will make sure that irrespective of the person's political affiliation, identity and inclination, we will help them go to their native places safely," Abhishek said. Chandrima Bhattacharya, member of the Mamata-led Cabinet, recently responded to a tweet by BJP ideologue and former Meghalaya Governor Tathagata Roy about BJP supporters from the state on the run. Bhattacharya appealed to

Roy to make available the details of these people so that they could be brought back. Tathagata Roy promised to send her some names while he also urged her to use the state police to locate more such people and help them return home.

Referring to the repeated tweets posted by Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar alleging rampant post-poll violence in the state, Banerjee said the Governor should submit the "details to the state government in writing". — Agencies

# SC gives govt more time to work out modalities on scheme for orphans

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

The Supreme Court on Monday gave more time to work out the modalities for the implementation of recently launched 'PM-Cares for Children' scheme for those orphaned by Covid-19.

A Bench, headed by Justices LN Rao, agreed to take up the matter post-summer vacation after Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati said the Centre needed more time as it was in consultation with various states and ministries to finalise the modalities of the 'PM-Cares for Children' scheme.

Talking about the scheme, Bhati said, "We have made district magistrates directly responsible for the children who have been abandoned or have been orphaned."

The Bench pulled up the



## Pulls up WB Govt for not furnishing data on kids hit by Covid

West Bengal Government after the National Commission of Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) said West Bengal was not cooperating in furnishing the latest data on the number of children who have lost their parents due to Covid.

"We said gather information pertaining to children orphaned after March 2020, and include CNCs (Children in Need of Care and Protec-

tion) also. All other states have understood it properly and have uploaded the information, how is it that only West Bengal doesn't understand the order. Don't take refuge under confusion. All other States have provided it, there is confusion only for West Bengal?" "the Bench told West Bengal Government counsel.

On behalf of the NCPCR, Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj said the commission was facing difficulties with West Bengal and Delhi which were not uploading the data of such children on 'Bal Swaraj' portal. The top court also asked the Delhi Government to upload the updated information on the NCPCR's website. The Supreme Court had on Tuesday asked the Centre to provide details of schemes announced for children who lost their parents to Covid along with monitoring mechanisms.

# SC panel releases draft rules for live-streaming

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

Almost three years after the Supreme Court agreed to live-streaming of its proceedings, its e-committee led by Justice DY Chandrachud has come up with draft guidelines containing a regulatory framework for the purpose.

"The e-committee, Supreme Court of India envisages a

## MATRIMONIAL MATTERS EXCLUDED

Draft rules made it clear that matrimonial matters, including transfer petitions arising thereunder, cases concerning sexual offences, including proceedings instituted under Section 376 (rape) of IPC, cases concerning gender-based violence against women among others will be excluded from live-streaming.

judicial system which is more accessible, efficient and equitable for every individual who

engages with the justice delivery system," it announced on its website. The top court has

invited suggestions on the draft guidelines by June 30.

The draft rules envisage installation of cameras in the courtroom covering at least five angles. A sub-committee comprising judges of the Bombay, Delhi, Madras and Karnataka HCs would frame model live-streaming rules. — TNS

## 20 killed in lightning strikes in Bengal

KOLKATA, JUNE 7

At least 20 persons were killed in lightning strikes in three districts of south Bengal on Monday, an official said. PM Naren-

dra Modi condoled the deaths and approved an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of those killed and Rs 50,000 for the injured. — PTI

# 18 killed as fire engulfs Pune sanitiser factory

PUNE, JUNE 7

At least 18 persons, mostly women, were killed in a fire that broke out in a sanitiser factory in a village in Pune on Monday. The blaze erupted at 3.30 pm and quickly spread within the premises, trapping many workers.

"While at least 18 persons perished in the blaze, 10 other workers are feared trapped or missing," said a

## Bodies found in multiple groups with victims clinging on to each other in a desperate bid to stay together and escape the inferno

police official. Fire Brigade and disaster rescue teams rushed to the spot to battle the flames. Eyewitnesses said "At one point, the relief teams had to bulldoze a wall to rescue the workers trapped inside."

Sandesh Shirke, SDM, Mul-

shi division, said as per the company officials, 17 employees, including 15 women, were at the blaze site. "The charred bodies have been sent to the government-run Sassoon General Hospital for autopsy." Fire Brigade officials

said the bodies were found in multiple groups with the victims clinging each other in a desperate attempt to stay together and escape the inferno. Devendra Potphode, Chief Fire Officer, quoting company officials, said the fire broke out when some plastic material was being packed. Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar has ordered an inquiry to ascertain the cause of the fire. — Agencies



Smoke billows out of a factory at Ghotawade Phata in Pune. PTI