

# The Sunday Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

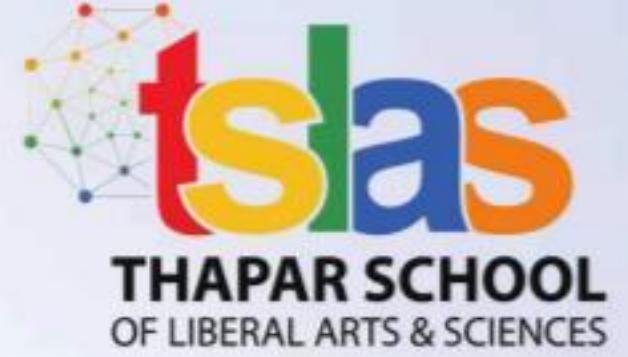
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SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021



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OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY  
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**NOTICE FOR INVITING APPLICATION FROM SMALL PRIVATE TRADERS IN HARYANA STATE FOR SALE OF WHEAT UNDER OMSS(D) 2021-22 BY FCI.**

Kind attention of the interested Small Private Traders of wheat in Haryana is invited for sale of wheat from designated depots of FCI/State agencies in Haryana on pre-payment basis. The application is to be submitted to the concerned Divisional Managers on all working days between 10.30 AM to 1.00 PM. The detailed terms and conditions and application form are available at FCI website: [www.fci.gov.in](http://www.fci.gov.in).

Sd/-  
General Manager (R)

**FCI - ENSURING FOOD SECURITY OF NATION**

**Punjab Health Systems Corporation SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITATION OF BIDS**

Tender reference Bid No. 04 e-tender/PHSC/EE (W)/2021-22 dated: 15.05.2021

The Department of Punjab Health Systems Corporation, Mohali Invites online bids for Construction of 2 Nos. Platform for setting up of 104 bedded Covid Hospital Facility at DH SAS Nagar as per DNT specifications.

Closing Date: 20.05.2021 up to 17.00 Hrs.

For details logon to [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 (W),  
For Managing Director.

DPR/Pb/4568

**GURU ANGAD DEV VETERINARY AND ANIMAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY LUDHIANA Advertisement No. 01/2021**

Applications are invited for an officer, teaching and non-teaching posts for various constituent Colleges of Guru Angad Dev Veterinary & Animal Sciences University on prescribed form available on University website. Details of posts and location, minimum eligibility criteria, job responsibilities, pay scales etc. are available at [www.gadvus.in](http://www.gadvus.in). Last date for receipt of applications complete in all respects is 13.06.2021. Corrigendum/Addendum, if any will be issued on the University website only.

Sd/- Registrar  
DPR/Pb/4512

**Government of Himachal Pradesh Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation E-Procurement Notice Invitation For Bids (IFB)**

1. The Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation, IDPT-HP invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in Two Cover System for the under mentioned works from the eligible bidders.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender
1	Construction of Heliport at Shimla. Sub Head:- Providing and Fixing of Safety Net and its frame work around Deck Slab at newly constructed Heliport at Shimla.	Rs. 79,99,500/-	Rs. 1,60,000/-	Rs. 2000/-

Time:- 4 months

2. **Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:** The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://hpptenders.gov.in>

Bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and Password for participating in e-tendering in Himachal Pradesh may obtain the same from the website <https://hpptenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:	
1. Date of Online Publication	17.05.2021; 18:00 Hrs
2. Document Download Start and End Date	17.05.2021; 18:30 Hrs to 07.06.2021; 17:00 Hrs
3. Pre-Bid Meeting (through V.C.)	31.05.2021; 11:30 Hrs
4. Bid Submission Start and End Date	01.06.2021; 18:00 Hrs up to 08.06.2021; 10:30 Hrs
5. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	08.06.2021; 10:30 Hrs
6. Date of Technical Bid opening Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid	08.06.2021; 11:00 Hrs

4. **Tender Details:** The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in two Covers:

(i) **Cover 1:** Shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility Information".

(ii) **Cover 2:** Shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where bidders will quote their offer for each item

5. **Submission of Original Documents:** The bidders are required to submit (a) Original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) Original Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents as per bid documents to the authorized official in the office of the Executive Engineer, HPTDB, US Club, Shimla-1, H.P., as specified in key dates Sr. No. 3 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. **Bid Opening Details:** The bids shall be opened on **8th June, 2021 at 11:00 hrs** by the authorized official in the office of the Executive Engineer, HPTDB, US Club, Shimla-1, H.P. In their interest the bidders are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Director,  
Tourism & Civil Aviation,  
Block No. 28 SDA Complex,  
Kasumti, Shimla-9.

DPR/HP/73

**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH**

No.PGI/Engg/H.E. Const.2021/ Dated:

**CORRIGENDUM**

Due to poor response, the date, time of submission of bids of the below mentioned e-tender is re-scheduled as under:-

NIT No: PGI/Engg./Const./2021/16: Name of Work: Addition/Alteration in the Procurement Branch at Level-I, Block-D, Nehru Nagar, PGIMER, Chandigarh, (Composite Works) SH: Civil Work, Elect, Work & AC Work). Estimated Cost: Rs.45.37 Lakh (Civil: Rs. 28.29 Lakh, Elect: Rs. 6.97 Lakh & AC: Rs. 10.11 Lakh), Earnest Money: (Rs.90,740/-) Period of Completion: Three Months

Last date and time of submission of bid or original earnest Money

Date and time of opening of Eligibility bid

24.05.2021 25.05.2021 25.05.2021  
Up to 3.00 PM Up to 3.00 PM at 3.30 PM

Other terms and conditions of e-tender shall remain unchanged. For terms & conditions, eligibility criteria and other details of the e-tender visit the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app/> or [pgimer.edu.in](http://pgimer.edu.in). e-tender Helpdesk No.09257209340, 08054628821. For any technical inquiry, please contact 0172-2755861, 07087008800 and 07087008894.

DPR/2804

HOSPITAL ENGINEER (CONST.)

**Government of Punjab National Health Mission**

Department of Health and Family Welfare, Punjab Prayas Building, 5th Floor, Sector-38-B, Chandigarh Tel. No. 0172-2688438

**NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM E-TENDERS FOR SUPPLY OF COVID Care Kits**

Ref No. Tender/Proc-Cov/2021/NHM-26

The National Health Mission-Punjab, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Punjab hereby invites online bids through [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in) for the supply of **COVID Care Kits** in the State of Punjab. Detailed requirements and terms and conditions are available on website [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in).

DPR/Pb/4567

Mission Director

**HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG CORRIGENDUM**

The online tender invited vide this office letter No. EE-JSD-BHJ-EA-I-Tender/2021-22-334-394 dated 28.04.2021, for the work Augmentation and Improvement of various LWSS under Bhoranji Constituency, Distt. Hamirpur, H.P. (Source level augmentation and providing lift out FHTC under Jal Jeevan Mission in G.P. Bakera) (SH: Construction of Raw water tank, Clear water tank & Main storage tank of 55000 Ltr. Cap. (each), Sedimentation tank of 20000 Ltr. cap, Filter beds 2 units of 10.00 Sq. mt. each, Main storage tank of 40000 Ltr. cap. and Pump house of 14.40 Sq. mt. internal size) which schedule to be opened on dated **12.05.2021 at 11:30 a.m.** could not be opened due to administrative reasons. The revised key date for the same is as under

**Revised Key date:**

1. Date of online publication	28.04.2021 at 05.00 p.m.
2. Document Download Start Date	28.04.2021 at 05.30 p.m.
3. Bid submission Start Date & End Date	28.04.2021 at 05.30 p.m. up to 24.05.2021 at 05.00 p.m.
4. Physical submission of Earnest Money and cost of tender documents etc.	25.05.2021 up to 11.00 a.m.
5. Date of opening of online bid	27.05.2021 at 11.30 a.m.

Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti Divn. Bhoranji.

No. EE-JSD-BHJ-EA-I-Tender/2021-576-636 Dated: 10.05.2021 DPR/HP/771

Office e-mail ID:- [ejjsvdivisionamb812@gmail.com](mailto:ejjsvdivisionamb812@gmail.com)  
Office Telephone No.: 01976-292122

### HIMACHAL PRADESH Jal Shakti Vibhag Notice Inviting Tenders

Sealed item rate tenders on form 6 & 8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Amb, Distt. Una (HP) on the behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh for the following works from the appropriate and eligible contractors/Firm enlisted with Jal Shakti Vibhag so as to reach in this office on or before **21.05.2021 at 12.00 p.m. and will be opened on the same day at 12.30 p.m.** in the presence of intending contractors/Firm or their authorized agent who may like to be present. The tenders can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Amb (HP) against cash payment (Non refundable) upto 5.00 p.m. on 20.05.2021. The notice inviting tender's alongwith schedule of quantity are on the Department website "[www.hppihp.org](http://www.hppihp.org)" which can be downloaded. The Firm/Contractors who downloaded the tender form from the website shall deposit the cost of tender form along with other eligibility criteria in a separate sealed cover upto 5.00 p.m. on 20.05.2021. The rates in the tender form will be filled in words and in figures failing which the tender will be rejected. Conditional tenders or tender received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time of completion
1	Construction of lift Irrigation Scheme for Rain Water Harvesting Structure (RWH-I & RWH-II) on Sohari, Takoli Khad & Distt. Una (HP) (SH: Construction of building for newly created Jal Shakti Division Amb, Distt. Una (HP))	4,95,485/-	9,910/-	2 Months
2	Consultancy Services for Source level augmentation of Rural Water Supply Scheme Behli, Amb Tilla and Chowkimar in Tehsil Amb Distt. Una (HP). (SH: Preparation of Plan Proposal and DPR)	4,22,050/-	8,441/-	1 Month

Cost of form (in ₹):- 250.00 each

Terms & Conditions:-

1. Contractor should have registration No. of eligible class.
2. The contractor should have PAN No. from Income Tax Department.
3. The Contractor should have Sale Tax/GST No. and its clearance certificate.
4. Latest Income Tax clearance certificates thereof.
5. The Earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate/ Time Deposit Account/Post Office Saving Account in any of the Post Office in H.P. and FDR's duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Amb OR certificate of exemption of Earnest Money Deposit as per latest instruction issued by the Principal Secy. IPH to the Govt. of HP vide No. IPH-B(C)17-4/2008 dated 18.8.2011 & Additional Chief Secretary (IPH) to the Govt. of HP vide No. IPH-B(C)17-4/2008-1 dated 29.10.2013, No. 343 dated 30.10.2013. [In case the lowest contr. is exempted from the earnest money while submitting tender, the earnest money so required in the tender documents will have to be deposited by the contractor before issue of award letter, failing which award letter will not be issued in his favour]. The tenders of those contractors who do not deposit the earnest money in the prescribed manner will summarily be rejected.

(Er. Hoshiar Singh),  
Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti Division Amb  
Distt. Una (HP).

DPR/HP/735

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) and [www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in).

106 For Principal Chief Materials Manager

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



Sh. Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

### Ch. Devi Lal Sanjeevani Hospital, Hisar

Inauguration by  
**Sh. Manohar Lal**  
Chief Minister, Haryana

Presided over by  
**Sh. Dushyant Chautala**  
Deputy Chief Minister, Haryana

August presence

**Sh. Anil Vij**

Health Minister, Haryana

**Sh. Ranbir Gangwa**

Vidhan Sabha Deputy Speaker, Haryana

**Sh. Brijendra Singh**

M.P., Hisar

**Sh. Kamal Gupta**

M.L.A., Hisar

Sunday, 16th May, 2021

Oxygen Supply by

Both COVID hospitals with 500 beds capacity each are built at a cost of approx Rs. 28.5 Crore (per hospital)

### Guru Teg Bahadur Sanjeevani Hospital, Bal Jattan, Panipat

Inauguration by  
**Sh. Manohar Lal**  
Chief Minister, Haryana

Presided over by  
**Sh. Dharmendra Pradhan**

Union Minister for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Steel

August presence

**Sh. Anil Vij**

Health Minister, Haryana

**Sh. Sanjay Bhatia**

M.P., Karnal

Sunday, 16th May, 2021

Oxygen Supply by

### COVID Hospitals & Centres setting up in Gurugram

- Hospital with facility of 100 oxygen-equipped beds in collaboration with Hero Group and Doctors For You, NGO in **Govt. Women College, Sector-14, Gurugram**.
- COVID Field Hospital of 100 bed capacity in collaboration with **Vedanta Group in Tau Devi Lal Stadium Medicity, Sector-38** with 20 I.C.U beds and 80 oxygen-equipped beds at one place.
- COVID Care Centre with 300 bed capacity in **Sector-67, Gurugram** with joint collaboration with CII, M3M, Indian Air Force and Doctors For You, NGO.

Inauguration by  
**Sh. Manohar Lal**  
Chief Minister, Haryana

August presence  
**Rao Inderjit Singh**

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge)

16th & 17th May, 2021

### Other New Hospitals in the State for COVID Patients

# The Sunday Tribune

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TWO MORE COVID HOSPITALS TO OPEN TODAY HARYANA

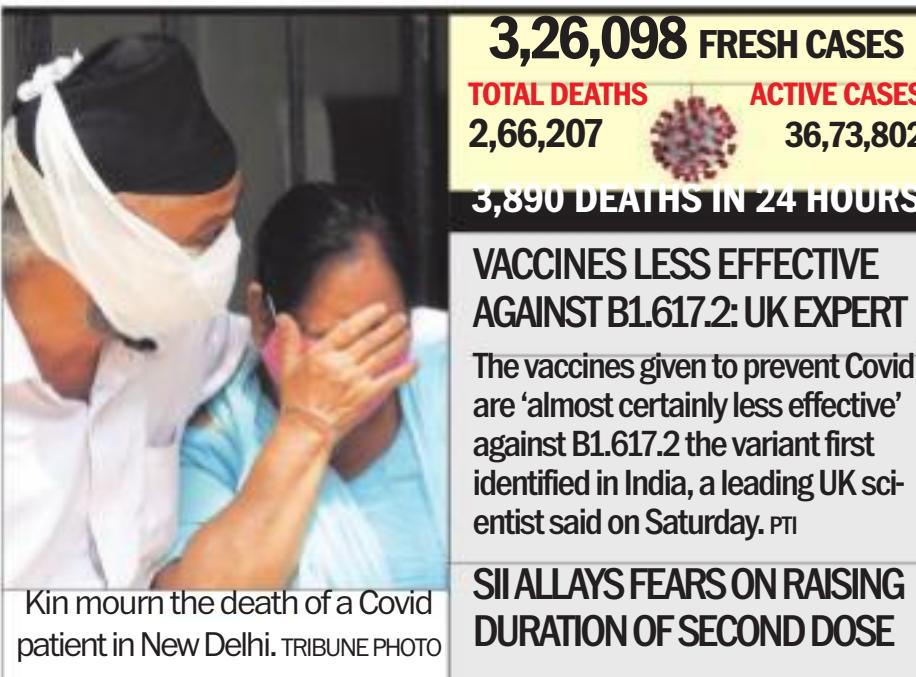
COVID: WHAT LIES AHEAD SPECTRUM

ISRAELI AIR STRIKES LEAVE 15 DEAD IN GAZA BACK PAGE



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SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021



3,26,098 FRESH CASES  
TOTAL DEATHS 2,66,207 ACTIVE CASES 36,7802  
3,890 DEATHS IN 24 HOURS

VACCINES LESS EFFECTIVE AGAINST B1.617.2: UK EXPERT

The vaccines given to prevent Covid are 'almost certainly less effective' against B1.617.2, the variant first identified in India, a leading UK scientist said on Saturday. PTI

SII ALLOYS FEARS ON RAISING DURATION OF SECOND DOSE

Positivity rate below 20% for 5th day in row

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MAY 15  
The government on Saturday said stabilisation of the Covid pandemic was visible to certain extent even though some states continued to report a rise in cases.

"For five days now, daily recoveries have exceeded daily infections. Average weekly recovery has also improved by 11 per cent (from 3.20 lakh to 3.57 lakh), and 80 per cent active cases are in only 12 states," said the Health Ministry, noting that containment efforts were working and for five days in a row the national positivity rate had been under 20 per cent.

Eighteen states are seeing a

Improvement in some states, including Haryana

decline in the positivity rate. Haryana, which is among them, fell out of the list of 11 states with over 1 lakh active cases today. "Containment has helped in decline of India's positivity rate from 21.9 per cent last week to 19.8 per cent now," said the ministry.

"Stabilisation of the pandemic wave is visible to some extent. There is a clear declining trend in some states. In some others it is still rising. We have a mixed picture, but overall, the situation is stabilising. At one time in this

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## Mass shallow graves on banks of Ganga in UP

Bodies mainly found in four districts | MHA asks Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to take immediate action

MUKESH RANJAN  
Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MAY 15  
Exposing the vulnerability of rural population to Covid-19, rain earlier this week in central and eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh led to horror among masses as it uncovered mass shallow graves along the Ganga in different districts of the state.

Taking a serious note of the development, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has advised Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (the two most pop-



ulous states) to immediately check the trend of burying bodies along the banks of the river as it could lead to further spread of infection.

Earlier, Bihar's Buxar

authorities had fished out 71 bodies of suspected Covid-19 victims from the Ganga,

claiming these had come from the neighbouring eastern UP. Days later, several media

### HASTILY BURIED

- A large number of bodies found in several districts of UP
- The bodies were hastily buried along the banks of the Ganga
- Corpses mainly found in Kannauj, Unnao, Ghazipur, Kannauj, Ballia and Ghazipur districts

<< Bodies buried on the banks of the Ganga in Prayagraj, reportedly due to shortage of wood for cremation. PTI

reports suggested that thousands of bodies were found in the shallow graves in various UP districts. The reports claimed that the corpses were hastily buried along the banks of the Ganga in several districts, including Kanpur, Unnao, Ghazipur, Kannauj, Ballia and Ghazipur.

Noting that the visuals of the spots were "disturbing", a senior official of the UP Government said the state administration had taken a number of steps to arrest the trend.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Making Malerkotla separate dist shows Cong's divisive politics: Yogi

Tribune News Service

### UP CM PROMOTING COMMUNAL DISCORD

What does he (Yogi) understand of the Indian Constitution, which is being brazenly trampled upon every day by his own government in UP? Capt Amarinder Singh, PUNJAB CM



was "testimony to Congress' policy of divisive politics".

Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh slammed his UP counterpart over his "inflammatory" tweet on the declaration of Malerkotla as the 23rd district of the state, terming it an attempt to incite communal

hatred in the peaceful state as part of the BJP's divisive agenda in the run-up to the Assembly elections.

The Assembly elections in Punjab and UP along with Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa are simultaneously due

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Two ASIs shot dead at check-post in Jagraon

LUDHIANA, MAY 15  
Unidentified car-borne persons allegedly shot dead two Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs) at the New Grain Market in Jagraon, about 45 km from here, on Saturday evening.

The deceased have been identified as Bhagwan Singh and Dalwinder Singh who were posted in the CIA wing of the Ludhiana rural police.

The policemen, who were in civvies, were checking vehicles at a naka near the grain market. During the checking, the cops stopped a Canter. However, assailants



who were in a white car behind the Canter suddenly fired at the ASIs. While one cop died on the spot, the other succumbed to his injuries at the DMC Hospital.

SSP Charanjit Singh Sohal said the naka had been set up following a tip-off about liquor smuggling. — TNS

SKM plans protests at village level to mark 6 mths of stir

JHAKKAR, MAY 15

To mark the completion of six months of its ongoing protest at Delhi borders, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) will observe May 26 as 'black day'.

On the occasion, the SKM would organise protests and burn an effigy of the Union Government at village and 'mohalla' level across the country, said SKM leader Balbir Singh Rajewal. "The farmers and those supporting the agitation will hoist black flags on their houses and vehicles on that day to register their protest against the three farm laws," he said. — TNS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

In minister VK Singh's village, 35 die in 10 days with Covid-like symptoms

DEEPENDER DESWAL  
Tribune News Service

HISAR, MAY 15

About 35 persons with Covid-like symptoms died in the past 10 days in Bhiwani's Bapora village, which is the native place of Union Minister Gen VK Singh (retd).

Village sarpanch Naresh Tanwar confirmed the toll. "The cause of death in three cases was confirmed as

Covid. The rest did not undergo Covid test, but the symptoms were no different from the deadly virus. In the past 10 days, the village witnessed deaths almost every day," he told *The Tribune*.

He further said villagers were reluctant to get themselves tested. Instead, they were taking home remedies and consulting quacks. This is so because Bapora village nei-

### TESTING RATE LOW

- Bapora villagers reluctant to get themselves tested
- Instead, they prefer home remedies and consult quacks
- The village neither has a CHC nor a PHC

ther has a Community Health Centre (CHC) nor a Primary Health Centre (PHC). "A couple of days ago, an



official had asked me to arrange beds for an isolation centre in a government school. I made the arrange-

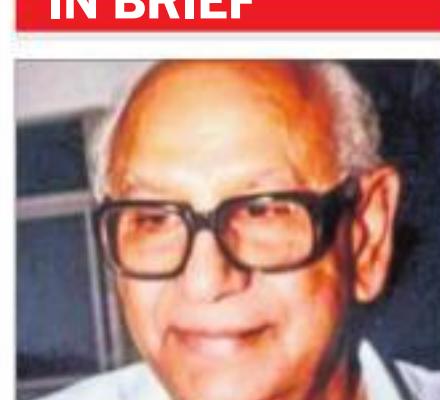
ment and the centre was set up, but none of the ailing persons is getting treated there as it lacks doctors and medicines," Tanwar said, adding one of the villagers, whose condition was serious, was under treatment in a Bhiwani hospital.

A health worker deployed in Bapora village said he had covered almost half of the village and found 70 Covid cas-

es. According to him, two or three persons died of Covid and about 50 recovered. "About 20 persons are recuperating at home," he added.

Deputy Commissioner Jaiveer Arya said, "I have learnt that Bapora village has several Covid cases. I will visit the village on Sunday and deploy health workers for taking samples and ensure medical facilities." — TNS

### IN BRIEF



Six-time Amritsar MP Bhatia dies of Covid

AMRITSAR: Congress stalwart and six-time Amritsar MP RL Bhatia passed away after a brief illness here on Saturday. He was to turn 101 on July 3. He was hospitalised after testing positive for Covid. INSIDE

Akal Takht ex-chief Vedanti passes away

AMRITSAR: Giani Joginder Singh Vedanti, former Akal Takht Jathedar, passed away on Saturday evening. He was around 70 years old. He suffered a heart attack. INSIDE

Black fungus declared 'notified' disease in Haryana

CHANDIGARH: Haryana has declared black fungus a notified disease in the state. If any cases are found, doctors will have to report them to the CMO concerned. — TNS

# Centre must procure vaccines for whole country: Capt to PM

Tribune News Service

**CHANDIGARH, MAY 15** Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make the central government the single agency for procurement and distribution of vaccine for the 18-44 age group.

"Vaccination of the entire eligible population, especially in a pandemic situation, is the responsibility of the central government as any non-inclusion can undermine the rest of the collective effort," the Chief

## UNION GOVT MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

• Vaccination of the entire eligible population, especially in a pandemic situation, is the responsibility of the central government as any non-inclusion can undermine the rest of the collective effort. Capt Amarinder Singh, CM

Minister said in a letter to PM Narendra Modi.

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

from abroad," the Chief Minister said the Government of India should immediately undertake sourcing of all vaccine, as a single agency. It should ensure vaccine distribution across all states and union territories through

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

**Muktsar admin turns to RMPs**

**MUKTSAR, MAY 15**

With a spike in Covid cases in the rural areas, the district administration has sought support of registered medical practitioners (RMPs) in villages to curb the spread of virus.

Deputy Commissioner MK Aravind Kumar today held a meeting with RMPs at the district administrative complex here, urging them to motivate people with Covid symptoms to undergo testing. Besides, he sought their help in contact-tracing of infected persons. —TNS

# Submit pre-board results for Class X marks: Dept

**FARIDKOT, MAY 15**

The School Education Department, which had cancelled the Punjab School Education Board (PSEB)'s Class X board exams due to Covid pandemic last month, on Saturday asked all PSEB-affiliated schools to tabulate the marks of the students on basis of their performance in various tests or exams throughout the year to prepare their final result.

As many students had not even appeared in the

## RECORDS ALREADY GIVEN

• There was no need for the SCERT to seek this record from the schools as it was already being submitted to the school education department by all institutes after every pre-board exam. Prem Chawla, GOVT SCHOOL TEACHERS' UNION

pre-board exams conducted by the schools, the school heads are directed to tabulate the marks of these students on the basis of any of the bi-monthly or any other exams conducted at school level in July, September, November and December last year, read a letter of the Director, State Council of Education and Research Training (SCERT), to all school heads on Saturday.

There was no exam of Class IX and X last year also due to pandemic. All Class IX students of PSEB-affiliated schools

## Empty tankers sent to Bokaro

**CHANDIGARH, MAY 15**

With the rolling out of Punjab's first Oxygen Express towards Bokaro today, the state will soon be in a position to lift its full 80 MT O2 quota, much needed to further boost up its stock of life-

Will seek more O2 from Centre: CS

saving medical ingredient.

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

# Charging ₹40,000 a day, pvt hospitals 'fleece' patients

**SUKHMEET BHASIN**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**BATHINDA, MAY 15**

Inadequate beds in government hospitals and lack of treatment facilities have resulted in private hospitals fleecing Covid patients in the district.

Many private hospitals are charging exorbitantly and taking registration fee ranging from Rs 20,000-Rs 30,000 apart from bed charges before admitting a patient in the hospital. The district administration is making tall claims on paper but on the ground, the situation is quite grim.

Government hospitals don't have a single level-3 bed and private hospitals are charging hefty fee, leaving poor patients in the lurch.

A city-based doctor said, "Daily expenses of level-2 and level-3 patients at a private hospital are around Rs 40,000-50,000 per day and no receipts are being given."

Even delay in giving permission by the district administration to Dr Vitull K Gupta's Kishore Ram Hospital, which he has given to NGO Naujawan Welfare Society for the free treatment of poor patients, has invited criticism.

AAP MLA Prof Baljinder Kaur said, "Not allowing Kishore Ram Hospital to give free treatment to Covid patients is a demonstration of the Capt government's insensitivity towards poor."

Bathinda Deputy Commissioner B Srinivasan said, "We have already instructed the hospitals and IMA to charge as per the state government orders. Nobody can charge more



A Covid patient undergoes treatment at a hospital in Jalandhar.

## WILL TAKE ACTION AGAINST VIOLATORS

• We have already instructed the hospitals and IMA to charge as per the state government orders. Nobody can charge more than that from Covid patients and if anyone is doing so, strict action will be taken against them. B Srinivasan, BATHINDA DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

than that from Covid patients and if anyone is doing so, strict action will be taken against them."

On the nod to Kishore Ram Hospital, he said, "The hospital has given me the list of manpower today, so by tomorrow, we will give it the approval."

# 9 deaths in 2 weeks, fear grips Patiala village

**KARAM PRAKASH**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**PATIALA, MAY 15**

With nine deaths in the past two weeks, Ajnada Kalan village in the Nabha block of the district is on the edge.

Of the nine, six victims developed Covid-related complications, confirmed health officials. Consequently, officials had to organise a testing camp at the village today.

The health officials collected 121 samples there. However, villagers are still scared to come forward for testing.

Dr Davinderjit, Senior Medical Officer, Bhadson, said, "Six villagers have already died of Covid. We are regularly conducting tests. However, people are still afraid to come forward. There is social stigma and fear of hospitalisation in rural areas."

The officials said the six patients who died of Covid were hospitalised only after their health deteriorated. The patients had not undergone Covid tests before they were hospitalised, said the officials.

One of the villagers said, "The panchayat is now making announcements at the gurdwara asking people to get tested and vaccinated. Earlier, we took it lightly."

Sources in the Health



Ashes of Covid victims at Birji Cremation Ground in Patiala. TRIBUNE PHOTO: RAJESH SACHAR

## COVID METER

CASES	6,867
Critical	429
Active	77,789
Deaths	217

## WORST-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	CASES	DEATHS
Ludhiana	1,132	18
Jalandhar	573	11
Patiala	536	19
SAS Nagar	535	7
Bathinda	515	24

had no expertise of Covid treatment. "These RMPs are taking advantage of villagers' fear of going to hospitals," said a senior official.

Taranveer Singh, Sarpanch, Ajnada Kalan, said, "Earlier, villagers were showing a lackadaisical attitude towards Covid precautions. Now, they are coming forward for testing. We have appealed to residents to follow all guidelines."

# Blame game over shifting of ventilators from Gurdaspur

**RAVI DHALIWAL**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**GURDASPUR, MAY 15**

An unsavoury situation has developed with Gurdaspur MP Sunny Deol's personal staff objecting to the shifting of four ventilators from the district to the Ludhiana Civil Surgeon's office.

The MP had given two such machines from his MPLAD fund, while the other two had been donated by Dubai businessman Surinder Pal Singh Oberoi during the first wave of Covid in March last year. In extreme cases, a ventilator becomes essential to keep a patient alive.

On May 6, the Ludhiana Deputy Commissioner wrote to his Gurdaspur counterpart seeking four ventilators as these were lying "unused".

Acting promptly, Gurdaspur DC Mohammad Ish-

fers at the district administration over the move "despite the fact that the number of Covid patients was showing an increase across the state and not in Ludhiana alone."

Minutes after Deol's PA Pankaj Joshi made this accusation, Ishfaq clarified he had taken the consent of both Deol and Oberoi in writing. He also made it clear the machines were shifted "on a temporary basis". Dr Satnam Singh Nijjar, Chairman, Gurdaspur Planning Board, had facilitated the DC's conversation with Oberoi, who is in Dubai. Oberoi, while speaking to *The Tribune*, confirmed the DC had taken his permission. Minutes after Joshi's had levelled the allegations at a specially convened press conference, Ishfaq clarified his position through a press release.

The machines, sources say, were lying in a state of disuse because of shortage of "critical care staff" needed to manage these. While the MP is recuperating in a US hospital following a shoulder injury, his staff started pointing fin-

# Non-critical patients to be moved to F'kot Civil Hospital

**BALWANT GARG**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**FARIDKOT, MAY 15**

With the surging number of Covid patients and increasing death toll at Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and Hospital (GGSIMCH) here, the college authorities on Friday decided to shift patients who are no longer in a critical condition to the Civil Hospital, Faridkot, for further recovery.

The GGSIMCH is a level-3 care centre for Covid patients who need ventilator support in the ICU. On Friday, the total number of patients at the medical college was 404 against the availability of total 448 beds.

The total death toll in the medical college on Friday was 21 which included 18 confirmed Covid-19 cases. The college is receiving patients from all across the state and most of these patients are referred cases in critical condition. "We have started preparations for shifting 30 patients from the medical college to the Civil Hospital for post-Covid recovery. While these patients have recovered from critical condition, they still require oxygen support for further recovery," said Dr Sanjay Kapoor, Civil Surgeon, Faridkot.



The decision to shift the patients to the Civil Hospital is aimed at easing the patient load at the medical college so that new critical patients could be provided treatment, said Dr Raj Bahadur, Vice Chancellor, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences.

"We have started preparations for shifting 30 patients from the medical college to the Civil Hospital for post-Covid recovery. While these patients have recovered from critical condition, they still require oxygen support for further recovery," said Dr Sanjay Kapoor, Civil Surgeon, Faridkot.

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# Cong stalwart Bhatia dies of Covid at 100

Ex-MoS was six-time MP from Amritsar | Served as Kerala, Bihar Governor

NEERAJ BAGGA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, MAY 15  
Congress stalwart and six-time Amritsar MP Raghuandan Lal Bhatia passed away after a brief illness here late last night. Bhatia was to turn 101 on July 3.

He was hospitalised after testing positive for Covid. He is survived by son Ramesh Bhatia and daughter Saroj Munjal. His body was cremated with full state honours by following the Covid protocol today.

Making his foray into politics by a turn of fate, Bhatia had an illustrious political career, serving as the Minister of State for External Affairs in the PV Narasimha Rao government. He also remained the Governor of Kerala (2004 to 2008) and Bihar (July 2008 to June 2009).

Born into a business family, Bhatia began his political career after the demise of his brother Durgadas Bhatia, who was the sitting MP from Amritsar. He successfully won the 1972 bypoll and repeated the feat in 1980, 1984, 1991, 1996 and 1999. It was cricketer-turned-politi-



Punjab Police personnel salute as relatives and Congress leaders stand next to the mortal remains of former Minister of State for External Affairs RL Bhatia in Amritsar on Saturday. SUNIL KUMAR

cian Navjot Singh Sidhu, parachuted by late mentor Arun Jaitley from the Amritsar seat during the 2004 General Election, who ended his electoral innings.

After his exit, it took one-and-a-half decades for the Congress to make a comeback in Amritsar, with Capt Amarinder Singh winning the seat in 2014.

Bhatia began his political

career as a Communist activist, which worked to his advantage later when he contested the elections from the Amritsar Lok Sabha seat on a Congress ticket.

In the 1970s and 80s the Communist parties had a sway over several Assembly seats here due to a large number of textile, fan and carpet factories, which had employed a large number of people. His another brother

Sham Sunder Bhatia was associated with the RSS, while his fourth sibling, Dr JL Bhatia, was a TB specialist.

Bhatia's demise evoked emotive remarks from politicians cutting across party lines. Many Congress leaders from the region called him their political mentor. His political style of keeping a clean image in public won him goodwill.

Congress MLA Rajkumar



## SURVIVED TWO TERROR ATTACKS

- In 1985, RL Bhatia was hit by two bullets in an attack outside his residence
- In 1990, he survived another attack by fleeing after his car was damaged

Verka, recalling the contribution of Bhatia, said his service was utilised in resolving bilateral matters with Pakistan and China. Then Prime Minister AB Vajpayee had utilised his services to hold parleys to defuse tension with China.

BJP leader Lakshmi Kanta Chawla said she had cordial relations with Bhatia. She had gone to congratulate him when he turned 100 last year.

# No help, man carries daughter's body on shoulders in Jalandhar

DC says minor not Covid casualty, orders probe

AJAY JOSHI  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, MAY 15

The video of a man carrying the body of his 11-year-old daughter on his shoulders and walking along the road in Ram Nagar, Jalandhar, has gone viral on the Internet.

While the video was shot on May 10 by a commuter, it left netizens outraged over the government's apathetic attitude.

Dilip, 51, father of deceased Sonu, today told The Tribune that his daughter was ill for the past two months with symptoms of indigestion. "On someone's recommendation, I took her to Amritsar where doctors said she was Covid positive, but she died on Sunday around 6.30 pm," he said.

Taking cognisance of the video, DC Ghanshyam Thoru ordered a probe, saying the minor was not a Covid fatality.

"As per the inquiry report conducted by the SDM, the cause of death was not Covid-19 as she tested negative. The deceased was earlier admitted to the Jalandhar Civil Hospital from where she was referred to the Amritsar Medical College. An ambulance carried the patient to Amritsar, where she remained admitted in the surgical ward," he said.

Navneet Kaur Bal, COVID PATIENT TRACKING OFFICER

However, Dilip denied the claims, saying not only doctors in Amritsar told him on May 9 that his daughter was positive, but also shifted her to Covid ward on the third floor. He returned to Jalandhar in a private ambulance after borrowing money.

He said the video was shot when he returned with the body and went to the cremation ground with his son to perform the last rites. A daily wager, Dilip said he didn't understand Punjabi and the hospital staff in Amritsar didn't guide him. "Even the ambulance driver asked me to pay Rs 6,000-7,000 to reach Jalandhar," he said, adding: "The hospital staff said they provide ambulance only between 9 am and 6 pm. After pleading multiple times, a private ambulance driver agreed to drop me for Rs 2,500."

# Takht ex-chief Vedanti passes away

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



70-year-old Jatheddar suffered heart attack

Giani Harpreet Singh, officiating Jatheddar of Akal Takht, SGPC president Bibi Jagir Kaur and Giani Ragbir Singh, Jatheddar of Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib, expressed sorrow on his demise.

Bibi Jagir Kaur said with untimely demise of Jatheddar Vedanti, the Sikh community had been deprived of a Panthic personality who had the intense linguistic knowledge of Gurbani.

Jatheddar Vedanti occu-

pied the highest temporal seat of Sikhs for around seven years till 2008, when he was asked to quit.

Upset over the dera culture in Punjab, he had issued 'hukumnama' against Sirsa-based Dera Sacha Sauda ahead of the Assembly elections in 2007.

Sources said he also had to pay the price of showering praise on former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for being the symbol of global Sikh identity with his spotless image. This statement did not go down well with the then leadership of the SAD, which was in alliance with the BJP in the state. His resignation was accepted promptly by then SGPC president Avtar Singh Makkar and Giani Gurbachan Singh took over the charge in August 2008.

## Roadways staff seek regular jobs

BATHINDA, MAY 15

Members of the Punbus Contract Workers' Union (Punjab Roadways) and contractual workers of the PRTC staged a protest in Bathinda, demanding regularisation of services.

Union leader Gursikander Singh said: "The government has meted out step-motherly treatment to the contractual staff of Punjab Roadways and PRTC. The Transport Department that generates revenue is being overlooked to favour the transport mafia." — TNS

**MISSION FATEH**  
Initiative of Government of Punjab for fighting COVID  
**COVID-19 BED AVAILABILITY IN GOVERNMENT & PRIVATE HOSPITALS**

	OXYGEN BEDS	ICU BEDS (Without Ventilator)		ICU BEDS (With Ventilator)		
	Total	Available	Total	Available	Total	Available
Government Hospitals	3960	1790	630	38	386	63
Private Hospitals	6389	1428	1315	183	1035	120
Total (Govt. + Pvt.)	10349	3218	1945	221	1421	183

Figures as on 15.05.2021 6.00 pm  
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, PUNJAB

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NATIONAL DENGUE DAY

16th May 2021

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Chief Minister, Punjab  
and the able guidance of  
**S. Balbir Singh Sidhu**  
Health & Family Welfare Minister, Punjab  
**Health Department Appeals the people of Punjab**  
not to ignore Dengue disease during the  
COVID-19 Pandemic.

Support the Government's effort to defeat Dengue. Take care of your health and your family's health during COVID-19 pandemic.

**Aedes breeds in clean water and bites only during day time**



**SYMPTOMS OF DENGUE**

- High Fever • Severe Headache • Body pains
- Pain on movement of eyes • Skin rashes
- Bleeding from gums, nose

**WHAT TO DO**

- Empty, rub and clean water coolers, flower pots, water containers once a week
- Wear full sleeve clothes during day time
- Use mosquito repellents
- Avoid Aspirin and Brufen for fever, only Paracetamol to be used for treatment of fever
- Drink plenty of fluid and take rest
- Don't keep broken/empty utensils, drums, tires in open

For further information free download  
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**EVERY FRIDAY AS 'DRY DAY'**

Adult Aedes Mosquito develops from egg in one week. Let us all dedicate every Friday for cleaning and drying the breeding points of dengue mosquito i.e. Coolers, Flower vases, Pots, Water Containers, Refrigerator trays etc.

Platelets are required for treatment of dengue if there is bleeding or the platelet count is less than 20,000. Government Medical Colleges and District Hospitals have the facility of blood component Separators and Apheresis machines for serious cases of Dengue.

**Test and treatment of Dengue is free in Government Hospitals**



National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, Punjab.

**NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, PUNJAB

Show proof against Akalis, says Sukhbir  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 15  
The Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association has withdrawn the resolution, whereby it was decided to boycott the court of the Chief Justice and to seek his transfer to another High Court.

A press note issued today said the representatives of the Bar Associa-

# Dist status cheers Malerkotla residents, Oppn unimpressed

PARVESH SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The move to make Malerkotla a district has elicited mixed response. While many have welcomed it, others have said there was no need of it.

Locals are elated and hopeful that the district status will bring required development to their area. "A district status will bring the required development to our area. Though it is late, we are hopeful that it will help us," said Salim, a Malerkotla resident.

But political opponents are not convinced. "The CM has proved that his party has been working only to divide residents under the name of caste at the cost of thousands of crores. There was no need

to make Malerkotla a district and we would have appreciated had the CM taken pains to provide basic facilities there," said Randeep Deol, Sangrur BJP chief.

Malerkotla MLA and Cabinet Minister Razia Sultana said the declaration of a district status for Malerkotla would bring the required development in the area.

"We are thankful to the Chief Minister for accepting a long-pending demand of area residents," she said.

Meanwhile, the local administration is yet to receive an official confirmation and officials continue to report to the Sangrur DC. "We have not received any official confirmation as yet. Since Friday, Saturday and Sunday are holidays, we expect it on Monday," said Malerkotla SDM Simarpreet Kaur.

# 2 more Covid hospitals to open today

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, MAY 15 To increase the arrangements to control the coronavirus pandemic, 500-bed each temporary Covid hospitals have been set up by the Haryana Government in Panipat and Hisar. Besides, two more hospitals (100-bed Field Hospital and 300-bed Covid Care Centre) have been built in Gurugram.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar will inaugurate these hospitals tomorrow. The temporary Covid hospital established in Bal Jatan village near the refinery in Panipat has been named Guru Tegh Bahadur Sanjivani Covid Hospital.

Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij will also be present at the inauguration of the hospital. Twenty-five doctors and 150 para-medical staff have been appointed for the functioning of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sanjivani Hospital. Since the hospital built near the refinery in Panipat is far away from the city, a police outpost has been set up near it. Roads have been built to connect the hospital blocks.

**9,676 FRESH CASES**  
POSITIVITY RATE 15.76%  
**ACTIVE CASES 95,946**  
**144 DEATHS IN 24 HOURS**

**Below 10k cases after 3 wks**

For the first time in more than three weeks, Haryana on Saturday recorded less than 10,000 cases of infection. The last time the state saw less than 10,000 new infections was on April 22 when 9,742 cases were reported.

## 21 STUDENTS IN REWARI FOUND INFECTED

The district recorded 158 new cases of Covid on Saturday. As many as 21 among them were students belonging to Chandawas, Ahrud, Uncha, Gangachay Ahir, Bhudpur, Meerpur villages and various localities of Rewari city. TNS

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



A health worker collects the swab sample of a suspected Covid patient in Karnal.

## BLACK FUNGUS DECLARED NOTIFIED DISEASE IN STATE

- Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij on Saturday said that black fungus had been declared a notified disease in the state.
- If a patient is diagnosed with black fungus in any government or private hospital of the state, it will have to be reported to the CMO concerned.
- Senior PGIMS-Rohtak doctors will hold meetings through videoconferencing with all doctors to inform them about the treatment. TNS

The hospital in Hisar is named after former Deputy Prime Minister Chaudhary Devi Lal Sanjivani Hospital. The supply of oxygen in this hospital will be as per the flow of 7.1 liters per bed per minute, which will be supplied from the oxygen plant of Jindal Steel Industries. A supply of 8 MT of oxygen has been arranged per day.

The hospital set up at Jindal Modern School in Hisar is divided into four blocks. Oxygen points have been added to all beds. Apart from doctors and paramedical staff, medical interns have also been hired here. Five ambulances have been deployed in the hospital.

The 100-bed Covid Field Hospital at Tau Devi Lal Stadi-

um in Gurugram has been set up by Vedanta. It has 20 ICUs and 80 oxygen beds. Vedanta will provide all necessary medical equipment for the treatment of the patients.

Also, a 300-bed Covid Care Centre has been set up in Sector 67 of Gurugram in collaboration with M3M, CII Air Force and Doctors for You, an NGO.

# Protesting farmers give call to observe May 26 as 'black day'

Tribune News Service

JHAJJAR, MAY 15 On the completion of the six months of its protest at Delhi borders, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) will observe May 26 as "black day" by organising protests and burning the effigy of the Union Government at village and mohalla levels across the country.

"The farmers and others supporting the agitation will also hoist black flags on their houses and vehicles on that day to register their protest against the three farm laws. We have appealed to all mass organisations, trade unions, traders and transporter outfits to hold black flag demonstrations in support of the farmers' demands," said Balbir Singh Rajewal, an SKM leader.

He said all border morchas would also organise huge black flag demonstrations on May 26 to make the Central government realise that farmers were firm regarding their demands and would not go back on any condition without getting the three farm laws repealed.



Farmers stage a dharna at Tikri on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

On women's safety, Rajewal said the SKM would announce names of its Mahila Suraksha Samitis at all border protest sites within two days, which would look into measures to ensure safety and security of women participating in the movement.

Gurnam Singh Chaduni, another SKM leader, said farmers continued to boycott leaders of the BJP and its allies in states like Haryana. The SKM had also started full-fledged preparation for its All India Convention in which farmers and leaders from all over the country were expected to participate. Details in this respect would be

announced later, he added.

Meanwhile, farmers' organisations of Punjab have decided to fight against the alleged injustice being done to the sugarcane farmers in Punjab.

Farmer leaders Jangbir Tanda, Balbir Singh Rajewal, Manjit Singh Rai, Mukesh Chandra, Kuldip Singh Wajidpur and Balwant Singh Behramke said the support price of sugarcane had not been increased in the state for the past five years.

They demanded that at least Rs 350 per quintal (which is now Rs 310 per quintal) should be the price of sugarcane and the arrears due to sugarcane farmers should be paid to them immediately.

Under the scheme, teams of the local administration have started screening villagers to contain the spread of coronavirus. Yamunanagar district has 655 villages, but 194 positive persons, the highest in the district, had been reported from these 20 villages in the

past few days. "On the first day of the screening in 20 villages, 2,960 persons were checked in these villages, besides the RTPCR test of 247 persons and rapid Covid test of 924 people were conducted. Four persons were found Covid positive through rapid test," said Dr Vijay Dahiya, Civil Surgeon, Yamunanagar district. —TNS

# Three IAS officers transferred

CHANDIGARH, MAY 15 The Haryana Government has issued transfer and posting orders of three IAS officers with immediate effect.

Waseer Singh Goyal, Secretary, Human Rights Commission, has been given additional

charge of Secretary, Finance Department. Ravi Prakash Gupta, Director, Swarna Jayanti Haryana Institute for Fiscal Management, has been posted as Director, Environment and Special Secretary, Environment and Climate Change Department. Dr RS Dhillon, Director, Haryana Governance Reforms Authority, Managing Director, CON-FED, has been given additional charge of Director, Swarna Jayanti Haryana Institute for Fiscal Management. —TNS

# Man stripped on suspicion of being police 'informer'

## THE INCIDENT

Suraj was suspected of having informed the police about the violation of norms of social gathering during a marriage ceremony here recently.

the violation of mass gathering during the current lockdown as around 150 persons had been present during a marriage ceremony on the night of May 12.

He said as the police reached the spot to inquire about the violation of norms, the accused suspected that he had informed the police. It is reported that the police rescued the victim after his wife informed them about the abduction. No arrest has been made so far. —TNS

He

# Karnal jail a hotspot, 62 cases in two days

KARNAL, MAY 15

With 62 new cases in the past two days, the Karnal jail has emerged as a Covid-19 hotspot. The total number of infected persons has reached 223.

All 1,803 jail inmates have been tested for the virus.

"We have completed the

screening of all jail inmates and employees. The positive patients have been kept in a separate ward on the jail premises," said Dr Yogesh Sharma, Civil Surgeon, adding that teams of doctors and paramedical staff are monitoring their health. —TNS

## ॥ श्रद्धांजलि ॥

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Naresh Kumar Garg (Advocate)** who left for his heavenly abode on May 6, 2021. Bhog ceremony will be held on 18.05.2021 at Mata Kali Devi Mandir, Sangrur from 01:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. He was a karamyogi. He will be deeply missed by family, friends, staff & society.

## In-Grief

Smt. Shanti Devi  
Mrs. Usha Garg  
CA Vibhor Garg

(Mother)  
(Wife)  
(Son)

And whole Garg Family M. No. 9417237363, 9417233271  
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Whatsapp on 9417237363 To Receive Prayer Link



(07.08.1951 to 06.05.2021)

Kavita - Rajeev Bhalla  
Deepika - Sanjeev Bhalla  
Kanika - Amit Bhalla

**BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS**

With Profound grief and deep sorrow, We regret to inform you of the sad demise of our beloved father **SARDAR AMRIK SINGH**

R/o Koti No. 2236 & 2237, Sector 61,  
Phase 7, SAS Nagar, Mohali

**Bhog & Antim Ardas:**  
For the Departed soul will be held at our Ancestral Village Fateh Farm, Village Pattran,  
Near Landran, Distt. SAS Nagar  
**Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib**

will be held on Monday 17th May, 2021  
at 12:00 to 1:00 PM at Fateh Farm, Village Pattran.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**PATRRAN NAMBARDAR FAMILY**

**SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW :** Major Surinder Singh (Chief Adviser - MGF Group), Tajinder Kaur (Prof.)  
**DAUGHTER & SON-IN LAW :** Harpal Kaur Gill, Shamsher Singh Gill  
**GRAND SON & DAUGHTER :** Fatehyaab Singh, Misbah Kaur (Ass. Prof.)  
**KUDAM :** Sardarni Ranjit Kaur Chahal, Late Sardar Sarwan Singh Chahal  
**MATERNAL BROTHER :** Sardarni & Sardar Jasbir Singh Baidwan  
**BROTHER-IN-LAW :** Sardarni & Sardar Jasprender Singh Dhanoa

**CONSIDERING THE SAFETY OF ALL NEAR & DEAR, DUE COVID CAUSE WE WOULD HIGHLY APPRECIATE IF YOU PAY YOUR RESPECT THROUGH PRAYERS FROM HOME.**

**CONTACT NO. 98156-09797**

# State leads vax drive with 31% coverage

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**SHIMLA, MAY 15** Having vaccinated 16.99 lakh of the total 55.23 lakh eligible persons, Himachal has topped the country in the vaccination drive. Around 31 per cent of the eligible population above 45 years of age has been vaccinated in the state. Chhattisgarh has been ranked second; it has covered 24 per cent of the eligible population.

So far, 21.22 lakh eligible people in the 45 years and above age group have been vaccinated. While 16,97,128 persons have received the first dose, 425,766 persons have got both doses of the vaccine.

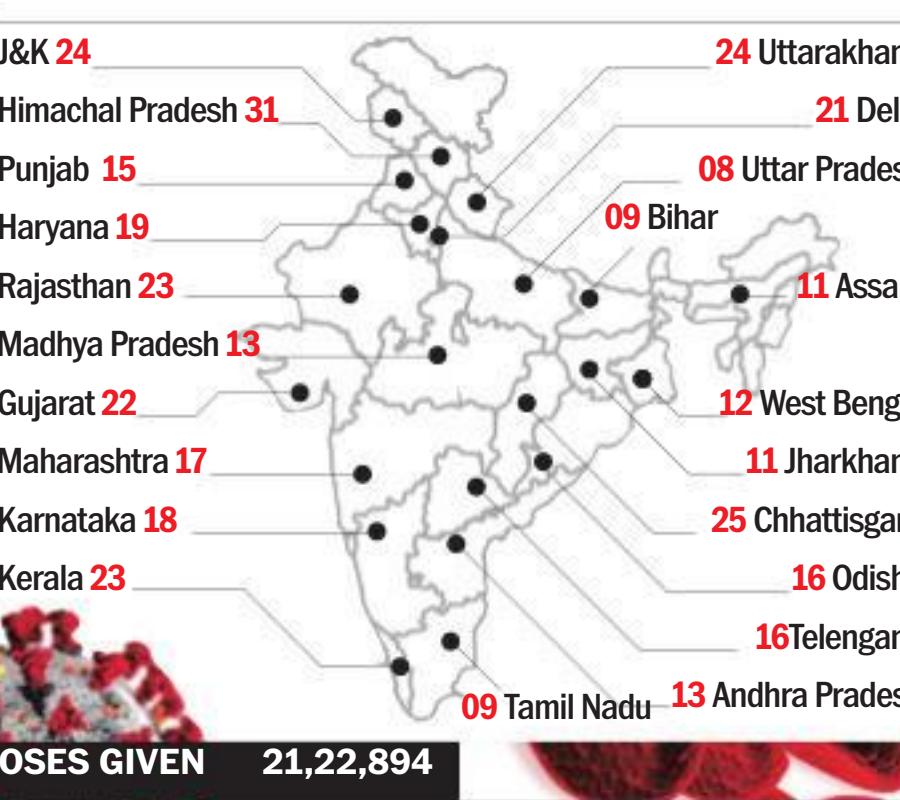
Punjab has achieved half of the progress done in Himachal by vaccinating merely 15 per cent of the



People stand in a long queue for vaccination in Shimla.

**VACCINATION BREAK-UP**

Category	First dose	Second dose
Health care workers	81,996	68,686
Frontline workers	54,025	41,419
Age appropriate	15,61,107	3,15,661
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,97,128</b>	<b>4,25,766</b>

**TOTAL DOSES GIVEN 21,22,894****% OF POPULATION VACCINATED**

eligible population, while Haryana has performed relatively better with a percentage of 19. Uttarakhand and Jammu Kashmir with a percentage of 24 have done well.

"Himachal has been ranked at number one nationwide, as per the report of the Technical Group on Population Projections released by the Census of India in November 2019," said Nipun Jindal, Project Director, National Health Mission (NHM). He added that as per the Census, 55.23 lakh people in

the state are eligible for inoculation.

The vaccination drive for the 18 to 44 years age group will start on May 17 and 1.07 lakh doses have been received for the purpose.

## 60 workers +ve, mineral water unit closed

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**SOLAN, MAY 15**

A mineral water manufacturing unit at Dhaula Kuan in Paonta Sahib subdivision of Sirmaur district was closed last evening after 60 of its workers tested positive for Covid.

The Paonta Sahib SDM along with the Tehsildar and the Block Medical Officer visited the factory. Sixty workers were found infected with the virus in subsequent testing, said Tehsildar Ved Agnihotri.

"The unit management, on the directions of the local administration, created an isolation facility at a private hotel to house infected employees. The unit has been directed to close its operations," added Agnihotri.



Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur presides over a Cabinet meeting in Shimla on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## Cabinet nod to MRI, CT scan machines for Chamba hospital

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**219 posts to be filled****SHIMLA, MAY 15**

The state Cabinet today decided that all ministers would review the progress made on the announcements made by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur regarding their departments within 15 days. They would also ensure that the work was started within three months of the the announcements made.

The Cabinet, under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, gave approval for the procurement of a CT Scan 128 slice machine and an MRI 1.5 Tesla machine at a cost of Rs 20 crore for Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Government Medical College, Chamba.

It also accorded ex post-facto permission to the agency building a makeshift Covid hospital at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Government Medical

College at NerChowk in Mandi to include the construction of a labour room and an operating theatre.

The Cabinet also approved filling 219 posts of different categories on a contractual basis under the National Health Mission to provide better health care facilities to people.

The construction of a rest house at Dhanotu in Sundernagar tehsil of Mandi district was also approved.

### Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag \*OFFICE ORDER\*

The tenders called vide this office NIT letter No. JSD-RMP-Tender Asstt/2021-1029-79 dated 06.05.2021 is to be opened on 12.05.2021 at 11.30 AM is hereby extended upto 18.05.2021 at 11:30 AM as the tender called was not published in any of the newspapers. The letter for publishing the NIT has been sent to the Director Public Relation Deptt vide this office letter No. 1080 dated 06.05.2021.

Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti Division,  
Rampur-172001

### RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

Central Vista, Sector - 17, Chandigarh -160017

**Tender Notice**

Reserve Bank of India, Chandigarh invites e-Tenders for supply of sufficient number of fully covered, closed cash vans/ closed vehicles for transportation of coins. The tendering would be done through the e-tendering portal of MSTC Ltd. (<https://www.mstccommerce.com/prochome/rbi>). All interested commercial firms / institutions / individuals must have registered themselves with MSTC to participate in the tendering process. The detailed notice inviting tender is also available at <https://www.rbi.org.in>.

e-Tender Schedule      Schedule Date

e-Tender view date at MSTC website	17.05.2021 (Monday) onwards
Pre Bid Meeting	24.05.2021 (Monday, 12.00 hrs)
Last date of submission of e-Tender	14.06.2021 (Monday, 14.00 hrs)
Date of opening Part-I	14.06.2021 (Monday, 16.00 hrs)

The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Chandigarh  
16/05/2021

Regional Director

### MAI BHAGO ARMED FORCES PREPARATORY INSTITUTE FOR GIRLS MOHALI

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All girls having Punjab Domicile currently pursuing 10+2 in any stream and from any board and completing (10+2) anytime in May 2021 or thereafter are eligible to apply. The desired candidate should be 16 years or more on 01 July 2021.

Apply online by clicking on link Entrance Exam Mai Bhago Armed Forces Preparatory Institute for Girls at: <http://recruitment-portal.in> or <http://mbafgirls.in>

Link shall remain open till 1800 hrs on 23 May 2021

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Email to [maibhagoafpi@yahoo.in](mailto:maibhagoafpi@yahoo.in)

NOTE: MBAPI HAS NO TIE UP WITH ANY ENTRANCE EXAM TRAINING INSTITUTE ANYWHERE. THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT OF ANY FORMAL COACHING TO GET ADMISSION IN MAI BHAGO AFPI

## HP board to award marks to Class X pupils

LALIT MOHAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**DHARAMSALA, MAY 15**

The Himachal Pradesh School Education Board (HPBSE) is in the process of developing a criteria to promote Class X students. The state government had decided to promote all Class X students without exams in view of the pandemic.

The HPBSE chairman, Suresh Kumar Soni, while talking to *The Tribune*, said the board had decided to promote the Class X students by awarding them marks. "Earlier, we thought of giving grades to students instead of marks, but it could have created problems for students in the long run. So every student, who was to

**SCORES IN PREVIOUS EXAMS TO COUNT**

The students will be given marks on the basis of their performance in Class IX exams, pre-board examinations of Class X, practical examinations that they had taken and the Hindi paper in which the students appeared physically.

appear in the Class X board examination, will be promoted but they will be awarded marks, as per the criteria to be laid by the board," he said.

"For this purpose, committees have been formed at the school level. There will be tabulation committees and data entry committees headed by school principals. Then there will be tabulation verification committees that will check data entered by the

other two committees. It is only after verification committees certify data that it will be entered and marks will be awarded to students," he said.

The students would be adjudicated and given marks on the basis of marks they attained in Class IX, pre-board examinations of Class X, practical examinations that they had taken and performance in the single Hindi paper in which the

students appeared physically. The students who shall not be satisfied with the marks awarded to them will be given a chance to appear in exams physically once Covid restrictions are over, the chairman of the board said.

The chairman said the criteria would be put before people in a few days. He said the board had decided to promote all students who were to appear in board examinations under the open school category.

However, under this category there were some students who were directly appearing in Class examinations after completing Class VIII. Such category of students would not be promoted.

## Hearse donated to Red Cross

CHAMBA, MAY 15

The Yog Manav Vikas Trust (YMV), Banikhet, donated a hearse to the District Red Cross Society here on Saturday. Deputy Commissioner DC Rana, who is also the chairperson of the District Red Cross Society, said that the initiative would prove to be very helpful for needy people during the pandemic.

He said that the Trust had

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer, Bhawarna Division, HPPWD Bhawarna on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Starting date for down-loading Bid	Earnest Money
1	Providing and laying Type-III (6-8mm thick) Micro-Surfacing layer on Hamirpur Sujanpur Thural Maranda road (MDR-86) in Km 55.0 to 57.0 and Bhawarna to Kharoli road (Km 11.0 to 11.5 & 11.0 to 12.0) during the year 2021-22 in the state of HP. SW- Providing and laying, micro-surfacing layer.	81,91,200/-	21.5.2021	1,14,500/-

Deadline for Submission of Bid: 4.6.2021

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in).

On behalf of Governor of H.P.

Executive Engineer  
HPPWD Division Bhawarna  
PIN-176083, Tel:01894-247773  
e-mail: [eppwd-bhaw-hp@gov.in](mailto:eppwd-bhaw-hp@gov.in)

### INDIAN RAILWAYS DIESEL LOCO MODERNISATION WORKS PATIALA - 147003, INDIA

Tel: 2396000, 2396001, 2396716, 2396732

Fax: 91-0175-2306413

### ENGAGEMENT OF TWO (02) CONTRACT MEDICAL PRACTITIONER (CMPs/GDMOs) AND SIX (06) CONTRACT STAFF NURSES

Walk-in-interview shall be conducted on 19.05.2021 (Wednesday) for engagement of two Medical Practitioners and six Staff Nurses (on contract basis) (including Retired Railway Doctors and Retired Railway Nurses) in DMW Hospital, Patiala for the period upto 31.03.2022 or till the pandemic of COVID-19 continues, whichever is earlier. Detailed terms and conditions are available at website [www.dmw.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.dmw.indianrailways.gov.in).

<News and Announcement> <News and Announcements>

Senior Personnel Officer,  
DMW/Patiala  
1041/2021

# MATRIMONIALS

## BRIDEROOMS WANTED

### KHATRI/ARORA

Match for Punjabi Arora girl 8th Nov, 1992, 6:45 am Chandigarh, height 5'-5", B.Tech. Senior Software Engineer MNC Hyderabad, 9-10 lacs, presents well settled at Chandigarh. Call: WhatsApp 98143-34345. (CL21013165)

SM for 94 born, 5'-4", Nursing Officer, PGI Chandigarh. Govt. job Tricity preferred. 87911-52084. (CL21013109)

Match for Khatri Arora Manglik, 31st March 1993, 10:11 pm, Ludhiana, 5'-4", B.Com., MBA, Graphic Designing. Required business family. 94172-32739. (CL21013714)

Hindu Khatri girl 05.11.1992, 2:32 pm, Phagwara, 5'-6", M.Com, Marketing Manager in Startup, Gurugram. Decent package. Working from home. Residence Jalandhar. 9915852451, 9417864488. (CL21013171)

Hindu Manglik Khatri girl, 25-03-90, 11:30 am at Amritsar, 5'-3", M.Sc.(IT), Teacher at private school. Mohali. Veg. family preferred. Chandigarh tricity only - 62839-48060. (CL21013448)

Hindu Arora girl 40, 5'-1", double MA, B.Ed. Legally divorce. 83600-19127, shriganpati83@gmail.com (CL21013692)

Khatri Passay girl, 15.8.1988, 11:35 p.m. Patiala, 5'-3", M.Sc. Psychology, Trainer. Mob. 9888837385. (CL21013820)

Patiala based business family seeks a match for non manglik Khatri Arora girl 5'-1", 03.07.1993, 8:00 am Devigarh, M.Com, currently working in Pb. Govt. Health Department Patiala on Clerical post. Govt. employee or well settled businessman preferred. 85286-91618. (CL21013950)

Suitable match for Manglik girl 5'-4", 27.04.1991, 09:55 a.m., Chandigarh, B.Tech Engineer, working Gurgaon, package 9 laes. Contact: 95017-26775. (CL21013960)

Settled match for M.Sc., B.Ed, beautiful, 5'-8", tall, fair, slim girl, 22.07.1988, 05:30 am, Ludhiana. Please send biodata and pics. WhatsApp only at: 91718-99999. (CL21013973)

Issueless divorcee Arora girl 33/ 5'-4", B.Tech., working Gurgaon, package 8 lacs. NCR/ NR preferred. 98141-91093. (CL21014031)

Punjabi Arora Khatri divorcee girl (baby girl 7 year, 05.09.1986, 5'-5", Karnal, BA, B.Ed., 98775-3324. (CL21014089)

PQM for Hindu Khatri girl M.Tech. (CSE), 27/ 5', working top MNC, Bangalore, package 11.5 LPA. Contact: 83601-65747. (CL21014103)

Match for beautiful Arora girl, 86 born, 5'-5". Born and brought up in Chandigarh. Settled status family. Seeks well established boy. Email: marrage@9.0.97@gmaill.com (CL21014135)

Match for Manglik girl 5'-4", 27.04.1991, 09:55 a.m., Chandigarh, B.Tech Engineer, working Gurgaon, package 9 laes. Contact: 95017-26775. (CL21013960)

Suitable match in Tricity for beautiful Arora girl 01.01.1995, 1.30 p.m., Chandigarh, 5' MBA Finance Panjab University, working with Bank. Father retired from Punjab Government. 99882-31185. (CL21014464)

Match for Hindu Arora girl 1985, 5'-1", M.Tech working Chandigarh in MNC decent marriage. 81681-34569. (CL21014498)

Suitable well settled boy for Arora girl 5 ft, 31.10.94, 9:03 am Jalandhar, Masters in Multimedia. Contact 98151-05700. (CL21014504)

Beautiful, slim, 38, 5'-4", MCA, working IT Company Chandigarh, Punjab family. flarora1@gmail.com, 98729-55596. (CL21014506)

Established handsome Industrialist/ professional for beautiful 3 November 1993, 15:31, 5'-4". Professionally qualified Ambala. 90341-12255. (CL21014526)

### ARORA

Suitable match for Arora Manglik girl 13.11.1989, 05:30 a.m., Ludhiana, 5'-2", MCA, working in IT Company, Chandigarh - 98778-72483. (CL21013905)

Hindu Arora, non-Manglik girl height 5'-1", DoB February 90, qualification: BDS, business man, location preference Amritsar or Ludhiana. Contact: 96460-30630. (CL21013995)

Match for Hindu Arora Manglik girl, D.Ed. 5'-2", 10.10.1995, 1.35 am, Ambala, 93151-67654, 81687-25688. (CL21014003)

Qualified match for Arora girl, 86 born, 5'-5", B.Tech., working nearby Punjab, working MNC/ Govt. job. 98143-0506. (CL21014422)

Only high class industrialist match for Arora 5'-2", Judge, March 92, Chartered Accountant girl. 82838-17317. (CL21014422)

Suitable match for Hindu Arora girl 18.6.1992, Govt. employee (UDC) PSPCL. Preferred cities Patiala, Raipur, 70093-86488. (CL21014427)

SM4 Punjabi Chhabra, beautiful girl, 03.01.1990, 5'-2", B.Tech., doing family business. Seeking smart educated boy from business background. M: 94783-34100. (CL21014466)

For Circulation and Advertisement booking and other related queries please call at following numbers from Monday to Saturday between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.

### Advertisement:

Classified: 0172-2670257, 2670338, 2670258

E-mail at: classified@tribunemail.com

Display: 0172-2670256, 2670342

E-mail at: advt@tribunemail.com

Circulation: 0172-2670319, 2670250, 2670442

E-mail at: circulation@tribunemail.com

### KHATRI

Chandigarh based Khatri issueless divorce girl 32/ 5'-4", MCA wrkg with MNC seeks suitable match. Father business Contact: 98169-76585, caste no bar, preferred location: Chandigarh or overseas. (CL21013050)

SM for 94 born, 5'-4", Nursing Officer, PGI Chandigarh. Govt. job Tricity preferred. 87911-52084. (CL21013109)

Match for Khatri Arora Manglik, 31st March 1993, 10:11 pm, Ludhiana, 5'-4", B.Com., MBA, Graphic Designing. Required business family. 94172-32739. (CL21013714)

Hindu Khatri girl 21.06.90, 6:45 PM, Ph.D, Chemistry, PR (Canada) applied, Amritsar preferred. 70870-99779, 73407-74716. (CL21013170)

Punjabi Khatri/Brahmin Medicos/Lecturer/Govt. employee from Tricity for Chandigarh based Anshik Manglik unmarried, MPH, BAMS girl 1981/ 5'-4", smart, working NHM, Haryana Government. Divorced. excused. Contact: 093165-26473. Email: justwant\_chandigarh@rediffmail.com

Hindu Manglik Khatri girl, 25-03-90, 11:30 am at Amritsar, 5'-3", M.Sc.(IT), Teacher at private school

Mohali. Veg. family preferred. Chandigarh tricity only - 62839-48060. (CL21013448)

Status match for vegetarian Punjabi Khatri beautiful girl, 5'-3", M.Com., 21.5.1994, 01:58 a.m., Chandigarh. Package 5 Lakh. Father Senior Class-I Officer. Family income 50 Lakh. WhatsApp 98886-91061. satsahamj@gmaill.com (CL21013193)

Khatri fair beautiful girl 07.1994, BA, 5'-8", Psoriasis Stage 1 Chandigarh, based elite family high status family contact only 98724-14454. (CL21014496)

Dr. Sr. Lecturer Dental College, Mullan, First May 89, 5'-4.5", 5.30 pm, Karnal, 98964-09843, 90349-71143. (CL21014283)

Khatri girl 19-12-89, 01:40 am, Ambala, 5'-3", MBA, Job Noida, 4.5 lac 87081-23185. (CL21014109)

Match for Manglik Khatri, 5'-2", slim beautiful girl, 1995, M.Sc Chemistry, B.Ed last semester. Contact: 62806-91906, 94177-46362. (CL21014406)

SM for beautiful Manglik Khatri girl 5', 30.11.1994, 1:41 am Chandigarh, B.Com., working MNC, Chandigarh. Job oriented, Tricity preferred. M- 78147-30721. (CL21014419)

Hindu Khatri divorcee Manglik beautiful girl 15.02.1990, 02:35 p.m., Hoshiarpur, MA, B.Ed, Convent School Teacher. Required suitable match, 82751-36002. (CL21014436)

Well-qualified preferable Govt. employed match for Manglik vegetarian Monga fair, smart looking Patiala girl, 01 July 1995, Abhoo (1.08 pm), 5'-2", B.Tech, JAIIIB, Officer in Nationalised Bank, Mohali, 7-8 lac PA. Father Manager (Nationalised Bank). Mother Govt. School Teacher. Brother PO (Nationalised Bank). Contact: 81465-52699. (CL21014476)

High status professional match for Extremely beautiful, fair, slim, educated girl, 5'-5", July 1990, Chandigarh based elite family high status family contact only 98724-14454. (CL21014496)

SAINI

Suitable match for Sikh Saini girl 1995/ 5'-1", MBBS, MD (Psychiatry). Tricity area preferred. Contact: 98142-11470. (CL21013485)

Sikh girl Nov, 1987, 5'-1", MCA, Analyst, Canada PR. Looking Canada settled boy, currently in India. 78371-33729. (CL21013924)

Match for NRI Sikh Saini girl 1993, 5'-5", B.Com., (Honors), MBA, Hindu Saini preffer, 97705-02406, 88151-01805. (CL21014423)

Suitable match for Saini 27- year CA girl, working with Bank. Tricity match preferred. Caste no bar. WhatsApp details with photo. 99147-12222. (CL21013966)

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## CLASSIFIEDS

**BRAHMIN**

**SM4 Gaur Brahmin girl 28/ 5'-3", MA English, M.Ed., preference Central Govt. employee, Bank employee, IT employee, Brahmin boy. Contact Number 76965-95947. (CL21014446)**

**Match for Haryanvi Gaur Brahmin girl BDS, 25/5'-2", Indian settled, NRI. 98550-26501. (CL21012876)**

**Suitable match Saraswat Brahmin girl 1993, Anandpur Sahib, MA, D.Ed. 82193-25157. (CL21013063)**

**Himachali Brahman girl, 5'-4", 16.10.94, B.Arch, own office in New Chandigarh. Tricity preferred. 94171-33899. (CL21013096)**

**Match for Brahmin working girl, MBA, MA, 1987 born, 5'-5". Preference near Chandigarh. Send biodata. Call or WhatsApp on: 89683-37083. (CL21013131)**

**Gaur Brahmin 05/06/1991, 11:00 a.m., Lalgurh, 5'-7", Government job. Preferred Tricity. Contact 73407-52785. (CL21013138)**

**Medico Defence service match for Brahmin girl MDS 30/ 5'-8", fair well educated reputed family 94636-08210. (CL21014238)**

**Suitable match for beautiful Prajapati Kumhar Himachali girl 5'-4", 6th Nov. 1995, MBBS Doctor, virendhbhardwaj@yahoo.co.in (CL21014260)**

**Beautiful Brahmin girl 1992, 5'-5", B.E/ B.Tech (IIT) Delhi 22.5 LPA, Product Manager Flipkart India, Caste no bar. 99938-39405. (CL21014264)**

**Saraswat Brahmin girl beautiful, fair, slim, 5'-6", 19.9.90, MHA/ BDS, working @ Apollo Hospital Delhi. NRI preferred. 82866-70009. (CL21014266)**

**NRI Saraswat Brahmin girl 88 born, 5'-5", employed in IT Park, Chd. Contact: 62807-55607. Upper caste no bar. (CL21010381)**

**Required teetotaller match for Jatt Sikh girl M.Sc. (Fashion Designing) 1981 born, 5'-4" (Manglik/ Non-Manglik) B.Com., MA, B.Ed. Ludhiana. 90239-36333. (CL21014286)**

**Suitable match for Himachali Brahmin girl, Dental Officer BDS, Dec. 1989, 5'-1" fair. Father retd. Gazetted officer. Please send profile with date, place, time of birth; 96250-94485. (CL21014322)**

**Govt./PSU/Medico match for HAS Allied Officer (HP Govt.) fair, affluent Punjabi Brahmin girl 5'-2" 29 yrs. B.Tech. (NIT). Upper caste no bar. Horoscope match must. Mob: 98161-51920, 82788-80153. WhatsApp only. (CL21014325)**

**Suitable match for Chandigarh based Punjabi Saraswat Brahmin, 5'-2", July 1995, Anshik/Manglik girl, working in IT MNC (Gurgaon). Contact: 98726-21353. (CL21013276)**

**Gaur Brahmin veg Manglik girl, 18.11.93, 10.35 am, 5', M.A. Father Govt. service, Patiala. 70871-82945, 98760-79338. (CL21013322)**

**Punjabi Saraswat Brahmin slim fair beautiful girl M.Sc. (Comp. Sci.) working IT MNC Chandigarh, 5'-2", November 1979 born. Apply never married match only. # 88580-31749 or 28shagun@gmail.com (CL21013327)**

**Saraswat Brahmin girl 6.2.1986, 2.38 a.m. Nawanshahar 5'-3", Ph.D Chemistry. 62831-10151, 98767-05100. (CL21013416)**

**Beautiful Gaur Brahmin girl Dec 1988, 5'-3", M.A., B.Ed. (English). Private English teacher. 94679-21137, 94856-81612. (CL21013442)**

**Saraswat Brahmin girl, B.Tech, MBA, 5'-7", 2.10.84, 8.55 pm, Hisar from upper middle class educated family of Doctors. Slip disc occurred many years ago, pregnancy unadvisable. Upper castes and divorcee welcome. 70820-34512. (CL21014372)**

**Professionally qualified match Brahmin 5'-7", born 1991, B.Tech, Computer Science, Canadian resident, Software Engineer, working in reputed Company Ontario, Canada. Preferred IT professional Canada/ USA/ Phone/ WhatsApp 84373-83728, 0015307135143. Presently visiting Chandigarh for month. (CL21013481)**

**Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin girl, 1991, MCA, 5'-2", fair colour, 12.30 p.m., Ferozepur, upper caste no bar. Phone: 94171-69960. (CL21013593)**

**Saraswat Brahmin Vashisth girl 1.2.85, 9.55 pm, Bathinda, 5'-5", B.Com, LLB, LLM, Practicing in District Court Bathinda. 94640-73585. (CL21013636)**

**Match Punjabi Saraswat Brahmin homely fair girl, Jan 1983, 5'-3", Delhi, MBA. Mobile: 80761-19570. (CL21013738)**

**Match for Saraswat Brahmin girl 16.04.88, Govt. job, 5'-4", Patiala, Ferozepur, Chandigarh. 98147-08307. (CL21013936)**

**Suitable match for Punjabi Brahmin Chandigarh based fair girl 5'-3", February 94, M.Sc. Kinly contact through Email: rajesharma140663@gmail.com, Mobile 94632-10431. (CL21013947)**

**Match for Brahmin Central Govt. regular Teacher, MA (English), B.Ed., 28 years, 5'-3". Contact: 94654-49484. (CL21013974)**

**Suitable match for non manglik, Gaur Brahmin girl, 29.12.1991, 5.07 pm, Chandigarh, 5'-5", M.Tech. 98723-11049. (CL21013977)**

**Match for slim, Saraswat Brahmin, convent educated girl, Nov. 1988, Ph.D. (Microbiology), working in Gurugram # 9588-96792, 98159-22660. (CL21014028)**

**Highly qualified, well settled match**

for Bhargav Brahmin pure vegetarian, beautiful girl 21.12.1978 (6.34 pm, Jalandhar), 5'-3", never married, MA (Sociology), B.Ed., MBA, Asstdt. Professor GNDU Campus, Jalandhar. Well settled reputed family at Jalandhar. Send particular email: vikram.sharma@yahoo.com. Contact 98728-06494. (CL21014102)

**Wanted suitable match for 3.10.1995, B.Sc. (Non-Medical) 11:20 p.m., 5'-4". Father working in Govt. job. Business family excuse. Tricity prefer. Contact: 86993-21787. (CL21014105)**

**Match for Gaur Brahmin MCA (Tutor) girl 5'-2", 26.9.92, 3 pm, Ludhiana. Well-settled family at Rohtak. 94162-30012. (CL21014111)**

**Match for Sharma beautiful Army School Teacher, MA (Kathak) 30 June 91, 11:05 am, height 5', preference Himachal, Punjab, Delhi, Chandigarh Tricity, Artist Educationist/ Govt. Officer. Father Ex-Air Force. Contact: 94170-26908. (CL21014227)**

**Medico Defence service match for Brahmin girl MDS 30/ 5'-8", fair well educated reputed family 94636-08210. (CL21014238)**

**Suitable match for beautiful Prajapati Kumhar Himachali girl 5'-4", 6th Nov. 1995, MBBS Doctor, virendhbhardwaj@yahoo.co.in (CL21014260)**

**Beautiful Brahmin girl 1992, 5'-5", B.E/ B.Tech (IIT) Delhi 22.5 LPA, Product Manager Flipkart India, Caste no bar. 99938-39405. (CL21014264)**

**Saraswat Brahmin girl beautiful, fair, slim, 5'-6", 19.9.90, MHA/ BDS, working @ Apollo Hospital Delhi. NRI preferred. 82866-70009. (CL21014266)**

**NRI Saraswat Brahmin girl 88 born, 5'-5", employed in IT Park, Chd. Contact: 62807-55607. Upper caste no bar. (CL21010381)**

**Parents invited matrimonial alliance for their daughter 32 yrs old, 5'-11" tall, beautiful, family oriented, never married. MBA, professionally employed and settled in California.**

**Jat Sikhs**

**Medical/ professional match for Jat Sikhs, 27, USA citizen, very pretty girl, doing Residency Internal in USA. Well established family. Jat Sikhs boys doing Residency in USA preferred. E-mail: bestcare2012@hotmail.com (CL21001989)**

**Professionally qualified match for Defence Officers daughter, Nov. 91, 5'-3", Dentist Canada PR, working in Ministry of Health Canada in Administrative capacity. Girl in India for a month. 98889-99170. (CL21001989)**

**Match for P.MD/ CS/ Civil Services/ Class-I Officer match for Jat Sikhs MBBs girl, 1995/ 5'-7", working as Govt. Medical Officer. Urban educated family. Contact with pictures & biodata. (CL21010382)**

**Match for Jat Sikhs girl, born 1988/ 5'-4", M.A. English. Wanted NRI or agricland boy with job. Call/ WhatsApp: 80545-30502. (CL21013828)**

**Match for Jat Sikhs girl, born 1988/ 5'-2", Jat Sikhs M.Sc Chemistry, B.Ed. girl, private Teacher, Govt. Punjab, Himachal preferred. 98056-74661, 98162-59592. (CL21013891)**

**Jatt Sikhs educated boy required for 30 yrs Jatt Sikhs girl. M.Sc. Nursing. Working as Assistant Professor, Canadian PR applied, for more information Contact: 98157-48762. (CL21013916)**

**Professionally qualified match for beautiful Jatt Sikhs girl October 1875/ 5'-6", working Canada (PR), completed her masters America and worked there for 3 years. 7095-42238, 98721-34711. (CL21013920)**

**Match for Jat Sikhs Riarch girl 1986 born, 5'-7" height, M.Sc., M.Phil (Physics), B.Ed, now at Canada on work permit having USA visitors visa. Parents are in USA. WhatsApp No.: 91633-09562, contact only USA or Canada. (CL21013972)**

**Jat Sikhs Chahal parents invite matrimonial for their daughter, Nov.92, 5'-8" tall, beautiful, family oriented, never married, Canadian PR girl, studying Physiotherapy in Toronto (at present girl is in India). The boy should be from a Jat Sikh family, professionally qualified, tall and well settled in the USA with family values. Serious enquires only. Please respond with the latest photo and bio-data to gurpreet113@icloud.com or call at +9156303142. (CL21013988)**

**Required teetotaller match for Jatt Sikh girl M.Sc. (Fashion Designing) 1988/ 5'-6", Contact: 84279-92299. (CL21010588)**

**1988 born, 5'-8", Doctorate in Law, working as Asstt. Prof. seeking boy from landlord family. Bureau excuse. Contact: 90406-00071. (CL21013112)**

**Highly qualified match preferably from USA for US citizen Jat Sikh girl Dec. 1982, 5'-1", done BBA from USA. Contact: 98725-06444. (CL21013116)**

**Well settled match for issueless divorcee Jat Sikh girl, Nov. 80 born, BMT, 5'-3", fair complexion. Mob: 98786-64983, 90560-74983. (CL21013181)**

**SMF Saraswat Brahmin Himachali girl, 5'-3", M.Tech. Chemical, working at Chandigarh. DoB 30.06.1990, 4.55 a.m., Feroperuz. Contact: 88945-99032. (CL21014327)**

**Match for Brahmin girl 15.5.1997, 14:02 Nangal, 5'-2", GNM. Nangal-Ura area preferred. 94189-74394. (CL21014331)**

**Match for Saraswat Brahmin girl born 23.08.1989, 5'-4", M.Tech. (Bio-Tech). Doaba preferred. Contact: 98866-50701, 85588-61886. (CL21014346)**

**Saraswat Brahmin girl 5.4.1992, 5.25 pm, Kapurthala, 5'-3", M.Sc. (IT), job Mohali IT Company. 76967-51832. (CL21014369)**

**Parents invited a suitable matrimonial alliance for their daughter 32 yrs old, 5'-11" tall, beautiful, family oriented, never married. MBA, professionally employed and settled in Canada/ USA/ India with family values. Please respond with latest photo & biodata for 9463820240. (CL21013993)**

**Required teetotaller match for Jatt Sikh girl M.Sc. (Fashion Designing) 1988/ 5'-6", Contact: 84279-92299. (CL21010588)**

**Match for Brahmin girl 1992/ 5'-5", B.Tech, M.Com., 7 Band in IELTS. Preferred Canadian. Contact: 98884-86522, 85570-34616. (CL21014066)**

**Affluent family seeks suitable match for highly qualified Jun 1993 born 5'-7", beautiful Jat Sikh girl, convention educated in Chandigarh. B.Tech. from Govt. Engineering College, MS from Harvard University, USA. Working in a Global Software company in India. Father senior Army Officer (Lt. General), Mother PES Class 1, younger brother pursuing MBA. Please share biodata/pics at 91-9779143020 or barinder3420@gmail.com (CL21014327)**

**Perfect match for USA working Jat Sikh beautiful Doctor girl 1992/ 5'-5" as USA based Doctor/ professional only. WhatsApp: 98880-44301. (CL21013251)**

**Match for Saraswat Brahmin girl born 23.08.1989, 5'-4", M.Tech. (Bio-Tech). Doaba preferred. Contact: 98866-50701, 85588-61886. (CL21014346)**

**Saraswat Brahmin girl 5.4.1992, 5.25 pm, Bathinda, 5'-3", M.Sc. (IT), job Mohali IT Company. 76967-51832. (CL21014369)**

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**Match for Punjabi Saraswat Brahmin homely fair girl, Jan 1983, 5'-3", Delhi, MBA. Mobile: 80761-19570. (CL21013738)**

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**Suitable match for Punjabi Brahmin 5'-7", born 1991, B.Tech, Computer Science, Canadian resident, Software Engineer, working in reputed Company Ontario, Canada. Preferred IT professional Canada/ USA/ Phone/ WhatsApp 84373-83728, 0015307135143. Presently visiting Chandigarh for month. (CL21013481)**

**Suitable match for Saraswat Brahmin girl, 1991, MCA, 5'-2", fair colour, 12.30 p.m., Ferozepur, upper caste no bar. Phone: 94171-69960. (CL21013593)**

**Saraswat Brahmin Vashisth girl 1.2.85, 9.55 pm, Bathinda, 5'-5", B.Com, LLB, LLM, Practicing in District Court Bathinda. 94640-73585. (CL21013636)**

**Match Punjabi Saraswat Brahmin homely fair girl, Jan 1983, 5'-3", Delhi, MBA. Mobile: 80761-19570. (CL21013738)**

# PROPERTY For Sale



Showroom on Chandigarh Ambala highway triple storey or floorwise for sale at Zirakpur. Mob: 94170-55912. (CL21013894)

Showroom for sale (near Max Hospital) ground floor + basement, Phase 6, Mohali. Contact Owner: 98780-09321. (CL21013698)

Office near JNPT Port Mumbai, 6th floor, built up 600 sq. ft. for Rs. 44 lac. Contact 77770-90880. (CL21013890)

**Chandigarh more than two kanal** well maintained bungalow facing North East, front greenbelt, Sector 8-A, (near Sukha Lake) Sampark Estates 98142-11400, 0172-4627889. (CL21013962)

**Chandigarh: For sale one kanal** house (6.75 Cr). Contact: Choice Estates 98156-95555. (CL21013964)

**One Kanal Sector 8, Chandigarh,** new construction, triple storey, clear title, Single owner. 98760-33119. (CL21013178)

**7 marla second floor corner** brand new with roof right Sector 37, Chandigarh. 98684-84919. (CL21013382)

**200 sq. yard plot park facing in** Ecocity 1. Mahajan Estates 98885-72572. (CL21014037)

**10, 14 marla, 1 kanal newly built** floors with lift in prime Sectors. Mahajan Estates 98885-72572. (CL21013616)

**7 marla triple storey old house** beautiful location in Sector 37. Mahajan Estates 98885-72572. (CL21013618)

**11.5 marla corner B-Road side park** new top floor in Sector 20. Suitable for professionals. Mahajan Estates 98885-72572. (CL21013621)

**Brand new 5 marla triple storey** independent & floor wise kothi in Aerocity C-Block, must sell today. Call: 91868-97777. (CL21014037)

**Chandigarh direct deal corner** 4- 5 kanal house, prime location, facing park, Sector 4, 8, 9, 10. Genuine buyers. 98149-67149. (CL21013026)

**Chandigarh one kanal & 2 kanal** brand new modern house VIP Sector 8, 10, 16, 18, 28, 33. Direct deal. Immediate sale. 98149-67149. (CL21013029)

**Chandigarh: Freehold vacant** showroom (34x 200) full/ floorwise Sector 7-C, Madhya Marg, direct deal. 98149-67149. (CL21013029)

**Rented property, prime location** showroom for sale. Very good return. Subhash Mangat 98720-99999. (CL21013283)

**For sale/ purchase of property in** Chandigarh, Panchkula & Mohali. Contact Subhash Mangat 98720-99999. (CL21013284)

**Chandigarh one kanal newly built** duplex house Sector 16A, also Sector 35A. Gulati Estates 98140-06264. (CL21013641)

**Chandigarh 1 kanal new Sector 35,** 36 also 10 marla 2nd with lift Sector 7. 98151-86915. (CL21013642)

**Chandigarh freehold show room** for sale in good, running shopping area, central Sectors. Contact: 98720-99999. (CL21014509)

**200 yards double storey house in** Kartarpur Singh Nagar, Phase-II, Pahowal road, Ludhiana for immediate sale. Contact: 98144-65197. (CL21014197)

**Mohali: Commercial Showroom,** prime location, ample parking. Ground / Basement Vacant, Phase-11. Throwaway price. 99143-27641. (CL21014482)

## Plot for Sale

2500 sq.yards plot in Industrial area Phase 8A, Mohali, opp. Godrej on 80ft Road, Prime Location, Ideal for Hotel, Hospital and IT Industry.

**09958989256**

CL21000086

IT City SCO 100 square yard LOI for sale. Draw soon. Owner: 98727-18351. (CL21011892)

**Chandigarh 2 kanal house prime** location, corner B-Rad/ facing park, North- East Sector 2, 8-A, 9-A, 10, 11, 21, 33. Confirmed deal. 98149-67149. (CL21012531)

**Chandigarh: 2 bay show room** built upto 5 storeys with basement (with lift) in Sector 34. Handsome rental return. Low lease money. Good location. Only genuine buyers. Confirmed only with Aman Gupta Real Estates, Sector 20, Chandigarh 98724-90349. (CL21013076)

**Plot one kanal Phase XI, kothi 16** marla Sector 70, Mohali. 98144-10897. (CL21013956)

**Wanted/ available all sizes kothies** full/ floorwise in all Sectors Chandigarh. Rama Properties 98140-42287, 97804-18830. (CL21013255)

**10 marla newly built floors Sector** 15, 5 marla independent house, good location. 22, 46. Bhagwati Estates: 98140-40445. (CL21013305)

**SCF for Sale** Newly built extra-ordinary construction & elevation with elevator, 3 adjoining SCF No. 64-65-66 (16.5 x 66 ft each) in Phase XI, Sector 65, Mohali. Basement-3267 sqft. Ground Floor-3267 sqft. 1st Floor-3267 sqft. 2nd Floor-2700 sqft. 3rd Floor-2700 sqft approx. Rarer opportunity to get huge area on each floor and each floor can also be given independently.

**86999-99019**

CL21000144

7 marla newly built first floor three bedrooms. Sector- 22B, facing main road opposite market, 8 marla ground, nicely renovated Sector 23. Bhagwati Estates: 98140-40445. (CL21013306)

**Chandigarh newly built 300 sq.** yards (approx 1800 sq.ft.) only 2nd floor, with lift, facing park, going very reasonable. 99140-24406. (CL21013574)

**Chandigarh 15 marla corner 3 side** open, well built only second floor, Sector 16-A, @ 1.95. Contact: 99140-24406. (CL21014528)

**Chandigarh one kanal 4 BHK with** lift, second floor, newly built, with roof terrace. Sector 8, @ 3 Cr. 85282-00580. (CL21013579)

**16 marla B-Road newly built** duplex house Phase 10, Mohali. Owner: 84270-01122, 93177-44666. (CL21013606)

**SCO full/ floorwise Sector 8, 17,** Manimajra. Four kanal Industrial Shed, Phase I. Sharma 99157-12626. (CL21014550)

**Bungalows: Six kanal Sector 9,** 9, 28 (22,00,00,00,-), Two kanal Sector 15, 16, 19, 32 (11,50,00,00,-), one kanal new duplex 8, 10, 16 (10,25,00,00,-). Sharma 99157-12626, 98146-12626. (CL21014531)

## CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh 10 marla liveable Sector 20, 33, 38, 1 kanal good location Sector 33. 98720-99999. (CL21013285)

**Chandigarh 10 marla old ground** floor 42/21A, 6 marla ground & first floor 40/720A. Call: 98720-99999. (CL21013286)

**Direct deal 14 marla living (going** cheap) immediate sale 98149-67149. (CL21013999)

**Booth for sale Sector 9,** Madhyamarg and Sector 16-D, 34, 35-D, 8, 19 (also wanted) Chandigarh immediate settlement. 98149-67149. (CL21014000)

**Showroom two bay, Sector 8-C,** Madhya Marg, Chandigarh (going cheap), genuine buyer only. 98149-67149. (CL21014001)

**8 marla house (top location) corner/** big huge driveway Sector near Busstand Chandigarh. Genuine buyers only. 98149-67149. (CL21014223)

**One kanal Sector 8, Chandigarh,** new construction, triple storey, clear title, Single owner. 98760-33119. (CL21013178)

**8 marla triple storey kothi in** Phase 7, North East facing with separate parking. Call: 91868-97777. (CL21014033)

**Brand new 5 marla triple storey** independent & floor wise kothi in Aerocity C-Block, must sell today. Call: 91868-97777. (CL21014037)

**Buy/sell plot, house, floors, flats** & commercial in Chandigarh all Sectors. Call: Getmax Realtors 98196-97777. (CL21014049)

**Available/ wanted HIG/ MIG** 100 sq. yards, plot park, houses, flats & commercial in Ecocity 1. Mahajan Estates 98885-72572. (CL21014037)

**10, 14 marla, 1 kanal newly built** floors with lift in prime Sectors. Mahajan Estates 98885-72572. (CL21013616)

**7 marla triple storey old house** beautiful location in Sector 37. Mahajan Estates 98885-72572. (CL21013618)

**11.5 marla corner B-Road side park** new top floor in Sector 20. Suitable for professionals. Mahajan Estates 98885-72572. (CL21013621)

**200 sq. yard plot park facing in** Ecocity 1. Mahajan Estates 98885-72572. (CL21014037)

**10 marla, 14 marla, 1 kanal & 2 kanal houses available.** 98720-99999. (CL21013288)

**10 marla house, on green belt,** A-road & North facing, # 947-5, P-20, Sector 26, Panchkula. Ph. 94650-33140. (CL21013420)

**Panchkula 8 marla corner, facing** East plot, Sector 17, 10 marla house Sector 15 for sale. 94175-00647. (CL21013939)

**Panchkula 1 kanal side park facing** East beautiful duplex house Sector 7 for sale. 94175-00647. (CL21013943)

**10 marla prime locations 7, 8, 17** (3 Cr), 14 marla liveable (3.70). 1 kanal old & brand new options in sectors near to Chandigarh. Sharma Properties: 82888-78339, 98767-82699. (CL21014259)

**MOHALI**

**8 Marla 3 BHK First Floor (30%** Share) Facing Park Phase- 3B2. Owner: 8728883540, 9915534500. (CL21013436)

**16 Marla House Triple Storey** Phase-7, and B-road Phase-10. Orbit Estates: 9915534500, 8968799143. (CL21013437)

**10 Marla house North East Facing** single Storey Phase-3B1, 3B2, 5, 7. Orbit Estates: 9915534500, 8968799143. (CL21013451)

**16 Marla House 2/2 Story South** East Facing Sector-71. Orbit Estates: 9915534500, 8968799143. (CL21014374)

**HIG/ MIG Sector 38 West, 39,** 42, 43, 44, 45, 51, 49, 61. Society flats Sector- 48 to 51. Megh Estates: 98762-22255, 98159-05086. (CL21014353)

**Residential plots/ flats commercial** SICO's Zirakpur/ Kharar/ Mohali. Call: 82838-34287. (CL21014240)

**Rental (property): Showroom fully** builtup, with top brands, huge parking. Chandigarh-Ambala Highway, Zirakpur. Contact: 92074-92074. (CL21014347)

**Commercial building 120000 sq.** feet on 14000 sq. yard prime land with 250 feet front on National Highway NH- 72 at Kala Amb, Himachal. Owner: 92556-22222, 98050-03801. (CL21014197)

**Commercial booth 8x10 ground** floor & 1st floor Phase 5, 8x10 facing main road Sector 67. Castle Estates 95011-83500. (CL21014200)

**Industrial shed builtup 120000** sq. feet on 14000 sq. yard prime land with 250 feet front on National Highway NH- 72 at Kala Amb, Himachal. Best investment. Royal Castle: 98767-60006, 98787-80000. (CL21014374)

**Commercial booth 8x10 ground** floor & 1st floor Sector 67. Castle Estates 95011-83500. (CL21014374)

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**Commercial booth 8x10 ground** floor & 1st floor Sector 67. Castle Estates

# The Sunday Tribune Spectrum



Move over aam panna and aam ka achaar. The ubiquitous kachchi ambi is a lot more versatile. This season, how about exploring its many moods?

**VARIETY page 10**



The Battle of Garibpur in 1971 has gone down in Indian military history as a classic example of perfect synergy between all the combat arms of the Army

**TRIBUTE page 11**



In his book, former diplomat Shivshankar Menon attempts to outline India's future in an Asia where several powers are zealously guarding their interests

**BOOKS page 12**

## WHAT LIES AHEAD

### 'Technically, we can avoid third wave'

**VK PAUL** is Member (Health), NITI Aayog, and chairman of the National Expert Group on Covid-19 Vaccine Administration.

#### ■ The second Covid wave has been punishing. Is a third one looming?

We are still learning about SARS-CoV-2 virus dynamics. We have seen in multiple geographies that the pandemic comes in waves because a part of the population, which is unexposed, remains vulnerable and the virus can attack this population and create a new outbreak. The possibility of a third wave in future cannot be ruled out. However, if everyone universally practises Covid-appropriate behaviour, there is optimum containment and an escalation in vaccination coverage, the probability of a third wave diminishes. Technically, with the best and comprehensive efforts, the third wave can be avoided. There are countries that have not experienced even the second wave.

#### ■ Are mutants a major concern?

Yes, certainly. Virus mutants that are more transmissible cause severe disease or neutralise the vaccine efficacy; they are of immense concern. A consortium of a number of national labs has been created to conduct virus sequencing of the isolates obtained from all parts of the country. Over 25,000 such sequencing data are available. This has led to the finding that the variants of concern, isolated in other countries, have been detected in multiple states. The government is making efforts

so that shortly it will be possible to sequence more than 25,000 isolates every month. It appears that mutated variants have contributed toward the ferocity of the present wave.

#### ■ When will the present wave peak?

Prediction about the pandemic peaks is not easy and available models have not proven accurate. Generally, it is believed that this wave would peak anytime now. Keep in mind that the peak mortality follows the infection peak by about two weeks. Also, it will take several weeks for the wave to return to a reasonably low-level baseline. The behaviour of the wave is also dependent upon the efficacy of containment, people's Covid-appropriate behaviour and enforcement of restrictions.

#### ■ What about vaccine shortages?

We are the fastest in administering over 18 crore doses. This achievement is even more important because our efforts are entirely driven by 'Made in India' vaccines. The coverage so far amounts to half of the population of the US, full population of Russia and 2.5 times the population of UK. We expect significant acceleration after July, when ramped-up production of Covishield and Covaxin comes into play. Thereafter, new vaccines made by Biological E and Serum Institute (Covaxin) are expected to be available.

#### ■ There are concerns that India is not testing enough.

India has conducted the highest number of tests in the world for any country. We have pro-

fusely used kits developed and made in India. The testing capabilities are being extended into rural areas as well. There is no concern for reagent insufficiency as of now.

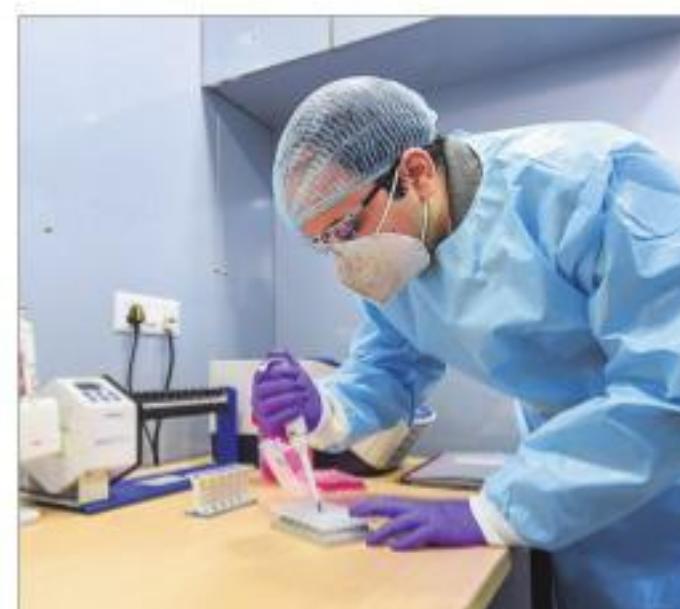
#### ■ Mucormycosis (black fungal infection) is a new threat.

Mucormycosis is caused by a fungus (name ly mucor). Instances seen in Covid cases are practically confined to those who have diabetes mellitus (especially uncontrolled) and have been given steroids. Essentially, diabetes and steroids, combined with Covid infection, are responsible for the mucormycosis infection after and at times during active Covid illness. The treatment not only includes administration of anti-fungal drug Amphotericin B, but also complex surgical removal of damaged tissues. This infection affects the nasal cavity, brain cavity and can lead to loss of vision due to extension into the eye orbit. The key remains good control of diabetes mellitus and responsible use of steroids. Steroids should never be given in the first seven days of Covid illness. Wet surfaces around patients must be avoided; oxygen humidifiers should be filled with distilled water so fungus does not settle. Early detection and timely surgical excision is needed.

#### ■ The way forward?

To continue to support the industry to augment vaccine production to the maximum potential, and a rapid scale-up of vaccination. We ultimately have to offer vaccines to every adult.

PHOTOS: THE TRIBUNE AND AGENCIES



### 'Delay jabs to young, vulnerable priority'

**RANDEEP GULERIA** is Director, AIIMS, New Delhi and member, National Covid-19 Taskforce.

#### ■ What are the principal challenges going forward?

As Covid cases are rising, we need to ensure good infection control practice protocol in hospitals because secondary infections, both bacterial and fungal, are being seen and are causing more morbidity and mortality. Covid-associated mucormycosis is becoming a new challenge. Pre-Covid, incidence of this fungal infection was low and it was a rare infection, seen only in transplant, diabetes and cancer patients on chemotherapy. But Covid-induced treatments are leading to several cases of mucormycosis. Some states are reporting around 500 cases. It affects the face, eyes and even the brain. We are now seeing more cases because several people with uncontrolled diabetes and on irrational use of steroids are getting this infection.

#### ■ Which new vaccines are we looking at?

Apart from others, we are expecting the arrival of Johnson & Johnson vaccine, a single-shot vaccine.

#### ■ Your view on vaccination strategy, given the supply-side constraints?

Vaccination appointments for the younger people can be delayed a little, the elderly and the vulnerable with comorbidities should be covered first and graded vaccination strategy should be adopted.

#### ■ There are concerns about Covishield's second dose being delayed to 12 to 16 weeks.

Data suggests that those who took Covishield in under four weeks got immunity in the range of 55 to 60 pc while those who took the vaccine after 12 weeks got immunity in the range of 80 to 85 pc. The decision to extend the dosing interval is based on science.

#### ■ Lessons for the future?

Covid-appropriate behaviour, local containment and surveillance and rapid vaccination.



tion will improve but I still feel the elderly and those with comorbidities must be covered first as they are suffering much higher mortality.

#### ■ Understanding variants is crucial

**GAUTAM MENON** is a professor in the Departments of Physics and Biology at Ashoka University, Sonepat, and at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai. He has been involved in modelling studies and policy discussions surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### ■ How much of Covid's second-wave ferocity is attributable to new variants?

The speed of increase of cases can very largely be attributed to the new variants, the B.1.1.7 (UK) and the B.1.617 variant, although a relaxation of Covid-appropriate behaviour made matters far worse.

#### ■ Did India miss the variants as they emerged?

The genomic sequencing that was in place was able to identify these variants and to project that they might dominate in the future. However, we still know very little about any potential increase or decrease in disease severity caused by them in the Indian population. Even our assumptions about the increased transmissibility of the B.1.617 variant were guesses, initially. Limited genomic sequencing is not the reason why we missed the scale of the second wave.

#### ■ Are we sequencing enough now to catch the

third wave? Sequencing is being ramped up but is still insufficient to obtain a picture of what is happening at a sufficiently granular scale. We need district-wise surveillance for a picture of which variants are dominant and where. The process of understanding whether a new variant is more transmissible or can evade vaccine-induced immunity is time-consuming. It is a better strategy to look for a sudden increase in case numbers and later look for explanations in terms of variants. Understanding new variants is crucial in the long term to get a better idea of what mutations might enhance transmissibility and disease severity.

#### ■ When will the pandemic end?

This is impossible to say because it depends on many factors we do not understand yet — the importance of re-infections, vaccinations, and how changes in social behaviour might drive reduction in transmissibility. Case numbers are lower now than at their peak by 10 to 15 per cent. Whether this signals a sustained downturn is unclear.

#### ■ Is SARS-CoV-2 natural or man-made?

From what we know, it is very likely that SARS-CoV-2 had a natural origin in a spillover event involving bats and an intermediate animal. However, this does not absolve China of its responsibility to aid a transparent investigation.



Clockwise from above: Army personnel at the newly set up Pandit Rajan Mishra Covid Hospital at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi; a woman takes a selfie while she gets a Covid-19 vaccine dose in Prayagraj; and a medic at a genome sequencing laboratory at an airport in New Delhi.

### 'One or 2 more peaks, but not as bad'

**GAGANDEEP KANG** is a leading vaccinologist and member, National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation.

#### ■ Many experts have suggested a national lockdown to reduce the caseload. Do you think that is the way forward?

I think ultimately this is a virus where we need to learn to deal with flare-ups. The best way is to use local data to form local solutions. If you don't have local data or the agency to implement local solutions, there has to be something at a larger level. Will a lockdown help? Yes, absolutely, because anytime you block people from interacting with each other, it results in the virus spreading less. The question is can you afford to do that? If you can guarantee that people are in safe places and there is no violation of human rights, a lockdown makes sense but if you cannot, this is a balancing game you have to play.

#### ■ When will the current wave decline?

Middle to end of May is a reasonable estimate. My worry is that we have a decline in testing. The proportion of cases is much larger than what the tests reveal.



#### ■ How is the current wave different?

On what data do we base our understanding of the first and second waves? We don't have any data. We only know how many tested positive, how many died. We need to look at geographical differences — age of people infected, co-morbidities among the deceased. What you hear anecdotally is that the younger are being affected now and the spread in families is greater. Basic data is being collected in ICMR forms being submitted with every sample. That should have been available. If we had access to that, we could have had some epidemiological comparison as to who was affected the last time and this time.

#### ■ How long after becoming infected should one get a vaccine?

Data shows if you had an infection, you have

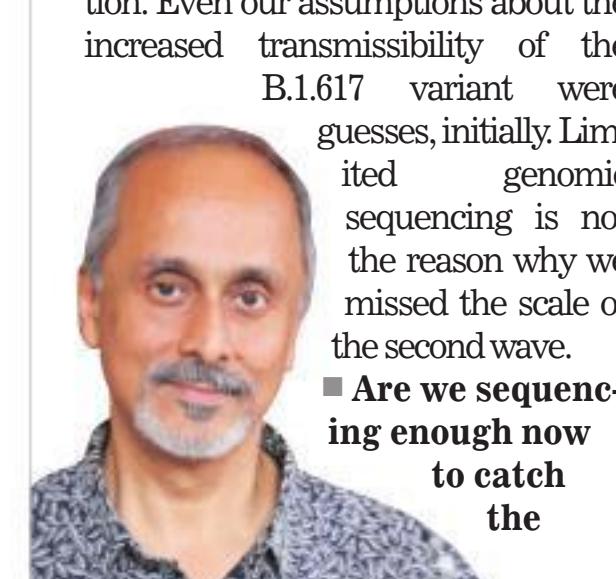
80 per cent protection for at least seven months. WHO has said if there is a shortage of vaccines and if you have been infected, you can wait for six months. Wait preferably for eight weeks after you have recovered.

#### ■ Do vaccines prevent infection?

Vaccines prevent severe disease. It is possible for a fully vaccinated person to get infected but your symptoms remain mild. Right now vaccines are protecting for up to six to seven months. Also, vaccines are working against variants. AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines are working against B.1.1.7 strain dominant in the UK and about B.1.617 also, we do not need to worry so much.

#### ■ The future of Covid?

It will become a really bad flu virus, something more seasonal. People will acquire immunity due to repeated infection and vaccination. It will be an imperfect immunity so we may need boosters, but I am pretty sure we are not going to be in a situation that we are in today too many more times, at least not with this virus. We may see one or two more peaks but those will not be as bad because there will be very little fuel left for the virus to get through, and if we ramp up vaccinations, we will be in a very good place a few months from now.



# The many moods of raw mango

Move over aam panna and aam ka achaar. The kachchi ambi is a lot more versatile. Check out these recipes



## FOOD TALK

PUSHPESH PANT

**W**HEN it rains lemons, make lemonade; goes an old saying. That's easier said than done and almost impossible to follow when it is raining mangoes. And matters become utterly unmanageable when we enter the arena of raw mangoes. It sounds all very nice to croon romantically, 'Koyaliya bola ambuwa ki dari', etc, but how does one cope with 4-5 kilos of tart green fruit landing on the lap daily from the solitary tree in the backyard? All thoughts of swinging from the branch disappear fast.

In the days of joint families, all hands gathered on the deck and began pickling for family and friends. Armies of conscripts busied themselves with washing and chopping the fruit, grinding the spices, heating oil, sterilising the *marthasans* and keeping a track of the batches to be kept in the sun. But gone are those days and we are left with just *kachchi ambiyaan* or *kairi*.

With the pandemic bringing in the time for human beings to fend for themselves, even grinding chutneys and making *aam panna* can't exhaust the supply. The lockdown makes it impossible to share the bounty. If you're going through a similar turmoil, try incorporating unripe mangoes to your main course cooking. Our friend Muhammad Farouk's vegetarian *ambar kaliyaan* puts to shade its non-vegetarian sibling. A thick slice of unripe mango draped in rich aromatic gravy left nothing to be desired.

*Bawarchis* of Awadh were obsessed with tricking their patrons with such surprises. But since that recipe is quite heavy and cumbersome, we give it a skip here.

Instead, you could try your hand at grilled mango steaks with BBQ sauce, served with mango salsa. This is a Tex-Mex fusion, but if you wish to make a patriotic statement, splurge on *aam ki launji*, a wonderful sweet and sour hybrid of a chutney and *sabzi*. It has a unique feel—you bite into thick fillet-like slices, but instead of the BBQ sauce, relish the *swadeshi* masala. It goes well with *poori*, *parantha* and *phulka*, but must be portioned out like a *sabzi*.

For those in the mood to exert very little,



we suggest *mamidikaya pappu* that is common to Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. A tangy and light refreshing lentil soup, this requires nothing more than a bowl of steamed rice to create bliss.

In Awadh, they prepare a *kairi wali achar ki daal* too, but the southern tempering makes this one special. Rakesh Raghu-nathan, our young foodie friend from Tamil Nadu, introduced us to *mamidikaya chitranna*. However, that requires a little more patience and skill to pull off.

Now, raw mangoes aren't just a vegetarian treat. *Mamidikaya mamsam* combines mutton and fruit (in both dry and gravy form) across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The Kerala repertoire has *meen mapas*, but that recipe uses ripe mangoes.

The one thing we can assure you of is that if you are really determined to use up the bumper crop, there is no dearth of recipes. You can try a different one at each meal. Try the *chaat*-like raw mango *sabzi* from Rajasthan or stock up jars full of *chundo* equally popular in Gujarat and Bengal. Traditionally left under the sun, it can be prepared on stove too.

### WORTH A TRY

#### Grilled mango steak with BBQ sauce

##### Ingredients

- Unripe mangoes (large) 2
- Black pepper (coarsely pounded) 1 tbsp
- BBQ sauce 1/4 cup

■ Onion (medium-sized, sliced thickly) 1

■ Garlic cloves (crushed) 6

■ Sugar 1/4 cup or more, depending on tartness of the fruit

■ Salt to taste

■ Oil 2 tsp

**Method:**

Peel and cut the mangoes into cheeks resembling steaks; season with salt and black peppercorn. Line a non-stick pan with a thin film of oil and pan grill the 'steaks' for two minutes on each side. Remove and keep aside on a plate. Put the onions in a pan and stir fry on medium flame till translucent. Add garlic, BBQ sauce and sugar. Stir briskly till sugar is liquified completely. Pour over steaks after adjusting the seasoning. Enjoy with accompaniments and garnish of choice.

##### Aam ki launji

##### Ingredients

- Unripe mangoes (large) 2
- Jeera 1 tsp
- Methi seeds 1 tsp
- Sarson seeds 1 tsp
- Saunf 1 tsp
- Kalonji seeds 1 tsp
- Red chillies (shredded) 2
- Sugar 1/2 cup or to taste
- Salt to taste
- Mustard oil 1/4 cup

**Method:**

Peel the mangoes. Slice thickly, lengthwise. Heat oil in a pan and add the seeds. When

these begin to splutter, add chilli and the mango slices. Almost immediately add salt and sugar. Keep stirring continuously with a gentle hand ensuring that the slices don't burn and the sugar doesn't caramelise. When the syrup is of two-string consistency, remove from the stove.



##### Mamidikaya Pappu

##### Ingredients

- Unripe mangoes (peeled, stone removed and chopped) 1 cup
- Tuar or masoor daal 1/2 cup
- Turmeric powder 1/4 tsp
- Coriander powder 1/2 tsp
- Red chilli powder 1/4 tsp
- Sugar to taste
- Salt to taste

**For the tempering**

- Hing, a pinch
- Curry leaves, a sprig
- Sarson seeds 1/4 tsp
- Methi seeds 1/4 tsp
- Whole red chilli 1

ISTOCK  
■ Ghee 1 tbsp  
**Method:**

Pick, clean and wash the lentils. Put it in a pressure cooker and add 2 cups of water, add turmeric and other spices along with salt and sugar. Add the mangoes and cook for three to four whistles. Open the lid and mash the lentils and mangoes a little. Prepare a tempering by heating ghee in a ladle and putting hing and the seeds in it. When the seeds begin to splutter, add curry leaves and the chilli. As these change colour, pour over the pappu.



##### Mamidikaya Chitranna

##### Ingredients

- Unripe mangoes (large) 2
- Rice 1 cup
- Spice paste
- Coconut (grated) 1/2 cup
- Whole red chilli 1
- Jeera 1 tsp
- Dhania seeds 1-1/2 tsp
- Salt to taste

**For the tempering**

- Curry leaves 6-8
- Urad lentils 1 tsp
- Methi seeds 1/2 tsp
- Sarson seeds 1/2 tsp
- Peanuts 1 tbsp (optional)
- Ghee 1 tbsp

**Method:**

Boil the rice and keep aside. Grind the ingredients for the spice paste without using water. Mix it with the rice, blending well. Prepare a tempering of hot ghee and pour over the chitranna. Enjoy with dahi.



MAMIDIKAYA CHITRANNA

## Chemist is liable for wrong medication



### CONSUMERS BEWARE!

PUSHPA GIRIMAJI

**L**ast fortnight, I purchased some medicines for my daughter from my neighbourhood chemist. However, following an adverse reaction, the doctor checked up the medicines and found one of them to be of much higher strength, dangerously so, than what he had prescribed. My daughter is much better now, but I want to hold the chemist accountable. He blames it on the unusually high number of customers coming to his shop on account of Covid-19. Can he use that as an excuse to escape liability? On account of the exponential increase in the number of Covid-19 cases, the drug stores are as crowded as the hospitals, but that cannot be an excuse for selling wrong medication. Given the nature of his work, a pharmacist must exhibit utmost responsibility while dispensing medicines and ensure that what is sold is exactly what is prescribed. Failure to do so is negligence.

If he is unable to handle the customer rush, the chemist should employ more people. He cannot escape liability for his carelessness by pointing at the crowd. Having said that, I would urge all consumers to be extremely careful while purchasing medicines and before consuming them. Consumers should also insist on the doctor mentioning the generic name to avoid prescription errors. Remember, wrong medication can kill.

I recall that in 2018, the Food and Drug Administration authorities in Maharashtra had cancelled the licence of a Mumbai chemist for causing the death of a senior citizen by selling the wrong medicine. Instead of Folimax 10, prescribed for anaemia, the chemist had sold him Folitrix 10 mg.

**Are there any decided cases of consumer courts awarding compensation for the sale of wrong drugs?**

Consumer courts have awarded compensation in a number of such cases of negligence. In Ashok Kumar Vs M/S Kumar Brothers (Chemists) Pvt Ltd, for example, the consumer court directed the chemist to pay a compensation of ₹50,000 and costs of ₹10,000 to a consumer who had suffered on account of such carelessness on the part of the chemist.

Here, the doctor had recommended Metolar XR 50 mg on July 20, 2017. However, the chemist gave Gluformin XL 500 mg, a medication for diabetes. Since the consumer was not diabetic, his sugar levels dropped following consumption of the medicine and, on July 24, 2017, he had to be rushed to the hospital in a semi-conscious state.

When Kumar was informed by his doctors that his ill-health was caused by the wrong drug handed over by the chemist and that any delay on his part in seeking medical help could well have cost his life, Kumar confronted the chemist and eventually filed a complaint before the consumer court. The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum-I, UT of Chandigarh, held the chemist guilty of negligence. (CC No CC/281/2018, decided on October 23, 2018)

In Chetan D'Souza Vs Dial for Health Ltd, the complaint dating back to July 13, 2012, was about the chemist selling expired medicines. The Central Mumbai District Consumer Forum, in its order of October 7, 2014, directed the chemist to pay ₹25,000 as compensation and ₹5,000 as costs.

When you present your prescription to the chemist, he may well offer you a substitute saying that the particular brand suggested by the doctor is unavailable. However, when he does that, he must ensure that the substitute is identical to what is prescribed by the doctor. Failure to do so is also negligence.

One such case of negligence came up before the Additional District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, Nagpur. According to media reports, the Forum awarded a compensation of ₹1.15 lakh to a woman who suffered damage to her facial skin following substitution by the chemist, of the cream for acne prescribed by her doctor.

## His time to dream big

SARIKA SHARMA

THE camera follows Ghalib through most of the 98-minute film. As a truck driver struggling with grief in Ivan Ayr's 'Meel Patthar' ('Milestone'), that attention seems to have followed the lead actor, played by Suvinder Vicky, beyond the 70 mm. His portrayal of Ghalib has earned him praise from not just leading critics and filmmakers like Hansal Mehta, but also won him an award for best actor at the Singapore International Film Festival's Silver Screen Awards. The phone has been buzzing ever since the film began streaming on Netflix last week.

The film is about seasoned Punjabi truck driver Ghalib, a widower scarred by his past, against the backdrop of a crumbling capitalistic system. Chandigarh-based Vicky says the character is far removed from the stereotypical image of truck drivers in urban minds—loud, dhaba-type. "He rarely wears a *porna* and speaks little," says Vicky. And that is where the challenge for him lay, something he hadn't imagined when he was offered the role.

"I thought I would have to drive a little and perhaps pretend more," he says. But the 15-day workshop was an eye-opener. "Driving the truck on busy roads and emoting and conversing with your co-driver at the same time is not easy. I needed a lot of self-confidence." To get the body language right, he went under the wings of a driving guru in Noida. "A typical UP guy, I knew he could not be Ghalib, but his relationship with the vehicle was something that needed to be understood. I needed to achieve that comfort zone with the truck to make it mine."

Vicky says his experience of working with Gurvir Singh in 'Chauthi Koot' came in handy. He had played a commoner hounded by cops during the days of Punjab terrorism. The film spoke through its silences; the same seems to have carried on here too. "In 'Chauthi Koot', silence created a dialogue. 'Meel Patthar'

is in the same zone. Ivan is a man of detail. He makes the silence so powerful."

'Chauthi Koot' was his first brush with parallel cinema, a training ground and the turning point in the life of this artiste from theatre and Punjabi films. It got him roles in films like Diljit Dosanjh-starrer 'Super Singh' and the second lead in Akshay Kumar-starrer 'Kesari'. He says the turn his career took with these films, followed by the success of 'Meel Patthar', has boosted his energy and he is looking for good roles now. "I have films to show. And 'Meel Patthar', besides 'The Disciple', is what everyone has been talking about." He says the success emboldens him to dream big.

However, a Punjabi film is what he would perhaps never say no to. "It is my *maa-boli*. I have a responsibility towards it. Punjabi films, even those in which I had blink-and-you-miss roles, are the ones that brought me here. I will forever owe my career as much to those roles as to the one in 'Chauthi Koot'. All these roles are what brought me to

### LIFE LIVED ON THE ROAD

The film follows the journey of seasoned driver Ghalib. As his truck touches the 500,000-km mark—a record at his company—he is struck by a sudden pain in his back. At the same time, he finds himself defending a compensation claim made by his late wife's family. As Ghalib struggles to recover from his injury, he sees his job slipping out of his hands. The film was shot during the peak of North Indian winter, mostly in the morning, which, director Ivan Ayr says, helped paint a rich industrial mise en scène with the much-needed grey, overcast hue.

'Milestone'. They took me to Cannes (the film had premiered in the Un Certain Regard category), the first Punjabi actor to do so." Incidentally, 'Meel Patthar' too opened at Venice Film Festival last year. The milestones on his career graph are certainly getting better with the day.

# Virs, Maha Virs of Garibpur battle

LT COL DILBAG SINGH DABAS (RETD)

**T**HIRTEEN days before the declaration of war in 1971, Pakistan army launched its biggest attack on the eastern front. The action took place near Garibpur village, some 7 km inside south-western East Pakistan, wherein one battalion of the Indian Army, with support from the artillery, armour and engineers, successfully took on the might of the enemy's two infantry battalions supported by matching artillery, armour and recce and support combat elements.

In the early hours of November 21, under cover of dense fog, Pakistan's 107 Infantry Brigade's 6th and 21st Punjab battalions, supported by 49th and 55th Field Regiments (artillery) and 3 Independent Armoured Squadron (Chaffees), attacked Indian Army's 14th Punjab Battalion (Nabha Akal) while it was in the process of organising its defences between Garibpur and Jagannathpur villages in Jessoro sector.

While the companies were frantically digging the defences and anti-tank guns were in the process of reaching onto their fir-



## The Tribune

ESTABLISHED 1861

Largest Circulation in North-West India

Chandigarh, Thursday, November 25, 1971

18 Paise Plus Extra Duty 2 Paise

### INDIA NOT TO DECLARE EMERGENCY YET YAHYA KHAN TRYING TO DECEIVE WORLD: P.M. SABRES WERE DOWNDOWN IN LOCAL ACTION'

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, November 24.—The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi told Parliament today that India did not propose to declare an emergency in the country unless "further aggressive action by Pakistan compels us to do so in the interest of national security."

— She advised the country to remain unsniffed and said the brave Army of Forces and the people would ensure that any adventure on the part of the military regime of Yahya Khan would be met with adequate



### Indian Troops Destroy 13 Tanks In Jessore Area

NEW DELHI, November 24 (UNI-PTI)—Orders to the Army have been modified to permit it to cross the border in self-defence, an official spokesman said here today.

Brigadier R. Narang, who was commanding a platoon of 14th Punjab, said that the tanks had intruded into Indian territory on Monday.

### UK, Rhodesia Sign Accord To End 6-Year Dispute

Rhodesia and Britain signed an accord yesterday to end a dispute over mineral rights in southern Rhodesia.

The agreement, reached after three days of talks, will allow Britain to withdraw its troops from Rhodesia.

Under the terms of the accord, Britain will withdraw its troops from Rhodesia by the end of the year.

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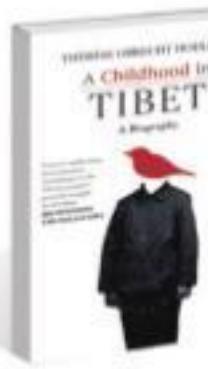
# Born into turmoil

TENDÖL NAMLING turned 60 in March 2019, exactly 60 years after the Dalai Lama was forced to flee from Lhasa and the uprising of his people was brutally suppressed by the Chinese People's Army. As poorly armed Tibetans faced the overpowering Chinese military might, Tendöl's fate was rewritten. As the daughter of a high government official, she underwent the ordeal of 're-education' with full force. She was to spend the next 22 years under Chinese atrocities. 'A Childhood in Tibet: A Biography' is a story of what happened in those two decades — the people she lost, the many executions she was witness to, the aggravating hunger that drove her to eat pig food in a Chinese garrison, the pain she endured all day and which subdued only as she cried herself to sleep each night.

When Tendöl turned 10, her brother was arrested and her mother sentenced to 10 years in prison. She never got to meet her father, who had escaped to India during the unrest as his family lived at the mercy of the occupiers. Without any means to help them, he died in 1973, amid powerlessness and uncertainty about the fate of his wife and kids.

Tendöl had to work in road construction for several years. At the age of 20, she was allowed to start an apprenticeship as a motor mechanic. Thanks to the efforts of her family in exile, Tendöl was able to leave Tibet in 1982. After 20 years of hardship, she landed in Switzerland and began piecing together her life, reuniting with her father through the letters he had written to her sister, leaving Tendöl wondering if he had mysteriously transmitted the Buddhist principles to her during her years of suffering.

The painful memories, however, are still fresh and a handful of crumpled photographs from the time tell a tale of resilience amid all that torture. And Tendöl Namling dedicates this book "to all the Tibetans who continue to rebel against the Chinese occupation". — TNS



A CHILDHOOD IN TIBET: A BIOGRAPHY  
by Thérèse Obrecht Hodler.  
Penguin Random House.  
Pages 208.  
₹399

# India's place in the Asian sun

KP NAYAR

**I**t is a sign of the times we live in that even a casual discussion of an insightful book on geopolitics spills over into talk about the Covid-19 pandemic. On a morning walk a few days ago with my two neighbours, both retired Grade I Indian ambassadors, one of them asked if either of us had read "Shankar's new book". Shivshankar Menon, author of 'India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present', is called Shankar by his seniors in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).

In response, the other retired envoy said: "Shankar writes in his book that during the 1965 war, he went about Delhi with friends enforcing the black-out against Pakistani air raids. Not the man we know." The first ambassador responded: "We are like that only. We could all have been blown to bits by Pakistani air raids, yet we wouldn't switch off our lights! What chance is there that we will follow Covid appropriate behaviour now!"

Because the author had jobs which most IFS officers only fantasise about, it is not surprising that analysis in the book is born out of rich and varied experience. Menon was National Security Adviser to the Prime Minister for four years, Foreign Secretary for three and is the only Indian diplomat to have spent his childhood in Lhasa, where his father, PN Menon, was Consul-General.

Yet, the more revealing pages of this book are those that convey his observations, rarely disclosed before, about politicians who ultimately decide the course of India's foreign policy. "In my experience of diplomacy and policymaking, most of the brilliant thoughts, concepts and ideas that analysts and historians discuss, seldom influence the politicians and policymakers who make the decisions that are the raw material of history," writes the author. He is, however, generous towards the "better ones" among politicians who



The author, one of the foremost contemporary Sinologists, says that while other powers in a crowded Asia are rising, China has already risen. PTI

are "acutely aware of how their decisions will appear to their constituencies and have a clear sense of the power equations... around them."

The contents are neatly arranged in three parts divided in chronological order, starting with India's Independence up to the inevitability of globalisation, which make up Part I. This part is described as "The Past", a somewhat jarring description because the period covered here is not really all that in the past, especially for the multitude of Indians who have lived through those years. Part II or "The Present" asserts that while other powers in a crowded Asia are rising, China has already risen. Coming from one of the foremost contemporary Sinologists, this assertion, although true, will not be easily digested by a majority of Indians, who refuse to accept that the balance of power between

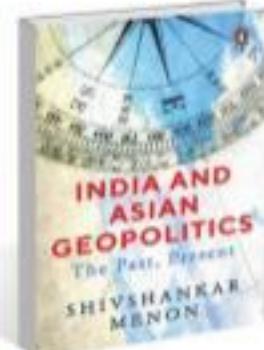
India and China has shifted over time. Or acknowledge that mutual dependencies on each other by India and China call for a modus vivendi where the two countries can prosper together as competitors in Asia instead of adversaries who simultaneously stand to lose.

Part III stands apart as a single chapter on "India's Tasks", the most fascinating portion of the book. It attempts to outline India's future situated in an Asia where several states, big and small, some of them vastly more dynamic than India, are zealously guarding their interests. Globalisation has made it a field where India has to compete with them for its place in the sun.

An "Afterword" is where Menon takes off his gloves, as it were. He does not mince words in summing up what many Indians consider an existential crisis for their country. "We have lost

five years. Our national confidence has been replaced by bravado and extravagant statements." The book ends with a call to reject "prejudices masquerading as ideas" as well as fear and polarisation. It is a call from someone who knows India's place in the world to reorder the country's priorities with something that has universal appeal.

A large number of works on foreign policy have lately come on bookshelves. Compared to most of them, this book has been creditably fact-checked. One wishes the author had written shorter sentences. Many readers will find that sentences have to be re-read because one loses track of the thought at the start of a sentence by the time one reaches the next full stop.



INDIA AND ASIAN GEOPOLITICS: THE PAST, PRESENT  
by Shivshankar Menon.  
Penguin Random House.  
Pages 416.  
₹699

# Darkness, light and all that existed between for Karnad

NEELAM MANSINGH CHOWDHRY

**G**IRISH KARNAD'S memoirs, 'This Life at Play', are an English translation of the Kannada book 'Aadaadta Aayushya' by Srinath Perur. The work, as Karnad admits, is a documentation of half his life. Unfortunately, the second half will now never be written as he has passed on.

An extraordinary man, who lived an extraordinary life, made possible by an extraordinary vision, Karnad, a man of exceptional talent, charisma and creativity, made a lasting contribution to the world of theatre and cinema in India. His growth as an artist parallels the trajectory of the cultural history of modern India, shaping a modern idiom.

Reading this book makes one feel dizzy as if atop a giant windmill, with each revolution revealing a different perspective. His childhood was a constant wandering back and forth across the borders of reality, seeking refuge in the unreal, the imaginative and the endless possibilities that he wished to grasp! Filled with literary and artistic curiosity, his awareness of his sexual awakening and his carefully choreographed ambition are the stuff that legends are made of. In his memoirs, there is a constant reference to the play of light and shade, a chiaroscuro of memories both dim and illuminated through interpretive interventions. In his act of writing, there is no deep freeze in the brain where memories are stored, but are juggled, readjusted and reassembled and hence made afresh.

The story of his life cannot be separated from the story of India's search for a modern vocabulary in playwriting that could best express the aspirations of a fledgling nation and the challenges before it. Traditional stereotyping and moribund ideas had to be confronted and re-examined for fresh ideas and concepts to emerge, that could grapple with the complex idea of modernity with all its manifestations. A new grammar of performance emerged that was an intersection between the real, illusionary, fiction, fact, contemporary, folk, myth, realism, that segued effortlessly.

BV Karanth, a close collaborator of Karnad, once told me that when you read a Karnad play, there is absolutely no need to



The growth of Girish Karnad (second from left, seen here with Ammu Mathew and other members of Madras Players) as an artist parallels the trajectory of the cultural history of modern India, shaping a modern idiom.

edit, as Karnad being a student of mathematics builds up his plays like a theorem: precise, measured without anything extraneous, yet exploring the mystical abstraction of numbers through words. While directing his play 'Naga Mandala', Karanth's words rang true. Every line, word was apt and appropriate.

It was in Dharwad, and the evenings spent in the 'atta' (Kannada for attic), that his love for poetry, literature and philosophy flourished and fructified.

While reading the book, the varied people who make their entries in the narrative are so delightfully vivid and full-blooded that their foibles, 'likes' and 'dislikes' jump out, as if from a proscenium arch. The characters after playing their role exit into the darkness of the wings, leaving traces of their impact on the life of the young Karnad.

Growing up in Sirsi and Dharwad, engaging with the local theatre activities, along with the Yakshagana, later education in Bombay and then a Rhodes Scholar in Oxford, are masterly etched vignettes brimming with humour and irony, making his memoirs a fascinating read. His work as a publisher, along with his film career, fraught with uncertainties and tribulations, springs 'alive' through Karnad's luminous honesty in being able to shine a torch on

even a treacherously dark path.

The book is written with an intimacy that is rare. I almost had the feeling that I was sitting under a starlit night, under the shadowy trees of the Sirsi forest, with Karnad sharing his story in a manner that is personalised and direct. He tells his story as it is, warts and all, no hagiography in evidence.

The "Afterword" written by his accomplished son Raghu and daughter Radha is a befitting tribute to their father's compelling memoirs. "He was a child of the 1940s, raised in a world without electricity, yet full of cultural transmissions. He liked to talk about power cuts at home in the Nineties, and shares it again in his memoirs; his nostalgia for the many shades of darkness after every sundown, and for the abundance of stories that emerged in those true nights. It doesn't seem like a coincidence that these two elements of his childhood, the darkness and the storytelling, evoke a theatre hall — the place he loved most through his life."

This constant reference to darkness and light are leitmotifs in his plays, especially in 'Naga Mandala'. A chorus of flames made up of the petromax, the diya, the lantern and the naked flame, poses this metaphysical question. What happens when you blow off the light from the diya or the lantern? Where does the light disappear?

# A chronicle of pain and solitude

RAJESH SHARMA

**H**ER face has always disappointed her. Spring brings her suffering. She regrets she never experienced youthful rebellion. She never married but has had 'her share of married men'. She teaches language, writes, wears her hair long, and watches trashy TV programmes while waxing her legs.

She is a single woman passing through a midlife crisis, negotiating between loneliness and solitude, and wrestling with 'embedded fears'. An anonymous woman in an unnamed European city, she is the protagonist and narrator of Jhumpa Lahiri's 'Whereabouts'. The writer makes her vividly alive with minimal strokes.

Lahiri was awarded the Pulitzer for fiction way back in 2000.

She returns to the genre after several years, having tasted blood, which non-fiction generously affords. So this is not exactly a return, but a moving on. Not all novels are, of course, fictional. 'Whereabouts', too, probably is not. It belongs among the works that stretch and bend genres and help create new forms of writing, like Deborah Levy's 'Things I Don't Know', Véronique Khoury-Ghata's 'The Last Days of Mandelstam', Peter Handke's 'A Sorrow beyond Dreams', Olivia Laing's 'The Insomniac City', or Max Porter's 'Grief is the Thing with Feathers'. Its formal austerity and delicacy suggest immense artistic riches quietly absorbed and not put on display.

A good translation has been called a second original. Can a translation be a parallel original? Probably yes. Lahiri wrote this book in Italian, a language she decided to grow into, having plumbed her depths in English. If we are our language, one way of realising our possibilities is that we try reincarnation in another language. Rilke did this when he turned to French. But Lahiri takes a step more: she translates her own book into English. An accidental fruit of the adventure is her refreshed, sensuous handling of some less used

words, like a child's attempts at discovering things through touch and relish. Lahiri calls the book a novel. The reader could well treat it as a collection of 46 personal essays, or a memoir. Frames pass before you like a train's windows at night, each enfolding a story. Some frames return, the stories having moved on. Circularities, like sequences, are partial, wilfully disrupted. There are no certitudes, yet the anonymous woman might be the writer and the city Rome. The hints are telling.

For the entire length — and depth — of this novel of some 40,000 words, you inhabit a single consciousness which flits between memory, perception and reflection. But you do not feel confined, perhaps because you oscillate between soliloquy and dramatic monologue (in which you are the interlocutor). You become a co-traveller and endure the pain of being set free. When you awake from the novel, you are calmer, less anxious to focus. Replenished.

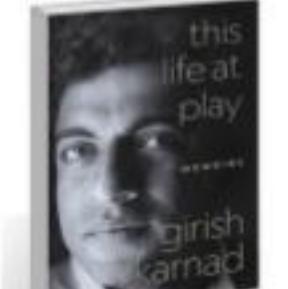
Her crisis is articulated in the constricting vocabulary she repeatedly uses as a handle on her condition. Focus, defeat, depletion. Her mind bounces between these words as her body suffers the sun's drying lick and she chases an elusive catharsis. She has to resolve her relationship with her parents. The father, dead, continues to rule her life, even popping up between her lover and her. The mother, old and frail but not senile, dispenses the wisdom she sorely needs. But this mother had wounded her tender confidence as a child. Anyway, she can forgive her, but the father?

A turning point is her encounter with a headless cadaver. The fresh blood frightens and repels her but it also reminds her of the delicious red fig. A duality is uncannily resolved. Later, she sees her double and understands that she can be she and also another.

The book begins on a street and ends on a train, begins with a death remembered and ends with a departure of which not even 'the crumbs' remain. The whereabouts are nowhere except in moving. One never is in a place. One only moves through it.

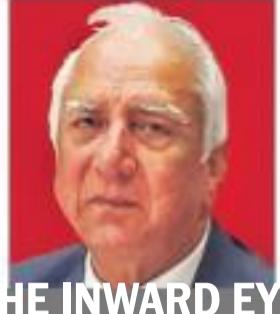


WHEREABOUTS  
by Jhumpa Lahiri.  
Penguin Random House.  
Pages 176.  
₹499



THIS LIFE AT PLAY  
by Girish Karnad.  
Translated by  
Srinath Perur &  
Girish Karnad.  
HarperCollins.  
Pages 320.  
₹799

# The emperor's new clothes



THE INWARD EYE

GURBACHAN JAGAT

**T**HE provocation to write comes from reading about our finance ministry pontificating that the second wave will have a muted effect on the economy (front page of *The Economic Times*, May 8, giving the ministry's April review) — it probably holds true for the world they live in. For, it has to be a different world, devoid of corona and its devastation, because no rational human being could give such statements in the wake of all the death and destruction that surrounds us, and the havoc it is playing with our lives and our economy. Respectable international agencies are continuously downgrading our projected growth rates.

Our first response to the pandemic was in true Trump style — ignore it. However, it was subsequently followed by a national lockdown which broke the back of the labour and the economy. There came a slight pause in the march of the pandemic and our Central leadership proclaimed victory and claimed that we had shown the way to the world on how to beat the pandemic under dynamic crisis management. India had arrived as the 'Vishwa Guru'. Having dealt with this minor problem, the top leadership moved to the state of West Bengal to wage a life and death struggle with an evil greater than the pandemic in the form of state elections. This was in spite of warnings of a second severe surge, to which no heed was paid. No control room was put in place from where the whole country could be mapped, no special crisis management team was set up, no orders were placed for hospital beds, ICU beds, ventilators, oxygen, vaccines, ambulances, etc. The matter had been dealt with and the Covid file closed.

On the other hand, the lions roared in Bengal and promised the faithful 200 seats — never mind the danger of the rallies acting as super spreaders. Additionally, the Kumbh Mela was also being held where millions were propitiating the gods. This also took the form of another super spreader — never mind, Bengal will be ours. Meanwhile, nature, 'red in tooth and claw', was exacting vengeance. State after state reported a humungous number of infected and dead people. But they didn't look back and kept baying for the blood of Mamata Didi — 'Didi', a revered word everywhere, became a figure of ridicule. However,



'This Central Vista will stand as a monument to misplaced priorities of leadership during the time of unmatched tragedy. A reminder that our leaders should be held accountable.'

reality began to catch up as the world sat up and began to notice. The international media called it a catastrophe and mismanagement of Herculean proportions. Hospitals began to cry out for oxygen, ICU beds, ventilators, vaccines — in short, everything that was needed to help people. But we had no reserves, we had placed no orders, we had not ramped up production, so we began to do what we thought we had put behind us. Back to PL 480 days — back to the begging for aid from all countries, aid of any kind. Slowly, the world began to respond but, it was a measured response because of our leadership's recent claims of victory. Most of this aid landed at Delhi but there were negligible arrangements at the airport. There was no control room, no inventories for aid coming in, no details as to where it was to be sent and no transport mobilised. Questions regarding distribution of this aid from Delhi were raised at White House press conferences. The opaque nature of this mismanagement continues to haunt us with states and aid agencies not knowing what is coming or going.

The states began to compete in making huge demands but there was no one in Delhi to allocate aid to states as per some worked-out formula, or coordinate our resources as well as the international aid coming in. Again, it was politics — charges and counter-charges of favouritism. One has not heard of any initiative taken by the disaster management force to mobilise its own resources and those of other departments. Why could not the Army have been asked to set up field hospitals —

after the earthquake at Bhuj in 2001, the Israeli army set up a field hospital in 24 hours which was capable of giving treatment right from minor injuries to heart problems. They did not borrow a single item from us, except the land on which the hospital was set up. We too can do it, we have the men, the experts, the institutions, but they are not allowed to function independently and grow. Every decision in this country, right from cricket to the pandemic, is political and our politics is corrupt. Corruption has consumed every cell in our body politic and with every passing year, it only gets worse.

As the disease wreaks havoc, the leadership, comprising the numerous pillars of government, hides in denial or issues orders reminiscent of Don Quixote charging the windmills. The 'brahmastar' they wield is that of shutting everything... congratulations to you all, well done, you are dousing the fire. However, you may want to consider the fact that you fanned this fire by allowing all the super spreader *melas* and rallies. You ignore that minor detail of unemployment, hunger, school fees, EMIs, rent, salaries... no worries on that count, 'the impact on the economy is muted'. It is so easy to shut everything, the bureaucrat and the politician love the power of it. Leadership at any level is defined as the ability to give to society and not to extract from it. Such leadership has been personified by men such as Gandhi, Mandela, Lincoln. Their leadership gave peace, succor, justice — you have nothing to give but pain, and yet, you snatch liberty and freedom with such abandon that would shame a hardened autocrat.

■ What has the State offered to all the people who have lost jobs and incomes?

■ What has it offered to all small businesses which are being ruined and self-employed families being reduced to penury?

■ What has it offered to the self-employed professionals — lawyers, accountants, hairdressers, chefs, salesmen, teachers... it's a long list?

■ What has the State offered to students trying to study through phones?

Nothing — 'nada', zero.

The basic duty of the State is to provide security of life and property. When a State cannot provide justice in its most fundamental form, it loses its right to rule. Where is justice when citizens have to pay thousands to carry their dead and buy slots for funerals? Where is justice when they are turned away from basic medical care? What happened to all ESI hospitals to which every business contributes? What happened to all health plans and insurances which hard-working citizens paid for? Most did not even get admission to hospitals, forget about reimbursements. Anyway, the dead seek no reimbursement but, justice, yes. There should be justice for all the lives lost and for the ones that remain behind. The truth can no longer be clothed in lies — it is out on the streets for all to see and the delusion of our leaders and the illusion they seek to cloak us with is laid bare.

Has the Ganga been cleaned as part of the 'Swachh Bharat' campaign? The answer lies in the hundreds of bloated corpses of what once were human beings — corpses floating in the Ganga, maybe they will find solace in her embrace, a solace they never found while living.

— The writer is ex-chairman of UPSC, former Manipur Governor and served as J&K DGP

# Forget, we won't



TOUCHSTONES

IRA PANDE

**T**ODAY, for the first time in my life, I feel I have run out of words. This last fortnight has been so full of deaths and bereavements, of news of children dying before their old parents, or of friends who one had grown up with falling to the virus, that I have lost my faith and my tongue.

I do not know what will become of us after this long nightmare is over but of this I am sure that if we survive, I will never take our happiness for granted. Nor will I ever foolishly believe that if one has been good and law-abiding, one has the right to a happy life.

Over and over again, I recall that famous Buddhist parable of a mother asking the Buddha why her only child had been snatched away by death. He listened to her appeal to do something and calmly replied, 'Get me a handful of grain from a home that has never experienced death, and I will bring your child back to life.' This is one lesson that we can never internalise simply because death, after all, happens to other people. All of us know that we will die one day, but put off that day from our minds and everyday life. Christianity and most other faiths speak of how we can seek happiness, but it is only the Buddha and the Sufi saints who say that life is an unending saga of suffering enlivened only occasionally by joy.

Today I doubt if there is a single family that has not been touched by corona. Whether it is someone related by blood or a close friend, someone somewhere has left your life forever. Will we ever be able to celebrate Eid or Diwali or Christmas without that absence haunting us? This is why those who say public memory is short and that the people will not punish those who were caught napping when the pandemic was about to engulf us and will forgive the leaders who led us into this dark phase, are so wrong. No one will forget and if they do, then there is no hope for us as a nation. Where are the confident political leaders who said we had won the battle, defeated the virus and were on the brink of an economic miracle? Not a peep from them and their absence is now a slur on those who still persist in defending them or who resort to what-aboutery.

The pandemic has also taken the curtains off our basic selfishness and

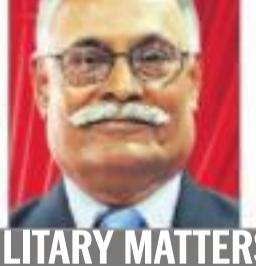
greed. Even as people die in the corridors of hospitals for want of oxygen or ventilators, there is a thriving black market being run by denizens who are supremely indifferent to human suffering. How do such people sleep at night? If only they had joined hands with those who have fought the battle even at the cost of their own lives, or of those who have quietly provided food and succour to the suffering, what may we have not done to save precious lives? I have applauded the spirit of the Sikhs before and I will say it once again, that this is the religion that has taught us to become better human beings.

In the life forward, we will have to change our priorities. So healthcare and education must take precedence over defence and commerce. Our health centres, particularly in rural areas, have been hollowed out and the government hospitals (many have risen magnificently to this challenge) have been starved at the cost of private healthcare for the rich and powerful. The result of this crass commercialisation is there for all to see. Similarly, primary education has been depleted of its teachers because they have all chosen to work for private schools and teaching shops. The rampant spread of this disease and the resistance to scientific advice is a sad consequence of this error. That our leaders have actually promoted clapping and voodoo medicines over vaccination and pharmaceutically sound and proven cures is a crying shame. All these so-called *sants* and *babas* should be publicly shamed.

Finally, the utter confusion over our vaccination programme is incomprehensible when the man at the helm of the Health Ministry is the very person who spearheaded the polio drive and conquered public prejudice and problems of outreach efficiently and successfully. Has everyone lost their sense of right and wrong? Why does the government centralise what needs to be decentralised and decentralise what needs to be centralised? To my simple mind, vaccines should be procured by the Central government and then handed over to the individual states to handle at the block and taluka level. Is this so difficult to do? When the power to say yes and no resides only with one person, then that person has to take the blame for all that is going wrong today. Our international reputation is in tatters, our self-confidence is at an all-time low and our people are dying on the streets and thrown into our rivers to hide data.

Wah, India.

# The one and only Sam Bahadur



MILITARY MATTERS

BRIG PRABIR GOSWAMI (RETD)

His presence, his charisma left a deep impression. He was just made that way. People around him felt good and he made sure his public image inspired confidence

**M**ANY of us who were in uniform when he was the Army Chief, and even after his retirement, had the occasion to be touched and influenced by the irrepressible Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, one of India's most loved and admired soldiers.

Having just taken over as the Army Chief, General Manekshaw came as the Reviewing Officer for our Passing Out Parade at the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, on June 15, 1969. It was a huge honour that the Chief himself would take the salute as we got commissioned as Second Lieutenants.

Just two months later, he visited our armoured regiment at Ahmednagar. It was a new unit being raised with soldiers brought in from Artillery, Engineers and the Infantry, and from different castes like Marathas, Ahirs

and Gujjars. This mixed bag was a first-time experiment for the Armoured Corps. Sam had just introduced name tabs for officers and we were all wearing these as we lined up for introductions.

As he came to me at the end of the line, my Commandant told him that I had just joined the unit from IMA. He turned a stern face and asked, 'Who commissioned you?' I told him, 'Sir, the Chief.' Sam took a step forward and with a grin dealt a solid blow to my chest and said, 'Even I make mistakes, don't I?' I staggered four steps back and could only grin back. The name tab had snapped into two!

Sam then walked around the garages where the men were busy maintaining the Vijayanta tanks — grease, oil, cleaning material, etc. Troops wearing soiled dungarees, dirty hands, some under the tanks.

Not all spit and polish as would be the norm when a Chief visits. Sam walked up to one jawan and smiled, 'Kahan se aya hai?' The jawan replied, 'Infantry se, Saab.' 'Main bhi Infantry ka hoon, haat milao.' He warmly shook hands. This got repeated a dozen or more times during his walk through the garages.

His own hands were now soiled with grease and sweat but he did not look at them. When he was past the tanks, he accepted the cloth which the Risaldar Major had been carrying for him to wipe his hands on and told the Commandant, 'Boy, you got a fine unit here!' He left behind a regiment whose troops' morale had soared sky high.

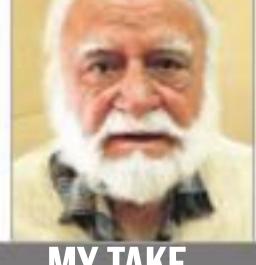
In later years, I had the opportunity to be addressed by Sam on several occasions and each time would admire his presence and charisma.

He did not build it — he was just made that way. People around him felt good and he made sure that his public image inspired confidence.

Just before the 1971 war, Sam visited all forward operational areas and spoke to the men and the officers in large and small groups, depending on the availability and deployment of troops. When he addressed the group I was in, near Muktsar, he spoke of many things. One of these I remember: 'I will be sending you into Pakistan. When you do go, keep both your hands in your pockets. I have been around the world and assure you that Indian women are the best. So, keep those hands in your pockets and think of Sam, till you get back.'

I doubt that we will have a Chief of his stature again. He truly was a colossus. God rest his soul in peace.

# Every govt chose to neglect healthcare, not just this



MY TAKE

RAHUL SINGH

The Modi govt may not be entirely responsible for the shambolic state of health infrastructure, but it has done little to improve it. Irrational, unscientific mindset of some of BJP's leading lights is a key concern

**L**ET'S forget the blame game. One thing is certain: our healthcare system is a sad story of calamitous neglect. And the neglect goes back many decades, not just the seven years of Narendra Modi's prime ministership. As a result, the State is patently incapable of coping with the daunting challenge of the ongoing pandemic. The first wave was bad enough, but we somehow managed it better than some major countries did. Complacency set in. Look at how our infection and death rates have been so low, we gloat. Then came the second wave, accompanied by even more contagious and deadly mutants. The health infrastructure, already inadequate and understaffed, was completely overwhelmed. According to the WHO, India needs a minimum of five times the ambulances it presently has.

Heart-rending narratives have been rife on both television and social media — of patients being taken by car, evenrickshaws, struggling to breathe, trying to find a hospital bed, but being turned away. Many have died outside hospitals. In this second wave, more cases have been reported in India than in all other countries combined. A

third of all the deaths worldwide have taken place here. Even that is probably an underestimate, as there is mounting evidence that the actual number of deaths could be five to 10 times the official figures. Little wonder then that the world's spotlight is on India these days. There have been horrific images of scores of bodies floating down the Ganga. Giant earth excavators on the banks of the holy river are digging makeshift burial and cremation grounds for the bodies. Last Wednesday, a TV channel visited the biggest hospital in UP's Etawah. It had 100 beds, but a far more number of patients were compelled to lie on the floor. That was bad enough but, unbelievably, there was not a single doctor or nurse to be found, nor anybody from the administration. And just as incredible, not a single toilet was functional as the sanitation staff had scooted off. Till now, the pandemic has largely been restricted to urban areas. What happens when it spreads into the countryside, as is now being seen, where the state health infrastructure is even worse and, in many villages, non-existent?

When India got its Independence 73 years ago, it had to decide its priorities for

economic and social development. Sadly, two vital areas were neglected: primary education and primary healthcare. Many world-class institutes of higher learning and excellent hospitals were set up. But not nearly enough primary schools, medical clinics and primary health centres, especially in the rural areas. As a result, literacy rates, especially among girls, remained low, as did the expectancy of life (which is a sure indicator of good public healthcare). China, and even Muslim-majority Indonesia, to take just two large countries, got their priorities right. They placed emphasis on primary education and primary health. Both had lower literacy and life expectancy rates than India's in 1947. By the 1980s, they had overtaken us in these two crucial areas.

The failure to build an adequate public health infrastructure must lie at the doors of all governments that have been in power since 1947, which means mainly the Congress. But the other parties which have been at the helm must share some of the blame. The low priority they gave to public health and sanitation can be gauged by the calibre of those appointed as Union Health Ministers. The Janata Party had the likes of Raj

Narain, the Congress AR Antulay. Over the years, even well-established, top-class institutions have been run down due to mismanagement and corruption. Kasauli, a small hill station in Himachal Pradesh, boasted of the Central Research Institute (CRI), first set up in 1904, and once the manufacturer of several vaccines and serums, some of which were exported. During Dr Manmohan Singh's first term, Anbumani Ramadoss was made Union Health Minister. He belonged to one of the Congress' alliance partners. It was, in my opinion, a wholly incorrect choice. An adverse report by the WHO led to the CRI being downgraded from being a major manufacturer of vaccines and serums to just a "testing" laboratory, which is what it is now.

The present government may not be entirely responsible for the shambolic state of our health infrastructure, but it has done little to improve it. However, where there is cause for serious concern is the irrational and unscientific mindset of some of the ruling party's leading lights. A modern, rational and scientific milieu is necessary for setting up an up-to-date state-run health infrastructure. But what do we see around

us? Astrology is taken seriously as "science" and courses are being proposed in universities, "alternative" medicine is considered superior to allopathy, august seminars are held extolling the so-called scientific and medical discoveries of ancient India. The waste by-products of cow are cited as cures for various ailments, even cancer. A 'baba' whose claim to fame is his expertise in yoga is given all kinds of concessions to enable him to run a flourishing "Made in India" pharmaceutical business, producing dodgy medicines, even the "first-in-the-world vaccine" to combat the deadly virus (mercifully, that did not pan out, despite our Health Minister paying obeisance to him).

With so much superstition and mumbo-jumbo around, can an effective and modern health infrastructure be established, even if funds are forthcoming? The Constitution states, "It shall be the duty of every citizen to develop scientific temperament, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform." Those words need to be placed prominently at every future meeting dealing with science and medicine.

— The writer is a veteran journalist

# PM orders audit of ventilators sent to states

Calls for door-to-door testing in villages, says local containment need of hour

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MAY 15

With 513 out of 700-plus districts of the country reporting Covid positivity rate of over 10 per cent in signs of considerable infection, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday directed officials to ensure door-to-door testing in villages and an urgent audit of ventilators provided to the states by the Centre.

At a high-level review meeting on Covid response, the PM took serious note of reports about ventilators lying unutilised in storage in some states and directed an immediate audit of installation and operation of equipment provided by the Centre. He also said where necessary, training for proper operation of ventilators should be provided to healthcare workers.

The remarks come in the backdrop of the Centre and Punjab sparring over the health of 80 ventilators provided to a government college in Faridkot, with Punjab blaming faultiness and the



Punjab recently said it had received 80 faulty ventilators. FILE

## BLAME GAME OVER EQUIPMENT

The remarks come in the backdrop of the Centre and Punjab sparring over the health of 80 ventilators provided to a government college in Faridkot, with Punjab blaming faultiness and the Centre blaming improper use of equipment for the issue.

## MUST ENCOURAGE TRANSPARENCY

States should be encouraged to report the infection rate without any pressure of high numbers showing adversely on their efforts. Augmentation of healthcare resources in rural areas is also a must," the PM said, directing door-to-door testing and surveillance in villages and empowerment of ASHA and anganwadi workers with necessary Covid-care tools.

ALIMS-New Delhi chief Randeep Guleria on Saturday said the institute had concluded the training of regional centres of excellence, including PGI, Chandigarh

These centres have to train doctors for the rural outreach. The government has said tele consultations will be used to ensure Covid management in rural areas.

ials informed him that tests had increased from 50 lakh a week in early March to 1.3 crore a week now.

"States should be encouraged to report the infection rate without any pressure of high numbers showing adversely on their efforts. Augmentation of healthcare resources in rural areas is also a must," the PM said, directing door-to-door testing and surveillance in villages and empowerment of ASHA and anganwadi workers with necessary Covid-care tools.

Besides talking to Indian and South African Trade Ministers Piyush Goel and Ebrahim Patel, respectively, US Trade Representative Katherine Tai has also sought support for the proposal from World Health Organisation (WHO) Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and European Commission (EC) executive vice president (EVP) Valdis Dombrovskis.

The PM also said guidelines for home isolation treatment be made available in regional languages for villages. Amid a massive oxygen crisis in urban areas, the PM asked officials to draft a distribution plan for ensuring oxygen supply in rural areas, including the supply of oxygen concentrators.

He said necessary training be provided to health workers in the operation of such equipment and power supply be ensured for smooth operation of medical devices in villages.

# US steps up efforts for IPR waiver on vaccines

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MAY 15

The US has become active on the world stage in supporting the joint India-South Africa proposal for waiver of intellectual property rights (IPR) protections on Covid vaccines.

Besides talking to Indian and South African Trade Ministers, Tai also asked them to speed up the submission of the waiver proposal as was also mentioned by WTO chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala last week. The co-sponsors of the proposal have already requested the TRIPS Council chair Dagfinn Sorli to consider holding a meeting open to all members in the second half of May. The proposal can then be placed formally before the TRIPS Council meeting in early June.

The waiver will ensure patent, design and copyright-related issues do not restrict the rapid scaling-up of manufacturing and distribution around the world. In conversation with the

Asks India, S Africa to submit proposal to WTO



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Taking part in a webinar — "Positivity Unlimited" — organised in the context of the pandemic, Bhagwat said, "The pandemic is testing our patience and character. We will come out triumphant." He said India had come out of many difficult situations in the past. "We should forget our differences. It is not the time for fault-finding," said the Sangh chief. Pitching for helping the needy, he said, "We have to ensure poor people get food." Bhagwat called for caution and adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour. He said the present situation arose as "we took things lightly after the first wave". "Experts had cautioned about the second wave, but we became lax," he said. On experts predicting a third wave, he urged people to be prepared for a good fight. "We have to win," he said.

—TNS

Centre blaming improper use of equipment for the issue. The PM took note of high

positivity rate in 513 districts and said local containment strategies were the need of

the hour.

He instructed testing be scaled up even though offi-



A tidal surge due to Cyclone Tauktae in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday. PTI

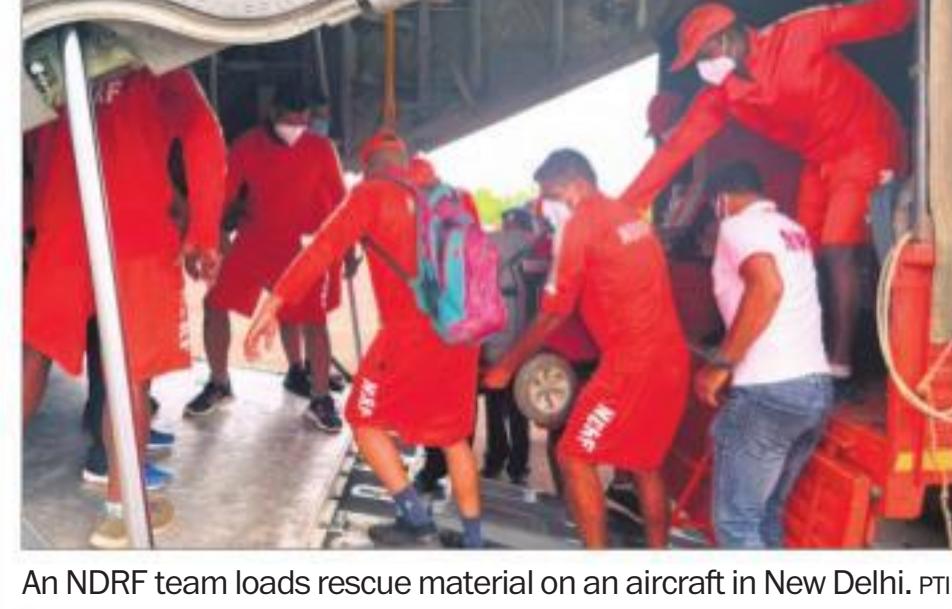
# Navy, NDRF launch relief ops as Cyclone Tauktae hits Kerala

NEW DELHI, MAY 15

As Cyclone Tauktae and its accompanying storm hit the coast of Kerala, the Southern Naval Command launched a rescue and relief operations on Saturday in Chellanam, south Kochi.

Teams undertook rescue of personnel, provisioning of food and water and shifting of people trapped in houses to relief camps. Helicopters of the Navy and Coast Guard are stationed along the western coast, which is the route of the cyclone. Nine teams of the National Disaster Response Force have been deployed in coastal districts of Kerala. The Indian Air Force has 16 transport aircraft and 18 helicopters on operational readiness along the west coast in preparation for the cyclone, which is expected to cause very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall while travelling northwards from Kerala to Gujarat.

Huge relief material has been lifted from Bathinda and Bhubaneswar to augment the efforts in Gujarat. —TNS



An NDRF team loads rescue material on an aircraft in New Delhi. PTI

## Ensure safe evacuation: PM

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MAY 15

Chairing a high-level review meeting on the preparedness to deal with the situation arising out of Cyclone Tauktae in five coastal states, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today asked officials to take all measures to ensure people were safely evacuated.

According to an official

statement, the PM asked the authorities concerned to ensure maintenance of essential services like power, telecommunications, health and drinking water.

The PM also stressed "special preparedness" for Covid management in hospitals, vaccine cold chain, power backup and storage of essential medicines in vulnerable locations in view of the cyclone.

China on Saturday successfully landed a spacecraft on Mars after surviving "nine minutes of terror", becoming the second country in history to have a rover on the red planet.

The rover, Zhurong, named after a god of fire in Chinese mythology, successfully landed at the pre-selected area in Utopia Planitia on Mars, the official Xinhua news agency reported on the Communist giant's latest achievement in its ambitious goals in space. The six-wheel solar-powered Zhurong rover weighs about 240 kg and carries six scientific instruments. It will be later deployed from

the lander for a three-month mission in search of life on Mars' surface.

Tianwen-1, consisting of an orbiter, a lander and a rover, was launched on July 23,

2020. It was the first step in China's planetary exploration of the solar system, with the aim of completing orbiting, landing and roving on the red planet in one mission.

The China National Space Administration (CNSA) said the lander touched down at its pre-selected landing area in the southern part of Utopia Planitia, a vast plain on the northern hemisphere of Mars, at 7.18 am (Beijing Time).

It took ground controllers more than an hour to establish the success of the pre-programmed landing. Zhang Rongqiao, chief designer of China's first Mars exploration mission, said that the landing had been a textbook case of accuracy. More than 40 Mars missions have been launched since the 1960s, but only about half have succeeded. The success rate for landing is even lower. —PTI

12 killed, 300 hurt in China tornado strike

BEIJING, MAY 15

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

Eight people were killed and over 230 injured when a tornado, packing winds of 23.9 meters per second, ripped through the Caidian District of Wuhan on Friday night, toppling some construction site sheds and snapping a large number of trees. The tornado collapsed 27 houses, while another 130 were damaged. —PTI

# Aussie Lisa slams BCCI for leaving Veda on her own

NEW DELHI, MAY 15

Indian woman cricketer Veda Krishnamurthy, who lost her mother and sister to Covid-19 in a period of a fortnight in April-May, was not named by the Indian team for the forthcoming tour of the UK.

Lisa Sthalekar, the former Australian women's team captain and now a commentator, is

upset that the Indian cricket board (BCCI) has not handled the situation well, and said that a women's player association is the need of the hour. The Pune-born Sthalekar claimed that the BCCI neither checked on Veda after tragedy struck her family nor communicated to her the decision to not consider her for UK tour. —TNS/Agencies

## Novak Djokovic outlasts Tsitsipas over two days

ROME, MAY 15

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic regained his cool after throwing his racquet off the court in a gruelling, rain-delayed 4-6 7-5 7-5 quarter-final victory over Stefanos Tsitsipas at the Italian Open.

Djokovic fought back from breaks of his serve in each of the final two sets to reach his eighth consecutive semifinal at the Foro Italico, where he has lifted the trophy five times, most recently last September when the tournament was moved to later in the year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Djokovic was to take on home favourite Lorenzo Sonego later in the day for a spot in the final. —AP/PTI

## Shubhankar T-53 after 3rd British Masters round

BIRMINGHAM, MAY 15

Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma was placed Tied-53rd after carding a second consecutive 71 in the third round of the British Masters.

The Chandigarh golfer had an action packed end to his round, birdying the 15th and 18th holes, and bogeying the 16th and 17th.

The only one to make the cut among four Indians in the field, Sharma carded 1-under 71 and was 1-under 215 after three rounds.

Sharma birdied the third and fifth holes, raising hopes of a good day as he moved up the leaderboard. A bogey on the ninth was a

step backward but after five pars, he finished with two birdies and two bogeys on the last four holes.

England's Eddie Pepperell's bid to win the British Masters for a second time got a boost as he carried a one-stroke lead into the final round. —PTI

# Sonepat camp for Oly wrestlers cancelled

NEW DELHI, MAY 15

The planned camp for eight Olympics-bound Indian wrestlers in Sonepat has been cancelled because the hard quarantine they would have been forced to undergo has been deemed impractical.

Instead, they will train in multiple European cities, with the national federation (WFI) allowing each of them a sparing partner of choice.

The wrestlers — both men and women — were to assemble at the SAI centre in Bahalgarh on Tuesday. However, as per a new plan devised by the WFI, all of them will travel to Warsaw in the last week of May.

The capital city of Poland will host the last Ranking Series event before the Tokyo

They will instead train in Poland, Hungary

Games from June 8 to 13, giving a chance to all to earn some crucial ranking points that will help them get a better draw at the Olympics.

"We had planned a camp in Bahalgarh but since they would not be allowed to train for 14 days due to hard quarantine, we thought it better that for the time being they train at their respective 'akhadas' and then travel to Poland," WFI assistant secretary Vinod Tomar said.

"We are also allowing all the wrestlers to travel with one partner of their choice for practice. A few, like Vinesh

Nation was lax after 1st wave, says RSS chief

NEW DELHI, MAY 15

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat said today that amid these testing times of the Covid pandemic, society must remain hopeful.

Taking part in a webinar — "Positivity Unlimited" — organised in the context of the pandemic, Bhagwat said, "The pandemic is testing our patience and character. We will come out triumphant." He said India had come out of many difficult situations in the past. "We should forget our differences. It is not the time for fault-finding," said the Sangh chief. Pitching for helping the needy, he said, "We have to ensure poor people get food." Bhagwat called for caution and adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour. He said the present situation arose as "we took things lightly after the first wave". "Experts had cautioned about the second wave, but we became lax," he said. On experts predicting a third wave, he urged people to be prepared for a good fight. "We have to win," he said.

