

38 dead after drinking toxic booze in Punjab districts SEE PAGE 7

Mehbooba Mufti's detention extended, Lone released SEE PAGE 6

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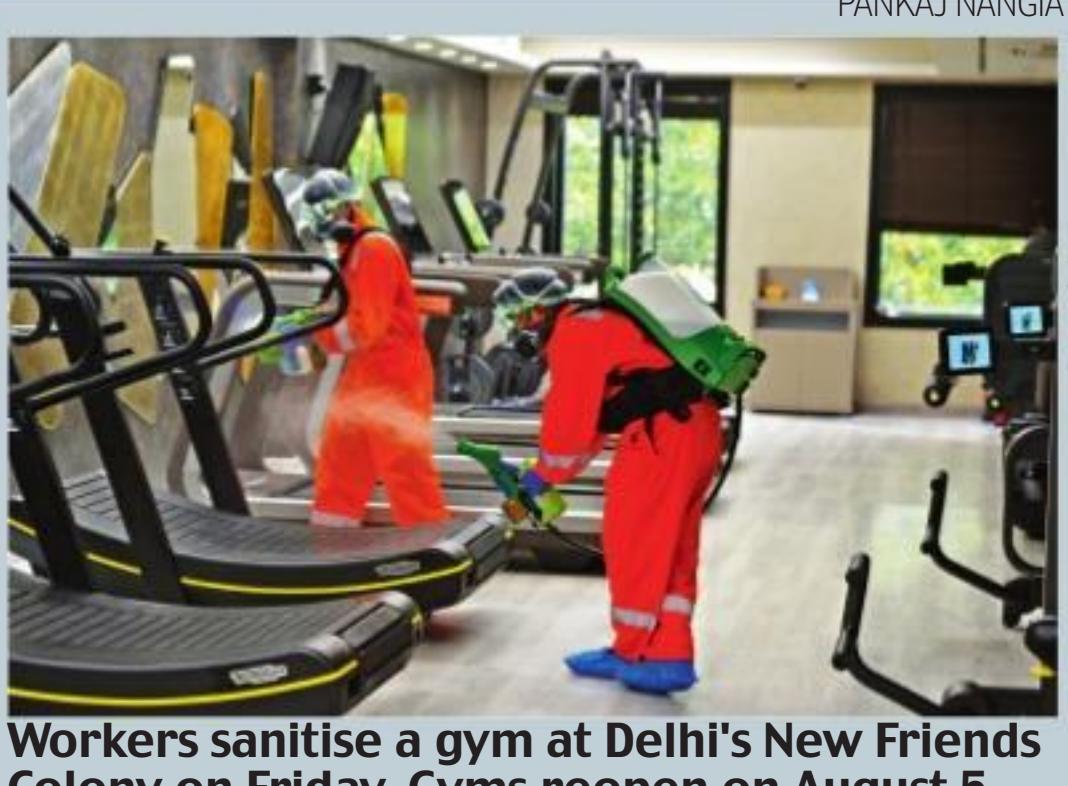
# MAIL TODAY

## WEEKEND

NEW DELHI, Saturday, August 1, 2020  
www.mailtoday.in / www.mailonline.in

Vol. 13 No. 259 | Pages 24 | ₹ 5.00

INDIA	DELHI
FRESH CASES	1,195
<b>55,078</b>	<b>1,195</b>
TOTAL	
<b>16,38,870</b>	<b>1,35,598</b>
NEW DEATHS	
<b>779</b>	<b>27</b>
TOLL	
<b>35,747</b>	<b>3,963</b>



### LG-AAP BATTLE BREAKS OUT AGAIN

■ Delhi L-G Anil Baijal overruled AAP govt's move to open hotels and weekly markets in city on a trial basis under Unlock 3.

■ AAP leader Raghav Chadha hit back & said Centre derives sadistic pleasure by inflicting pain and misery on people.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

REPORTS ON PAGE 3

India extends ban on international flights till August 31, travel bubbles with more countries soon.

A fresh round of sero-prevalence survey in Delhi starts today.

45 Kolkata Police personnel test positive for the coronavirus.

# NEW EDUCATION POLICY KICKS OFF A FIERCE DEBATE

NEP reforms hailed by many but the question of execution splits academia and also starts a political storm in Capital

By Ajay Kumar, Kumar Kunal and Milan Sharma in New Delhi

ON WEDNESDAY, the Union Cabinet cleared India's new National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 for reforms in higher education, increased focus on non-academic skills and inclusion through language diversity and course fluidity.

The document, which replaces the 34-year-old National Policy on Education, was developed after nearly five years of consultation with stakeholders and the general public.

But while NEP's intended goals have been hailed by many, the question of execution has split academia and also started a political storm in the Capital.

The sharpest criticism came from Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia who said NEP recommends a "highly-regulated" and "poorly funded" model, while it is either confused or silent on how the reforms will be implemented.

Turn to Page 2

### SUSHANT CASE SPARKS POLICE TURF WAR



Bihar cops arrive at a bank for investigation in connection with Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

Maha govt accuses Bihar Police, probing abetment to suicide charge against Rhea Chakraborty, of not following protocol, rules out CBI probe. Bihar govt accuses Mumbai Police of not extending cooperation. Bihar parties raise CBI probe pitch.



### THE PLOT THICKENS

Sushant's friend tells Mumbai Police that he is under pressure to depose against Rhea. ED lodges money laundering case against the actress, but Sushant's CA denies any major fund transfer to her.

SEE PAGES 4-5

'I have immense faith in God and judiciary. I will get justice. Horrible things are being said about me. Truth shall prevail.'

Rhea Chakraborty

continued from page 1

"It is a forward-looking document, which accepts the flaws of today's system but is unable to break free of the pressures of old traditions," he said.

"There is an attempt to escape from the government's responsibility to provide quality education in its schools," said the Deputy CM of Delhi.

"It envisages colleges and universities to be multidisciplinary. Let IIT deal with engineering, IIM with management, AIIMS with medical and FTII with acting. Dilution of such big institutes will not be good for the talent of the country," he said.

Sisodia said institutions are multidisciplinary and some are catering to one particular sector. "This system is doing good and should not be interfered with."

### EXECUTION QUESTIONS

Private schools believe that the policy is a welcome step but is directional in nature. They say schools could have options to choose which aspects to implement.

NEP says the medium of instruction until at least class 5, but preferably till class 8 and beyond, will be the home language, mother tongue, local language, and regional language.

"Regional languages are good as state governments are saying children should learn their language, so no issues there," said Ameeta M Wattal, Principal, Springdales, Pusa Road, New Delhi.

"CBSE should review it for the Metros where kids from all over the country come. But the policy clarified there is no forced learning and everything would be optional."



# NOW, EDUCATION POLITICS

Wattal added early holistic childhood learning can be achieved through the policy which is a way forward. "We need educated graduates in our system, so vocational education is a step ahead. That's why this policy is all about 21st century learning," she said.

Many Delhi-NCR principals and educationists say they require some clarity for implementation.

Ryan International School (Gurugram) Principal Peeyaa Sharma said a lot of clarity is required on abolishing the 10+2 structure and implementing the 5+3+3+4 structure.

"We need to know if compulsory education in mother tongue till Class 5 has to be implemented. We already have Hindi as one of the subjects and we are looking at Sanskrit as another subject for the language.

Translating all subjects in Hindi would be very difficult in English medium schools. In most schools, the medium is English," Sharma said.

Experts also believe that while the medium could be regional or mother tongue, ultimately parents would decide their kids' future.

Aditi Misra, Principal, Delhi Public School, Sector 45, said the policy was much awaited and training of teachers should also be addressed.

According to Alka Kapur, Principal, Modern School, Shalimar Bagh, English is a universal language and it is written in guidelines that it can be used wherever possible.

"It is not clearly stated if 'wherever possible' means subject or place. English should be one common language as everyone wants

their child to know learn it and if it is taught at the foundation stage, it would be good," she said.

"Regional language along with English would be a good idea as English is a window to the world and every child from the foundation level should be focused to learn English," she added.

Experts say three things that private schools would need to watch out for are -- the SSSA (state school standard authority) as a licensing authority, more focus on text books in the era of multimodal learning, and too much focus on multilingualism to the detriment of other important things.

"What private schools need to watch out for are the structural changes -- where they talk about separating powers of the government between the regulator, operator and policy maker," said Sumeet Vohra, Founder and CEO, Lead School.

"We have seen when any government has a licensing authority which is under SSSA, it creates rent-seeking mechanism," he said.

"So, if one has to start a school through the licensing authority, it is going to be problematic for private schools. Also, in a multimodal world, there is too much focus on textbook learning," he added.

### HIGHER EDUCATION

NEP envisions imparting 21st century and employability skills with no compromise on quality, says its draft panel head K Kasurirangan.

The idea of a liberal or a multi-disciplinary education at the undergraduate (UG) level and also a type



of four-year structuring of secondary education provides a lot of opportunities for picking up many types of skills, which can be even used as employment opportunities, he said.

The former chairman of ISRO said the policy is aimed at putting education on the right track using best of technologies and developments in the field, strengthening institutions, increasing gross intake ratio, among others, and at the same time, ensuring that quality is not compromised.

JNU VC M Jagdeesh Kumar expressed confidence in NEP.

"This is a unique policy due to the extent of consultations taken. At least 2.5 lakh gram panchayats, 6,000 blocks and 600 districts were involved. Even dialogues with state governments and ministers were included. All stakeholders have been consulted. It is a groundbreaking policy," said Kumar.

On the grading system, Kumar said, "Some institutes are doing good. It will start a healthy competition among institutes. But

we need to improve state universities."

When asked about whether it will increase the privatisation of higher education, he said: "Right now there are too many regulations, it will increase accountability. Privatisation is an unfounded concern. It will make education more accessible for unprivileged sections and girl students and it will bring best universities of the world to India and increase competition."

Prof V Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi, said, "NEP proposes pathbreaking steps which impact higher education in significant way. Creation of NRF with involvement of all ministries will make our research impact full and visible to society. It's a Morrill movement of India."

JNU research scholar Rahul Pandey pointed out that the policy looks good but it will be a challenge to implement it.

"Big lobbies have mushroomed to promote private institutions. When we talk about education equality for all sections, Center

should focus on upgrading education at the village level. It would be an uphill task to transform Hindi education in villages of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana into English. The gap between private schools and government one is very wide and extremely difficult to narrow down," Pandey said.

Former DUTA President Aditya Narayan Mishra is critical about NEP. "The graded system of university and colleges means government will tell them to run Institutions on their own. Government is withdrawing from higher education and will increase fees," he said.

"Online education is not complementary to classroom education. Those studying online cannot compete with those getting education in a mainstream University and even employment opportunities for online students are drastically low worldwide."

On the government's claim that it will provide 6 per cent of GDP to the education sector, he said, "The government should provide grants to universities and just increasing GDP won't work. The allocation should be at least 10 per cent of the total budget."

### MORE POLITICS

Congress spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill said, "The BJP government has formulated NEP without consulting Opposition parties. This policy is related to the future of India and consensus from all sections is required."

Another Congress spokesperson, Khushbu Sundar, welcomed NEP and apologised to party leader Rahul Gandhi for her differing stand.

With the actor-politician insisting she would "rather speak the fact than be a head-nodding robot or a puppet," the Congress' state unit hit out at her.

Former HRD Minister and senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor welcomed NEP, but feared it may make education unaffordable for the poor as it showcases a tendency towards "centralisation, high aspiration and low feasibility" with an assumption that the challenge will be met by the private sector.

Tharoor also said that NEP glosses over the desperate need for qualified and trained teachers in schools, of whom there is a critical shortage.

Placing the burden of pre-primary education on overstretched, under-funded and under-equipped anganwadis is "disastrous", he said.

(With agency inputs)

By Pankaj Upadhyay in Mumbai

**THE** doors are now open for foreign universities in India. Even though it remains to be seen whether the major foreign universities will open campuses in India or not, yet the big move on part of the Indian government allowing foreign universities to open campuses in India is receiving good response from the foreign campuses.

Talking to India today TV Niles Gaikwad Country Manager - EDHEC Business School - France, said that this policy has been a long time in waiting and that he was happy that it was finally here. Terming the move on part of the government as a game changing initiative he said, "The decision allowing foreign universities to set up operations in the country is a boost

## Foreign university campuses welcome Education Policy 2020

for education reforms and will go a long way in not only improving the quality of education but also the application of the curriculum in India. The government seems keen in turning India into a research hub so this decision helps in the best." The union cabinet which approved the National Education Policy (NEP) on 29 July states that the world's top 100 universities will be able to operate under the new law. The Country Manager of

It's been called a 'game changing' initiative

EDHEC Business School - France also added that moving away from affiliation-based system and creating autonomous degree granting colleges was another key point that had to be noted. "This will provide much awaited independence to institutions realising their visions. Setting up a national testing agency that directs common entrance exams is another welcome step as it will unclutter and provide homogeneity to testing and ranking processes."

# COVID-19 PANDEMIC

On June 8, 2020, the Centre allowed operation of hotels and weekly markets but today when we want to open them, the Centre is not liking it.

— RAGHAV CHADHA, AAP SPOKESPERSON



India on Friday overtook Italy's death toll to claim the fifth spot, Johns Hopkins University reported in its real-time

tally. In India, there are more than 5.45 lakh active coronavirus cases and a total of 10,57,805 patients have recovered.

**Baijal rejects move to allow hotels & weekly markets, AAP fumes**

QAMAR SIBTAIN

# It is L-G vs Delhi govt once again

THE Centre derives sadistic pleasure by inflicting pain and misery on the people of Delhi and undermining the democratically elected government here, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party said on Friday.

The party's reaction comes shortly after Delhi Lt Governor Anil Baijal rejected the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal-led government's decision to reopen hotels and weekly markets in the city under Unlock 3. No immediate reaction was available from the BJP on the allegations.

AAP spokesperson Raghav Chadha said the Centre must stop interfering in the Delhi government's decisions.

"The Centre derives sadistic pleasure by inflicting pain and misery on the people of Delhi and undermining the democratically elected government of Delhi," he told reporters.

In the last few days, Chadha claimed, it has been seen on several occasions that the Centre interfered in the decisions of the Delhi government.

"The first example is the home isolation module which the Centre earlier opposed but later had to take back its decision after opposition from people. The second point is the lawyers' panel of the Delhi government on Delhi riots was changed and then the third example is rejecting the Delhi government's proposal to open hotels and weekly markets," he said.

The AAP leader alleged

Buyers are gradually returning to the markets, but there are still concerns about the number of Covid cases in the National Capital.



AAP claims that it has been seen on several occasions that the Centre interfered in the decisions of the Delhi govt

## 'SISODIA TRIED TO SCARE PEOPLE ABOUT CASES'

DEPUTY CM Manish Sisodia had tried to scare people by claiming that COVID-19 cases in Delhi will reach 5.5 lakh by July 31, but the situation was brought under control with the intervention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the city BJP unit said on Friday.

In June, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader had said that Delhi was likely to have 5.5 lakh novel coronavirus cases by the end of July and 80,000 beds would be needed to accommodate patients. Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta in a press conference asked the Arvind Kejriwal government to

answer why it had tried to scare people with Sisodia claiming that there would be 5.5 lakh coronavirus cases by July 31.

There was no immediate reaction from Sisodia or the AAP on the issue. The national capital has seen a drop in the number of active cases over the past few days. On Thursday, Delhi had 10,743 active cases, down from 10,770 on Wednesday, 10,887 on Tuesday, 10,994 on Monday and 11,904 on Sunday. The number of active cases was 27,007 on July 1, according to health department bulletins.

—PTI



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## THE SUSHANT DEATH CASE

By Kamlesh Sutar in Mumbai  
and Rohit Singh in Patna

**A**S the Mumbai and Bihar Police remain at loggerheads over the investigation of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide case, it has now evolved into a full-blown political battle. Top political leaders in Bihar are taking head-on with their counterparts in Maharashtra over the controversial investigation.

As the clamour for CBI probe in Rajput's case is growing, Maharashtra and Bihar Police seem to have crossed swords over it. In the poll-bound state of Bihar, politics has begun over Rajput's death. The ruling NDA as well as opposition leaders, all are demanding a CBI probe in the case.

Raising the pitch, Bihar minister and JDU leader Jai Kumar Singh on Friday alleged Mumbai Police of not cooperating with Patna police in its investigation after an FIR was filed against actress Rhea Chakraborty by Rajput's father KK Singh. A team of cops from Bihar is in Mumbai since last few days to investigate the allegations.

"Mumbai police has not been cooperating with Patna police in its investigation. If Bihar government finds that not much has been achieved in Patna police's investigation, CM Nitish Kumar will speak to the Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray to recommend a CBI probe. If still nothing happens, then the CM will speak to PM Modi seeking a CBI probe," the minister in Bihar government said.

**W**HILE in Mumbai, the state government is miffed with the Bihar police for not following protocol. Maharashtra Minister of State for Home Shambhuraj Desai has gone on to say that the state will enquire about the mysterious high-end SUVs in which Bihar Police is going around in Mumbai for the enquiry of the case.

"The case is being investigated by Mumbai police in full efficiency. Whatever facts have come to light are on record. All the necessary statements have been recorded by Mumbai Police. In case, if needed to record more statements, we will do that as well. In spite of this, Bihar police, without any prior permission, have reached Mumbai to investigate this matter. There is a procedure designed for a state police to probe a case in another state. The standard procedure and protocol say that they have to seek official permission from the local police or the state government. However, Bihar Police did not follow any procedure," Desai said.

**I would like to tell Sushant Singh Rajput's fans to trust the Mumbai Police and give whatever information they have to them. You can criticise the Mumbai Police if the case is not taken to its logical conclusion. — UDDHAV THACKERAY, MAHARASHTRA CM**



**Mumbai Police is putting obstruction in way of fair investigation by Bihar Police in Sushant death case. Bihar Police is doing its best but Mumbai Police is not cooperating. BJP feels that the CBI should take over. — SUSHIL KUMAR MODI, BIHAR DEPUTY CM**



Taking a cue from its ally in Bihar, BJP leaders in Maharashtra too have upped the ante. Former CM and Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis has gone a step ahead and demanded an Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe looking into the financial angle in the case.

"There is a growing clamour for a CBI probe in the Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case. Every day there is a new revelation. There are new facts coming to light that the CCTV cameras weren't working and all. There is a feeling that this is an attempt to save someone. There is a

complete mistrust about the investigations," Fadnavis said. He also added that if the state is not willing to handover the probe to CBI then "at least the ED can't be stopped from looking into the case as there is a financial angle to it." "There has been transfer of funds etc. All this comes into the purview of ED," he added.

Maharashtra minister Jayant Patil said he does not know how the issue will be used in Bihar, the home state of Rajput, but he asked "leaders from Maharashtra" to stop "tweeting and expressing their

opinions about it".

The NCP minister did not name any leader, but his comment came in the wake of Fadnavis demanding a probe by the ED into the money laundering angle in the case.

"The (Mumbai) police will investigate the matter on the basis of evidence. We are expecting they will complete the investigation and arrive at a conclusion soon," Patil said.

Asked about the Bihar police conducting a probe in Mumbai in connection with a separate FIR registered in Patna, Patil, a former Maharashtra home min-

ister, said cops from the north-eastern state will investigate the matter since a complaint has been registered with them by the actor's father.

"The thing is since an FIR was registered there, it will be probed. The Mumbai police will give the information Bihar police want. They (Bihar police) will proceed further if they get any evidence," Patil added.

Bihar is expected to go to polls soon. The issue is likely to become a poll plank as not just the NDA but other party leaders like Chirag Paswan and Tejaswi Yadav are too picking it up.

## 'I DON'T BELIEVE HE WAS IN DEPRESSION'

ACTOR Ankita Lokhande, in an exclusive interview to AajTak, said that she doesn't believe Sushant Singh Rajput was depressed.

Even though depression and Rajput's mental health is being cited as a reason behind the actor choosing to take his own life on June 14, Lokhande vehemently denied the same.

"Sushant Singh Rajput was not depressed. I have known him for years and I cannot imagine him doing it. I have seen him cheering up other people," she said in the interview.

Speaking about the exact moment she heard about Rajput's death, Lokhande

said, "Mujhe ek reporter ke phone se pata chala. Phone aya ki Ankita, aapko pata hai Sushant ne suicide kar liya. Mujhe vishwas nahi hua (I got to know through a reporter's phone call. He said, Ankita, do you know Sushant has committed suicide? I couldn't believe it.)"

Lokhande added that she doesn't believe Rajput can kill himself as he was known to plan his life well in advance. "He wrote in his diary what he would do in the next 5 years," she said.

"He always laughed. He faced so many difficult situations, how can he be depressed," she added.

—www.indiatoday.in



## More action reaches top court

By Aneesha Mathur  
in New Delhi

THE PLEA filed by actor and VJ Rhea Chakraborty in the Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide case is set to turn into a turf war between Bihar and Maharashtra Police, as both states have filed caveat pleas before the apex court, stating that their side should be heard before the court passes any orders.

The Supreme Court is likely to

### Mukul Rohtagi set to represent Bihar govt

hear Chakraborty's plea on August 5. Chakraborty has sought court orders to transfer the investigation opened by the Bihar police into Rajput's death to Mumbai. Chakraborty's plea had argued that since the Accidental Death Report investigation was already being conducted by the Bandra police, the Bihar police could not have registered a separate FIR into the actor's death.

She has also raised allegations



that the investigation will "not be fairly treated" by the Bihar police, as the local authorities "are hand-in-glove" with Rajput's family members, who filed the FIR against her.

The Bihar and Maharashtra police have taken the tussle over jurisdiction to the apex court, with caveats filed by both states, in Chakraborty's plea.

The Bihar police, who had filed

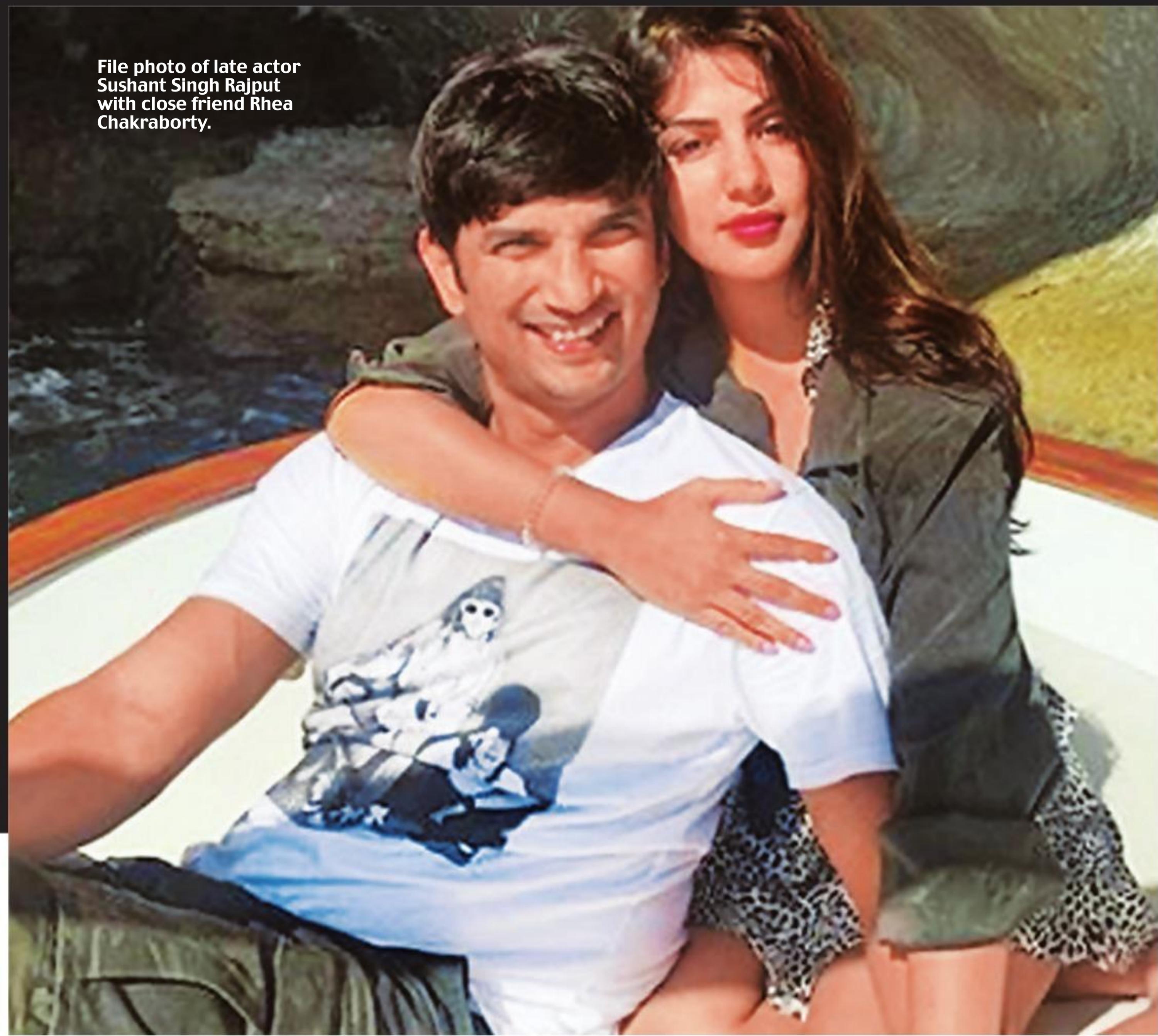
its caveat on Thursday, are likely to argue that since the FIR was filed in Bihar, and investigation has been started, the court should not interfere in the ongoing investigation, particularly since Mumbai police has not registered a formal FIR.

In addition, the Bihar police are also focusing on the allegations of wrongful confinement, breach of trust, theft and cheating, along with abetment of suicide, as raised by Rajput's family.

On the other hand, the Maharashtra Police have also filed a caveat, seeking that they should be heard before any orders are passed in the case, as they have been conducting a thorough investigation, have questioned several persons, and are looking into the bank transactions and financial history of the couple.

Rajput's family has also filed a similar caveat before the apex court, and are likely to request that the investigation should be conducted by the Bihar police since they do not believe that the Mumbai police have conducted a proper investigation in the case so far.

File photo of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput with close friend Rhea Chakraborty.



## 'SUSHANT WAS SICK AFTER TRIP TO EUROPE'

By Sujeet Jha in Mumbai

BIHAR Police, who is currently investigating the death of Sushant Singh Rajput, recorded the statement of the actor's cook Neeraj on Friday.

Neeraj had been working with Rajput since May 2019. In the statement, Neeraj revealed that Rajput went on a Europe tour in October 2019 with Rhea Chakraborty and returned around Diwali. He added that when Rajput was leaving for the trip he was well, but after he returned he was unwell and continued to remain unwell.

As per the statement,

### Actor's cook gives detailed statement

Rajput left his old house post Diwali and moved into Rhea Chakraborty's residence. Later, he shifted to his Bandra home, where the actor was found hanging on June 14.

Neeraj shared a detailed account of everything that happened on the morning of June 14.

Bihar Police also recorded the statement of Rajput's old cook, Ashok Kumar Khasu, who used to work for him before Neeraj.

Ashok revealed that he never saw Rajput taking any medicines for depression and that he had not fights with anyone.



A Bihar policeman arrives at a branch of Kotak Bank for investigation in connection to death by suicide case of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput, in Mumbai on Thursday.

## Rhea says satyamev jayate as ED books her for money laundering

By Munish Chandra Pandey in New Delhi and Divyesh Singh in Mumbai

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) has lodged a money laundering case against Rhea Chakraborty in connection with Sushant Singh Rajput's death case. Top officials in the probe agency have confirmed to India Today that Chakraborty and her other family members have been booked by ED under Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

On Thursday, the ED had sought details from the police in connection with the FIR lodged in connection with Rajput's death case. In the complaint, filed by Rajput's father KK Singh, he alleged fraud of Rs 15 crore by Chakraborty and her family members.

A top official in the financial probe agency told India Today, "After going through the details, we have lodged the case. In coming days, Chakraborty, along with others, will be summoned for questioning."

In the complaint, Rajput's father had said, "In 2019, Sushant had Rs 17 crore in his account but within months Rs 15 crore were transferred to the accounts not linked to him. It should be investigated that how much of that money has been defrauded by Rhea and her associates."

ED sources have told India Today that their probe will be focused on the allegations of Rs 15 crore defraud and others. Bihar police on Thursday sought details from Rajput's bank.

Rajput's family has also alleged that Chakraborty was misusing Rajput's money and his credit cards.

### SUSHANT'S CA ON MONEY TRANSFER

Rajput's chartered accountant in an exclusive interview to India Today TV revealed that the actor didn't have the amount of money that is being claimed by his family members. The CA, who had been working for the actor for over a year, also said that no transactions even worth a lakh were made to Chakraborty or her family members' accounts from Rajput's bank accounts.

The Patna Police is probing Chakraborty on charges of theft, wrongful confinement, cheating and abetment to suicide in Rajput's death case.

Talking to India Today TV, CA Sandeep Shridhar, who has recorded his statement with Mumbai police said, "No major transfer, except a few thousand rupees, were made to Rhea's account. His income had dropped from last one year."

## 'I'm under pressure to give false statement'

By Sahil Joshi and Divyesh Singh in Mumbai

SUSHANT Singh Rajput's friend and creative content manager Siddharth Pithani, in an e-mail alleged that he is being pressurised to give false statements against Rhea Chakraborty.

In an e-mail addressed to the Bandra Police Station on July 28, Pithani said that he received a conference call from Rajput's brother-in-law and senior IPS officer OP Singh, his sister Meetu Singh and a third person. The call was received on July 22 in which Pithani was asked questions about Chakraborty and her expenses during her stay at Mount Blanc with Rajput.

The e-mail further read that Pithani got another phone call on July 27 from OP Singh, who asked him to give a statement to Bihar Police against Chakraborty. He also wrote that he was being pressurised.

As per the e-mail, Pithani had then received a What-



File photo of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

sApp call from an unknown number. The number, when checked by India Today, belongs to Nilotpal Mrinal, reportedly Rajput's close family friend. Pithani, in his e-mail, further said that the call got disconnected in forty seconds and no statement was recorded.

The e-mail concluded by Pithani writing, "I am pressurised to comply and record statements against Rhea, the things which I am not aware of".

Sushant Singh Rajput died by suicide on the morning of June 14. The Mumbai Police had registered an ADR on June 14 and began investigating the reason behind the actor's suicide.

On July 28, an FIR against Rhea Chakraborty was registered after Rajput's father, KK Singh, filed a complaint at Rajiv Nagar Police Station, Patna, accusing Chakraborty of instigating the actor to commit suicide.

In his complaint, Rajput's father had accused Chakraborty of betraying him and completely cutting him off from his family. A case had been registered under Sections 341 (wrongful restraint), 342 (wrongful confinement), 380 (theft), 406 (breach of trust), 420 (cheating), 306 (abetment to suicide) of the IPC.



File photo of Sajad Lone.

**KASHMIR DETENTIONS**

By Kamaljit Kaur Sandhu and Shuja-ul-Haq in New Delhi/Srinagar

**P**EOPLE'S Conference leader Sajad Lone was released from house arrest in Srinagar on Friday, just five days short of a year after he was detained when the central government scrapped the special status to Jammu and Kashmir last year.

However, the authorities extended the detention of PDP chief and former BJP ally Mehbooba Mufti under the Public Safety Act (PSA) on Friday. Mufti's detention under the PSA has been extended by three months, officials said. According to an order issued by the Home Department, she will continue to remain



File photo of PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti.

# Lone out, Mufti stays in

## Ex-J&K CM's house arrest extended by 3 months; Lone is free after a year

under detention at her official residence at Fairview Bungalow, which has been declared a subsidiary jail, on posh Gupkar Road.

Meanwhile, Lone shared the news of his release on Twitter and said, "I am a free man." Lone also said while jail was not a new experience, the detention was "psychologically draining". This was Lone's first tweet after August 5, 2019, when the special status of Jammu and Kashmir granted under Article 370 was revoked. Taking to Twitter, Lone wrote, "Finally 5 days short of a year I have been officially informed that I am a free man. So much has changed. So have I. Jail was not a new experience. Earlier ones were

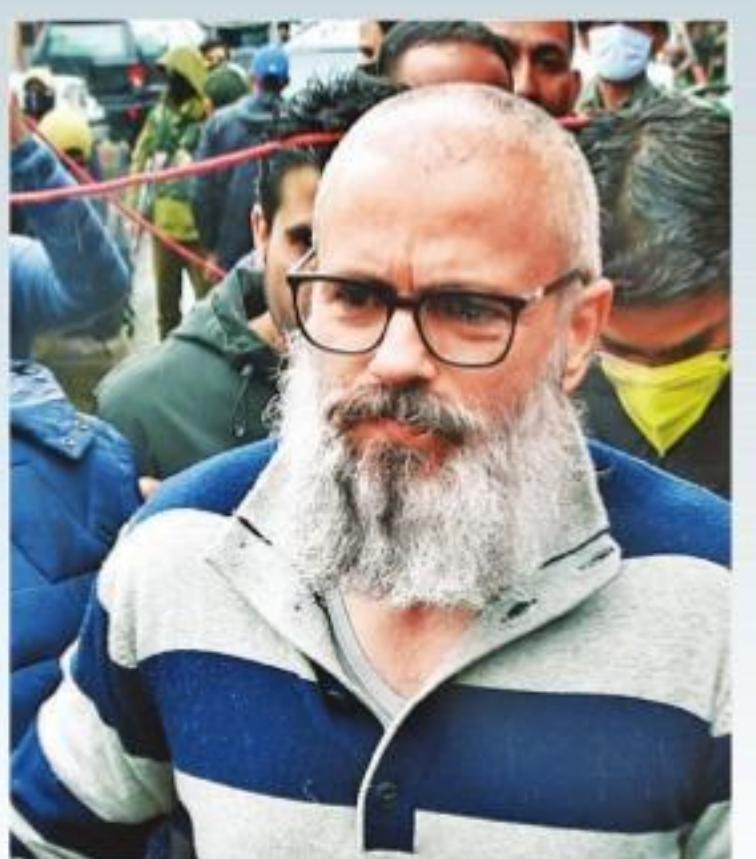
harsh with usual doses of physical torture. But this was psychologically draining. Much to share hopefully soon."

National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah was quick to congratulate Lone on his release from house detention. Abdullah tweeted, "Good to hear that Sajad

Lone has been released from illegal house arrest. I hope others under similar illegal detention will also be released without delay." Mufti was among hundreds of political figures taken into preventive custody hours before the Centre revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and divided

the state into two union territories on August 5 last year. Lone was amongst the politicians who were detained. Several leaders have been released in a phased manner, including Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah. Some leaders continue to be in house detention.

—With agency inputs



— OMAR ABDULLAH, NATIONAL CONFERENCE VICE PRESIDENT

## STALIN SLAMS MUFTI'S CONTINUED DETENTION

ON Friday, the Opposition DMK in Tamil Nadu opposed the continued detention of Mehbooba Mufti by three months under the PSA by the Jammu and Kashmir administration. Party president MK Stalin said DMK stands against the misuse of PSA.

"I unequivocally condemn the continued detention of Mehbooba Mufti and other J&K leaders. It is almost one year since they were taken

into custody and voices of democracy were stifled. DMK stands against the misuse of PSA to silence political opponents," he said.

The current detention order of Mufti was expiring on August 5 this year and as per an order issued by the Home Department, Mufti will continue to remain under detention for three months at her residence which has been declared a subsidiary jail.

—PTI

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY****E-Tender Notice**

For and on behalf of President of Republic of India, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Construction-TRD North Western Railway, Jaipur invites E-Tender for the following works upto 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. 1. Name of work: Tender No. EL/C/TRD/JP/T01/20 Design, Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 25KV 50Hz AC single phase Over Head Equipment OHE in connection with shifting of NNL good shed to MBV station (Deposit work). 2. Approximate cost of the Work: Rs. 13350955.50/- 3. Earnest Money to be deposited: Rs. 216800/- 4. Date & Time of closing E-Tender: 25.08.2020 Upto 15.00 Hrs. Date & Time of opening of E-Tender: 25.08.2020 at 15.30 Hrs. 5. The details of above E-Tender are available on Website: www.ireps.gov.in 692-VM/20

Please join us on /NWRailways

## Gehlot defends flying MLAs to Jaisalmer

By Dev Ankur Wadhawan  
in Jaipur

RAJASTHAN chief minister Ashok Gehlot defended on Friday the MLAs shifting base to Jaisalmer, saying it's important to save government along with providing governance.

Before the crucial Assembly session on August 14, the Congress MLAs belonging to the Gehlot camp have been shifted from the five star Fairmont Hotel on the outskirts of Jaipur to the ultra luxurious Suryagarh hotel in Jaisalmer district in

## RAJASTHAN'S BIG POLITICAL CRISIS

Western Rajasthan.

Speaking to media persons at Jaipur Airport, Gehlot said, "I will be in Jaipur, my ministers will be in Jaipur. Most people will come and go, but we people will not compromise in governance. I have been conducting video conferencing on Covid-19 on a daily basis, about the department. Everyday orders are being issued, we are controlling law and order situation

completely but along with that, the government also has to be saved because the manner in which the Government of India is itself involved, the Home Ministry is involved, then you can think believe that people themselves are supporting us in the fight," Gehlot said.

Dr Mahesh Joshi, chief whip for the Congress in Rajasthan, told India Today TV, "If members of the rebel Sachin Pilot group do not obey in case of whip during the proceedings of the Assembly, then disciplinary action will be taken against them."



Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot at Jaipur Airport on Friday.

## 2 killed as building collapses in Noida

By Tanseem Haider in Noida

TWO people were killed and three others were injured when an under-construction building in Uttar Pradesh's Noida collapsed on Friday evening. The injured are said to be in a critical condition.

They have been admitted to hospital. The building is located at F block in Sector 11 and belongs to a private company. The incident took place around 7.30 pm, the police said.

Police personnel in large numbers along with senior officers and teams of the Fire Department and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) were present at spot for the rescue operation.

"Five people have been rescued from the building. Two of them have died while three others have been hospitalised with injuries but they are out of danger," the district police said in a state-

PANKAJ NANGIA



The building collapsed in Sector 11.

ment on Friday.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath also took cognisance of the incident, according to an official statement released in Lucknow.

The chief minister has asked Gautam Buddh Nagar Police Commissioner, Alok Singh, to reach the incident site and ensure rescue of the victims and proper treatment to them, it stated.

Singh said information was received on Friday evening that a part of the building had collapsed during construction work. "Teams of fire-fighters, police, district administration and ambulances reached the spot swiftly. The chief minister himself is monitoring the situation and a team of the NDRF has also been deployed for rescue work on his instructions," Singh told reporters after inspecting the incident site.

"The NDRF has teams of (sniffer) dogs and technical squads on the ground and is highly equipped for the work. They are looking for survivors, if any," he added. On the cause, Singh said engineers and technical teams from the Noida Authority have reached the spot to ascertain the reason.

—With agency inputs

# 38 die in Punjab hooch tragedy, 8 held

PHOTOS: AGENCIES

AS the death toll in the hooch tragedy in Punjab rose to 38, chief minister Amarinder Singh ordered a magisterial probe into the matter, while Punjab Police arrested seven more bootleggers from Amritsar, Batala and Tarn Taran districts in over 40 raids conducted by five teams led by senior officers.

After at least 38 people died in Punjab's three districts allegedly after drinking spurious liquor. With the seven arrests, the total number of persons apprehended so far in the spurious liquor deaths case has gone up to eight, including Balwinder Kaur, who was arrested on Thursday night from Muchhal village. The number of people who died after having spurious liquor was 21 earlier on Friday, however, the number increased later in the day.

Singh has ordered a magisterial inquiry by the Divisional Commissioner, Jalandhar, into the deaths of people allegedly due to the consumption of spurious liquor, an official statement said. "I have ordered a magisterial enquiry into suspected spurious liquor deaths in Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Tarn Taran. Commissioner, Jalandhar Division will conduct the enquiry and coordinate with concerned SSPs and other officers. Anyone found guilty will not be spared," Singh tweeted. Punjab DGP Dinkar Gupta said the first five fatalities were reported from Muchhal and Tangra villages in Amritsar's Tarsikka on July 29 night.

On Thursday, two more people died under suspicious circumstances at Amritsar's Muchhal village. One person died at Sri Guru Ram Das Hospi-



People wait to buy liquor from an alcohol store in Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh on Friday.

**First five fatalities were reported on July 29**

tal in Amritsar after being shifted from Tangra. Later, two more deaths were reported from Muchhal village while another two people died in Batala, also due to the consumption of spurious liquor. On Friday, five people died in Batala, taking the death toll in the city to seven, the DGP said, adding that four fatalities were reported from Tarn Taran. Police have arrested Balwinder Kaur, a resident of Muchhal, under IPC Section 304 and under provisions of the Excise Act.

—www.indiatoday.in

I've ordered a magisterial inquiry into suspected spurious liquor deaths. Anyone found guilty will not be spared.

—AMARINDER SINGH,  
PUNJAB CM



## 9 drink sanitiser in Andhra, dead

NINE people have died in India from drinking alcohol-based hand sanitiser after liquor shops in their town were closed due to virus restrictions, police said Friday. The group lost consciousness after consuming a high quantity of hand sanitiser mixed with water or soda, Siddharth Kaushal, police superintendent for Kurichedu town in Andhra Pradesh state said. They were rushed to hospital but declared dead on arrival, he said.

"The group turned to hand sanitiser as a substitute for liquor after supplies were cut off when authorities ordered a lockdown of the town to combat the coronavirus. An investigation into the nine deaths has been launched," he added. Hundreds of poor people die every year in India due to alcohol poisoning, mostly from consuming cheap hooch. Bootleggers often add methanol — a highly toxic form of alcohol sometimes used as an antifreeze or fuel — to their home-brew liquor to increase the alcoholic content.

—AFP

# TEMPLE RUN

**With 4 days to go, Ayodhya decked up, set to welcome PM, others for Bhoomi Pujan**

By Shivendra Srivastava in Ayodhya

RAM Mandir's grand preparations for bhoomi pujan is going on in full swing. Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra trustees are working for the event with utmost secrecy and the Ayodhya administration is on their toes to make the historical event a big success.

The entire community is making an effort to make the event as lively as possible, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is said to offer prayers at the bhoomi pujan ceremony on August 5.

### GROUND REPORT

Around 1 lakh laddoos are being prepared for the ceremony. Many karsevaks are working amid the coronavirus pandemic. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath has visited Ayodhya to take note of the preparations and will again visit the site in a day or two to monitor the final arrangements before the big day.

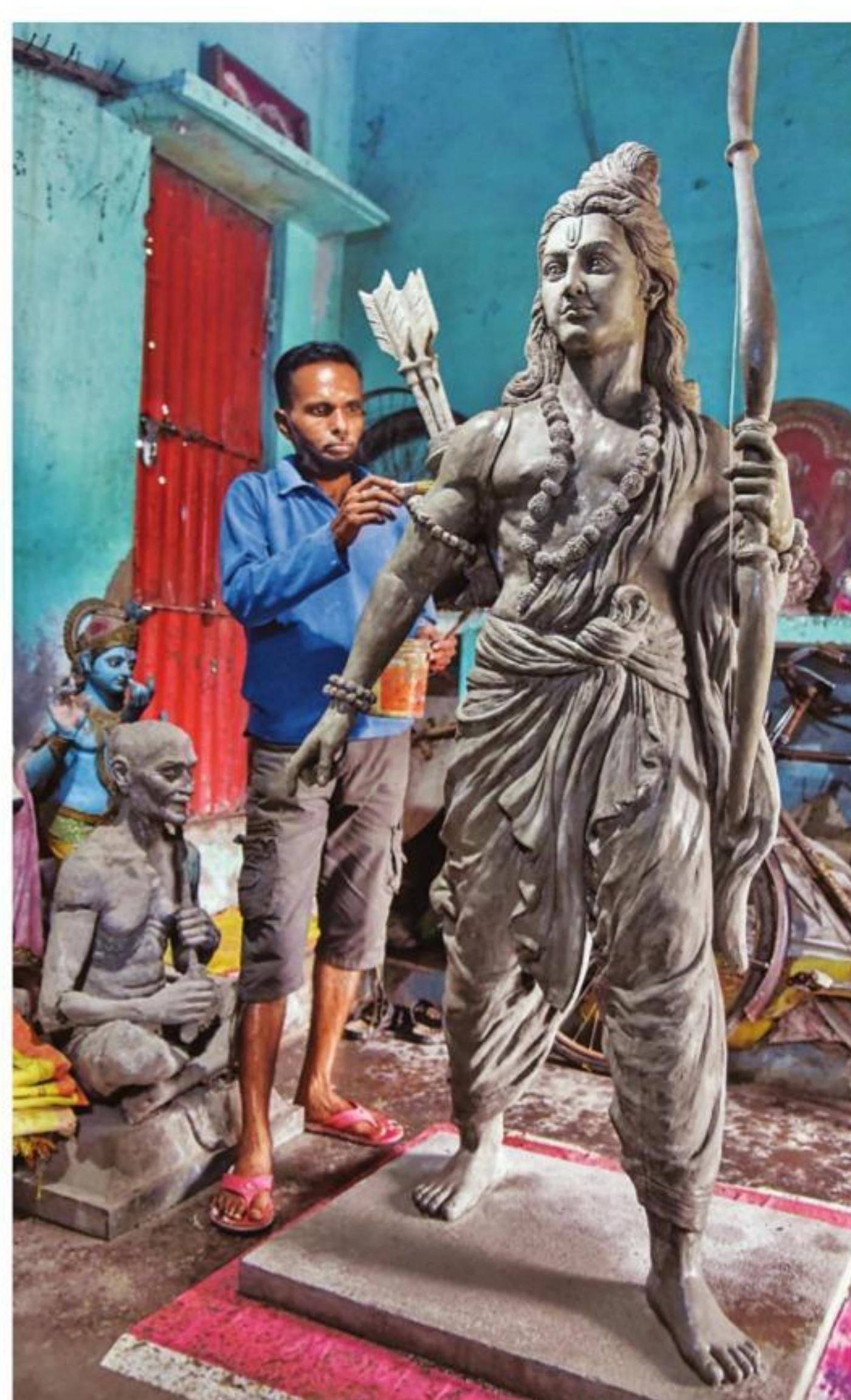
The entire route of approximately three kilometre has been painted in yellow colour, via which PM Modi will head to the bhoomi pujan site. As per hindu beliefs, yellow is the colour of energy, prosperity, culture and happiness — that is why the colour has been used to the paint the city. Recently, 14 cops and a priest have been found Covid-19 positive in Ayodhya.

To review security and event preparation, UP Chief Secretary, Rajendra Kumar Tewari and ACS Home, Awaniah Awasthi and ADG SN Sabat have visited Ayodhya ahead of the event.

### 'Grander than original plan'

THE proposed Ram temple in Ayodhya will be almost double the size of what was originally planned as its design was modified following the Supreme Court verdict last year, its architect said on Friday. The temple, to be constructed in Nagara style of architecture, will have five domes instead of two as envisaged earlier to accommodate more number of devotees, the architect said.

"The design of the temple was modified after the SC verdict. Now it will be almost double the size of what was in the plan. It will have a shikhara (tower) over the sanctum sanctorum and five domes instead of the earlier plan of two domes. The height of the temple will also be more than what was in the plan," architect Chandrakant Sompura, who has designed it, said. —PTI



ACTIVISTS of the Dogra Front in Jammu sent "holy soil and water" from Hindu religious shrines and rivers of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh to Ayodhya on Friday. The activists also offered special prayers for this. As per the activists, the "holy water and soil" will be used in the bhoomi pujan.

To woo the influential Matua community in West Bengal, the BJP has also decided to send soil from Thakurnagar, the religious headquarters of the Matuas in Bongaon in North 24 Parganas for bhoomi pujan. Bongaon BJP MP, Shantanu Thakur, a descendant member of Harichand Thakur who founded the sect, said the "holy soil" was being sent to Ayodhya through the Vishwa Hindu Parishad.

—By Sunil Bhat & Indrajit Kundu in Jammu / Kolkata

## 1st 'Muslim Women Rights Day' observed

By Mail Today Bureau  
in New Delhi

UNION Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, said on Friday that commitment of the Narendra Modi government is, "Politic empowerment and not political exploitation."

While addressing Muslim women from across the country through virtual conference along with Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani on the occasion of 'Muslim Women Rights Day', Naqvi said that August 1 is a day which made Muslim women free from social evil of triple talaq;



(L) Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi during a presser on Muslim Women Rights Day, in Delhi on Friday.

August 1 has been recorded in the country's history as 'Muslim Women Rights Day'.

Naqvi said that the law which makes social evil of triple talaq a criminal offence has strengthened "self-reliance, self-respect and self-confidence" of the Muslim women of the country.

He said that the Modi government has ensured gender equality and strengthened constitutional, fundamental and democratic rights of the Muslim women by bringing law against the cruel social evil of triple talaq. He said that triple talaq or 'Talaq-e-Biddat' was neither Islamic nor legal. Despite of the fact, the social evil of triple talaq was given political patronage by, "merchants of votes".

## DAY IN WORDS

**'This was a hard decision, prolonged due to a pandemic and the role ICE plays in our nation's response.'**

— MATT ALBENCE, Immigration and Customs Enforcement acting director, on his retirement

**'Here we were, in this movie about a queer family, and all of the principal actors were straight... We need to give real representation to people.'**



— JULIANNE MOORE, actor, on her experience in 'The Kids Are All Right' in 2010

**'When I retired, getting trolled, I found that I was turning to drink to try and hide everything.'**

— ALEX SCOTT, former footballer on how she used to drink after being trolled

## DAY IN NUMBERS

**19mn**

jobs can be created in Latin America with a shift to plant-based diets

**2.2L**

beneficiaries in Andhra Pradesh to get pension in August under YS Pension Kanuka

## AROUND THE WORLD

THE GUARDIAN  
ON LOCKDOWN IN BRITAIN

## Fighting virus in UK needs a united effort

MORE than 4 million people in the north of England woke up to the news that Covid restrictions were reimposed.

Such measures are predictable and a glimpse of the pattern of lockdown and release that will occur over the coming months.

In the absence of a vaccine, people must realise that they cannot have it all. We can either have our daily lives

## Cooperation across the country is essential

back with borders largely closed, or we can have free movement and constant outbreaks.

Thursday's figures revealed 846 new infections in the UK. But a closer look at that picture gives us a clue as to what direction to take. Only 34 of those infections came from Northern Ireland Scotland — the rest came from England.

Scotland and Northern Ireland are pursuing a "zero Covid" objective, aiming to eliminate community transmission. But they won't be able to do it without a coordinated approach across the UK. Cooperation is essential — if only one part doesn't go for elimination, the others can't do it either.

## DAILY HUMOUR

"Get your facts first, then distort them as you please."

— Mark Twain

## A BRUSH WITH BOLLYWOOD

AFP



People walk past a wall mural with images of Bollywood actors, under a road bridge in Mumbai.

## AR Rahman and the Oscars 'curse'



by Gautam Chintamani



to mind stories of how most music directors refused to work with him because he delivered more than what was expected. Legend has it that Nigam would question the composers when they insisted on multiple takes. He wanted to know if there was something he missed the first time around but this was mostly demanded of him because the composer had to convey that they were his bosses.

## Ahead of times

This was also around the time when technology had become so good that any mediocre singer could be made to sound better. Much like Rahman expressed stories about him being difficult filled the market, tales about the likes of Nigam being temperamental circulated and things changed. In Rahman's case, his style of working could

be so intimidating, and different from the norm that people found it difficult to keep pace. A legendary songwriter who collaborated with Rahman on some of his most famous works found it increasingly difficult, and strange, to work with him over video calls and different time zones.

While one isn't denying the presence of 'gangs' or 'camps' operating in the film industry, could there be more to why the likes of Rahman might be finding it difficult to attract good work? There had been superstar music directors in the past that could sell a film solely on the name, but Rahman's arrival changed the way Hindi films perceived the music composer. He attached a rockstar status and more importantly, a sense of gravitas to the project. His use of technology, his ability to push the envelope earned him the praise of fans as well as the wrath of fellow composers, some of who considered him to be great 'arranger.' The way Rahman changed the rules — use unknown singers, get stalwarts such as Sonu Nigam to croon the background vocals, sing his own songs — democratised the game but the passage of time saw changes that didn't help Rahman. The most significant change was the use of multiple composers for a single film and once that happened, the concept of 'Pick-N'-Choose' became commonplace. What this also meant was that filmmakers were no longer limited to pick the likes of Rahman to deliver a blockbuster album.

## Fixated on hits

It's not as if Bollywood does not have space for Rahman, or the Oscar-winning composer is out of ideas. The question is why would someone travel to Chennai or Skype half way across the globe when your neighbourhood kid or filmmakers themselves, such as Sanjay Leela Bhansali, can compose a chartbuster.

In the end, as things go, what matters to Bollywood is a 'hit' that is relatively cheaper, and not a hit composed by so-and-so using such and such tools.

The writer is a film historian and the author of the recent Rajneeti: A Biography of Rajnath Singh. The views expressed are personal.

## SO FUNNY

Be warned: I'm bored. This could get very dangerous.



"No man has a good enough memory to be a successful liar."

— Abraham Lincoln



# MIDDLE INDIA

RAHUL NORONHA

**T**HE biggest story to come out of Madhya Pradesh last week was that the Chief Executive of the state, Shivraj Singh Chouhan had contracted Covid-19. Chouhan had tested positive on July 25, the day the state capital went into a 10-day lockdown. He is the first CM in India to test Covid positive and like any sharp politician would do, he wears it like a badge of honour.

Chouhan said that he developed symptoms in the form of a cough and fever. He then had himself tested and was found positive.

Chouhan along with three others, state BJP president VD Sharma, cooperatives minister Arvind Bhadoria and BJP general secretary (organisation) Suhas Bhagat had taken a chartered flight to Lucknow to attend the last rites of MP Governor Lalji Tandon on July 21. All four who travelled together have tested positive within a week.

Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has tested positive for Covid-19



# The Covid diaries of CM Chouhan

Politicians, especially those in power, work 24x7, and do not have the privilege of sick leave. Chouhan's move to a hospital in Bhopal made many think he would rest and allow the unofficial number 2, state home minister Narottam Mishra to run the show. No such luck for Mishra. Chouhan announced that he would be holding a virtual cabinet meeting from the hospital room, via video conferencing on July 28.

The Congress raised questions, terming the move a publicity stunt and said that the confidentiality clause applicable on a cabinet meeting would be compromised. This didn't bother Chouhan who used the meeting to share his hospital experiences. The Congress also said that the Chouhan going to a private hospital instead of a government facility showed how much faith he had

in his own government doctors. The hospital brought out a medical bulletin on Chouhan the first day he was admitted. It needn't have. The next day onwards Chouhan was interacting with people on Twitter sharing his experiences while being Covid positive. He made videos of him making tea and said he was washing his own clothes which helped him fix a fractured wrist, something even physiotherapy had not achieved. Clearly, the CM knows how to get the eyeballs.

How did so many VIPs get Covid-positive in MP? With by-elections in 27 constituencies round the corner, politicians who

Ask any politician in Madhya Pradesh how they got infected and they'd say while serving the people

have a stake in it are moving around, meeting people and throwing norms of social distancing out of the window. Additionally, the state government has now imposed a ban on all political rallies till August 14. Also, meetings are held in closed rooms with air conditioning and large number of people in them, making them potential Covid chambers. Besides the CM, three ministers, eight MLAs and many office bearers of the BJP and Congress have been infected. Ask any politician how they came to be infected and most will say while 'serving' people.

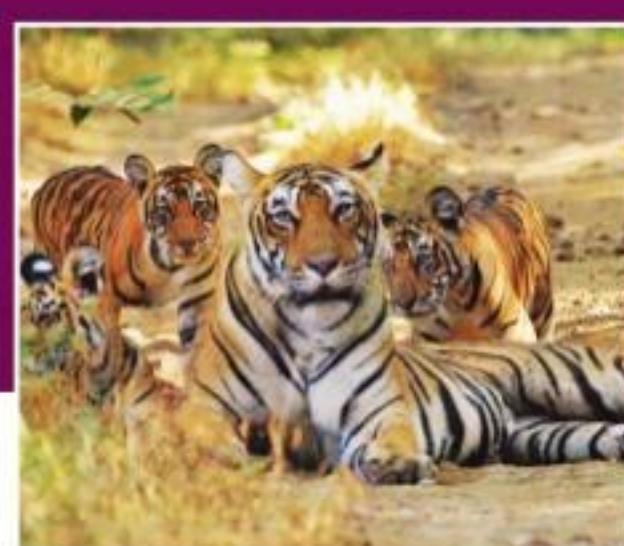
The writer is Associate Editor, India Today.

## Experiment in the wild gone awry?

**I**N A curious development, Odisha is all set to 'return' a tigress that had been sent to the state as part of a reintroduction program from Madhya Pradesh.

**M**ahavir, a tiger from the Panna National Park and Sundari a tigress from Bandhavgarh National Park in Madhya Pradesh had been sent to the Satkosia Tiger Reserve in Odisha more than two years ago, part of a plan to reintroduce tigers at the Satkosia reserve.

**M**ahavir, the tiger was killed by poacher a few months after he was released in Satkosia. The tigress Sundari attacked villagers around the reserve which



Two tigers were sent to Odisha two years ago

made the local residents oppose the reintroduction.

While no official reason has been forwarded for the returning the tigress, Odisha's officials have written to MP and the National Tiger Conservation Authority. Once she is brought back, in all likelihood she would be released in an enclosure in Kanha National Park where she would be 're-wilded'. Another attempt at reintroducing tigers may be taken sometime in the future.

**T**HE income tax department in Madhya Pradesh felicitated 117 year old assessee, Girija Devi on Income Tax Foundation Day. Tiwari, a resident of Bina town in Sagar district is one among the four centenarian tax payers felicitated.

Born in 1903, Tiwari has been paying her taxes regularly. Her income is from pension and interest on investments. Two others to be felicitated are from Indore and one from Bilaspur. All four would be presented silver mementos.

The income tax department is trying to ascertain if Tiwari is indeed the oldest living tax payer in India and if her name can be part of a record for the Guinness Book of World Records

A total of 14,000 tests can be conducted in a day in state labs



**C**OVID cases are multiplying rapidly in Madhya Pradesh. On June 8 the number of cases in MP stood at 9638 which had increased to more than 28,000 by July 30. Prima facie, there seems to be no concrete plan to control or reduce the number of cases. A lockdown was imposed in Bhopal, Rewa, Gwalior, Shivpuri, Seoni from July 25 to August 4 with the general plan of controlling crowds during Eid Us Zuha and Rakshabandhan which fall between these dates with the intention of 'breaking the chain'.

After realising that it is not in a position to arrest the rising cases, the state government's focus now seems to be in a position to provide reasonable good medical services to those who are infected.

## Focus on quality of Covid care

**ON JULY 29**, Madhya Pradesh completed one year of being the 'tiger state' of the country. On July 29, 2019, the findings of the tiger census held every four years were announced by PM Modi as per which Madhya Pradesh had the highest number of tigers among all states in the country.

MP had recorded 526 tigers while the total tiger count in the country was pegged at 2967.

MP has the most number of Big Cats in India

The MP forest department had announced the creation of 15 new sanctuaries in various parts of the state. This was an unprecedented step as such a large addition in protected area had not taken place since the 1980s in MP. The proposal now lies on the backburner, with the change in government.

Lockdown has brought with it problems of its own with forest department budgets facing large cuts.

## Cong makes top minister do a U-turn

THE Congress in Madhya Pradesh announced a reward of ₹11,000 for anyone who can enforce rules to make Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra wear a mask in covid times. Mishra is often seen without a mask in public appearance and seems averse to wearing one.

Congress media coordinator Narendra Saluja announced the reward on Mishra and said that while PM Modi and CM Chouhan are appealing to all to maintain two metres distance and wear masks, Home Minister Mishra refuses



Home Minister Narottam Mishra without a mask

to do so. Mishra makes public appearances within large crowds and does not wear a mask in them. Saluja said that till the time Mishra does not wear a mask, the police too should not penalise anyone from the public for not wearing a mask. A day after the Congress announced the reward, Mishra started wearing a mask at public appearances. The Congress claimed it was their victory.

## THE STATE OF TIGERS

**T**HE MP forest department had announced the creation of 15 new sanctuaries in various parts of the state. This was an unprecedented step as such a large addition in protected area had not taken place since the 1980s in MP. The proposal now lies on the backburner, with the change in government.

Lockdown has brought with it problems of its own with forest department budgets facing large cuts.

## FASHION NEWS

**There is always something happening in the sartorial world. Life&Style keeps you updated with all that you need to know to keep your 'Fashion Quotient' high**



THIS Rakshabandhan, surprise your sister or your brother with a range of gifting options specially created by designer Payal Singhal. In order to add a touch of glam to your festivities, Singhal is offering a range of accessories for both men and women in her signature prints.

The gifting options include travel pouches, tote bags, scarfs, scrunchies for women and bow ties, mouche pins, pocket squares and ties for men along with the

### IT IS THE SEASON TO CELEBRATE SIBLING LOVE

newest addition — the reversible washable and unisex masks that make for the perfect gift for your loved ones right now. Starting from ₹5,000, these gifts are available on Singhal's website and you can customise it for your sibling.

## A FESTIVE COLLECTION

WITH their latest collection Malhar, lifestyle retailer Fabindia has created a range of outfits in a palette that includes soft whites, cream and gold, alongside bright fresh hues of tota green and haldi yellow, with pinks, corals, blues and sea greens.

The collection highlights the sheen and vibrancy of Chanderi, Maheshwari and Benarsi hand-woven fabrics. Kurtas, dresses, shirts, crop tops to saris, lehangas and skirts, as well as printed scarves and accessories complete the offering.



## A NEW VEGAN LINE OF BATH AND BODY PRODUCTS



BEAUTY brand Plum's new line of vegan bath and body products called Plum BodyLoving, has now launched a new range of phthalate-free body mists. The range aims to drive the important conversation around body positivity.

These body mists come in three delightful variants that are long-lasting. These are also phthalate-free and cruelty-free; and their packaging is recyclable too. These mists are affordably priced and are available on the brand's website.

life &

# Beauty in face of a pandemic

Stakeholders say the industry has braved the Covid storm as consumers reveal new buying patterns **By Simi Kuriakose**

THE devastation that the Coronavirus pandemic has wreaked on the population and businesses across the world is tremendous. In fact, it has single-handedly wiped out a number of businesses — both large and small — across sectors.

The pandemic-induced lockdown has brought everything to a standstill. Consumers, too, have been unable to visit stores and have also been reluctant to spend more money than needed. With masks becoming an essential accessory and salon visits turning into a distant reality, personal grooming has taken a back seat. Or so you may think. Instead, reports have shown that India's FMCG market sales have come back to pre-Covid levels, primarily led by the beauty segment.

#### Buying on the rise

Trisha Girdhar (23), co-founder of an influencer management agency, who is also a make-up enthusiast, has been on a buying spree as far as make-up is concerned. Girdhar, who married during the Coronavirus lockdown, says that apart from this occasion, her day-to-day business calls have also played an important part in this indulgence. Girdhar adds, "I've been buying make-up from online stores in plenty. And while I would earlier just buy lipstick, I've bought everything from eye products to primers and highlighters. There has been an increase in business meetings and thus the usage of make-up products have also increased. Also, I've used Nykaa's virtual makeover tool that came in handy when buying products [without testing it physically]."

The recovery in sales post the lockdown lift has been fantastic, says Vineeta Singh, CEO and co-founder, SUGAR Cosmetics. Singh adds, "We clocked in our highest ever online sales in June 2020. And then, we

crossed those numbers in the first 15 days of July already. So comparing these to last year's numbers, besides going through an unexpected Covid situation, we have clearly been able to garner more sales and even gain market share from other offline retail-heavy brands in this space."

Skincare has been a driving category during the lockdown, says Manish Taneja, co-founder and CEO, Purple, an online beauty shopping destination. Taneja adds, "We grow at about 100 per cent year-on-year while the market grows at around 10 to 15 per cent year-on-year. From last year's sales, our numbers are about 130 per cent higher. This is a decent growth

rate. June and July are bad months for colour cosmetics due to lack of festivals; it is also hot in most parts of the country. Coupled with Covid, you have people staying at home and the need for make-up, in general, is much lesser. Having said that, with people spending time at home they are taking better care of their skin, body and hair. So from pre-Covid levels to now, we've seen a 60 per cent surge in skincare sales. Make-up has come to pre-Covid levels [post April and May]."

While skincare has seen an increase in sales, the eye make-up segment is close behind, adds Samir Modi, founder and managing



director, Colorbar. Modi continues, "Lipsticks will continue to fare well in the long run as consumers will turn to beauty for small indulgences. I believe that lipstick lovers will continue to wear lipstick regardless, if they want to."

Delhi-based Simpy Arora, a technical manager at a leading cosmetic brand, adds that the routine for decking up is similar to how it was pre-Covid. Arora says, "From online meetings for work, FaceTime calls to Houseparty meetings, make-up has been essential. During and after the lockdown, people are concentrating more on the visible parts of the face, and the focus is

Sales recovery in this segment has been great

# STYLE



more on the eyes. Thus, products such as eye shadow, eyeliner and mascara are bought more frequently."

#### E-commerce to the rescue

With lesser to no activity in brick-and-mortar stores, many businesses have readily relied on e-commerce to drive sales. The cosmetics segment too, with its innovations using virtual reality and interactive technology, has also taken this route. Singh adds, "[The increase in numbers is related] largely to e-commerce since that business unit has seen a 60 per cent jump in numbers from our pre-Covid high. However, in the current month, even our offline channels have begun to spring back."

Shedding more light on how the e-commerce segment has driven sales for cosmetics, Modi says, "Since the offline market has had a huge impact,

With a rise in video conferencing for professional reasons and to stay in touch with friends and family, make-up still forms an integral part of personal grooming.

we have seen a clear shift from the traditional selling points to growing 'digitally' with full force. The silver lining has been our online sales, which have grown significantly with 20-30 per cent growth as compared to last year."

#### E-commerce has driven sales for cosmetics

Lockdown or not, people will always aspire to look their best. That being said, e-commerce could be the major driving factor for quite a while due to people's hesitance to visit stores. Even if brick-and-mortar shops start regaining footfall, they will have to augment in-store experiences along with digital tools to inspire consumer purchases.

**People are spending time at home and are taking better care of their skin, body and hair. From pre-Covid levels to now, we've seen 60% surge in skincare sales.**

—MANISH TANEJA, CO-FOUNDER & CEO, PURPLE



**Comparing these to last year's numbers, besides going through an unexpected Covid situation, we have clearly been able to garner more sales.**

—VINEETA SINGH, CEO & CO-FOUNDER, SUGAR COSMETICS

**Lipsticks will continue to fare well in the long run as consumers will turn to beauty for small indulgences. I believe that lipstick lovers will continue to wear lipstick regardless, if they want to.**

—SAMIR MODI, FOUNDER & MD, COLORBAR



# WORLDLY WISE

Tokyo could declare a state of emergency if the coronavirus situation in the Japanese capital deteriorates further, its governor warned on Friday, as debate deepened over how to respond to record increases in new infections.



I said we would not hesitate to put on the brakes at the slightest sign that the numbers were going in the wrong direction. We're now seeing a warning light... —BORIS JOHNSON, BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

WHILE deaths from the coronavirus in the US are mounting rapidly, public health experts are seeing a flicker of good news: The second surge of confirmed cases appears to be leveling off.

Scientists aren't celebrating by any means, warning that the trend is driven by four big, hard-hit places Arizona, California, Florida and Texas and that cases are rising in close to 30 states in all, with the outbreak's center of gravity seemingly shifting from the Sun Belt toward the Midwest.

Some experts wonder whether the apparent caseload improvements will endure. It's also not clear when deaths will start coming down. COVID-19 deaths do not move in perfect lockstep with the infection curve, for the simple reason that it can take weeks to get sick and die from the virus. The future? I think it's very difficult to predict, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's foremost infectious-disease expert.

The virus has claimed over 150,000 lives in the U.S., by far the highest death toll in the world, plus more than a half-million others around the globe. Over the past week, the average number of COVID-19 deaths per day in the US has climbed more than 25 per cent, from 843 to 1,057.

Florida on Thursday reported 253 more deaths, setting its third straight single-day record, while Texas had 322 new fatalities and California had 391. The number of confirmed infections nationwide has topped 4.4 million, which could be higher because of limits on testing and because some people are infected without feeling sick.

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

### COLLATERAL DAMAGE

In other developments: The collateral damage from the virus mounted, with the U.S. economy shrinking at a dizzying 32.9 per cent annual rate in the April-June quarter by far the worst quarterly plunge on records dating to 1947. Based on a seven-day rolling average, daily cases in the U.S. fell from 67,317 on July 22 to 65,266 on Wednesday, according to data kept by Johns Hopkins University.

### A GENUINE TREND

Researchers prefer to see two weeks of data pointing in the same direction to say whether a trend is genuine. But I think it is real, yes, said Ira Longini, a University of Florida biostatistician who has been tracking the coronavirus and has been a source of disease forecasts used by the government.

The Associated Press found the seven-day rolling average for new cases plateaued over two



People line up at a food bank amid the outbreak of coronavirus, in Manhattan borough of New York City.

# 2nd corona surge in US hits plateau

A decline of about 3% in daily cases reported

weeks in California and decreased in Arizona, Florida and Texas.

### GLIMMER OF HOPE

Also, in another possible glimmer of hope, the percentage of tests that are coming back positive for the virus across the U.S. dropped from an average of 8.5 per cent to 7.8 per cent over the past week. Daily case counts rose to 70,000 or more earlier this month. Deaths, too, began to climb sharply, after a lag of a few weeks.

### FIRST COVID POSITIVE PET DOG IN U.S. DIES

A German shepherd, 'Buddy', which was the first confirmed case of the novel coronavirus infection in a pet dog in the US has died here, according to a report.

In June, the United States Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratories had announced the dog being the first pet in the US testing positive for the virus SARS-CoV-2 behind the pandemic. Prior to the dog showing signs, one of its owners had tested positive for COVID-19.

According to the report, Buddy's health declined steadily after he developed breathing problems and thick nasal mucus in April, and he was euthanised on July 11 after he started vomiting clotted blood. While it is unknown whether the SARS-CoV-2 virus played a role in Buddy's death, blood tests indicated the dog may have had lymphoma. —PTI



The US indictment said the Chinese hackers "conducted reconnaissance" against the computer network of Moderna.

CHINESE government-linked hackers targeted biotech company Moderna Inc, a U.S.-based coronavirus vaccine research developer, this year in a bid to steal data, according to a U.S. security official tracking Chinese hacking.

China on Friday rejected the accusation that hackers linked to it had targeted Moderna. Last week, the U.S. Justice Department made public an indictment of two Chinese nationals accused of spying on the US, including three unnamed U.S.-based targets involved in medical research to fight the novel coronavirus.

The indictment said the Chinese hackers "conducted reconnaissance" against the computer network of a Massachusetts biotech firm known to be working on a coronavirus vaccine in January.

Moderna announced its COVID-19 vaccine candidate

### CHINA DENIES CHARGES OF HACKING ON VACCINE FIRM

in January, confirmed to Reuters that the company had been in contact with the FBI and was made aware of the suspected "information reconnaissance activities" by the hacking group mentioned in last week's indictment.

The U.S. security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not provide further details. Moderna's vaccine candidate is one of the earliest and biggest bets by the Trump administration to fight the pandemic. —Reuters

## Manchester back under lockdown

MILLIONS of households in Manchester and nearby parts of northern England woke up to new lockdown rules on Friday, hastily imposed following concerns over a spike in coronavirus infections.

Under the measures, people from different households in the affected areas are banned from meeting indoors. They apply to some four million people across Greater Manchester and parts of the counties of Lancashire and Yorkshire. Health Secretary Matt Hancock said the restrictions were being brought in because people were meeting and not abiding to social distancing.

"We take this action with a heavy heart, but we can see increasing rates of COVID across Europe and are determined to do whatever is necessary to keep people safe," Hancock said on Twitter.



People wearing masks walk in Manchester on Friday.

The new restrictions come just days after PM Boris Johnson warned of a second wave of the pandemic elsewhere in Europe. They also come into force just as celebrations of the Muslim festival Eid al-Adha begin. UK's official death toll stands at 45,999 but is believed to be as high as 65,000. —AFP

**Moderna announced its vaccine candidate in January**

# 'NEPAL PM OLI'S REMARKS AGAINST INDIA UNDIPLOMATIC'

**Party leader says Oli made mistake by blaming India for trying to topple his government**

**N**EPAL Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli has committed three mistakes with his recent undiplomatic and irritating anti-India statements, a senior leader of the ruling communist party has said, amidst mounting pressure on the embattled leader who is facing calls for resignation.

Last month, prime minister Oli alleged that India was conspiring with his political rivals to throw him out of power. His remark came over a week after Nepal approved a bill to redraw the country's map demarcating the Lipulekh pass, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura—the area at the centre of the dispute between India and Nepal under its territory.

The embattled prime minister stoked another controversy this month by claiming that the real

**Oli had also claimed 'real' Ayodhya lies in Nepal**

Ayodhya lies not in India but in Nepal and that Lord Ram was born in Thori in southern Nepal.

Reacting to Oli's remarks, Spokesperson of Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) and member of the powerful Central Secretariat Narayankaji Shrestha described the PM's statements as undiplomatic.

"PM KP Sharma Oli has committed a blunder by making irritating remarks against India, at a time when there is a need for resolving the border issue through dialogue..."



(L) Spokesperson of Communist Party of Nepal Narayankaji Shrestha. (R) Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli.



PM KP Sharma Oli has committed a blunder by making irritating remarks against India, at a time when there is a need for resolving the border issue through dialogue...

— NARAYANKAJI SHRESTHA, SPOKESPERSON OF COMMUNIST PARTY OF NEPAL

The first mistake was speaking about India's symbol Satyamev Jayate in an irritant manner, the second mistake is to blame India for hatching conspiracy to topple his govt...

by mentioning India's national symbol while claiming the disputed lands of Kalapani and Lipulekh, the spokesperson told Himalayan TV in an interview.

"PM Oli has committed three blunders in dealing with India, though the claim made by the government on Kalapani and other territories by issuing a new map was commendable, he said.

"It was a mistake on the part of PM to make irritating remarks

"The first mistake was speaking about India's symbol Satyamev Jayate in an irritant manner, the second mistake is to blame India for hatching conspiracy to topple his government, which is baseless, and thirdly he committed a mistake by claiming that Ayodhya, the birthplace of Lord Ram lies near Birgunj of Nepal," he added.

The India-Nepal bilateral ties came under strain after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an 80-km-long strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand on May 8.

Nepal reacted to the inauguration of the road claiming that it passed through Nepalese territory. India rejected the claim asserting that the road lies completely within its territory and warned the country to not resort to any artificial enlargement of territorial claims.

Differences have also emerged between Oli and Nepal Communist Party's Executive Chairperson Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda over the party's leadership. The internal feud in the CPN intensified after Prachanda and senior leader Madhav Nepal asked for Oli's resignation following his controversial remarks against India. Oli had accused Prachanda and Nepal of hatching a

conspiracy to topple his government after the new map of Nepal was issued.

Oli and Prachanda factions are currently engaged in holding internal consultations, though the date for the formal meeting is yet to be fixed. Oli has turned down the dissident group's demand for resignation.

The growing differences between the two factions have led to ideological polarisation in the party, which many observers believe may result in a split in the largest communist party, which was united just one and a half years ago with the merging of CPN-Maoist Centre merging and CPN-UML.

Meanwhile, 201 members of the Central Committee of the CPN, close to executive Prachanda, have asked the leadership to convene the 441-member Central Committee meeting to resolve the internal feud gripping the ruling party, senior leader of the party Ganesh Shah said. —PTI

India-Nepal ties came under strain after India inaugurated an 80-km-long strategic road

## Trump says he doesn't want to postpone polls

DONALD Trump has quickly taken back his suggestion to delay November's presidential election over alleged fraud concerns after he failed to garner support from top Republicans.

Seeking a second consecutive term, Trump is facing a formidable challenge from Democratic nominee and former vice president Joe Biden, who, according to major national opinion polls, has double digit lead over the Republican president.

The presidential election date in the US statutorily is set as the Tuesday next after the first Monday in the month of November equalling the first Tuesday after November 1.

Trump on Thursday for the first time openly floated the idea of postponing the presidential

Senate Judiciary Chairman Lindsey Graham, a Republican & Trump ally, said call to delay the polls not a good idea

elections on November 3, citing irregularities in the mail-in vote. The suggestion was immediately criticised by leaders of the opposition Democratic Party.

He also failed to garner support from his own Republican Party. Later in the day, Trump walked back on his suggestion.

"I don't want to delay. I want to have the election. But I also don't want to have to wait for three months and then find out that the ballots are all missing and the election doesn't mean anything," Trump said.

Reacting to Trump's suggestion, Senate Judiciary Chairman Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican and Trump ally, told CNN when asked about the President's call to delay the election: "I don't think that's a particularly good idea."

## Envoy of Aus & China clash on Twitter over South China Sea

By Geeta Mohan  
in New Delhi

THE envoys of China and Australia posted in New Delhi have sparred on social media over South China Sea and the claims made by China on those waters.

On Thursday, Australian High Commissioner to India, Barry O'Farrell spoke about the Australian perspectives on develop-

'Aus deeply concerned by Chinese actions'

ments in the Indo-Pacific during the COVID-19 pandemic where he said that Australia "rejects" China's "unlawful" claims in the South China Sea.

"Australia remains deeply concerned by actions in the South China Sea that are destabilising and could provoke escalation. On 23 July, Australia lodged a note with the UN Secretary General refuting China's unlawful maritime claims in the South China Sea," he added.



Sea," he said. "It (Australia) rejects China's claim to historic rights and internal waters, its assertion of certain maritime zones, and its contention there is wide international recognition of its South China Sea sovereignty claims," he added.

On Friday, China's envoy to India Sun Weidong tweeted to counter the Australian envoy's views and said, "Noted remarks by Australian HC to India on SouthChinaSea disregarding

facts. China's territorial sovereignty & maritime rights & interests are in conformity with international law including UNCLOS. It's clear who safeguard peace and stability and who destabilize and provoke escalation in the region," said Weidong.

On 12 July, Hague-based arbitral tribunal had ruled in favour of the Philippines saying that China has 'no historical rights' based on the 'nine-dash line' map.

## TENDERS / NOTICES

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### Invitation of tender through IREPS

Electrical department, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001 for and on behalf of President of India, invites tender through IREPS for Work of following item.

Tender No.	L-2-IC-2020-21
Description	Supply & Installation of 750V, 3-phase power contractor for isolation of IV coupler at input and ACB output (HOG-A & HOG-B) in LHB power cars as per specification no. EDML-154 (Rev-Nil).
Qty.	55 power cars
Earnest money	2,34,100/-

Note : Above tender with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). The firm who desire to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate from certifying agencies authorised under IT act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

Tender Notice No. L-2-IC-2020-21 Date : 31.07.2020. 1685/20

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### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### E-Tendering

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Date of closing & opening
1	Replacement of existing worn out OH tank No. 3 with new RCC Tank of 50000 gallon capacity in railway colony at Bathinda in the section of SSE/W/E/Bathinda.	3554152	71100	06 Months	25.08.2020
2	TFR of 63.790 Kms and other related works on UMB-SIR & RPJ-PTA section in the section of ADEN/RPJ	6489882	129800	04 Months	25.08.2020
3	Execution of various misc. works at PQRS depot Ambala such as linking of track, auxiliary track for base depot, new panel fabrication, loading, unloading, stacking of PRC sleepers and fittings, unloading of old panels with the help of portal cranes, dismantling released panels and loading of newly fabricated panels into Rly BFR/FLAT wagons & Misc track work at the site of PQRS work like linking of auxiliary track, loading, leading of service rails, post attention works behind PQRS panel laying etc. in c/w CTR (P) - 20,419 km & CTR (P) - 12,208 km. on main line by PQRS work under different SSE/P/Way on SRE-UMB section.	38004820	340000	12 Months	25.08.2020
4	Provision of side pathway on Bridge No. 313 (Important Bridge) and Bridge No. 325 and improvement to works of these bridges in the Section of SSE/W/RPJ under ADEN/RPJ	11318685	206600	06 Months	25.08.2020
5	Misc. work in c/w Pre and post attention work of shoulder screening by SBCM/FRM and Renewal of fitting of steel channel sleepers of Br.1307-DN in the section of ADEN/SRE under Sr.DEN-III/UMB.	9581490	191600	09 Months	25.08.2020
6	Protection of slopes and track against rock/boulder falling etc. at KM. 6/0-1,13/14-15, 22/4-5, 37/10-13, 50/2-3, 64/4-5, 65/12-13, 70/11-12 on KLK-SML Section under ADEN/SML.	4432676	88700	06 Months	25.08.2020
7	I) Repair to water supply pipe line , broken floor, door, windows, etc of staff quarters at NLDM & RPAR in the section of SSE/W/RPAR under ADEN/SIR ii) Repair to boundary walls with released PRC sleepers, KRLI, RPAR & MNPR under ADEN/SIR	5939178	118800	06 Months	25.08.2020
8	Construction of 6.53KM RCC boundary wall near stations & its approaches as measure to safeguard track and avoiding encroachments in the section of ADEN CDG	55315186	426600	12 Months	25.08.2020

#### NOTE

1. Tenderers are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN/TIN/GST as per conditions. The required Earnest Money & Tender document cost will be acceptable On-line payment through Net Banking or Payment Gateway payment only well before & upto 15.00 hrs of closing date & time of tender.
2. Tenderers should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of works tenders.
3. For detail, please log on IREPS website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)
4. GST will be levied as per GST Act. 2017

Open Tender Notice No.: NIT-11/UMB-2020-21 Dated : 31.07.2020

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### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### TENDER NOTICE

##### 30-Elect-19-T-2020-21-E3

Electrical work in connection with renovation of electrical works, provision of LED lights, replacement of conventional type ceiling fan with energy efficient ceiling fan, provision of air curtain, re-shifting of window air conditioners at MSSR New Delhi.

Approx. Cost of the work ₹81.81 Lakh

Address of the office Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

Earnest Money ₹1,73,600.00

Date & Time for submission of tender 26.08.2020, 13:00 hrs.

Opening of Tender 26.08.2020, 13:00 Hrs.

Website & notice board [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1687/20

### WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

DRM(W)'s Office, Bhopal ■ Open E-Tender Notice ■ Date: 30.07.2020

Sr. DEN/COWCR, Bhopal, acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders against following works, upto 15.30 hours on the dates mentioned against each tender. The complete tender documents and detailed information regarding tender is available on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. NIT can also be seen on the notice board of DRM(W)/WCR/Bhopal Office. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders. For any correction in these tenders, if necessary, corrigendum will be uploaded on website prior to tender opening date and copy of corrigendum will be placed on Notice Board of this office, which may be seen upto the date of tender opening. Tenderers are requested to offer their rates and submit tenders according to the provisions of GST ACT 2017.

NIT No.: 20-21-N-07-52, Date 30.07.2020. Name of work including Location: Slope Stabilization, Strengthening of formation cess repair in low cess locations of Down, middle and up road in Bina-Bareth Section of Bhopal division. Estimated cost of tender: ₹ 3,75,13,309/- Earnest Money for tender: ₹ 3,37,600/- NIT No.: 20-21-N-08-53, Date 30.07.2020.

Name of work including Location: DEN/N/Bhopal Section - Strengthening of Track/Permanent way on Major Bridge approaches, ballast, retaining wall stabilization of high bank and provision of Toe wall under ADEN/M/Guna sub division. Estimated cost of tender: ₹ 3,82,79,200/- Earnest Money for tender: ₹ 3,41,400/- NIT No.: 20-21-N-09-54, Date 30.07.2020. Name of work including Location: ADEN (M) Guna Section - A) Easing out of cutting in Km. 1103-1104 Guna-Ruthiyai section to protect the track/traffic from falling boulder and heavy rainfall. B) Pitching on high banks for slope stabilization. Estimated cost of tender: ₹ 3,60,15,087/- Earnest Money for tender: ₹ 3,30,100/-

For all the above NITs:- Cost of tender form: ₹ 10,000/- each. Last date for submitting tender: 26.08.2020.

रेल यात्रा के दौरान शिकायत हेतु 138 पर एवं सुरक्षा हेतु 182 पर संपर्क करें।

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEN/C/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following Tender Notice, closing date & time are mentioned against each column. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money **only through online payment modes** available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender No	60-DRM-MB-20-21, dt. 31.07.2020
Name of Work	CTR = 16.859kms by PQRS and other allied work in MB-GZB section under ADEN/HPU
Contract Type	Works
Tender Closing Date	01.09.2020
Tender Closing Time	16:00 hrs
Advertised Value (Rs.)	2,67,05,346/-
Earnest Money (Rs.)	12,83,600/-
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.)	10,000.00
Period of Completion	12 months
Bidding Start Date	18.08.2020
Tender No.: 75/W/2/3/WA/DEN/HQ/T. Notice Dt.: 31.07.2020	1688/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Project/Northern Railway / Moradabad acting for & on behalf of President of India invites E-tender in Single packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria for the under noted work:

1. Name of Work with its location	"Provision of EI at 2 stations (SANEHRAD & KOTDWAR) in place of Rudimentary interlocking in signalling system on Najibabad (EXCL.) - Kotdwar section of Moradabad Division, Northern Railway." (Tender No. Sig/P/2EI/SNX-KTW/MB/02-2020)
2. Approximate cost of the work	Rs. 5,24,23,172.13 (Rs. Five Crore Twenty Four Lac Twenty Three Thousand One Hundred Seventy Two & Paise Thirteen Only)
3. Earnest Money	Rs. 4,12,100/- (Rs. Four Lac Twelve Thousand One Hundred Only)
4. Closing date & time of Tender	26.08.2020 11:00 Hrs.
5. Tender document exhibited From date & Time	06.08.2020 : 11:00 Hrs.
6. Tender document exhibited upto date & Time	26.08.2020 : 11:00 Hrs.
7. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> Notice Board of Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Project Northern Railway, Moradabad

- The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system.
- For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.
- No manual offers are acceptable.
- Cost of tender document and Earnest Money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

TENDER NO. Sig/P/2EI/SNX-KTW/MB/02-2020 Dated: 30.07.2020 1678/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found in unconscious condition at near Gate No. 6, LHM Hospital, New Delhi on 20.07.2020 and admitted in LHM Hospital, New Delhi vide MLC No. 2161/20. During treatment doctor declare him dead on 29.07.2020. In this regard a DD No. 37-A, Dated 29.07.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in mortuary of LHM Hospital, New Delhi for 72 Hrs. The description of the dead body is given as under:



Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown R/o: Unknown, Age: about 42 years, Height: 5'8" Fee, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Complexion: Wheatish, Hair: Black & Small, Wearing: White and Blue Colour Hospital Cloths. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

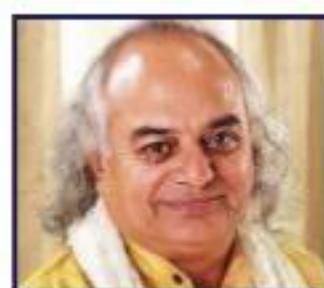
S.H.O

P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi

Ph.: 011-23364100, 23366730

DP/89/NDD/2020

# TWO PAGES OF ASTROLOGY, PUZZLES AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE



By Dr Ajai Bhambi

## ARIES Apr 14-May 14

You can meet someone special on one of the trips you undertake. However, you will have to choose between secret trysts with your lover and new job opportunities.

## TAURUS May 15-June 15

You are charming and confident in your manner. This makes your love relationship so much easier and happier. Both of you will enjoy socialising a lot too.

## GEMINI June 16-July 15

You will gently step into a role of providing comfort to your beloved in every which way you can. Your mate is going to respond and you will be happy together.



## Love Horoscope

\*Dates based on Vedic Sun Signs

## CANCER July 16-Aug 15

You could get bogged down with too much work leaving no time for romance. You might have to deal with some ruffled feathers but you will manage to take matters in hand.

## LEO Aus 16-Sep 15

If you are single you are ready to mingle but remember, be your own self. Do not put on a facade because it is the real you that is attractive and draws people.

## VIRGO Sep 16-Oct 15

There may be some rumblings from the family about your string of love affairs. You are also beginning to feel it is better to be committed to one person.

## LIBRA Oct 16-Nov 15

There will be some scope for improvement in your romance. Relations with your lover have been going downhill for some time and now you will get the chance to set things right.

## SCORPIO Nov 16-Dec 15

Adjustment should be made according to the situation. Do not shy away from doing so as things can get worse than they should be. A short distance travel can be made.

## SAGITTARIUS

Dec 16-Jan 13  
You can strike a good financial deal today and this will put you in the mood to celebrate. You could also buy your darling a very beautiful gift.

## CAPRICORN

Jan 14-Feb 11  
Although it is going to be a trying time for you, a lot of things can become clearer. Reading between the lines will help you understand your lover better.

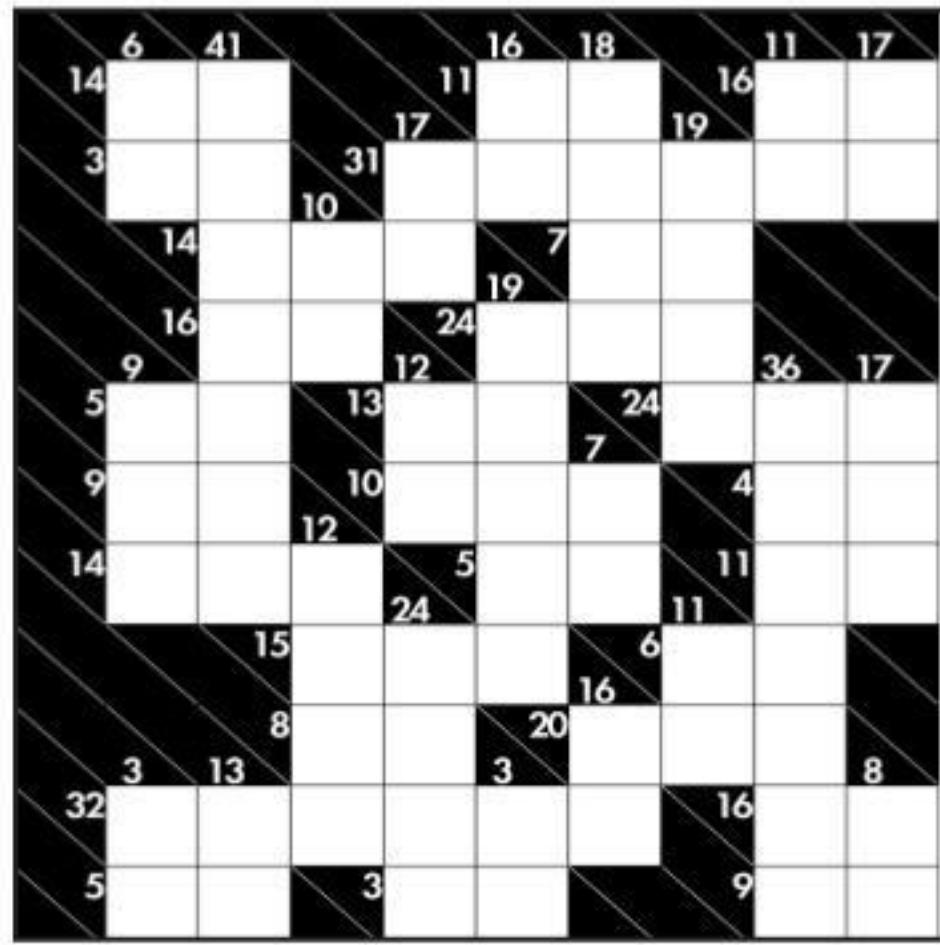
## AQUARIUS

Feb 12-March 13  
You could plan to take time off from work in order to spend some moments with your lover who you could be seeing after a while. It will be time spent happily.

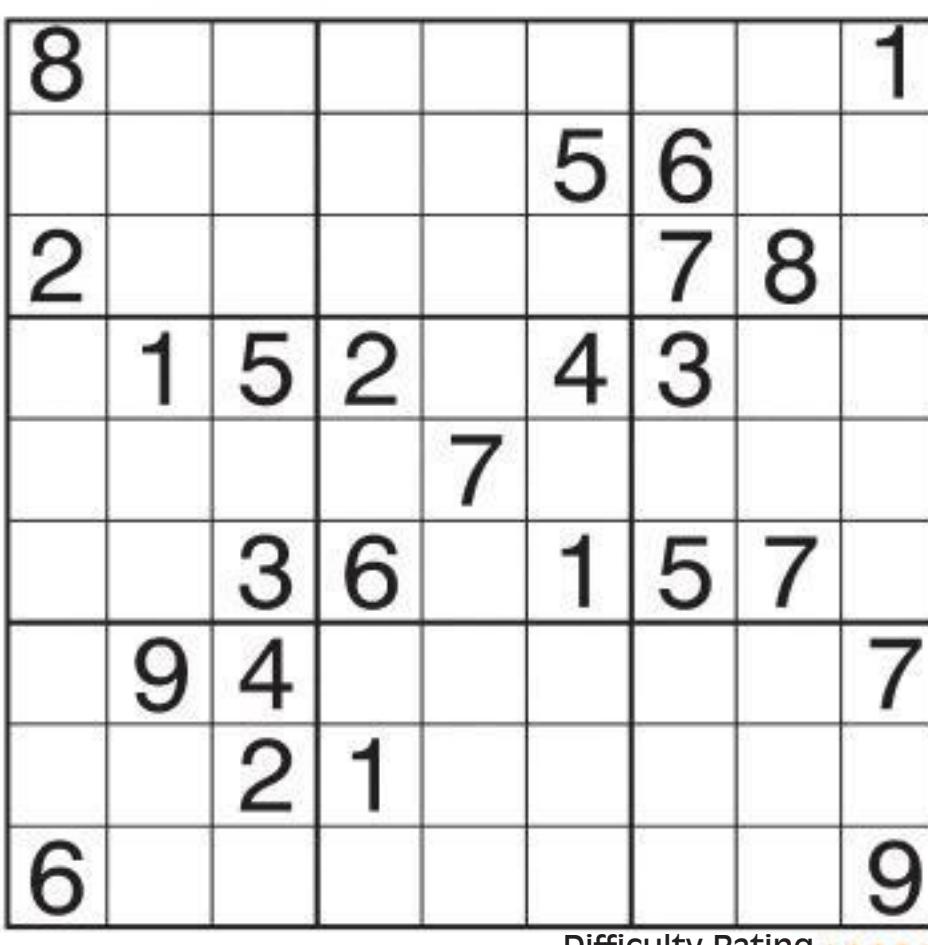
## PISCES

Mar 14-Apr 13  
You will be very happy with the way things are going in your love life. The caring and sharing is very obvious and brings along a great sense of satisfaction.

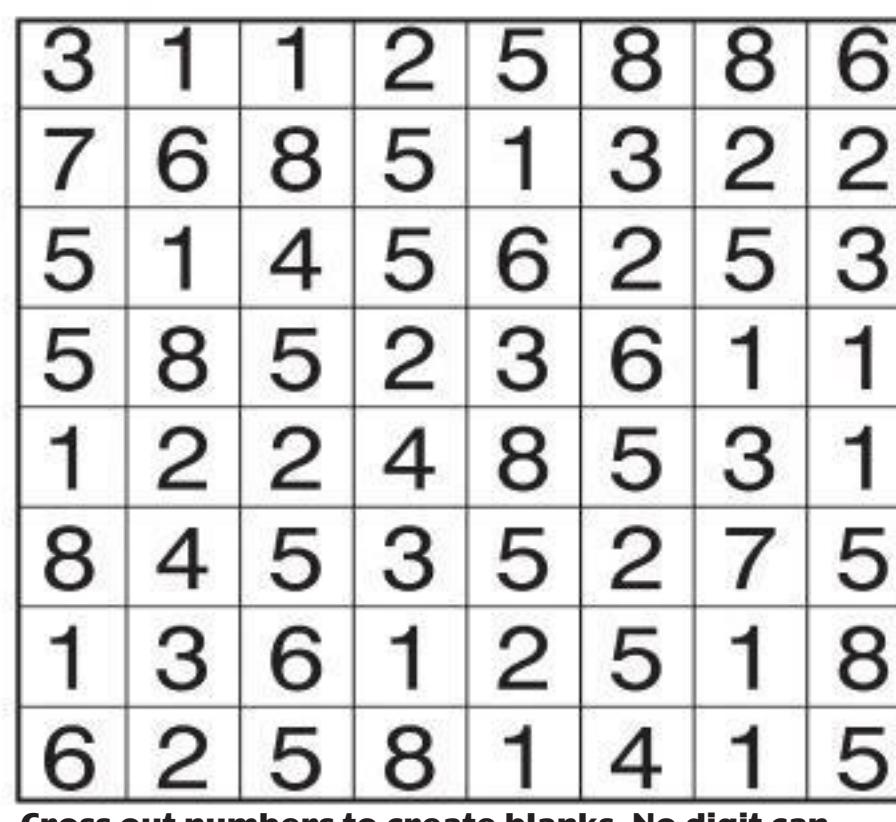
## KAKURO



## SUDOKU CLASSIC



## HITORI



Cross out numbers to create blanks. No digit can appear in a row or column more than once. No two adjacent squares can be blacked out. All the squares left unblacked must be connected — vertically or horizontally — to form a single shape.

## DAILY JUMBLE

### JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LAACN

CYTKA

BSARBO

EDMIEP

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THAT SCRABBLING WORD GAME By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app! Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble



WHEN THE DONKEYS PARTIED LOUDLY ON THE 4TH OF JULY, IT WAS A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" - - "

## SCRABBLE GRAMS

### SCRABBLE® BRAND

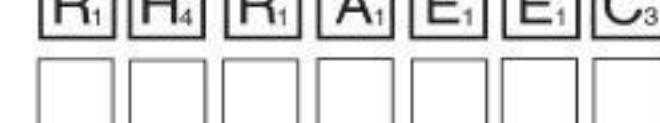


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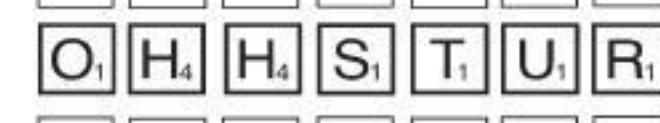


Triple Word Score

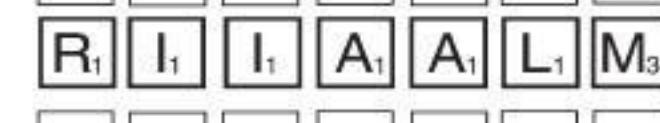
RACK 1



RACK 2



RACK 3



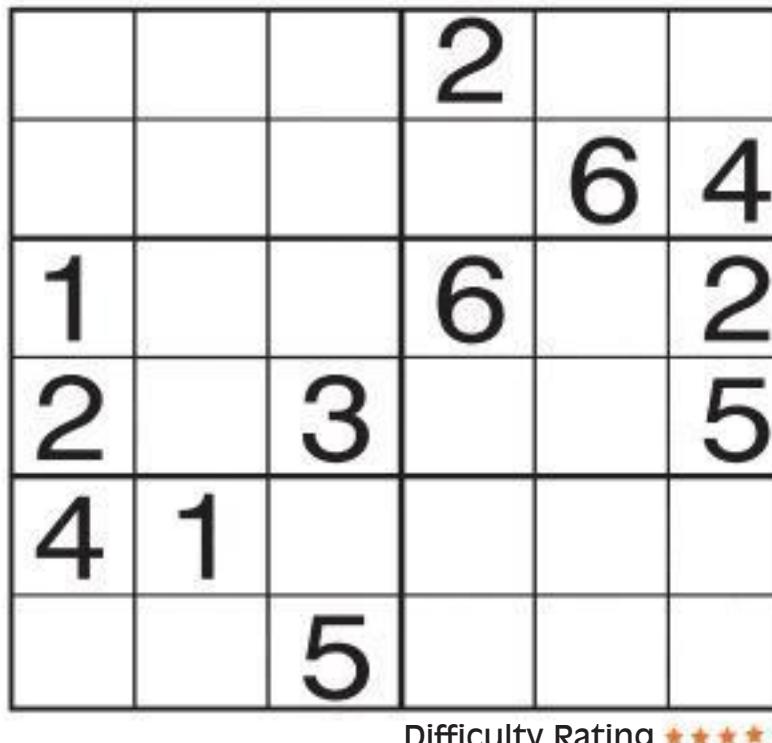
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160  
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL  
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary.

## MINI SUDOKU



Difficulty Rating ★★★★

## SUDOKU



Difficulty Rating ★★★★

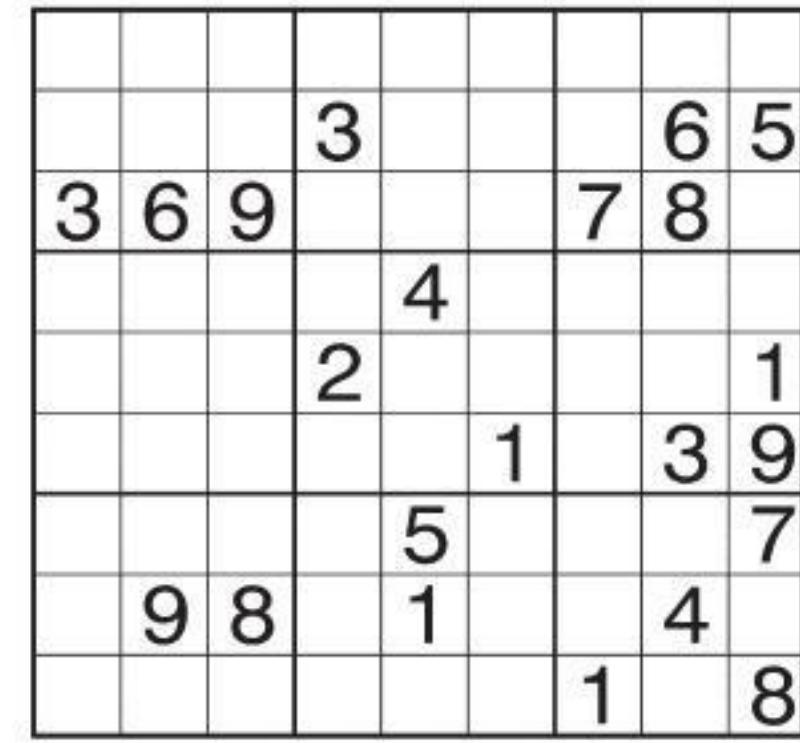


Difficulty Rating ★



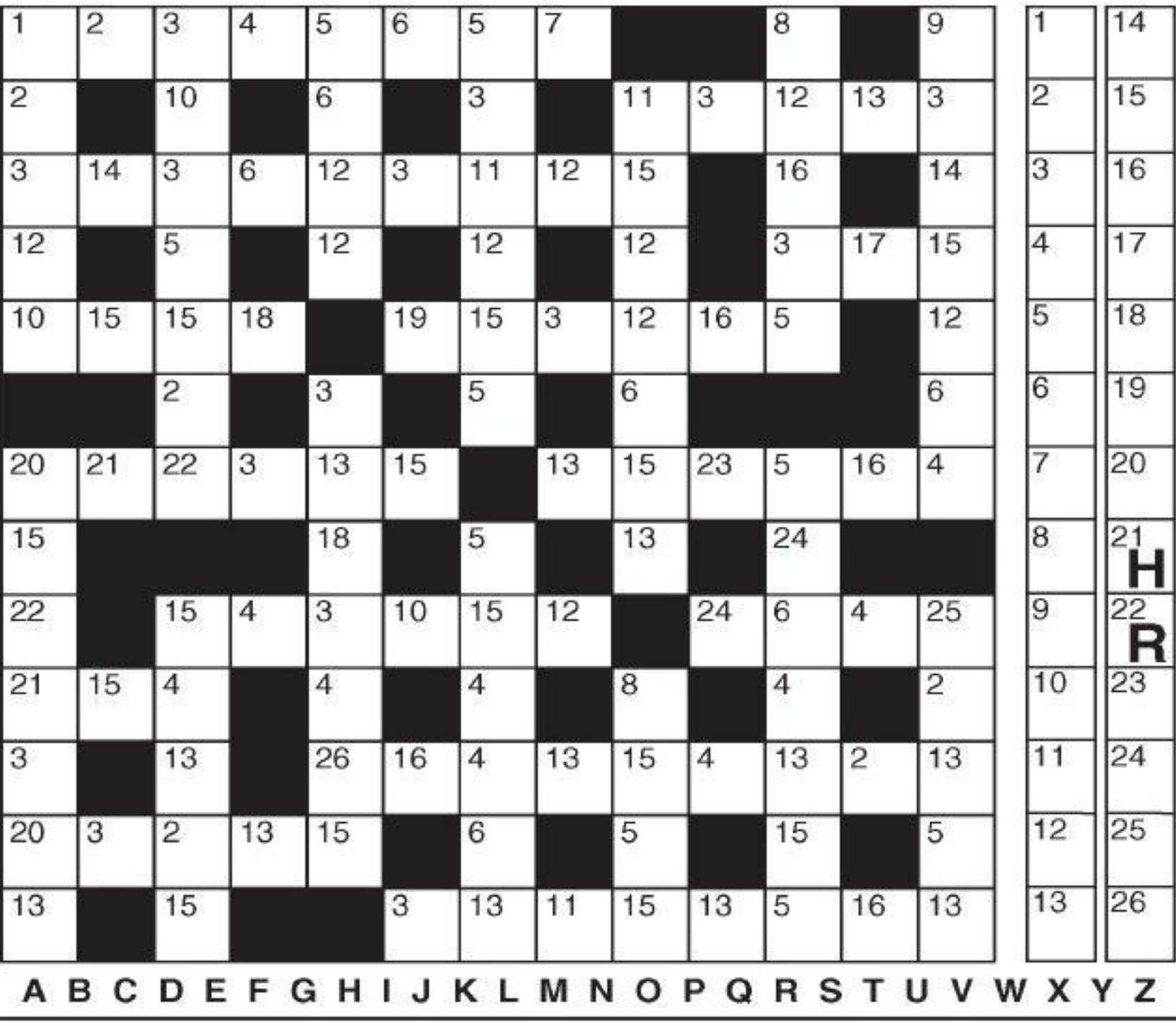
Difficulty Rating ★★

## SUDOKU X



## CODEWORD

EACH number in our Codeword grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 22 represents R so fill in R every time the figure 22 appears. You have two letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the list of alphabetical letters as you identify them.

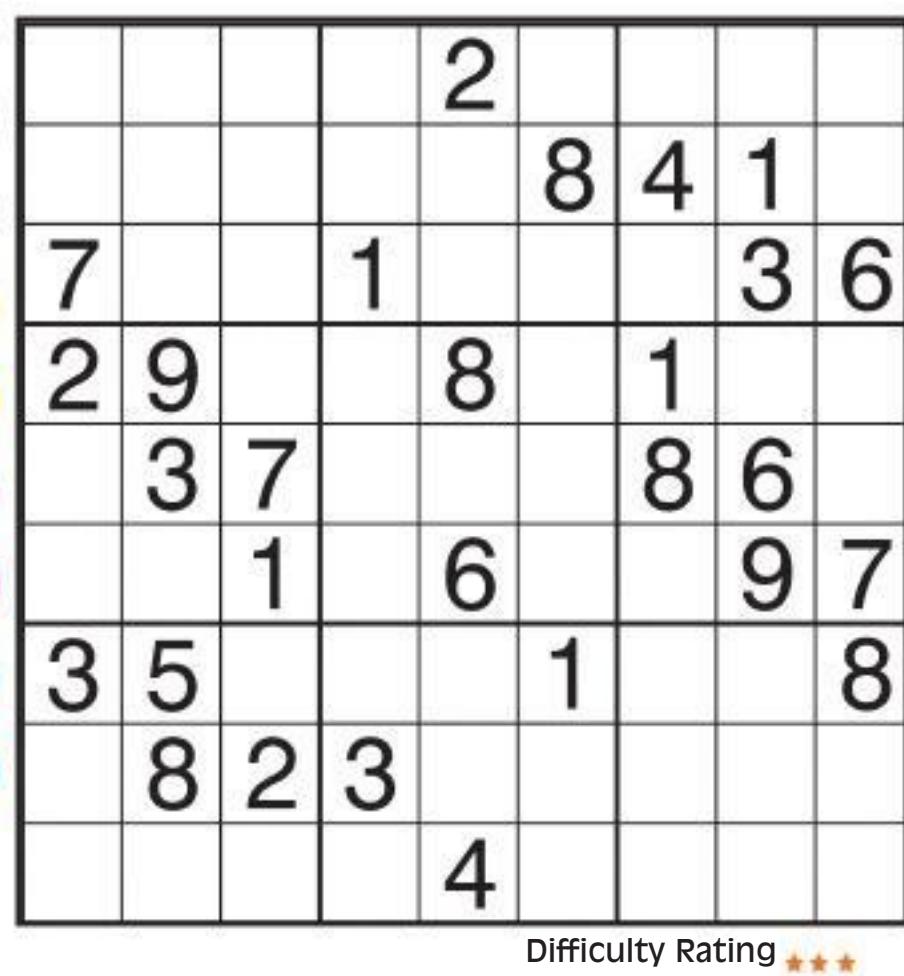


**Top Stories**

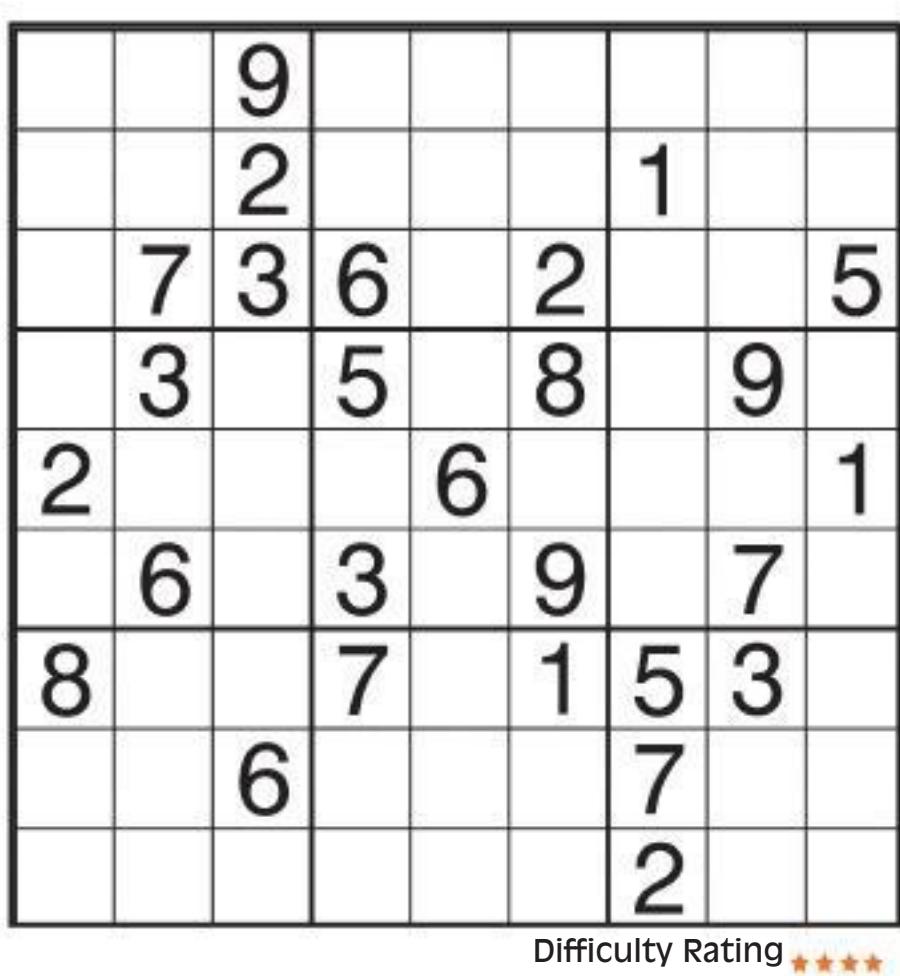


**SUDOKU**

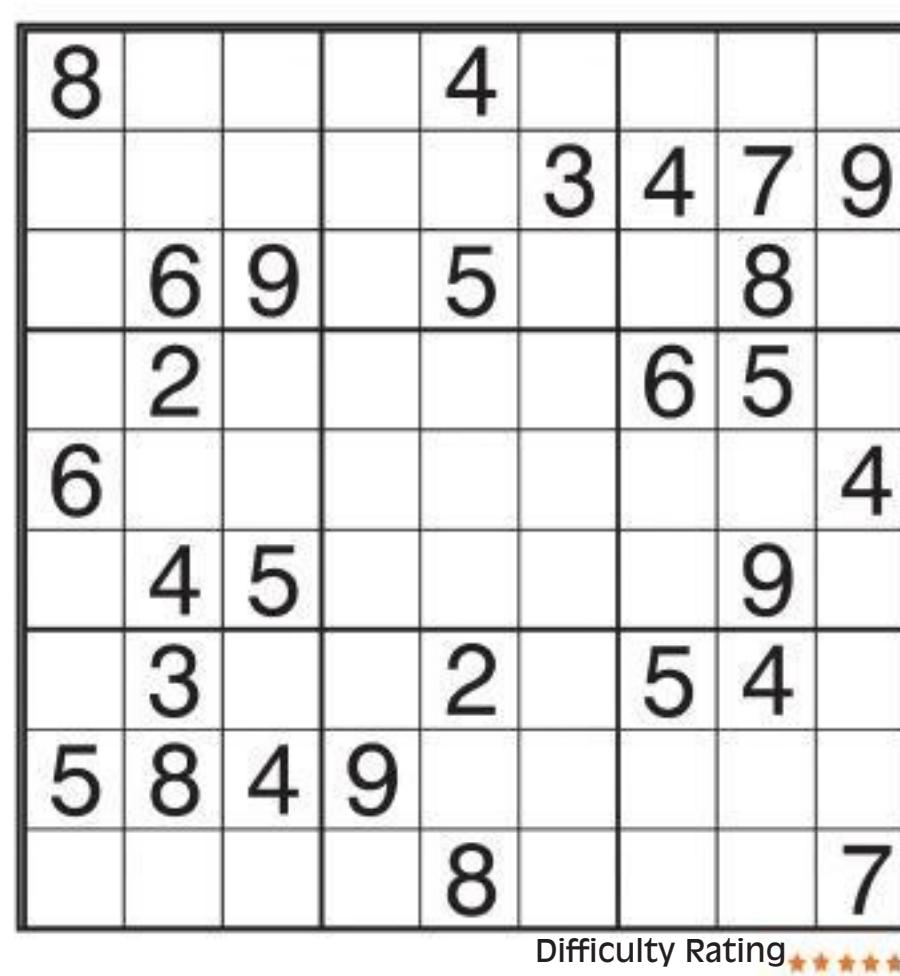
Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 3x3 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9. Solutions are below.



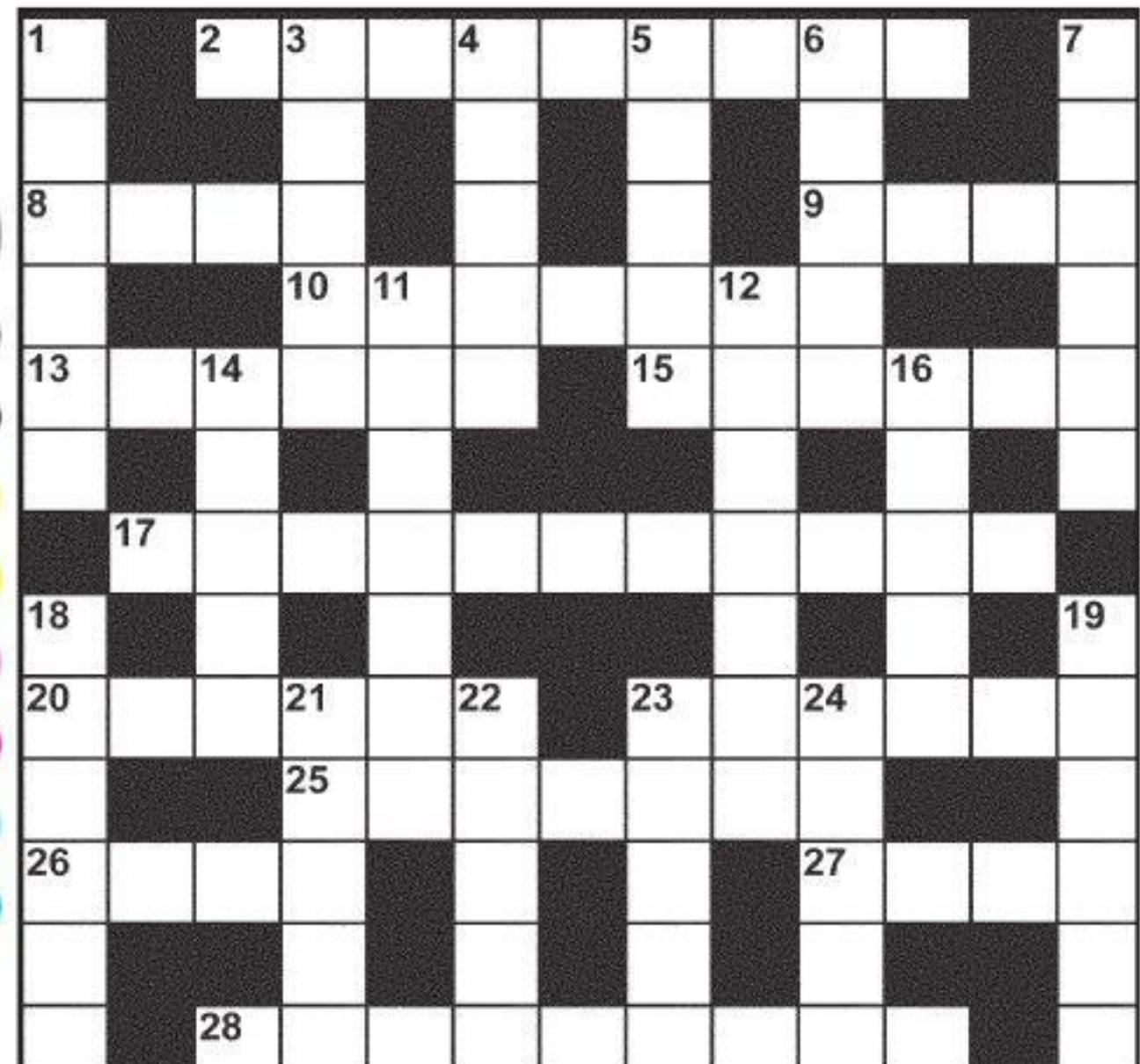
Difficulty Rating ★★★



Difficulty Rating ★★★



Difficulty Rating ★★★★

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD****ACROSS**

- 2 I came back on a certain date but it was wasted (9)  
 8 I see the French are non-clerical in outlook! (4)  
 9 Five Romans have a drink and then it's farewell! (4)  
 10 So I get a mate to make it spray (7)  
 13 Let such an argument determine how we should get plastered (6)  
 15 We spot Ed going out - the tyrant! (6)  
 17 That pauper, Ted, met an alien and was preserved from extinction (11)  
 20 The sort of subjects he's met up with (6)  
 23 This one's good for a pound! (6)  
 25 They slander me in a press release in the east (7)  
 26 I meet a man who's the principal (4)  
 27 A business transaction in lead (4)  
 28 It's authentic and I sing about accomplishing it (9)

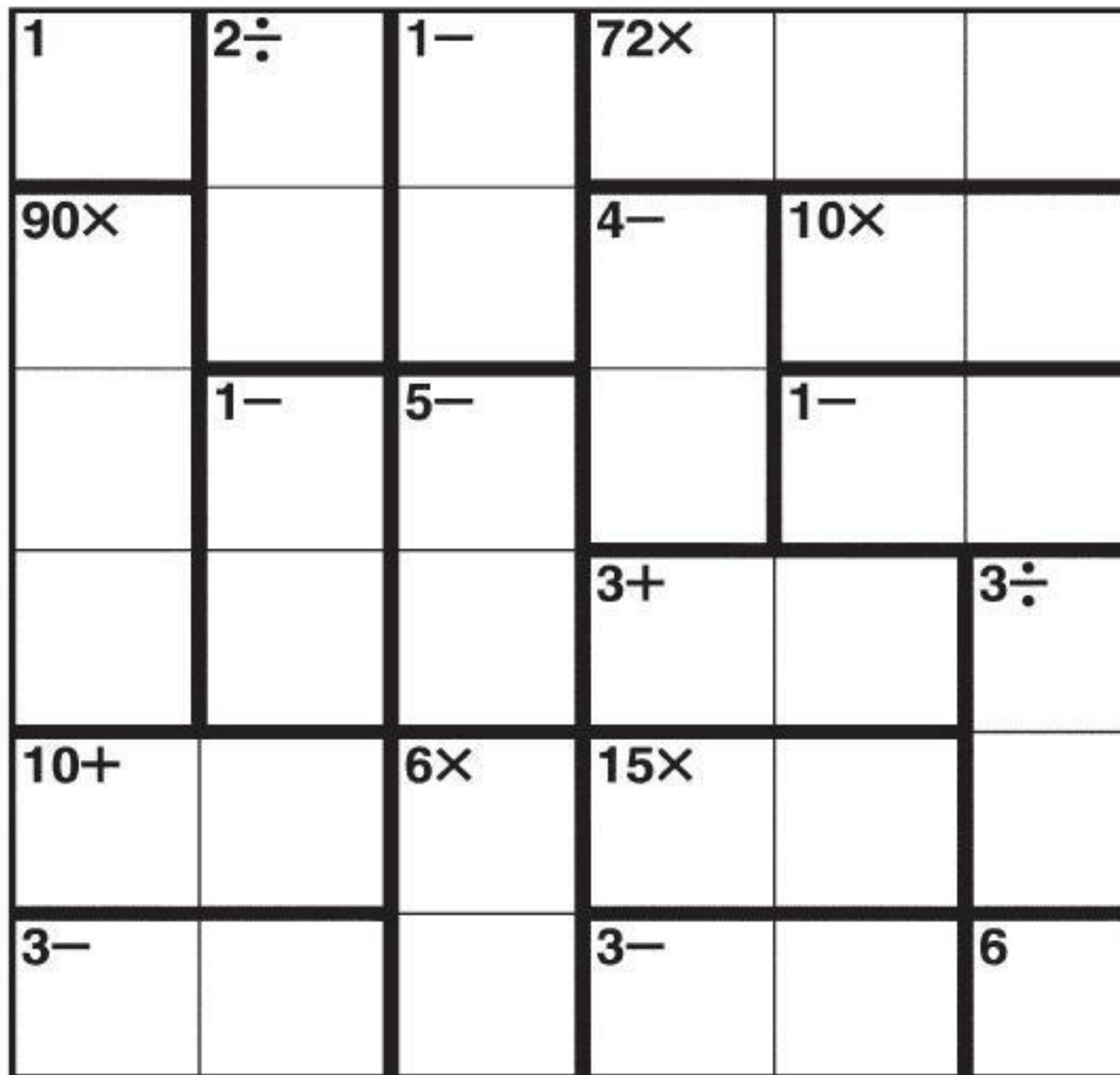
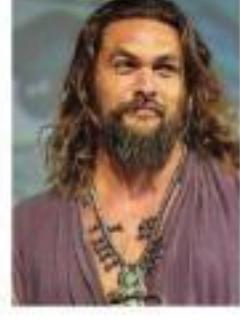
**DOWN**

- 1 Let the United States acknowledge my superiority

- (6)  
 3 The Scotsman is in a state about some showy bird (5)  
 4 Here's something to sing about - a vehicle for a start! (5)  
 5 I'd get a car by biting! (5)  
 6 Most leaves are found just under the roof (5)  
 7 Les is in the hut looking for clues (6)  
 11 That pest, Mel, wants places to pray in (7)  
 12 They govern when sent out to sea (7)  
 14 So to a bee it appears to be abnormally fat? (5)  
 16 The french apt to fold? (5)  
 18 The saint ends his prayer then produces the pollen (6)  
 19 1000 on the liner see a falcon but it's only a small one (6)  
 21 New names required for the minister's place (5)  
 22 The sort of bobbin used for making loops (5)  
 23 Ps ... Ray is inside - doing what he does in 11 down (5)  
 24 Ned's a one! You should see what he drives! (5)

**KEN-KEN**

Each row & column must contain numbers 1 to 4 (easy) or 1 to 6 (difficult). The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes must combine to produce the numbers in the top-left corner.

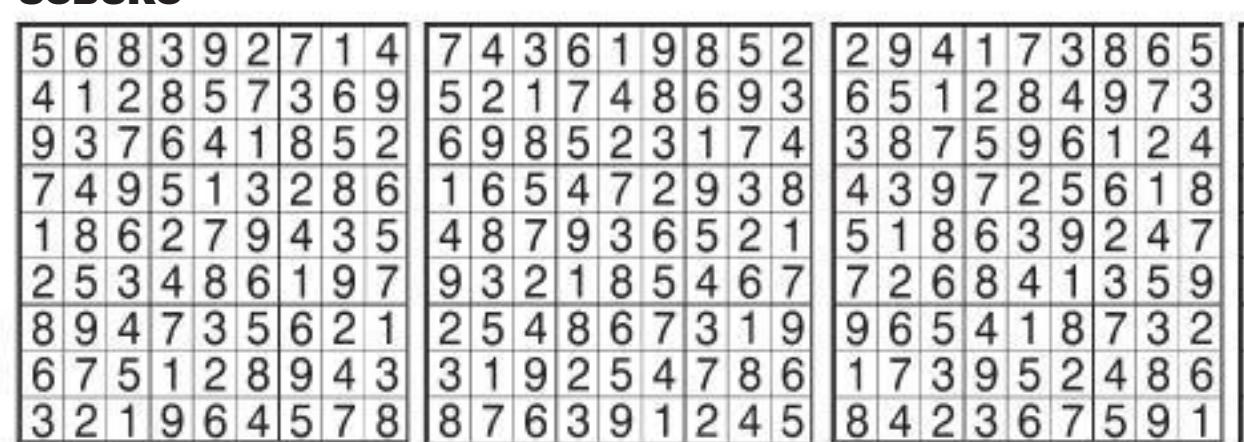
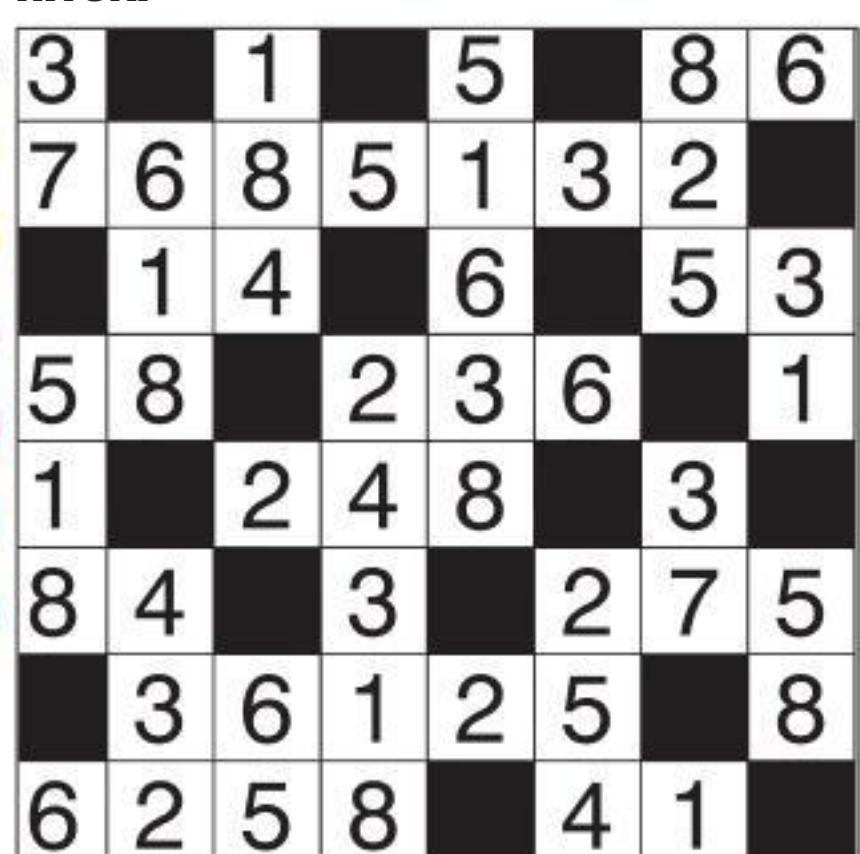
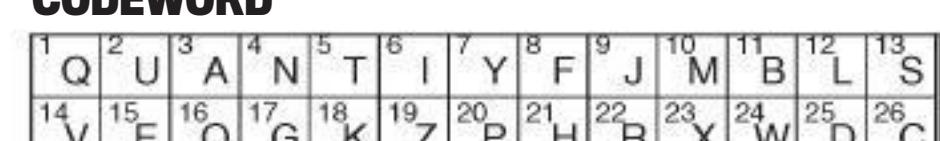
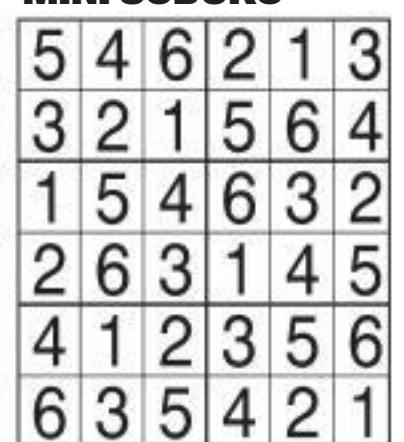
**QUICK QUIZ**

**Jason Momoa was born on August 1, 1979.**

1. What's the mystery behind the actor's permanent facial scars?  
 2. What was he doing when he auditioned for 'Baywatch'?  
 3. For which film did he intentionally get his nose broken?  
 4. How did he win the 'Game Of Thrones' Role?  
 5. Which part of the world did he go to after finishing 'Baywatch'? He also adopted Buddhism there.  
 6. For which film were his

**locks cut and then reattached?**

7. In 2010, he began a production company. The company's first project was the film Road to Paloma, which Momoa starred in, produced, wrote, and directed. What was the name of the company?  
 8. Momoa has had a crush on current wife, since he saw her on TV at the age of eight. He ended up meeting her at a jazz club in 2005 through mutual friends. What is the lady's name?  
 9. Momoa's directing ambitions aren't limited to his own projects. A TV series, in which he plays a part-Irish, part-Native American outlaw, is scheduled to release the third season this year. What is the name of the tv series?

**TODAY'S SOLUTIONS****SUDOKU****HITORI****KAKRO****CODEWORD****CRYPTIC CROSSWORD****SUDOKU X****KEN-KEN****MINI SUDOKU****SUDOKU CLASSIC****SCRABBLE GRAMS**

SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD © 2019 UFS. Out of © Mattel Syndication									
R	E	A	C	H	E	R			RACK 1 = 86
T	H	R	U	S	H				RACK 2 = 12
A	I	R	M	A	I	L			RACK 3 = 77
S	U	N	L	E	S	S			RACK 4 = 57
									JUDD'S TOTAL = 232
PAR SCORE 150-160 S-21-19									

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**QUICK QUIZ:** 1. A barfight; 2. Worked in a surf shop; 3. Conan the Barbarian; 4. By doing Haka; 5. Tibet; 6. Stargate: Atlantis; 7. Pride of Gypsies; 8. Lisa Bonet; 9. Frontier

**ASTRO FOCUS**

by Manisha Koushik

**ARIES** Mar 21-Apr 20

Speculation will bring gains provided you are certain about where to put your money. The responsibility of the important project at workplace will be handed over to you.

**TAURUS** Apr 21-May 20

It is possible to get your loan application pass. You will be successful in defeating opponents in the race for promotion. By doing regular workouts, you will be able to achieve total fitness.

**GEMINI** May 21-June 21

Recovery of money lost in speculation would be possible now. The placement agencies involved in recruitment will find the right candidates for the job.

**CANCER** June 22-July 22

A new set of wheels are expected to be procured by some. It will be difficult to achieve success at your workplace. Old age can be a cause of concern for some natives.

**LEO** July 23-Aug 23

It would be prudent to run under the budget, this will save money. The decisions related to work will prove to be wise and right. Your interest in your work seems to be increasing.

**VIRGO** Aug 24-Sep 23

You will make plans related to expenses but will not be able to execute them. Favourable changes are possible with respect to your career.

**LIBRA** Sep 24-Oct 23

Avoid putting all your money in a single investment scheme. It is possible to find encouraging news related to professional matter. Running away from challenges does not solve the problem.

**SCORPIO** Oct 24-Nov 22

If you want to earn money, you will have to expand the work. Senior will consider the demand to increase salary. Meditation is beneficial for physical and mental well-being.

**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 23-Dec 21

Expect a windfall. You will be able to keep pace with the seniors through diplomacy. The effect of careful eating and drinking is visible on your health.

**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 21

If you do not save money now, you may have to face financial crisis in future. The working conditions will remain favourable. An opportunity to further your career may materialize, so take the initiative.

**AQUARIUS** Jan 22-Feb 19

Businessmen are advised to spend carefully. You will be excited to take up a new work at your workplace. Improvement in the health of sick people appears possible.

**PISCES** Feb 20-Mar 20

It is possible to spend excessively during the party. You are not short of money, so it is not a problem. The people struggling with the disease will get a sigh of relief.

# about Town



Premaya Art Foundation's Discover initiative features artist Madhu Das's work in fabric



by Rewati Rau

Right: *Where Are We*, a work by Madhu Das

DURING his growing up years in Hiriyur, a town near Bengaluru, artist Madhu Das came across the Vani Vilasa Sagara dam up close and personal. But it was only after completing his graduation in 2009 that the dam and its history started intriguing him. "After my graduation I didn't have space to work and then I started questioning

**A work of 62 sarees stitched into a quilt**

myself on the importance of space. I was devastated wondering what to do."

"It was then that I remembered the open spaces of the place where I grew up and an idea of making those spaces a studio came up," he says. These thoughts birthed his public art work that is now exhibited online on the Delhi-based Premaya Art Foundation's website. The exhibition is part of the Foundation's new initiative titled PRAF Discover which is showcasing works of talented artists in the virtual space.

## PUBLIC ART COMES HOME

The work which Das completed in 2013 was a collection of 60 individual sarees from different families around the village (Hiriyur), which were woven together to form a 155 feet long and 25 feet wide quilt which was then hung from the Marikanave Gorge or the Vani Vilasa Sagara, one of the oldest dams—initiated in 1855, taking over 10 years to complete—and the most capacious man-made reservoir in the Asia.

He says, "After my education, I started looking at the dam with a different understanding. I looked at this big massive thing which itself looked like an amazing piece of work—it was domi-

nating me. And when a space dominates me, I challenge it to navigate towards it. I also understood how people started coming there. Just like how these days people go to urban areas to make a living. It was quite interesting for me to understand. It also fascinated me to work with the community."

So the artist decided to go and meet different families of the town and know more about the history of the dam through oral history.

Explains the artist, "I went and met everyone there. My entire family got involved and we spoke to people from different castes, different people and had conversations.

There was so much exchange of knowledge and history. Finally I had 62 sarees and stitched them in the form of quilt." This quilt was hung bang in the middle of the dam. Ostensibly, from a distance, the quilt constitutes a colourful intervention,

breaking the 1330 feet length of the dam. The detailed patterns of the quilt also refer to the overlooked texture that often comprises the large picture. Das's emphasis on detail posits a return to sensitivity towards nuance in mainstream discourses on culture.

Das says, "I was interested in the transformation of the quilt. So I thought of making this middle of the dam completely dominating it and breaking the big wall from the other side."

The artist feels the lockdown is a good time to share this public art as this is when "we should realise how important the public space is."



A still from the music video of 'Bahana'

## A song about lockdown longing

by Antara Raghavan

IF THERE is one thing most people can understand right now, it is being separated from your friends and family. In fact, for most couples, only communicating through digital and technological channels, may be part of the 'new normal' for them. This is one of the many consequences of the lockdown, in the lieu of the pandemic.

However, there is a newly-released song, *Bahana*, which sums up all the sadness and frustration of separated couples.

The idea for this song, by composer and singer Akull who lives in Delhi and Mumbai, was conceived in the beginning of the

lockdown. "We were thinking of a song that talked about love, longing and separation. We decided to make the song and the video, and we managed to film it in the terrace. It's been a great journey during the lockdown," says Akull.

He adds, "The emotion of the song is about missing someone whom you really love. And I really think that is something that most people across the country and even across the world can relate to right now, given the present context. This is something that really will resonate with most listeners as everyone has been away from their loved ones during

this lockdown. They still do now. I felt it would be a good idea to put this in a song so that everyone would be able to connect to it. That was the intent behind it."

The song itself is the second part of a series. It is a sequel to the song, *I Love You*. Akull explains, "If you have listened to that song, you can see *Bahana* is the natural continuation it. The song has already gotten millions of views and, even though we shot it during the lockdown, people really loved it. That is perhaps one of the reasons they connected to it." It is clear, then that Akull's intent has reached a large audience.

'The emotion of the song is about missing someone whom you really love'

# MY BIZ

Gold bond price fixed at ₹5,334 a gm

By Mail Today Bureau  
in Mumbai

THE issue price for the new sovereign gold bond has been fixed at Rs 5,334 per gram, the RBI said in a statement on Friday.

The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2020-21-Series V will be opened for subscription from August 3-7. The issue price for the earlier bonds that were open for subscription from July 6-10 was Rs 4,852 per gram of gold.

The nominal value of the bond based on the simple average closing price for gold of 999 purity of the last three business days of the week



preceding the subscription period works out to Rs 5,334 per gram of gold, the RBI said.

The government, in consultation with the RBI, has decided to offer a discount of Rs 50 per gram on the nominal value to those investors applying online and the payment against the application is made through digital mode. For such investors, the issue price of gold bond will be Rs 5,284 per gram of gold, the central bank said. The central bank in April had announced the government will issue Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) in six tranches.

## Infra sector shrinks by 15% in June

By Mail Today Bureau  
in New Delhi

THE output of eight core infrastructure industries contracted by 15 per cent in June due to a decline in the production of coal, crude oil, natural gas, steel, cement and electricity, data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Friday showed.

This is the eighth month in a row to record a shrinking in the output of the infrastructure sector.

### Core sector contracts for 8th month in a row

In May, the output had contracted by 22 per cent. The eight core sectors had expanded by 1.2 per cent in June 2019. The outputs of coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement and electricity declined by 15.5 per cent, 6 per cent, 12 per cent, 8.9 per cent, 33.8 per cent, 6.9 per cent, and 11 per cent, respectively.

India's foreign exchange reserves rose \$5 bn to a lifetime high of \$523 billion in the week to July 24, helped by currency accretion and increase in the value of gold reserves, RBI data showed. The reserves had surged by \$1.3 bn in the previous week.



### NUMBER OF THE DAY

**6.7%** credit growth registered by banks in June, down from 11.1% a year ago.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

Once the Facebook-Jio partnership gets thousands of small businesses on WhatsApp, we plan to expand it to other countries as well. But there's no doubt that India presents a huge opportunity.



— MARK ZUCKERBERG, FACEBOOK FOUNDER

# Fiscal deficit shoots up to a record high

By Mail Today Bureau  
in New Delhi

THE country's fiscal deficit soared to a record Rs 6.62 lakh crore in the April-June quarter this year or 83.2% of the target fixed for the full financial year as tax collections fell drastically with the economy coming to a near-standstill due to the coronavirus pandemic. At the same time the government was forced to front-load its spending on various schemes for the poor, widening the gap between expenditure and tax receipts.

A runaway fiscal deficit weakens the fundamentals of the economy as the government has to go in for increased borrowing which leaves less capital in the market for corporates to carry out their investment plans.

A large fiscal deficit also tends to lead to higher inflation.

The government had pegged the fiscal deficit for 2020-21 at Rs 7.96 lakh crore or 3.5 per cent of the GDP in the Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in February. The deficit is now predicted by economists to cross 7.5% of GDP in the 2020-21 fiscal year while the economy is forecast to shrink around 5.1% in the current fiscal year.

### Govt hikes borrowing target to ₹12 L cr

Data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Friday showed total net tax receipts of the Centre during April-June declined more than 46% to Rs 1.35 lakh crore compared with Rs 2.51 lakh crore in the same period a year ago. The sharp decline in tax collections has taken place despite the government going in for a sharp increase in taxes on petrol and diesel.

Total expenditure during the

CHALLENGING TIMES:  
Finance Minister  
Nirmala Sitharaman



### MORATORIUM ON LOANS MAY BE EXTENDED

FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the government is working with the RBI on the need for restructuring of loans to help industry tide over the impact of COVID-19.

"In principle, the idea that there may be a restructuring

required, is well taken," Sitharaman said while addressing the national executive committee meeting of apex business chamber Ficci.

"I fully understand the requirements of the hospitality sector on extension of the moratorium, or restruc-

ting. We are working with RBI on this," she said.

To help borrowers deal with liquidity crunch during the pandemic, the RBI announced a three-month loan moratorium in March, which was extended by another three months till August 31.

### VITAL STATS

APRIL-JUNE

	2019	2020	Change
Tax collections	Rs 2.51 lakh cr	Rs 1.35 lakh cr	46% ▼
Expenditure	Rs 7.22 lakh cr	Rs 8.16 lakh	13% ▲

# Tata Motors crashes into ₹8,444 cr loss in q1

By Mail Today Bureau in Mumbai

TATA MOTORS on Friday reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 8,444 crore for the first quarter ended June 30 this year as the coronavirus pandemic hit sales.

The company had posted a net loss of Rs 3,679.66 crore in the same quarter last year.

Total income from operations during the period under review stood at Rs 31,983.06 crore as against Rs 61,466.99 crore in the corresponding period of the last fiscal.

On a standalone basis, the company said its net loss for the quarter was at Rs 2,154.24 crore as against a net loss of Rs 147.45 crore in the year-ago period.

The company's British arm Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) reported a 44 per cent dip in net revenue at 2.9 billion pounds during the

first quarter. Its pre-tax loss for the period stood at 413 million pounds. During the quarter, JLR reported a 42.4 per cent decline in its global retail sales at 74,067 units.

### Jaguar Land Rover posts 413 mn pounds quarterly loss

"The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply impacted the auto industry in the first quarter of the current fiscal. After a calibrated restart at all plants in mid-May, we gradually scaled up our capacity while prudently safeguarding the health and wellbeing of our employees as well as the larger ecosystem," Tata Motors CEO and MD Guenter

Butschek said. Even as the company continues to address the challenges, it sees some disruption due to the intermittent shutdowns and supply chain bottlenecks, he added.

We have witnessed some green shoots emerging in the passenger vehicle segment owing to some pent up demand pre COVID-19, and are hopeful for a full recovery of the CV (commercial vehicle) industry by end of the fiscal year, with a gradual pickup of demand, aligned to the economic recovery, Butschek said.

The management remains focused on making the company more agile to improve its market, operational and financial performance by reducing costs, generating free cash flows and providing the best in class customer experience, he added.

# SBI profit surges 81% on insurance biz stake sale

By Mail Today Bureau in New Delhi

THE COUNTRY'S largest lender State Bank of India on Friday posted an 81 per cent increase in profit to Rs 4,189.34 crore for the April-June quarter, helped by earnings from a minority stake sale in its life insurance subsidiary.

The bank had reported a net profit of Rs 2,312.02 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

Its standalone total income increased to Rs 74,457.86 crore in the first quarter of 2020-21, from Rs 70,653.23 crore in the same period a year ago, SBI said in a regulatory filing.

"Exceptional items for quarter ended June 30, 2020 represent profit of Rs 1,539.73 crore on sale of certain portion of investment in bank's subsidiary SBI Life Insurance Company Limited," said the bank in a statement.



SITTING PRETTY: SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar

The results come as banks prepare for a flurry of potential loan defaults as the pandemic has decimated the operations of several businesses.

"It's safe to presume that as on June 30 we are asymptomatic and we have built strong immunity," SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar said in a post-earnings conference call. He said the bank has set aside funds to cover for loan losses. In a statement, the bank said it made an additional provision of Rs 1,836 crore on account of COVID-19 related accounts.

Its provision coverage ratio, or the percentage of funds set aside for loan losses, was 86.32 per cent compared to 83.62% in the previous quarter. SBI's asset quality improved as bad loan provisions dropped. Gross bad loans as a percentage of total loans fell to 5.44 per cent from 6.15 per cent in the previous quarter.

"The management is confident that loan recoveries will pick up from the September quarter. Currently, no large accounts are in trouble," said Kumar.

By Colin Packham in Sydney

A USTRALIA will force US tech giants Facebook and Alphabet's Google to pay Australian media outlets for news content in a landmark move to protect independent journalism that will be watched around the world.

Australia will become the first country to require Facebook and Google to pay for news content provided by media companies under a royalty-style system that will become law this year, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said.

"It's about a fair go for Australian news media businesses. It's about ensuring that we have increased competition, increased consumer protection, and a sustainable media landscape," Frydenberg told reporters in Melbourne.

"Nothing less than the future of the Australian media landscape is at stake."

The move comes as the tech giants fend off calls around the world for greater regulation, and a day after Google and Facebook took a battering for alleged abuse of market power from U.S. lawmakers in a congressional hearing.

## TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

- Last year, Australia told the firms to reach a voluntary deal with media companies
- That went nowhere. Now, firms have 45 days to reach an agreement, failing which the govt will set the terms.
- The royalty-style system is expected to become a law by this year

Following an inquiry into the state of the media market and the power of the US platforms, the Australian government late last year told Facebook and Google to negotiate a voluntary deal with media companies to use their content. Those talks went nowhere and Canberra now says if an agreement cannot be reached through arbitration within 45 days the Australian Communications and Media Authority would set legally binding terms on behalf of the government.

Google said the regulation ignores "billions of clicks" that it sends to Australian news publishers each year.

"It sends a concerning message to businesses and investors that the Australian government will intervene instead of letting the market work," Mel Silva, managing director of Google Australia and New Zealand, said in a statement. "It does nothing to solve the fundamental challenges of creating a business model fit for the digital age."

Facebook did not immediately respond.

## 'UNFAIR & DAMAGING'

Media companies including News Corp Australia, a unit of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp, lobbied hard for the government to force the US companies to the negotiating table amid a long decline in advertising revenue. "While other countries are talking about the tech giants'

# Australia to make Google & Facebook pay for news

In a global first, legally binding rules to be set for US tech giants



Newspapers are seen for sale on Friday at a shop in Sydney, Australia.

unfair and damaging behaviour, the Australian government ... (is) taking world-first action," News Corp Australia Executive Chairman Michael Miller said in a statement.

A 2019 study estimated about 3,000 journalism jobs have been lost in Australia in the past 10 years, as traditional media companies bled advertising revenue to Google and Face-

book which paid nothing for news content.

For every A\$100 spent on online advertising in Australia, excluding classifieds, nearly a third goes to Google and Facebook, according to Frydenberg.

Other countries have tried and failed to force the hands of the tech giants. Publishers in Germany, France and Spain have pushed to pass national

copyright laws that force Google to pay licensing fees when it publishes snippets of their news articles. In 2019, Google stopped showing news snippets from European publishers on search results for its French users, while Germany's biggest news publisher, Axel Springer, allowed the search engine to run snippets of its articles after traffic to its sites to plunged.

## Indian Oil profit plunges 47% in April-June

INDIAN Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), the nation's biggest oil firm, on Friday reported a 47 per cent drop in its June quarter net profit as coronavirus pandemic pummeled fuel demand and shrank refinery margins.

Standalone net profit in April-June at Rs 1,910.84 crore, or Rs 2.08 per share, was 46.8 per cent lower than Rs 3,596.11 crore, or Rs 3.92 a share, net profit in the same period of the last financial year, IOC chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya said.

The variation in net profit is primarily due to inventory losses, he said. The firm recorded an inventory loss of Rs 3,196 crore in Q1 as compared to inventory gain of Rs 2,362 crore a year back, he said.

He said crude oil prices averaged \$29.6 per barrel in Q1 compared to \$50.1 per barrel in the preceding quarter.

We won't get back to normal times in the near future due to how the pandemic is spreading, he said.

## Sun Pharma posts loss of ₹1,656 crore

SUN Pharmaceutical on Friday reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 1,656.60 crore for the quarter ended June 30, as it provided for one-time settlement charges related to US Department of Justice investigations against its subsidiary Taro Pharmaceuticals.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 1,387.48 crore for the same period previous fiscal, Sun Pharma said in a BSE filing. Consolidated revenue from operations fell to Rs 7,585.25 crore from Rs 8,374.36 crore a year ago.

Excluding the exceptional items of Rs 3,633 crore (and its minority interest of Rs 832 crore), adjusted net profit was at Rs 1,146 crore.

The q1 performance reflects the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic and consequent lockdown across markets and is not an indicator of the underlying strength of our business, Sun Pharma MD Dilip Shanghvi said.

## US to pay \$2.1 bn for Sanofi-GSK virus vaccine

THE U.S. government will pay \$2.1 billion to Sanofi SA and GlaxoSmithKline for COVID-19 vaccines to cover 50 million people and to underwrite the drug makers' testing and manufacturing, the companies said on Friday.

The Sanofi-GSK deal is for 100 million doses, at two per person, and gives the government an option to purchase an additional 500 million doses at an unspecified price. Sanofi and GSK plan to start clinical trials for the vaccine in September. The award is the biggest yet from 'Operation Warp Speed', the White House initiative aimed at accelerating access to vaccines and treatments to fight COVID-19. The deal, announced by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Defense, works out at a cost of around \$42 per person inoculated.

— MT Bureau & Agencies

## MARKETS

SENSEX		-129.18
THURSDAY'S CLOSE		
37,736.07		
FRIDAY'S CLOSE		
37,606.89	H: 37,897.78	L: 37,431.68
NIFTY		-28.70
THURSDAY'S CLOSE		
11,102.15		
11,073.45	H: 11,150.40	L: 11,026.65

TOP GAINERS		% change	Price ₹
1 SUN PHARMA	4.27	531.75	
2 SBI	2.63	191.45	
3 HCLTECH	1.49	705.45	
4 M&M	1.45	606.50	
5 AXISBANK	1.36	431.60	

TOP LOSERS		% change	Price ₹
1 RELIANCE	-1.98	2,066.95	
2 HDFCBNK	-1.69	1,032.65	
3 HDFC	-1.55	1,782.85	
4 ASIAN PAINTS	-1.52	1,716.55	
5 KOTAKM	-1.48	1,367.45	

## BULLION

GOLD/10 gm		Friday
		₹450
		₹53,588
SILVER/1 kg		
		₹2,181
		₹64,851

BULLION		
45,000		
40,000		
35,000		
(GOLD)	Mon	Tues
	Wed	Thu
	Fri	

## EXCHANGE RATE

		Thursday	Friday
Dollar	▼	₹74.87	₹74.80
Euro	▲	₹88.01	₹88.65
Pound	▲	₹97.43	₹98.43
Yen (100)	▲	₹71.16	₹71.33
		100	
76		90	
72		80	
68		70	
64		60	
60		60	
DOLLAR, YEN	\$	EURO, POUND	£
Thu	Fri	Wed	Thu
YEN	£	€	£

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL**

mail:mechanicalskims@gmail.com

**Short term notice inviting E-tenders****Gist of NIT NO. 26 OF 2020-21 Dated. 29.07.2020**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, invites online e-bids in two (02) cover system from Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers/ registered/Reputed & experienced firms having expertise as detailed in the tender document for the following works:-

S.No	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)
1.	Up-gradation & Augmentation of Medical gas system at SKIMS, Soura	Rs. 10,32,500/-

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders/tenderers may view, download the e-bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Tender Document contains qualifying criteria for bidders. Specifications, Bills of Quantities, & Terms and conditions of the contract and other relevant details.

I.	Date and time of downloading/Sale of tender documents (Starting Date)	30-07-2020 at 11:00 Hour
II.	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/clarification/Pre-bid meet	04-08-2020 upto 14:00 Hours
III.	Last date & Time of Bid Uploading.	05-08-2020 upto 16:00 Hours
IV.	Date of submission of hard copies. (Original EMD/FDR & DD only)	07-08-2020 upto 14:00 Hours
V.	Date & Time of Commercial/technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	10-08-2020 at 11:00 Hours (or next convenient day)
VI.	Date & Time of Financial Bid (Cover-IIInd) Opening of the qualifying Bidders.	Shall be intimated separately
VII.	Cost of e-bid Document	Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand only)
VIII.	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (CDR/FDR)	Rs. 20000 (Rupees twenty thousand only)
IX.	Completion Time	5 days
X.	Budget Head	New Plan works for the year 2019-20

No.:SIMS 139 EX/MECH/2020-21-1506/20-1579-89

Dated. 29/07/2020

Sd/- Executive Engineer  
Mechanical, SKIMS

**DELHI ELECTRICITY  
REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
Viniyamak Bhawan, C-Block, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar,  
New Delhi-110 017.  
WebSite: [www.derc.gov.in](http://www.derc.gov.in), Telefax: 26673608

**TENDER NOTICE****APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANT FOR REVIEW OF  
CAPITALIZATION OF ASSETS  
FOR DTL FOR FY 2017-18 & FY 2018-19**

1. The Commission had invited bids for hiring consultancy services for undertaking Review of Capitalization of Assets for DTL for FY 2017-18 & 2018-19.
2. The copy of the Bid Document is available on DEREC website ([www.derc.gov.in](http://www.derc.gov.in)). Interested Bidders may submit their Bid to the Secretary of the Commission latest by 3:00 PM on 09.09.2020 as per the following schedule:

1	Pre-bid meeting with prospective bidders	26.08.2020 at 1500 hrs
2	Last Date of Receipt of Bid Proposals	09.09.2020 at 1500 hrs
3	Opening of Technical Bids	16.09.2020 at 1600 hrs
4	Evaluation results of Technical Bids	30.09.2020
5	Opening of Financial Bids	05.10.2020
6	Selection and Award of Assignment	12.10.2020

Sd/-

Secretary

Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission

DIP/Shabdharth/0199/20-21



**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL**

Tel:0194-2402617 Ext: 2159 mail:mechanicalskims@gmail.com

**Short term notice inviting E-tenders****Gist of NIT NO. 25 OF 2020-21 Dated. 29.07.2020**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, invites online e-bids in two (02) cover system from Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers/ registered firms/Workshop holders having expertise as detailed in the tender document for the following works:-

S.No	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)
1.	Supply installation testing and commissioning of hot & cold air conditioning units with inverter technology in newly constructed MRI room at SKIMS, MCH, Bemina.	Rs. 13.73

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders/tenderers may view, download the e-bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Tender Document contains qualifying criteria for bidders. Specifications, Bills of Quantities, & Terms and conditions of the contract and other relevant details.

I.	Date and time of downloading/Sale of tender documents (Starting Date)	30-07-2020 at 11:00 Hour
II.	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/clarification/Pre-bid meet	04-08-2020 upto 11:00 Hours
III.	Last date & Time of Bid Uploading.	05-08-2020 upto 16:00 Hours
IV.	Date of submission of hard copies. (only Original EMD/DD for Document Fee)	06-08-2020 upto 14:00 Hours
V.	Date & Time of Commercial/technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	07-08-2020 at 11:00 Hours (or next convenient day)
VI.	Date & Time of Financial Bid (Cover-IIInd) Opening of the qualifying Bidders.	Shall be intimated separately
VII.	Cost of e-bid Document	Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand only)
VIII.	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (CDR/FDR)	Rs. 27500 (Rupees twenty-seven thousand & five hundred only)
IX.	Completion Time	Fifteen (15) days
X.	Budget Head	New Plan works for the year 2019-20

No.:SIMS 139 EX/505/20-1559-70

Dated. 29/07/2020

Sd/- Executive Engineer  
Mechanical, SKIMS**DEFENCE FOOD RESEARCH LABORATORY,**

SIDDARTHANAGAR, MYSORE - 570011

**POSTPONEMENT OF WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR THE AWARD OF  
JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (JRF), DRDO****ADDENDUM**

The Walk-in-interview scheduled for the following posts on 06 Aug 2020 is postponed till further orders due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

Sl. No.	Fellowship	Total vacancies	DRDO Fellowship/ Project	Essential Qualification	Area/s of Research
1.	Junior Research Fellow (JRF)	04	DRDO Fellowship	M.Sc with First class & NET/GATE in JRF	MICROBIOLOGY FOOD SCIENCE/FOOD SCIENCE & NUTRITION FOOD TECHNOLOGY FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY / FOOD TECHNOLOGY/ FOOD SCIENCE / FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION

The candidates are advised to look at the DRDO Website/National Dailies on regular basis for further updates.

Sd/-  
**SANTANU BANERJEE**  
S.A.O. Gr.-1  
For Director, DFRL, MYSURU-11

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND  
CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR**

(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)

**GIST of E-NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/43/e-tendering**

Dated:-30.07.2020.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K State e-tenders are invited from registered/ reputed/ experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of completion (in days)	Position of funds
1 Supply Installation Testing and Commissioning of centralized Medical oxygen system along allied works at Govt. SMHS Hospital, Srinagar	15.00	1000	30000/-	10	Available as communicated by intending Department

1. The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 31.07.2020 (10.00 hrs).
2. The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 31.07.2020 (10:00hrs) to 06.08.2020 (14:00 hrs) in two (02) cover.
3. The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 06.08.2020 (16.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Executive Engineer,  
MHCHD, Srinagar.

DIPK-3696/20 DATE-31.07.2020

**Department of Women and Child Development****Govt. of NCT of Delhi**

5th Floor, ISBT Building Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110006

**MISSING CHILDREN**

Sr. No.	Description	Photograph
1.	Megha, female child aged about 2-3 weeks, Wheatish complexion, child was found abandoned in the Cradle placed at the gates of Delhi Council for Child Welfare on 20/02/2020. She was produced before Child Welfare Committee-V, Dilshad Garden and was kept in Delhi Council for Child Welfare via order of CWC-V, Dilshad Garden. FIR has been filed at P.S. Civil Lines.	
2.	Israr @ Aman, male child aged about 4 yrs, wheatish complexion, child was found abandoned at P.S. Gokalpuri and then transferred to Delhi Council for Child Welfare via order of CWC, Dilshad Garden on 27/02/2020. He was produced before Child Welfare Committee-V, Dilshad Garden and was kept in Delhi Council for Child Welfare via order of CWC. DD entry has been filed at P.S. Gokalpuri: DD no: 93 A dated 26/02/2020.	
3.	Trisha, female child aged about 6 days, Fair complexion, child was found abandoned in the Cradle placed at the gates of Delhi Council for Child Welfare on 13/03/2020. She was produced before Child Welfare Committee-V, Dilshad Garden and was kept in Delhi Council for Child Welfare. FIR has been filed at P.S. Civil Lines	
4.	Tarini, Female child aged about 3 days Wheatish complexion, was found abandoned in the Cradle placed at the gates of Delhi Council for Child Welfare on 14/03/2020. She was produced before Child Welfare Committee-V, Dilshad Garden and was kept in Delhi Council for Child Welfare. FIR has been filed at P.S. Civil Lines.	
5.	Peehu, Female child aged about 2 yrs with wheatish complexion/ Child was found abandoned at GTB Hospital and then transferred to DCCW via order of Child Welfare Committee- V, Dilshad Garden on 17/03/2020. She was produced before CWC-V, Dilshad Garden and was kept in Delhi Council for Child Welfare via order of CWC, Dilshad Garden. FIR has been filed at P.S. GTB Enclave. DD no: 13 A dated 12/03/2020.	
6.	Sonali, Female child, aged about new born, Wheatish complexion, was found abandoned in the Cradle placed at the gates of Delhi Council for Child Welfare on 18/03/2020. She was produced before Child Welfare Committee-V, Dilshad Garden and was kept in Delhi Council for Child Welfare. FIR has been filed at P.S. Civil Lines.	
7.	Mohan, Male child, one month old, wheatish complexion was found abandoned in the Cradle placed at the gates of Delhi Council for Child Welfare on 20/03/2020. He was produced before Child Welfare Committee-V, Dilshad Garden and was kept in Delhi Council for Child Welfare. FIR has been filed at P.S. Civil Lines.	
8.	Rohan, Male child, one day old, was found abandoned in the Cradle placed at the gates of Delhi Council for Child Welfare on 09/04/2020. He was produced before Child Welfare Committee-V, Dilshad Garden and was kept in Delhi Council for Child Welfare via order of CWC, Dilshad Garden. FIR has been filed at P.S. Civil Lines.	
9.	Mishti, female child, new born was found abandoned in the Cradle placed at the gates of Delhi Council for Child Welfare on 09/06/2020. She was produced before Child Welfare Committee-V, Dilshad Garden and was kept in Delhi Council for Child Welfare via order of CWC, Dilshad Garden. FIR has been filed at P.S. Civil Lines.	

Note : Parents/Guardians/Relatives of Sl. No. 1 & 2 case of above mentioned children may contact at address/phone numbers given at Sl. No. 1 &

# Sports Mail



## Denly ruled out of remainder of Ireland One-day series

# WILLEY ENJOYS 5-STAR SHOW

England make emphatic return to ODI cricket as Morgan's men cruise to victory over Ireland

By Lawrence Booth

**D**AVID Willey and Sam Billings may be the only cricketers in the country who regard last summer with mixed affections, but they were smiling again as England beat Ireland in their first home one-day international as world champions.

It is over a year since Willey was cruelly dropped at the last minute from the World Cup 15 to make way for Jofra Archer, despite his part in England's heady four-year rise. Billings, meanwhile, was ruled out of contention when he dislocated a shoulder playing for Kent. Now, on a sunlit afternoon in the one-day team's Southampton bubble, they both began to put the past behind them.

Willey took five for 30, before Billings hit a sparkling unbeaten 67 from 54 balls – both career-bests. England's chase, after a brief wobble in pursuit of 173, was done and dusted with six wickets and more than 22 overs to spare. It was a therapeutic kind of thrashing.

For Willey, especially so. In the build-up to this three-match series, the start of the ICC's one-day Super League, he admitted he could easily have 'upset a few people' had he reacted badly to his axing.

While Archer rose to fame, Willey entered a spiral of despondency which threatened his love of the sport. At the age of 30, he regards his recall as a 'free hit'.

Which is precisely what his left-arm swingers didn't serve up to Ireland's batsmen.

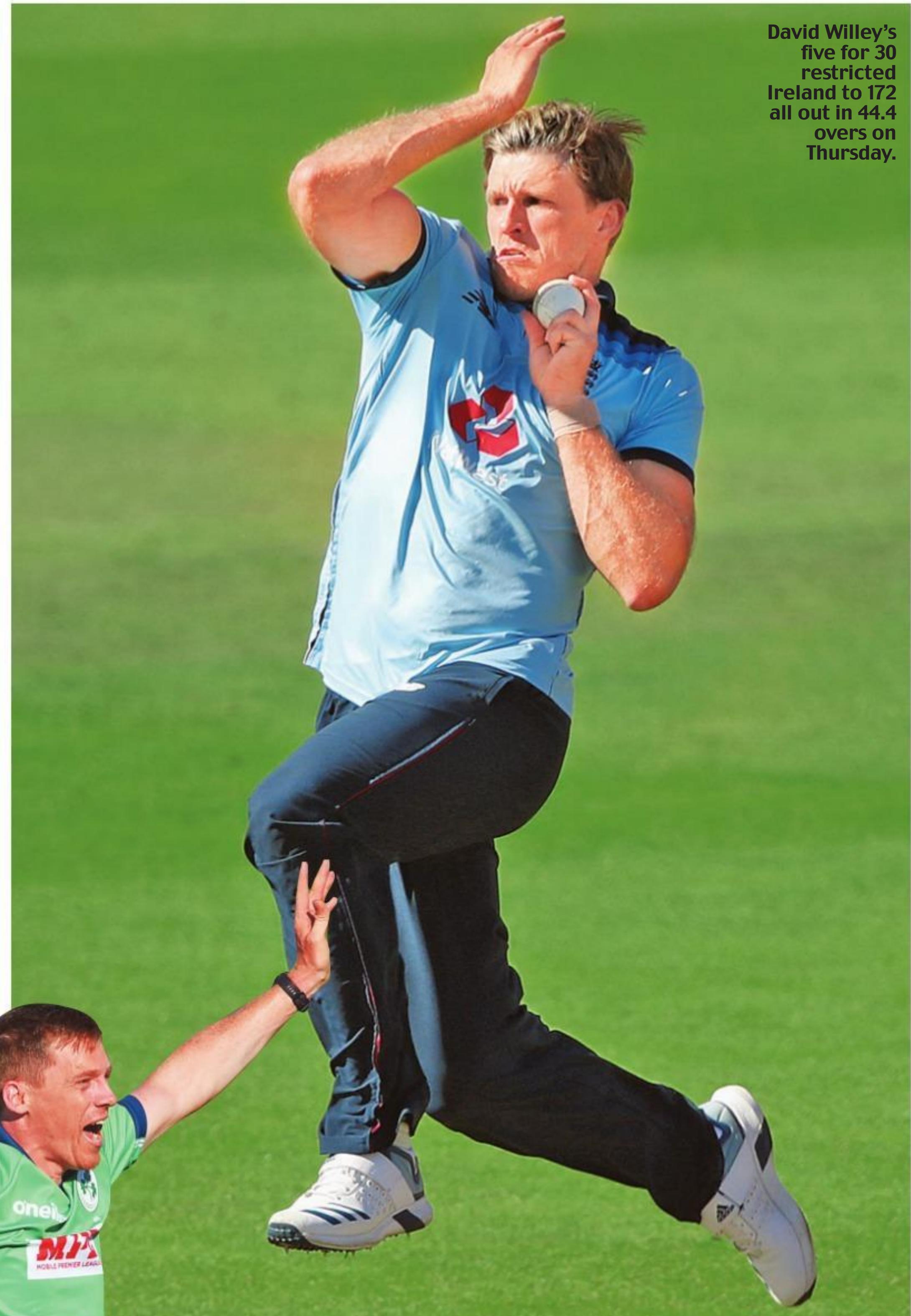
After four overs on a blameless Aegeas Bowl pitch, he had taken four for 12, and Ireland were 28 for five. Later, Willey removed last man Craig Young to complete his first international five-for.

By then, the Irish had scraped their way to 172, thanks largely to an unbeaten 59 from 21-year-old debutant Curtis Campher, a South African-born batsman who qualifies for Ireland through a grandmother, but is yet to play an innings in his adopted country. Until recently, he was in lockdown in Pretoria.

**Billings scores 67  
not out in  
first ODI**

But Campher was merely applying a sticking plaster after the wounds inflicted by Willey.

"Where he's been in the last year or so, missing out on the World



Ireland's Craig Young celebrates a wicket.

Cup, it's a fantastic story and comeback," said captain Eoin Morgan.

Willey was more philosophical. "I'm still disappointed I wasn't part of that, but it was obviously brilliant for English cricket. I've spent a lot of time looking at old footage of me bowling well, and I feel like my best cricket is still to come."

**Brief scores:** England 174 for 4 (Billings 67\*, Morgan 36\*) beat Ireland 172 (Campher 59\*, McBrine 40, Willey 5-30) by six wickets.

—Daily Mail



England's Eoin Morgan (left) with Ireland's Harry Tector after winning the match.

## 'WE ARE LOOKING TO FILL 30-50% OF STADIA'

THE Emirates Cricket Board is eager to fill up 30-50 per cent of the stadiums with spectators when the IPL is held in the UAE provided the government there approves, its secretary Mubashir Usmani said on Friday.

While announcing the dates of the IPL, its chairman Brijesh Patel had said that the decision on letting in fans during the

September 19-November 8 event will be taken by the UAE government.

Having announced the dates, the BCCI too is awaiting the final approval from the Indian government to host the IPL in the UAE. "Once we get the confirmation from the BCCI (on Indian government's approval), we will go to our government with the complete proposal and SOPs which

will be prepared by us and the BCCI," said Usmani over phone. "We will definitely want our people to experience this prestigious event but it is totally the government's decision. For most events here, the number ranges from thirty to 50 percent capacity, we are looking at a similar number. We are hopeful

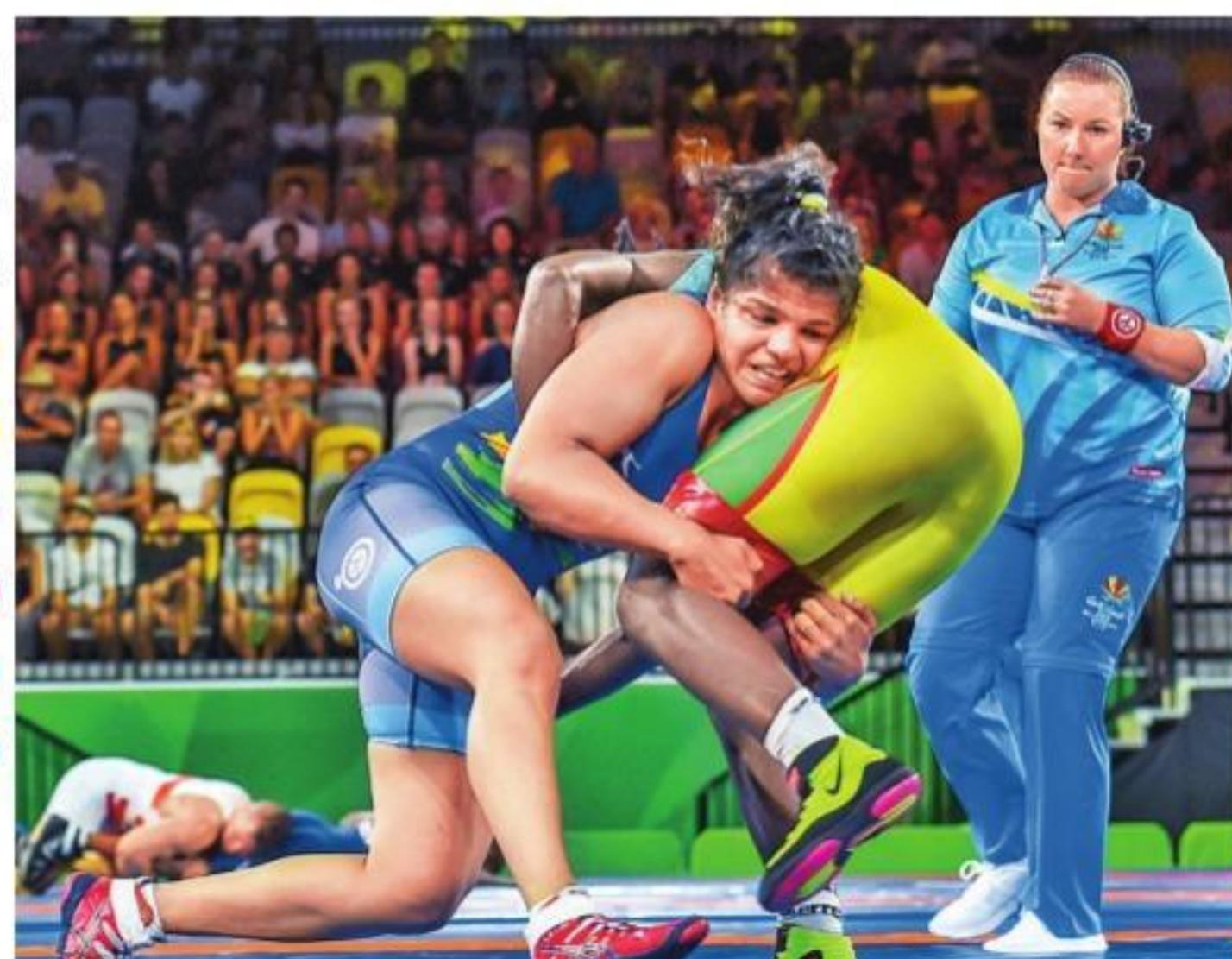
**Emirates Cricket Board says UAE is ready to host IPL**

of getting our government's approval on that," he added. The UAE has little over 6000 active cases of COVID-19 and the overall situation around the pandemic is under control.

However, the 2020 Dubai Rugby Sevens event, scheduled in November, has been cancelled for the first time since 1970

due to the coronavirus threat. Usmani allayed concerns over the safety of the IPL.

"The UAE government has been very efficient in bringing down the case numbers. We are almost living a normal life with certain rules and protocols to be followed. And with the IPL still some time away, we will be in an even better place than what it is right now." —PTI



Sakshi Malik advised that the camp should be held at Patiala or Bahalgarh, Sonepat.

## Vinesh Phogat says she is not leaving her house and has informed WFI

**MAIL TODAY  
EXCLUSIVE**

By Chetan Sharma in New Delhi

**T**HE Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) is leaving no stone unturned to start national camp this month. They are in talks with all the wrestlers to get their views on resuming training as soon as possible.

It was reported that the camp might start in next week of August — men's in Sonepat and women's in Lucknow. However, with the sudden spike in Coronavirus cases in India, the plans seem fading out.

Even now Tokyo-bound wrestlers are uninterested in joining camp anytime soon. Speaking

Wrestler Vinesh Phogat says proper food arrangements at the national camp is a cause of concern for her. (Below) Pooja Dhanda says rising COVID-19 cases in Lucknow, venue for women's camp, worries her.



# 'HAVE ALREADY SAID NO TO CAMP'

to MAIL TODAY, Indian woman grappler Vinesh Phogat made it clear that she is not going to join camp. "I am not going to attend the camp (next week or whenever this month) and I have already informed the federation (WFI) about it," she said.

"When I am in camp I don't eat food there because I get stomach infection if I do so. I go out or my food comes from outside mostly. And if I join camp now, I won't be able to leave the centre, so I decided to give it a skip. Yes, Corona cases are also rising so that, too, is a concern for me," Vinesh added.

Another wrestler Sonam Malik also expressed her concern in joining the Camp. "I don't want to go there but if it happens then we will be forced to join it. No option. I just wish it would get cancelled," Sonam said.

Pooja Dhanda has been vocal since day one that camp should not take place. Many wrestlers earlier agreed to join the camp but Pooja maintained her stand.

"I have already said that it should not happen. Coronavirus cases are rising day by day. Look at the record of Lucknow too. We do not have any tournaments recently so what is the point of risking lives."

"I know there will be pressure of joining the camp if WFI asks us. But I would request that federation, like always, understand our problem," Pooja told the paper.

MAIL TODAY then contacted the WFI and one official on condition of anonymity hinted that national camp might get postponed for next month.

**WFI official hints at national camp postponement**

"Many wrestlers are against it now. We were thinking that some positive news might come in Corona cases but it again went up. The federation will again meet and decide what can be done."

"Vinesh has already said no, so I am sure with this many other wrestlers will also do the same. There is also a possibility that the venue might get changed," he said.

Whereas, Rio Olympic bronze

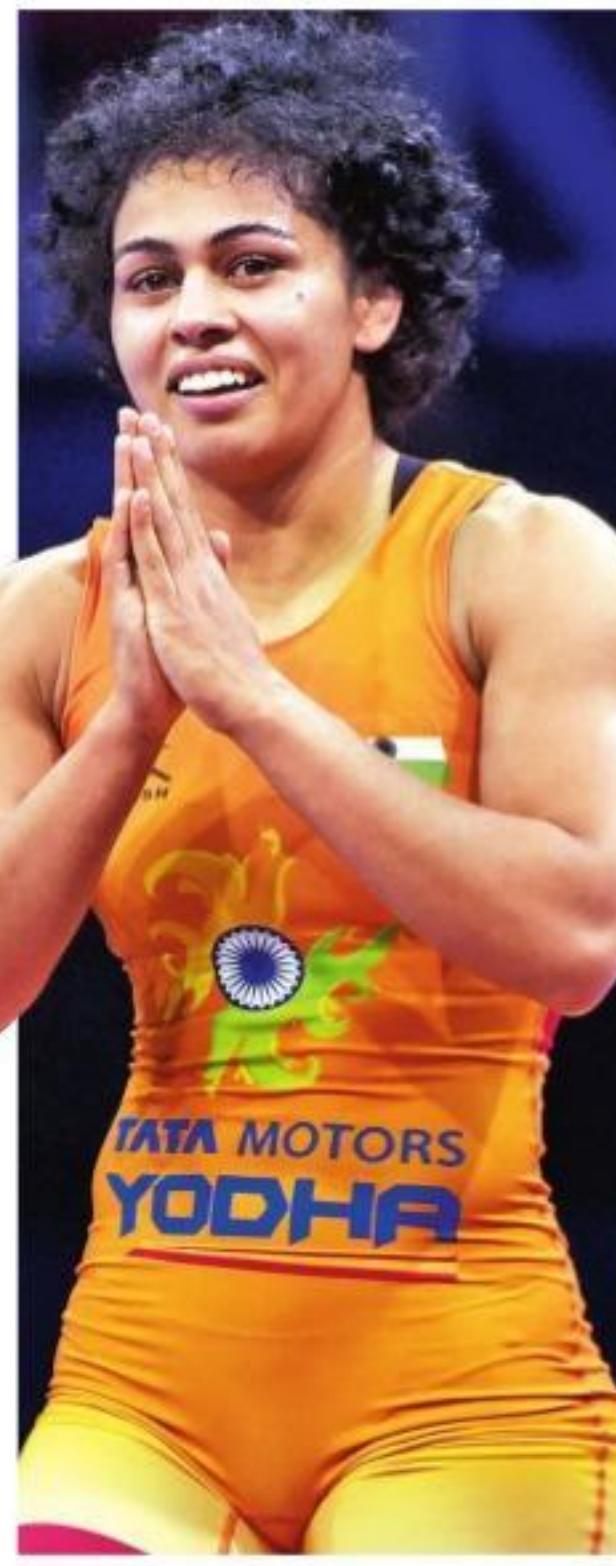
medallist Sakshi Malik advised that the camp should be held at Patiala or Bahalgarh, Sonepat. "I have no problem with the camp but why so far in Lucknow. Some would reach there by train or some by flight which is very risky. It is better to host it here in Patiala or Bahalgarh."

"If you ask me, my training at home is going great guns, no issue in that. Rest whatever the federation decides," Sakshi said.

All the women wrestlers are currently training at their homes, however men's grapplers like Sushil Kumar, Ravi Dahiya, Deepak Punia, Bajrang Punia have started outdoor training in various centres.

With all Olympic qualifying events postponed to 2021 by the United World Wrestling, the only event for Indian wrestlers this year would be the World Championships tentatively scheduled for December. Both the senior (December 12-20) and junior (December 4-10) Worlds will be held in Belgrade "to help reduce risk and control the safety of the events" as per UWW.

A review of the situation will be held by the UWW Executive Board in August.



By Aditya K Halder  
in New Delhi

MIDDLE-DISTANCE runner Manjit Singh, who shot to fame at the 2018 Asian Games by upsetting favourites in 800m to clinch the gold, is still waiting for the Haryana government to deliver on its promise for a job that was made two years ago.

The 30-year-old unemployed runner and four other 2018 Asian gold medal-winning athletes from the state were promised a job in the Haryana Police Services and Haryana Civil Services, along with cash reward of ₹3 crore. Apart from that, five silver medallists were accorded with ₹1.5 crore with a promise of class I government jobs. Eight bronze medalists received ₹75 lakh.

While the athlete received the cash reward last year, Manjit is now wondering how long he will have to wait for the job. "Gold medalists were promised a job along with cash



# No uniformity in applying sports code

REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO



**Mail Today  
Correspondent in  
New Delhi**

INDIAN Olympic Association associate executive council member Bhola Nath Singh has accused All India Tennis Association of flouting 2011 National Sports Code while electing the management, including the presidential post, in 2016 and 2017.

In a letter to sports secretary Ravi Mittal and sports minister Kiren Rijiju, the IOA member noted points from a news article that pointed AITA recently changed its voting pattern to fall in line with the sports code. The letter pointed out that AITA earlier followed ITF method of weighted voting instead of sports code prescribed two votes per state method.

"AITA was not giving two votes to each State as per National Sports Development Code of India, 2011. However, now they have resolved to be complainant

to the Sports Code, 2011," Bhola Nath wrote in the letter. "As such after issue of Sports Code, 2011, two elections were held in 2012 and 2016 and part elections were held in 2017 for the post of President. The management of AITA was continuing without any objection, which has been elected in total violation of the Sports Code, 2011."

Bhola Nath further argued that AITA deserves similar action as Rowing Federation of India, whose recent elections were cancelled after its constitution

allowed three votes from state member but instead there is a 'federation to federation discrimination'.

"RFI Constitution allowed three votes to a State member. However, Ministry immediately cancelled the elections of RFI and directed RFI to amend its Constitution to be in line with the Sports Code, 2011 and hold fresh elections. Sir, I am wondering why such discrimination is there in compliance of Sports Code, 2011 between Federation to Federation," he said.

## Russia avoids World Athletics ouster

THE Russian Athletics Federation (RusAF) has avoided expulsion from World Athletics after Russian Sports Minister Oleg Matytsin made a last-minute 'unconditional' guarantee to pay an outstanding fine of \$6.31 million by August 15.

The World Athletics Council today approved the acceptance of that offer as part of the recommendation by Rune Andersen, head of the World Athletics Taskforce that has sought to help Russia return to the fold following the federation's

suspension in November 2015 following revelations of an organised doping system.

WA is due to hold a Congress later to vote on the expulsion of RusAF from membership of the body if it fails to meet the latest deadline.

—Mail Today

A PETITION has been filed in the Madras High Court seeking the prosecution of India cricket team captain Virat Kohli and actor Tamannaah Bhatia for endorsing online gambling. An advocate based out of Chennai

moved the Madras High Court on Friday, seeking a ban on all sorts of online gambling applications in the country. The lawyer mentioned in his petition that celebrities like Kohli are capable of influencing youngsters. —Mail Today

BENGALURU based Akhil Rabindra has been retained by the prestigious Aston Martin Racing (AMR) Driver Academy for the upcoming season following his strong performance.

ance in Europe last year. Rabindra, who last year became the only Asian to make it to the AMR Driver Academy, will be among 12 elite drivers from around the world. —Mail Today

## MANJIT AWAITS JOB FROM HARYANA GOVT

reward by then sports minister. However I am yet to get a job. There are many athletes from the state that's why it's understandable the process could take time but its two years now," Manjit told MAIL TODAY from his hometown in Jind.

The athlete — who is currently not at the Patiala national camp and had to rush back home last month due to father's deteriorating health — further revealed that he approached many senior officials and ministers, who mostly assured them that they will get him a job soon.

"I approached ministers and senior officials for a job and they mostly said they are doing everything possible while asking me to focus on my performance but I don't see any-

thing happening as of yet. To make things worse, 2021 Olympics is fast approaching and I am not able to train in last one month due to my father's illness," said Manjit.

Interestingly, the state government on Thursday appointed 2014 Commonwealth Games gold medallist Babita Phogat and 2014 Asian Games Kabaddi champion Kavita Devi as deputy directors in its Sports and Youth Affairs Department.

The duo moved Punjab and Haryana High Courts in 2019 over not being given A category posts in government as their sports policy.

Phogat later had withdrawn the petition before contesting the state assembly election last year.



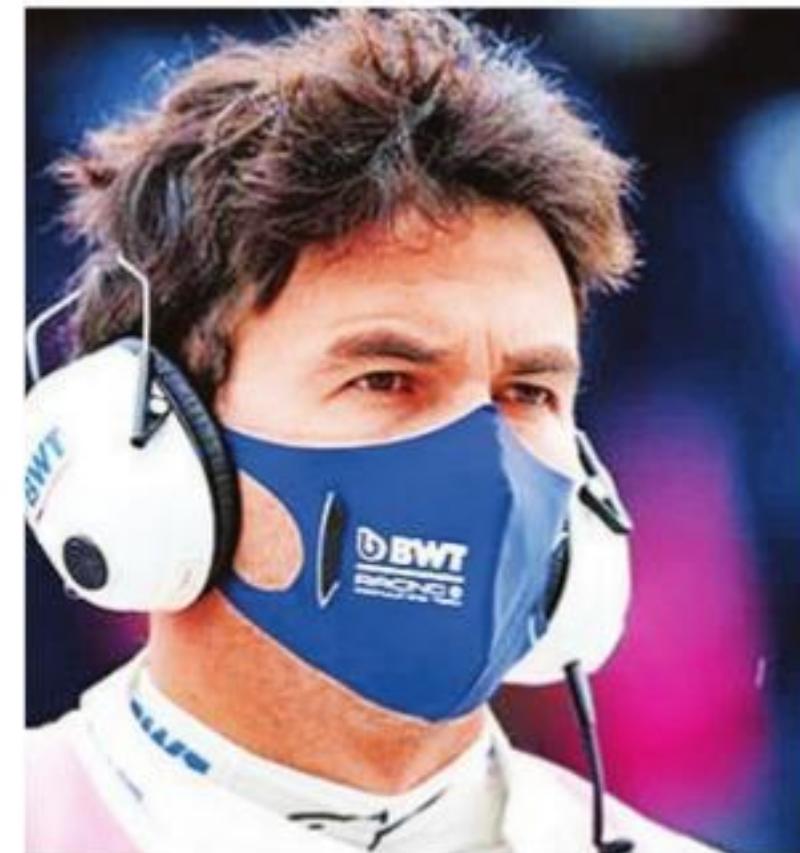
Manjit Singh, who won 2018 Asian Games gold medal in 800m run, was promised a job by Haryana government in 2018.



# NIGERIA'S OSIMHEN JOINS NAPOLI FOR \$94.6 MILLION

# NO BREAKS FOR F1 STARS

Racing Point boss expects drivers to be forced to stay in their secure bubbles for the rest of season



Racing Point driver Sergio Perez tested positive following a trip to Mexico.



Nico Hulkenberg replaces Perez at Racing Point for the weekend and is expected to keep his spot next week as well.



Racing Point's Lance Stroll in action at the Silverstone on Friday.

## STROLL SETS THE PACE IN PRACTICE

CANADIAN Lance Stroll led the way for Mercedes-lookalikes Racing Point in British Grand Prix practice on Friday while Red Bull's Alex Albon crashed and brought out red flags. The team owner's son lapped the former World War Two airfield with a best time of one minute 27.274 seconds — marginally quicker than Max Verstappen's best effort of the morning for Red Bull.

Verstappen, whose team-mate Albon crashed at Stowe in the afternoon but still ended up second overall, managed a 1:27.422 in a sizzlingly hot opening session when Stroll was third fastest.

—Reuters

**S**ÉRGIO Perez's Racing Point boss believes Formula One drivers could now be forced to stay in their bubbles for the rest of the season.

Perez, 30, will miss Sunday's British Grand Prix after he contracted coronavirus following a trip home to see his mother in Mexico.

Perez, who says he is displaying no symptoms, is also likely to be ruled out of next weekend's 70th Anniversary Grand Prix at Silverstone if he is subjected to 10 days of quarantine. He is the first driver to have tested positive for the illness.

The COVID-19 Code of Conduct, drawn up by the FIA, forced members of F1's travelling circus to stay within their so-called bubbles, consisting of three to four people, during the opening rounds in Austria and Hungary.

But drivers and team members were afforded freedom of movement following the Hungarian Grand Prix and ahead of the two races at Silverstone. There are 13 confirmed races this season, with the plan of adding five further rounds and the campaign due to end in December in the Middle

East. "In hindsight, and hindsight is a wonderful thing, perhaps we should look at changing the Code of Conduct and say you stay within your bubble for the season," said Racing Point team principal Otmar Szaf-

nauer.

"That is something for the FIA to consider and perhaps that will change but I don't think Sergio did anything wrong by flying back home to Mexico.

"We have got no clauses in his

contract where Sergio has to ask permission to go back to his family in Mexico.

"It is not a surprise he went back there, that is what he has done whilst he has been driving for us. We discussed how he

would get there and it was always a private flight, so there wasn't an issue with that."

Perez's replacement Nico Hulkenberg lapped ninth and seventh fastest respectively in free practice.

—Daily Mail

## Criticise me all you want but don't make it racist



By Jofra Archer

A LOT was made of my comments about social media after the last Test and it goes without saying that I stand by my point about the unacceptable nature of racial abuse. There's never any place for it in any walk of life.

But I also accept that, in terms of some of the other criticism that was aimed at me — about my cricket, say — I have to make sure I don't let it bother me as much as I have done. Sometimes, you've just got to get on with it. People will say what they want to say on social media, and there's not a lot you can do about it.

The chat during the third Test was a lot

more about the cricket, which was nice — especially as a lot of the people I follow are based in the Caribbean. That made those five days pretty manageable.

### COMFORTING PRESENCE

IT WAS nice to hear about a column Moeen Ali had written, in which he expressed his support for me over some of the treatment I'd received.

He's a really good guy and he made my transition into the team a lot easier when I first played international cricket last year. It wasn't anything he said in the dressing room that eased my way in. It was just his presence, which was very comforting. He's that kind of a person and I'm pleased to

see England have made him vice-captain for the one-day series against Ireland.

Moeen also suggested that Twitter users shouldn't be able to hide behind anonymous names and pictures, so they can't get away with random abuse. It's a nice idea and I do appreciate the thought from one of the game's good guys. Hopefully, the social media companies will make this happen very soon.

It was great to get back on the field after the events of the previous Test and it was reminder that cricket has a funny way of balancing things out. On another day, the way I bowled in West Indies' first innings would have brought me a seven-for. Instead, I ended up with one for 72.

—Daily Mail

Jofra Archer says racial abuse is unacceptable in any walk of life.