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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020

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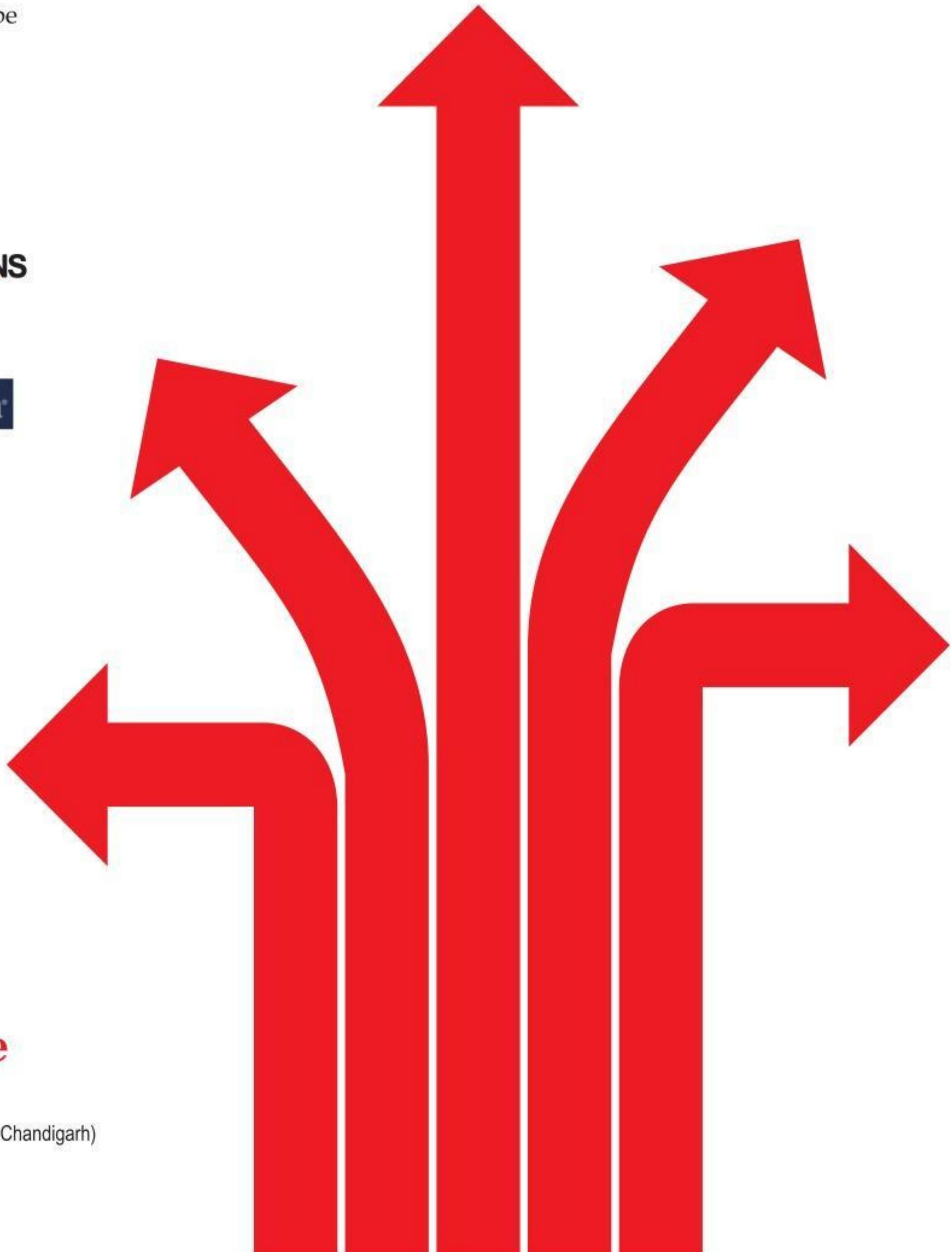
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PARLIAMENTARY POLL IN
SRI LANKA TODAY WORLD

SASHIDHAR JAGDISHAN TO
STEER HDFC BANK BUSINESS

THEATRE DOYEN ALKAZI PASSES
AWAY AT 94 BACK PAGE

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020

Ayodhya's tryst with Ram Temple today

PM to lay foundation stone, release commemorative stamp | Holy city decked up for 'bhoomi pujan'

SHAHIRA NAIM &
VIBHA SHARMA

AYODHYA/NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

After decades of legal struggle for building a Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir in Ayodhya, the 'bhoomi pujan' ceremony for the temple will conclude within one crucial minute i.e. from 12.44 pm to 12.45 pm, the most auspicious window, on Wednesday.

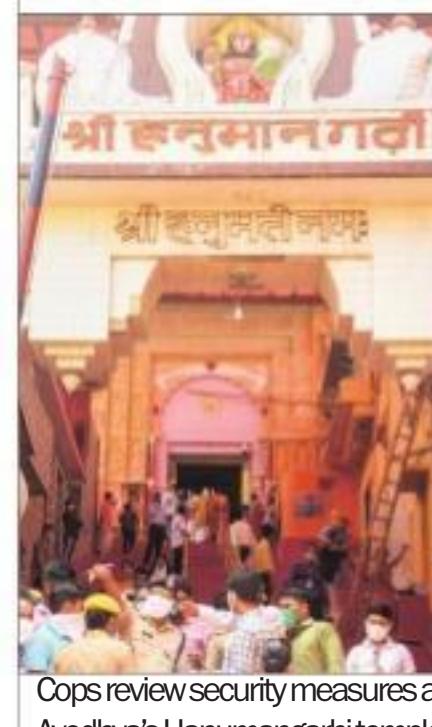
During this period, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will offer the five-metalled 'navratna' (nine precious gems engraved) lotus flower and the presiding priests will proclaim "Pratishtayam" (installed), bringing the ceremony to an end.

The actual 'puja' will start 14 minutes earlier, when the Prime Minister will sit on the 'aasan' and listen to Ganesh Vandana and other sholakas. Prior to the 'bhoomi pujan', PM Modi will offer prayers at Hanumangarhi temple. He will later unveil a plaque to mark the laying of the foundation stone and release a commemorative postage stamp.

Ayodhya has been decked up for the grand event keeping in mind safety measures amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The holy city is resplendent in rainbow colours — from multi-coloured arches welcoming visitors, to pink lights illuminating mandirs and ghats of the Saryu, with saffron and yellow marigold flowers deco-



Devotees celebrate 'Deepotsav' at Ramghat on the eve of 'bhoomi pujan' of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Tuesday. PTI



Cops review security measures at Ayodhya's Hanumangarhi temple.

PM TO SPEND 3 HOURS

- 11.30 AM Arrives in Ayodhya from Lucknow by a helicopter
- 11.40 AM Attends 'puja' at Hanumangarhi temple
- 11.50 AM Proceeds to Ram Janmabhoomi complex
- 12.10 PM Plants 'Parijat' (Indian night jasmine) sapling
- 12.30 PM Performs 'bhoomi pujan'
- 12.45 PM Delivers address, unveils plaque
- 2 PM Flies back to Lucknow

PM to spend 3 hours

11.30 AM Arrives in Ayodhya from Lucknow by a helicopter

11.40 AM Attends 'puja' at Hanumangarhi temple

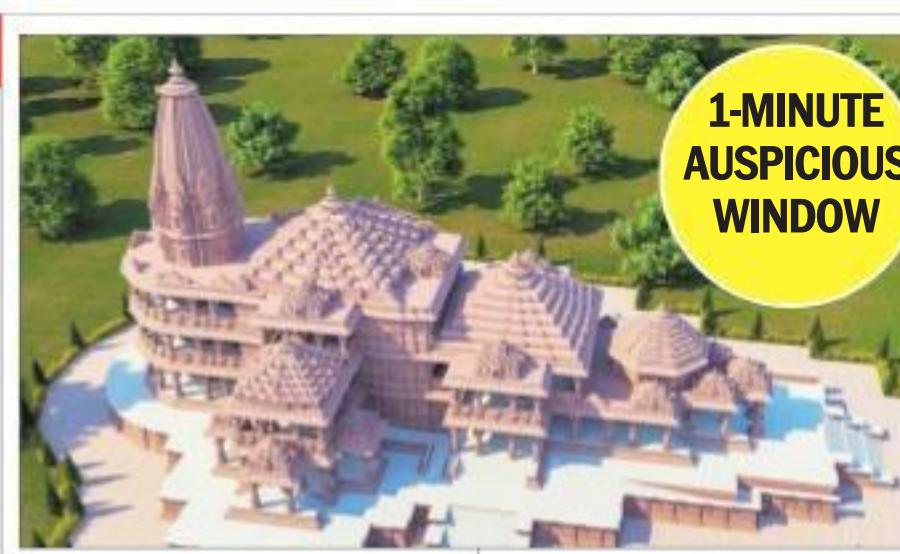
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1-MINUTE
AUSPICIOUS
WINDOW

Main 'puja' will be held between 12.44 pm and 12.45 pm during 32-second 'Abhijit Muhrat' — auspicious moment when Lord Ram was believed to have been born

PM will perform 'shila pujan', 'bhoomi pujan' and 'karma shila pujan' and lay a 40-kg silver brick to symbolise the start of temple construction

ration at the puja site and Ram ki Paeri adding dazzle.

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra has invited

175 eminent guests for the 'bhoomi pujan' ceremony, which includes 135 saints from 135 spiritual traditions.

Incidentally, Iqbal Ansari, the son of original litigant of the title suit, Hashim Ansari, was the first to get the invite.

"I believe it was Lord Ram's wish that I receive the first invitation. I accept it. May Hindus and Muslims live in

harmony in Ayodhya," he said. Another eminent citizen of Ayodhya, Padma Shri

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

135 SEERS AMONG 175 ON GUEST LIST

- 175 prominent figures, including 135 seers, have been invited from different parts of the country
- Only 5 — PM Modi, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, Guv Anandiben Patel, CM Yogi Adityanath and Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas president Mahant Nitya Gopaladas — will occupy stage
- Key faces of temple struggle — ex-Dy PM LK Advani, BJP leaders Uma Bharti and Murli Manohar Joshi — will stay away

HOPE FOR UNITY

 Let Lord Ram shower blessings so that this function becomes a celebration of national unity, fraternity and cultural affinity.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, AICC GEN SECY

WORTH THE WAIT

 Sometimes significant dreams take a long time to fruition, but when they are finally realised, the wait becomes very worthwhile.

LK Advani, BJP LEADER

Curfew lifted in Srinagar a day ahead of abrogation anniv

PAK UNVEILS NEW MAP; ABSURD, SAYS INDIA

New Delhi: India on Tuesday described Pakistan's new "political map" as an exercise in political absurdity. "These ridiculous assertions of laying claims to parts of Gujarat and the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have neither legal validity nor international credibility," said the Ministry of External Affairs. BACK PAGE



SECURITY UP: A CRPF man keeps vigil at a marketplace in Srinagar. PTI

On 370 anniversary, panch, two cops hurt in attacks

MAJID JAHANGIR

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 4

Ahead of the first anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, a BJP panch was injured in a suspected militant attack in south Kashmir's Kulgam district late Tuesday.

Arif Ahmad, BJP's Devsar (Kulgam) constituency vice-president, was wounded when militants fired at him near his residence at Akhran in Qazigund. A police officer said Arif had firearm injury in the neck and his condition was critical. "He has been shifted to hospital," he added.

Soon after the incident, security forces cordoned off the area to trace the attackers. This is the second attack on BJP leaders in the last one month.

Meanwhile, militants attacked a police party in Pulwama district late Tuesday evening, wounding two personnel, sources said. The twin attacks came at a time when security

has been beefed up across the Kashmir ahead of the first anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370. On Tuesday evening, the Srinagar administration lifted the curfew which was ordered late last night for 48 hours in the district. However restrictions remain in place.

EDIT: J&K, A YEAR LATER



Top court reserves order in Bhushan contempt case

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

The Supreme Court today reserved its orders on acceptability of a statement submitted by activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan who is facing criminal contempt proceedings for his 2009 statement allegedly scandalising the judiciary.

Judge: There is a thin line between free speech and contempt

"Explanation/apology submitted by Prashant Bhushan and Tarun Tejpal have not been received so far. In case we do not accept these, we will hear the matter," a three-judge Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra said while reserving its order.

Most part of the hearing that took place in two sessions remained 'muted' as the Bench chose to speak to senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan, representing Bhushan, on phone.

The development happened on a day when 16 eminent members of the civil society, including activist Aruna Roy, moved the Supreme Court seeking to intervene in the matter, contending contempt proceedings against Bhushan amounted to stifling free speech. At the very outset, Justice Mishra asked Dhavan to demarcate the thin line between free speech and contempt of court.

"How do we save the grace of the system and bring this to an end as well?" the Bench asked Dhavan. —TNS

10 die, hundreds hurt in massive Beirut blast

BEIRUT: A huge explosion near the centre of Beirut killed at least 10 persons, injured hundreds, and sent shockwaves across the Lebanese capital, witnesses and security sources said. INSIDE

Pokhriyal lays stone of IIM in Sirmaur

SOLAN: Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhrayal 'Nishank' on Tuesday laid the foundation stone of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Daula Kuan in Sirmaur district through a video-conference. INSIDE

Jadhav case: Three amici curiae named

ISLAMABAD: A top Pakistani court has named three senior lawyers as amici curiae in the case of Kulbhushan Jadhav as it ordered the Pakistan Government to give "another chance" to India to appoint a counsel for the death-row prisoner. —PTI

Hry's Pradeep tops Civil Services exam

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) today declared the Civil Services Examination-2019 result with Haryana's Pradeep Singh emerging topper among 829 successful candidates for various services, including IAS, IPS, IFS, among others, officials said.

The second and the third positions have been bagged by Jatin Kishore (Delhi) and Pratibha Verma (Uttar Pradesh), respectively. Verma is the topper among women candidates.

PM Narendra Modi tweeted: "Congratulations to all the bright youngsters who have successfully cleared the Civil Services Examina-

tion, 2019! My best wishes." To those who could not produce the desired result, Modi said: "Life is full of several opportunities. Each and every one of you is hard-working and diligent. Best wishes for all your future endeavours." Of the 829 successful candidates, 304 are from General Category, 78 from Economically Weaker Section (EWS), 251 from Other Backward Classes (OBC), 129 from Scheduled Castes (SC) and 67 from Scheduled Tribes (ST). A total of 182 candidates have been put on the reserve list. The selection has been made against 927 vacancies reported by the government.

RELATED REPORTS INSIDE

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RELATED REPORTS INSIDE

Rights panel seeks report on deaths

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 4 Acting on news reports of deaths due to spurious liquor, the Punjab Human Right Commission has sought a detailed report from the Chief Secretary and the DGP. The commission, which comprises chairperson Justice Iqbal Ahmed Ansari and members Justice Ashutosh Mohunta and Avinash Kaur, stated that prima facie it was of the view that there was apathy on the part of the administration. —TNS

Probe begins tomorrow

JALANDHAR, AUGUST 4 Jalandhar Divisional Commissioner Raj Kamal Chaudhary, who has been entrusted by the state government to conduct a magisterial probe into the spurious liquor tragedy, which has claimed more than 110 lives in the last few days in Amritsar, Tarn Taran and Batala, will hold its first meet on August 6 at Bachat Bhawan, Amritsar. —TNS

Nine still critical, two lose partial eyesight

Villagers claim cheap liquor easily available

GURBAXPURI

TARN TARAN, AUGUST 4

While no fresh death has been reported in Tarn Taran due to the consumption of illicit liquor in the past 24 hours, nine victims who are undergoing treatment at the Civil Hospital here, are struggling for their lives.

Two of them have lost their eyesight to a major extent, while others are complaining of severe stomach ache. Their condition is stated to be serious.

Gobind Kumar (35) started consuming illicit liquor a few years ago and has now lost his vision.

He is among the nine others recuperating at the Civil Hospital since the tragedy struck four days ago. A resident of Kazikot road here, Gobind said he used to procure country-made liquor from Kakka Kandiala village. Many residents of the village were involved in the trade. On



A victim under treatment at the Civil Hospital in Tarn Taran on Tuesday.

July 30, he procured a pouch worth Rs 30 but suffered a severe stomach ache immediately after consuming it and his eyesight got blurred.

Surinder Singh (63) and Hardip Singh (50) of Bachre village are also under treatment. They said initially they had lost their eyesight completely after consuming the spurious liquor, but were regaining it to some extent.

The tragedy, that claimed over 60 lives in Tarn Taran

alone, has rendered four children orphaned after their mother died of shock following the death of her husband in the tragedy.

Meanwhile, Khadoor Sahib MLA Ramanjit Singh Sikki, in a statement released here today, refuted the charges that he and his PA Germanjit Singh being involved in the illicit liquor trade. The family of the victim had accused the MLA and his PA of bootlegging in the area.

It's sheer murder, won't spare those involved: CM

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 4

Under fire from his colleagues on government's response to the spurious liquor tragedy, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Tuesday said no one, whether a politician or a public servant, would be spared if found complicit in the case.

The Chief Minister said the entire police force had been directed to crackdown on the liquor mafia. Some unscrupulous elements took advantage of the police focus on battling the Covid pandemic to satiate their greed at the cost of human lives, said the Chief Minister.

"This is sheer murder and the killers will not get away with it. They knew that the concoction was fatal and yet they supplied/sold the poison to innocent people. They deserve no mercy," said Capt Amarinder,

adding that his government stood with the families of the deceased and would leave no stone unturned to ensure justice for them.



CRIMINALS DON'T HAVE POLITICAL AFFILIATION

Some unscrupulous elements took advantage of the state's focus on battling the pandemic to satiate their greed at the cost of human lives... Mafias and criminals do not have any political affiliation
Capt Amarinder Singh, CM

Castigating the Opposition for exploiting the tragedy for petty political interests to fight for justice for the people.

interests, the Chief Minister said this was not the time to play politics, but to stand by the government in its efforts to eliminate the mafia. He flayed AAP over its dharnas and asked how this would help in battling the mafia or supporting the bereaved families?

"Mafias and criminals do

not have any political affiliation, their only interest is to earn money by hook or by crook," he said, noting that 2019 had seen three hooch tragedies, all in the BJP-ruled states of Assam, UP and Uttarakhand, claiming 168, 97 and 30 lives, respectively.

The Dharmgarh police have arrested liquor smugglers from near Hambalwas and seized 90 litres of liquor from their possession. Kharauji police seized 110 litres of lahan from a house at Hotipur village and arrested a smuggler.

"Everyone knows that Haryana liquor is being smuggled to various areas of the district by smugglers," said Gurmeet Singh, a resident of Dirba.

"Our special teams are conducting regular patrolling and we also request area residents to share information about any liquor smuggling in their area," said Dr Sandeep Garg, SSP, Sangrur. —TNS

32 bootleggers held, 40 FIRs filed in 24 hrs

SANGRUR, AUGUST 4

The police have intensified their campaign against illicit liquor smuggling in the district and registered 40 FIRs and arrested 32 persons involved in the illegal trade in the last 24 hours.

The police have seized 1,560 litres of lahan, one illegal distillery, material of eight illicit distilleries and 240 litres of smuggled liquor.

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On way to CM's farmhouse, AAP leaders detained

Say will expose 'Cong links' with liquor mafia

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MOHALI, AUGUST 4

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) today said Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh was yet to reach out to the aggrieved families of over 110 people who died in the spurious liquor tragedy.

State convener and MP Bhagwant Mann accompanied by party MLAs and prominent leaders were detained near Mullanpur barrier for two hours on way to gherao Chief Minister

MLA Jai Krishan Singh Rouri, were reportedly injured in the melee.

Mann alleged: "The liquor mafia is enjoying the patronage of the ruling party leaders. We will expose them. Even if the government and the police throw us in jails, we will keep fighting till the entire state Cabinet resigns on moral ground."

Cheema alleged that the command of the liquor mafia, which was active during the SAD regime, was now with the Congress.

Addressing a press conference, SAD spokesman Dr Daljit Singh Cheema said it was shocking that the Congress government was refusing to take any action against the two distilleries closest to the site of the tragedy even after evidence that denatured spirit was used in the illicit liquor.

He said despite this the distilleries were not sealed and no attempt was being made to audit extra neutral alcohol (ENA) in their possession.

"Instead raiding parties are fanning out in the state to seize lahan in an attempt to divert attention from the real issue," he said.

Dr Cheema said simultaneously, the huge amount of lahan seized in one week indicated that the government was allowing loss of excise revenue for the past over three years.

'CALL SPECIAL SESSION'

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 4

The SAD on Tuesday said since two Congress MPs had expressed "no confidence" in the leadership of the CM as well as the government's commitment to check the sale of illicit liquor, the latter should call a special session of the Vidhan Sabha. Former MP Prof Prem Singh Chandumra said even Congress MPs were petitioning the Governor to order a twin inquiry by the CBI as well as the ED into the illicit liquor trade.

He said the people wanted to know why the CM was shying away from exposing and punishing the real culprits? "They also want to know why the CM has not found it fit to visit the victim families till now?" he said.

Dhindsa faction for ED probe

Chandigarh: A delegation led by former Union Minister and rebel SAD leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa on Tuesday met Governor VP Singh Badnore. Dhindsa, accompanied by former minister Sewa Singh Sekhwan and former MLA Bir Devinder Singh, alleged that the Congress government had failed to rein in the liquor mafia. The leaders demanded an ED probe in the case.

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Chandigarh: A delegation led by former Union Minister and rebel SAD leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa on Tuesday met Governor VP Singh Badnore. Dhindsa, accompanied by former minister Sewa Singh Sekhwan and former MLA Bir Devinder Singh, alleged that the Congress government had failed to rein in the liquor mafia. The leaders demanded an ED probe in the case.

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Covid caseload up, govt puts off elective surgeries

488 fresh cases, 20 deaths reported in 24 hours

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 4 In wake of the surge in Covid cases, the Health Department has suspended all elective surgeries in government hospitals for the next 15 days.

In a communication sent to all civil surgeons, the Director, Health Services, has asked them to postpone all elective surgeries. "You all know that an upsurge in cases of Covid-19 is being witnessed in the state. The increased number of cases will require the services of more healthcare staff," it said.

Keeping this in view, the communication said, "You are requested to postpone the elective surgeries in all government healthcare facilities in your district for the next 15 days so that the healthcare staff can be made available for Covid-19 duties."

However, it must be ensured that emergency services, mother and child-care and trauma services are provided without interruption, it added.

Significantly, the number of cases has seen a sudden spike in the past three weeks.

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS	DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Ludhiana	3,935	122	Moga	455	5
Jalandhar	2,644	60	Fatehgarh Sahib	393	3
Amritsar	2,024	85	Tarn Taran	377	12
Patiala	1,938	38	Kapurthala	340	11
Sangrur	1,161	30	Fazilka	327	1
SAS Nagar	949	17	SBS Nagar	320	4
Gurdaspur	668	19	Faridkot	319	0
Bathinda	585	8	Barnala	318	7
Hoshiarpur	569	15	Ropar	273	4
Ferozepur	565	6	Muktsar	240	2
Pathankot	456	13	Mansa	159	0
Total positive	19,015		Deaths	462	

55% cases from 4 districts

- Around 200 deaths and 8,000 fresh cases have been reported in the past two weeks
- Four districts — Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar and Patiala — have reported around 55% of the total cases



In the last two weeks, around 200 deaths and 8,000 cases were reported. Four districts — Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar and Patiala — have reported around 55 per cent of the total cases.

Meanwhile, the state reported 488 fresh cases and 20 deaths in the last 24 hours. The count of Covid-19 has reached 19,015. Once again, Ludhiana

topped in terms of casualties with seven deaths. Five deaths each were reported from Patiala and Jalandhar; one each from Fatehgarh Sahib and Gurdaspur.

In terms of cases too, Ludhiana continued to be the worst affected district as it reported 222 cases, followed by Amritsar (39), Sangrur (36), Jalandhar (34) and Patiala (19). — TNS

Imported used ventilators can be of help: HC

SAURABH MALIK

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 4 The Punjab and Haryana High Court today asserted that 32 imported used ventilators could be of help to serious patients. The assertion came after the Bench was told that the 32 used ventilators were found to be in working condition.

The development is significant as the import of used ventilators is, otherwise, banned in India. Taking a note of the submission, the Bench of Justice Rajan Gupta and Justice Karamjit Singh asserted: "We,



QUESTIONS BAN

The directions came less than a month after the Bench asserted that the Union Government and other respondents were asked to explain the reasons why import of used ventilators had been banned in the country.

prima facie, feel that in case, the ventilators are put to use, it may be of help to some serious patients".

The Bench also directed the forwarding of the order's copy to Additional Solicitor-General of India Satya Pal Jain for enabling him to seek instructions, "particularly keeping in view the matter involves the question of saving lives of critical patients".

The directions came less than a month after the Bench asserted that the Union Government and other respondents were asked to explain the reasons why

import of used ventilators had been banned in the country. But clear answer was not forthcoming.

As the case came up for resumed hearing through video-conferencing this afternoon, the Bench was told that a committee of experts came to the conclusion after examining the matter that the ventilators, of reputed brands, were found to be in working condition. But these may be put to use subject to clarification of disinfection, effectiveness and assured maintenance by the refurbishing company".



Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh pronounces 'tankhah' on the associates of former SAD minister Sucha Singh Langah in Amritsar on Tuesday. PHOTO: VISHAL KUMAR

Takht awards 'tankhah' to Langah's associates

Tribune News Service

AMRITSAR, AUGUST 4

Taking cognisance of the "pardon" granted to former SAD minister Sucha Singh Langah, the Akal Takht today pronounced former member of SGPC's Dharam Parchar Committee, Rattan Singh Jaffarwal, and its Kadian member, Gurinderpal Singh Gora, as 'tankhai' (guilty of religious misconduct).

They were charged with violating the Akal Takht's 'hukumnama' against Langah by having association with him and facilitating his 'pardon' from 'panj pyaras' of Nihang organisation Tarna Dal at Gurdwara Garhi Baba Banda Singh Bahadur in Dharawal, Gurdaspur, on Monday.

Giani Harpreet Singh, who awarded the 'tankhah' from the Akal Takht's podium, said the two would be instantly removed from all positions

and panels of the apex body. Langah was excommunicated on October 5, 2017, by the Akal Takht after his objectionable video had gone viral.

On Monday, Langah had formally submitted an apology before the 'panj pyaras' of the Tarna Dal, upon which he was given religious punishment of sweeping the gurdwara floor, washing dishes and cleaning shoes daily for one hour for the next 21 days.

After accepting it, Langah took part in 'amrit sanchar' (ceremony of baptism), reportedly to be accepted back to the community.

Acting swiftly on Akal Takht's order, the SGPC has expelled Gurinderpal Singh Gora from all sub-committees. SGPC president Gobind Singh Longowal said "We will form a sub-committee to find out if other members or officials were associated with Langah".

Now, vets to test samples

JALANDHAR, AUGUST 4

Having conducted tests on livestock diseases, including FMD, glanders, swine flu and bird flu, veterinary experts at the Northern Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (NRDDL), Jalandhar, have geared up to test samples of Covid-19.

The laboratory has got approval from the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) for testing SARS-CoV-2 by the conventional RT-PCR method after getting satisfactory report reading competency and validation of test results. This would be the first laboratory in Doaba and fourth government lab in Punjab, which has been allowed to conduct tests.

A team of veterinarians — Dr Charanjeet Sarangal, Dr Gagandeep Bangar, Dr Gaurav Sharma, Dr Mukesh Mittal, Dr Deepak Bhatia and Dr Parveen Kumar — would be conducting tests.

Dr HS Kahlon, Joint Director, NRDDL, said, "We have subject matter specialists and well-established diagnostic labs related to microbiology, molecular biology, public health, pathology, epidemiology for animal diagnosis. Our scientists are aware of advance diagnostic tools. Now, the team has taken necessary training from Baba Farid University of Health Sciences (BFUHS), Faridkot." — TNS

Don't promote students sans exams: MCI

BALWANT GARG

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, AUGUST 4

Unlike other streams where students were promoted to the next class without exams in the wake of Covid-19, the Medical Council of India (MCI) today issued an advisory to medical colleges and universities that no MBBS batch should be promoted without exams.

All medical colleges/institutes should complete practicals

cal, laboratory and demonstration test of the first year MBBS course within two months of reopening of colleges and thereafter, exams should be completed as soon as possible, preferably within a month, reads the advisory.

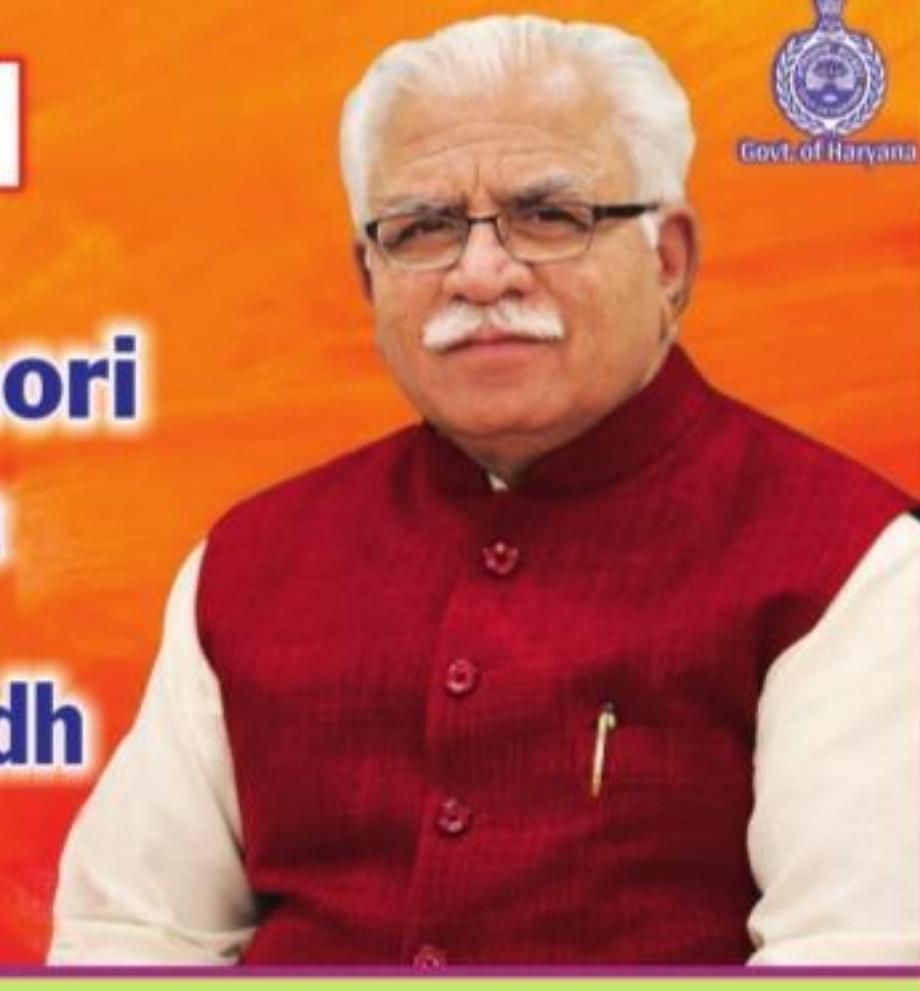
However, in case of supplementary exams of final year MBBS students, the MCI has asked colleges not to wait for reopening of the institutes. The exams should be conducted as soon as pos-

sible as students have to join their internship after clearing their final year exams.

On the pattern of practical exams of MD, MS clinical courses, the MCI allowed numerous relaxations in conducting exams of MBBS students. As per these relaxations, external examiners have been allowed from a different university in the state and these examiners need to be physically present at the exam venue. In case it is not possible, the



LAUNCH of Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojna and Mukhya Mantri Doodh Uphaar Yojna



Chief Guest

Sh. Manohar Lal

Chief Minister, Haryana

Smt. Kamlesh Dhanda

Minister of State for Women & Child Development, Haryana

Date: 5th August, 2020 at 11:00 AM Venue: Chandigarh

Mukhya Mantri Doodh Uphaar Yojna

For improvement in Health & Nutritional Status of Children & Mothers

Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojna

For the welfare & healthy life of women

- Distribution of 200ml of reconstituted fortified sweetened skimmed milk with Vitamin A & D-3 in six flavours such as rose, elaichi, chocolate, vanilla, butterscotch and plain for 6 days in a week to 9.03 lakh children (1-6 years) and 2.95 lakh pregnant and lactating mothers in Anganwadis with an expenditure of Rs. 216 Crore.
- The fortified sweetened skimmed milk powder will be supplied by Haryana Dairy Development Cooperative Federation (HDDCF) and VITA at village level.

- Free sanitary napkins to 22.50 Lakh girls & women belonging to BPL families in the age group of 10-45 years with a yearly expenditure of Rs. 39.80 crore.
- Each girl / woman will be provided with a pack of 6 sanitary napkins per month for a year to be distributed through Anganwadi centres across the State.

All the Deputy Commissioners in the State will launch the schemes at district level at the same time and will connect with the main function at Chandigarh through Video Conferencing. The sanitary napkins and fortified flavoured skimmed milk powder will be distributed by the anganwadi workers from door to door to the beneficiaries on 5th August, 2020 at the village level.

Women & Child Development Department, Haryana

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana www.prharyana.gov.in [@Cmohry](https://Cmohry) [@DiprHaryana](https://DiprHaryana)

प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी
के कर कमलों से
5 अगस्त, 2020 को
अयोध्या में
श्री राम के भव्य मन्दिर के
भूमि पूजन की
हिमाचलवासियों को
हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

कोरोना महामारी से बचाव के लिए दो गज की दूरी - बेहद है ज़रूरी



जारीकार्ता : सूचना एवं जन सम्पर्क, हिमाचल प्रदेश

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DPR Himachal

वेबसाइट : www.himachalpr.gov.in

ई-मेल : dprhp@himachalpr.gov.in

जय राम ठाकुर

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I, Gurmeet Singh s/o Hazura Drai r/o # 7, Ranjit Nagar/Vihar Verka milk plant, Hassanpur Prohtan, Patiala, Punjab-147004 have changed my name to Gurmeet Drai. (CL20026046)

I, Jasbir Kaur w/o Gurmeet Drai r/o # 17-1, Harman colony, Tripti Town, Patiala, Punjab-147001 have changed my name to Jasbir Drai. (CL20026047)

I, Sanjay Sharma s/o Sh. Rajinder Pal Sharma r/o 3226/ 28-D, Chandigarh, have changed my minor son's name Shardul Sanjay to Shardul Sanjay Sharma. (CL20026106)

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COURT NOTICE

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Sh. Sukhwinder Singh, Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Phagwara. Jyoti Rani age 30 years wife of Ragvir Rattu and daughter of Late Sh. Pati Lal Resident of Navi Abadi, Narang Shahpur, Tehsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala presently of Village Chomon, Near Air Force Station, Adampur, District Jalandhar.

...Applicant/Aggrieved person vs.

Ragvir Rattu son of Hans Raj Rattu resident of Navi Abadi, Narang Shahpur, Tehsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala presently of VIA GONNI XXXII No. 17, 42046 REGGIOLO REGGIO EMILIA, ITALY and others.

...Accused/Opposite parties CNR No.: PBKP1A-001058-2019

Next Date: 07.08.2019

Petition U/S 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 & 22 of Protection of Women from DV Act 2005

Publication issued to: 1. Ragvir Rattu son of Hans Raj Rattu resident of Navi Abadi Narang Shahpur, Tehsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala presently of VIA GONNI XXXII No. 17, 42046 REGGIOLO REGGIO EMILIA, ITALY. 2. Hans Raj Rattu son of Joginder Paul resident of Navi Abadi Narang Shahpur, Tehsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala presently of VIA GONNI XXXII No. 17, 42046 REGGIOLO REGGIO EMILIA, ITALY. 3. Gurjeet Kaur Rattu wife of Hans Raj Rattu resident of Navi Abadi Narang Shahpur, Tehsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala presently of VIA GONNI XXXII No. 17, 42046 REGGIOLO REGGIO EMILIA, ITALY. 4. Hardeep Kaur wife of Hardeep Singh resident of Village Bara Pind, Tehsil Goraya, District Jalandhar presently resident of VIA GONNI XXXII No. 17, 42046 REGGIOLO REGGIO EMILIA, ITALY. 5. Gurjeet Kaur wife of Hans Raj Rattu resident of Navi Abadi Narang Shahpur, Tehsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala presently of VIA GONNI XXXII No. 17, 42046 REGGIOLO REGGIO EMILIA, ITALY. 6. Sonia Rattu wife of Birbir Singh resident of Bara Pind, Tehsil Goraya, District Jalandhar presently resident of VIA GONNI XXXII No. 17, 42046 REGGIOLO REGGIO EMILIA, ITALY.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/ respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/ respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 07.08.2020 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to:

https://highcourtindia.gov.in/?trs=district_kapurthala

Dated, this day of 02/08/2020.

Sd/- Sukhwinder Singh,

Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate,

CL19132373

Versus

Ramesh Rani wife of Satish Kumar & daughter of Harpal, presently residing at Village Kulam, Tehsil Nawanshahr, District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar.

....Respondent

Petition U/S 13 of Hindu Marriage Act for dissolution of marriage of the parties by a decree of divorce.

Notice to:

Ramesh Rani wife of Satish Kumar & daughter of Harpal, presently residing at Village Kulam, Tehsil Nawanshahr, District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar.

In above titled petition the respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that the respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 20.08.2020 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to:

https://highcourtindia.gov.in/?trs=district_kapurthala

Dated, this day of 02/08/2020.

Sd/- Sukhwinder Singh,

Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate,

CL19132373

....Petitioner

For details logon to:

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....Petitioner

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....Petitioner

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Sd/- Sukhwinder Singh,

Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate,

CL19132373

....Petitioner

For details logon to:

https://highcourtindia.gov.in/?trs=district_kapurthala

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CL19132373

....Petitioner

For details logon to:

https://highcourtindia.gov.in/?trs=district_kapurthala

Dated, this day of 02/08/2020.

Sd/- Sukhwinder Singh,

Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate,

CL19132373

....Petitioner

For details logon to:

8 more die of virus

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 4

With 623 fresh cases and eight deaths, the Covid tally in the state jumped to 37,796.

Three deaths were reported from Sirsa and one each from Faridabad, Jhajjar, Rohtak, Kurukshetra and Fatehabad.

In Kurukshetra, a 78-year-old woman from New Colony, who had cancer and diabetes, was among the casualty. Also, a 45-year-old woman from Shahabad died, but is yet to be counted in the state health bulletin.

A 69-year-old man from Sector 51 in Faridabad succumbed to the viral disease.

The fresh cases came from Faridabad (169), Rohtak (96), Panipat (50), Gurugram (46), Ambala (32), Sonepat (29), Yamunanagar (22), Fatehabad (21), Rewari (20), Karnal (19), Sirsa (19), Jhajjar (16), Kurukshetra (16), Palwal (15), Bhiwani (15), Panchkula (12), Jind (8), Kaithal (6), Nuh (5), Hisar (4) and Mahendragarh (3).

Meanwhile, 756 patients got cured in the last 24 hours taking the tally to 31,226 with a recovery rate of 82.62 per cent.

So far, Bhiwani has the best recovery rate of 94.28 per cent and has just 40 active cases.

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Gurugram	9,348	124
Faridabad	9,341	135
Sonepat	3,013	33
Rewari	1,904	8
Ambala	1,742	17
Rohtak	1,689	24
Karnal	1,139	11
Panipat	1,302	19
Hisar	1,014	10
Palwal	993	9
Jhajjar	865	11
Mahendragarh	832	1
Bhiwani	804	6
Nuh	560	12
Panchkula	743	2
Kurukshetra	553	7
Sirsa	445	7
Fatehabad	376	3
Jind	328	5
Yamunanagar	354	3
Kaithal	296	
Charkhi Dadri	155	1
Italiens	14	
Foreign returnees	21	
Total	37,796	448

MUKESH TANDON

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANIPAT, AUGUST 4

Pradeep Singh, an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer under training, has topped the civil services examination. He wants to contribute to the country's educational sector.

The topper, who hails from Tewri village of Ganaur tehsil in Sonepat district and belongs to a farmer family, cracked the examination in his fourth attempt.

"It is an unbelievable and unexpected moment for me. It is a very pleasant surprise as I did not expect that I would be ranked first. I am very happy and so are my family and friends," he said.

"My father Sukhbeer Singh is my source of motivation. Due to his motivation, hard work and determined preparation, I was able to achieve my goal of becoming an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer," he said.

"I put in a lot of effort.



Pradeep Singh, an Indian Revenue Service officer under training, with his family in Sonepat.

Hard work the key, says Sirsa girl

Hisar: A law graduate from Delhi University, Kanchan of Sirsa has secured 35th rank in the civil services examination.

She said peace of mind and hard work were the key to success in the examination. Daughter of a chartered accountant, Kanchan had been aspiring to become an IAS officer ever since she was in school. She had started preparing for the examination during the final year of

her law course in Delhi. This was her second attempt. She had been selected in the Railway Personal Service in her first attempt last year. TNS

Cop betters rank

Rewari: Pankaj Yadav of Tint village in Rewari district has been ranked 56th in the examination. Selected to the IPS in 2018, he is posted as an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in Imphal. He completed MBBS at Pt BD Sharma PGIMS in Rohtak in 2016. He was passionate about the civil services and had started preparations to achieve his goal. TNS

After getting selected in the IRS in 2014, I had appeared in the examination again in 2015, but could not crack it. I appeared again and topped it. It is a wonderful experience," he said.

After obtaining a Bachelor of Engineering (computer science) degree from Deen Bandhu Chhotu Ram University for Science and Technology in Murthal, Pradeep was selected as Inspector in the Income Tax Department in 2015 and served for four years.

"I want to work in the educational sector and will work to provide benefits of government schemes to the deprived sections so that they can join the mainstream and play an important role in the country's development," he said.

In his message to students, he said, "If I can top the civil services examination, anyone can succeed. Focus and strong determination are key to success."

Infection fatal for every 10th patient above 75 yrs

SUSHIL MANAV

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

died and one out of 500 in the age group of 25 to 34 years did not survive.

The initial fears that the elderly and children were equally at risk had proved wrong in Haryana as the mortality rate was between 6 per cent and 10 per cent among the elderly and 0.1 per cent among children up to 14 years of age.

Among those in the age group of 35 to 44 years, one out of 125 patients died, while in the age group of 45 to 54 years, one out of 71 patients succumbed to the virus.

Ever since the first case was reported in Haryana on March 17, 36,519 people had

Age group (in years)	Number of patients	Total deaths
0-4	684	3
5-14	1,929	0
15-24	5,692	6
25-34	10,270	19
35-44	7,234	58
45-54	5,070	72
55-64	3,359	107
65-74	1,628	101
75-84	537	54
85-94	106	12
95-104	10	1

been infected till August 2. Of them, 433 succumbed to the virus, the maximum of 134 in Faridabad district, followed by

124 in Gurugram, 33 in Sonepat, 23 in Rohtak, 17 in Ambala and 15 in Panipat.

Of the 36,519 positive cases, the maximum of 10,270 were in the age group of 25 to 34 years. Of them, 19 died, with a fatality rate of 0.2 per cent. The next biggest chunk of infections — 7,234 — was in the age group of 35 to 44 years. Of them, 58 succumbed to the virus, with a fatality rate of 0.8 per cent.

The fatality rate was 1.4 per cent (72 out of 5,070) in the age group of 45 to 54 years, 3.2 per cent (107 out of 3,359) in the age bracket of 55 to 64 years, 6.2 per cent (101 out of 1,628) in the age group of 65 to 74 years and 10.1 per cent (54 out of 537) in the age bracket of 75 to 84 years.

Twelve of 106 patients in the age group of 85 to 94 years died due to the virus and one out of 10 in the age group of 95 to 105 years succumbed to the disease.

Among children, 684 under the age of 5 years contracted the virus and three of them succumbed, while 1,929 in the age group of 5 to 14 years tested positive and all of them survived. In the age group of 15 to 24 years, 5,692 contracted the contagion, six of whom succumbed to the virus.

No college fee hike for 2020-21

Chandigarh: In a relief to students, there will be no increase in fee in government, government-aided and self-financed colleges in the state for 2020-21. The decision has been taken due to the economic crisis triggered by Covid. TNS

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY AMRITSAR
TENDER NOTICE
Online tenders are invited from reputed manufacturers/ authorized dealers for the Annual Rate Contract for supply of Chemicals, Glassware and Equipments etc. (upto Rs.2,00,000/-) for 2020-21. Earnest Money (Rs.20,000/-) may be deposited online latest by 21/08/2020 (till 5:00 pm). Online Tender Form can be filled through link available on www.gndu.ac.in

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

DAV COLLEGE MANAGING COMMITTEE CHITRA GUPTA ROAD, (PAHARGANJ) NEW DELHI-110055 Tel.: 011-23503500

Advt.No. C. Prin./PS/August/2020/04

Invites applications for the post of Principal, DAV College, Bathinda, Punjab, on regular basis, within 21 days from the date of publication on the prescribed proforma, obtainable from its Office and the concerned College on payment of Rs.250/- in Cash or by Bank Draft in favour of "Secretary DAV College Managing Committee, New Delhi" or by post with a self addressed Rs.25/- stamped envelope. It can also be downloaded from Website: www.davcmc.net.in and be submitted along with a Demand Draft of Rs.250/- per form to the Managing Committee Office.

Eligibility: Eligible candidates in accordance with the qualifications/ conditions laid down by the U.G.C./State Govt./Punjab University, Patiala may send their application to this Office through Registered Post/Speed Post or in person. A copy of the application form be sent to the Dean, College Development Council, Punjabi University, Patiala under Registered Cover. Candidates must have passed Punjabi upto Matrix level.

Pay-scale: As per norms of U.G.C./State Govt./Punjab, Patiala.

Submission of Application forms : Application attached with:- (i) Attested copies of testimonials/degrees (ii) "No Objection Certificate" from the present employer (iii) API Score Performa duly filled in, will alone be entertained on or before the due date.

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6 AUG 2020

To

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TENTATIVE ESTIMATE AMOUNT

HIG FLATS- 45 LAC

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Price (In Lacs)	Super Area (in Sq. Ft.)	Demand Survey Money
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--Sd—

Harinder Singh Chahal,
Amritsar Improvement Trust,
Amritsar.

--Sd—

Dinesh Bassi
Amritsar Improvement Trust,
Amritsar.

AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform that M.D. Pungrain Anaj Bhawan, Sector 39-C, Chandigarh is auctioning their condemned 04 vehicles "As is Where is Basis". Details as below:-

S. No.	Vehicle-Variant	Registration No.	Model	Refixed Reserve Price (in Rs)
1.	Ambassador-Diesel	PB46-G-8300	2009	18000/-
2.	Ambassador-Petrol	CH01-G1-0046	2007	2

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

J&K, a year later

Free political prisoners, allow voices of dissent

TO DAY marks a year since Jammu and Kashmir was stripped of its special status and reorganised into two UTs. In one stroke, an assertive BJP claimed, a solution had been found to the Kashmir imbroglio and the stumbling block to the integration of the Valley removed. The jubilation in the rank and file came as no surprise. What did was the overwhelming sense of endorsement in the rest of the country. How Kashmir and the Kashmiris felt mattered little. And, apparently, still does not. Jammu was ecstatic, initially at least. Having read the fineprint, the apprehensions are far from muted. Ladakh felt it had gained freedom from the stranglehold of distant and uninterested administrators. The slow pace of change is testing its enthusiasm.

The non-BJP parties did show a semblance of resistance, but quickly realised the power of silence in the changed climate of burning patriotism and nationalism. Omar Abdullah has been scathing in his attack, saying he felt betrayed more by the Opposition. What deserves serious attention is his charge against the Modi government of reducing the political mainstream into an object of ridicule. Four-time legislator MY Tarigami's argument is pertinent: 'The continued detention of political prisoners, particularly legislators, shows that if democratic rights are not even available to the voices that speak on behalf of the Indian union, how would ordinary people even think of enjoying them?' The only fallout of disallowing political discourse is anger, sullenness and further alienation, not integration.

Since the clampdown in the Valley last year, high-speed Internet remains out of reach. That amounts to two lockdowns, including the one induced by Covid-19, without a basic necessity. Carrying out such an exercise anywhere else in India is unimaginable. The legal challenge to the abrogation of Article 370 is still on, restoration of statehood is a popular demand. Allow voices of dissent. Dispel the notion, as a former CM feels, that all the Centre wanted to do on August 5, 2019, was to 'punish and humiliate' the people.

More H-1B curbs

America can't afford to shut out global talent

DESPERATE to put his presidential campaign back on track even as America continues to be ravaged by the Covid-19 pandemic, US President Donald Trump is busy playing the populist card and whipping up anti-foreigner sentiment. More than a month after the Trump administration suspended H-1B visas along with other types of foreign work visas till the year-end, ostensibly to protect the interests of American workers, the President has now signed an executive order that will make federal agencies employ Americans and prevent them from contracting or subcontracting foreign workers. The much-sought-after H-1B, a non-immigrant visa, allows US companies to hire tens of thousands of IT professionals every year from countries such as India and China.

Trump's latest order is based on the erroneous presumption that American workers are enough, whether or not they have the skill set possessed by foreigners. The Silicon Valley is a testament to the commendable work done by Indian techies in America over the decades. According to the Hurun Global Unicorn List, of the 61 unicorns (startups valued at over \$1 billion each) founded by Indians, two-thirds are based outside India, mostly in America's technology hub.

As the US strives to reduce its unemployment rate and create jobs, it can't afford to shut the door on skilled workers from around the world. Isolationism can be detrimental to accomplishing the Herculean task of rebuilding American economy. Trump says he favours a merit-based immigration system, but at the same time, he is disinclined to ensure a level playing field. It's no secret that job outsourcing has enabled American companies to overwhelm competitors around the globe, considerably cutting down operating costs and maximising profits. With the virus still out of control, the US doesn't have the wherewithal to achieve a turnaround merely by generating jobs at home. 'America First' is not necessarily synonymous with 'Americans First'. The beleaguered superpower needs allies like India to get back on its feet. Increasing the curbs on workers and students from India is nothing but an economic and diplomatic own goal.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without. — Buddha

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1920

System Versus Individuals.

WE cannot accept Dr. Rabindranath's view that "all British troubles in India are due to the lack of sympathy between the rulers and the people"; that all that the Government of India lacks is "personal human touch," that no modification of the existing machinery would make the slightest difference without change of spirit and that the only hope is for a man with "real nobility of purpose and generous sympathy" to go to India as Viceroy. Not that we do not recognise the value of sympathy and personal human touch, or the need for a change of spirit. But clearly in his anxiety to emphasise one indispensable element, Dr. Rabindranath is greatly minimising another. The difference between a good and a bad ruler is unmistakable and will always remain, but even the best of rulers cannot do their work properly or give complete satisfaction with the aid of an evil system and a vicious method. Indeed, at the risk of repeating an unpleasant truism we must say that where a system is radically unsound, bad rulers sometimes actually serve a more useful purpose than good rulers. The latter, by glossing over the defects of the system, may induce the people to go to sleep over them and thus prolong its life, while the former, by revealing the defects of the system in their nakedness, may act as a much-needed spur, and unconsciously and unwittingly give an impetus to the forces of freedom and progress. And apart from this aspect of the matter, is not Dr. Tagore making an artificial division between sympathy and policy, between the machinery and the spirit of the Government? He is a thinker as well as a poet, and he surely knows as well as any of us that sympathy to be of any practical value must be embodied in policy and that the relation between the form and the spirit of a Government, as of all similar bodies, is organic, that neither is really independent of the other.

A case of hits and misses

The approach in J&K needs to be people-centric rather than security-centric



LT GEN DS HOODA (RETD)

FORMER NORTHERN ARMY COMMANDER

ONE year ago, the Home Minister, in his speech in Parliament, said Article 370 had to go as it was the biggest hurdle to normalcy and was the root cause of terrorism. Calling Jammu and Kashmir as the jewel in India's crown, he promised to make it the country's most developed state in five years. The state was also broken up into two union territories, although the minister promised that full statehood could be restored at 'an appropriate time' when 'normalcy' returns.

While the government emphasised that the decision taken on August 5, 2019, would pave the way for development and spell the end to terrorism, others warned that there could be an intensified spell of violence and bloodshed in the Valley. Fortunately, the latter has not happened, but unfortunately, neither has the former. One year after the abrogation of Article 370, the government's scorecard is mixed. There are a few successes and some missed opportunities.

Let us first look at the successes. From a security perspective, we could say that the situation has been reasonably well controlled. 2001 was the peak year of violence in J&K, with more than 4,000 fatalities of civilians, security forces, and terrorists. By 2012, these figures had come down to a little over 100. Since 2013, there has been an increase in violence levels, but the average fatalities in the past three years number less than 400.

Civilian collateral damage and terrorist violence have also been kept in check. More than 1,000 civilians were killed in terror-related violence in 2001. The past five years have seen about 200 civilian deaths. Today,



REACH OUT: Results can't be expected in a short span. But it is vital to evolve a strategy that focuses on conflict resolution and gives primacy to the needs of the people.

Introspection by the civil society would find that solutions lie within the Indian State, and that some compromises are preferable to the continuing bloodshed.

there are less than 200 active terrorists in Kashmir and have limited capacity to force any change in Kashmir through the use of arms.

The alteration in the status of the state has brought relief to certain communities who had been denied domicile rights. West Pakistan refugees, Balmiki Samaj members, and Gorkhas settled in the state have started receiving domicile certificates. Discrimination against women who marry outside the state has also been removed.

On the other hand, there has been little progress in finding a long-term solution to this intractable conflict. This is the result of a strategy that has focused on conflict management rather than conflict resolution. Conflict management could be understood as attempts to mitigate the damaging effects of conflict, primarily through the use of force. To be fair, this strategy has also been followed by past governments, but the almost singular focus, in the past three years, has been to controlling violence has pushed efforts at resolving the con-

flict into the background.

The unprecedented lockdown that continues in some form till today has ensured that there are no violent protests of the type witnessed in 2016 but has caused enormous distress to the common man. In January this year, the J&K home department cited 'security of the state' and 'maintaining public order' as the reasons for the continuing restrictions on the Internet.

Ensuring security is an essential aspect of combating internal conflicts. A few terrorists should not be permitted to hold the state hostage through the power of the gun. However, even as the terrorists need to be neutralised, our definition of security should be expanded to provide security to the common man. This includes the creation of an environment where the citizens have confidence that they will get justice, liberty, and equality as enshrined in the Constitution.

As opposed to conflict management, a conflict resolution strategy aims to address the root causes of conflict to find solutions that take into account the needs of the people.

consideration the aspirations of the people, narrow down divisions between communities, and leave all parties with a sense of victory. This is no simple task in a conflict as complex as Kashmir, but a start can be made with an approach that is people-centric rather than security-centric.

The government must initiate confidence-building measures that address the existing trust deficit and allay suspicions and fears. Visible actions on the ground in terms of accelerated economic development, lifting of restrictions, and an outreach to the society could lessen anxieties, although it will be a gradual process.

For any conflict-resolution mechanism to succeed, the civil society must also play a big part. The various communities that reside in J&K have their own set of genuine grievances, but these grievances cannot be solved if the conflict continues and civil society members shun reconciliation among themselves. It is also inexplicable and unacceptable for people in the rest of India that a section of the population in the Valley continues to raise issues that directly impact the unity and integrity of the nation.

Ethnic and religious activists in Kashmir have exploited fears about loss of identity and raised unfounded hopes of autonomy and self-rule. For those looking at Pakistan for succour, it must be realised that Pakistan's only role is in stoking further terrorism and violence. A deep introspection by the civil society would perhaps find that all solutions lie within the Indian State and that some compromises are preferable to the continuing bloodshed.

It is also rightly argued by many that one year is too short a time to assess any progress towards achieving the government's objectives. This is a valid point as the armed conflict has lasted more than 30 years, and it is impractical to expect visible results in a very short span. However, what can certainly be done is to evolve a future strategy that emphasises conflict resolution over conflict management and gives primacy to the needs of the people.

A welcome, Army style

LT GEN RANJIT SINGH (RETD)

IN the Army, there is a tradition that when a young officer joins his unit for the first time after commissioning, he is ragged by senior officers. One had heard about the helper (actually an officer) stealing the identity card and being put behind bars as he had no identity proof! At times, the luggage would disappear and when you reported in mutiny, you were punished for being improperly turned out!

After the course, two of us were posted to a new unit. As we wanted to make a good impression on the Commanding Officer (CO), we spent considerable time on drafting and redrafting the letter to him. We

finally had a draft which we were proud of. The next was writing it in a neat handwriting without mistakes and ensuring that the 'i's' were dotted and the 't's' crossed! Despite our best efforts, we couldn't find the CO's name, so with grave misgivings we sent off the letter, hoping he would overlook it.

While other officers were receiving letters from the CO welcoming them to the unit, imagine our disappointment when none came. The agonising thought was whether we had committed some faux pas in our letter. In any case, there was nothing we could do as the horse had bolted the stables.

After the course we reached our destination on a Sunday, alighted from the train and started looking for the

welcoming party. Gradually the platform emptied out, leaving just the two of us. We thought that this delay was on purpose, but after having waited for about an hour we knew that something was amiss.

We went to the Army Detachment there and rang up the HQ for directions. Those were the days when you picked up the phone, an operator would answer and connect you to the person you wanted to speak to. We started ringing up practically everybody, but nobody had heard of the unit. Being a Sunday didn't help matters. After having spent an hour on the phone, the operator suggested that we speak to the General. He connected us to the General's residence, and his wife asked us to ring up after

15 minutes as he was busy. We thanked her and put the phone down. Though it was winter, we had started sweating, wondering if we had done the right thing in ringing up the General. We were still debating on what to do next, when the phone rang. We explained our dilemma to the General. The old man told us to relax and directed us to go to the Officers' Mess and settle down there.

We learnt that we were the first two members of the unit. In due course, the letter which we had so painstakingly written arrived, and we had the privilege of opening it ourselves! We, of course, knew the contents and without reading it threw it in the waste paper basket. This unique welcome to the unit was unintended!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Religion and politics

Refer to the editorial 'Politics and spirituality' (Aug 4); politics and religion have remained connected to each other for decades. Any event, be it a foundation ceremony or riots, related to any religious place is used by politicians for their vested interests. Nobody is interested in the principles of religion. It is said religion is regarded by common people as true, by wise as false and by rulers as useful. What about social distancing, which is necessary as a preventive measure for the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, during these ceremonies?

VIKRAMJIT SINGH, AMRITSAR

Not much of an issue

Refer to the editorial 'Politics and spirituality'; the timing of the ground-breaking ceremony has been blown out of proportion. A large chunk of population is indifferent to the anniversary of the abolition of Article 370 and even the construction of the temple, when they do not know what is in store for them the next morning in terms of physical, mental and economic wellbeing. For all practical purposes, this has given enough fodder to the news channels to dissect the issue, other than Covid. People ought to have a sigh of relief that these two burning and contentious issues shall be history, and hopefully

the government shall get down to serious business which shall bring development and prosperity to the country.

DEEPAK SINGHAL, CHENNAI

Mind Delhi, Mr Kejriwal

Punjab toll due to spurious liquor is painful and definitely the state police are accountable. Remarks of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal that 'so many people have died and all you are interested in is political meat from the incident' is uncalled for ('Capt lashes out at Kejriwal over CBI probe demand', Aug 3). Kejriwal should mind his own business and look after Delhi instead of interfering in affairs of other states. He should not forget that many lapses have taken place in his state where the people have suffered badly. He should set his own house in order.

OP GARG, PATIALA

Get to bottom of it

Apropos of 'Punjab govt in the dock' (Aug 3), the hooch tragedy has unmasked the glaring inadequacies in the state apparatus. Passing the buck would tantamount to trivialising the tragedy. It is time to wake up to this grim reality. The ostensibly complicit political dispensation should come out of its slumber and order an independent inquiry by a sitting HC judge. Undoubtedly, the

excise department has a fair share of the blame but a more pernicious aspect relates to the nexus between politicians and the police. The emergence of such a spectre in a small district like Tarn Taran reveals that the civil and police administration cannot be oblivious to this operation. Let's hope that this tragedy serves as an eye-opener.

SUKHMAN, CHANDIGARH

Education mattered then

Refer to 'The heyday of govt schools'; those were the golden days when holistic development of students of government schools was cared for. Now, the attention has shifted to 'opulent' schools rather than teaching methodologies, resulting in the degradation of quality education and widening of the gap between private and government schools. Efforts made to cover this gap are hailed. Revival in the education system can be brought about by diminishing the divide as well as restoring dedication and quality.

DEEPTI GARG, BY MAIL

Colleges alone won't help

Refer to '11 new colleges to be opened soon' (Aug 4); instead of opening new colleges on political and extraneous considerations, the Haryana Government should try to streamline the administration of

existing colleges, both government and non-government. They are violating the mandatory provisions of Haryana Affiliated Colleges (Security of Service) Act 1979 and rules of 2006 framed there under in the matter of the constitution of college governing body, method of recruitment and service conditions of teachers. The higher education department has failed to take action. BEd and engineering colleges are already on the verge of closure due to poor quality of education and teaching. Degree colleges shall also fall in line soon. It is no longer realistic to relate job opportunities to our devalued university degrees. No knowledgeable employer these days reckons a university degree at its face value.

ANIL BHATIA, HISAR

Incomplete project

An irrigation project was awarded to a company in 2014 under PMKSY at Nadaun in Hamirpur. Six years have elapsed, but even Phase 1 of the project is yet to see the light of day ('Minister for time-bound completion of works', Aug 3). This has resulted in cost escalation and has deprived the youth of job opportunities. Timely execution will ensure livelihood to the needy in the command area that envisages to cover about 3,000 hectares.

NK PATHANIA, HAMIRPUR

US-China rivalry presages new world order



MANOJ JOSHI
DISTINGUISHED FELLOW, OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

THERE is an element of lazy thinking when people describe the situation between the US and China as a new Cold War, thus connecting it with the binary competition between the erstwhile Soviet Union and the United States in the 1950s-1980s.

The US-China relations have been rocky since 2018 when the two sides began a tariff war and the US began to restrict the export of semiconductors to China. And then came Covid-19 and as the situation in the US deteriorated, the level of rhetoric against China began to rise. It has been primarily opportunistic, driven by the hope that attacking China could perhaps make the US electorate overlook the shoddy handling of the pandemic by the Trump administration.

But now, as the election approaches, it has become wholly political with a group of anti-China hawks led by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo launching a scorched earth policy that will ensure that a Biden presidency is not easily able to alter its trajectory.

This is a moment of great opportunity and risk for India. One of the important features of the current situation is a desire of the US to break some key technology links with China. Steps have already been taken in this direction and we can anticipate some more in the coming months.

Corporations and businesses are scrambling to anticipate the situation and are looking for alternatives. By virtue of its size and political orientation, India fits the bill. Political proximity to the United States is a plus. But the task of creating the physical and human infrastructure to receive this bounty is entirely ours and there are no signs that we understand this.

But there is risk as well. China is a powerful neighbour, belligerent of late, with whom we share a vast land border. In addition, China's economic and growing maritime power makes it a player in our own South Asian and Indian Ocean region backyard. In that sense, in this 'new' Cold War, India is a frontline state and all the dangers that come with that status.

We need to carefully understand what this could entail. For example, while the US will encourage India to play a more active role in the South Africa-Indian Ocean Rim (SA-IOR) region, as well as in the western Pacific, it may not want to get involved in India's Himalayan quarrels.

Through an October 27, 1962 statement, the US recognised the McMahon Line as the international border, but it still views Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as disputed areas. Whether the US would want to get militarily involved in any Ladakh situation is a moot issue.



Historical analogies are a useful device to understand a situation, but they are not exact. So, while the 'new Cold War' is a useful device to understand the situation, we also need to be clear in our own minds that it's not quite a repeat of that past.

For one, it is not an ideological contest. We have capitalist America taking on a form of state capitalism in China. Neither is there military alliances arrayed against each other on a global scale. China hosts a great number of American industries, it owns a substantial portion of its debt, and in turn, the US hosts hundreds of thousands of Chinese students.

In terms of military power, the US is way ahead of China which does not

have the kind of alliance system the US has. China does have substantial military capability, one which is growing, but it is essentially one that has application on its borders only. So yes, militarily, we need to be careful of China's teeth along the Himalayan frontier and western Pacific, but that's about it. And let's be clear about one thing, communist or capitalist, authoritarian or democratic, China would behave in the same way. Like any power, it would be driven by its perception of national interests, not ideology. Pompeo's claim that the struggle is between the free world and 'new tyranny' can hardly resonate in places like Brazil and India where the notion of liberties is increasingly narrowing.

We are actually in an entirely new era, where the old rules and blocs that governed the world order have gone. They were already coming apart before Covid, the process has now accelerated.

For the sake of peace and stability, which everyone needs, we need to reconstitute it. Whether it is arms control, confidence building measures (CBMs), security treaties, trading regimes, they have all frayed. Also, the country that played an outsized role in creating and sustaining them has signalled that it is no longer interested in assuming the burden of hegemony.

The challenge is, therefore, to come up with a successor world order with

US-China relations have been rocky since 2018 when the two sides started a tariff war and the US began to restrict the export of semiconductors to China. And then came Covid-19 and as the situation in the US deteriorated, rhetoric against China began to rise. It has been opportunistic, driven by the hope that it would make the electorate overlook shoddy handling of the pandemic by the Trump administration.

COLLABORATION NEEDED: China-US relations are strained but are not quite a repeat of the Cold War.

new rules of the game. Experience tells us that they will not be simply multilateral regimes, there is room now for plurilateral alliances aimed at providing both security and economic benefits. And yes, Covid has taught us that we need to build in redundancy into the system so that it doesn't come apart the way it nearly did in February this year.

In this process, one set of problems and solutions may require one kind of a coalition, another set an entirely different one. Pompeo's Manichaean struggle has no place in a world that needs more, rather than less, cooperation and collaboration. This was, if you recall, the very first lesson of the old Cold War.

Pandemic, floods test Nitish's political acumen



NALIN VERMA

JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR

Bihar is under the worst spell of misery in living memory. Covid-19 has infected over 50,000 people and the figure is rising every day, with casualties mounting to nearly 350. The floods from the rivers originating in Nepal are wreaking havoc on over 10 districts of north Bihar. The people are scampering for treatment and relief. The clamour for postponing the Assembly polls is growing.



LYING LOW: Amid Bihar's woes, Nitish Kumar has failed to lead from the front.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has been maintaining a low profile for the past over four months. While Nitish mostly prefers to stay away from the public glare, the official handouts update the media on the Covid-19 situation, while his ministers and other leaders of the Janata Dal United (JDU) routinely campaign for their party through virtual media for the Assembly elections due in the state before November 29.

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The Opposition, though weak and incoherent, is relentless in attacking Nitish for his inactivity, demanding postponement of the polls. Its weakness is rooted in RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav — convicted in fodder cases — languishing in jail and his son and leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, failing to replicate the charisma and skill of his father.

But to the Opposition's advantage, Chirag Paswan, president of the LJP which is a part of the ruling National Democratic Alliance, is as scathing in his attack on Nitish as Tejashwi and the Congress are. Be it the washing away of a portion of the Rs 264-crore Sattaragh bridge by the turbulent Gandak river or the mismanagement in Bihar's health-care system — Union Food and Civil

Supplies Minister Ram Vilas Paswan's son is on the same page with Tejashwi in attacking Nitish. Chirag has repeatedly demanded postponement of the polls against the JDU's insistence for holding it on the scheduled time.

To the chagrin of Nitish, the BJP which he returned to in July 2017 after breaking away from the RJD-Congress grand alliance, seems to be enjoying the odds piling up against the CM. The BJP though has declared Nitish the NDA's leader for the November elections, but has shown no intention to rein in Chirag. The grapevine has it that the saffron party is using Chirag to corner Nitish and in the process, increase its hold on the politically important state that Bihar is.

Why has Nitish, who was known for

his *sushasan* and used to take the moral high ground, been inactive? It is not that he has suddenly gone into his shell in the face of the pandemic. His pronounced inactivity coincides with his compromise with the BJP on his party's ideological principles. The JDU supported the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and expelled senior party leaders, Pavan K Verma and Prashant Kishor, for opposing the 'deviation' of the party from its ethos. The JDU supported Article 370 in the context of Jammu and Kashmir and stayed ambivalent on the triple talaq bill.

Nitish had carved out an image of a performing chief minister, sticking to his self-declared principles of not compromising on 'crime, corruption and

communalism', famously abbreviated as the 'Three Cs'. To be fair to him, he largely adhered to at least, two Cs — communalism and crime — even when he ruled the state with the BJP till 2013 and also in company with the RJD-Congress from 2015 to 2017. His much-vaunted three Cs stand abandoned. Nitish who earned praise for carrying out phenomenal relief operations during the devastating 2008 floods — caused by a breach in the Kosi river at Kusaha in Nepal — and building road and electricity infrastructure in the state, is found wanting on the yardsticks he himself set.

Asked why Nitish has abandoned the practices he was earlier known for, the senior Bihar socialist leader, Shivanand Tiwary, who has worked with both Nitish and Lalu Prasad, said, "His inexperience lies in the manner he broke away from the grand alliance and returned to the BJP. If one does something unethical or immoral, one loses the moral strength to act. It's more pronounced in the case of Nitish, because he used to flaunt moral posturing."

Shivanand's remarks are not wide off the mark. Nitish has so far been unable to explain why he abruptly broke away from the grand alliance and returned to the BJP fold. He had prepared a solid ground to dump the BJP. He had made it obvious to the people at large that he was opposed to the emergence of his then Gujarat counterpart, Narendra Modi, in the national role in 2009 itself. He, subsequently, came out with a series of statements asserting that he would leave the BJP in the event of projection of Modi,

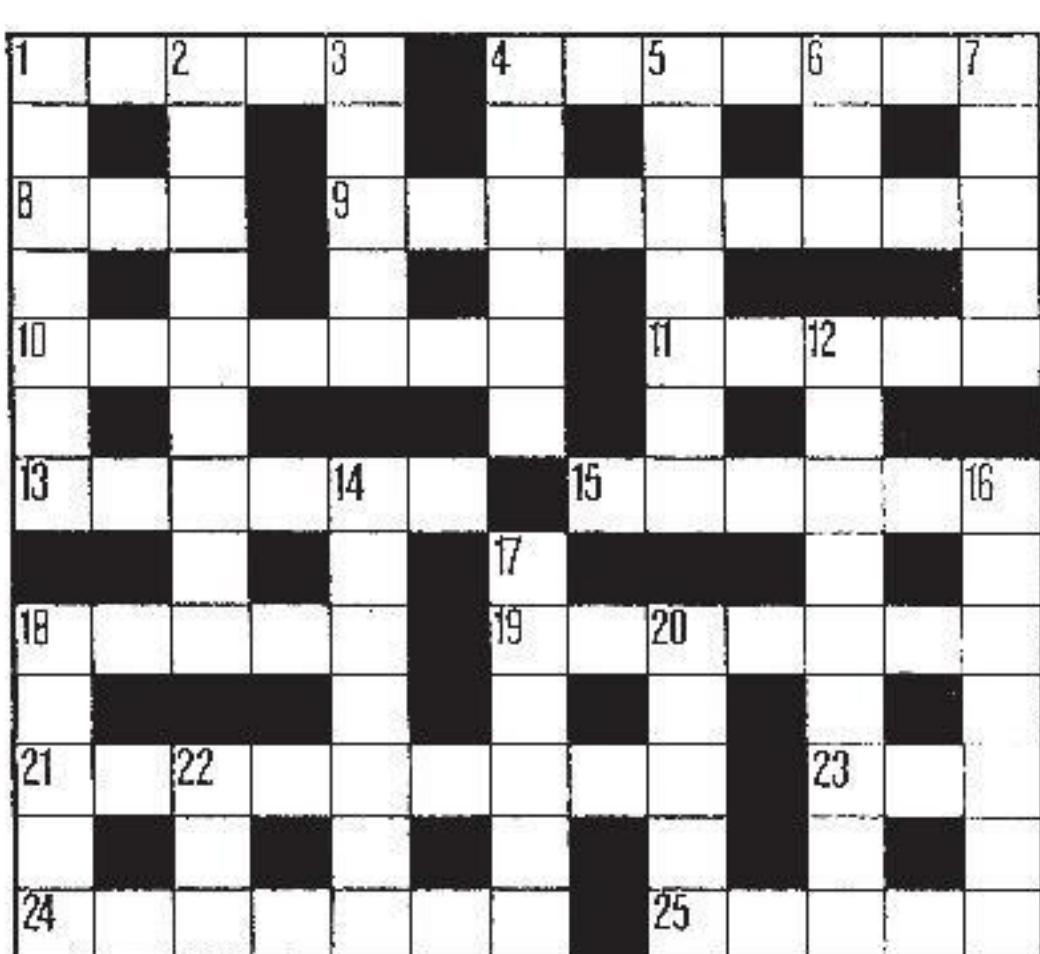
albeit without naming him as its prime ministerial candidate. And within a week of the BJP declaring Modi as its campaign committee chairman in June 2013, Nitish dumped the NDA. His JDU then had 115 MLAs, short of only seven in having a majority, in the 243-MLA Bihar Assembly. He formed the JDU government with the support of independents. The Nitish government then had an aura of legitimacy as he didn't seek the RJD or Congress support at that time.

Two years after breaking away from the BJP and almost a year after the Modi-led BJP won the Lok Sabha elections in 2014, Nitish joined the RJD-JDU-Congress grand alliance and returned as the CM in 2015. The alliance won, reducing the BJP to 53 MLAs in the 243-member House. The mandate was clear and loud, the electorate had rejected the BJP, giving 178 seats to the RJD-JDU-Congress alliance.

During the campaign, Nitish gave a call for Sangh-Mukt Bharat (RSS-free India) to counter Narendra Modi's slogan of Congress-Mukt Bharat and vowed, 'Mitti mein mil jayenge, lekin BJP mein nahin jayenge.' He rubbished PM Modi's package of Rs 125 crore to Bihar in 2015 and pilloried him for his 'false promises and lies'.

But he suddenly returned to the BJP in 2017, forming the government with it — which the electorate had rejected one year and nine months ago — on the very day he had quit the alliance. Tejashwi Yadav has alleged that Nitish has fallen to the BJP's blackmail over the Rs 2,000-crore Sri Ram scam that rocked his government; Nitish has not countered it.

QUICK CROSSWORD

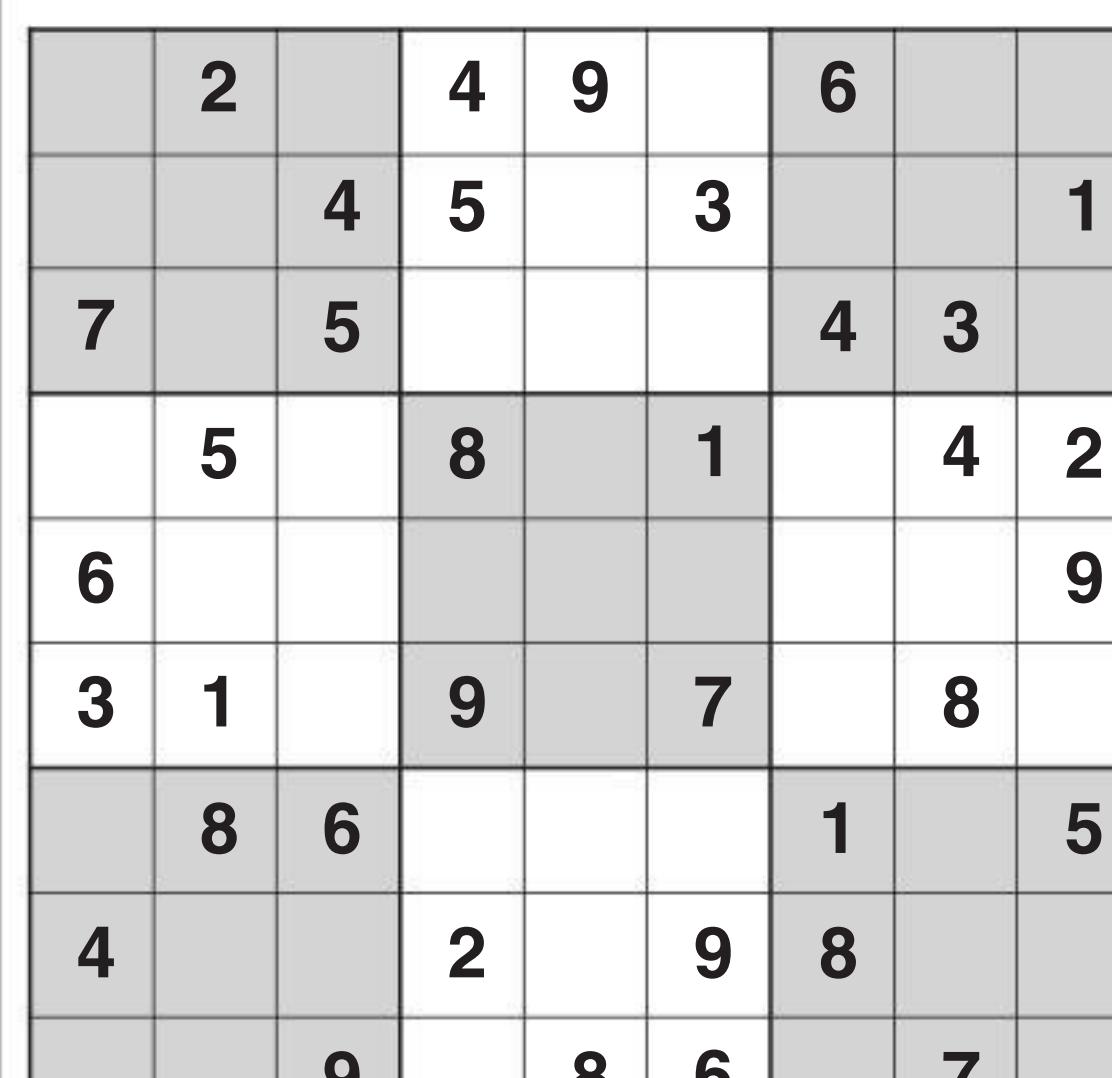


YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Walk of life, 8 Sousa, 9 Uncanny, 10 Retreat, 11 Naive, 12 Except, 14 Leaves, 17 Organ, 19 Bazooka, 21 Grime, 22 Blame, 23 Deep-seated.

Down: 2 Aquatic, 3 Krave, 4 Faulty, 5 Incense, 6 Ennui, 7 Cyberspace, 8 Sure enough, 13 Pinnacle, 15 Violate, 16 Obsess, 18 Guid, 20 Zebra.

SU DO KU



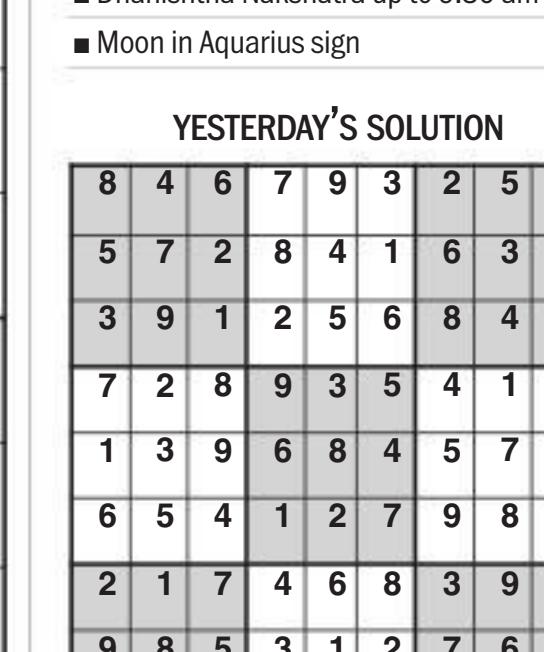
V EASY

CALENDAR

AUGUST 5, 2020, WEDNESDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Shravan Shaka	14
■ Shravan Parvishtha	21
■ Hijri	1441
■ Krishna Paksha Tithi 2, up to 10:51 pm	
■ Shobhana Yoga up to 5:07 am	
■ Dhanishtha Nakshatra up to 9:30 am	
■ Moon in Aquarius sign	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



FORECAST

SUNSET: WEDNESDAY 19:14 HRS

SUNRISE: THURSDAY 05:43 HRS

CITY	MAX		MIN		
	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Rainy	Foggy
Chandigarh	36	28	28	28	28
New Delhi	37	28	28	28	28
Amritsar	37	25	25	25	25
Bathinda	39	28	28	28	28
Jalandhar	37	27	27	27	27
Ludhiana	37	26	26	26	26
Bhiwani	37	28	28	28	28
Hisar	39	28	28	28	28
Sirsia	39	30	30	30	30
Dharamsala	30	19	19	19	19
Manali	28	15	15	15	15
Shimla	25	18	18	18	18
Srinagar	33	19	19	19	19
Jammu	34	26	26	26	26
Kargil	24	14	14	14	14
Leh	30	15	15	15	15
Dehradun	33	24	24	24	24
Mussoorie	25	17	17	17	17

TEMPERATURE IN °C

With 10 deaths, J&K toll 417

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUGUST 4
Ten patients died due to Covid, all from Kashmir Valley, in the past 24 hours, taking the J&K toll to 417.

A total of 390 new cases were reported from J&K and 824 patients recovered and were discharged across the UT.

With the 390 new cases, the viral count in the Union Territory reached 22,396—17,292 in Kashmir and 5,104 in Jammu. Out of the new 390 positive cases tested on Tuesday, 152 were reported from Jammu and 238 from Kashmir Valley.

Patients numbering 291 from the Jammu division and 533 from the Kashmir division recovered and were discharged from hospitals.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC



UT TRACKER

	Total persons under surveillance	3,76,393
Persons completing surveillance	2,81,546	
Samples tested	6,71,413	
Negative results	6,49,017	
Positive cases	22,396	
Patients cured	14,856	
Total deaths	417	
	Total	22,396 417

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Bandipora	820	15
Srinagar	5,432	138
Anantnag	1,411	26
Baramulla	1,968	73
Shopian	1,485	23
Kupwara	1,161	21
Budgam	1,345	31
Jammu	1,300	21
Udhampur	581	01
Ganderbal	518	07
Kulgam	1,524	29
Pulwama	1,628	24
Samba	467	01
Rajouri	741	02
Kishtwar	155	00
Kathua	551	01
Ramban	574	01
Reasi	198	00
Poonch	248	01
Doda	299	02
Total	22,396	417

Meanwhile, District Magistrate, Jammu, Sushma Chauhan, vide powers conferred upon her under Section 144 of the CrPC, read with relevant provisions under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, and the Disaster Management Act, 2005, has declared Kabir Basti, falling in municipal ward No. 8, police station bus stand of Jammu district as containment/red zone and imposed strict lockdown and tight perimeter control in the said area except for essential needs.

As per the order, "Any violation of this order shall invite punitive action under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code and other relevant sections of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, and the Disaster Management Act, 2005."

by adhering to the SOPs.

It also decided not to open schools, colleges, universities, educational, training and coaching institutions (including anganwadi centres), etc, except training institutions run by the Central and state government till August 31.

"However, online/distance learning shall be permitted. Their offices can continue to function for administrative purposes," the committee said.

Gurkhas and Valmikis believe that the future of their generations is secure now

Abrogation anniv: Uneasy calm in UT

ARUN JOSHI

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUGUST 4

It is all quiet on the first anniversary of August 5, the day when Jammu and Kashmir's special status was scrapped and statehood taken away.

Barring the blitzkrieg of the "for and against campaign" on social media, neither celebrations nor protests are visible.

The BJP, however, has planned a fortnight of celebrations beginning tomorrow with a call to hoist the Tricolour and lighting of homes all across the UT to demonstrate its celebratory mood. There is, however, a contrast in Srinagar, the nerve centre of the Kashmir politics, where the authorities are on tenterhooks due to the calls of observing Wednesday as a "black day" to protest against the "black law".

Since August 5 last year, the administration of the two UTs of J&K and Ladakh have initiated a narrative of development over disruptive politics that has ended the discrimination and deprivation of various sections, particularly those like West Pakistan refugees were unsettled for the past over 70 years. They, and others like them, have got their citizenship rights as equals because of the domicile policy.

"This is a dream come true for us all," Labba Ram, leader of the West Pakistan refugees.

Gurkhas and Valmikis believe that the future of their generations is secure now



Security personnel check the goods of a vendor on the Srinagar highway near Jammu on Tuesday. PTI

'DARK PATCH IN POLITICAL HISTORY'

While it is a dark patch of our political history, it is also a reminder of a black day in the constitutional democracy of India as a country too, given the way top institutions, that form the heart and soul of a country, acted or did not. The ramifications would be far and wide, some already visible. ■

Suhail Bukhari, PDP SPOKESMAN

'DECISIONS SANS LEGITIMACY'

Decisions taken on and after August 5 are not acceptable to people and have been thrust on the people of Kashmir and are bereft of any acceptance or legitimacy amongst the masses. Despotic actions have a limited shelf life. ■

J&K Peoples Conference spokesman

J&K people had changed for better". The Jammu region is not in a mood of celebration either as the people here, including some in the BJP, have seen that Jammu stands to lose more because of the domicile policy that empowers outsiders.

Ladakh, too, is a story of contrasts – Buddhists are planning celebrations, Kargil Muslims' narrative is the same as that of the Valley residents.

All religious shrines to open from Aug 16

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GYMS, YOGA CENTRES ALLOWED TO FUNCTION

The State Executive Committee, headed by Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam, while issuing fresh guidelines for regulating activities within the Union Territory for effective containment of Covid-19, also decided to allow gyms and yoga centres to function by adhering to the SOPs.

separate Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for opening of all religious places for the public.

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ing training at the Audit and Accounts Institute, Shimla", he said, adding, "It is really a proud moment for the people of Jammu and this belt, in particular."

Belonging to a refugee family from the Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), Abhishek did his schooling from RS Pura. The family migrated from Plandri tehsil of the PoJK.

Among others who qualified from Jammu included Sunny Gupta (rank 148), Dev Ahuti (rank 177) and Parth Gupta (rank 240).

Kupwara girl too qualifies

Srinagar: Nadia Beig, 24, from the frontier district of Kupwara was among over a dozen candidates from the erstwhile J&K

state who has qualified the prestigious Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examination, 2019.

She cracked the exam in her second attempt and got the 350th rank. She did her schooling in Kupwara and later studied at Jamia Millia Islamia to complete her honours in economics in 2017.

"This is my second attempt. In 2018, I could not qualify prelims and in 2019, I got this rank. After a lot of sacrifices and hard work and prayers from people I have been able to achieve this success," she said while thanking everyone.

Another youth from Tregam Kupwara Aftab Rasool, 29, has also qualified the exam.

J&K reserves 4% seats in professional institutes for Ladakh

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 4

Jammu and Kashmir has reserved 4 per cent seats in professional institutions for students of Ladakh, an official spokesman said.

This was announced during a meeting chaired by J&K Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam.

The meeting was informed that the reservation in professional institutions is governed in terms of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act and Rules, which have been amended

post reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir. The Act and rules do not apply to the UT of Ladakh.

"Keeping in view the non-availability of professional institutions in the Union Territory of Ladakh and recommendations of the Advisory Committee constituted by the Union Government, a decision was taken earlier to reserve 4 per cent seats in both engineering as well as medical colleges of Jammu and Kashmir for students from the UT of Ladakh," an official spokesman said.

Won't contest polls till status restored: Mehdi

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 4
A week after resigning as National Conference spokesman, former Cabinet minister Ruhullah Mehdi today said he would not contest elections again till the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

"After the unconstitutional and undemocratic abrogation of Article 370, I will not give them satisfaction of legitimising it by contesting an Assembly election even if the statehood is restored without restoring the special status of state of J&K," Ruhullah said in a tweet.

continuing in the case.

The accused would soon be summoned for questioning and separate disproportionate cases were likely to be registered against them after the verification of the seized documents relating to their assets, the officials said.

The three former CEOs of the PDA accused in the case are SM Sahnii, KK Gupta and Dr MM Malik, they said, adding that the other accused were Additional Transport Commissioner of Jammu Rakesh Kumar Sarangal, Joint Transport Commissioner Raman Kumar Kesar, Deputy Commissioner of Sales Tax Recovery Rajendra Singh and Inspectors Amresh Jasrotia and Zaheer Abbas.

Summer woes



Women fill containers with water from a leaking pipeline in Jammu. PTI

'Chhari-Mubarak' rituals conclude at Pahalgam

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 4

The 'Chhari-Mubarak' (holy mace) rituals concluded today with 'pooja' and 'visarjan' ceremony at Pahalgam in south Kashmir.

"The annual pilgrimage of Chhari-Mubarak culminated at Pahalgam with its last rituals of 'pujan' and 'visarjan', which were performed on the banks of the Lidder river. Selected Sadhus participated in the pujan due to the Covid-19 pandemic," said custodian of the holy mace Mahant Deependra Giri.

Addressing a small gathering after the culmination ceremony, the mahant said: "As our country is called a land of diversity, people belonging to almost every faith can be found in India wherein many religions coexist. The annual pilgrimage of Swami Amarnath ji is unique as people from all walks of life in Jammu and Kashmir belong to different sects/religions, contribute to make it successful."

Though the government had decided to call this year's pilgrimage off due to sharp spike in Covid-19 positive cases, all 'Chhari-Mubarak' rituals were performed with religious fervour.

The toll plaza was made operational on July 21.

'Land grab': CBI searches 11 locations

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) today conducted searches at 11 locations in Jammu and Kashmir, including offices and residential premises of public servants and three former chief executive officers (CEOs) of the Patnitop Development Authority (PDA), in a case relating to the alleged large-scale illegal construction/encroachment of land at the tourist destination in Udhampur district.

The searches were conducted in Jammu, Udhampur and Kathua districts of the Union Territory, the CBI officials said.

The CBI has accused 74 persons, including eight public servants and 66

owners/proprietors of hotels, resorts and guest houses. Earlier, a preliminary enquiry (PE) was registered and an inquiry was conducted by the agency on the directions of the High Court of J&K in the matter. The officials said recently the agency converted the PE into regular first information report (FIR).

"It was alleged that the public servants, who were having dominion/jurisdiction over land in Patnitop, conspired with the owners/proprietors of the hotels/guest houses/resorts, etc and had allowed illegal construction/illegal use of the said land in violation of the law,

leading to the loss to the government," CBI spokesperson RK Gaur said in a statement.

It was further alleged that many hotels/guest houses were constructed without permission and were not registered with the PDA. It was also alleged that officials did not take any action despite being aware of such encroachment. In some cases, no compensation fee was allegedly deposited by the hotels, Gaur said quoting the FIR.

The searches were conducted at the offices and residential premises of the three former CEOs of the PDA and officers of the Transport Department and Sales Tax Department, which led to the recovery of incriminating documents, huge investment in fixed deposits and immovable properties, the official said, adding that further investigation was

continuing in the case. The accused would soon be summoned for questioning and separate disproportionate cases were likely to be registered against them after the verification of the seized documents relating to their assets, the officials said.

Ladakh on development through missions like "Carbon Neutral UT".

In a unique step, the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, has a provision for granting a special development package for Ladakh. The Home Minister has announced that this shall be a non-lapsable package of about Rs 50,000 crore.

6 toll staff held in assault case

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUGUST 4
Six employees of the Lakhanpur toll post were today arrested for allegedly assaulting three local youths over the payment of toll late on Monday night.

The arrests were made after a local man, Sunny Kumar, lodged a complaint with the police against seven staff members of the toll post for allegedly assaulting

BRIEFLY

MADRIS
Spanish World Cup winner
Casillas retires at 39

Spain's World Cup-winning captain and goalkeeper Iker Casillas announced his retirement from the professional game on Tuesday, ending a career that spanned over two decades. Casillas, 39, has not played any competitive football since he suffered a heart attack during a training session last year. "The important thing is the path you travel and the people who accompany you, not where it takes you, because that comes with work and effort alone," Casillas said on Twitter.

NEW DELHI
National camp for Oly shooters postponed

The national camp for the Olympics-bound shooters, which was scheduled to be held here in the first week of August, has been postponed for an indefinite period due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the National Rifle Association of India announced.

MADRID
Madrid Open cancelled

The Madrid Open, scheduled to take place on September 12-20, has been cancelled due to the rise of Covid-19 cases in the Spanish capital, organisers said on Tuesday. AGENCIES

Sanitiser! Masks! Action!

Women take the first step as tennis returns after five months

PALERMO (ITALY), AUGUST 4
The stadium announcer on Monday evening wished a warm and welcome return to tennis lovers as the WTA tournament in Italy started five months after the last one, with bottles of hand sanitiser attached to the nets.

The event comes just weeks before the US Open and Roland Garros double-header but lost original top seed Simona Halep to health concerns while a player withdrew from qualifying after testing positive for coronavirus.

There were some 350 fans allowed into a venue that holds 1,500. The line judges



Sara Errani removes her mask for a drink of water as she is attended to by a trainer for an injury.

and umpire were masked and the players had to stand behind a social distancing line

to approach them. The stands are cleared and disinfected after each match.

When Croatia's Donna Vekic and the Netherlands' Arantxa Rus took to the claycourt, they were not wearing face masks. The sixth seed claimed the first WTA main draw victory of the day, winning 6-1 6-2.

Kristyna Pliskova clinched the biggest upset of the opening day as she knocked out third seed Maria Sakkari 6-4 6-4, to reach the second round of the claycourt event.

The first day had the grind of tennis back as well as Sara Errani and Sorana Cirstea battled for almost three hours before the Italian won 7-5 1-6 6-4. — Agencies

Modest start by Anika at US Amateurs

ROCKVILLE (USA), AUGUST 4
The 16-year-old Anika Varma became the first Indian golfer to tee off at the US Women's Amateur Championship, carding a 3-over 75 to make a modest start. The teenager, who shifted base from India to the US last year to advance her golf career, was placed tied-55th after the first round.

The top 64 players after two rounds of stroke-play will advance into the match-play segment. Anika, coached by Noah Montgomery, struck two birdies, one on either side of the par-72 layout.

But she also gave away five bogeys in challenging conditions in which the players had to deal with challenging rough and fast greens. Two



other Indian-Americans — Megha Ganee and Gurleen Kaur — shot 71 and 78, respectively, to be placed tied-7th and tied-102.

Rachel Kuehn and Riley Smyth 68s and shared the lead as Hurricane Isaias approached Maryland. — PTI

Anika Varma carded a 75 to be placed tied-55. FILE

Leap of faith



Athletes practise at Nehru Stadium in Chennai on Tuesday. PTI

Notice for Fixed Deposit

Haryana Labour Welfare Board, Bays No. 29-30, Sec-4, Panchkula intends to invest an approximate amount of Rs. 1 Crore to Rs. 310 Crores either in Fixed Deposit or in Savings Account on dated 06.08.2020 for one year. All the banks empanelled for transacting Government business vide letter No. IF&CC/RO/FUNDS/2013/2657 dated 05.11.2013 are requested to submit rates of interest for various Slabs for the aforesaid amounts, in the name of Welfare Commissioner, Haryana in a sealed envelope on or before 12:00 Noon on 06.08.2020.

Sd/- Accounts Officer,
For Welfare Commissioner, Haryana.

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest

Chief Executive cum Engineer-In-Chief Himachal Pradesh Gram Sadak Development Agency (HPGSDA) on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites Expression of Interest from the reputed, competent and experienced DPR consulting agency/firm, duly registered/empanelled with the Central/Any State Government Departments/CPWD/PSUs for short listing/empanelment with HPGSDA/HPPWD under Class A category and Unemployed Post Graduate/Unemployed B Tech Regular Degree Holder in Civil Engineering/Unemployed Regular 3 year Diploma Engineer in Civil Engg with 3 years similar Experience of Bona fide of Himachal Pradesh only for Class D/Class C Category, for the preparation of "Detailed Project Reports of Upgradation Projects of Through routes of Rural roads/MRL including bridges up to 15m span on the selected candidate road itself, under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY-III) in Himachal Pradesh" as per the template approved by NRIDA and also getting them vetted from PTA/STA appointed by NRIDA through the respective PIUs/DPIUs/Zonal CES.

The works under PMGSY shall be funded by MoRD/GoI as mentioned in the scope of EoI document, which shall be available w.e.f. 10.08.2020, in the website www.hptenders.gov.in and [hppwd.gov.in](http://www.hppwd.gov.in)

The interested consulting parties/firms having adequate experience of such specialized job and having their own in-house expertise capacity and resources including availability of specialized and experience personals for Class A Category or having legal tie up for necessary resources in respect of Unemployed B Tech Regular Degree Holder Engineer/Unemployed Diploma Engineers having 3 years similar Experience of Bona fide Himachal Pradesh only for Class B/Class C category, are required to submit their E.o.I Proposals for the tasks as described in the scope of EoI document with non refundable cost of application as Rs. 2000/- only through Demand Draft in favour of the Empowered Officer HPGSDA Shimla, through registered post/speed post and complete profile should reach the Chief Engineer (PMGSY), HPPWD (HPGSDA). C/o E-in.C, Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-2 on or before 02.09.2020 up to 15.30 hrs (3.30 P.M.) and shall be opened on 02.09.2020 at 16.00 hrs (4.00 P.M.). EoI Proposals received after the above deadline, will not be entertained for empanelment. Further details can be viewed on above website.

Any other relevant information, can be obtained from the Superintending Engineer (WB)/Executive Engineer (PMGSY) O/o Chief Engineer (PMGSY) Shimla.

If considered necessary, bidders shall be invited for making Power Point presentation. Chief Executive of HPGSDA Shimla reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EoI proposals/responses or withdraw from above process or stop the same at any stage at its sole discretion without assigning any reason. Bidders shall have no right to seek reasons for rejection.

(Er. Bhawan Sharma)
Chief Executive, HPGSDA,
Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-2
(For and on behalf of HPGSDA)

IPL 2020 SPONSORSHIP

Vivo set to quit, new title sponsor likely

Pak set for Eng contest

MANCHESTER, AUGUST 4

When West Indies left England for home last week having lost the Test series, they were not appointed while also relieved. The bio-secure bubble England set up to allow international cricket to restart during the coronavirus pandemic worked brilliantly, but to live in it wasn't easy. Pakistan have been living that normal for five weeks in preparation for their own three-Test series against England, which starts here tomorrow. Finding a way to stay fresh will be key, Pakistan coach Misbah-ul-Haq admitted. "Once you are in, pressures just build sometimes, but we'll try to keep it so they are mentally fresh regardless of the results," he said.

Their series will be just as congested as the West Indies one — three Tests in 21 days.

Pakistan are expected to give England stiffer opposition. The fast bowling matches up with West Indies', the spin options are of higher quality, and the batting has more depth. Pakistan could play two leggies — Yasir Shah and Shadab Khan. — PTI

LIVE ON TV

SONY SIX 3:30PM

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

Chinese mobile phone company Vivo is likely to pull out as the IPL's title sponsor for this year and is in talks with the BCCI for an "amicable separation" amid rising Sino-India diplomatic tensions.

"Yes, the discussions are on between BCCI office-bearers (president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah) with the representatives of the company. There is a possibility that Vivo will not be title sponsors for one year," a senior BCCI official said.

BCCI Official

Ladakh in June.

While the IPL Governing Council on Sunday retained all the sponsors, including Vivo — which annually pays Rs 40 crore approximately as part of a five-year deal lasting till 2022 — there is a strong possibility that the company might part ways with the IPL for a year.

—

The one-year pullout could be treated as a moratorium period and if the relations improve, BCCI may look at inking a fresh three-year deal with the company from 2021 to 2023 on revised terms. The IPL will be held in the UAE from September 19 to November 10 this year.

Chinese sponsorship became a bone of contention after the BCCI declared it would review the deals following the violent clashes between the armies of the two countries in eastern

—

The one-year auction will be at Retail Sale Depot Kanlog Shimla - 171002. For further detail please contact Divisional Manager, Forest Working Division Shimla. Phone No. 0177-2623806.

H.P. STATE FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Govt. of Himachal Pradesh Undertaking)

Forest Working Division Shimla Nigam Vihar - 171002

GSTN 02AAHC4036L2ZV E-mail: dm-shimla@hforest.co.in

Telephone No. 0177 2623806

SHORT TERM AUCTION NOTICE

The open auction for sale of Govt. coniferous timber of HP State Forest Development Corporation Limited, stacked at Retail Sale Depot Kanlog Shimla will be held during the month of August, September & October 2020 at 11.30 A.M as per detail given below:

Month	Name of Retail Sale Depot	Date
August	Kanlog	28.08.2020
September	- do -	29.09.2020
October	- do -	29.10.2020

DIVISIONAL MANAGER FWD Shimla,

Government of Punjab

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS (DIPR),

5th Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat-1.

Sector 1, Chandigarh — 160001

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

For Selection of Contractor for preparation and Installation of Five (05) Statues and One (01) Bust of Eminent Personalities at various locations in Punjab on Design, Build and Transfer basis. EoI document can be downloaded from the website of DIPR Punjab i.e. www.dipr.punjab.gov.in. Last date of submission of EoI bids is 28.08.2020.

Director,
Information & Public Relations,
Punjab, Chandigarh.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BATHINDA, LOCAL GOVT. PUNJAB, DEPTT. PUNJAB

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

TENDER NOTICE

eproc.punjab.gov.in

E-Tender No. MCB/2020-21/013

No. 1165/E Date 03.08.2020

The Corporation Engineer, Municipal Corporation, Bathinda invites item e-tenders on double bid system for the following works:-

Date and Time Schedule, Sr. No. 1

Last Date & time of online sale/submission of Bidding Document	Opening of Technical Bid Documents	Opening of Financial Bidding Documents
24.08.2020 11.00 a.m.	24.08.2020 12.30 p.m.	25.08.2020 15.00 p.m.

A List of Works for Suppliers and Manufacturers

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Amount (in lacs)	Earnest money for contractor	Tender Fee	Time period
1.	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Gas based Human Body Crematorium at Bathinda with E.T.P. including Civil Work, Carriage, loading/unloading and training etc.	33.05	66100/-	1000/-	3 Months

Note:- For detailed scope and Terms and Conditions, Please visit our official website www.eproc.punjab.gov.in. Agencies may contact PIDB helpdesk contact No. 0172-2970263, 0172-2970284 in case of any difficulty in participating or Agencies may see all the terms and conditions in the O/o Municipal Corporation, Bathinda during all working days and working hours. No corrigendum shall be published in newspapers. The corrigendum will be available only on website www.eproc.punjab.gov.in.

Sd/- Corporation Engineer,
Municipal Corporation, Bathinda.

DPR/Pb/59466

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DME/DMU/Jalandhar acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the works mentioned hereunder. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date 28.08.2020 at 11:00 hrs only. Manual tenders are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Bidders are allowed to make payments against this tender towards cost of tender document and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card, etc. Manual payment through demand draft, Bankers cheque, deposit receipts, FDRs, etc. are not allowed.

Name of Work Supply and fitment of Front Look out glasses of Polycarbonate Lexen Mergard or equivalent for replacement of wind screen in DEMU DPCs at DEMU Car Shed Budgam.

Estimated Cost of Work (Approximate) Rs. 22,86,840.00 (Rs. Twenty Two lakhs Eighty Six thousand Eight Hundred and forty only)

Tender Security Amount (Earnest Money Deposit) Rs. 45,700/- (Rupees Forty Five Thousand Seven hundred Only.)

Cost of Tender Document (Non Refundable) Rs 3,000/- (Rs. Three thousand only)

Tender document available for sale on website

Bihar Govt recommends CBI probe into Sushant's death

SC to hear Rhea's plea for transfer of probe from Patna to Mumbai

PATNA, AUGUST 4

The Bihar Government on Tuesday recommended a CBI investigation into actor Sushant Singh Rajput death case, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said.

"The state government has sent its recommendation for a CBI inquiry into the case filed by Sushant's father KK Singh," Kumar tweeted.

Earlier in the day, Kumar said the government had decided to recommend a CBI probe after the deceased actor's father gave his "consent" for it while talking to the state's police chief.

"The actor's father spoke to the DGP and gave his consent for a CBI probe. Since he had lodged an FIR with the Bihar

TWO PILS FILED IN SUPREME COURT

- Two PILs were filed in the Supreme Court on Tuesday seeking a CBI probe into the death of actor **Sushant Singh Rajput**
- The PILs were filed by BJP leader & lawyer Ajay Agrawal and Mumbai-based law student Dwivedra Devtaadeen Dubey. TNS



'HAVING FRIENDS IN BOLLYWOOD NO CRIME'

Mudslinging is being indulged in against me and Thackeray family for no reason. This is a kind of political stomach ache stemming from frustration. I share cordial rapport with many people in Bollywood and it is no crime.

Aaditya Thackeray, MAHARASHTRA MINISTER



Police, we could not have recommended a CBI inquiry. Now that he has consented, I have asked the DGP to complete all formalities today and the government will send its recom-

mendation today itself," Kumar told mediapersons before the government sent a request to the Centre for a probe by the premier investigative agency.

Rajput's father had on July 25 lodged a police complaint against Rhea Chakraborty. Chakraborty's lawyer Satishmane Shinde questioned the Bihar government's decision. "There cannot be transfer of a case which had no legal basis to begin with for the Bihar Police to get involved. At the most, it would be a zero FIR which would then be transferred to Mumbai Police," Maneshinde said.

The SC is scheduled to hear on Wednesday the plea of Chakraborty seeking transfer of an FIR. — PTI

Pakistan fails to rake up Kashmir again at UNSC

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

India has hit back at Pakistan on the eve of the first anniversary of changes in Jammu and Kashmir's status, the immediate context being the neighbouring nation's failure to persuade the UNSC to come out with a resolution on Kashmir.

Pakistan had stepped up its campaign against the August 5 abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A with its Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi persuading China to hold a closed-door meeting on Kashmir at the UN Security Council (UNSC).

Qureshi later marked the consultations as a "political victory" for the Imran Khan government as this was the second time in six months

INFORMAL MEETING

What came up recently was a closed-door and completely informal meeting under the category of 'any other business', which is not even a recorded discussion

TS Tirumurti, INDIAN ENVOY AT UN

that the UNSC had discussed Kashmir.

India's permanent representative to the UN, TS Tirumurti, said Pakistan's latest attempt had also fallen flat. "Attempts by Pakistan to try and internationalise what is a bilateral issue is nothing new. Contrary to what Qureshi has asserted, there has been no formal meeting of the UNSC on India-Pakistan issue since 1965," he said.

"Even the UN Secretary General, in his statement last August, clearly referred to the 1972 bilateral Shimla Agreement. Consequently, Pakistan's efforts haven't met any traction at the UNSC. Even if Pakistan persists, there are no takers here in the UN," said Tirumurti.

Moreover, it was a known fact that Pakistan was home to the largest number of listed terrorists, internationally designated terrorist entities and individuals, he pointed out.

India will join the UNSC for a two-year membership from January 1, 2021, for the eighth time.

Qureshi has also opposed India's quest for permanent membership claiming that an expansion will "compound, not resolve, UNSC's paralysis".

MEA: Pak 'new map' exercise in absurdity

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

India on Tuesday described Pakistan's new "political map" as an exercise in political absurdity. "These ridiculous assertions of laying claims to parts of Gujarat and the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have neither legal validity nor international credibility," said the Ministry of External Affairs.

"In fact, this new effort only confirms reality of Pakistan's obsession with territorial aggrandisement supported by cross-border terrorism," said a statement.



Earlier in the day, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, along with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, embarked on a new attempt to rake up the Kashmir dispute.

Qureshi's last week's attempt at the UN had failed to yield dividends. The UN Security Council discussed Kashmir, but behind closed doors last week with no records kept of the meeting, said India's UN permanent representative TS Tirumurti. The "new political map" was another attempt to internationally project the Kashmir issue as a dispute ahead of the first anniversary of rearrangement of J&K, said sources.

Qureshi said the "official map" would now be used in schools and colleges. Giving a commentary on the map's salient features, he said Kashmir borders had been kept open-ended as it was a disputed territory. The map also includes an eastward shift of the disputed Sir Creek in Gujarat and a claim over the Siachen Glacier. — TNS

2 Indian vaccines enter phase 2 trials: ICMR

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) today said two Indian vaccine candidates that recently received approvals to start phase 1 and 2 human trials among healthy volunteers had completed phase 1 trials and entered phase 2.

A day after the Drug Controller permitted Serum Institute of India's application to conduct phase 2 and 3 human trials on Oxford University-AstraZeneca vaccine candidate, Director General, ICMR, Balram Bhargava said, "The inactivated virus vaccine being developed by the ICMR and Bharat Biotech has completed phase 1 studies in 11 sites and phase 2 trials are set to

DELHI BANS HOOKAHS

New Delhi: The Delhi Government on Tuesday banned the use of hookahs, including herbal hookahs, in public places to prevent the transmission of SARS-CoV2 virus that causes Covid-19 disease. Invoking powers under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, the government notified the ban citing WHO evidence that tobacco use was a major risk factor for Covid transmission. TNS

'96% OF VENTILATORS PROCURED ARE INDIGENOUS'

■ Bharat Electronics Limited, a leading public sector undertaking, is leading the "Make in India" mission to ramp up ventilator production for use in severely ill Covid patients.
■ Out of 60,000 ventilators the government is procuring for Covid patients across states, BEL is manufacturing 30,000.
■ "Of the entire ventilator procurement order of the government, 'Make in India' share is 96 per cent by volume and 90 per cent by value," Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said. TNS

start. DNA vaccine candidate for Covid-19 developed by Zydus Cadila has also completed safely and early efficiency studies and has embarked on phase 2 trials at 11 sites

and is progressing well."

Bhargava says once the vaccines become available, issues of priority distribution, logistics and training of vaccine administrators will have to be addressed.

"Till we have a safe and efficacious vaccine and even once we have it, sustained behaviour change to practice social distancing and hand and respiratory hygiene will remain our best defence against Covid-19," he added.

25-30% rapid antigen tests
The Indian Council of Medical Research said 25 to 30 per cent of all Covid-19 tests are rapid antigen method tests.

Bhargava said the Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test must be done to confirm the disease in a symptomatic person whose test report is negative through an antigen test which has been found to have good specificity of 85 to 90 per cent, but moderate sensitivity of 55 to 85 per cent.

2 Indians abducted by Taliban return home

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

These Indians were working for Maharashtra-based KEC. They were abducted in a village near the northern city of Pul-e-Khomre where India is developing an electricity infrastructure that powers parts of Kabul. KEC owns an electricity substation contract in the area and has over 60 Indians working at different locations across Afghanistan. — TNS

Ayodhya's tryst...

FROM PAGE 1
awardee Mohammad Sharif or 'Sharif chacha', has been invited. He is known for disposing of unclaimed bodies with dignity. The laying of foundation stone for the 'grand Ram Temple', a promise by the ruling BJP in its manifestoes over the years, will bring to end the decades-long movement that catapulted the saffron party to the political centre-stage. The RSS and its affiliates have planned 'Diwali-like' celebrations to mark the day.

Incidentally, a few among the current BJP leaders can claim a direct link to the 'Ram Janmabhoomi andolan'. PM Modi was part of the 'Rath Yatra' led by veteran LK Advani in 1990 to support the 'andolan' of the VHP, a Sangh affiliate. Around 30 years later, PM Modi will perform the groundbreaking ceremony for the temple, an event that will be watched live by millions of Indian, including Advani who is credited with helping the BJP reclaim the agitation.

In all, 45,284 deaths, including those of Covid, took place across all age groups in the state in the April-June period,

Haryana infant deaths rise 46% in lockdown

FROM PAGE 1
led last year's tally, followed by Nuh (110). The Tribune procured the information under the RTI from the state Health Department's Birth and Death Registration wing.

"The infant deaths have risen as extension health staff like ANMs and ASHA workers were busy in Covid duty," maintained Prof Aswini Nanda, Health Economist, Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRIRD), Chandigarh.

Prof Nanda said during the initial phases of lockdown, there was no transport facility available and OPDs in government and private hospitals were shut too. "Even people avoided hospitals fearing Covid," he said.

In all, 45,284 deaths, including those of Covid, took place across all age groups in the state in the April-June period,

◆ The infant deaths have risen as extension health staff like ANMs and ASHA workers were busy in Covid duty

Prof Aswini Nanda, HEALTH ECONOMIST, CRIRD

a rise of 2.1 per cent compared to 44,334 in the 2019 corresponding quarter.

Health Minister Anil Vij and Additional Chief Secretary (Health) did not respond to calls on their cell phones.

Dr Prabhakar Sharma, Indian Medical Association's state unit president, said, "There was miscommunication from the government on the closure of OPDs towards March end. So, we recommended their closure. Following government directives in mid-April, we reopened the OPDs as patients were suffering even as the government facilities remained shut."

Trump signs executive order on H-1B visa hiring

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 4

In another huge blow to Indian IT professionals eyeing the US job market, President Donald Trump has signed an executive order asking federal agencies to hire Americans and preventing them from contracting or subcontracting foreign workers, mainly those with H-1B visas.

The move came over a month after the Trump administration on June 23 suspended the H-1B visas along with other types of foreign work visas until 2020 end to protect American workers in a crucial election year.

The H-1B visa, most sought-after among Indian IT professionals, is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require the

H-1B visa that allows US firms to employ foreign workers is most sought after among Indians

technical or technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

"Today I am signing an executive order to ensure that the federal government lives by a very simple rule, hire American," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office of the White House on Monday before signing the order against hiring H-1B visa holders for federal contracts.

Trump said his administration would not tolerate firing of hardworking Americans in the pursuit of cheap foreign labour. — PTI

Indian-Americans opt for muted celebration

BHOOMI PUJAN

President of Indian-American organisation Jagdish Sewhani had last week announced plans to lease prominent billboards in most major US cities that would beam live images of the "bhoomi pujan" for the Ram temple.

He had visualised it as a community event with poojas and addresses at Times Square scheduled to time with images on the Nasdaq Plus screen that is said to be the largest continuous exterior displays in the world and the highest-resolution exterior LED screen in Times Square. — TNS

OBITUARY

Ebrahim Alkazi, THEATRE DOYEN (OCTOBER 18, 1925 TO AUGUST 4, 2020)

The man who revolutionised Indian drama

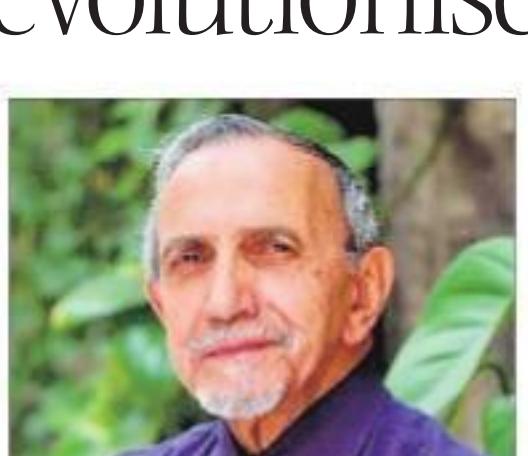
NEELAM MANSINGH

WITH his single-minded determination, Ebrahim Alkazi fashioned the contours of modern Indian drama by shaping its lexicon via an inimitable training regimen that spelt out modernism, but without changing the fabric of society or ideology, but merely by creating new and self-sustaining perceptions.

As head of National School of Drama (NSD) in New Delhi, Alkazi taught us students that "bringing alive" was theatre's primary purpose, requiring instinct, patience, creativity, knowledge and effort.

He combined the roles of teacher, director and NSD head for 15 years till 1977. He single-handedly fashioned modern theatrical sensibility, an innovation not even his most trenchant critics can erase or devalue. As NSD head from 1962, he embodied the radical spirit of the times, and moulded modern Indian theatre by questioning training, storytelling, space, language and myth.

Alkazi was my teacher at the NSD and I closely observed his creative processes, driving passion and voracious appetite for work. One resolute lesson I learnt in the years he was my mentor, was that theatre work was in no way like joining a hobby class. Before Alkazi joined the



NSD, its students were exposed to one-act plays that were more akin to amateurish and elementary classroom productions. Alkazi, however, linked production work to professional actor training in all aspects of performance, from analysing complex characters to contextualising them historically through sets, costumes and props.

In transforming the contours of modern Indian drama, nothing was too much or too little for Alkazi. He was also self-effacing and rarely, if at all sought the limelight.

During my days as an NSD student in the mid-1970s, Alkazi directed three plays that are hailed as his definitive work — Andha Yug by Dharam Vir Bharati, Tughlaq by Girish Karnad and Razia Sultan by Walwant Gargi — all of which were staged at the grand Purana Qila in 1974.

Within a short period, the NSD became synonymous with Alkazi. He exposed his students

not only to theatrical arts, but also to the world of poetry, painting, literature and cinema. Students would also be presented books by Alkazi — I have been a recipient of this largess — after which he would check if they had been read, or not.

Endearingly called chacha, or uncle by his students, he was always a topic of conversation amongst his students, who discussed him threadbare with the same passion as they dissected a Chekhov or Ibsen play. He completely fascinated us all.

The last time I met him was at his daughter Amal Allana's home for lunch in 2018. His loss is irreparable as he was a giant in the world of theatre.