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THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019

CHARGING TRUMP 'WAS NOT AN OPTION', SAYS ROBERT MUELLER ON RUSSIA PROBE ›htworld p16

SUNDAR PICHAI TURNS DOWN STOCK AWARD business p17

PATNAIK TAKES OATH AS ODISHA CM

BEGINS FIFTH CONSECUTIVE TERM WITH 20-MEMBER TEAM ›p8

shortstories

CIVILIAN KILLED IN CLASHES NEAR ENCOUNTER SITE IN SOUTH KASHMIR

SRINAGAR: A 20-year-old youth was killed in South Kashmir and 29 injured when locals clashed with forces near an encounter site at Pinjoora Shopian. A joint team of police and army launched a cordon and search operation in Pinjoora village on a tip-off about the presence of militants in the village. As the forces were busy in search operation, gunfight started between militants and the forces. Clashes erupted as villagers tried to march towards the encounter site to give safe passage to the militants. ››P6

Shooter Manu Bhaker wins Tokyo Olympics quota

NEW DELHI: Taking her place next to coach Jaspal Rana, Manu Bhaker could afford a smile. Though she missed out on a World Cup bronze by just 0.1 point, the teenager sealed a 2020 Tokyo Olympics quota for India in 10m air pistol at ISSF Munich World Cup on Wednesday. ››P20

Acid attack, sexual abuse: HC says end trial in 3 mths

CHANDIGARH: In a new order, the Punjab and Haryana high court has directed Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh to ensure that trials in sexual harrassment and acid attack cases are concluded within three months. The directive in this regard is part of a judgement of the 2014 acid attack case reported in Gurugram. ››P5

At 46.2°C, Narnaul hottest in the region

CHANDIGARH: With the mercury crossing the 40-degree mark in the plains of Punjab and Haryana on Wednesday, the weatherman forecast heat wave conditions in the region over the next four days. Narnaul was hottest at 46.2 degrees Celsius followed by Mahendragarh at 46. ››P4

NDA II takes oath today, all eyes on Modi's new team

SWEARING-IN Sonia, Rahul Gandhi to attend ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan

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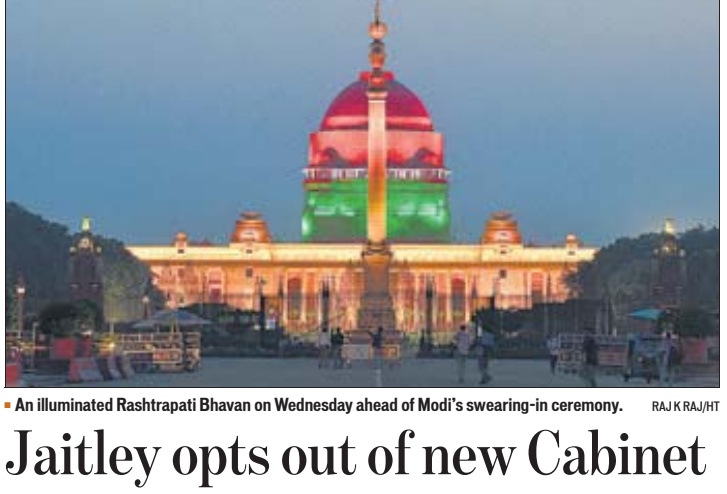
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister-elect Narendra Modi will be sworn in on Thursday for his second term at the helm of a coalition government that will be minus outgoing finance minister Arun Jaitley, in a ceremony attended by 6,000 invitees, including foreign dignitaries, allies and adversaries.

Efforts towards government formation were in full swing with Modi and BJP president Amit Shah holding a three-hour meeting on Wednesday after four hours of discussions the previous day on the allocation of Cabinet positions.

United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson Sonia Gandhi, her son and Congress president Rahul Gandhi and former prime minister Manmohan Singh will be in attendance at the 7pm swearing-in ceremony on the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan, where Modi and his cabinet colleagues will be administered the oaths of office and secrecy by President Ram Nath Kovind.

The Congress confirmed that Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Manmohan Singh will be present, but in a volte-face, West Bengal chief minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee decided on Wednesday to skip the swearing-in, citing the BJP's decision to invite relatives of 54 of its activists the ruling party says have died in political violence in West Bengal.

CONTINUED ON P9



An illuminated Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday ahead of Modi's swearing-in ceremony. RAJ K RAJ/HT

Jaitley opts out of new Cabinet

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Arun Jaitley

NEW DELHI: Finance minister Arun Jaitley has opted out of the next government citing his poor health but added that he will be available to undertake any work "informally" to support the government and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Jaitley, one of the senior most members of the Union Cabinet, and a trusted and long-time confidant of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said this in a letter written to the PM, which he later tweeted.

The second National Democratic Alliance government headed by Narendra Modi will take office on Thursday with a swearing-in ceremony in the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday evening.

"During the last 18 months, I have had some serious health challenges," Jaitley wrote in his letter.

"I am writing to you to formally request you that I should be allowed a reasonable time for myself, my treatment and my health and, therefore, not be a part of any responsibility, for the present, in the new government."

CONTINUED ON P9

2015 sacrilege incidents were pre-planned by Sukhbir, Saini, Sirsa dera: SIT challan

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JALANDHAR: In its chargesheet filed in a court, the special investigation team (SIT) probing the 2015 sacrilege cases and police firing during the Akali-BJP rule in Punjab has said that incidents of desecration of Guru Granth Sahib were "a pre-planned handiwork of then deputy chief minister Sukhbir Singh Badal, then director general of police Sumedh Singh Saini and Sirsa-based Dera Sacha Sauda".

This sensational charge, likely to create fresh political ripples in Punjab, forms a part of the chargesheet, also known as challan, filed by inspector general of police Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh in a Faridkot court on Tuesday (May 28) against five police officials and a former Akali MLA in the case related to firing on Sikh protesters in Kotkapura.

This is the first time that the SIT, set up by the Amarinder Singh-led Congress government on the Punjab and Haryana high court's direction, has pinned the onus of sacrilege on Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal, Saini and the dera. ADGP Parbodh Kumar is the head of the SIT, while Kunwar Vijay Pratap, IG Arun Pal Singh, Kapurthala SSP Satinder Pal Singh and PPS officer Bhupinder Singh are its members. The chargesheet, a copy which is with HT, has linked the sacrilege cases and a "pre-planned conspiracy" to transfer of then state intelligence chief Hardeep Dhillon.

"Dhillon, an officer well known for his competence and experience in Intelligence wing was transferred as ADGP intelligence on October 10, 2015, and in his place, a much junior officer of DIG rank, RK Jaiswal was asked to look after the work of intelligence wing. It is pertinent to mention here that there were three senior officers of ADGP/DGP rank, who were eligible and available for this posting. Jaiswal was also given directions to report to Punjab DGP Sumedh Saini," says the chargesheet.

The SIT claims that it is a matter of record that a series of incidents of sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib happened soon after Dhillon's transfer with first incident witnessed at Bargari on October 12, 2015. Around 15 cases of sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib were registered between October 10 to October 30 in Punjab, says the chargesheet.

"At that time, Sukhbir Badal was the home minister. During questioning by the SIT, he was asked to explain the circumstances leading to ouster of a senior police officer from the post of intelligence chief and replacement by a DIG rank officer, but he could not give any satisfactory answer and told to ask then DGP. Saini was also asked the same question. But, he could not give any satisfactory answer either and told that then home minister could better explain it," the chargesheet reads.

The SIT claims that the complicity of the transfer of intelligence chief by posting a much junior officer in his place and the incidents of sacrilege soon after, suggest in unequivocal terms that it was a pre-planned handiwork of Sukhbir, Saini and members of Dera Sacha Sauda, including its head.

'AKSHAY ARRANGED MEETING BETWEEN SUKHBIR, DERA HEAD'

Recalling that Dera Sirsa head Gurmeet Ram Rahim was granted pardon in a 2007-blasphemy case by Akal Takht on September 24, 2015, the chargesheet claims that a meeting between Sukhbir and Ram Rahim, was arranged by Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar, who was questioned by the SIT in November 2018.

CONTINUED ON P9

IG KUNWAR'S 'FIRST DAY, FIRST SHOW' POST ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER

IG Kunwar Vijay Pratap, who filed challan, interestingly wrote a post on his Facebook and Twitter accounts with the title 'first day and first show' and clubbed it with an Urdu couplet "Ibtida-e-Ishq hai rota hai kya, aage aage dekhiye hota hai kya".

Even as IG deleted the posts after they were widely circulated on WhatsApp groups, many took his expression as a message to the political leaders on whose complaint he was transferred out of the SIT by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Within hours of lifting the model code of conduct, the state government had brought Kunwar back in the SIT.

The charges are simply ridiculous. Can a CM be blamed for any action police take in a law-and-order situation? If this is the case then Congress government is setting a bad trend for the future governments. Can we blame Amarinder Singh for the crime taking place in the state? No, we can't.

Sukhbir Singh Badal, AKali Dal chief

I've never met this person — Mr Gurmeet Ram Rahim — ever in my life. I have met Sukhbir Singh Badal once or twice, that too at public functions. I and my family have always had the highest regard for Sri Guru Granth Sahib, and I'd request everyone to refrain from associating my name with any such controversy.

Akshay Kumar, actor (in an interview with HT on August 26 last year)

Superseded navy officer earned 2 adverse reports

Sudhi Ranjan Sen
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Vice Admiral Bimal Verma

NEW DELHI: Two defence ministers expressed reservations about Vice Admiral Bimal Verma, the current Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command who was recently overlooked for the post of the Chief of Navy Staff, a senior government official who did not want to be named said.

Admiral Karambir Singh will be taking over as the next Chief of Navy Staff (CNS) on Thursday instead of Vice Admiral Verma who is the senior most officer in the Indian Navy. Vice Admiral Verma has challenged the decision of the government and has moved the Armed Forces Tribunal. Vice Admiral Bimal Verma is the brother of Admiral Nirmal Verma who was Chief of Navy Staff between 2009 and 2012.

The tribunal on Wednesday allowed Admiral Karambir Singh to take over as the next Chief of Navy Staff. The appointment of Admiral Singh is, however, subject to the outcome of Admiral Verma's petition. The AFT will hear the case again on July 17.

Admiral Verma did not respond to text messages and phone calls. The official said both the defence ministers put their reservations on the record. HT has not seen a copy of these. "The government did not produce the selection files before the court today as per earlier directions. We are not aware of any adverse records. We will reply to these if these are produced in court," Ankur Chibber, Vice Admiral Verma's counsel, said.

AK Antony, the defence minister during the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government, was the first to put on record his apprehensions about Admiral Verma. "Antony raised questions about the manner in which the officer was promoted," a second senior officer aware of the details added. " I do not comment about the defence ministry," Antony said when contacted.

The late Manohar Parrikar, who took over as defence minister when the Modi-led NDA government came to power, too recorded his reservations on file about the officer. "As defence minister, Manohar Parrikar recorded his reservations. He again raised an issue about the promotion process," the second senior official said.

NATIONAL HERALD CASE: ED ATTACHES AJL'S P'KULA PLOT

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NEW DELHI: An adjudicating authority in cases related to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) has given approval to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to take possession of a plot in Panchkula worth ₹64.93 crore belonging to Associated Journals Limited (AJL), publisher of the National Herald newspaper, a mouthpiece of Congress. AJL is owned by Young India, in which Congress president Rahul Gandhi and his mother Sonia Gandhi are major stakeholders.

ED, which investigates violations of foreign exchange regulations and suspected money laundering, provisionally attached the plot on December 1 last year.

On the day the plot was attached, the CBI too had filed a charge sheet against former Haryana CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Congress leader Motilal Vora.

However, Hooda said: "The decision to restore an institutional plot at Panchkula to AJL at old rates was within my powers as the chairman of the Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA). The decision was also ratified by the Authority. The plot was restored after charging an interest amounting of over ₹55 lakhs on the allotment price of ₹2 lakhs..."

››RELATED REPORT P4

HTSPOTLIGHT

FIRST-TIME WOMAN MPs RARING TO GO

The 17th Lok Sabha will see the highest number of women parliamentarians, 78 in all. Of these, 46 women would be stepping into the Lok Sabha for the first time. HT profiles the greenhorns among the first-time MPs and finds their voices are as diverse as their backgrounds, ranging from years of political experience to complete freshers. ››P10,11

AFTER PULWAMA

'Inspired' by Jaish, Hizb tried copycat attack on CRPF convoy

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NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) , which is looking into the March 30 failed car bombing attack on a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy in Banihal, Jammu & Kashmir, has revealed that terror group Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) was behind it, and that it was inspired by another terror group, Jaish-e-Mohammed's February 14 Pulwama bombing, according to two officials aware of developments in the investigation.

The two officials, neither of whom wanted to be identified, added that the terror group thought the attack would "give international recognition" to it.

The agency learnt about the conspiracy during the questioning of the HM terrorists, including Hilal Ahmad Mantoo, Owais Amin (who drove the car into the CRPF convoy), Umar Shafi, Aqib Shah, Shahid Wani and Wasim Ahmed Dar.

They were arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir police after the attack.

NIA OFFICIALS SAID THE TERROR GROUP THOUGHT THE ATTACK WOULD BRING IT 'INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION'

An NIA officer said that Mantoo, a PhD student from Central University of Punjab who is believed to be close to the HM commander in South Kashmir, Dr Saifullah, was also confronted last week with overground workers (OGWs) of the outfit, identified as Mushtaq Ahmad Malik, Zakir Hussain Mir, Rafiq Ahmad Magray and Alam Bhat.

"Most of them have claimed they received orders from the top brass of HM that the outfit needs to do something like Jaish did in Pulwama. They say they wanted to gain headlines so that Syed Salahuddin is praised in that country," said the NIA officer.

mustread

GOVT TO PUSH WI-FI HOTSPOTS

Modi is set to announce the networking of 500,000 Wi-Fi hotspots so users can sign up with one operator and connect to any other operator while on the move, similar to mobile roaming. ››P17

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ARMY CANTEEN SALES

Veterans want curbs on car purchases rolled back

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NEW DELHI: A May 24 order from the army to the effect that all serving and retired service personnel cannot buy a car priced in excess of ₹12 lakh, nor one with an engine capacity over 2500 cc, from the army canteen, has elicited a flurry of angry response from veterans.

A prominent veterans' group has asked for immediate reversal of this order.

Cars sold through the Canteen Sales Department, run by the army, like other products sold through the canteen, cost less because there is no tax on them. In the case of cars, the tax component (GST) is 28%.

Indian Ex-Servicemen Movement chairman Major General Satbir Singh (retd) criticised the restrictions, saying it could affect the morale and motivation of soldiers. "That will also hit efficiency," he said. In addition to the restrictions on price and engine capacity, the new norms also say a serving or retired jawan can buy a car from the canteen only once during service, and once after retirement. Others can now buy a car only every eight years as opposed to the current four years. The new rules will come into force on June 1.

The army said this order was prompted by the necessity to "to regulate and balance the budget of CSD (canteen sales department)." Cars are purchased from the CSD because service personnel get a sizeable discount.

NEW RULES

- All service personnel cannot buy a car from army canteen if it costs over ₹12 lakh and/or has engine capacity over 2,500cc
- Officers can buy a car every eight years as opposed to the current four years
- Jawans can buy cars (1,400cc, less than ₹5 lakh) once before and once after retirement

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htpunjab

THE STATE GOVT WILL REBUILD THE PALACE OF GURU NANAK IF THE CENTRE GETS PERMISSION FOR IT FROM PAKISTAN.
› CAPT AMARINDER SINGH, CM

shortstories

DEBT-RIDDEN FARMER ENDS LIFE IN MANSA

MANSA : A 47-year-old farmer committed suicide by allegedly consuming a pesticide at Anupgarh village in the district on Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Amrik Singh. His son Sandeep Singh said the farmer had been under stress for the past one year as he was under a debt of Rs 7 lakh, which he was not able to return as his wheat crop was damaged in the rain this season.Sandeep said he was working in his field and his mother had gone to a neighbour's house when his father committed suicide at home. Village sarpanch Balvir Singh said the farmer had cultivated his crop over six acres. Police said the body was handed over to his family after postmortem. **HTC**

Muktsar horror: Jilted lover sent to day's police remand

MUKTSAR : A jilted lover who brutally attacked a 26-year-old woman in Muktsar was on Wednesday sent to a day's police remand. The attacker, Joginder Singh, was arrested from Srainaga village, 20 km from Muktsar, on Tuesday for stalking the woman, scaling the wall of her house when she was alone and brutally attacking her with a farm implement called 'kappa'. The victim is battling for life at Chandigarh's Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) where doctors had to amputate her right arm from below the elbow and were operating on the left in the hope of saving it. A case of attempt to murder was registered . **HTC**

State goes slow on PCOCA fearing its political misuse

CONTENTIOUS LAW HC has directed the govt to enact the law within six months

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CHANDIGARH: The state government is cautious about enacting the contentious Punjab Control of Organised Crime Act (PCOCA) fearing its misuse for settling political scores or by police even as the Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed it to enact the special law to keep check on gangster culture and organised crime.

On May 13, a high court bench directed the state to enact the law within six months to deal with the problem of rising crime. Following this, the government started deliberations on the law, whose enactment has been kept on hold for the past three years.

Behind the state government's reluctance to form this law is the rationale that it will not be really needed since the Punjab Police have arrested most of the dreaded gangsters or have eliminated them in encounters after the Congress came to power in 2017.

It was the only reason the government put the proposal on the backburner and referred it to a cabinet sub-committee in June 2017. The sub-committee, headed by state health minister Brahm Mohindra, has only met only once since.

"It's true that the Congress government led by Captain Amarinder Singh has cracked down heavily on the gangsters. There is a debate going on in the government whether we need such a law at a time when we have curbed the menace of the gangsters. But we have to follow the the high court order also. The government will take a call on this after taking all aspects into consideration," said Mohindra.

"When our party came to power, the gangsters were having a field day. Even the targeted killings were common. But the scenario has changed now. With no political interference, the police have cracked hard on the gangsters and most of them are behind the bars or have been killed," he added.

Framed on the lines of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), the law is considered a brainchild of former Punjab director general of police (DGP) Suresh Arora, who had pushed for introducing it during the previous SAD-BJP government to crack down on organised crimes.

The law was put before the cabinet in July 2016 but it was kept on hold, after some ministers raised apprehension that certain clauses in the Act could be misused to settle scores with political opponents.

As per original provisions proposed in PCOCA, a statement made before a superintendent of police (SP)-rank officer was to be admissible in court.

However, this provision was amended later, suggesting that an SSP-rank officer will record statement under the law and only an IG-rank officer will invoke the Act after getting permission from an additional director general of police (ADGP) who will oversee its implementation.

PCOCA provisions
The provision on recording of statement was amended

- Confessions made before an SSP-rank officer to be admissible as evidence.
- All electronic evidence, including secret recordings of phone calls, gathered by police will also be proof.
- An officer of the rank of IG or above can invoke PCOCA after explaining as why the crime cannot be covered under Indian Penal Code alone.
- Final permission to implement the act would be made by an ADGP-rank officer.
- Proceedings can be held on camera, away from public eye. The names of the witnesses will be kept secret. Special courts will be set up for speedy trials.
- If an accused commits a crime while on bail, he will not be able to apply for bail again.
- Police can seek remand of the accused again while he is in jail or judicial custody.
- A crime in which more than two persons are involved will be considered fit for PCOCA.

Supervisor killed, 9 injured in Sirhind feed factory blast

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PATIALA : A supervisor was killed and nine workers were injured in a blast at a feed factory in Sirhind subdivision of Fatehgarh Sahib district on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday.

The deceased, Rashid Mohammad, 26, a resident of Jalkheri village of the district, worked at the Tiwana Feed Factory, Kharauri village, for the past two years. Rashid was standing near the tanker when the blast occurred and was rushed to the Government Medical College and Hospital in Sector 32, Chandigarh, where he succumbed to his injuries, the police said.

Three fire tenders from Sirhind and Patiala were rushed to the spot to douse the fire that erupted in the factory.

Mullepur station house officer (SHO) Bhagwant Singh said the blast occurred around 1:30am in a boiler when raw material was shifted to it through mechanical belts.

"We have visited the spot and are investigating the reasons behind the blast. The injured persons are being treated at different hospitals in Chandigarh and Mohali," the SHO said.

The police have started the inquest proceedings under Section 174 (to enquire and report on suicide etc) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) after recording the statement of the deceased's family.

"We are also recording the statements of the injured persons to find out the exact cause of the blast. Further action will be taken if any negligence on part of the factory management comes to the fore," he said.

Factory owner Malkit Singh said, "It is an unfortunate incident. It is for the first time that a blast took place in the factory since was set up in 1999. I rushed to the spot and immediately rushed the injured to hospital. We will bear all the expenses incurred on the treatment of the injured persons."

A fire fighter dousing the flames after the blast in a factory in Sirhind subdivision of Fatehgarh Sahib district; and (right) Rashid Mohammad who died in the blast. HT PHOTO

BLAST OCCURRED IN A BOILER WHEN RAW MATERIAL WAS SHIFTED TO IT; THOSE INJURED BEING TREATED IN CHANDIGARH AND MOHALI HOSPITALS

Death in custody: Protest held outside Faridkot SSP's office, SIT formed

HT Correspondent
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Members of different organisations protesting in Faridkot on Wednesday. HT PHOTO

FARIDKOT: More than 10 days after 22-year-old Jaspal Singh committed suicide in police custody, hundreds of people, accompanied by his family members held a protest outside the Faridkot senior superintendent of police (SSP) office demanding justice.

Though the family members alleged that the Faridkot crime investigation agency (CIA) rounded up Jaspal on May 18 and killed him in custody, police claimed he committed suicide by hanging himself in the lockup. The police confirmed that his body later disposed of and three persons, including two constables, have been arrested.

Inspector Narinder Singh, in-charge of the CIA staff in Faridkot, who allegedly disposed of Jaspal's body, also committed suicide the next day.

People belonging to various organisations and unions from across the state reached Faridkot on the call of the joint action committee seeking justice for Jaspal's family. Raising slogans against the state government and Faridkot police, the protesters alleged that in a bid to save the cops, who were responsible for Jaspal's death, the police are making it a suicide case. They are demanding registration of a murder case against the cops who helped Narender dispose of the body.

However, the proposed march towards the residence of Faridkot MLA Kushaldeep Singh Dhillon was called off following an argument between two groups.

"A youth was killed in police custody we were here to fight for justice. A large number of people came here to support Jaspal's family. But some people came here to create a nuisance, so fearing any kind of violent incident we have to call off the march. We will continue our fight," said Master Butta Singh, a committee member.

Gangster-turned-social activist Lakha Sidhana, who is also a committee member, said: "It was decided that protest march would be held at 3pm, but it was called off at the last moment. They backed off saying there will be violence."

On the sidelines of the protest, leader of opposition in the Vidhan Sabha and AAP leader Harpal Singh Cheema said the law and order situation has worsened in the state under the Congress government. "Despite the death of a 22-year-old youth in custody, no representative of the ruling Congress has met Jaspal's family. Chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh must step down as home minister on moral grounds," he added.

FAMILY, PROTESTERS APPEALED TO HELP SIT

Inspector general of police (IGP), Ferozepur range, Mukhwinder Singh Chinna said on the direction of state government, a four-member special investigation team (SIT) has been constituted to probe the case.

Apart from Chinna, SIT includes Faridkot SSP Rajbachan Singh, Muktsar SSP Manjit Singh Dhesi and SP headquarters Bhupinder Singh.

He appealed the family members and protesters to support the SIT in the probe and also urged them to lift the protest. He said the previous SIT formed by district police has been dissolved. "We will start recording the statements of the accused. Besides the SIT, a parallel a judicial inquiry has also been initiated," he said.

Regarding the suicide note purportedly written by Jaspal on the wall of lockup, SSP Rajbachan Singh said forensic teams are matching the blood samples collected from the wall. "Our teams are looking for youth's body, now we have also hired private divers from the BBMB."

Akali Dal forms 5-member panel to look into poll loss

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PATIALA: The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has constituted a five-member committee to look into the reasons behind the party's poor performance in the Lok Sabha elections as it won only the Ferozepur and Bathinda seats.

The party's core committee in its meeting on Tuesday assigned the task to former MP Prem Singh Chandumajra, Rajya Sabha member Balwinder Singh Bhunder, former ministers Tota Singh and Daljit Singh Cheema and Rajouri Garden (New Delhi) MLA Manjinder Singh Sirsa.

"The panel will collect booth-level data and hold discussions with party workers and halqa incharges to find out reasons behind the party's performance in the elections. A detailed report will be submitted to the core committee within 15 days," Chandumajra said. A senior leader said the idea behind including Sirsa in the panel to get a peep into the strategies adopted by the BJP in New Delhi where it swept all eight Lok Sabha seats.

The two seats SAD won in this election are represented by party president Sukhbir Singh Badal (Ferozepur) and his wife Harsimrat Kaur Badal (Bathinda).

"Though the party won only two seats, we managed to strengthen our base by improving our vote share by 2%. We led in 35 assembly segments of total 117 segments," Chandumajra said. "The panel will recommend measures to boost the party's organisational set-up at the booth and assembly level. The basic idea is to prepare strategy for the 2022 assembly polls," he said.

Four booked for rape of two minor sisters in SBS Nagar

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SBS NAGAR: Four persons, including two women, have been booked for the alleged rape of two minor girls aged 15 and 17 years, in Rahon town of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar on Wednesday. The accused, identified as Sita Rani, Sudesh Kumar and Mangu are residents of Rahon, while Bhajan Kaur hails from Balachour.

As per the police, the victim's father, who is a labourer, said he had sent his two daughters to live a better life with his sister Sita Rani, and would keep visiting them from time to time. He said, "One day I got to know from some people that the accused had been sexually exploiting my daughters and threatening them to remain silent on the matter or they would be killed."

The father said that when his daughters told him of their misery and exploitation, he approached the police. Acting on his statement, police registered a case under Sections 376 (rape), 506 (criminal intimidation), 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of IPC and section 6 of the Protection Of Children from Sexual Offence Act.

MAN BOOKED FOR RAPING MINOR ON PRETEXT OF MARRIAGE

SULTANPUR LODHI: A man in his mid 20s, who allegedly raped a 16-year-old girl on the pretext of marriage, was booked on Wednesday. Police have also named his parents and a local resident in the case. The accused has been identified as Rana, his father Kulbir Singh, his mother Balwinder Kaur and a local resident Nirmal Kaur, all residents of Sultanpur Lodhi.

Sub-inspector Mandeep Kaur said as per the victim's statement, the accused had raped her on several occasion on the pretext of marriage. She told the police that Rana's parents and Nirmal Kaur had assured her that they would get her married to him.

"Few days ago, after raping me at my home, he refused to marry me," the victim told the police.

A case under Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections 4, 8 and 12 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act has been registered against the accused.

It is pertinent to mention here that this is fourth rape case reported in the region , in the last four days. On Tuesday, a 55-year-old man was arrested for raping a three-year-old girl at Lodhi Bhulana village in Sultanpur Lodhi sub-division.

Earlier on May 24, a 35-year-old migrant had raped a three-year-old girl at Sarhali village. The accused Mohinder Lal, who is relative of the victim, is yet to be arrested.

ADDICT RAPES MOTHER, HELD

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JALANDHAR: A 32-old-drug addict was arrested for raping his mother at their house in Adampur town of Jalandhar district, police said here on Wednesday.

A case was registered on the complaint of the 55-year-old victim. She said that her husband had died 15 years ago and her son, who was a labourer, was a drug addict.

"On Monday night, he started screaming and when I went to his room, he sexually assaulted me," she said.

The woman approached panchayat members who admitted her to the local civil hospital and informed the police. Her condition is stated to be stable.

Adampur deputy superintendent of police Gurdev Singh said the accused was arrested on Tuesday after he was booked under Sections 376 (rape), 323 (causing hurt) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code .

YOUTH BOOKED FOR RAPING MINOR

MUKTSAR : Police on Wednesday booked a youth for raping a minor girl on pretext of marriage. The accused has been identified as Nikka Singh. The complainant said that she was in a relationship with Nikka Singh, who raped her on pretext of marriage. A case against the accused has been registered under Section 376 of IPC and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Gidderbaha SHO Harpreet Singh, said, "We are investigating the matter. Accused is yet to be arrested."

Sikh school bus driver recounts years of workplace abuse in US

eye onNRIs
FACING BIAS

HT Correspondent
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Sawinder Singh

WASHINGTON: Fellow workers called him "Al-Qaeda" and "Taliban" and sent him condolences on the killing of Osama bin Laden. Students he ferried to and back from school called him a "terrorist" and, sometimes, hesitated to the board the bus. Authorities were responsive to his complaints, but not enough.

Sawinder Singh, a Sikh, heard and experienced these slights and insults having to with his beard and turban for 13 years as a school bus driver in Maryland, a largely liberal state abutting the national capital, according to a complaint he filed with a government agency on workplace equality.

One time when he missed a turn while driving a bus full of middle-schoolers, students shouted he was kidnapping them. "The driver is going to blow up the bus!", students yelled, Singh said to The Washington Post. Another time, a student boarding the bus stopped, saying: "Look at the driver! We are all going to die today!"

"How did they let you back in the country? Osama bin Laden was killed," a transportation department colleague told Singh after the announcement of Bin Laden's death, according to Sikh Coalition, an advocacy group that combats bias against the Sikh community.

Singh and Maryland state county, where he works, on Tuesday reached a settlement on his dispute triggered by a 2016 complaint.

"After years of harassment at the workplace, I am grateful that MCPS (Montgomery County Public School district) has worked with me to resolve these issues and prioritize making the work environment safer and more inclusive for all," Singh said in a statement issued by the Sikh Coalition. "My hope is that through this process, every MCPS employee can gain a deeper respect for Sikhs and other religious minorities."

"No employee should have to deal with the years of racial and religious harassment that Mr. Singh endured," said Amrith Kaur, Sikh Coalition legal director.

"All employers must be held accountable for protecting their employees. We are encouraged that MCPS is now taking the necessary steps to create awareness programs that better foster safe and inclusive workplaces."

BEHBAL KALAN FIRING

HC grants interim bail to ex-Moga SSP

HT Correspondent
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Charanjit Sharma

CHANDIGARH : The Punjab and Haryana high court on Wednesday granted interim bail to former Moga senior superintendent of police (SSP) Charanjit Sharma in the 2015 Behbal Kalan firing case.

Sharma has already been granted bail in another case of 2015 violence registered in Kotakpura.

He had approached the high court on March 20 seeking on the plea that he is suffering from serious heart ailment, having 90% blockage in the arteries, and has been advised a stent. He had also produced a medical report in this regard.

The state had opposed the bail plea, but submitted that the matter was to be argued by advocate general Atul Nanda who was not available on Wednesday.

The high court bench of justice Raj Shekhar Attri said that keeping in view the medical reports and also considering the Sharma's case on humanitarian ground, he is entitled to the benefit of interim bail. The court also sought his fresh medical report on July 2.

Meanwhile, the interim protection granted to then Bajakhana station house officer (SHO) Amarjit Singh, then SP (detective) Bikramjit Singh and inspector Pardeep Singh would also continue till the next date of hearing.

These three were given the interim relief in February.

PADDY SOWING SEASON

State faces labour shortage

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PATIALA: The farmers of Punjab are struggling with labour crisis ahead of paddy sowing season, which commences from June 13 in the state.

The farmers are making a beeline at different railway stations including, Rajpura, Sirhind, Patiala and Sangrur, to woo the labourers from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. As paddy sowing is not mechanised, the farmers rely on labourers for manual sowing.

Punjab contributes maximum share of foodgrains in the kitty of Food Corporation of India (FCI). The state has been facing acute labour shortage from the last few years and they completely rely on labourers from outside the state. "As the elections are over, labourers have started coming to Punjab for sowing season. I am at the railway station here to look for labourers from UP and Bihar. However, most of them are industrial labourers," said Sakkatar Singh of Patran, adding that sometimes it takes three to four days to strike a deal with the labourers.

A farmer waiting for migrant labourers to hire them for sowing paddy in his field, at Patiala railway station. BHARAT BHUSHAN/HT

To woo labourers, the farmer offers them free food, liquor and shelter apart from ₹2,000 per acre as sowing fee. "The labourers from Bihar and UP are hard-working and work day and night in shifts while local workers are costly," said Thakur Singh, a resident of Sanaur.

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Govt's online approval system for building plans fails to deliver

'PROCESS STILL MANUAL' A dream project of Navjot Singh Sidhu, the plan was launched in January with much fanfare to end corruption and give prompt clearances

Gurpreet Singh Nibber
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CHANDIGARH: An ambitious plan launched by the Punjab local bodies department in January this year for online approval of building plans of dwelling units and commercial buildings has failed to deliver.

It was a dream project of local bodies minister Navjot Singh Sidhu who, immediately after taking over as minister in 2017, promised to end the deep-rooted system of corruption in the civic bodies of state, in giving clearance to building plans. He announced an online system of clearances with a fixed timeline.

With the system failing to deliver, pendency of cases awaiting approval has touched 3,500.

Officials admit that out of 8,000 applications for approval received online after the system was launched in January, 4,500 cases have been cleared so far.

PENDENCY OF CASES HAS TOUCHED 3,500 SINCE THE SYSTEM WAS LAUNCHED

It was promised that human intervention will be reduced to nil, once the system gets operational, but officials, seeking anonymity, say it has not happened so far. The online system can be availed by anyone constructing a house or a commercial building within the limits of ten municipal corporations in the state, 157 smaller civic bodies and planning areas.

Top officials in the department told HT that after initial hiccups, the system has started working. "From today, onwards we have implemented a timeline for giving approval to building plans," said director, local bodies, Karnesh Sharma.

It's a total exercise of 34 days, he added. In the online system, architects are authorised to upload an application for building plan approval.

"We have trained architects and hope there is no problem in the system now," Sharma said, adding that Punjab is the first state to launch online system.

WHY IT FAILED

Giving the rationale behind the failure of the online system, an official in the local bodies department, seeking anonymity, said the scenario of urban development in the state is very complicated and chaotic and the norms set in the online system are not suitable.

"There are some areas which were built several years ago and don't fulfil the norms as prescribed in the online system. It makes a 30-feet wide road mandatory for approval of a plan, so it doesn't accept a plan coming from an area where the road is narrow," he added.

Navjot Singh, an architect based in Patiala, said the online system is a misnomer as the approval is still done manually and it takes much more time than the previous system.

"We go through a lot of inconvenience in getting online approval. As there is still intervention of the officers who deal with the cases," he said.

TWO CRIMINALS ARRESTED FOR MURDERING ACCOMPLICE

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BATHINDA: Police have arrested two criminals for allegedly murdering their accomplice.

Superintendent of police (SP headquarters) Surinder Pal Singh said on Wednesday that the accused, Baljad Singh and Lakhwinder Singh, were apprehended by a crime investigation agency (CIA) team with 2,500 tablets of habit-forming drugs, a pistol and ammunition. He said that during interrogation, the duo confessed to killing their accomplice Ram Singh of Lehra village. Singh was wanted in a murder case.

He was allegedly killed on May 23 and the body was thrown into Bhakra Canal, said the SP. The body was later fished out by Haryana Police near Dabwali in adjoining Sirsa district, the SP added. Police said those arrested were members of a gang involved in various criminal cases.

OPERATION BLUESTAR ANNIVERSARY

Punjab Police personnel patrolling outside the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Wednesday, ahead of the 35th anniversary of Operation Bluestar which falls on June 6. SAMEER SEHGAL/HT

Six companies of central forces, 5K cops to keep vigil in Amritsar

Anil Sharma
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AMRITSAR: As several Sikh bodies, including separatist outfits, have started preparations for observing the 35th anniversary of the Operation Bluestar on June 6, authorities are taking all security measures to turn the holy city into a fortress.

The Amritsar commissionerate police have called six companies of paramilitary forces to maintain law and order in the city.

Besides, 5,000 cops from Amritsar and the neighbouring districts of Tarn Taran, Gurdaspur and Pathankot are also being deployed here.

The movement of the cops around the Golden Temple and the bazaars leading to it has already been intensified.

"We have called three companies of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) and three of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). They are expected to arrive in the city on Friday," said additional deputy commissioner of police (ADCP-City 1) Jagjit Singh Walia.

He said, "As precautionary measures, eight companies of Anti-Riot police, six companies of Armed Special Police (ASP) and four companies of Punjab Commandos Police (PCP) have already started patrolling in the city." He added, "Besides, 5000 cops of Amritsar and its neighbouring districts are being deployed here to maintain law and order on June 6 and the preceding days."

> We have called three companies of the Rapid Action Force and three of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police. They are expected to arrive in the city on Friday.
> JAGJIT SINGH WALIA, additional deputy commissioner, Amritsar

On the anniversary of Operation Bluestar In 2014, a clash between radical Sikh activists and the task force of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) had taken place in which several people were injured in the Golden Temple complex.

Pro-Khalistan groups like the Dal Khalsa and Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) led by Simranjit Singh Mann will hold 'genocide remembrance marches' across the city on the eve of the anniversary.

The Dal Khalsa has also given a call for 'Amritsar bandh' on June 6 to mark the anniversary.

Dal Khalsa spokesperson Kanwar Pal Singh told HT that they have given a call for complete shutdown in the city to protest against the "killing of hundreds of innocent people" during the army attack on the Golden Temple.

He said they would hold a 'genocide remembrance parade' in the streets of Amritsar on June 5.

"The march will start from Ranjit Avenue gurdwara and culminate at Akal Takht," he said.

All India Sikh Student Federation (AISSF) patron Karnail Singh Peer Mohammad said, "This time we are not holding a march in the city, but will join the event being organised at the Akal Takht Sahib to pay homage to those killed during the Operation Bluestar on June 6."

The SGPC task force is also gearing up to tackle any eventuality. SGPC president Gobind Singh Longowal has instructed the force to increase the security inside and outside the Golden Temple.

An 'akhand path' will begin at the Akal Takht on June 4 and its bhog ceremony will be held on June 6. .

State education secy suspends Sangrur DEO

SANGRUR: District education officer (primary, who was also holding charge of DEO secondary) has been placed under suspension by secretary education department Krishan Kumar, with immediate effect. The district education officer (secondary) Hoshiarpur has been ordered to join as DEO (primary) by the education secretary.

The orders states that DEO (primary) Sangrur, Mukesh Chander Joshi has been suspended and sent to headquarter office of district education officer (secondary) Tarn Taran. However, no cause of suspension is mentioned in the letter released on May 28.

Meanwhile, in separate orders, issued by Kumar, Mohan Singh Lehal, DEO (secondary) Hoshiarpur was appointed DEO (primary) Sangrur with immediate effect. Despite repeated attempts, education secretary Krishan Kumar could not be contacted. HTC

UK Sikh group considers legal action over no ethnicity tick box in census

eye on NRIs
'FLAWED PROCESS'

Press Trust of India
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LONDON: A British Sikh group lobbying for Sikhism to be added as a separate ethnicity tick box in the next UK census in 2021 is considering legal action against the UK government over its rejection of such a categorisation.

Sikh Federation UK claims to have the support of over 120 gurdwaras and Sikh organisations as it issued a "letter before action" to the UK cabinet office last week, demanding a reassessment of the office for national statistics (ONS) decision to reject the need for such an additional tick box.

Sikhs are recognised as a separate religion in the optional religious question introduced in the 2001 census. The UK's Race Relations (Amendment) Act, 2000, placed an obligatory duty on the country's public authorities to monitor and positively promote race equality in the provision of public services. According to some British Sikh groups, public bodies tend to only reference the ethnic groups used in the census and demand a separate Sikh ethnic tick box to ensure Sikhs have fair access to all public services.

> Without public bodies monitoring Sikhs as a distinct ethnic group, they cannot be aware of the barriers Sikhs face as a religio-ethnic community.
> BHAI AMRIK SINGH, chairman, Sikh Federation UK

"Our clients have identified a number of flaws within the process for determining whether to include a Sikh ethnicity category in the 2021 census," Rosa Curling, solicitor from UK law firm Leigh Day, which is representing the Sikh group, said.

"They believe it is crucial that individuals are able to identify as ethnically Sikh in the next census to ensure a more accurate picture of the community is taken. This will ensure public bodies are fulfilling their duties under the Equality Act when making decisions about the allocation of vital public services," she said.

Sikh Federation UK believes that it would be "unlawful" for the cabinet office to lay before Parliament a census order based on the proposals set out by the ONS in their December 2018 white paper. The draft census order is due to be laid before the House of Commons later this year. "Without public bodies monitoring Sikhs as a distinct ethnic group they cannot be aware of the barriers Sikhs face as a religio-ethnic community," Bhai Amrik Singh, chair of the Sikh Federation UK, said.

"We hope that the government will listen to our arguments and agree to apply a lawful approach to this decision without the need for the case to be fought in the courts," he said, indicating that unless the group receives a "satisfactory response" to its letter before action, the group will consider initiating judicial review proceedings in the UK courts.

The issue has divided the British Sikh community, with the Network of Sikh Organisations among those who have been against such a separate tick box. "They should accept the ONS decision to reject their ridiculous 'ethnic' tick-box campaign," said Lord Indarjit Singh, a Sikh peer in the House of Lords and director of the Network of Sikh Organisations. "Sikhism is a great world faith open to all, and the Gurus explicitly rejected all manmade divisions in society," he added.

First time in the last 30 years
GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS OUTDO PRIVATE ONES

Impressive pass percentage of 88.14% in Senior Secondary Examination held by PSEB, registering an increase of 20% in the last year.
Private Schools register pass percentage of 85.15%

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS DELIVERING TOP RESULTS
100%
536 Schools
90+%
1270 Schools
80+%
1601 Schools

Science 83.44% 24.5% ↑
Commerce 90.37% 5% ↑
Arts 86.40% 18% ↑

GIRLS & BOYS BOTH SCORE STUPENDOUS PASSING MARKS.

I congratulate our students, teachers & officials of the Education Department for the excellent result in Board examinations. My Government stands fully committed to providing quality education to our children for a better & more prosperous tomorrow.
- Capt. Amarinder Singh, Chief Minister, Punjab

Government Schools also outshine Private Schools in Class X Results

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EVEN AS A 22-YR-OLD YOUTH DIED IN POLICE CUSTODY, NO REPRESENTATIVE OF STATE GOVT MET HIS FAMILY.
› HARPAL SINGH CHEEMA, AAP leader

Hooda had overruled top officials to restore Panchkula plot to AJL

REVELATION CBI found the officials had no role in allotment to AJL as they had opposed it on the file

Hitender Rao
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CHANDIGARH : Former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda facing criminal proceedings for allegedly reallocating an institutional plot in Panchkula to the Associated Journals Limited (AJL), publisher of the National Herald newspaper, had overruled top officials including the law secretary in doing the same. The 3,500 square metre plot was first allotted to AJL in 1982 but resumed by HUDA in 1992 due to no construction on the land.

Hooda, who by virtue of being the chief minister, was the chairman of Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA), the entity which allotted, resumed and restored the plot to AJL, had passed a speaking order (a reasoned order) to restore the plot.

Documents accessed by the Hindustan Times revealed that when the file was moved afresh for considering AJL's request for restoring the plot, the then HUDA (HQ) administrator Vineet Garg had endorsed the file noting of his estate officer, who wrote: "In case it's decided to restore the allotment, it shall be treated a case of fresh allotment and shall be made at the current allotment rates as decided by the authority. Approval of HUDA chairman will be required in the matter. Therefore, the matter shall be placed before the authority for consideration and decision."

The then HUDA chief administrator SS Dhillon, while referring to dismissal of AJL's appeal and revision plea against the resumption orders and the fact that no further appeal laid in matter, wrote on May 2, 2005: "There is no merit in the request and the case needs to be filed." Dhillon's stance was also endorsed by then principal secretary of town and country planning department Shakuntla Jakhu.

The then additional principal secretary to the chief minister, Chattar Singh, on July 4, 2005, wrote that file be resubmitted for orders of CM after obtaining legal opinion. The law secretary in his opinion held: "The revision petition having been dismissed way back in 1996, the order of resumption has attained finality. There can thus be no question of reallotment or restoration of the plot to the same allottee. If, however, the provisions of the policy allow, fresh allotment at prevalent rates can be made as per procedure for allotment of institutional sites."

Dhillon on August 18, 2005, wrote on the file: "The legal opinion may kindly be seen… The said plot can be advertised and AJL can apply against this plot."

The building of Associated Journals Limited in Sector 6, Panchkula, was resumed in 1992 when AJL had failed to construct the building. SANT ARORA/HT

> In case it's decided to restore the allotment, it shall be treated a case of fresh allotment and shall be made at the current allotment rates as decided by the authority. Approval of HUDA chairman will be required.
> VINEET GARG, HUDA (HQ) administrator

HOODA BOOKED IN 2016

The state vigilance bureau had in May 2016 booked Hooda and three officials – the then HUDA chief administrator SS Dhillon; the then town and country planning principal secretary Shakuntla Jakhu and then HUDA (HQ) administrator Vineet Garg for allegedly restoring the resumed plot. The case was in 2017 referred to the CBI by the state government for investigations.

The CBI had registered a regular case (RC) against Hooda and the officials under Sections 409 (criminal breach of trust by a public servant), 420 (cheating), 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act (misuse of official position by public servant) against Hooda, the officials and Associated Journals Limited. During the investigation, the CBI found that the government officials had no role in the allotment of plot to AJL as they had opposed it on the file.

The Hindustan Times had in 2016 reported that the BJP government had wrongly named the officials in the FIR registered by vigilance bureau.

Timeline of the case

- **1982:** AJL allotted 3,500sq metre institutional plot in Panchkula
- **1992:** AJL failed to construct, plot resumed by estate officer, HUDA
- **1995:** AJL's appeal against resumption dismissed by HUDA administrator
- **1996:** AJL's revision plea before TCP secretary dismissed
- **May 2005:** AJL requests restoration of plot, move opposed by officers
- **August 2005:** Law secretary concurs with officers, Hooda as HUDA chairman re-allots the plot at original rates
- **May 2016:** Vigilance Bureau books Hooda and three officials for allegedly restoring the resumed plot
- **April 2017:** CBI registers case against Hooda, officials and AJL
- **December 2018:** ED issues order for provisional attachment of the plot
- **May 29, 2019:** ED formally attaches AJL's property valued about Rs 65crore

NGT MONITORING COMMITTEE REVIEWS PLANS TO SAVE RIVERS

CHANDIGARH: The monitoring committee constituted by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) under the chairmanship of justice Pritam Pal, former judge of the Punjab and Haryana high court, on Wednesday reviewed the progress of implementation of action plans to clean Sutlej, Beas and Ghaggar rivers with stakeholder departments.

In a review meeting held here, the committee took a serious note of deteriorating water quality of the rivers on account of non-functioning of the sewage treatment plants (STPs), common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) and effluent treatment plants (ETPs).

The committee also reviewed the timelines for setting up of new STPs, CETPs & ETPs for the treatment of dairy waste.

An official spokesperson said the committee directed all the stakeholder departments to adhere to the timelines given by the NGT for execution of the action plans by March 31, 2021.

The panel also directed the local government department to prepare a comprehensive plan for wastewater management in Ludhiana and Jalandhar cities within 30 days by mapping all the industries and considering various sources of water pollution.

Directions were also given to the PPCB for strengthening the mechanism for inspection of ETPs installed by industries. **HTC**

Tension grips Hry village as cattle shed set afire

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A VILLAGER HAD COMPLAINED THAT FAMILIES FROM THE SC COMMUNITY ARE STAYING ILLEGALLY ON THE PANCHAYAT LAND

HISAR: Tension gripped Tibbi village of Fatehabad district after some unidentified persons set fire to a makeshift cattle shed leading to death of a calf in the fire on Wednesday. The shed was set on fire due to a panchayat land issue.

As matter reached police department, Fatehabad deputy superintendent of police (DSP) Daljeet Singh and team reached the spot and brought the situation under control.

DSP Daljeet Singh said, "Prima facie, we came to know that some officials from the revenue department and land record department had visited the village to check panchayat land record after a villager complained that families from the SC community are staying illegally on the panchayat land."

He said some miscreants, with their faces covered, reached the village and allegedly set a makeshift room for cattle on fire, in which cattle were killed.

DSP Daljeet Singh said a case has been registered against 30 to 40 unidentified persons under Section 436 (mischief by fire or explosive substance with intent to destroy house), 429 (mischief by killing or maiming cattle of any value or any animal of the value of fifty rupees), 446 (house breaking), 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the SC/ST Act.

Vinod Kumar, husband of village sarpanch Indra Rani, said, "About 30 years ago, the then sarpanch of village Mane Ram provided land to about 70 families of the SC community. The families are staying on the land for 30 to 35 years. Some of the villagers from other castes are trying to vacate the land and put a complaint with chief minister (CM window, complaint redressal system) against this."

A woman from the SC community Guddi Devi said they have been staying in the area for 30 to 35 years, but some of the people in the village are creating trouble for them and are trying to get the land vacated. Police and chief minister were also informed about the matter earlier.

MADE TO HONOUR

Artist Jagjot Singh Rubal painting a portrait of Narendra Modi in Amritsar on the eve of his swearing-in ceremony as the Prime Minister for second term. SAMEER SEHGAL/HT

Naresh Sardana appointed as member HERC

HT Correspondent
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CHANDIGARH: Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar administered the oath of office along with newly appointed member of Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC) Naresh Sardana on Wednesday. Sardana replaced Debashish Majumdar, whose term as a member has ended. The state government had constituted a selection committee under the chairmanship of justice Permod Kohli with chief secretary DS Dhesi and Central Electricity Authority chairperson Prakash S Mhaske as members of the selection committee. The appointment is based on the recommendations made by the selection committee in its meeting held on May 5.

MURDER ACCUSED FREED IN KARNAL

Police fail to get any lead on miscreants

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KARNAL : A day after assailants opened fire at a police party to free a murder accused from their custody on Tuesday, police have failed on Wednesday to get any clue about them.

Two cops were injured in the incident. Soon after Haryana director general of police Manoj Yadava issued strict directions of ensuring immediate arrest of the assailants, Haryana police also announced ₹1 lakh reward for providing any lead on Sunil, alias Kheera, 23, and three other assailants.

Karnal superintendent of police Surender Singh Bhoria said seven police teams were working on the case and raids are being conducted in Haryana and neighbouring states of Uttar Pradesh.

The SP claimed that police parties have got some leads, they were working on them and assailants will be arrested soon. Police officials associated with the investigation have said that criminals are well connected in Haryana only.

Court security in question

May 7, 2018: Head constable Bhagirath deployed in the court security was shot dead by three assailants in the court complex in Siwani town, Bhiwani

May 18, 2017: An under trial in a murder case, Sher Singh of Kalod village, was shot dead by three men inside the court complex in Bhiwani

March 28, 2017: Two men in women's clothing killed a gangster Ramesh Lohar and injured five others outside the Rohtak court complex

May 31, 2017: Three persons, including two policemen, were injured when three assailants opened fire on a murder accused near court complex in Karnal

September 8, 2017: Four policemen were injured when assailants opened fire at them in the parking lot of a court complex in Mahendergarh and freed a murder accused

Masked men 'attack' Barnala BJP leader

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BARNALA: Two masked men allegedly attacked Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) district vice-president Neeraj Jindal near Handiaya Chowk in Barnala district on Wednesday.

The incident took place when Jindal, who is into transport business, was returning from his office at Dhaula village in his car along with his friend Himanshu Goyal.

He said another car overtook their vehicle and two men carrying a baseball bat and an iron rod came out of it.

They broke the windshields of his car and pulled both of them out of the vehicle, he alleged. But passerby gathered there in the meantime and the assailants fled from the spot after issuing threats to Jindal, he claimed.

Jindal said, "They did not ask for any cash or belongings. I do not have enmity with anyone. They issued me life threats while fleeing away."

The police have registered a case against unidentified persons.

Three Punjab men held for work visa fraud

Press Trust of India
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NEW DELHI: Three cousins who allegedly duped people by promising them work visas for the UAE were arrested by the police, officials said on Wednesday.

All three were arrested from Chandigarh. The trio used to put out advertisement in local newspapers in Rajasthan promising people of arranging work visas for the UAE. The accused have been identified as Prem Kumar, 35, Rakesh Kumar, 38, and Gagandeep Singh,31, — all residents of Punjab. They had duped 10 people of several lakhs.

"The three cousins concealed their real identity and took hefty amounts from the victims. However, the accused have refunded the entire cheated amount to each victim after court's intervention," Sanjay Bhatia, deputy commissioner of police, IGI Airport, said. The complaint filed by Immigration officials on May 27, 2017, alleged that 10 passengers, intending to go Dubai in the UAE on work visa were found roaming at T-3 IGI Airport and eventually their travel documents were scrutinised. It was further alleged that protector of emigrants (POE) sticker and departure Stamp affixed in each of the passport were fake and forged, the senior officer said.

These 10 passengers were examined and their respective statements were recorded. The victim revealed that they saw an advertisement in the local edition of a newspaper in Rajasthan regarding facilitation of work visa for Dubai following which they contacted the advertiser on the given mobile numbers and met the said agents in Chandigarh, the officer added.

All the travel documents including e-Visa, air tickets and POE stickers were provided to each of them by agents for ₹50,000 each. However, these were found to be fake and forged, the officer said. Rakesh impersonated himself as Rajeev, Prem Kumar as Abhinash Sharma and Gagandeep as Manish. One fake voter ID of Abhinash Sharma has also been recovered, police said.

Inspector's daughter sustains bullet injury in accidental firing

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KARNAL: A 17-year-old daughter of an inspector with Panipat police sustained bullet injuries in an accidental firing from service revolver of her father in Narsi village of Karnal district.

Vikrant Singh, who is posted in Panipat, lives in Karnal. The girl suffered a bullet injury in her stomach. Soon after the incident, the girl was admitted at a private hospital and her condition was said to be critical.

> Vikrant has said that the bullet was fired from his service revolver accidentally when he was keeping it in a drawer at his residence.
> SURENDER SINGH BHORIA, Karnal superintendent of police

The incident took place on Tuesday night when Vikrant came back home from his duty. However, the police officials have not revealed how the bullet was fired.

Karnal superintendent of police Surender Singh Bhoria said that Vikrant has said in his statement that "the bullet was fired from his service revolver accidentally when he was keeping it in a drawer at his residence". SP said the matter is under investigation.

At 46.2°Celsius, Haryana's Narnaul hottest in the region

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CHANDIGARH : With the mercury crossing the 40-degree mark in the plains of Punjab and Haryana on Wednesday, the weatherman forecast heat wave conditions in the region over the next four days.

Narnaul was hottest at 46.2 degrees Celsius followed by Mahendragarh at 46, while Bathinda recorded the maximum temperature in Punjab at 44.1 degrees.

The heat wave was forecast in Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri, Hisar, Palwal, Mahendragarh, Faridabad, Nuh, Rewari and Sirsa districts of Haryana till June 1. A heat wave occurs when the maximum temperature is expected to go up by 4.5 to 6.4 degrees than the normal. In the south Haryana districts of Gurugram, Jhajjar and Rohtak, the heat wave is forecast at isolated places.

In Punjab, Ferozepur recorded a high of 44 degrees, while Amritsar was hot at 42.8. Patiala, Jalandhar and Ludhiana reeled under scorching heat with the mercury reaching 43.6, 42.5 and 42.4 degrees, respectively. Chandigarh also recorded a high of 42.4 degrees.

The weatherman said the mercury will hover around 45 degrees in Punjab in the next three days.

Jammu recorded a high of 42.8 degrees, while Srinagar saw a high of 29.7 degrees.

Shimla was warm at 28.5 degrees, three notches above normal. "The maximum temperature is above average across Himachal Pradesh due to lack of rain," meteorological office director Manmohan Singh said, adding that the dry weather will continue till Friday.

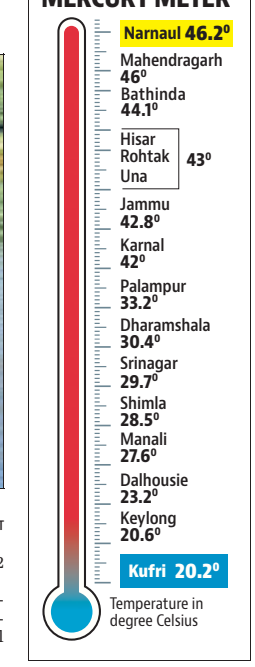
Una was the hottest in the state at 43 degrees followed by Bilaspur at 39.9 degrees, Sundernagar at 38.9, Hamirpur at 38.6 degrees and Kangra at 37.9. It was 30.4 degrees in Dharamsala, 33.2 in Palampur, 27.6 in Manali and 23.2 degrees in Dalhousie. The weather was pleasant at the tourist destinations of Keylong and Kufri at 20.6 and 20.2 degrees, respectively.

In the lower districts of Himachal Pradesh such as Una, Hamirpur and Bilaspur, schools will open at 8am instead of 9am.

The snowbound parking area being cleared by workers of the Border Roads Organisation at Rohtang Pass in Kullu district on Wednesday. ANI

Children beat the heat by taking a dip in a canal in Patiala as temperature crossed the 40-degree mark in the plains of Punjab and Haryana on Wednesday. BHARAT BHUSHAN /HT

MERCURY METER



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Husband booked for abetting 35-year-old woman's suicide

IN THE DOCK Fed up of her husband's misbehavior, Amanpreet Kaur, a mother of two, allegedly consumed poison and died during treatment on Tuesday

HT Correspondent
letterschd@hindustantimes.com

A CASE HAS BEEN REGISTERED ON THE COMPLAINT OF THE VICTIM'S FATHER SATNAM SINGH

AMRITSAR: Police on Wednesday booked a 40-year-old man and his sister-in-law for allegedly abetting the suicide of his wife in Kotla Majha Singh village under Majitha police station.

35-year-old Amanpreet Kaur, fed up of her husband's misbehavior, allegedly consumed a poisonous substance on Saturday, and died during treatment at a private hospital on Tuesday.

The accused have been identified as Gagandeep Singh, victim's husband and his sister-in-law (brother's wife) Rajbir Kaur of the same village.

A case has been registered on the complaint of the victim's father Satnam Singh, a resident of Majitha road area in Amritsar. He said that in 2008, his daughter was married to Gagandeep, who is a farmer and the couple has a son (9) and a daughter (7).

He said, "From the beginning of their married life, Gagandeep has been misbehaving with Amanpreet. The accused Rajbir Kaur wanted Gagandeep to marry her sister, and because of this he would thrash my daughter and many times asked her to leave his home. She had been living in misery."

"On Saturday, we got a call from Gagandeep's mother saying my daughter had consumed poison. We rushed to Kotla Majha Singh village and took my daughter to a private hospital where the doctors declared her dead on Tuesday," he added.

Assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Rajbir Singh of Majitha police station, who is investigating the case, said, "A case under section 306 (abetment to suicide) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal code (IPC) has been registered against the accused who will soon be arrested."

Damage to suvidha kendra: MLA Bains, 9 aides acquitted

LUDHIANA: A local court has acquitted Lok Insaaf Party (LIP) MLA Simarjeet Singh Bains and his nine supporters in a 2015 case of damaging Suvidha Kendra. Judicial magistrate Jaswinder Pal acquitted Bains and others citing lack of evidence to prove the charges. In February 2015, Bains and his supporters had staged protest against construction of Suvidha Kendra at a park (green belt) in Dhandhari.

Bains and his supporters were booked under the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and sections of the IPC. JS Waraich counsel to Bains said it was a case of political vendetta and all accused were acquitted due to lack of evidence. **HTC**

SGPC defers decision on movie on Sikh Guru

AMRITSAR: A sub-committee of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) on Wednesday put on hold its decision on the release of movie "Dastaan-e-Miri Piri". Sikhs have been raising objections against the movie, scheduled to be released on June 4, that depicts sixth Sikh guru, Guru Hargobind, in animated form. Akal Takht jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh on Sunday directed the SGPC to probe the matter and tell makers of the film not to release it before getting a nod from the gurdwara body. Following direction of the Akal Takh jathedar, the meeting was held on Wednesday. SGPC members—Bibi Kiranjit Kaur, Bhagwant Singh Siyalka, and Hardeep Singh Mohali; secretary Balwinder Singh Jaura; SGPC-appointed censor board's member Inderjeet Singh Gogoani and Sarabjinder Singh from Punjabi University, Patiala—were present. **HTC**

SC panel orders action against medical college

CHANDIGARH : Punjab State Schedule Castes Commission ordered medical education and research department to act against officials of Guru Ram Dass Medical College of Health Sciences Amritsar and the director of medical education and research department for hindering eligible SC students from availing avail post-matric scholarship. **HTC**

PNB seizes 9 properties of liquor baron Doda

HT Correspondent
letterschd@hindustantimes.com

THE AKALI DAL LEADER HAD PLEDGED NEARLY 20 PROPERTIES AS SECURITY TO OBTAIN ₹220 CR LOAN, BUT HE DEFAULTED ON INSTALMENTS

FEROZEPUR: Punjab National Bank (PNB) seized nine properties of Akali Dal leader and liquor baron Shiv Lal Doda, on Wednesday, in Abohar, a sub division of Fazilka district.

Doda is an undertrial in the infamous brutal murder of Bhim Sain Tank in December 2015, at his farm house.

Doda, a political leader from Abohar, unsuccessfully contested against Congress leader Sunil Jakhar and lost the election back in 2012.

In 2016, he and his nephew were arrested in a murder case.

It had been learned that Doda owes approximately Rs 220 crore to PNB alone.

Multiple firms in his name had failed to pay Rs 55-60 crore to the bank.

Consequently, the bank, after completion of due formalities, had attached 9 properties in his name under the SARFAESI Act, while more properties will likely be attached by the bank in the near future.

The loans were taken to expand Doda's liquor business.

Bank authorities revealed that multiple notices had been served to him, and he was called several times for settlement and negotiations, too.

However, because the leader is in jail currently, all efforts went in vain.

Therefore, as per the procedure laid down under the SARFAESI Act, the recovery officials attached 9 properties owned by him in and around the city.

Executive magistrate Abohar, Jaspal Brar claimed that the entire procedure of attachment of properties was done in his presence, in accordance with law.

Doda had pledged nearly 20 properties as security to obtain the said loan.

But after he failed to pay the instalments, the bank was compelled take this step after exhausting all other remedies.

Conclude trial in acid attack, sexual harassment cases in three months: HC to states

HT Correspondent
letterschd@hindustantimes.com

> The investigation shall be completed within 7 days, under supervision of the gazetted officer, and thereafter, the challan shall be put up in the competent criminal court within 7 days. The gazetted officer shall be held personally liable in case of a defective investigation.
> THE HIGH COURT

CHANDIGARH: Haryana and Chandigarh to ensure that trials in sexual harrassment and acid attack cases are concluded within three months. The directive in this regard is part of a judgement of the 2014 acid attack case reported in Gurugram.

As per the order released late on Wednesday evening, cases pertaining to sexual harassment, stalking, voyeurism and acid burning are required to be fast tracked.

Trial courts have been directed to hear such cases on a day-to-day basis and conclude the trial within three months. In case, it is not possible to conclude the trial within three months, cogent and sufficient reasons shall be recorded by the trial court, the court said.

In all such matters, the investigation shall be completed within seven days, under the supervision of the gazetted officer, and thereafter, the challan shall be put up in the competent criminal court within seven days. The gazetted officer shall be held personally liable in case of a defective investigation, the court said.

Incidents of acid burning or throwing cause physical, mental and psychological torture. Every citizen must remember that something which has happened to acid attack victim may also happen with his family members, the court said, adding that every person has a right to life including the right to live free from any kind of mental, physical and psychological torture, be it stalking, sexual harassment, burning etc.

The court has directed all private hospitals in two states and UT to provide immediate medical assistance to acid attack victims. It also banned the sale of acid over the counter to any individual except from one licensed dealer to another or by a licensed dealer to any school or college or to any research or medical institution under a registered medical practitioner.

FIRs be registered in case of violation, it said. The court also directed both states and the UT to provide protection to eye-witnesses during the trial. It directed that victims of acid attacks be included in the category of physically challenged persons. The victims should be given specialised wards in hospital and free medical care till recovery, along with immediate assistance of ₹1 lakh and ₹7,000 per month.

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Remembering
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led by
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Capt. Amarinder Singh
greets the people of Punjab on his
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TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

GMADA

Online tenders on percentage basis (above or below or at par the DNIT amount) for the below mentioned work are invited from the eligible contractors enlisted in PUDA/ GMADA /Central/State Government Departments/PSUs for the appropriate class and category.

Name of the Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Tender Processing Fee
		(To be paid Online)	
Maintenance of Plant Nursery, Sector 63, SAS Nagar from 15.06.2019 to 31.03.2020	Rs. 10.82 Lacs	Rs. 22,000/-	As per website

Duration of Work: 15-06-2019 to 31-03-2020

Online availability of tender for bidding (From)	Online availability of tender for bidding (To)	Last date & time for submission of Online bids	Date & time of opening of tenders in the O/o Superintending Engineer (C-1), Room No. 445, 4th Floor, PUDA Bhawan, Sector 62, SAS Nagar: Technical Bid	Financial Bid
31-05-19 at 13:00 Hrs	20-06-19 at 13:00 Hrs	20-06-2019 at 13:00 Hrs	20-06-2019 at 16:00 Hrs	Shall be opened after approval of Technical Bid

1. For detailed terms & conditions refer to our website **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
2. For any clarification/ difficulty regarding e-tendering process contact on 0172-2791226, 2791326, 7986467707.

Divisional Engineer (H)

GREATER MOHALI AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PUDA Bhawan, Sector 62, S.A.S Nagar

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, CHANDIGARH
SCO 33-34-35, SECTOR 17-A, CHANDIGARH

PUBLICATION NOTICE

(Notice under Rule 2 of the Second Schedule of Income Tax Act,1961 read with Section 25 to 28 of the RDDB & FI Act,1993

RC No. 785/2018

Punjab National Bank ...Certificate Holder

Versus

Vivake Kumar ...Certificate Debtor

To,

1. Vivake Kumar S/o Sh. Varinder Kumar R/o #315, Gillco Valley, Tehsil Kharar, Distt. S.A.S. Nagar.
2. Varinder Kumar S/o Dharmvir Kumar R/o #315, Gillco Valley, Tehsil Kharar, Distt. S.A.S. Nagar.

In terms of the **Recovery Certificate in O.A No. 2325 of 2017** issued by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, a sum of **Rs. 11,09,799.00P** has become due from you.

Whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore this notice is given by this publication directing you to put in appearance before this Tribunal on **20.11.2019 at 11:00 A.M.**

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time the case shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on **22nd Day of May, 2019** at Chandigarh

Recovery Officer -II
DRT-III, Chandigarh

PUNJAB POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION LTD.
POLICE COMPLEX, PHASE-VII, SAS NAGAR.
TEL. NO.4080111, 4080112 & FAX No.4080107

INVITATION OF BID (IFB)

SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 1/2019-20 DATED 28.05.2019

Online tenders are invited on two bid system (Technical Bid & Financial Bid) on percentage basis above/below/at par from the DNIT for the following works from the eligible Contractors enlisted in Central / State Government and PSU as per detail given in the website **eproc.punjab.gov.in**

Sr. No	Name of Work	i) Estimated Cost ii) Earnest Money iii) Processing Fee iv) Tender Form Cost	Time Limit (in months)
1.	Construction of Standard Police Station Building Type H-1 at Sidhwan Bet, Distt. Ludhiana.	i) Rs.165.71 lacs ii) Rs.3.31 lacs iii)Rs.5900/- iv)Rs.2360/-	12
2.	Construction of Standard Police Station Building Type H-1 at Basti Bawa Khel, Jalandhar.	i) Rs.167.19 lacs ii) Rs.3.34 lacs iii) Rs.5900/- iv) Rs.2360/-	12
3.	Construction of Rest Room with attached Toilet for Women Police Personnel at Police Station Ajnala District Amritsar.	i) Rs.7.51 lacs ii) Rs.0.15 lacs iii) Rs.886/- iv) Rs.590/-	05
4.	Construction of Rest Room with attached Toilet for Women Police Personnel at Police Station Kathunangal District Amritsar.	i) Rs.7.58 lacs ii) Rs.0.15 lacs iii)Rs.894/- iv) Rs.590/-	05
5.	Construction of Rest Room with attached Toilet for Women Police Personnel at Police Station Chhabal District Tarn Taran.	i) Rs.7.59 lacs ii) Rs.0.15 lacs iii) Rs.896/- iv) Rs.590/-	05
6.	Construction of Rest Room with attached Toilet for Women Police Personnel at Police Station Khalra District Tarn Taran.	i) Rs.7.71 lacs ii) Rs.0.15 lacs iii) Rs.910/- iv) Rs.590/-	05
7.	Construction of Rest Room with attached Toilet for Women Police Personnel at Police Station Mahilpur District Hoshiarpur.	i) Rs.7.31 lacs ii) Rs.0.15 lacs iii) Rs.863/- iv) Rs.590/-	05
8.	Construction of Rest Room with attached Toilet for Women Police Personnel at Police Station Guru Harsahai District Ferozepur.	i) Rs.7.31 lacs ii) Rs.0.15 lacs iii) Rs.863/- iv) Rs.590/-	05
9.	Construction of Rest Room with attached Toilet for Women Police Personnel at Police Station Sadar Abohar District Fazlika.	i) Rs.7.26 lacs ii) Rs.0.15 lacs iii) Rs.857/- iv) Rs.590/-	05
10.	Construction of Rest Room with attached Toilet for Women Police Personnel at Police Station City Jalalabad District Fazlika.	i) Rs.7.28 lacs ii) Rs.0.15 lacs iii) Rs.859/- iv) Rs.590/-	05
11.	Construction of Rest Room with attached Toilet for Women Police Personnel at Police Station Sadar Malout District Mukatsar.	i) Rs.7.25 lacs ii) Rs.0.15 lacs iii)Rs.856/- iv) Rs.590/-	05
12.	Construction of Rest Room with attached Toilet for Women Police Personnel at Police Station Bhawanigarh District Sangrur.	i) Rs.7.43 lacs ii) Rs.0.15 lacs iii) Rs.877/- iv) Rs.590/-	05
13.	Construction of Rest Room with attached Toilet for Women Police Personnel at Police Station City Malerkotla District Sangrur.	i) Rs.7.45 lacs ii) Rs.0.15 lacs iii) Rs.879/- iv) Rs.590/-	05
14.	Construction of Rest Room with attached Toilet for Women Police Personnel at Police Station Boha District Mansa.	i) Rs.7.68 lacs ii) Rs.0.15 lacs iii) Rs.906/- iv) Rs.590/-	05
15.	Construction of Rest Room with attached Toilet for Women Police Personnel at Police Station Mehna District Moga.	i) Rs.7.30 lacs ii) Rs.0.15 lacs iii) Rs.861/- iv) Rs.590/-	05
16.	Construction of Rest Room with attached Toilet for Women Police Personnel at Police Station Dera Bassi District SAS Nagar.	i) Rs.7.52 lacs ii) Rs.0.15 lacs iii) Rs.887/- iv) Rs.590/-	05
17.	Construction of Rest Room with attached Toilet for Women Police Personnel at Police Station Kurali District SAS Nagar.	i) Rs.7.49 lacs ii) Rs.0.15 lacs iii) Rs.884/- iv) Rs.590/-	05
18.	Construction of Rest Room with attached Toilet for Women Police Personnel at Police Station Nurpur Bedi District Ropar.	i) Rs.7.49 lacs ii) Rs.0.15 lacs iii) Rs.884/- iv) Rs.590/-	05
19.	Construction of Porch and other allied works at Admn. Block of DAV Police Public School at Police Lines, Ludhiana.	i) Rs.16.19 lacs ii) Rs.0.32 lacs iii) Rs.1911/- iv) Rs.1180/-	04
20.	Construction of Boundary wall and septic tank and Soakage pit at Police Post Bassi Pathana.	i) Rs.11.79 lacs ii) Rs.0.24 lacs iii) Rs.1391/- iv) Rs.1180/-	03

i)	Start Date of Down Loading	30.05.2019 Time 17:00 Hrs.
ii)	Last Date of Bid Submission	13.06.2019 Time 10:00 Hrs.
iii)	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid	14.06.2019 Time 11:00 Hrs.

For any clarification / difficulty regarding e-tendering process flow, please contact us on 0172-2970263, 0172-2970284 / 4080116. Corrigendum / Addendum / Corrections, if any will be published in the website.

Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR

5530

People carrying an injured on a stretcher for treatment at a local hospital in Srinagar on Wednesday.
WASEEM ANDRABI/HT

50 injured in clashes at Kulgam encounter site

HT Correspondent
letterschd@hindustantimes.com

SRINAGAR: At least 50 civilians were injured in clashes near the scene of a firefight between militants and security forces at Mohammadpora in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Wednesday, police said.

Police said people from nearby villages assembled near the scene and threw stones on security forces as the exchange of fire was going on. Police used tear shells, pellets and bullets as the villagers were trying to go towards the house, where the militants were holed up, security officials said.

Over 50 people, including seven of them critically, were injured as the clashes followed. The seven were shifted to hospitals in Srinagar for advanced treatment.

The officials added that the Army, Jammu and Kashmir police and Central Reserve Police Force had earlier launched a joint search and cordon operation in Mohammadpora village. The operation was launched following a tip off about the militant presence in the area. The operation was called off on Wednesday afternoon after the exchange of fire lasted for several hours.

A police officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed the operation was called off but refused to give details about the number of militants killed in the operation.

Kulgam's chief medical officer, Fazal Kochak, said most of the injured were discharged immediately. "...15 of the injured were referred to the district hospital in Anantnag... seven were referred to hospitals in Srinagar," he said.

Separatist leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq condemned the use of force against civilians. "Use of brute force and pellet guns against civilians continues unabated even during the holy month of Ramadan especially in South Kashmir causing grievous injuries and even fatalities. Human rights abuses, including the use of pellet guns, only exacerbate the situation on the ground," Mirwaiz said.

Two militants were killed on Tuesday at Kokernag in South Kashmir's Anantnag district. They were killed days after security forces last week killed Zakir Musa.

Militant killed in Shopian gunfight; security man, civilian also dead

HTC & PTI
letterschd@hindustantimes.com

SRINAGAR: A militant was killed in an encounter on Wednesday in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir, in which a security personnel and a civilian also lost their lives, police said.

Before the encounter broke out in Pinjoora area, over 29 people were injured when security personnel used batons and fired pellets to disperse a violent mob which pelted stones on the forces during the cordon and search operation, they said. The operation was launched following information about presence of militants there, a police official said.

As the security forces were carrying out the searches, a mob tried to disrupt the operation by pelting stones on them, the official said. He said the security forces chased the miscreants using batons and firing pellets, resulting in injuries to several persons.

In the ensuing encounter, a militant was gunned down while a security force personnel also died, the official said.

Medical superintendent at district hospital Pulwama Abdul Rashid Parra said a youth who had fire arm injury had already died when he was brought to the hospital." Another health officer at Shopian district hospital said that 30 injured were brought to the hospital. "Six were shifted to Srinagar hospitals while other injured were discharged after treatment." A police spokesperson said the encounter is still underway and exchange of firing is going on in the village.

J&K: 2 'ISI agents' held near Ratnuchak military station

JAMMU: Two persons, suspected to be ISI agents, were arrested by military intelligence officials on Tuesday while they were shooting videos and taking photographs with their mobile phones outside Ratnuchak military station here, police said.

"They were immediately whisked away by the army and after preliminary questioning they were handed to the police.

They have been shifted to a joint interrogation centre at Miran Sahib," a police official said. The duo have been identified as Nayeem Akhtar of Doda and Mushtaq Ahmed of Mallar village in Kathua.

Police sources claimed that they were in regular contact with their ISI handlers in Pakistan and had shared some videos of the military station via Whatsapp, a few hours before their arrest.

"They have confessed that they were being paid by the ISI. Two mobile phones have been seized from their possession and are being scanned," sources said. During investigations, over a dozen contact numbers of Pakistan were found in their mobile phones along with some maps, they added.

A defence official confirmed the incident and said the army is likely to come out with a detailed statement on the entire incident on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the army has issued an alert asking all military stations in Jammu region to heighten their security grid. **HTC**

Online registration for Amarnath Yatra begins

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik on Wednesday launched the pilot project for the online registration of pilgrims for this year's annual Amarnath Yatra beginning on July 1.

The registration facility was launched in presence of principal secretary and chief executive officer of SASB, Umang Narula, at the Raj Bhawan in Srinagar.

"The online registration facility will be available to 500 intending pilgrims per day from both routes, 250 from Pahalgam and 250 from Baltal," Narula said. For availing the facility, pilgrims will have to upload Compulsory Health Certificate (CHC) issued by the doctor/ hospitals nominated by the state/ UT governments along with a fee of ₹200 per person.

The computer generated yatra slips (in triplicate) with a QR code and bar code, along with CHC in original will have to be presented at the access control gates at Domel and Chandanwari, without which no one will be allowed to proceed further, Narula said.

For detailed procedure of online registration, a link has been given on the SASB website www.shriamarnathjishrine.com **HTC**

htclassifieds

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, NO. JC 510963H, NB Sub, Balbir Singh S/o Paramjeet Singh, Village-Birmi Tehsil / Distt. Ludhiana changed my minor son name from Rajbir Singh to Rajveer Singh.

I, BILLU S/o Mam Raj, Flat No. 1204, Riverdale Apartment, Patiala Road, Zirakpur (SAS Nagar), changed name to Billu Chaudhary.

I NO. 1087156F LD/TS Paramjeet Singh of Unit 6 Armed Regiment S/o Balwant Singh R/o Lane No. 1, Karan Bagh Extn. PO Gadi Garh, Distt Jammu , 181101 (J&K) wants to declare that the correct name & D.O.B of my wife is Surinder Kour & 07.12.1974 instead of Surinder Kaur & 07.05.1973 respectively which has been wrongly written in my Army Part II orders (Order No. 68/01/92) . Now applying for the correction. Concerned please note.

I, NIRMLA Devi, W/O Ram Singh, R/O Village Kotla, PO Chimnu, tehsil Jogindernagar, district Mandi, Himachal Pradesh declare on oath that my name in my husband Army record wrongly entered as Nirmala Devi whereas correct name is Nirmla Devi. Concerned may note, please.

I, GURIQBAL Singh S/o Rachhpal Singh, Vill Sherwani kot Teh Malerkotla (Sangrur), changed my name to Guriqebal Singh.

I, BALJINDER Singh S/o Darshan Singh R/o Village New Abadi Akalgarh, PO Halwara AD, Tehsil Raikot, Distt. Ludhiana have changed my name to Baljinder Singh Sandhi.

I ARPITA Seth D/o Ajay Seth W/o Nikhil Bector R/o F-114, South City Phase-I, Ayali Khurd, Ludhiana have changed my name to Arpita Bector after my marriage.

I MANJINDER Singh S/o Amar Singh R/o 3798, Sector 32-A, Chandigarh Road, Ludhiana, declare that in my minor Son's School document record his name mentioned as Harjas Singh Devgun. But, his actual name is Harjas Singh. Concerned please note.

I, SAURBH Beri Son of Ravinder Beri resident of House No. 1528, First Floor, Sector 70, S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali, Punjab have changed my name from Saurbh Beri to Sourabh Beri.

I, VEENA Devi, Aged 47 years W/o Late Sh. Mohan Lal, R/o Vill Lunadha, P.O. Fatehpur, Tehsil Sarkaghat, Distt. Mandi (H.P) have changed my name from Veena Rani & Veena to Veena Devi. Concern Kindly note.

I, SHER Singh S/o Sarba Ram, H.No.165-A, Gurdev Nagar, Village Bhabat, Zirakpur (SAS Nagar), changed name to Shamsher Singh.

I NO. 1087156F LD/TS Paramjeet Singh of Unit 6 Armed Regiment S/o Balwant Singh R/o Lane No. 1, Karan Bagh Extn. PO Gadi Garh, Distt Jammu , 181101 (J&K) wants to declare that the correct name & D.O.B of my daughter is Amanpreet Kour & 23.02.1994 instead of Amanpreet Kaur & 23.12.1994 respectively which has been wrongly written in my Army Part II orders (Order No. 212/30/96) .Now applying for the correction. Concerned please note.

I, SHIVAM Sharma, S/o Harvinder Kumar Sharma, R/o 105 GH-44, Sector 20, Panchkula, have changed my name from Shivam Sharma to Jai Shivam Sharma.

I, GURDEEP Singh S/o Harbhajan Singh Vpo Bhalojala,Tehsil Khadoor Sahib(Tarn Taran) Changed My Son's Name to Ranjeet Singh From Ranjeet Singh Hojala.

I SUBHASH Manocha R/o 239/18 Panchkula Declare that my Daughter Preeti Manocha Got Married Against our family wish I disown her from my Movable immovable Properties her presence at any sad Happy occasion in our family is not allowed anybody dealing with her will do at his/ her own Risk.

I SHALLY S/o Santosh Kumar Sharma R/o # 502 Trishla Homes, Peer Muchhalla, Zirakpur Distt. Mohali (Pb.) have changed my name from Shally to Shally Sharma.

WE, RAJIV Kumar and Renuka R/o Vill Bhirrana, Teshil and Distt Fatehabad, Haryana name wrongly recorded as Rajiv Kumar Chandel and Renuka Chandel in our son Lakshay Chandel school records and birth certificate.

I, NEHA Mago D/o Deepak Kumar Mago W/o Mukul Chadha R/o House No.607,Street No.6,Vijay Nagar, Hoshiarpur,Punjab,have changed my name to Neha Chadha.

PROPERTY

MOHALI

3BHK, PARK adjacent, park facing, 105 sqyd in sunny enclave sec 125. contact 9878928724

PUBLIC NOTICES

[illegible]

COURT NOTICES

COURT NOTICE
(U/o 5Rule 20 CPC)
IN THE COURT OF
Sh.Mohammad Gulzar
Additional district and Sessions judge, Bathinda
Next Date, Purpose of case, Orders and Judgments as well as other case information is available on http://ecourts.gov.in
Anu Bansal
Vs.
Jishan
CNR NO. PBBT01-006527-2018
Next Date:-10-07-2019
PUBLICATION ISSUED TO:
1). Jishan S/o Kasam Ali (Driver of Offending Truck Bearing No.RJ-14GB-0309) 2). Kasam Ali S/o Ajeemuddin Both R/O H No-8,Bhim Nagar Chandhriyan Sirshi Dist. Sambhal-244307 (UP) 3). Charanjit Singh S/o Not Known C/o Bhagat Singh R/o house no 67 Vill Kanhai, Gurgaon (driver of Car Bearing No.HR-26CC-6362) 4)Bhagat Singh S/o Ramesh Kumar R/o house no 67 VILL Kanhai, Gurgaon(Owner of Car Bearing NO. HR-26CC- 6362)
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 10-07-2019 at 10:00 a.m.
For detail Logon to **https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=districtnotice&district=Bathinda**
Additional District and Sessions Judge Bathinda
Dated,this Day of 21-05-2019

COURT NOTICE
In the Court of
Ms. Navdeep Kaur Gill, ACJ(SD) Nawanshahr
(Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar)
CNR-PBSB02-000223-2019
Next Date - 06/07/2019 at 10.00 AM
Ravi Raj son of Mulkh Raj r/o H.No. 1100, Railway Road, Nawanshahr, District SBS Nagar.
...Petitioner...
versus
Ajay Kumar son of Prem Nath & others.
...Respondents..
Petition under section 24(3) of Punjab Rent Act
Notice to:
3.Naveen Kumar son of Prem Nath 4. Seema 5. Sumita 6. Kusum 7. Menika daughters of Prem Nath son of Milkhi Ram, All r/o Rishi Mohalla, Near New Prince Jeweler, Railway road, Nawanshahr.
In above title petition the respondent (s) could not be served. It is order that respondant(s) should appear person or through counsel dated 06.07.2019 at 10.00 AM. the detail logon to:- https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=sbsnagar.
Given under my hand and Seal of this Court on 27/05/2019.
(Navdeep Kaur Gill)
Additional Civil Judge (Sr. Divn)
SBS Nagar

COURT NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF
Ms. Monica Sharma,
PCS, Additional, Chief Judicial, Magistrate,
HOSHIARPUR
CNR NO. PBHO030026642018
Next Date : 24-07-19
Rajeev Kaur wife of Amandeep Singh D/o Harbans Singh R/o House No.-617, Opposite Guru Ravidas Gurudwara, Mohalla Ravidass Nagar, P.S. Sadar, Tehsil and Distt. Hoshiarpur and another.
.... Applicant
Versus
Amandeep Singh S/o Late Kirpal Singh R/o Village - Nadalo, P.S. Mehtiana, Tehsil and Distt.
.... Respondents
Application U/s 12 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005.
NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS :
1. Amandeep Singh S/o Late Kirpal Singh R/o Village Nadalo, P.S. Mehtiana, Tehsil and Distt. Hoshiarpur.
2. Rani D/o Late Kirpal Singh R/o Village - Nadalo, P.S. Mehtiana, Tehsil and Distt. Hoshiarpur.
3. Tejwinder Singh @ Varinder Singh S/o Late Kirpal Singh R/o Gadala Shah Wali Gali, Near Railway Crossing, Suci Pind, Tehsil and Distt. Jalandhar.
In the above noted titled complaint case, the respondents could not be served. It is ordered that the respondents should appear in person or through counsel on 24.07.2019 at 10:00 am.
For details login to https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district= hoshiarpur
Monica Sharma
ACJM/Hoshiarpur.

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
IN THE COURT OF MS. GIRISH ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE-7 S.A.S. NAGAR
CNR No. PBSA01-005197-2018
Next Date:- 18-07-2019
Anamika Raina **Versus** Ashwani Kumar Bhat
Application under Section 151 CPC for Restoration of Hindu Marriage Act Case.
Notice To:- Ashwani Kumar Bhat S/o Sarup Nath Bhat R/o 309, Alladin Mansion Begumpet, Hydrabad, Andhra Pradesh. **Alternative Addresses:** (1) H. No. 301, Tomal Road, Opposite Saraswati Vihar, Anand Nagar, Bohri, Jammu, J&K (2) C/o Rahul Girdhar, 7, Club Road Ranchi, Jharkhand.
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 **18-07-2019 at 10 A.M.**
For details logon to https://www.highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=mohali
Dated, this day of 22-05-2019
Sd/-, Additional District and Sessions Judge-7, S.A.S. Nagar

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
IN THE COURT OF MS. GIRISH ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE-7 S.A.S. NAGAR
CNR No. PBSA01-007328-2018
Next Date:- 18-07-2019
Deep Mala **Versus** Parkash Chand
Application Under Order Rule IX Rule 13 of Civil Procedure for Setting Aside the Judgement Dated 03.08.2018
Notice To:- Parkash Chand S/o Inder Lal R/o H. No. 901, Sector 80, Mohali, District Mohali.
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 **18-07-2019 at 10 A.M.**
For details logon to https://www.highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=mohali
Dated, this day of 22-05-2019
Sd/-, Additional District and Sessions Judge-7, S.A.S. Nagar

भारतीय खाद्य निगम / FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
मुख्यालय: 16-20 बाराखंबा लेन, नई दिल्ली-110001
Headquarter: 16-20, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi-110001

Notice Inviting Bids for Selection of Independent Expert (IE) to Oversee/ Supervise Setting up of Silos at Kaimur & Buxar (Bihar) on DBFOT Basis

(Tender No. Silos/199/I.E/Kaimur & Buxar/2017)

For and on behalf of FCI, online bids in the prescribed Bid Documents under two bid system are invited from experienced and eligible agencies to oversee/supervise setting up of silos on Design, Build, Finance, Operate & Transfer (DBFOT) basis for storage of foodgrain. The Bid documents and other detailed terms & conditions are available on FCI website **www.fci.gov.in** (for reference only) as well as on CPP Portal at **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** (for reference and online bidding).

The last date/time for online submission of Bids through CPP Portal is **08.07.2019 upto 03.30 P.M.**

General Manager (Silos)

राष्ट्र के खाद्य सुरक्षा प्रहरी

CORRIGENDUM-1
PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE DIVISION GURDASPUR

E-Tendering No.12 & 13 PWSSD/GSP/2018-19 issued vide this office Endst. No 476-96 dt 15-02-2019 is hereby postponed due to election code and tender now will be opened on date & time mentioned given below:-

1	Period of availability of tender on line shall be	: 29-05-2019 from 2.00 PM.
2	Last date and time for on line submission of bid shall be	: 13-06-2019 upto 2.00 PM
3	Date and time of opening of Technical bid	:14-06-2019 at 2.30 PM
4	Date and time of opening of Financial bid	: 17-06-2019 at 2.30 PM

ਬਾਕੀ ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ 12 ਅਤੇ 13 ਦੀਆਂ ਹੀ ਰਹਿਣਗੀਆਂ।

Note: 1) Detailed terms and conditions refer to web site **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**.
2) Corrigendum (S) if any will be uploaded on above website only.

Sd/-
(Surinder Kumar Ranga)
Executive Engineer,
Pb. W/S & Sew. Division, Gurdaspur.

5503

PUNJAB STATE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
pstcl
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala- 147001)
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033814 www.pstcl.org

O/o Addl.SE P&M Civil Line Division Amritsar, Tel: 96461-18236 E-mail: srxen-pm-asr@pstcl.org

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Name of Work	Hiring of one No. 2.5 Ton or equivalent in price Diesel Vehicle for one year for AEE/TL Verka Asr. Vehicle should not be more than 4 year Old.
Tender Enquiry Number	01/2019-20
1. Sale tender documents:- **2. Receipt of tender:-** **3. Opening of tenders:-**	19.06.2019 up to 5.00 PM 20.06.2019 up to 11:00 AM 20.06.2019 at 11:30 AM

Note:- It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Detail regarding corrigendum may be seen on official PSTCL Website .Terms and conditions may be downloaded from PSTCL's Website **(www.pstcl.org)**

Sd/-
5525 **Addl. SE P&M Civil Line Division, Amritsar**

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, CHANDIGARH
SCO No. 33-34-35, Sector 17-A, Chandigarh

RC No. 916/2018

IDBI Bank ..... Certificate Holder

Versus

RANJIT SINGH ..... Certificate Debtor

PUBLICATION NOTICE

(Notice under Rule 53 of the Second Schedule of Income Tax Act, 1961 read with Section 25 to 28 of the RDDB & FI Act, 1993)

To,

1. **Sh. Ranjit Singh** S/o Sh. Davinder Singh, R/o Village Thoohi, Tehsil Nabha, District Patiala sole Proprietor of M/s Ranjit Agro Industries, a sole Proprietorship concern having its principal place of business at VPO Madnipur, Tehsil Payal, District Ludhiana (Punjab), (Borrower - Mortgagor - Guarantor).
2. **Darshan Singh Gill** S/o Sh. Thakur Singh, R/o Bahl Khan Singh Street, Court Road, Nabha, District Patiala (Punjab). (Since Deceased) through his LRs:-
(i) **Dilbagh Singh** S/o Late Sh. Darshan Singh Gill, R/o Darshmesh Colony, Near Patiala Gate, Nabha, District Patiala.
(ii) **Avtar Singh** S/o Late Sh. Darshan Singh, R/o Bahi Khan Singh Street, Court Road, Nabha, District Patiala.
(iii) **Deepinder Kuar** W/o Late Narinder Pal Singh, R/o Amar Bagh Sirhind Road, Patiala (LRs of Guarantor / Mortgagor).
3. **Sh. Malwinder Singh** S/o Sh. Mewa Singh, R/o Village Badnipur, Tehsil Samana, District Patiala (Punjab). (Guarantor).

In terms of the **Recovery Certificate in O.A. No. 425 of 2017** issued by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, a sum of **Rs. 3,81,07,185/-** has become due from you.

Whereas, the said amount has not been paid by you to the CH Bank, despite, service of a demand notice and expiry of a substantial period. You have to meet the requirement of the Law.

It has been decided to issue proclamation of sale in respect of the immovable property which is mortgaged with the CH Bank.

Therefore, take notice to appear **on 06.06.2019** before the undersigned to declare any encumbrances on the immovable property and settle terms and conditions for POS. As it is not possible to serve you through ordinary mode, this notice is given by this publication to comply the direction.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on **22nd Day of April, 2019** at Chandigarh.

RECOVERY OFFICER-II
DRT-III, Chandigarh

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spiceoflife

Unforgettable encounters with strangers

Promil Dada

Life is made up of big and small events. The big events define our station and status and have resulted in the life we are leading now; while it is the small, inconsequential things that add zing to living. The trivial happenings are like a choice – of beautifying a fabric with lace to make a delicate, exquisite handkerchief, or overlook them as mundane with a "so what" attitude and totally lose out on a potentially interesting moment of life.

As I rummage through my memory book looking for those instances that have left an indelible mark, I come across a page titled 'Strange Encounters'.

WE STRUCK UP AN INSTANT RAPPORT, EXCHANGING NEWS, VIEWS, LIKES, DISLIKES, INTERESTS AND HOBBIES. TIME JUST FLEW

I find human beings interesting because we are so different. I rarely let go of an opportunity to talk to strangers when I have to while away some time. One such encounter was at the London airport where our layover was of eight hours.

I started talking to an elderly couple who were in a similar predicament. They were going to Canada and their flight was after nine hours. In the course of our conversation, I learnt that they were from Scotland. The lady used to finish her work, prepare food for her husband and go for an eight-mile walk daily. She talked about her life there, her family and how poignant it was to move to Canada. When it was time to leave, she said, "I look forward to meeting you somewhere in the future, who knows in similar circumstances at some airport."

Another meeting I remember is when I met an Englishman at a party in India. He was connected to cricket, whether as a player or a manager I forget but what I do remember is that his hobby was bird watching. Two such diverse interests piqued my curiosity. I asked him more about his hobby. He would wake up in the wee hours, station himself with his hi-tech camera at a suitable place, sometimes for hours, and enjoy the nocturnal sounds, the rising sun and the incredible beauty of the birds both in flight and on solid base, hopping and pecking. With bated breath, he would watch their movements with minimal movement in order to capture them on camera. A whole new world opened up for me.

Another time I was at a railway station to pick up my husband and my son. The train was two hours late. I happened to see a young lady also waiting for someone and got talking to her. We struck up an instant rapport, exchanging news, views, likes, dislikes, interests and hobbies. Time just flew. It was an electrifying encounter. I felt like I knew her from somewhere in the past.

My list of such encounters is rather long, and often I reminisce about the people I have met whom I will never meet again but who have nevertheless touched my life in ways which make the walk down memory lane a pleasurable activity, and always results in a smile. Life, after all, is a series of beautiful encounters.

promildada@yahoo.com

The writer is a Ludhiana-based freelance contributor

Remove encroachments on forestland in Triund: HC

HT Correspondent
letterschd@hindustantimes.com

DHARAMSHALA: At a time when the fragile ecosystem of Triund in Kangra district is battling threats of pollution and overcrowding, the Himachal Pradesh high court order directing the Kangra district authority to remove encroachments has come as a breather.

In an order passed in response to a written petition filed by Naresh Sharma, a resident of Dharamshala, the high court has directed the Kangra deputy commissioner to inspect the area and file a status report by the next hearing on June 24.

The division bench comprising acting chief justice Dharam Chand Chaudhary and justice Vivek Thakur directed the deputy commissioner to take immediate steps to remove encroachments on the forestland in Triund.

The HC has also directed the authorities to take action against the concerned officials who were responsible for keeping a check on encroachments.

The petitioner alleged that six rest houses and several shops had come up at the forestland on the Triund hill-top.

Besides, tour operators have also pitched dozens of tents on the land. He contended that the littering on the hill-top was causing pollution and loss to the ecosystem. Counsel for the petitioner Vinay Sharma said he had apprised the local authorities about it several times and moved the court only when they failed to act.

Triund is one of the most popular tourist destinations located in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. HT FILE

Pakistan violates truce in Poonch

JAMMU: The Pakistan Army resorted to ceasefire violation along the Line of Control (LoC) in Shahpur sector of Poonch district in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

The Pakistan Army targeted forward defence locations, drawing retaliation from the Indian Army. Police said, "Pakistan Army initiated indiscriminate firing of small arms from Wednesday afternoon. The army posts are retaliating strongly and effectively to shelling and firing."

There were no reports of any casualty or damages on the Indian side.

On Tuesday, Pakistan had violated ceasefire in Shahpur sector of Poonch district and in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district. HTC

'Allow J&K to propose amendments to Art 35A'

SRINAGAR: Bureaucrat-turned-politician and president of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Movement, Shah Faesal on Wednesday suggested that a delegation of all political parties from the state should meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to flag concerns about abrogation of Article 35A and 370 beside building political consensus on various constitutional issues confronting the state.

While Article 370 grants special status to the restive state, Article 35A empowers the state assembly to define 'permanent residents' for bestowing special rights and privileges on them.

"If the issue is of gender discrimination, then central government can be assured that the popular government in the state should be allowed to propose necessary amendments to Article 35A instead of wiping out the entire article against the wishes of the people", Faesal said in the statement. HTC

letterstoeditor — ramesh.vinayak@hindustantimes.com

PAKISTAN PREMIER RIGHTLY SNUBBED

This refers to the report 'Pak downplays Imran snub by India, pushes for dialogue' (May 29). Pakistan has still not discarded its policy of running with hare and hunting with hounds, as the inaction against any terror group operating from their soil makes it obvious. India, therefore, is fully justified in not inviting prime minister Imran Khan to the oath-taking ceremony of Narendra Modi. The country must stop supporting terror activities, or it will be further isolated from the international community, including China.

Subhash Vaid

IMRAN SHOULD HAVE BEEN INVITED

The invitation to the leaders of BIMSTEC countries to attend Narendra Modi's oath-taking ceremony as prime minister is a right step for regional trade development. But instead of snubbing Pakistan, Modi should have invited Pakistan PM Imran Khan. For the event, the chief ministers of all states must be invited and difference among political parties should not be a factor.

Lal Singh

AMRITSAR AIRPORT ROAD IN DISREPAIR

The road from bypass to the international airport at Rajasansi near Amritsar is in a pathetic condition for a long time. The road is full of potholes, with most lights non-functional. The municipal corporation says it has no funds to repair the stretch, which otherwise comes under the public works department. When the authorities are passing the buck, it is the public that is at the receiving end. This shows the government's callousness. The tax-paying public has the right to expect better civic amenities.

Dr Ranbir Singh Pannu, Amritsar

BALL NOW IS IN THE CONGRESS' COURT

At a time when the nation needed a strong joint front of Opposition parties against BJP's brute majority and when alliance partners are willing to do so, Rahul's emotional urge to resign is a political blunder which is in tune with BJP's political move to decimate the gathabandhan lock, stock and barrel. It is time the Opposition works out a strategy on how to save the country from slipping into autocracy for which the present dispensation headed by Modi is entirely bent upon. The ball is in the court of the congress. It is now or never for the BJP and the opposition.

RM Ramaul, Paonta Sahib

A GANDHI WHO CAN REVIVE CONGRESS

This refers to Vinod Sharma's analysis 'Three templates Rahul, Congress can replicate' (May 29). The Grand Old Party, unfortunately, never bothered to prepare a second tier of leadership in a planned way, and now has to look beyond the Gandhi family. There is one Gandhi who has the potential to revive the Congress and it is Gopalkrishan Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi. Suave, mature, learned and a good writer, the former IAS officer has a mind of his own, and has amply demonstrated it as the governor of West Bengal.

Colonel RD Singh (retd), Ambala Cantt

RAHUL MUST HOLD PARTY TOGETHER

Rahul Gandhi's insistence to step down as president of Congress will not be in the interests of the badly-mauled party. His argument that a leader outside the Gandhi family should helm the Grand Old Party runs the risk of exposing it to more trouble. The party needs Rahul at the juncture as only he can hold it together in these tough times and restructure the party as mandated by the Congress Working Committee. Rahul must reconsider his decision and continue to lead the party.

Sourabh Dhiman

PUNISH THE GUILTY FOR SURAT FIRE

After the devastating fire at the Surat Coaching Centre, situated on the top floor, which killed 22 students and injured 30, the chief fire officer said the primary investigation report revealed that the fire had started from a hardware and plywood shop on the ground floor and soon engulfed the entry and exit gates of the building. It reached the roof top which was plush with inflammable material. The arrest of the manager is not enough. He and his colleagues are guilty of culpable homicide and deserve stringent action. It is time authorities conduct a 'fire safety measures' audit and punish the defaulters.

Usha Verma, Chandigarh

STRICTER BUILDING NORMS NEEDED

The current scenario of development is about random construction without adequate safety checks, provisions and without a heed to established norms. Many factors must be checked thoroughly, such as material used, load bearing capacity, convenient entry and exit for emergency. Hundreds of lives are lost every year as old bridges residential dilapidated buildings fall with alarming regularity. We need stricter norms at every stage.

Jagdish Singh Jassal, Patiala

CORRUPT, INSENSITIVE ADMINISTRATION

The Surat tragedy exposes criminal negligence of an apathetic and insensitive administration which has failed to learn from several such past disasters. Such a monumental tragedy only compels us to question whether human life has any value in our country. As a knee-jerk reaction, the administration expresses concern for a few days and the government will announce compensations, after which things are back to status quo.

Dr Vitull Gupta, Bathinda

7 hurt in Poonch road mishap

JAMMU : At least seven people were injured when a high-speeding vehicle they travelling in rolled down the road in Mendhar sub-division of Poonch district on Wednesday. Police said the incident took place around 2pm when a Maruti Van on its way to Mendhar, rolled down the road after driver lost control over the vehicle, injuring seven passengers, including the driver.

Soon, locals rushed to the spot and evacuated all the injured to the sub-district hospital in Mendhar. Their condition is stated to be stable. HTC

HAJ COMMITTEE OF INDIA

(Statutory body constituted under the Act of Parliament No.35 of 2002)
Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India.
Bait-ul-Hujjaj (Haj House), 7-A, M.R.A. Marg (Palton Road) Mumbai-400001

NOTICE

Inviting e-Tender from Reputed Architects Consultancy Services for Structural Audit and Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing (MEP) Audit of Haj House Building, Mumbai.

The Haj Committee of India (under the administrative control of the Ministry of Minority Affairs MoMA) invites e-tender from reputed Consultants and Consultancy Firms for conduct of Structural Audit and Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing (MEP) Audit and for providing Consultancy Services for Procurement, Supply, Installation and Maintenance of various Civil, Electric and Allied works in Haj House Building, 7-A, M.R.A. Marg, Mumbai - 400 001. The complete bid document and detail is available on the Central Procurement Portal **http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** and official website of Haj Committee of India **www.hajcommittee.gov.in**

Chief Executive Officer
Haj Committee of India

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PH: 0120-4783116, Fax: 0120-2537609, email: igm.noida@spmcil.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

India Government Mint, Noida invites sealed tenders from eligible and qualified tenderers for following goods/services:

Tender No.	Description of Goods/Services	Tender Fee	EMD	Last Date of Submission
6000012244	Job Work for Unloading of Drums	Rs. 590/-	Rs. 19,000/-	14.06.2019
6000012794	LDPE Film Roll 295MM X 100 Microns (Only for MSME Firms)	NIL	NIL	02.07.2019
6000012333	Supply, Installation, Testing And Commissioning of Full Height Dual Length Dual Lane Full Length Turnstile Electro-mechanical System With Bio - Metric Control	Rs. 590/-	Rs. 39,200/-	02.07.2019
6000012985	Purchasing of Thyristor Module	Rs. 295/-	NIL	02.07.2019
6000013014	Refilling of Cartridges	Rs. 295/-	NIL	02.07.2019

Eligible tenderers may submit their offers on or before the last date of submission at India Government Mint, D-2, Sector-1, Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh – 201301. Future amendment/revision of these tenders, if any, shall be published in our website only.
Please visit our website **http://igmnoida.spmcil.com** for further details & Hindi version of this advertisement.

Sd/-
General Manager

RAJIV GANDHI PROUDYOGIKI VISHWAVIDYALAYA
(University of Technology of Madhya Pradesh)
Airport Road, Gandhi Nagar, Bhopal-462033
Phone No. : (0755) 2678899, 26788812
Fax No. : (0755)-2742006

No. F-3/Admn/RGPV/2019/1350 **Date : 29.05.19**

EMPLOYMENT - NOTICE

Rajiv Gandhi Proudyogiki Vishwavidyalaya, Bhopal invites applications from the eligible candidates for the Posts of Director/Principal in University Institute of Technology Bhopal, Jhabua, Shahdol, Shivpuri & University Polytechnic, Bhopal. Details of Posts, Qualifications, Experience, Pay scale and procedure for applying for these posts will be made available on the website of the University **www.rgpv.ac.in** from **01.06.2019**. Desirous candidates may download the application form from the above website. Duly filled application form along with the necessary enclosures and a Demand Draft of Rs. 1000.00 (Non-refundable) drawn in favour of **Registrar, RGPV** payable at Bhopal should be submitted for each Post separately to this office on or before **30.06.2019**. SC/ST category candidates of Madhya Pradesh are not required to submit the application fee. The envelope containing application form must be superscribed **"Application for the Post of _____"**

M.P. Madhyam/93884/2019 **REGISTRAR**

CONSTR OF DSOI BUILDING AT SECTOR 26, PANCHKULA
CORRIGENDUM

Refer Notice Inviting Tender published on the subject on 10 May 2019.

Following amendments be carried out :-

(a) Estimated cost of the project **For** Rs. 12 Cr **Read** 14.97 Cr.

(b) For tender documents to be collected from - For 21 May 19 to 25 May 19 **Read** 04 Jun 19 to 08 Jun 19.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
RAJINDRA HOSPITAL PATIALA
NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS

Tender Notice No. 7354 **Dated : 28/5/19**

Sealed quotations are invited from the reputed firm's original manufacturers/ authorized dealers on or before dated **19-06-2019** up to **11-30 AM** for the "Service/ Repair of AC's (Window AC and Split AC) of various Wards/Deptts. of different make". Quotations will be opened same day at **12-00 Noon.** Other details can be taken from office of Medical Superintendent Rajindra Hospital Patiala and Office Website: **rajindrahospitalpatiala.com**.

Sd/-
(Dr.Rajan Kumar Singla)
Medical Superintendent, Rajindra Hospital Patiala.

4982

Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency, (UPNEDA)
(Department of Additional Sources of Energy, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh)
Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow U P, Tele Fax: 0522- 2720829
Website:http://upneda.org.in, E-Mail: compneda@rediffmail.com

e-tender Notice

File No. UPNEDA-SEPV-SHM-Tender/2019-20

UPNEDA invites online Bids from Prospective Bidders through e-tendering for the Design, Supply, Installation, Commissioning and 5 years Comprehensive warranty maintenance of white LED based Solar High Mast Lighting System with Li-Fe-PO4 Battery pack in various places /villages of Uttar Pradesh – Approximate 500 Nos. The Quantity may increase or decrease.

The detailed specifications terms and conditions etc of above System are given in e-tender document. The tender document is available at e-Procurement website **http://etender.up.nic.in** from 31thMay, 2019 after 06.55 PM onwards. Pre-bid meeting will be held on 10th June, 2019 at 11.30 AM at UPNEDA, H.O. Lucknow. The last date of submission of online bids is 24th June, 2019 till 6.55 PM. The online bids shall be opened on 25th June, 2019 at 11.30 AM.

Director, Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency, (UPNEDA) reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Director, UPNEDA

Punjab state Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Off.: PSEB H.O., The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813, website:- www.pspcl.in

Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website www.pspcl.in
(O/O CE/TS B-1, SHAKTI VIHAR, PATIALA)
Phone No. 0175-2301537, FAX NO. 0175-2220143
Email: se-ss-design@pspcl.in

Online Tenders are invited for the supply of the following material as per Tender Specification No 184/2019 of PSPCL:-

Item No.	Description	Qty. Nos.	Enquiry No/Year	Last date & Time for downloading of tenders	Last date & Time for bid submission	Date & Time of Opening of bids
1.	11 KV Capacitor Banks (1.36 1 MVAR each)	720	184/2019	03.07.19 11:30 A.M.	04.07.19 11:00 A.M.	04.07.19 11:30 A.M
2.	Spare Capacitor Units (137.234 KVAR)	1200				

EMD 20,00,000/-
Minimum EMD 6,63,104/-

Detailed NIT and Specification may be down-loaded from PSPCL e-tendering website **https://pspcl.abcprocure.com**
It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, No CORRIGENDUM will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on PSPCL website **www.pspcl.in** and **www.pspcl.abcprocure.com**

S.E/Sub-Station Design
PSPCL, Patiala, Contact No. 96461-22185

C-201/19 5494

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION, UT CHANDIGARH
E-TENDER NOTICE

The **Executive Engineer, P.H. Division No.3, Chandigarh** invites on behalf of the President of India sealed percentage tenders from listed/non listed eligible contractors of appropriate class enlisted with Chandigarh Administration, Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh, CPWD, State PWDs of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal and their Boards and Corporations of states dealing with following works shall be uploaded and received on **http://etenders.chd.nic.in/nicgep** upto 13.00 hours on _____ which shall be opened at 15.30 Hrs. on _____ for the

Sr No.	NIT No.	Name of work & location	Estimated cost put to tender	Earnest money	Period of Completion	Last date & time of submission of tender on website	Time & date of opening of tender
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.		Providing, Installing, Testing & Commissioning of Air Conditioners (Cassette / Split) and allied works complete at Office Block at Punjab Raj Bhavan, Sector 6, Chandigarh.	Rs. 28.99 lakhs	Rs. 57,980/-	3 Months	1 day before opening of Tender upto 5.00 PM.	11.6.2019 at 10.00 AM

1. Bid document can be downloaded from the website of Chandigarh Administration or **http://tenders.chd.nic.in/nicgep**. However, for general information, guidance and reference, the Bid Document can also be viewed and downloaded from Chandigarh official website **http://chandigarh.gov.in**.
2. All other terms and conditions, instructions to bidder regarding e-tendering process etc. May kindly be seen from the detailed Notice inviting Tender (NIT) available/downloadable on the above noted websites of Chandigarh Administration.

Executive Engineer,
Project P.H. Divn. No.3, Sector-9, Chandigarh, Phone No. 0172-2740648

CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION : ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
E- TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer C.P. Divn No 4, Chandigarh on behalf of President of India invites online percentage rate tender from approved & enlisted contractors with Chandigarh Admn., dealing with civil works, which shall be uploaded and received on **http://etenders.chd.nic.in/nicgep**.

	NIT No.	Name of Work and location	Estimated cost put to tender	Earnest money	Time of completion	Last date & time of EMD physically submission	Time & date of opening of tender
1	No. 499 dt. 17.05.19	Special Repair to Non Residential Building of Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Manimajra (Town), Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School Manimajra (MHC), Govt. Model High School Manimajra (Near Dhillon Complex), Govt. Middle School Manimajra (Indira Colony), Govt. Middle School (Pocket No.6) Manimajra, GMHS Pocket No.1, GMHS Sector 26 (Police line) GMSSS Sec 26 (Timber Market), Chandigarh for Civil Service Examination.	Rs. 5,40,572/-	Rs. 10,812/-	20 Days	03.06.2019 upto 5:00 P.M.	04.06.2019 At 3.30 P.M.
2	No. 289 dt. 14.05.19	Renovation of Conference Room at U.T., Secretariat (Chargeable to Special Repair Deluxe Building Sector 9, Chandigarh).	Rs. 9,04,244/-	Rs. 18,084/-	10 Days	03.06.2019 upto 5:00 P.M.	04.06.2019 At 3.30 P.M.
3	No. 725 dt. 04.10.18	Renovation of Labs at Govt. Model Senior Secondary School, Sector 18, Chandigarh.	Rs. 13,28,386/-	Rs. 26,568/-	02 Month	03.06.2019 upto 5:00 P.M.	04.06.2019 At 3.30 P.M.

Executive Engineer,
C.P. Division No.4, Addl. Deluxe Building, 2nd floor, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh.
Ph. No. 0172-2740496, Email:cp4-chd@nic.in

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C)-S&P
DELHI JAL BOARD, GOVT OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
JAL SADAN, LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110024

N.I.T. NO. 03/S&P/(2019-20)
Press Tender

S. No.	Name of Work	Reserve Price	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time for download & RTGS through e-procurement solution
1.	Rejuvenation of 06 nos. water bodies using Phytorid Treatment Technology of Capacity 300 KLD at various locations in Delhi (Phase-III)	Part-A (Civil Work): Percentage rate Amount: 7,45,54,305/- Part-B (E&M Work): Item rate	2019_DJB_172976_1 28.05.2019 onward	28.06.2019 upto 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at **govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in**

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 34/2019-20 **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) S&P**

Infrastructure Development Investment Program for Tourism (IDIPT) (ADB Assisted)
Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board, GoUK.
Near ONGC Helipad, Nimbuwala Garhi Cantt, Dehradun.
Tel No. 0135 2559985, 2559898, 2559900

Appointments on Deputation/Contractual Basis

Infrastructure Development Investment Program for Tourism (IDIPT) is committed to develop infrastructure facilities like Destination Development, Connectivity, Conservation of Environment, Heritage Conservation and Culture and implement reforms in IDIPT. The applications are invited for the following posts on Contractual basis to strengthen the Project Management Unit/Project Implementation Units in IDIPT (ADB).

Sl. No	Name of post	Numbers	Nature of appointment	Qualification	Pay Scale (Rs.)
Project Management Unit (PMU) - Dehradun					
01	Procurement Specialist	01	Contract basis	Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering/ Mechanical Engineering having at least 10 years of experience in procurement of goods, civil works and services.	Rs. 50,000/- per month (fixed)
Project Implementation Unit (PIU) – Dehradun					
02	Project Manager	01	Executive Engineer/ Assistant Engineer on deputation from State Govt. Department as per deputation rules.	Essential Bachelor Degree with at least 10 yrs of experience in working/managing successful government/private sector project. Desirable Master in Business Administration. Has led team and shown demonstrative output / results over period of time.	15,600-39,100+ Grade Pay 6600/-
03	Support Architect	01	Contract basis	Bachelor in Architecture preferably specialization in Conservation/Landscape or related fields with expertise in the area of built heritage. Work experience minimum 03 years in relevant fields.	Rs. 35,000/- per month (fixed)
Project Implementation Unit (PIU) – Bhimtal					
04	Project Manager	01	Executive Engineer/ Assistant Engineer on deputation from State Govt. Department as per deputation rules.	Essential Bachelor Degree with at least 10 yrs of experience in working/managing successful government/private sector project. Desirable Master in Business Administration. Has led team and shown demonstrative output/results over period of time.	15,600-39,100+ Grade Pay 6600/-
05	Community Development Officer	01	Contract basis	Master in Social Sciences/Management, around 5 yrs. experience in community mobilization/ awareness/livelihood.	Rs. 35,000/- per month (fixed)

Terms and Conditions:-

01 The initial appointment will be made for a period of 01 year (extendable based on performance and output) or till project closure whichever is earlier.
02 Above position is time bound and co-terminus with the project.
03 Applicants working in Govt. sector shall require to submit application through proper channel to avoid delay in getting released after selection.
04 No TA/DA will be paid for attending the selection interview.
05 The engagement under above does not confer any right/claim whatsoever either or implicitly for any regular appointment in IDIPT.
06 Interested candidate may apply with CV and a passport size latest photograph with attested copies of all the certificates and testimonials.
07 The decision of the competent authority regarding eligibility or selection on any of the above mentioned posts will be final and no correspondence will be entertained in this regard.
08 The competent authority reserves right to withdraw the aforesaid advertisement/posts without issuing any prior notice.
09 For detail information visit **www.uttarakhandtourism.gov.in**. Any further addendum and corrigendum shall be uploaded in www.uttarakhandtourism.gov.in only.
All applications should reach at the above address latest by **05:00** pm **14.06.2019** by registered / speed post only in sealed envelopes with Post applied for clearly marked on top of the envelope. The address details should be written very clearly on the envelope for scrutiny purpose.

Program Director

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htnation

Rahul's leadership to be focus of Cong meet

LS DEBACLE Parliamentary brass to meet on June 1; party workers hold demonstrations

Aurangzeb Naqshbandi
aurangzeb.naqshbandi@hindustantimes.com

Congress workers protest outside party chief Rahul Gandhi's house, urging him to not resign, in New Delhi on Wednesday. SONU MEHTA/HT

NEW DELHI: The Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) will meet at Parliament Annexe on Saturday morning, party functionaries said on Wednesday, adding that the meeting will be presided over by United Progressive Alliance chairperson Sonia Gandhi and attended by all Congress MPs, including party president Rahul Gandhi.

The suspense over whether Gandhi will continue to lead his party lingered on Wednesday even as Congress workers in several cities across the country held demonstrations urging him to rethink his decision to quit following reverses in the Lok Sabha elections.

Saturday could mark the first occasion when Gandhi will interact with party leaders since the fractious Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on May 25 when he announced his decision to quit before it was rejected by the party's highest decision-making body. The CPP may also elect a new chairperson, a post currently held by Sonia Gandhi.

According to a senior leader who asked not to be named, one of the suggestions to discuss the matter further involves calling a session of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) to give an opportunity to Gandhi to interact directly with 2,000-odd delegates from across the country.

A second party functionary, however, did not rule out another CWC meeting within the next couple of days to end the uncertainty triggered by Gandhi's purported insistence on quitting despite the May 25 resolution.

As per the Congress constitution, all CWC resolutions have to be ratified by the AICC. "AICC is the appropriate forum where Rahul Gandhi can put his views before the delegates and announce his future plan," the leader said.

The Congress has witnessed similar situations in the past too.

On May 15, 1999, just before the Lok Sabha elections, the then Congress president Sonia Gandhi resigned from the post after senior leaders Sharad Pawar, PA Sangma and Tariq Anwar opposed her being projected as the party's prime ministerial candidate, ostensibly on the grounds of her foreign origin.

The move prompted hunger strikes and protests by Congress workers across the country. She finally agreed to take back her resignation within five days after the party expelled Pawar, Sangma and Anwar. A special AICC session was called on May 25, 1999 to welcome her back as the party president.

Exactly 20 years later on the same day, Rahul Gandhi offered his resignation from the Congress chief's post.

Sonia Gandhi again stunned the world in May 2004 when she declined the Prime Minister's post after the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) came to power.

The decision prompted nationwide protests but Sonia Gandhi stood firm.

"I have listened to my inner voice. Power in itself has never attracted me, nor has position been my goal," she told a meeting of the Congress parliamentary party (CPP).

Since the CWC meeting on May 25, Rahul Gandhi has had just a few brief interactions with party colleagues.

He only met senior leaders Ahmed Patel and KC Venugopal on Monday and attended a prayer function in memory of his great grandfather and the country's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, to mark his 55th death anniversary.

On Tuesday, Rahul Gandhi held brief but separate discussions with Venugopal and party's chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala.

However, he did not meet Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot and his deputy Sachin Pilot who were at his 12, Tughlaq Lane residence for a meeting with his sister and Congress general secretary for east Uttar Pradesh Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

On Wednesday, Rahul Gandhi did not meet Delhi Congress president Sheila Dikshit who, along with other party colleagues and workers, staged a sit-in outside his residence to plead with him to reconsider his resignation offer. She conveyed the message through one of his aides.

Also on Wednesday, a photo went viral of Rahul Gandhi taking out his pet, Pidi, on a ride.

But the Congress president took to Twitter to congratulate Naveen Patnaik on being sworn in as Odisha chief minister for a record fifth term.

"This is indeed an incredible achievement. My best wishes to him and to the people of Odisha," he tweeted.

Several state units such as Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala have passed resolutions urging Rahul Gandhi to stay on.

Karnataka chief minister HD Kumaraswamy said he will meet the Congress president on Thursday and request him to continue in the post. This comes a day after Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam chief MK Stalin and Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Lalu Prasad urged him not to resign.

Mike Pompeo

Before Trump-Modi meet, Pompeo may visit India in June

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: US secretary of state Mike Pompeo is expected to visit India in late June to prepare the grounds for a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump on the margins of the G20 Summit in Japan and other bilateral engagements this year.

Pompeo is expected to travel to New Delhi before the G20 Summit, which will be held in Osaka during June 28-29, people familiar with developments said. HT had reported on Wednesday that a senior member of Trump's cabinet was expected to visit New Delhi in June.

Pompeo's talks with his Indian interlocutors will prepare the grounds for first bilateral meeting between Modi and Trump since their talks in Washington in June 2017. Modi and Trump are also expected to hold a bilateral meeting in the US in September.

State department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said on Tuesday that "Pompeo will have a very robust discussion on a range of issues" with Indian leaders but did not mention any dates for his visit. "India is a great ally and partner of the US," Ortagus told reporters in Washington. The US "will work closely with Modi, as we have many times".

When Trump called Modi recently to congratulate him on his election victory, the two leaders agreed to meet on the margins of the G20 Summit. Though India and the US have developed close political and security ties, there are several issues on which the two sides differ.

Senior-level bureaucratic overhaul on the anvil

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

THE INTELLIGENCE BUREAU AND THE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS WING LIKELY TO HAVE NEW CHIEFS

NEW DELHI: As Prime Minister Modi decides who all will be in his next cabinet, the bureaucracy, too, is set for major changes. Two critical ministries — home and defence — are likely to see new secretaries. Importantly, both the internal and external intelligence agencies — the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), respectively, will have new chiefs too.

Defence secretary Sanjay Mitra superannuates on May 31 – a day after the new government is sworn in. It is not clear who will succeed Mitra; secretary of defence production Ajay Kumar is a contender. Mitra, a low-profile civil servant, came in for praise for handling several crises, including the controversy over the Rafale jet fighter deal. His successor will have to deal with several significant issues, for instance, the finalization of the purchase of 114 fighter jets for the Indian Air Force, among others.

The current special secretary of RA&W Samant Goel is likely to take over as the next chief of the agency. Goel has won praise for his handling of the Balakot airstrikes. R&AW was tasked with coming up with a target that would send a clear message to Pakistan, and it suggested the Jaish-e-Mohammed terror camp in Balakot, deep inside Pakistan, which the Indian Air Force struck on February 26 in reprisal for the February 14 suicide car bombing that killed 40 Indian troopers in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama.

Incumbent R&AW chief Anil Dhasmana superannuates on June 30. Samant Goel's batchmate is likely to take over the Director of the Intelligence Bureau (DIB). Current DIB Rajiv Jain also superannuates in June.

Union home secretary Rajiv Gauba, a 1982 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, is tipped to be the next cabinet secretary, the top bureaucrat of the country.

Gauba is known to be an extremely competent bureaucrat with a wide administrative experience. He will succeed incumbent cabinet secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha. Sinha became the cabinet secretary in June 2015. He received two extensions; in 2017 and 2018.

After having been in service for 42 years, Sinha superannuates in June. The previous two cabinet secretaries – Ajit Kumar Seth and K M Chandrasekhar – also served for four years in the post. Gauba will be the 32nd cabinet secretary of India. Those in the race to be the next home secretary include Amit Khare, the current Information and broadcasting secretary.

Naveen Patnaik takes oath as the CM of Odisha during his swearing-in ceremony, in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday. ARABINDA MAHAPATRA/HT

Patnaik takes oath as Odisha CM for 5th term

Debabrata Mohanty & Padma Rao Sundarji
letters@hindustantimes.com

BHUBANESWAR: Braving temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius, nearly 7,000 people thronged the Exhibition Ground on Wednesday to watch Naveen Patnaik, 72, take oath as Odisha chief minister for a fifth term, at the end of which he is set to emerge as the longest-serving CM ever.

Twenty-one ministers were also sworn in at the ceremony that lasted several hours, interspersed by cheers from party workers and loyalists, with the loudest slogans reserved for Patnaik himself.

A motley mix of supporters, ranging from industrialists and surgeons to 2,100 women from self-help groups, attended the ceremony. There were no speeches at all. Oaths were taken in either Odia or English as per individual preference, and also in the Santhali tribal language by minister Sudam Marandi.

Two gigantic sheds were constructed for the ceremony that was held, for the first time in the state's history, outside Raj Bhavan. Thirty police platoons were deployed, a three-layer security system was put in place and CCTV surveillance began hours before the event.

Odisha information department officials said arrangements had been made to accommodate around 5,000 people but between 6000-7000 showed up, with more people on the streets outside the grounds.

Still, the presence of the women's self-help groups, which received seed capital from the government, as well as scions of industry like Naveen Jindal and Subroto Bagchi suggested Patnaik's popularity at both ends of the social spectrum: grassroots development as well as incentivization of industrial investment.

"Naveen Patnaik has enriched our life so much that we can't think of voting for anyone else. He made us independent," said Minati Maharana, a 35-year-old woman from Ganjam district who has set up a kitchen to make snacks for children in anganwadis.

Patnaik called a cabinet meeting soon after the swearing-in was over. "I would like to emphasize once again on the 3-T model of governance. Teamwork, transparency and technology leading to transformation. I am going to add another dimension to this, that is Time. Time is of critical essence. The youth of today are in a hurry."

RUMOURS RIFE AS 2 K'TAKA CONG MLAs SKIP MEET

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

BENGALURU: Two Congress lawmakers skipped a meeting of their legislature party in Karnataka on Wednesday.

The two included Ramesh Jarkiholi, who had in April said he would quit the party. R Roshan Baig, the other absentee, has criticised the Congress's state leadership over the party's poor performance in Lok Sabha polls. Five others, who could not attend the meeting, had informed the party in advance. B Nagendra, and Mahesh Kumathahalli, who were believed to have been in the dissident camp, attended the meeting.

Former chief minister Siddaramaiah said Congress's all 79 lawmakers are with the party. "There is no dissent in our ranks and we are like a rock," he said.

Separately, Congress general secretary KC Venugopal on Wednesday met state Congress leaders and chief minister HD Kumaraswamy. Venugopal was rushed to Bengaluru as the Janata Dal (Secular) JD (S)-Congress coalition government in Karnataka sensed trouble after Bharatiya Janata Party swept the national polls and won 25 out of the 28 seats in the state.

A Congress minister said his party was considering re-inducting independent lawmaker Shankar into the cabinet. Shankar had withdrawn support to the coalition government in January after he was dropped from the cabinet in December.

The coalition has a support of 118 lawmakers. The BJP has 105 members in the state assembly.

Congress state chief Dinesh Gundu Rao said the Lok Sabha poll results were not a mandate against the state. "We will try and ensure our programme reaches people even better," he said.

DIGNITARIES' DINNER

Prez house gears up to serve 6K guests

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: When President Ram Nath Kovind hosts a quiet dinner for the dignitaries in attendance at the swearing-in of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government on Thursday, the lavish spread will be entirely prepared by staff at Rashtrapati Bhavan, with no outside help whatsoever.

For the biggest ceremony ever at the presidential mansion, where around 6,000 invitees including foreign delegates and VIP invitees will gather, no professional chefs or hotels have been hired. "We are capable of feeding our guests. Everything will be done by the Rashtrapati Bhavan kitchen staff and no outside professionals have been invited for this purpose," press secretary to the President Ashok Malik told HT.

This is a departure from the 2014 swearing-in ceremony of the first NDA government when chefs from the capital's top 5 Star hotels were enlisted to help prepare food to the taste of the foreign dignitaries. There will be two menus for the evening — one for the high tea for all invitees and the other for the select guests who will stay on for dinner. "It will not be a banquet but a dinner where apart from the President, around 40 other dignitaries will be present," said Malik.

Rashtrapati Bhavan will serve samosas, rajbhog, lemon tart, fruit tart, tea and coffee at the high tea, which is expected to be attended by all the 6,000 people. In the 2014 programme, less than 4,000 people had gathered for high tea on the sprawling forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan, the largest Presidential estate after Turkey's Cumhurbaskanlıgı Külliyesi.

Almost all Indian states will find representation in the dinner menu. Although many government programmes have turned into an occasion for a full vegetarian fare in the past few years, Rashtrapati Bhavan will serve both vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes on Thursday. "A soup, Kashmir's Rogan Josh, Awadhi biriyani and Amritsari fish tikka are likely to be served along with a special Rashtrapati Bhavan black dal," said an official.

The seating arrangement will be almost the same as in 2014. The President's secretariat will install temporary toilets at the corner of the forecourt and serve water as little relief is expected from the scorching heat. Last time, the secretariat under President Pranab Mukherjee had also prepared a contingency plan to shift the programme to Durbar Hall in case it rains heavily. "The same plan exists even as no one really expects it to rain tomorrow," said an official.

Due to the heat, the ceremony will start at 7pm instead of the 2014 schedule of 6 pm and is likely to go on for an hour. Prime Minister Modi is expected to visit Rajghat in the morning to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.

Rajya Sabha members prepare for fresh innings in Lower House

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

BJP leaders Amit Shah and Ravi Shankar Prasad. REUTERS/HT FILE

NEW DELHI: Three of the five Bharatiya Janata Party Rajya Sabha MPs who contested the 2019 general election, have won, while both Congress Rajya Sabha MPs who contested lost.

For the BJP, party president Amit Shah won from Gandhinagar as he was expected to; the constituency has been a BJP citadel since 1989. Shah's entry in Lok Sabha has also fuelled speculation that he could be given one of the key portfolios.

Two senior ministers in the outgoing NDA, Ravi Shankar Prasad and Smriti Irani successfully contested the Lok Sabha polls from two high-profile seats. Prasad defeated actor-turned-politician Shatrughan Sinha from Patna Sahib. Smriti Irani defeated Congress president Rahul Gandhi from his family borough, Amethi.

Gandhi won from Wayanad in Kerala and saved his slot in Parliament.

Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal fielded only one Rajya Sabha MP, popular cinestar Anubhav Mohanty, and he won the Kendrapara seat. The battle of Kendrapara was touted as the biggest in Odisha after Patnaik's one-time lieutenant Baijayant 'Jay' Panda, one of the founder members of the BJD, left the party and joined the BJP. This was the first time Panda was fighting on a BJP ticket and it became a prestige battle for Patnaik.

M Kanimozhi of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam succeeded in winning, too, and resigned from the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. BJP ministers Hardeep Puri and KJ Alphons, both retired bureaucrats, however, failed to enter the Lower House of Parliament just as Congress' Digvijaya Singh, Vivek Tankha and Trinamool's Manas Bhuiyan also failed.

Kamal Nath denies involvement in LS hawala tape case

BHOPAL: Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath on Wednesday strongly rejected allegations that he and his officer on special duty had a conversation about hawala transactions during Lok Sabha polls.

In an audio clip leaked to media on Tuesday, Nath and his OSD Praveen Kakkar purportedly talked about money changing hands through hawala transactions for poll expenses.

PTI reported on Tuesday that the I-T department would soon summon top officials of the Madhya Pradesh government, politicians and relatives of CM Kamal Nath as part of its probe into an alleged "widespread and well-organised" hawala racket of about ₹281 crore, unearthed during the Lok Sabha polls.

"This was not disclosed from where they got the documents. This was not disclosed whose voice it was. Nothing has been disclosed. They say people connected with Kamal Nath, but I don't know them. I have never seen their faces. The country understands with what motive this is being projected," Nath told reporters on Wednesday.

He alleged that this was being done to "distract the attention of people from what the state government is going to disclose".

HT CORRESPONDENT

Bimstec now focus of India's regional ties

Rezaul H Laskar
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: When Narendra Modi takes oath as the Prime Minister on Thursday, the focus will be on a nearly 22-year-old regional grouping that India is looking to drive connectivity and development as an alternative to Saarc.

Leaders from the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec), which, besides India, includes Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan, will be among the special guests invited to the swearing-in ceremony.

Over the past few years, India has begun looking at Bimstec to drive regional cooperation after the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) got bogged down due to the differences between New Delhi and Islamabad. The last Saarc Summit, which was to be held in Pakistan in November 2016, stalled after India and several other countries pulled out over terror-related concerns.

Bimstec was formed as Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand-Economic Cooperation (BIST-EC) in June 1997.

As India's focus continued to be on Saarc, there wasn't much headway on Bimstec till about 2014, when the third summit was held in Myanmar and a secretariat was set up in the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka.

Constantino Xavier, a fellow at Brookings India who focuses on regional security and connectivity, said the invitation extended to leaders of Bimstec states to attend Modi's inauguration was part of "India's continued pragmatism about working with like-minded neighbours" and also emphasised the role of the Bay of Bengal as a link between South and Southeast Asia. "After what Indian officials describe as Pakistan's obstructionism, India has looked at Bimstec for regional cooperation and connectivity. Bimstec is also where India's 'neighbourhood first' and 'Act East' policies overlap," he said.

However, experts believe more needs to be done to empower Bimstec to make it a more effective forum for cooperation and development. Ahead of the last Bimstec Summit in Nepal in August last year, several member states had pushed for the number of focus areas of the grouping to be cut from 14 to just five – connectivity, poverty alleviation, trade and investment, climate change and energy. "While security cooperation within Bimstec is growing, one area where the grouping has under-delivered is creating an economic agenda for the Bay of Bengal," Xavier said.

Modi to address Maldivian House during June visit

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: The Maldivian Parliament Wednesday unanimously passed a resolution, inviting Prime Minister-elect Narendra Modi to address the House during his visit to the Indian Ocean archipelago in June.

All 80 lawmakers present in Parliament voted in favour of the resolution inviting Modi to deliver a speech in the House.

Though there has been no official word from the Indian government on the trip, the Maldives is expected to be the destination of Modi's first foreign visit during his second term as premier. He is expected to visit the island nation during June 7-8, people familiar with developments said.

"Maldives Parliament has unanimously passed a resolution to invite PM @narendramodi to address a sitting of the house during his upcoming visit to the Maldives," foreign minister Abdulla Shahid tweeted.

Former president Mohamed Nasheed, recently appointed Speaker of the Parliament, had said on Tuesday that President Ibrahim Solih had requested Modi to address the House during his visit, the Maldives Independent reported.

China's India envoy now vice-foreign min

Sutirtho Patranobis
spatranobis@htlive.com

Luo Zhaohui PTI

BEIJING: Outgoing Chinese envoy to India, Luo Zhaohui, was on Wednesday named as China's vice foreign minister in charge of Asian affairs.

Luo will take up his new assignment in Beijing within the next two months as India and China prepare for President Xi Jinping's visit to India in October.

Xi's visit is likely to generate new momentum in the India-China ties. Luo will lay the diplomatic groundwork for the visit. He has not technically been promoted. As the envoy to India, he was at the level of a vice-minister. He now will have a wider range of responsibilities.

Vice-foreign minister, Kong Xuanyou, who visited Islamabad after the dogfight between Indian and Pakistani jets in February, has been named as China's ambassador to Japan. In the coming days, Luo could also be appointed as China's special representative for Korean affairs, which was part of Kong's profile.

Chinese South Asian experts said Luo knows the importance and is a keen student of the gradual evolution of China-India ties. He was in the thick of things during the Doklam military standoff between the two countries in 2017. He was also a part of the bonhomie generated after Xi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's informal summit at Wuhan following the dispute in 2018.

"I think under Luo Zhaohui, as the head of the Asian department, Sino-India ties will improve. He knows a lot about South Asia. He has been posted both in India and Pakistan as an envoy. During his tenure in India, he was very active," said China Reform Forum director, Ma Jiali, who is a long-time India watcher.

Ma, who has known Luo since the late 1980s, said the diplomat knows about India's importance to China and has focused on improving bilateral ties. "For China, India is very important, both in the neighbourhood and in the international arena. Luo knows that," Ma said. Institute of South and Southeast Asian and Oceania Studies director, Hu Shisheng, said, "During Luo's tenure, bilateral ties have visibly improved," he said.

Bengal TMC MLA, 3 other leaders join BJP

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KOLKATA/DARJEELING: The number of Bengal MLAs switching allegiance to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rose to four on Wednesday with Moniral Islam, Trinamool Congress (TMC) legislator from Labpur in Birbhum district, joining the saffron camp.

Along with Islam, former Trinamool MLA, Gadadhar Hazra, and two party leaders from Birbhum joined the BJP in New Delhi. "Trinamool leaders in Birbhum district are making crores of rupees by extortion and illegal coal business. The top leaders of the party are silent. As a mark of protest, I decided to join BJP," Islam alleged in Delhi.

On Tuesday, three MLAs (two from the TMC and one from the Left), along with 56 TMC councillors from three civic bodies, joined the BJP. As a result, the control of Kanchrapara and Halisahar civic bodies passed on to the BJP. "The exodus has started. In the coming days, more TMC leaders will join BJP," said BJP national general secretary, Kailash Vijayvargiya.

TMC chief whip Tapas Roy said the party was not worried by leaders switching sides. "In the 2021 Assembly elections, we will prove that people are with us."

The two TMC leaders who joined were Md Asif Iqbal, general secretary of the district unit of TMC youth wing, and Nimai Das, a local party leader.

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Indian ATMs easy game for gangs from Bulgaria

POOR ON SAFETY Police say advance security protocols in Europe help check card fraud

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NEW DELHI: The "poor security features" in ATMs across India have made the country a "sitting duck" for Bulgarian gangs involved in cloning cards, the Delhi Police said after foiling an attempt to fix a skimming device at an ATM in Khan Market on Sunday.

At last count, the police recovered 260 cloned cards from the gang whose two members have been arrested – one from the Khan Market ATM and the other from a five-star hotel in east Delhi. "The gang was found carrying 25,000 euros. Almost all this money was withdrawn fraudulently from their latest visit to India," Shobhit Saxena, additional deputy commissioner of police (New Delhi district) said, adding that this gang had made three such visits to the country in the last one year.

The process of skimming and cloning is an easy process if not for the "advanced security measures" in ATMs in the European countries. The gang started visiting countries like India, Indonesia and Turkey where ATMs still accept cards with magnetic strips even though such cards are fast being replaced with those with chips, Saxena said.

Explaining the modus operandi, Saxena said the gang begins by procuring a skimming device and a pinhole camera. "The skimming device resembles a debit card. The gang would fix this slim device in the space where cards are inserted into an ATM. When a customer inserts a card into the ATM, the skimming device reads the necessary data," Saxena said.

The gang then steals the PIN by fixing a tiny pinhole camera above the ATM's keypad, Saxena said. By the end of the day, the gang would have the data of hundreds of ATM cards.

The gang would then purchase gift cards, resembling ATM cards, in bulk from various shopping platforms. Using a card reader, an online application and a laptop, the gang would copy the original stolen data on to the gift cards and jot the PINs behind each card.

Carrying out the fraud up to this stage was not a problem in the European countries, the officer said. The problem there was using these cloned gift cards for withdrawing money.

"The ATMs in European countries accept only chip-based cards. So, these cloned cards couldn't be used in those countries. The gang chose countries like India, Turkey and Indonesia to make the withdrawals," Saxena said. They used tourist visas to frequently visit these countries and allegedly make withdrawals. Once they got the money in Indian rupees, they would visit a foreign exchange centre and get them converted into euros, the officer said. "Sometimes, the gang would also perform the entire fraud in India, but it was not their preferred choice as most card holders in India did not have more than a few thousand rupees in their accounts," Saxena said.

It was one such attempt to dupe Indians that landed the gang in the police net. Officials of a bank noticed a strange device at an ATM in Khan Market and found that it was a skimming device.

"They checked the CCTV footage saw that a foreigner was making frequent visits to the ATM. They waited for the suspect to enter the booth before closing the shutters and calling the police," Saxena said. The suspect turned out to be 36-year-old Bulgarian, Tsvetelin Angelov. At his instance, the gang's alleged mastermind, 43-year-old Ruslan Petrov Metodiev, was caught from a five-star hotel in the city.

Police said the gang used the stolen money to enjoy vacations in Indonesia, Thailand and India. Apart from Bulgarian gangs, the Delhi Police has over the last two months arrested at least seven Romanians for skimming data from ATMs and cloning cards.

Swipe it with care

Here are some dos and don'ts in view of rampant credit/debit card frauds

HOW TO AVOID FALLING PREY

- While withdrawing money from an ATM, check the machine for suspicious devices or cameras installed near the keypad.
- While discarding an expired card, cut through its magnetic strip so that it is not replicated.
- If a restaurant waiter or petrol pump attendant tries to take your card away from your sight, follow him/her
- If the restaurant waiter or petrol pump attendant asks you to re-enter your PIN, stay alert and watch out for an extra card reader which could be a cloning device.
- Always cover the keypad while entering PIN. CCTV footage has been used by fraudsters to read PIN.
- Memorise your card PINs and never write them anywhere, including your mobile phone. Change the PIN periodically.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE SCAMMED

- File a complaint with your bank'
- Some banks require you to register a complaint with the police
- If you are not happy with bank's response, you can approach its internal banking ombudsman
- You may also approach the banking ombudsman or consumer court

YOU ARE NOT LIABLE IF

- There is no liability on the customer if unauthorised transactions take place due to contributory fraud, negligence and deficiency on part of the bank
- If there is a third-party breach in case the deficiency is neither with bank nor the customer but elsewhere in the system and the customer informs the bank within three working days

YOU ARE LIABLE IF

- If the loss is due to the customer's negligence such as sharing details of the card and PIN or password. But, if transaction happens after the bank is informed, customer would not be liable

frompageone

SIT: Sacrilege

"In this meeting, it was decided to ensure grant of pardon to the head of Dera Sacha Sauda by jathedar of Sri Akal Takht. It was also decided in the meeting to facilitate release of Dera Head's movie MSG-II. Following this, MSG-II was released in Punjab on September 25, 2015, under police protection," reads the chargesheet.

The SIT claims the active involvement of Akshay Kumar in the negotiations between Sukhbir and Dera Head was not without a reason.

"His own movie, 'Singh is Bling' was questioned by the Sikh masses. The movie of Akshay was also given the go-ahead by SGPC and released on October 2, 2105, a week after the release of Dera chief's movie, MSG-II," it says.

The SIT claims that Sukhbir was in Mumbai in September 2015 in connection with his meeting with investors. To corroborate its claims, the SIT has obtained certain details from the office, Punjab Bureau of Investment Promotion, Chandigarh. The SIT, however, has not given any specific date and place, where the Sukhbir-Dera head meeting was held in Mumbai.

CONSPIRACY IN THE POLICE FIRING

The police action on protesters, according to SIT, was an outcome of the conspiracy between high profile politicians and police officers of senior rank in connivance with the head of Dera Sacha Sauda and his followers. The SIT said that role of former CM Parkash Singh Badal, his son Sukhbir, then DGP Sumedh Singh Saini and then DIG Amar Singh Chahal is still under further investigation. While Sukhbir refuted the SIT charge, Akshay Kumar, in an interview with HT last year, had denied having mediated a meeting between Dera Sacha Sauda chief and Sukhbir Badal regarding the release of the former's controversial film. HT couldn't reach out to the Dera for its version.

Jaitley

The 66-year-old lawyer-politician added in the letter that even though he was able to discharge responsibilities assigned to him during the campaign, he would, for some time, like to keep away from any responsibility. According to the letter, Jaitley verbally communicated his decision to Modi last week itself. Jaitley was in charge of publicity during the BJP's campaign. He also wrote a series of blog posts on key election issues.

Later on Wednesday, Modi met Jaitley at his residence and inquired about his health, people with knowledge of the developments said. The meeting between the two leaders on Wednesday evening lasted about 25 minutes but the details of the discussions were not immediately known.

One of the strongest backers of Modi since his Gujarat days, Jaitley was also the chief troubleshooter for the Prime Minister in New Delhi during his first term. He handled key portfolios such as finance, corporate affairs, defence and information and broadcasting for varying periods as the BJP-let NDA sought to build bench strength. He was one of the moving forces behind the unifying Goods and Services Tax regime and worked closely with several states to make this happen. The much-needed bankruptcy code was also passed by the government on his watch.

Jaitley held the fort for the government in the Rajya Sabha, where the NDA is still in a minority. Jaitley's rapport with several opposition leaders helped the government pass several hurdles in the upper house of the Parliament. Several opposition leaders, including Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and Congress leader Milind Deora, wished him well on Twitter.

His health, however, deteriorated towards the end of the Modi government's tenure and he underwent a kidney transplant at Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences last May.

That forced Jaitley to take a break, during which rail minister Piyush Goyal handled the finance portfolio. Jaitley was back in the finance ministry in August.

But his health forced him to take another break around the end of the year and in February, Goyal, again holding charge, presented the last budget of the Modi government.

In his letter to the Prime Minister, Jaitley said it was a great honour and a learning experience for him to have been a part of the government led by Modi. He referred to his past stint as minister in the first NDA government under Atal Bihari Vajpayee and other roles and wrote, "I could not have asked for more."

NDA II

Banerjee said there has been no political violence in the state.

Jaitley, meanwhile, ruled himself out of the new cabinet, citing health issues, but said he would be available to carry out any task to support the government and the BJP informally. "During the last 18 months, I have had some serious health challenges," Jaitley, 66, wrote in an open letter to Modi. "I am writing to you to formally request you that I should be allowed a reasonable time for myself, my treatment and my health and, therefore, not be a part of any responsibility, for the present, in the new government."

The meeting between Modi and Shah was followed by one between the latter and Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, whose Janata Dal (United), with 16 seats, is the third largest partner in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). JD (U) was not part of the previous government, but is expected to be this time. "I am here for a meeting with party office bearers. It is a normal meeting," Kumar said. Outgoing home minister Rajnath Singh also met Modi.

The new council of ministers is expected to retain most veterans, other than Jaitley.

Railways minister Piyush Goyal handled the finance portfolio in the last government when Jaitley was undergoing medical treatment, but speculation is also rife about Shah possibly moving to North Block if Modi decides to induct him in the government. Tamil Nadu's information and publicity minister Kadambur C Raju said there was a chance of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) getting a berth in the Modi government. The BJP had an alliance with the AIADMK in the Lok Sabha polls, but the latter could win just one of the 38 seats that were contested. Leaders of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, or BIMSTEC, will be present at the swearing-in together with the Prime Minister of Mauritius and President of Kyrgystan. BIMSTEC member-states are Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.

Several overseas friends of BJP from 15 countries, including the US, Australia, Germany and the UK, have been invited, along with prominent opposition leaders and chief ministers.

Mamata Banerjee ,who on Tuesday agreed to attend the event, did a U-Turn on Wednesday, accusing the BJP of trying to score political points by inviting the relatives of BJP activists who allegedly fell victim to violence in West Bengal

"It was my plan to accept the 'Constitutional invitation' and attend the oath-taking ceremony. However, in the last one hour, I am seeing media reports that the BJP are claiming 54 people have been murdered in political violence in Bengal. This is completely untrue. There have been no political murders in Bengal. These deaths may have occurred due to personal enmity, family quarrels and other disputes; nothing related to politics. There is no such record with us," Banerjee tweeted.

"The ceremony is an august occasion to celebrate democracy, not one that should be devalued by any political party which uses it as an opportunity to score political points. Please excuse me," she added in the message that began by congratulating the prime minister-elect.

Her decision stretches the bitterness of the hard-fought electoral campaign in West Bengal to the inauguration of the new cabinet. The BJP made deep inroads into West Bengal in the just concluded general elections by winning 18 of the state's 42 Lok Sabha seats, lowering the strength of Banerjee's Trinamool Congress (TMC) in the House from 34 to 22. Interestingly, outgoing chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee of the Left Front attended Banerjee's swearing-in on May 20, 2011, despite the TMC inviting members of several families who were killed during the anti land-acquisition movements in Bengal's Singur and Nandigram in 2006 and 2007 that she spearheaded.

3 docs accused in junior's suicide sent to police custody

MUMBAI: Agripada police arrested the two absconding doctors who have been accused of abetting the suicide of Dr Payal Tadvi, a 26-year-old postgraduate medical student of BYL Nair Hospital.

Dr Ankita Khandelwal and Dr Hema Ahuja were arrested on Wednesday morning. Later, they were produced before a special court for cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and Tribes Act along with Dr Bhakti Mehare, the third accused held on Tuesday. The three have been remanded in police custody till Friday.

Dr Khandelwal, Dr Ahuja and Dr Mehare have been charged under section 306 of the IPC, sections of the Scheduled Caste and Tribes Atrocities Act, the Anti-Ragging Act and the IT Act. **HTC**

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

ACMS incharge EDH/NR/JUDW, acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. - 104/Med/JUDW/18-19/T/01/Ambu. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Information regarding this tender is available on website **http://ireps.gov.in** & can be seen / downloaded. The Tenderers/bidders will have to make payment towards tender document cost and Earnest Money against this tender through online payment modes like Net banking/Debit/Credit Cards etc. available on IREPS portal. Manual/offline mode of payments through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, cash deposit receipts etc., are not permitted.

Name of Work	Hiring of 01 Air-Conditoned Ambulance on monthly basis along with required staff for Extra Divisional Hospital, Jagadhri Workshop.
Tender Type	Open
Bidding System	Single Packet System
Pre-Bid Required	No
Pre-Bid query till date	No
Date of Uploading Tender	28.05.2019
Bidding Start Date	15 days before opening of tender as per IREPS provisions
Tendering Section	Extra Divisional Hospital, Jagadhri Workshop
Advertisement Value	Rs. 33,15,500/- Including all taxes GST etc.
Earnest Money	Rs. 66,300/-
Tender Document cost	Rs. 3,000/-
Validity of Offer	45 days
Period of Completion	36 months
Bidding end date	21.06.2019 upto 15.30 hrs.
Tender opening date & time	At any time thereafter 15.35 Hrs. on Dt. 21.06.2019. The tenderers are not required to be present during the opening. Railway reserve the right to open the tender at any time after closing of tender.

No.- 104/Med/JUDW/18-19/T/01/Ambu. Dt: 28.05.2019 **1654/19**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

HARYANA GOVERNMENT

TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HSVP PANCHKULA	PROVIDING 6 SECURITY GUARDS FOR WATCH & WARD OF NEWLY CONSTRUCTED TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING BUILDING IN SECTOR 18A, CHANDIGARH + 3 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 14.06.2019	148.50 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	9914683874 xenhuda2@gmail.com
2	HSVP FARIDABAD	UP-GRADATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE I.E CEMENT CONCRETE ROAD NETWORK, WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM, WASTE WATER CONVEYANCE SYSTEM, STORM WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM	CLOSING 14.06.2019	23.60 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0129-2282183 xenhuda2.fbd@gmail.com
3	HSVP PANCHKULA	P/F OF INTERLOCKING WIRE MESH JALI WITH ANGLE IRON FRAME IN ADJOINING PUNJAB & HARYANA BOUNDARY SECTOR-21 PANCHKULA + 6 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 18.06.2019	2.56 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xenhuda1@gmail.com
4	HSVP PANCHKULA	SHIFTING OF 11 KV LINE FROM SHAKTI BHAWAN CHOWK(SECTOR-6&7) ROUNDABOUT OF SECTOR-7&18, 6&7, 9&10, 11&14 RAILY CHOWK, SEC-2 & 5 BELA BISTA ETC	CLOSING 12.06.2019	70.60 LACS	www.hsvphry.org.in	8427999660
5	HSVP SONIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS IN URBAN AREA OF LAND FALLING VILLAGE PATLA RGEC SONIPAT "CONSTRUCTION OF 18 MTR, 15 MTR & 12 MTR WIDE ROAD IN VILLAGE + 1 OTHER WORK	28.05.2019 10.06.2019	425.50 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0130-2218377 xenrgec2@gmail.com
6	HSVP PANCHKULA	STRENGTHENING AND SPECIAL REPAIR OF INTERNAL ROADS SECTOR 31 PANCHKULA (BALANCE ROAD) INCLUDING FREE OF COST DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD FOR 3 YEARS + 3 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 13.06.2019	213.75 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	9914683874 xenhuda2@gmail.com
7	GMDA	CONSTRUCTION PF MANHOLE OF SWD AND DAMAGED SURFACE DRAIN ALONG SECTOR DIVIDING ROAD 49/50 GURUGRAM AND ALL OTHER WORKS + 9 OTHER WORKS	29.05.2019 03.06.2019	4.76 LACS	https://www.gmda.gov.in	xen2infra2.gmda@govmail.com

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

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

NO : DMW/W/Civil/Shops/2016 Dated : 28.05.2019

CORRIGENDUM No.2

IInd corrigendum to Tender Notice No. DMW/W/Civil/Shops/2016 dated 25.04.2019 published vide letter of even No. dated 25.04.2019 for the work of licensing of 06 (Six) Railway Shops in DMW/Patiala :-

TENDER NOTICE
SCHEDULE OF RATES AND QUANTITIES

Dy. Chief Engineer/DMW/Patiala for and on behalf of President of India, invites Sealed applications on prescribed forms from Indian Citizens for licensing of the below mentioned 07 (Seven) instead of 06 (Six) Railway Shops in DMW/Patiala. The date of opening has been re-fixed as 02.07.2019.

S No	Shop No.	Total Area in Sqm	Location	Date & time of opening	Cost of Tender document (Rs.)	Reserve rent per month (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)
1.	1.	43.23	Colony No. II	02.07.2019 at 15.30 Hrs.	1000/-	10,552.41	2600/-
2.	10	37.63	Colony No. II	02.07.2019 at 15.30 Hrs.	1000/-	9,159.35	2200/-
3.	11.	57.65	Colony No. II	02.07.2019 at 15.30 Hrs.	1000/-	14,032.33	3400/-
4.	14.	57.65	Colony No. II	02.07.2019 at 15.30 Hrs.	1000/-	14,032.33	3400/-
5.	15.	37.64	Colony No. II	02.07.2019 at 15.30 Hrs.	1000/-	9,161.77	2200/-
6.	31.	23.70	Colony No. I	02.07.2019 at 15.30 Hrs.	1000/-	5,768.71	1400/-
7.	32.	23.70	Colony No. I	02.07.2019 at 15.30 Hrs.	1000/-	5,768.71	1400/-

The details of shops and terms & conditions for allotment including prescribed Performa for application etc. can be either downloaded from DMW Website **www.dmw.indianrailways.gov.in** or can be had from the office of the Dy. Chief Engineer, DMW, Patiala, on any working day from 10.30 hrs. to 15.00 hrs. up to **01.07.2019** and upto 11.00 hrs. on **02.07.2019** on payment of Rs.1000/- (Rs. One thousand only) each at counter. If the same is required by post, an additional amount of Rs. 500/- (Rs. Five hundred only) per set should be deposited towards postal charges.

The last date of receipt of application is up to **15.00** hrs. on **02.07.2019** and shall be opened at **15.30 hrs. on 02.07.2019**. Applications received after the time and date aforementioned shall not be considered. The cost of the application form is non-refundable.

Licensing period : 05 (five years)
Date of opening : **02.07.2019**
Validity of offer : 90 days

This is also available on DMW website www.dmw.indianrailways.gov.in. All other terms & conditions will remain same. **1653/2019**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

HARYANA GOVERNMENT

TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) in Rupees	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER
1	PWD B&R, NARAINGARH	BEAUTIFICATION OF ROADS SIDES IN NARAINGARH CITY OF JAGADHARI- BILASPUR – SADHAURA- NARAINGARH -RAIPUR RANI ROAD IN AMBALA DISTT (ID 777) CM (ANNOUNCEMENT CODE -23392) + 4 OTHER WORKS	03.06.2019 18.06.2019	397.63 LACS	http://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in.	01734-284035 pws-eepd-naraingarh@hry.nic.in
2	HEALTH DEPARTMENT, PALWAL	PROVIDING SUPPORT SERVICES SUCH AS –HOUSE-KEEPING, GENERAL DUTY ASSISTANT, MALI AND DHOBI AND ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES SUCH AS MAINTENANCE OF CIVIL WORKS, ELECTRICAL WORK, LIFT OPERATOR, COMPUTER OPERATORS, FIRE SAFETY OFFICER, ETC. AND SECURITY SERVICES AT CIVIL HOSPITAL, PALWAL	30.05.2019 12.06.2019	3 CRORE	http://dhspalwal.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	9871041765 cspalwal@gmail.com
3	HEALTH DEPARTMENT, ROHTAK	E-TENDER NOTICE FOR OUTSOURCING OF SUPPORT SERVICES AND ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR HEALTH INSTITUTIONS UP TO CHC/PHC LEVEL OF DISTT. .ROHTAK	CLOSING DATE 12.06.2019	16 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO CSRTK/OSS/7R/2019, 2019_HRY_78386_1	9416161061, dhs.csrtk@hry.nic.in
4	IRRIGATION & W.R DEPTT GHAGGAR W/S DIVISION SIRSA	REMODELLING OF WATER COURSE OF OUTLET RD. 132975/L SUKHCHAIN DISTY BY PROVIDING UNDERGROUND PIPE LINE. + 5 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 13.06.2019	216.29 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	xenghaggar@gmail.com 01666-235721
5	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPTT GURUGRAM	SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR ENGAGING UNSKILLED/ SKILLED WORKMEN ON CONTRACT BASIS FOR NCR CHANNEL, CANAL COLONY & CANAL REST HOUSE GURUGRAM	CLOSING DATE 20.06.2019	100 LACS	hid.gov.in	xen-gwsgrg.irr@gov.in
6	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPTT REWARI	REPAIRING OF 2 NOS. 10 CS PUMP (P-3 BALAWAS DISTY) & (P-1 RASOLI DISTY) AT PUMP HOUSE DD-1. + 16 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 08.06.2019	EMD1.09 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	xenmech@yahoo.com
7	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPTT PANIPAT	REMODELING & REHABILITATION OF PD BRANCH FROM RD 0 TO 145250 I.E. MUNAK HEAD TO KHUBRU HEAD	CLOSING DATE 20.06.2019	14400 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0180-2650036,9466159501 xen-panipat.irr@hry.gov.in
8	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES HISAR	ESTIMATE FOR REHAB. OF PUTHI MINOR RD 0 TO 20125 TAIL OFF TAKING AT RD 18600-L PETWAR DISTY. + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 20.06.2019	18.25 CRORE	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662-235135 xenconst6hsr@gmail.com
9	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES CHARKHI DADRI	MS CHANNEL (IS MC-75) (SAIL, JINDAL, TATA) (10 TON) + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 17.06.2019	28.94 LACS	www.hid.gov.in	080596-74277 xenworkshopdadri@gmail.com
10	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	CONST. OF COMMUNITY CENTRE AT VILLAGE KURALI BLOCK NARAINGARH + 11 OTHER WORKS	30.05.2019 07.06.2019	401.55 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2551368 prexeeng.amb@hry.nic.in
11	SHAHEED HASAN KHAN MEWATI GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGENALHAR, NUH, (HARYANA)	TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF CONSUMABLES ITEMS FOR GENERAL SURGERY + 4 OTHER WORKS	30.05.2019 09.06.2019	5 LACS EACH	http://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in.	DIRECTOR,SHKM GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE, NALHAR, NUH
12	SHAHEED HASAN KHAN MEWATI GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGENALHAR, NUH, (HARYANA)	TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF JOURNALS FOR CENTRAL LIBRARY	31.05.2019 11.06.2019	EMD 2 LACS	http://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in.	DIRECTOR,SHKM GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE, NALHAR, NUH
13	STATE TRANSPORT HARYANA	E-TENDER ARE INVITED FOR PURCHASE OF 150 NOS. FULLY BUILT UP DIESEL ENGINE MINI BUSES (30 +D SEATS WITH SINGLE SERVICE DOOR) MEETING BS-IV EMISSION NORMS	03.06.2019 25.06.2019	2 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 01/2019-20/SPA-1/TECH	jstchry@gmail.com 0172-2713196

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Blazing a trail: A look at first-time women MPs

WAY TO GO 31 political greenhorns, 46 first-timers in the Lok Sabha, 78 in all – the constitution of the newly elected Lower House of Parliament will see its highest number of women representatives yet. Though women still make up only 14.6% of the total strength, their voices are as diverse as their backgrounds, ranging from those with years of experience to freshers on the scene

GODDETI MADHAVI, YSRCP, Andhra Pradesh

'Health care for tribals a priority'

Goddeti Madhavi, a 26-year old physical education teacher at a tribal school in Visakhapatnam district's Paderu, was surprised when YSR Congress party president Y S Jaganmohan Reddy called her in March.

She had met him for the first time only a few weeks earlier, when seeking to join the party. "I just couldn't believe what he told me. I was very excited and decided that I should win the seat and gift it to the boss," said Madhavi, who will be one of the four women MPs, all first- timers, to represent Andhra Pradesh.

In Aruku, Madhavi was pitched against three-time Congress MP Kishore Chandra Deo, who was contesting on a Telugu Desam Party ticket this time.

"My father commanded a lot of goodwill in Paderu and Araku areas and so, when I approached the people, they quickly identified me with my father. Secondly, none of the earlier MPs, including Deo, had done much for the tribals. Thirdly, the YSRC established strong roots in the constituency. That made things easy for me," she said.

Her father, late G Demudu, was a two-time Communist Party of India legislator in 1994 and 2004.

The YSRC won 22 of the state's 25 Lok Sabha seats, while the Telugu Desam Party won three. Madhavi won the seat by over 221,000 votes.

"I began my campaign going door to door, as I had no money to spend on public rallies. The people had tremendous faith in my party and that helped me win the seat," she said. Now that she has won, Madhavi said that she would focus on the needs of tribal people, including drinking water and healthcare facilities in remote hamlets. "My priority is to see that the tribal areas get healthcare, institutional deliveries and nutritious food," she said.

SRINIVASA RAO APPARASU

QUEEN OJA, BJP, Assam

'Can be both queen & servant'

Queen Oja, the 67-year-old first-time winner from Guwahati, feels it was her four decade-long work that ensured her electoral success. In the late 1970s, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) winner got involved in the six-year-long Assam agitation against Bangladeshi migrants. When the agitation culminated in 1985 with signing of the Assam Accord and formation of Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), Oja, like many others, joined the political party.

"People in Guwahati know me and my work. I can associate myself with people from all strata of society. I can be a both a 'maharani' (empress) or a 'sakoroni' (maid-servant) when required. Therefore voters showered their love and blessings on me," said Oja, who is the only woman MP from the state.

Oja also became a household name after she became mayor of the city in 1996. She also contested the state elections in 2011, as the AGP candidate from Guwahati East, but lost.

"After differences surfaced in AGP and two factions were formed I joined BJP with several others as I could associate myself with the saffron party's ideology and their vision for Assam," she said.

She defeated the Congress' Bobeeta Sharma by a margin of over 345,000 votes.

Oja, who belongs to a prominent business family, was one of the richest candidates in the region with movable and immovable assets valued at Rs 33 crore.

Her campaign was marked by a controversy surrounding her educational qualifications.

The affidavit filed with her nomination papers mentioned that she had passed her higher secondary exam from an open university.

However, the university denied the claim and Oja's opponents urged the Election Commission to reject her nomination papers.

Oja filed a fresh affidavit stating that "some mistakes had been made inadvertently" in the earlier one, and that she had passed her high school leaving certificate exam in 1968, and a bachelor's preparatory programme in 2012.

"There are many things that we need to focus on in Guwahati. Better roads, controlling water logging during monsoon, drinking water issues etc. My goal would be all round development and I would raise their issues prominently in Delhi," said Oja.

UTPAL PARASHAR

JYOTSNA MAHANT, INC, Chhattisgarh

'After win, will go back to people'

Although Jyotsna Mahant, 65, has been elected as an MP for the first time from Korba, she is not an unknown face in Chhattisgarh's politics. Wife of veteran leader Charandas Mahant, the Congress politician has worked in north Chhattisgarh and is called Didi (sister) by workers.

"I know each and every village of my constituency and everyone in my constituency knows me personally. This is because Korba was my husband's constituency and I worked along with my husband for the last 30 years," said Mahant, who married in 1980 after completing her post graduation from Bhopal University.

Charandas is a veteran politician who last won Korba in 2009, and in the 2018 assembly election, won from Sakti and was appointed as the speaker of the assembly. "The people of Korba demanded that a person from Mahant family should represent them. Hence, I decided to fight the Lok Sabha election," said Mahant, who was born in a humble family in Rewa district to a family of freedom fighters.

"Through Bisaudas Sewa Sansthan, I helped people across the state. I worked extensively in my constituency on pollution, water and infrastructure related issues and that helped me in this election," said Mahant.

Bisaudas Sewa Sansthan is a trust named after her father-in-law, Bisaudas Mahant. "Women everywhere in my constituency relate to me and they were reason behind my win. I believe that woman in politics and more sensitive and honest and they can understand the problem of people more than men," she added.

In Chhattisgarh, even after getting a two-thirds majority in assembly elections held last year, the Congress managed to win only two seats — Korba and Bastar — while the remaining nine were bagged by the Bharatiya Janata Party. In all, three of the state's 11 seats were won by women.

"After winning the election, I have decided to go back to our people. I believe water scarcity is biggest problem in Korba and I will work for (ending) it," said Mahant.

RITESH MISRA

SHARDABEN PATEL, BJP, Gujarat

'No quota for women in LS'

The 2019 Lok Sabha elections may have been her electoral debut, but 71-year-old Shardaben Patel is not new to politics.

Always by the side of her late husband Anil Patel, who was a minister for two terms in the Narendra Modi government in Gujarat between 2002 and 2012, she has witnessed politics at close quarters.

"This was my first election as candidate. But I have been part of many elections while supporting my husband. So I had an idea about the process," she said.

Mehsana was the epicentre of the Patidar agitation of 2015 — the community has sought inclusion into the OBC category.

Shardaben had made education her priority — she is trustee and governing council member in Sakalchand Patel University, M G Patel Sainik School for Girls, and Stree Kelavni Uttejak Mandal.

"As an MP, I want to focus on education and women empowerment. I think these two are interlinked. Many of today's socio-political problems can be addressed through education."

Shardaben does not believe in 33% reservation for women, a bill that has been before the Parliament, for some years now. "These years we see that girls are scoring better in class X and class XII board examination. We need to carry the same momentum in the Parliament. We should try to have 50% women representatives, but not through reservation."

HIRAL DAVE

SUNITA DUGGAL, BJP, Haryana

'Focus on women empowerment'

An Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer-turned-politician, Sunita Duggal, 51, made a roaring Lok Sabha debut by winning the Sirsa seat with a margin of more than 300,000 votes over her nearest rival, state Congress president Ashok Tanwar.

The only woman nominated for election by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Haryana, Duggal is now the only woman MP from the state in the 17th Lok Sabha. Her victory also gave the BJP its first win in the Sirsa seat.

Duggal is not completely new to politics. She was promised a ticket to contest from Sirsa in 2014 and had campaigned for a while in the constituency after resigning from the IRS. However, to her disappointment, the BJP allotted the Sirsa seat to its partner, the Haryana Janhit Congress.

Duggal was then promised a ticket to contest the assembly elections from the Pataudi seat in Gurugram but her name was not finalised. She was finally fielded from the Ratia constituency in Fatehabad, which she lost by a margin of 453 votes.

After the BJP came to power in the state, she was appointed the chairperson of the Haryana Scheduled Caste Finance And Development Corporation in December 2015. Her focus is on women's empowerment. "I will do my best for women empowerment for my Lok Sabha seat. Girl students who face transport problem to reach university or colleges in Sirsa city will be my top priority," Duggal said.

BHASKAR MUKHERJEE

▪ PM Narendra Modi with Sunita Duggal and SAD president Sukhbir Badal in Fatehabad during the Lok Sabha campaign PTI

SUMALATHA AMBAREESH, IND, Karnataka

'This is a win for Mandya's women'

Almost all the attention in the lead up to polling in Karnataka on April 18 had been concentrated on one constituency, Mandya. The high-stakes battle brewing there caused such a stir that it bumped up the voter turnout by over eight percentage points. At the heart of this was 55-year-old actor Sumalatha, wife of the late film star and former union minister MH Ambareesh, once known as 'Mandya's man'.

After the death of the Congressman, who had won Mandya thrice, a political vacuum appeared, and the Janata Dal (Secular) expected to enjoy unchallenged domination. That was till some local Congress leaders turned up at Sumalatha's doorstep in January and asked her to demand a ticket. However, with the JD(S) winning all eight assembly segments that fall within the constituency, the Congress gave up the seat to its ruling coalition partner as part of the seat sharing formula.

Sumalatha decided to contest as an Independent and received the support of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The JD (S) fielded chief minister HD Kumaraswamy's son Nikhil Kumaraswamy, but it was Sumalatha who won by a margin of 126,000 votes.

Sumalatha made her campaign about a fight for Mandya's pride, which struck a chord among the electorate. In her final campaign speech, Sumalatha extended her sari seeking votes from the people — an optic that remained with the electorate.

Sumalatha told reporters she would take things one at a time. "I will consult with my team and the people and work out what needs to be done keeping in mind the legacy of Ambareesh," she said. "This is not my victory. It is the victory of Mandya's pride, its women." **VIKRAM GOPAL**

▪ Sumalatha Ambareesh campaigning in Mandya with Kannada actors. PTI

RAMYA HARIDAS, INC, Kerala

'I will sing my way to your hearts'

A singer, a dancer, and now a politician. Ramya Haridas, 32, was born to daily wage labourers Haridas and Radha Haridas in Kunnamangalam village of Kozhikkode district.

Ramya Haridas was a surprise candidate fielded by the Congress. She defeated two-time parliamentarian PK Biju of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in Alathur (Palakkad) with a handsome margin of over 150,000 votes. She is the only woman candidate who has won from the state, which has 20 Lok Sabha seats, and which also voted Congress party president Rahul Gandhi to Parliament from Wayanad.

An accomplished singer and dancer, Haridas's opponents often criticised her, saying an election was not a reality show, but serious business. But she obliged whenever voters asked her to sing a song. She often said during campaigning, "I will sing my way to your hearts." A fan of the late Kalabhavan Mani, she would also sing folk songs.

"I am a singer from childhood. When people ask me to render a few lines I can't resist. After all songs have a soothing effect and symbolize compassion," she said. Her rallies often saw a mix of fiery speeches and mellifluous songs.

▪ WINNER: Ramya Haridas VIVEK R NAIR

Haridas, who cut her teeth in the Kerala Students Union (she joined at the age of 13), and later the Mahila Congress (her mother was a Congress worker), was picked by Gandhi to represent Alathur.

During the high-decibel campaign, Haridas was the subject of a suggestive comment made by Left Democratic Front convener A Vijayaraghavan, who is also a former Rajya Sabha MP.

"There is a tendency to pull women down citing their gender. Times have changed. But many are not willing to accept it. People who make such loaded comments should realize they also belong to a family," she said, adding she would not be intimidated by such comments.

"I will be with my people and party always. Alathur is a backward area and I will work hard to lift my constituency and improve its infrastructure. I will bring some of the best institutions to my constituency," she said.

HIMADRI SINGH, BJP, Madhya Pradesh

'Thrilled to be in Parliament'

Himadri Singh, 32, comes from political stock. Both her parents, Dalbir Singh and Rajesh Nandini Singh, were long-time Congress leaders. While her father, a former Union minister, won Shahdol, a parliamentary seat reserved for candidates from the Scheduled Tribes, thrice — in 1980, 1984 and 1991 — her mother won the seat in 2009. Both have passed away. This isn't Himadri Singh's first foray into electoral politics. Formerly with the Congress, she contested a Lok Sabha by-poll from Shahdol in 2016, but lost to BJP's Gyan Singh.

A graduate, Himadri Singh won the 2019 Lok Sabha poll by more than 403,000 votes against Pramila Singh of the Congress party. All belong to the BJP. The state, which has 29 seats, voted overwhelmingly for the BJP — 28 seats went the saffron party, and one to the Congress. In all, Madhya Pradesh has elected four women to the new Lok Sabha, out of which two have never held political office.

Singh said her priority would be to bring more railway facilities and ensure better health amenities in the region.

"Entry into the Parliament as a member itself is thrilling," she said.

RANJAN

All the women in the House

The maximum number of first-time women Lok Sabha members come from the BJP, followed by BJD, TMC, Congress and YSR Congress Party

UTTARAKHAND (1)
- Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah — BJP

CHANDIGARH (1)
- Kirron Kher — BJP

PUNJAB (2)
- Harsimrat Kaur Badal — SAD
- Preneet Kaur — INC

HARYANA (1)
- ★ Sunita Duggal — BJP

RAJASTHAN (3)
- ★ Ranjeeta Koli — BJP
- Jaskaur Meena — BJP
- ★ Diya Kumari — BJP

GUJARAT (6)
- ★ Shardaben Anilbhai Patel — BJP
- Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam — BJP
- Dr.Bharatiben Dhirubhai Shiyal — BJP
- Ranjanben Bhatt — BJP
- ★ Rathva Gitaben Vajesingbhai — BJP
- Darshana Vikram Jardosh — BJP

MADHYA PRADESH (4)
- ★ Sandhya Ray — BJP
- Riti Pathak — BJP
- ★ Himadri Singh — BJP
- ★ Pragya Singh Thakur — BJP

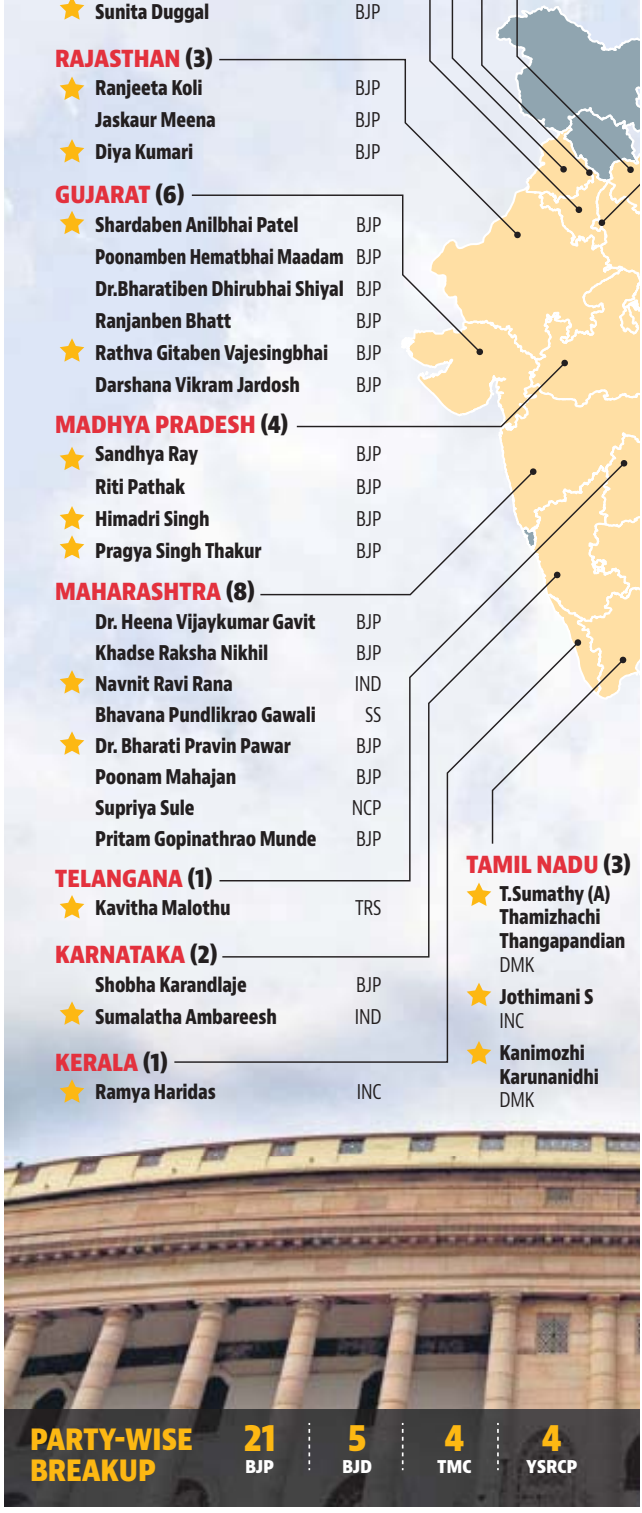
MAHARASHTRA (8)
- Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit — BJP
- Khadse Raksha Nikhil — BJP
- ★ Navnit Ravi Rana — IND
- Bhavana Pundlikrao Gawali — SS
- ★ Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar — BJP
- Poonam Mahajan — BJP
- Supriya Sule — NCP
- Pritam Gopinathrao Munde — BJP

TELANGANA (1)
- ★ Kavitha Malothu — TRS

KARNATAKA (2)
- Shobha Karandlaje — BJP
- ★ Sumalatha Ambareesh — IND

KERALA (1)
- ★ Ramya Haridas — INC

TAMIL NADU (3)
- ★ T.Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian — DMK
- ★ Jothimani S — INC
- ★ Kanimozhi Karunanidhi — DMK



PARTY-WISE BREAKUP

21	5	4	4
BJP	BJD	TMC	YSRCP

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FIRST-TIME IN LOK SABHA

542* Total number of MPs

14.6% Total share of women MPs in parliament (78)

46 First-time women LS MPs

★ New MPs

*Voting in Vellore was cancelled

DELHI (1)
- Meenakshi Lekhi, BJP

BIHAR (3)
- Rama Devi, BJP
- ★ Veena Devi, LJP
- ★ Kavita Singh, JD(U)

UTTAR PRADESH (11)
- Hema Malini, BJP
- ★ Dr. Sanghmitra Maurya, BJP
- Rekha Verma, BJP
- Sonia Gandhi, INC
- ★ Smriti Irani, BJP
- Maneka Gandhi, BJP
- Niranjan Jyoti, BJP
- ★ Keshari Devi Patel, BJP
- ★ Rita Bahuguna Joshi, BJP
- ★ Sangeeta Azad, BSP
- Anupriya Singh Patel, ADS

ASSAM (1)
- ★ Queen Oja, BJP

MEGHALAYA (1)
- Agatha K. Sangma, NPP

TRIPURA (1)
- ★ Pratima Bhoumik, BJP

WEST BENGAL (11)
- ★ Debasree Chaudhuri, BJP
- ★ Mahua Moitra, AITC
- Kakoli Ghoshdastidar, AITC
- ★ Nusrat Jahan Ruhi, AITC
- Pratima Mondal, AITC
- ★ Mimi Chakraborty, AITC
- ★ Mala Roy, AITC
- ★ Locket Chatterjee, BJP
- Aparupa Poddar (Afrin Ali), AITC
- Satabdi Roy, AITC
- Sajda Ahmed, AITC

JHARKHAND (2)
- ★ Annpurna Devi, BJP
- ★ Geeta Kora, INC

CHHATTISGARH (3)
- ★ Renuka Singh Saruta, BJP
- ★ Gomati Sai, BJP
- ★ Jyotsna Charandas Mahant, INC

ANDHRA PRADESH (4)
- ★ Goddeti. Madhavi, YSRCP
- ★ Dr.Beesetti Venkata Satyavathi, YSRCP
- ★ Vanga Geethaviswanath, YSRCP
- ★ Chinta Anuradha, YSRCP

ODISHA (7)
- ★ Chandrani Murmu, BJD
- ★ Manjulata Mandal, BJD
- ★ Sarmistha Sethi, BJD
- Sangeeta Kumari S Deo, BJP
- ★ Rajashree Mallick, BJD
- ★ Aparajita Sarangi, BJP
- ★ Pramila Bisoyi, BJD

4	2	2	1	1	1	1
INC	IND	DMK	LJP	TRS	JD(U)	BSP

BHARATI PAWAR , BJP, Maharashtra

'Will eliminate water shortage'

From a doctor to a Zilla Parishad (district council) member and now a parliamentarian, Bharati Pawar's life has changed completely.

Pawar was pursuing a post graduate degree in medicine but her in-laws' insistence saw her contest the Zila Parishad election from Umrana in Nashik district and getting elected in 2012. Pawar's father-in-law is eight-term legislator AT Pawar.

Two years later, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) fielded her from the Dindori Lok Sabha constituency. "I continued to prepare for the Lok Sabha elections but didn't know why party (NCP) chose someone else over me...people encouraged me to contest the Lok Sabha polls," she said.

She joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which decided to field her in place of its sitting MP Harischandra Chavan. In a three-cornered contest, Pawar won by 198,000 votes. She is one among eight women who will represent the state in the 17th Lok Sabha, but the only one who hasn't held political office before. The BJP-Shiv Sena alliance won 41 of the state's 48 seats.

Pawar completed her education from the NDMVP College of Nashik.

"Now, it is not possible to pursue post-graduation studies as one also has to work as a resident doctor, which is a 24x7 job," she said, adding, "I want to perform well as a Dindori MP. I want to work for farmers, health care facilities, malnutrition, employment etc. But my priority will be to eliminate water shortage from Dindori, which is a big problem here," she said.

FAISAL MALIK

RANJEETA KOLI , BJP, Rajasthan

'Unemployment in youth an issue'

Ranjeeta Koli was a surprise entry by the BJP for the Bharatpur Lok Sabha seat and her win by over 300,000 votes in a constituency where the BJP was seen to be weak, was an even bigger surprise. But Koli won, riding on the strong Modi wave in the state.

Koli, 40, is a greenhorn in politics, but belongs to the family of three-time Bharatiya Janata Party parliamentarian Gangaram Koli, who is her father-in-law. Little was known about her before the election. Three women were elected from the state to the 17th Lok Sabha. The BJP won all 25 seats in Rajasthan.

During the campaign, Koli at times struggled to address rallies and local party leaders gave speeches, instead of her. She focused on door-to-door campaigns, where she would urge women to vote for her. Koli, who has studied up to class 9, would say that she was happy being a home-maker and mother to three children. A video of her dancing with women in a village in Bharatpur even did the rounds on social media.

Now that she has been elected, Koli said her priorities are tackling water scarcity and unemployment. "Water scarcity is a big issue in my area. Another problem is unemployment, especially among the youth. I will try to solve these issues," she said.

"I belong to an ordinary family and I am comfortable in village settings. I know the culture and traditions of our society as well as our folk songs and dances," Koli said. URVASHI DEV RAWAL

JOTHIMANI, INC, Tamil Nadu

'Will work to save culture of TN'

When the Congress declared Jothimani as the candidate for Karur Lok Sabha seat, the AIADMK candidate Thambidurai openly claimed that it would be a cakewalk for him. "He said that I didn't have money power. But the peoples' mandate has come, and it's against money power of Thambidurai," said Jothimani, 44, who won by 420,000 votes. She hails from an agricultural family, and entered politics at 22, joining the Congress' Youth Wing. In 1997, she was elected as the panchayat union councillor.

In 2009, she was picked by party president Rahul Gandhi to become the national Youth Congress' general secretary. She is also a successful Tamil writer of short stories and novels. "The AIADMK candidate also thought that he could easily win because of my weak economic background. But we went on door-to-door campaigns. People welcomed me with a smile everywhere," she said. When asked about her priorities as an MP, Jothimani said, "I will work along with my colleagues for protecting the rights of Tamil Nadu, its language and culture."M MANIKANDAN

PRAMILA BISOYI, BJD, Odisha

'I can go to Delhi, they can too'

In March, Pramila Bisoyi, 69, was about to visit her small farmland in Chermaria village of Ganjam's Aska block, when a vehicle arrived at her home. So, instead of harvesting green gram as planned, Bisoyi travelled to Bhubaneswar, about 170 km away, instead.

"When I reached there, [Biju Janata Dal chief] Naveen Patnaik told me I was going to be the BJD Lok Sabha candidate from Aska. It took me a lot of time to let that sink in," said Bisoyi after attending the first meeting of party winners in Bhubaneswar.

Aska has been a BJD pocket borough since 1997, when Patnaik was elected MP in a bypoll, soon after the death of his father and former chief minister, Biju Patnaik. Bisoyi defeated Anita Subhadarshini, an associate professor at Indira Gandhi National Open University of the Bharatiya Janata Party by over 200,000 votes.

The BJD, which won 12 of the state's 21 Lok Sabha constituencies, reserved 33% seats for women. In all, women won seven seats (including Bharatiya Janata Party's Aparajita Sarangi)—six of these are first timers in the Lok Sabha, and five have never held political office before.

Bisoyi is a grassroots activist: she has nurtured the Self Help Group movement for the past 18 years, making the local women deposit money and take loans from it as and when they need.

Having studied up to Class 3, Bisoyi was married off at the age of five. She prepared the meals at an anganwadi (crèche) for years. She also farmed her tiny patch of land. Her older son runs a tea stall and her younger son works in a garage. Two of her daughters are married. But, it was only after she started the self-help group in her village that her condition improved.

"(In the Parliament), I will speak in Odia, a language that I understand and speak. I will demand improvement in the lot of women in my village and state. If I could go to Delhi, they too can go far," she said. DEBABRATA MOHANTY

CHANDRANI MURMU, BJD, Odisha

'Will make voices of tribals heard'

Last month, Chandrani Murmu, a 25-year-old mechanical engineering graduate from a Bhubaneswar-based university, was desperately looking for a job. A gruelling election campaign later, Murmu is now India's youngest Lok Sabha member and the winner from Keonjhar constituency, defeating two-time Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Ananta Nayak by a margin of 66,203 votes

"Frankly speaking I thought I would be happy if I get a government job. But now I am an MP. May be it is some divine wish," said Murmu.

Her entry into politics would not have been possible but for Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik's announcement of reserving 33% of seats the BJD contests in the Lok Sabha polls for women candidates. The number came to seven seats.

Facing a shortage of suitable candidates from the tribal-dominated Keonjhar seat, local Biju Janata Dal leaders reached out to Murmu's uncle Harmohan Soren, a retired government official and a social worker, urging him to convince his niece to contest the polls.

"But I was still unsure whether people would accept me. But all my apprehensions were belied during the campaign when I found that people were accepting me," she said. During her campaign, she fought against many detractors, including a video that had morphed photos of her.

Her father Sanjiv Murmu is a government employee while her mother Urvashi retired as a bureaucrat in the women and child development department. Her maternal grandfather, Harihar Soren, was a two-time Congress MP from Keonjhar in 1980 and 1984.

After her victory rally last Saturday, Murmu said the importance of representing Keonjhar, one of the poorest districts of India, was dawning on her. "I did not have enough time to go around the entire district during campaign. My first priority will be to travel around my constituency and spend as much time as possible with the people. I will make the voices of tribals heard in Parliament," she said.

DEBABRATA MOHANTY

Chandrani Murmu and Manjulata Mandal of BJD ARABINDA MAHAPATRA/HT FILE

Newly elected TMC MPs Mimi Chakraborty (left) and Nusrat Jahan outside Parliament on Monday PTI

NUSRAT JAHAN, TMC, West Bengal

'I spoke of humanity, love'

Before Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee named her the Trinamool Congress (TMC) candidate from the south Bengal seat of Basirhat on March 12, Nusrat Jahan had no connection with politics. The 29-year-old was best known for being a success in the Bengali film industry. But for a political green horn, her electoral performance was spectacular. Jahan won the communally sensitive constituency of Basirhat on the Bangladesh border by 350,369 votes, the highest among TMC candidates. Jahan describes herself as an accidental politician and said she never aspired to a career in politics. "I came to know of my candidature when our chief minister announced our names," she said. But once nominated, Jahan took the plunge with gusto. She braved the blazing sun and extreme humidity of Bengal to campaign for two months, not only in her own constituency but also all over the state where Banerjee took her star face. Seen in a sari and green blouse (green is the party colour of the TMC), Jahan urged the electorate to vote for her to strengthen the hands of "Didi," as Banerjee is known. "I have left my phone number with the party leaders of the area. Please call me whenever you need," she would tell the audience at rallies.

"I am totally new in politics. I spoke from within. I spoke of humanity, spoke of love and of a better tomorrow," she added.

The electoral triumph does not seem to have changed her. "I never thought of politics, though I wanted to work for the people," she said. "The people (of Basirhat) have reposed immense faith in me and I won't let them down." AVIJIT GHOSAL

PRATIMA BHOUMICK, BJP, Tripura

'My win was made possible by Modi'

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate from West Tripura, Pratima Bhoumik, ended a two-decade Left stranglehold on the seat with her victory by a margin of 305,689 votes.

"This was a positive election. Despite many hindrances, people kept their faith in me and my party. This was my first Lok Sabha contest and I got a huge responsibility. This became possible due to the leadership of Modiji (Prime Minister Narendra Modi)," said Bhoumik, who is also general secretary of the party's state unit.

Bhoumik plans to focus on employment, education, health, tourism and empowerment of women. "We want to develop our state. Our state is full of resources. Employment can be generated by engaging the youths in various skill development programmes. Women can be empowered by marketing their handmade products in the national and international market," she said.

A graduate in science, Bhoumik has been with the BJP since 1991. Coming from an apolitical family, she said she joined the BJP because of a firm belief in nationalism. "My area witnessed large-scale violence during the Congress rule in the late 80s. But unlike that party, our party salutes patriotic sentiments," she said.

A year after joining the BJP, Bhoumik became a member of the party's state committee and was made the chief of the party's Dhanpur mandal the next year. She later also served as vice-president of the party's youth and women's wing in the state.

In 2016, she was made the BJP state general secretary. In 1998 and 2016, she unsuccessfully contested the Dhanpur assembly seat against former chief minister Manik Sarkar. Bhoumik's father was a school teacher and in her school days, she competed at the state-level in kabaddi. " My father used to help meritorious students who could not pursue their education due to poverty. Even I started tutoring when I was in the ninth standard. I helped at least 30 girls to crack Class 10 board examinations," said Bhoumik.

PRIYANKA DEB BURMAN

SANGHMITRA MAURYA, BJP, UP

'Educated people a must in politics'

Politics runs in Sanghmitra Maurya's blood. The 34-year-old is the daughter of Uttar Pradesh minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislator from Padrauna, Swami Prasad Maurya. In her second electoral outing, she ousted senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader and two-time MP Dharmendra Yadav from the Yadav pocket borough of Badaun, and is one of 48 women to enter Parliament for the first time in 2019.

In 2014, Maurya fought against SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav from Mainpuri on a Bahujan Samaj Party ticket – her father was with the BSP at that time – but finished third. This time around, she is one of 11 women elected to the Parliament from UP, and among the three who have never held political office before.

"Badaun constituency was considered as the SP's citadel and its MP was often referred to as the 'Mini CM'. But you don't see any development there. I will work in the constituency the way Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants, that is, to connect people to development," she said.

A doctor by training, Maurya quit the medical profession months after getting her degree.

"I am in politics since the beginning. Within months of completing my degree in medicine, I ran for the election of zila panchayat member for ward number 7 in Patiyali assembly constituency. I won by a margin of 17,000 votes, which was the highest vote margin at that time in the state. Then I contested the 2012 UP assembly elections from Aliganj seat in Etah. I lost by 26,000 votes against SP's Rameshwar Singh Yadav."

Maurya did not contest the 2017 assembly polls. Her father won from Padrauna while her brother, Utkrista Maurya, contested from Unchahar and lost.

"I believe educated people should not shy away from politics. Well-educated people can bring a lot of difference to the society, country and people in politics." She said her agenda was to ensure the development of her constituency.

In her campaign, she focused on women's issues. "My detractors engaged in a smear campaign against me. They claimed that I asked people to engage in fake voting. They attempted to break my confidence but when PM Modi held a rally for me and four other candidates in Bareilly region, I challenged my opponents and said that if they think women are weak, I will show how powerful they can be," she said. PANKAJ JAISWAL

LOCKET CHATTERJEE, BJP, West Bengal

'I am indebted to Hooghly people'

From an actor frequenting film sets and festivals abroad to a slogan-shouting street-fighter in the rough and tumble of Bengal politics – Locket Chatterjee's transformation has been fast.

She joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) barely seven months after chief minister Mamata Banerjee appointed her to the state women's commission in July 2014. When Chatterjee switched to the BJP in February 2015, she said that felt suffocated since there was no work in the Trinamool Congress (TMC).

Chatterjee is one of 11 women elected to the Lok Sabha from Bengal, and one of five who has never represented a constituency before. Of the state's 42 seats, 22 were won by TMC, while the BJP won 18.

Chatterjee started her career as a classical dancer and in 1987-88, went abroad with the ballet troupe of Mamata Shankar, the daughter of legendary Bengali dancer Uday Shankar. In the 1990s, she began acting in TV serials. Her first film foray was in 2002, and her career spanned over a decade and more than three dozen films. After joining the BJP, Chatterjee led several protests, especially on issues of women's security and the TMC's alleged violence.

She was soon made one of the secretaries of the BJP Bengal unit. In the 2016 assembly elections, the party fielded her from Mayureswar in Birbhum district, a citadel of the ruling TMC. She finished third. But there was a silver lining: people came to view her as a leader and not just an actor. In 2017, she was appointed the chief of the state unit's women's wing.

Her victory by more than 73,000 votes was seen a big setback to the chief minister. Singur, the place where an anti-land acquisition movement marked the resurgence of the TMC chief's political career in 2006, falls within the Hooghly Lok Sabha seat. Chatterjee got 10,000 votes more than the TMC in the Singur assembly segment.

"Mamata Banerjee did not allow industries here and promised to boost agriculture. But that didn't happen. My priority now is to bring industry in Singur," she said. "I shall remain indebted to people of Hooghly to give me an opportunity to represent them in Parliament," she tweeted.

SNIGDHENDU BHATTACHARYA

PRAGYA THAKUR, BJP, Madhya Pradesh

'I want to fulfil my promises'

For 49-year-old Pragya Thakur, her election to the Lok Sabha is a sort of vindication. An accused in the 2008 Malegaon serial blasts that left six people dead and more than 100 injured, Thakur's nomination from Bhopal was one of the much debated topics in the 2019 election news cycle.

Not only did she win the seat by a margin of over 364,000 votes — her opponent was former chief minister and Congress leader Digvijaya Singh — she was also one of the four women elected to the Lok Sabha from Madhya Pradesh.

Pragya Thakur was the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's choice for the seat.

Senior BJP leader LK Advani greets Pragya Thakur in Delhi after her win. PTI

The RSS is the ideological fount of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Born to an Ayurvedic practitioner's family in Bhind district, Thakur was active in student politics, and a member of the Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), an affiliate of the RSS. She was also a keen kabaddi player. After completing a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education from Barkatullah University in Bhopal, she became a member of Durga Vahini, the women's wing of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, a Hindu rightwing organization. In 2002, she donned an ascetic's robes, and is now referred to as a sadhvi.

She contested the election stating that she wanted to challenge the coinage of Saffron terror. She spoke of the torture she endured during her incarceration.

Thakur's campaign itself was not without controversies.

At the very start of it, she spoke of Indian Police Services officer Hemant Karkare, stating that he died because she cursed him to perish. Karkare, who died a martyr in the 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai in 2008, was an investigating officer in the Malegaon blasts case.

Towards the end of the campaign, Thakur said that Nathuram Godse, who assassinated Mahatma Gandhi, was a patriot. She apologized for both statements. She was also banned from campaigning by the Election Commission for a 72 hours at a stretch.

"I want to fulfil my promises that I have made to the people in the vision document for Bhopal," said Thakur, referring to the document which she released a few days before polling.

In it, employment for youth, pension for farmers, new trains, improvement in air connectivity and successful implementation of schemes are the main promises made. RANJAN

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PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE DIVISION GURDASPUR

E-TENDERING NOTICE NO. E of 2019-20

On behalf of the Department of Local Government of the State of Punjab, represented by Engineer-in-chief, Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Executive Engineer, Pb. W/S & Sew. Division, Gurdaspur invites online bid for >Tender of work>

Important dates are as under :

1. Period of availability of Tender on line shall be : 29-05-2019 from 01.00 PM
2. Last date and time for on line submission of bids shall be : 19-06-2019 at 3.00 PM
3. Date and time of opening of Technical bid : 20-06-2019 at 2.00 PM
4. Date and time of opening of Financial bid : 21-06-2019 at 2.00 hrs.

Note:- The dates given above for above tenders are for L & C societies, for detailed terms and conditions refer to website **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** Corrigendum/ addendum, if any, will be issued on website only.

Sd/-
(Surinder Kumar Ranga)
Executive Engineer,
Pb. W/S & Sew. Division, Gurdaspur

5500

Office of The Principal Accountant General (Audit), Punjab

Sector 17-E, Plot No. 21, Chandigarh-160017

PUBLIC NOTICE

Shri Rajesh working as MTS in the office of Principal Accountant General (Audit) Punjab, Chandigarh is on unauthorized absence since 18.10.2018. He has been issued a charge sheet dated 23.01.2019, under Rule 14 of the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 to his correspondence address (#2115, Sector 41-C, Chandigarh), permanent address (#180, Dadu Majra Colony, Chandigarh) and to his last known address (#2170, Dadu Majra Colony, Chandigarh). He has not responded to the said charge sheet as yet.

Shri Rajesh, through this Public Notice, is hereby directed to report to Senior Deputy Accountant General (Admn.) office of Principal Accountant General (Audit) Punjab, Chandigarh and join his duties within 10 days, failing which ex parte decision will be taken against him in his disciplinary case.

Disciplinary Authority - Cum
Sr. Deputy Accountant General (Admn.)

ਪਬਲਿਕ ਨੋਟਿਸ

ਨੰ: 533/BLD ਮਿਤੀ 28/5/19

CWP NO. 8709/2009 [illegible]

ਸਹੀ/-
[illegible]

5489

Tender Notice:- 02 Dated 27.05.2019

Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD B&R Br., Jalandhar Cantt Invites Online bids from eligible bidders enlisted with the Punjab PWD B&R for the below noted works.

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ:	ਕੰਮ ਦਾ ਨਾਮ
1	Construction of Open Gym Lajpat Nagar Tubewell Wali Park Ward No. 20 Jalandhar, Construction of Community Hall New Jawhar Nagar Tanki Wala Park Jalandhar Central, Construction of Shed of Stadium Birring Ward No. 11 Jalandhar Central, Installation of Open Gym of Park Ward No. 50 Heena Abhishek Park Dhobi Mohalla Jalandhar Central (MPLAD Scheme)
2	Construction of Cement Concrete Road in Sanjay Gandhi Nagar Ward No. 3 Jalandhar North, Construction of Boundary Wall of Cremation Ground Gadipur Ward No. 3, Jalandhar North, Construction of Shed of Cremation Ground Lamba Pind Ward No. 6 Jalandhar North, Construction of Shed of Cremation Ground Salempur Musalmana Jalandhar North (MPLAD Scheme)

For Detailed terms and conditions of notice inviting Bids, refer to website **http://eproc.punjab.gov.in** w.e.f:- 27.05.2019

Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Provincial Division PWD B&R,
Jalandhar Cantt.

4983

CHANDIGARH INDUSTRIAL & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

E-TENDER NOTICE

OUTSOURCING OF MULTI-CUISINE RESTAURANT AT 5 STAR HOTEL MOUNTVIEW, SECTOR-10, CHANDIGARH ON LICENSE BASIS

CITCO intends licensing out Restaurant (Magic Wok) as Multi-Cuisine restaurant (except Indian & South India food) at its 5 Star Hotel Mountview, Sector-10, Chandigarh with option of installation of Microbrewery. The outlet is a 120 cover Restaurant having adjoining Bar and open Terrace. The minimum Reserve License Fees for running said Restaurant is Rs.4.00 Lakhs per month (Taxes / GST will be extra as applicable). Interested parties/agencies should quote the License Fee (Taxes extra) over and above the Reserve License Fee in the Financial Bid. Agency quoting the highest license fee will be awarded the contract.

Tender documents are available on Chandigarh Administration website http://etenders.chd.nic.in for online participation. Last date of loading / Uploading of e-Tenders is Wednesday, 26th June, 2019 upto 5:00 P.M.

MD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. The said decision of the MD CITCO will be final and binding on all.

CIN: U45202CH1974SGC003415 CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER

Regd Office: SCO – 121-122, Sector 17-B, Chandigarh – 160017
Phone No. 0172 – 4644430-31-32-33-34, 2704761, Fax No. 0172-4644441
Email: info@citcochandigarh.com, Website: www.citcochandigarh.com

Punjab state Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Off.: PSEB H.O., The Mall, Patiala-147001

Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813, website - www.pspcl.in

E-Tender Enquiry No. 7132 /P-3/EMP-11487 dated: 27.05.19 & ID: 45018
Scope of Work: Procurement of grinding roll and bull ring segments for HP-803 bowl mills of stage-III.0
Qty: As per NIT
EMD: 2% of the tender value.
Date & time up to which tender shall be received: 09.07.19 & 11:00 AM
Date & time of opening of tender: 09.07.19 & 11:30 AM

Tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL website **https://pspcl.abcprocure.com** & no hard copy of the same will be issued by this office.

Note: 1) In case any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender the prospective bidders are requested to get, clarification from this office and or M/s e-procurement Technologies Ltd. Contact No.+91-(79)- 6813 6833/54/ 48/49/50.It is also requested to get their digital signature well in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.

2) It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official, PSPCL website. **www.pspcl.in**

RTP-35/19 **DY. CE/ Monitoring**
5526 **GGSSTP, Rupnagar**

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee International Institute of Information Technology, Naya Raipur

(a Joint Initiative of NTPC & Government of Chhattisgarh)

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders are invited on behalf of Director IIIT-NR from interested bidder for the supply & Installation of the following :-

Sl.No	Description of Tender
01	Supply & Installation of Fiber communication Lab
02	Supply & Installation of RF & Wireless Communication Lab
03	Supply & Installation of Anechoic chamber
04	Supply & Installation of Vision & Robotics lab
05	Supply & Installation of Big Data computing Lab
06	Supply of Electronic circuit lab equipment
07	Supply & Installation of 3D printing & Fab lab
08	Supply of IoT & Sensor Lab equipment
09	Annual Rate contract for supply of Library Book
10	Supply & Installation of leased line Internet connection on Fiber
11	Selection of agency for providing software development service
12	Supply of Microsoft Edu cloud programme

Bidders can download complete set of bidding documents from e-procurement platform https://www.tenderwizard.com/IIIT and IIIT-NR website https://www.iiitnr.ac.in from 29 May 2019 onwards. Bidders need to submit the bids online for the interested items by uploading all the required documents through https://www.tenderwizard.com/IIIT.

S-21208/3 Purchase Officer

No. 2864

HP FOREST DEPARTMENT UNA FOREST DIVISION

District Una, dated 27.05.2019

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION

Divisional Forest Officer, Una invites sealed applications in prescribed format for "Empanelment of Contractors for civil works at Una Forest Division"

Letter No. 2864, Dated: 27.05.2019

Name of the Subject:- Empanelment of Contractors for civil works in Una Forest Division.

Cost of work upto : **Rs 5,00, 000.00 (Rupees Five Lakhs only)**
Security Money : **Rs.10,000.00 (Rupees Ten Thousand only)**
Validity : **Upto 31.03.2020; FY 2019-20**
Cost of application (non-refundable) **Rs. 300.00 (Rupees Three Hundred Only)**

Application document can be obtained from the office of Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Una, and also from offices of Range Officers located in Una, Ramgarh, Bangana, Amb and Bharwain between working hours from **27.05.2019 and before 17.06.2019 upto 12:00 Noon.** The duly completed document in the prescribed format with all supporting documents shall be sealed in a cover and super scribed as 'Application for EMPANELMENT of Civil Contractors' and **shall be submitted to the office of Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Una on or before 17.06.2019 upto 4:00 PM.**

The office of DFO Una reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without assigning any reasons thereof.

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
UNA FOREST DIVISION

0180

ਮਹਾਤਮਾ ਗਾਂਧੀ ਸਟੇਟ ਇਂਸਟੀਚਿਊਟ ਆਫ ਪਬਲਿਕ ਐਡਮਿਨਿਸਟ੍ਰੇਸ਼ਨ, ਪੰਜਾਬ

MAHATMA GANDHI STATE INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, PUNJAB

(An ISO 9001:2015 & ISO 14001: 2015 Certified Punjab Government Organisation devoted to training and research in Public Administration)
Institutional Area, Sector 26, Chandigarh 160019, India
Phone: +91-172-2793589/91 | Fax:+91-172-27989/ 90 Extn: 400
Email: helpdesk.mgsipa@punjab.gov.in | Web: www.mgsipap.org

Notice Inviting e-Tender

Online bids are invited in electronic tendering system from the reputed firms/ contractors for the contract of "Maintaining Grass Lawns, Flower Beds, Plants & Cleaning/ Maintenance of Vacant Area in the MGSIPA Campus".

Important Dates

Publishing Date and Time	30.05.2019 09.00 AM	Document Download/ Sale End Date and Time	25.06.2019 03.00 PM
Document Download/ Sale Start Date and Time	30.05.2019 09.00 AM	Bid Submission End Date and Time	25.06.2019 03.00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date and Time	30.05.2019 09.00 AM	Bid Opening Date and Time	28.06.2019 11.00 AM

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

1. The Tender documents can be downloaded from the website **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
2. For any clarification/ difficulty regarding e-tendering process, the firms/ contractors can contact on 0172-2970263, 0172-2970284.
3. Any corrigendum/ addendum / corrections, if any, shall be published on the website (**https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**) only.
4. Bidders shall have to pay the fees (earnest money, document fee and processing fee, etc.) through online mode as mentioned on e-portal **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

Special Chief Secretary-cum-
Director General, MGSIPA

D-4992

PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK

SPECIAL ASSETS MANAGEMENT SECTION
REGIONAL OFFICE : AMRITSAR
TENDER FROM GENERAL PUBLIC FOR SALE OF MOVABLE PROPERTY AND SALE NOTICE TO BORROWER
UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002 READ WITH RULES 8 & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Pursuant to the possession taken of the mortgaged property / secured assets, detailed below, by the undersigned, exercising powers under the SARFAESI Act, 2002 as Authorised Officer of the **Punjab Gramin Bank**, the secured creditor for the recovery of its secured debts, It has been decided by the undersigned as Authorised Officer to sell the secured asset belonging to the under noted borrowers / guarantors / mortgagors by calling public tenders. **Punjab Gramin Bank** (Secured Creditors), Invites tenders from the general public interested to purchase the under mentioned movable property on **"As is where is" and "As is what is" basis**, which are held as security interest, in respect of the secured debts due from the following party:

Name of the Branch & NPA Account	Reserve Price	Amount Recoverable
Branch: Akash Avenue Borrower: Sh. Amolak Singh S/o Sh. Sampuran Singh, VPO Bal Khurd, Tehsil & Distt. Amritsar. **Guarantor: Sh. Sarwan Singh** S/o Sh. Kartar Singh, Village Bal Kalan, PO Bal Khurd, Tehsil & Distt. Amritsar.	**Rs. 3,50,000/-** EMD **Rs. 35,000/-**	**Rs. 6,51,947.51/- as on 19.04.2017** plus interest **w.e.f. 01.04.2017**, costs, charges and other expenses thereon until payment in full (Less Recovery affected thereafter, if any)

Hypothecation of Car Chasis No. WVWG1360XDT075748, Engine No. CLN249324, Regd No. PB-02-CD-9705, Model No. 2013, Make Volkswagen Vento.

Last Date, Time and Place of Receiving of Tenders	Date, Time and Place Opening of Tenders
01.07.2019 upto 2.00 PM at	02.07.2019 at 11.00 AM at

AT PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK, REGIONAL OFFICE, AMRITSAR, PH. NO. 01832-501335

Terms and Conditions : "For Terms and Conditions visit our website link **http://www.pgbho.com/SARFAESI-Auctions.html**"

DATE: 30.05.2019 AUTHORISED OFFICER

punjab national bank

...the name you can BANK upon! (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

HO: 4, Dwarka, Sector 10, Delhi-110 075. Circle Office : Site No. 5, Ferozepur Road, Ludhiana. Branch office : Badhni Kalan, Distt. Moga

PUBLIC NOTICE OF POSSESSION TAKEN OVER OF IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY

The Authorized Officer of Punjab National Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act –2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules – 2002, issued **demand notice on 06.02.2019** calling upon the borrower/ mortgagor **M/S Bharat Cloth House through Prop. Sh. Bharat Bhushan S/O Sh. Panna Lal and Guarantor Smt. Aanchal W/O Sh. Bharat Bhushan both resident of H. No. 2191, Backside Police Station, Ward No. 10, Badhni Kalan, Moga** to repay the amount as mentioned here under within 60 days from the date of notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the Authorized Officer **Sh. Sanjay Rabi Das, Chief Manager BO: Partap Road, Moga** has taken **symbolic possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned here under. The borrower in particular and the public in general is here by cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon.

Name of the party & its Address	Name of the owner of the property	Description of the property mortgaged and taken in possession.	Date of Possession Taken	Amount outstanding as per Demand Notice.
M/S Bharat Cloth House through Prop. Mr. Bharat Bhushan S/O Sh. Panna Lal and Guarantor Smt. Aanchal W/O Sh. Bharat Bhushan both resident of H.No. 2191, Backside Police Station, Ward No. 10, Badhni Kalan, Moga.	Sh. Bharat Bhushan S/o Sh. Panna Lal and Smt. Anchal W/o Sh. Bharat Bhushan.	All that is part & parcel of Equitable Mortgage of shop measuring 1 Marla (12' * 24') being 1/10 share of area 10 marlas bearing khasra no. 761/7/9// in khewat no. 588 khatauni no. 679 Hadbast no. 101 as per copy of jamabandi for the year 2003-04 situated in area Badhni Kalan-2 Tehsil Nihal Singh Wala Distt. Moga bounded as under:- East: Anchal Purchaser, West: Road, North: Mukhtiar Singh, South: Pali Kochar, Vide registered Sale Deed Vasika No. 431 dated 04.09.2003 in the name of Sh. Bharat Bhushan S/O Sh. Panna Lal and Smt. Anchal W/O Sh. Bharat Bhushan.	28.05.2019	Rs. 7,20,022/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Thousand Twenty Two Only) less recoveries if any as on 31.12.2018 with interest charged upto 31.12.2018 with further interest w.e.f. 01.01.2019 as mentioned above & costs until payment in full.

DATED : 29.05.2019 PLACE : Badhni Kalan (Authorised Officer)

Punjab state Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Off.: PSEB H.O., The Mall, Patiala-147001

Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813, website - www.pspcl.in

E-TENDERING NOTICE

Office: Additional S.E., Civil Const. & Mtc. Divn, (South Zone) PSPCL, Patiala
Cost of E-Tender Specification:- Rs. 1180/-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Enquiry No.	Last Dt. & Time of Downloading of E-Tender Documents	Last Dt. & Time of Uploading of E-Tenders	Dt. & Time of Opening of Tenders
1.	Repair of TRW Patiala	03/CCM/ 2019-20	02.07.2019 upto 5.00 PM	04.07.2019 upto 3.00 PM	04.07.2019 upto 3.30 PM

The Detail Scope of work and other terms & Conditions can be downloaded from PSPCL e-tendering website **https://pspcl.abcprocure.com**

Note:- It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official website **www.pspcl.in**

Additional S.E.
Civil Const. & Mtc. Divn. (South Zone)
PSPCL, Patiala

C 209/19
5519

Punjab state Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Off.: PSEB H.O., The Mall, Patiala-147001

Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813, website - www.pspcl.in

(E-Tendering Notice)

Tender Enquiry No: 13/2018-19/PW & MDI

Scope of work in brief	:	Work for Outsourcing job for providing kitchen, hospitality and Housekeeping services by deploying cooks, bearers, sweepers, telephone attendant, chowkidar etc. on daily basis required for smooth functioning of VIP Guest House, Thermal Guest House and Subordinate Guest House of Power Colony No. I Patiala for one year complete in all respects.
Date and Time upto which tender shall be uploaded	:	02.07.2019 (Upto 12:30 PM)
Date and time of receiving/opening of Part-1 & II of tender.	:	02.07.2019 (At 03:00 PM)

Tender specification can be downloaded only from PSPCL website **https://pspcl.abcprocure.com** upto 28.06.2019 and no hard copy of the same shall be issued by this office.

NOTE:

(i) The prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office (Contact no. 9646122952) or M/s e-procurement Technologies Ltd (Contact No. 91(79) 40016866/40/38/18/21 in case of any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender well in time.

(ii) It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official, PSPCL Website **www.pspcl.in**

C-206/19 **Dy. CE/civil,**
5502 **Pilot Workshops & MDI, PSPCL, PATIALA**

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

India's International Bank

VIJAYA BANK NOW BANK OF BARODA

Branch Office Rajpura, J-7/5, Gobind Colony, Rajpura

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public in general and to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) in particular by the Authorised Officer, that the under mentioned property/ies mortgaged to Vijaya Bank, taken possession under the provisions of Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, will be sold by E-Auction on "AS IS WHERE IS & AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" as mentioned below for recovery of under mentioned dues and further interest, charges and cost etc., as detailed below:-

This is also a Notice to the borrower/s and to the Guarantor/s of the below said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the below mentioned date, if there outstanding dues are not repaid in full by the said auction date.

The under mentioned properties will be sold by "online E-Auction through website: **www.bob.auctiontiger.net, Email Id : punjab@auctiontiger.net, webmaster@bankofbaroda.com** on the date & time given here below for the recovery of an amount mentioned hereunder with interest and other expenses from the Borrower, Guarantor jointly severally and personally as mentioned below to till the date of realizations with costs.

DATE & TIME OF AUCTION FROM 15.07.2019 BETWEEN 11:00 A.M. to 01:00 P.M. With unlimited extension of 10 minutes i.e. the end time of e-auction will be extended by 10 minute Each time if bid is made within the last 10 minutes before closure of auction

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDER FORM ALONG WITH EMD & KYC DOCUMENTS TO BRANCH FROM 12.07.2019 UPTO 4:00 P.M.

DATE & TIME OF INSPECTION OF PROPERTY BY INTENDING PURCHASER FROM 11.07.2019 BETWEEN 10:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Sr. No.	Name & Address of Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagors	Schedule of Property	Amount Outstanding	Status of Possession (Date of Possession)	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit / Bid Increment Amount	Nature of Property
	BRANCH OFFICE RAJPURA: PH. NO.: 01762-221224, M.No. 9873850309 E-MAIL: vb7529@vijayabank.co.in, A/c No.: 752900301000198 IFSC Code: VIJB0007529					
1.	**Borrower : M/s Sandhu Building Material Prop. Smt. Harjinder** Kaur W/o Kulvir R/o House No. 891, Said Kheri Part-2, Chouhan Colony, Rajpura, Distt. Patiala, Punjab. **Guarantor : Surjit Singh** S/o Joginder Singh VPO Nardu, Tehsil Rajpura, Distt. Patiala.	Total land measuring 180 sq. yds (3-3/5 biswas) being 180/1250 share of 1 bigha 5 biswas comprised in Khata No. 210/291 (as per jamabandi for the year 2011-2012, Khewat / Kheta No. is 226/302), Khasra No. 1197/899 (1-5), situated at Khadoli Tehsil Rajpura, Distt. Patiala, registered by sale deed No. 4184 dated 299.06.2006. boundaries : North : Land 90, South : Land 90, East : Kamlesh bansal 18, West : Road 18.	Rs. 15,70,543/- as on 30.04.2019 excluding other charges.	Physical Possession 07.03.2019	Rs. 20.88 Lakhs / Rs. 2,08,800/- / Rs. 10,000/-	COMMERCIAL SHOWROOM

The intending bidder / purchaser may visit to bank's website www.bob.auctiontiger.net, Email Id : punjab@auctiontiger.net, webmaster@bankofbaroda.com, and click on the tab "Tender" or visit the Government website www.tenders.gov.in for detail terms and conditions regarding auction proceeding.

As required under Rule 8(6) and 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, 30 days sale notice, is given to the above borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors through this notice with regard to sale of the aforesaid properties in e-auction

DATE : 29.05.2019 Place : Rajpura AUTHORIZED OFFICER

इलाहाबाद बैंक ALLAHABAD BANK

(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Zonal Office: 92 'Surya Kiran Complex, Phase-II, The Mall, Rakhbagh Road Ludhiana, Tel.: 0161-2440035, 2440039, Fax: 2440038

SALE NOTICE THROUGH E-AUCTION ON "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" AND "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"

E-AUCTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002 ON 29.06.2019 FROM 11:00 AM TO 01:00 PM
LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD & DOCUMENTS ON 28.06.2019 UP TO 05:00 PM
DATE & TIME OF INSPECTION ON 30.05.2019 TO 28.06..2019 DURING WORKING HOURS

Sr. No.	Name of Branch / Branch Contact Person No.	Name of the Account, Borrower, Guarantor & Address	Demand Notice Date & Outstanding amount	Description of Property	Name of Owner of the Property	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit / Bid Increase Amount	Date, Time of E-Auction	EMD Account Number and Name / IFSC Code	Nature of Property	Nature of Possession
1.	Sahnewal, Ludhiana 0161- 2847494	1. M/s Rita International (through its Properioter Mrs. Rita Narula) B-XVI-1933-34, Preet Nagar, Link Road, Ludhiana, Punjab-141003, 2. Mrs. Rita Narula W/o Mr. Vipan Narula (Prop M/s Rita International/ Mortgagor) R/o 1712/1, Char Marla, Lal Quarter, Near Water Tank, Near Ferozpur Railway Lines, Abdullapur Basti, Ludhiana, Punjab-141003. 3. Sh Chander Mohan S/o Sh Tirath Ram (Guarantor) # 157/31/67, St-05, Guru Amar Das Colony, Daba Road, Ludhiana. 4. Mr. Vipan Narula S/o Sh Subhash Chander (Guarantor) #1712, Lal Quarter, Near Water Tank, Near Ferozpur Railway Lines , Abdullapur Basti, Ludhiana-141003	29.09.2018 Rs. 30,08,273.00 plus further intt. and other charges w.e.f. 14.09.2018 (less amounts paid if any after the date of demand notice)	All that part and parcel of property in the form of house bearing MC no. B-XVII-1712/1, Char Marla, Lal Quarters Near Water Tank, Near Ferozepur Railway Lines, Abdullapur Basti, Ludhiana measuring 63 Sq yards, vide transfer deed no. 4438 dt 29.05.2008 in the name of Mrs. Rita Narula W/o Mr. Vipan Narula bounded as under (bounderies as per valuation report):- East- Street 32'-6", West- Sh. Gurdeep Singh 32'-6", North- Street 17'-6", South-Sh. Rajiv Phutela 17'-6".	Mrs. Rita Narula W/o Mr. Vipan Narula	Reserve Price: Rs. 17.48 Lacs EMD: 17,500/- Bid Increase Amount: 10,000/-	29.06.2019 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM	A/c No.: 50477835593, IFSC: ALLA0212603	Residential Property	SYMBOLIC
2.	Sahnewal, Ludhiana 0161- 2847494	1. Prem Shanker S/o Chabbi Lal & Gyanmati Devi W/o Sh. Prem Shanker Both residents of H.No. B-29-212/27/2450 Street No 3 Prem Nagar 33 Foota Road Giaspoora Lohara Ludhiana. 2. Sh Panch Dev s/o Sh Changur Rao (Guarantor) R/o Guru Harkrishan Nagar Gali No 4 Giaspura Ludhiana . 3. Sh. Manjit Kumar S/o Sh Ram Nath (guarantor). 4. Smt. Mamta Rani W/o Sh. Manjit Kumar (guarantor) Both residents of #H.No 110 Gali No 11 Ram Nagar Bhamiyan Kalan Ludhiana	07.12.2015 Rs. 8,21,396/- plus further intt. and other charges w.e.f. 01.04.2018 (less amounts paid if any after the date of demand notice)	All that part and parcel of Residential Property measuring 100 sq.yrds. Comprised in Khasra No.978,998,980,997,977,979, Khewat No. 341,342,343,380,423 Khatoni No. 376,377, 378, 380,381,424, as per Jamabandi for the year 2009-2010, Hadbast No.260, situated at village Lohara bearing M.C No. B-29-212/27/2450, Street No.3, Abadi Prem Nagar, Tehsil & Distt. Ludhiana. as per sale deed wasika no.6205, dated 17/08/2012, standing in the name of Sh. Prem Shankar S/o Sh. Shabi Lal, bounded as under:-East: street, West: street, North: neighbour, South: neighbour.	Sh. Prem Shankar S/o Sh. Shabi Lal	Reserve Price: Rs. 9.86 Lacs EMD: 99,000/- Bid Increase Amount: 10,000/-	29.06.2019 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM	A/c No.: 50477835593, IFSC: ALLA0212603	Residential Property	SYMBOLIC
3.	SME Finance Branch, Ldh. 0161- 2620755	1. M/s Shrey Knit Fashion (through its partners) Address: B-XXXII -E-10 /10628, Nehru Vihar Near New Fruit Market, Opp Chahel Cold Store, Kali Sarak Ludhiana. 2. Sh Tarlok Sharma S/o Sh. Parma Nand Sharma (Partner/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor)(since deceased) Through Legal Heirs including as mentioned at Sl. No. 2 & 3 below. 3. Sh Ravi Kumar Sharma S/o Sh Tarlok Sharma (Partner/ Guarantor/Mortgagor) & 4. Sh Gulshan Sharma S/o Sh Tarlok Sharma (Guarantor/Mortgagor) (Both legal heir of deceased Partner Sh. Tarlok Sharma) All R/o: House No 966/50C, Panch Rattan Street Harbans Pura, Ludhiana (Punjab)	06.01.2018 Rs. 48,17,464.00 plus further intt. and other charges w.e.f. 30.11.2017 (less amounts paid if any after the date of demand notice)	All that part & Parcel of Land & Industrial Building measuring 2 kanal i.e 1210 sq yds bearing MC No B-XXXII-E-10/10628, comprised in khata no 852/995, 853/996, 851/994 khasra no 34//14/2, 15/2/2, 34//4, 34//7 as per Jamabandi for year 2000-01 situated at Village Karabara locality known as Nehru Colony, Near Kali Sadak Tehsil & Distt Ludhiana registered vide wasika no 29675 dt. 15/03/2005 standing in the name of Sh. Tarlok Sharma, Ravi Kumar Sharma and Gulshan Sharma & Bounded by :: East: Neighbour 71'; West :Road 71'; North:Neighbour 151'3"; South :Road 151'3"	Sh Tarlok Sharma, Ravi Kumar Sharma and Gulshan Sharma	Reserve Price: Rs. 166.01 Lacs EMD: 16,60,100/- Bid Increase Amount: 10,000/-	29.06.2019 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM	IFSC: ALLA0211994	Residential Property	SYMBOLIC

IMPORTANT NOTES:- (1) This may be treated as formal notice to borrower(s) /mortgager under rule 8 (5) and (6) for immovable assets under security interest (enforcement) rule 2002. (2) Borrower(s) / Mortgager(s) have the right to tender dues of the bank together with costs, charges and expenses U/s section 13(8) of SARFAESI Act, 2002. (3) The intending bidder should therefore make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on auction and claims / rights / dues etc. affecting the property, prior to submit their bid. the e-auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorized Officer / Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims / rights /dues/ taxes etc. (4) It shall be the responsibility of the bidder to inspect & satisfy themselves about the asset and specifications before submitting the bid. In case any statutory dues/taxes/charges/fees as per laws and income tax laws and also all dues of electricity charges, water charges, and maintenance charges and for other services, taxes, against the property if pending the same will be borne by the successful bidder. Neither the Authorized Officer / Bank nor **M/s E-procurement Technologies Ltd. (Auction Tiger)** shall be liable for any internet network problem and the interested bidders to ensure that they are technically well equipped for participating in the e-auction event. Terms & conditions of E-Auction are also available on the web portal of M/s E-procurement Technologies Ltd. (Auction Tiger) (https://allahabadbank.auctiontiger.net) 5. The successful bidder shall bear all stamp duty, registration fee, taxes, transfer fees, incidental expenses etc for getting the sale certificate registered. The intending bidders are at liberty to make their own independent assessment/inquiry about the title and encumbrance(s) etc before auction of properties in question. **For downloading further details and Terms & Conditions, please visit: (i) https://www.allahabadbank.in (ii) https://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app (iii) https://allahabadbank.auctiontiger.net, https://ibapi.in/.** Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Allahabad Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back –up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE (AS PER AMENDMENT TO SECURITY INTEREST RULES 2002 WHICH CAME TO INTO EFFECT FROM NOVEMBER 2016) UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT 2002

The borrower/ guarantors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 30.05.2019 Place: Ludhiana Sd/- Authorised Officers, Allahabad Bank

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State Bank of India

College Road, Main Branch, Barnala
Ph. No. 01679 - 238700 - 250
E mail : sbi.063412@sbi.co.in

(Rule-8 (1) POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of the **State Bank of India,College Road,Main Branch,Barnala** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 02, issued a demand notice dated **27/12/2018** and **15/11/18** calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the Demand notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub Section (4) of the section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security interest (enforcement) Rules 2002 on this **27th day of May of the year 2019.**The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **State Bank of India,College Road,Main Branch, Barnala** for an amount of being **Rs. 42,37,107.00 inclusive of interest applied up to 27/12/2018. & 41,87,488.00 inclusive of interest applied up to 31/10/2018.** You are also liable to pay future interest w.e.f **27/12/2018** and interest thereon. The Borrowers attention invited to provision of sub- section (8) of section 13 of the act, in respect of time available, to random the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower	Description of immovable Properties	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice	Amount Outstanding the Date of notice + (Int. & Other Charges. Extra)
1.M/s Divya Trading Company through its proprietor Sh. Avinash Kumar s/o Sh. Suraj Bhan, r/o Street No. 1 Patel Nagar, Barnala.	Total Property Measuring 2280 Sq. Fts. Bearing H. No. B- x/494, situated at Patel Nagar, Barnala and bounded as under: **East:** Street, **West** : Dharam pal, **North:** Street, **South:** Jagdish Singh **1.** Property Measuring 1140 Sq. fts. Standing in the name of Sh. Avinash Kumar, as per sale deed Wasika No. 4969 dated 26/12/2008.**2.**Property Measuring 1140 Sq. Fts. standingin the name of Smt.	27/12/2018	27/05/2019	Rs. 42,37,107.00 (Rs. Forty Two Lac Thirty Seven Thousand One Hundred Seven Only) plus interest w.e.f 27/12/2018.
2. M/s Ashoka Trading Company through its proprieter Sh. Jatin Singla.	Kavita Singla w/o Sh. Avinash Kumar, as Persale deed Wasika No. 4970 dated 26/12/2008.	15/11/2018	27/05/19	Rs. 41,87,488.00 (Rs. Forty One Lacs Eighty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Eight Only) plus interest w.e.f 31/10/2018

Place: Barnala Date: 27/05/19 (Authorised Officer) State Bank of India

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, DJ Block, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in

NIT No: CE(P)/WBSETCL/25 KV CT/19-20/02 Date: 30.05.2019

Chief Engineer (Procurement) invites e-tender for procurement of **25 KV, 2000-1000/1A, 3(C) Current Transformers (2nd Call).** Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents by registering themselves to the e-tendering portal (**https://wbtenders.gov.in** or **https://etender.wb.nic.in**) and thereby downloading the bidding documents from **30.05.2019** at **11:00 A.M.** and shall be submitted (online) up to **04.00 P.M.** on **26.06.2019.** Detailed NIT may also be seen & downloaded from WBSETCL website (**www.wbsetcl.in**).

ICA-T2981(3)/2019

PUNJAB STATE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED,

REGD OFFICE: PSEB HEAD OFFICE, THE MALL, PATIALA 147001
CORPORATE IDENTITY NO. U40109PB2010SGC033814 www.pstcl.org
O/O: Dy. CE/TS (Design), Telefax: 0175-2207774,
E-mail: se-trd@pstcl.org

Notice Inviting E-Tender

Enquiry No.	STQ-5104
Description	15KV NCTs of various ratios
Qty.	42 nos.
Last Date & Time for Downloading of Tender	24.06.19 upto 11:00 AM
Last Date & Time for receipt of Tender	25.06.19 upto 11:00 AM
Last Date & Time for Opening of Tender	27.06.19 at 11:00 AM

Detailed NIT/specification may be downloaded from PSTCL e-tendering website **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** Corrigendum, if any will not be published in newspapers. As such the website may be visited regularly for updates.

Sd/-, Dy. CE/TS (Design), PSTCL, Patiala

5484

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Annexure-"A"

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BID(IFB)

The Executive Engineer, (B&R) Division, HPPWD, Baijnath on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost Rs.	Starting Date for downloading	Earnest Money	Time limit	Deadline for submission of bid .	Cost of Tender form.
1	Construction of rod from Banuri to Somu via Nain Km. 0/0 to 1/540 i/c 30.00 Mtr. Span RCC Box Girder Bridge over Awa Khad at RD. 0/630 (Under NABARD RIDF-XXIV). (SH:- Removal of formation ,passing, places, R/Walls. C.D. works, GSB, WBM-II,WBM-III, Tarring work, CC Pavement side drain & parapets and construction of 30.00 Mtr. Span Box Girder over Awa Khad at RD. 0/630).	1,60,70,360/-	06.06.2019	1,93,200/-	Eighteen Months	25.06.2019	5000/-

The bidders are advised to note others details of tenders from the department Website **www.hptenders.gov.in**

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh,
Executive Engineer, Baijnath Division HPPWD Baijnath Pin.176125

0169

DELHI JAL BOARD, DELHI SARKAR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) IV

O.H.T O.I.A Ph-II, OPPOSITE GOVIND PURI, NEW DELHI-20
e-mail: eesouthiv498@gmail.com/Tel: 011-26388976

Press N.I.T. No.: 05 S-IV (2019-20)

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-Procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Boring of 10 Nos. Tube wells at different locations of Madanpur Khadar Extn. in Okhla Constituency AC-54 under EE(South)IV.	Rs. 44,99,728/-	2019_DJB_172781_1 27.05.2019	14.06.2019 up to 2.00 PM

Further details in this regard may be seen at **(https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in)**

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EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) IV

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	Rs. 430/-	Rs. 530/-	Rs. 580/-	Rs. 620/-	Rs. 300/-
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POINTER	Rs. 14500/- PER INSERTION: PACKAGE 9+1				

HT LUDHIANA

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	Rs. 275/-	Rs. 325/-	Rs. 350/-	Rs. 175/-
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	Rates in Rs. Per Sq. Cm.			

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Front Page	Rs. 190/-	Rs. 265/-	Rs. 235/-	Rs. 110/-	Rs. 120/-	Rs. 800/-	

HT CAREER GUIDE

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Mamata must act responsibly

As BJP gains in the state, Bengal politics is in a state of flux

ourtake

During the course of the Lok Sabha election campaign, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee often referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "Expiry PM" to suggest that he was about to lose power. As irony would have it, it is the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which can use the expiry prefix for Ms Banerjee now. The All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) has lost 12 Lok Sabha seats between 2014 and 2019, and the BJP, with 18 seats, a gain of 16, is only three percentage points behind the AITC in terms of vote share. Even though assembly polls are only due in 2021, the existing political culture in the state, where political activity is symptomatic with local domination aided by a nexus of money and muscle to deny even basic democratic space to the opposition, is likely to keep both society and politics in a state of flux.

When Ms Banerjee ousted the 34-year-old Left government in 2011, there was violence against Left activists. This was also accompanied by a defection of grass root level workers of the Left to the AITC. After the BJP pulled off a surprise victory in the Tripura elections, nearly one-third of the seats in the West Bengal panchayat elections held in 2018 did not even see a contest (read Opposition was not allowed to file nominations) in the state. It was this subversion of democracy that provided a big boost to the BJP in the state. With the BJP having demolished the AITC's claim of invincibility in 2019, the latter seems to have entered a phase of political haemorrhaging with mass defection of its leaders and workers to the former.

Can Ms Banerjee become a lame duck chief minister like her predecessor, Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, was between 2009 and 2011? Will the Left continue to stay with the BJP to settle scores with the AITC, or will its leadership argue for an alliance with the AITC in the name of defending secularism? These are questions which cannot be answered today. However, there is a much bigger responsibility which Ms Banerjee, as the chief minister, must deliver on. Leaders of the BJP are celebrating the party's gains in the state as Hindu consolidation. Thirty per cent of the state's population is Muslim. The government must do everything it can to prevent any serious communal clash in the state.

ICC World Cup 2019: Consistency will be key

With no dominant team, this is the most open and unpredictable World Cup ever

The ICC Cricket World Cup, the game's showpiece event, begins in London today. This edition is set to be one of the most open, competitive and unpredictable in recent times. Unlike during the decade of the tournament's inception in 1975, when the West Indies was the dominant side in world cricket, or during its maturity during the last years of the 20th century, and the first decade of this one, when Australia was the world's pre-eminent team, no hegemony exists in the game today. England is the Number 1 side in One Day Internationals, and must be seen as favourites. India, ranked Number 2 in the format, is, on paper at least, a strong challenger. But Australia, winner of five titles is welcoming back two match winners, Steve Smith and David Warner, and is peaking at the right time. Despite the tag of chokers, South Africa has a strong side. New Zealand have the solidity and swagger to go deep into the tournament. Talk of a renaissance of West Indies cricket is swirling. And Pakistan, on a good day, can beat anyone as surely as it can capitulate against anyone on a bad day.

The format of the tournament will reward consistency. It is not like a typical cup format, in which the luck of the draw plays a part. Each team plays against the nine other teams in the qualifiers. The top four sides go through to the semi-final. If anything, it is akin to a league season. One bad day can be made up for. Equally, one flash in the pan will not be enough to pull a side through. It is fair to assume that the four teams to have played consistently well in the early stages will reach the semi-finals.

The wickets will be flat, inviting a wealth of runs. But as a nippy, early English summer matures during the course of the tournament, conditions are likely to play their part. May the team that masters the conditions as well as stays on top of its game for a month and a half win what promises to be one of the most exciting World Cups ever.

comment

How Modi conquered caste in 2019

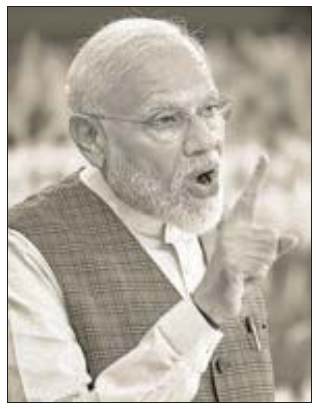
Direct cash transfers, EWS quota and a national security pitch helped overcome caste barriers

Narendra Modi's re-election and its sheer scale has challenged many truisms of Indian politics. The biggest question that has emerged is: Is the role of caste dwindling in Indian elections? It might be too early to answer the question definitively. One will need to observe subsequent assembly and Lok Sabha results to establish a firm trend. However, there are signs that caste played a diminished role in 2019 elections. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has won massive mandates in many states across India. As many as 15 states and the Union Territory of Delhi have returned more than 50% vote share for Modi's party in the seats that it contested. In four more states, the BJP has notched up vote shares between 40% and 50%.

In a first past the post poll system involving a multipolar contest, it is often enough to secure around 30% votes to win a constituency. This has allowed political parties to cultivate just one or two castes or communities to win a seat in the legislative bodies. India's poor performance in the delivery of public goods is also a by-product of this system — patronage distribution for select groups has proven to be sufficient for parties facing the electorate. But the BJP's vote percentages show that it has been able to build large, cross-caste coalitions in many states. Four different factors are contributing to this phenomenon.

First, the BJP starts with a significant disadvantage of lack of Muslim support. While the party is itself responsible for this problem, it nevertheless has to work harder among the rest of the population to win a constituency. The need for Hindu consolidation increases even more when Opposition parties enter into an alliance as they did in Uttar Pradesh (UP). The Samajwadi Party (SP) is traditionally known to bank upon Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Muslims, and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has had a firm grip on Dalit votes. In order to win UP — both at the state and the Centre — the BJP had to prise non-Yadav OBC votes away from the SP and non-Jatav Dalit votes away from the BSP. Given the BJP's performance in 2019 — 50.8% vote share on the seats it contested in the state — it won't be surprising if a significant number of Yadavs and Jatavs too voted for the party.

Second, the Modi-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government has decisively shifted to delivery of welfare benefits through Aadhaar directly into bank accounts of beneficiaries. This move has cut out the role of an intermediate layer of bureaucracy that practised patronage politics, in which a few castes benefitted disproportionately. This was the actual rationale behind the idea of Aadhaar as



The image of Modi as a strong leader has a massive appeal across identities PTI

welfare benefits were prone to significant leakages. Even though Aadhaar was the brainchild of the United Progressive Alliance government, its rollout for welfare delivery was massively accelerated by the NDA government.

Third, the Modi-led NDA government brought in specific policies and schemes which further diluted the role of caste. The biggest move was the quota for the economically weaker sections (EWS) that was introduced through a Constitutional amendment in January this year. Through the EWS quota, as Rajeev Mantri and Harsh Gupta wrote in these pages, the government emphasised that "economic backwardness in and of itself is a sufficient criterion for government-mandated affirmative action; it is not social identity alone that determines welfare". Other successful schemes too focused on identities other than caste. For instance, the Ujjwala scheme to provide LPG cylinders to poor households benefitted women from all castes and communities.

Fourth, the sheer popularity of Modi was itself a huge determinant of this election. The image of Modi as a decisive and strong leader is something that has massive appeal across identities. He is seen as a leader who delivers robustly on national security and has enhanced the image of India in the international community. It is true that serious scholars question the slow process of defence modernisation. Even the efficacy of the Balakot airstrikes is far from settled. However, the masses are convinced that Modi is the protector of India's sovereign and security interests. National security, it must be remembered, is the ultimate public good. It is non-rivalrous, that is, consumption of national security by one individual (or caste) doesn't leave less of it for another individual (or caste). More importantly, it is non-excludable, that is, no individual or group (or caste) can be excluded from enjoying the benefits of national security.

Given these factors at play, it is no surprise that Modi was able to build large cross-caste coalitions in so many states. The role of caste may not have completely vanished but a set of circumstances, leadership and policy choices definitely contributed to diminishing its importance in the 2019 elections. Whether this trend continues or not will be interesting to see.

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Reducing suicide deaths: a collective responsibility

There is an urgent need to develop interventions to improve the lives and interpersonal skills of young people

India is poised to be a global leader for change, with progress in areas like sanitation, health, renewable energy and scientific innovations. It is equally important that every citizen gets an opportunity to contribute to the economy, be happy and productive, and have a good quality of life.

The stark reality of suicides in India is evident with an age standardised suicide rate of 16.3 per 100,000 population, compared to 10.5 per 100,000 globally. We also have the highest number of suicide deaths globally. The National Crime Records Bureau puts the number at 1,33,623 in 2015, but there is a lot of underreporting of suicides due to social stigma, and some estimates have put the number at twice that. Suicide was the leading cause of death in India in 2016 for those aged 15–39 years; 71.2% of the suicide deaths among women and 57.7% among men were in this age group. If the trends observed up to 2016 continue, the probability of India achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) suicide death rate reduction target in 2030 is zero.

Despite this, the issue, which particularly affects women and young people, seems to have gone unaddressed. Four out of 10 suicides worldwide among women occur in India. Though more girls are getting educated, they continue to face barriers in terms of economic opportunities. Various factors for vulnerability to suicide include domestic violence, dowry, economic dependence and other societal factors.

Additionally, alcoholism plays a significant role in suicide in India, with close to one-third to half of male suicides occurring under the influence of alcohol, and many wives driven to suicide by their alcoholic husbands. By 2020, India is positioned to be the youngest country in the world, with nearly half the population under 26. The loss of young lives is a loss not only to self and family but also the nation's economic growth.

The first step to addressing the suicide narrative is to ensure that the deaths by suicide are recorded accurately to understand the severity of the crisis. Limiting access to the choice of suicide method is a critical intervention that can be easily introduced. The most common method of suicide is by pesticide poisoning, and in a project spearheaded by SNEHA, an NGO, in Tamil Nadu, by providing common storage lockers for pesticides, villages have become nearly suicide-free. This intervention has potential for scale up, including a legislation on purchase and storage of pesticides in India.

The fact that rates of suicide are highest among young women (especially married women) is a cause for concern. The underlying social and economic causes need a long-term strategy, but immediate steps could include sensitisation of police force to take complaints of domestic violence seriously, counsellors to resolve marital disputes, and community support groups that can provide peer support. Ultimately, it is only when women feel that they have the same educational and economic opportunities as men, and truly feel that they are in a partnership

In the majority of cases, having someone to talk to at the time of desperation can make a huge difference ISTOCKPHOTO

of equals, are things likely to change significantly.

For young people, there is an urgent need to develop interventions to address life, coping and interpersonal skills to make them resilient and not shy to seek help when needed. Conversations should commence young, to ensure a support system to address grievances, including provisions for counselling and helplines in all schools and resilience development in the school curriculum. Some countries have introduced peer counsellors in schools with good impact; adolescents are more likely to relate to someone of their own age and background.

There are not enough mental health professionals to provide the required services at different levels of the health system. Training of physicians, nurses, accredited social health activists and auxiliary nurse midwives to detect symptoms of depression or suicidal ideation in the clinic or the community, and take the necessary action should be undertaken as part of the implementation of the national mental health policy.

While mobile-based tools to tackle depression and suicidal thoughts are being tested, there are known, evidence-based, cost-effective measures, which can be implemented now. Involvement of groups like the village health and nutrition committees, and adolescent and women's self-help groups will help raise awareness and reduce stigma. In the majority of cases, having someone to talk to at the moment of desperation can mean the difference between life and death.

India has already introduced several steps towards health for all, including the launch of Ayushman Bharat and adopting a visionary mental health policy. A national suicide prevention plan is under discussion in the ministry of health and family welfare; its success will depend on policy and programmatic interventions in many different ministries. As we close out the mental health awareness month in India, it is our collective responsibility to plan and work together to end these tragic and preventable deaths.

Soumya Swaminathan is chief scientist, World Health Organization. This article is co-authored by Lakshmi Vijayakumar, founder of SNEHA and member of WHO's network on suicide research and prevention, and Sukriti Chauhan, lawyer with a decade of advocacy and communications expertise in public health in India and across the globe

The views expressed are personal

The new FM will have to hit the ground running

Other than the upcoming Union budget, s/he also has to achieve long-term goals through short-term measures

The role of the finance minister (FM) in a new government is challenging. The first challenge is the presentation of the Union Budget within just a couple of months of taking charge. This involves taking decisions about taxes, expenditure and borrowing. Along with this huge task, which has to be done in a short time as the budget has to be presented in July, the FM is also expected to understand the long-term challenges facing the economy that are outside the mandate of the budget. Departments and economic advisers and experts often give one side of the picture, and the solution that they are convinced of, and these represent various viewpoints and stakeholders.

Making of the budget: Understanding the trade-offs involved for different policy options requires listening to different views, understanding the potential general equilibrium effects for the economy, and finally taking a call on what to do. This is a complex and involved task and having to do it in the first two months of the term makes it even more challenging. The actions taken by the FM are critical for the success of government policies. While the party leadership can convey broad policy directions to the finance ministry, the role of the FM and the team in translating these into proposals, schemes, and a coherent direction for the economy is immensely important.

Time horizon: As departments are focused on trying to solve the problem they face, they lose sight of the bigger picture. Bureaucrats are biased toward solving problems on their watch. Thus an officer with a horizon of a year or two may not give advice which will look ineffective in the short run, but will help the economy over a five-year period. The minister is a politician with a five-year term and a long horizon. The minister has to think long-term and ensure the consistency of proposals with the longer term policy framework of the government. Yet s/he cannot afford to ignore the short term. One such trade-off between the short-and long-term is imminent. In an economy that appears to be facing a slowdown, there is a temptation to spend more to spur economic activity.

Higher public spending can certainly push up demand in the near term. Moreover, it can be argued that public expenditure on infrastructure has positive externalities and raises growth and investment. Ministries responsible for power, roads, and railways would argue for higher spending. Similarly, social sector spending on houses, cooking gas, employment guarantee, health, education, pensions, farm income support and many other scheme have social benefits. How should this spending be financed? The government can either tax more or borrow.

WHILE THE PARTY LEADERSHIP CAN CONVEY BROAD POLICY DIRECTIONS, THE ROLE OF THE FM IN TRANSLATING THESE INTO PROPOSALS, SCHEMES, AND A COHERENT DIRECTION FOR THE ECONOMY IS IMPORTANT

Higher fiscal deficit: An increase in government borrowing can crowd out private investment. Lesser domestic savings will be available for the private sector to borrow and invest. Higher fiscal deficits can spill over into a higher current account deficit. There may be an increase in borrowing from abroad. Expansion of external debt may pose new risks.

Credit rating of India's sovereign debt may fall, and foreign commercial borrowing by Indian companies may become more expensive increasing dollar interest payment outflows. There may be inflationary pressures. In other words, while at first blush it may seem like a good idea to borrow more, in the long run it may not be. It may lead to lower growth of output and jobs. How is the minister to decide how much more to spend and how to finance that spending? Should the government borrow more?

Higher tax rates: In an attempt to keep the fiscal deficit in control for the higher budgeted expenditure, the minister could consider the option of increasing tax revenue. How should this be achieved? One way would be to increase tax rates and the other to increase compliance. The revenue department may advise the finance minister to raise tax rates. This would make sense when it needs to meet tax targets, and raising tax rates requires only a stroke of the pen, much easier than raising compliance, which cannot be done by an announcement. There have been debates for years about how the tax department needs to use multiple data sources from credit cards, travel agents, lifestyle choices, assets, and even the social media to reduce tax evasion. There have also been many debates on how agricultural income needs to be taxed at some level as it provides loopholes for tax evasion. These kind of options, often advocated by economists, are all politically difficult choices. What officials often suggest as a means to raise revenue is an increase in tax rates.

Again on the other hand, the FM has to keep in mind the investment climate. If higher tax rates reduce investment spending and lower gross domestic product growth, then higher tax rates may end up being counterproductive. Investment may decline because higher taxes affect post-tax profits. The net effect could be a lower return on investment and lower growth of income and jobs. So how much should the finance minister listen to the advice of the revenue department to raise tax rates?

The challenges to the new FM in an economy that is on the brink of a long-drawn slowdown are many. How to trade between the short-and the long-term, and how to achieve long term goals through short term changes are all part of the routine work of the FM, along with her immediate goal of the Budget.

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The man who has heralded some of India's top economic reforms

NOTE OF THANKS Jaitley's guiding hand and legal mind were responsible for major legislative success like GST, Bankruptcy Code

BY INVITATION

ARVIND SUBRAMANIAN

The new government will have a new Finance Minister who deserves our best wishes for the challenging task at hand. At this transitional moment, I want to take the opportunity to express profound thanks for the Minister of Finance of the last five years: Mr Arun Jaitley.

My appreciation is both professional and personal. As I said many times when I was Chief Economic Adviser (CEA), Mr. Jaitley was a dream boss: non-interfering, trusting, encouraging, and protecting. From our first awkward meeting in the Defence Ministry in July 2014 to the last meeting via video when he was recovering from surgery, he never raised his voice, pointed a finger, or exercised power and hierarchy. And not because I never made any mistakes. I certainly did. It's just that he had a very measured and positive way of asking for these mistakes to be addressed.

Mr. Jaitley's manner is so easy because he is totally comfortable in his skin. I never glimpsed vanity or edginess or the other manifestations of a prickly ego, which are almost occupational prerequisites for a politician. As a result, staff of the Ministry of Finance actually looked forward to meeting him, knowing that they could explain their positions forthrightly, without the risk of put downs, beratings, or humiliations.

Mr. Jaitley is humane and kind, ever willing to help, on matters both big and small. He wanted to extend the legendary Jaitley generosity as widely as possible, for this was part of his DNA. The Jaitley mystique, of being the best-connected man in town, holder of the darbaars of who's whos, friend to all enemies is, I suspect, founded on and reinforced by the help that he extended to all those he knew (and the countless that he did not), and by the fact that there are few in Delhi who are not beneficiaries of the Jaitley largesse.

I recall vividly asking him for assistance when my staff needed medical help. With alacrity and enthusiasm, he would pick up the phone and talk to his doctor friends. And later he would follow up, to check on the health of my colleagues.

I also remember seeking his help to get accommodation built for junior officers of the Indian Economic Service (IES), who live for up to 15 years of their early career in transit housing in New Delhi. He was visibly moved when he saw pictures of the shabby apartments that professionals serving the nation were forced to live in; when they told him how embarrassing it was to have family see them in such accommodation. And then he acted: he intervened personally and repeatedly with the then Urban Affairs minister to ensure that land was allocated for the IES so that new housing could be built.

Stories of Mr. Jaitley as foodie were legion when I arrived in Delhi. It was sad therefore to see him, more recently, fulfilling his daily protein requirements by forcing down a few slices of paneer or a simple boiled egg. Often, Gopal—his Man Friday and a character who could be the subject of a Bollywood biopic—would try and replenish the plate as if he were serving the old Arun Jaitley, only to be fended off with an irritated reminder. It seemed that the irritation was aimed less at Gopal and more at the reality of his own changed circumstance. However, that Mr. Jaitley could not slake his own appetite did not stop him from holding forth on

Arun Jaitley MOHD ZAKIR/HT FILE

India's cuisines or from enthusiastically ordering for me the best chhola bhatura or butter chicken in town whenever he could.

History will render its own verdict on Mr. Jaitley's performance as Finance Minister between 2014 and 2019. But historians should be warned: many of his achievements were not easily visible. Consider the government's response to the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission chaired by Dr. YV Reddy, which envisaged a radical decentralization of fiscal resources. Very influential people argued that the recommendations would constrain the Centre, and thereby backfire on it. But Mr. Jaitley responded that the Finance Commission's views should be respected, because the institution has served India so well for so many decades. And his persuasive skills carried the day.

In addition to Mr. Jaitley's behind-the-scenes accomplishments, his guiding hand and legal mind were responsible for some major legislative accomplishments: the GST, the Bankruptcy Code, the real estate bill, the establishment of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

Perhaps the biggest of these accomplishments was the introduction of the GST. Yes, there were flaws in design and implementation. Even so, the GST was an astonishing accomplishment: an achievement of political consensus building in a difficult, fractious democracy; an achievement of administration, in which the tax departments of the Centre and the states worked together to create one tax; and an achievement of technology, in which new systems were created, integrating many diverse ones, making the taxpayer-tax authority interface more seamless.

None of this could have happened without the dedication and goodwill of many people, from state governments to central civil servants (most notably, then finance secretary Dr. Hasmukh Adhia). But the key driving force was Mr. Arun Jaitley, who somehow managed to bring together all the different political factions, economic interests and idiosyncratic personalities, and get the Constitutional Amendment and the GST bill passed.

Perhaps as important, Mr. Jaitley created the vital institutional/cultural precedent of decision-making by consensus in the GST Council, building on the tradition created by Yashwant Sinha in his Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers. Sometimes, I used to wonder whether Mr. Jaitley was being excessively democratic, because allowing everyone in the GST Council to express their views made for painfully long and tedious meetings. I often wanted him to intervene more forcefully to end the discussion. After all, hadn't Clement Atlee famously said that "democracy as discussion only works, if at some point people stop talking?"

But he was more patient and wiser than me. Now, it is clear that Mr. Jaitley's efforts will have a lasting, durable impact because he created a strong, democratic institution that will outlive the individuals who created it.

I have long felt that Mr. Jaitley is not given enough credit for getting the GST done. But it strikes me even more today that he does not really care: what mattered to him was the achievement, not who got the credit.

Of course, Mr. Jaitley had his detractors, and of course his record is not unblemished. But in politics show me a man who has no critics, who has made no mistakes, and I will show you a leader who has accomplished nothing.

There is a similarity between Dr. Manmohan Singh and Mr. Jaitley in that both were in politics without a large electoral base of their own. The conventional view is that this weakened them as leaders within government and party. But both had, in their own ways, a lot of de facto clout within their own parties: in Dr. Singh's case stemming from his personal aura of integrity and for having been the architect of the 1991 reforms, and in Mr. Jaitley's case from his competence, his legal background, his parliamentary skills, and his ability to bring people together.

The open and fascinating question for history is how empowered they themselves felt and whether they might have acted as if they wielded less power than they actually did.

To contemplate a government, and a cabinet that will be Jaitley-less, without his wisdom, judgement and moderating influence, gives a sense of his contribution and importance. Articulate, brilliant master of the brief, the shepherd of many a parliamentary effort, the man who birthed the GST, but above all, the humane, helping and helpful leader and politician — I, but more important, the country will really miss you, Mr. Jaitley.

(The writer served as Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India and is currently a visiting lecturer at Harvard University and a non-resident senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.)

Jaitley was among the first to realise Modi's potential

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Although Jaitley will be the informal adviser to the new Modi government till he recovers, he will not sit idle and can be expected to contribute to the government. VIRENDRA SINGH GOSAIN/HT ARCHIVE

NEW DELHI: It was the run-up to the 2008 Delhi Assembly elections. Arun Jaitley's two closest friends, then Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi and Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, had dropped in at his Kailash colony residence for lunch. Some journalists were also in attendance.

After the famous "Jain Shikanji" of the Jaitley household was served as an aperitif, the two chief ministers pushed their friend to challenge Sheila Dikshit for the post of Delhi chief minister — a sort of a first stepping stone for bigger things to follow. Jaitley heard out his friends, then quietly said he was not interested in becoming "mayor of Delhi."

The finance minister in the outgoing cabinet, Jaitley on Wednesday voluntarily opted out of the Modi 2.0 government because of health issues, depriving it of the service of a man who always seemed made for bigger things, given his versatility, intelligence, and brilliant communication skills, including a flair for repartee as evident in that response.

While both PM Modi and CM Nitish Kumar will wait for Jaitley to join the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government when he is ready to do so, the other person who will miss him is BJP president Amit Shah. When Shah was exiled to Delhi in 2010-2012 through a court order, the then Gujarat state leader was a permanent lunch fixture at Jaitley's house with the legal luminary expending all his energies to secure relief for his friend. The political equations may have changed now but Jaitley is still the go-to man for both Modi and Shah. Jaitley stood by his two friends, and the two will stand by him till kingdom come.

A man who can build bridges over the widest ideological gaps and count Nitish Kumar and Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik as personal friends, Jaitley is going to be missed by his political, cricketing and media friends till he returns back on stage. When Kumar joined hands with Lalu Prasad in the 2015 Assembly elections and Jaitley came to Patna to campaign for the BJP which was taking them on, he carried Delhi's famed Gopala Rasgullas for his temporary adversary. It is another matter that he couldn't deliver them with senior BJP state leaders making a big issue of it.

Jaitley was among the first to realise the potential of Narendra Modi in the BJP, and the two stayed together through thick and thin with the former protecting the latter from Lutyens' media. It is not for any other reason that when Modi took over as PM in 2014, he appointed Jaitley as finance, defence and corporate affairs minister with oversight of all economic ministries. This, despite Jaitley losing the Amritsar Lok Sabha poll.

As finance minister, Jaitley did not get lost in the false bravado of the world's investors and companies "flocking to India" attracted by its market size, and presented India as a destination of investment and a partner of choice. He has given the world and, in particular, the international finance community a big picture of India that goes beyond mere numbers. In the government or in person, he remained a large-hearted person who kept his doors open and where people could seek redressal.

Jaitley's capacity to assimilate politically divergent views, yet come up with a win-win solution was evident in the implementation of the goods and services tax (GST). This single tax was an example of bringing together myriad interests and different political ideologies — first, to first get the job done; then, to fine-tune it through consistent improvement.

That Jaitley can understand complexity of finance, law and the courts is a given but he could also grasp the grey areas, where uncertainties needed to be reduced, and understand the broader impact of apparently narrow measures. He worked hard to build a fair narrative of the NDA, doing his bit to facilitate the mass acceptance of the government based on its work. His was a narrative that could be understood both by intellectuals and the common man.

Although Jaitley will be the informal advisor to Modi 2.0 till he recovers, he will not and cannot sit idle and can be expected to contribute to the government by writing constructive blog posts. Even though he could not actively participate in the 2019 political campaign due to fear of infection, Jaitley wrote literally a piece a day in support of PM Modi. And Modi constantly kept in touch with his finance minister for political and media advice.

His biggest contribution to Modi 1.0 was getting the bureaucracy in line with the aspirations of the average Indian. He did this in his characteristic style, which was evident in other areas as well. Jaitley is always polite, but never weak.

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http://docs.pspcl.in/docs/cecommercial1520190528145256547.pdf

The new charges shall be applicable to the demand notices to be issued on or after 01.06.2019 to the applicants requiring supply of electricity or additional load/demand.

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Managing Director
5509

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਰਾਜ ਪਾਵਰ ਕਾਰਪੋਰੇਸ਼ਨ (ਲਿਮ.)
(ਰਜਿ. ਦਫਤਰ:- ਪੀ.ਐਸ.ਪੀ.ਸੀ.ਐੱਲ. ਹੈੱਡ ਆਫਿਸ, ਮਾਲ ਰੋਡ ਪਟਿਆਲਾ)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sh. Gurpreet Singh R.T.M. s/o Late Sh. Labh Singh I.D. 301734 who was posted in city Subdivision Dirba under DS Division Dirba is willfully absent from his duty w.e.f. 01.09.2017 to till date. Due to wilful absence from duty a charge sheet No. 03/953 dated 27.03.18 was issued to Sh. Gurpreet Singh RTM s/o Late Sh. Labh Singh by Ds Division Dirba and sent by city subdivision PSPCL Dirba with their letter No. 240 dated 04.04.18. No reply to this has been received till date.

This office vide office order No.170 dated 10.08.18 has appointed AE Nadampur as the enquiry officer. Enquiry officer by letter no. 1252 dated 03.12.18 and letter no. 1379 dated 18.12.18 registered post written to the employee (Gurpreet Singh RTM) to appear in his office and explain the reasons of his absence from duty but no reply has come from his side. According to the enquiry officer he is not residing in his house from one year and has gone to foreign without permission from PSPCL.

Time by time city sub division vide letter no. 783 dated 06.12.17, letter no. 10 dated 01.01.18 and DS Division Dirba by letter no. 4479 dated 18.09.17, letter no. 5123 date 02.11.17 and letter no. 227 dated 16.01.18 has written to the employee (Gurpreet Singh) to appear in their respective offices and explain the reasons of his abdence from duty for so long. But employee neither appear nor has given any reply to these letters. This office vide memo No. 1435 dated 18.03.19 has given him an another chance to appear before undersigned office and explain reasons of his wilfull absence from duty and this letter is also pasted at address "Farid Nagar Street no. 02 Sangrur pin.148001 Punjab", but he did not reply.

Inspite of repeated reminders, Sh. Gurpreet Singh RTM did not return to his duty/attended the enquiry or reply to any of the letters sent to him. It shows that he is willfully absent from his duty. So therefor under the regulation 5 (v to iv) punishment and appeal regulation 1971 of PSEB (now PSPCL) the services of Sh. Gurpreet Singh RTM (ID. 301734) s/o Late Sh. Labh Singh will be terminated form 01.09.17.

By this press note Sh. Gurpreet Singh RTM is given a last chance to appear before undersigned office in a month's time and explain the reasons of his willfull absence. Otherwise the services of Sh. Gurpreet Singh RTM (ID. 301734) s/o Late Sh. Labh Singh will be terminated form 01.09.17. All concerned and general public are intimated regarding his absence.

Add SE
PSPCL DIRBA
C 205/19
5501

PEPSU ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, PATIALA
PRE BID CONFERENCE NOTICE

In reference to the earlier E-Tender notice issued in the Hindustan Times, Daily Ajit (Punjabi) and Punjab Kesari on 22.05.2019 for supply of 100 Nos. of Ordinary bus chassis compliant to AIS-052 and AIS-0153 Bus Code of Govt. of India and the observation received from **M/s. Ashok Leyland and M/s. TATA Motors Ltd. a Pre Bid Conference will be held in the office room of Addl. Managing Director on 03.06.2019 at 11:30 A.M.**

Managing Director
Pepsu Road Transport Corporation, Patiala.
Making Travel Safe & Comfortable

PUNJAB LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Tender Notice No. 3/2019-20/PLDB
Additional Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Livestock Development Board Livestock Complex, 2nd Floor, Sector- 68, S.A.S.Nagar-160062

Punjab Livestock Development Board, Livestock Complex, Near Army Institute of Law, Sector-68, S.A.S. Nagar invites sealed tenders under two bid system from eligible firms/companies for providing housekeeping services for its office located at the above mentioned address.

The sealed bidding document (Technical Bid, Financial Bid & along with EMD duly filled and signed) should be addressed to Additional Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Livestock Development Board at the above mentioned address on or before 21 June 2019, 1500 Hrs. Tender received after stipulated time and date shall be rejected summarily. The tender must be accompanied with earnest money amounting Rs. 20,000/-in the shape of demand draft in favour of "Punjab Livestock Development Board" payable at Chandigarh. The tender document may be also download from our website **www.husbandrypunjab.org**. The bidder who have downloaded the tender document should submit separate demand draft for the application fees of Rs. 100/- and this should be attached with the fee for EMD in the technical bid of tender document; else tender document for the bid will not be accepted.

The Board reserves the right to accept/reject any of the Tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever and shall be final and binding.

Corrigendum, if any will be uploaded on above website Only.

Sd/-
Additional Chief Executive Officer
5511

Punjab state Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Off.: PSEB H.O., The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813, website:- www.pspcl.in

AUCTION NOTICE

The auction of trees at 66KV Sub Station Bhagta Bhai Ka will be held on 14/06/2019 at 11:00 AM in 66KV Sub Station Bhagta Bhai Ka with following terms & conditions :-

1) All bidders will deposit Rs. 5000/- as earnest money. This amount will be refunded after completion of the auction but successful bidder will have to deposit 5% amount as earnest money, which will be refunded one month after the cutting of sarkanda..
2) 10% amount of the highest bid (inclusive of all taxes) would have to be deposited immediately after completion of auction and 40% amount of highest bid (inclusive of all taxes) would have to be deposited within one working day after completion of auction in cash or through demand draft in favour of ASE, CIVIL CONST. & MTC. DIVISION PSPCL payable at Bathinda. Balance amount shall have to be deposited within 10 days.
3) Sarkanda auction committee reserves the right to accept/cancel the highest bid without assigning any reason.
4) Sarkanda will be sold on " As is and where is " basis. The arrangement for cutting & Lifting of Sarkanda will be made by the bidders himself. The bidders can see the Sarkanda area before taking part in the auction.
5) Other terms & conditions can be seen on any working day in the office of undersigned.
6) It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may seen on official, PSPCL Website **www.pspcl.in**

Addl. SE,
Civil Const. & Mtc. Division, PSPCL, Bathinda
C-203/19
5506

LUDHIANA SMART CITY LIMITED
Tender Notice Number 853/LSCL Dated 28-05-2019

1. Chief Executive Officer, Ludhiana Smart City Limited, Ludhiana invites online Bids on Two Stage system for the following works:

Sr. No.	Name of Project / Work(s)	Bid Security/ Earnest Money (in INR)	Cost of Document/ Tender Fee (in INR)	Period of Implementation
1	2	4	5	6
i.	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Flow and Quality Management Instruments including AMC for five years for existing STPs at Balloke, Bhattian and Jamalpur in the city of Ludhiana under Smart City Mission	10,00,000/-	10,000/-	Four Months Plus AMC for 5 years
ii	Selection of contractor for Engineering, Procurement, Construction, testing and commissioning of Water front Development including landscaping and Beautification along Sidhwan Canal in Ludhiana including one year defect liability period under Smart City Mission.	10,00,000/-	10,000/-	8 Months

2. Important dates of the RFB are as mentioned below:

Availability of Tender Online for Bidding		Last Date & Time for Online Submission of Bids	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	
From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
03-06-2019 1100 hours	17-06-2019 1700 hours	17-06-2019 1700 hours	18-06-2019 1500 hours	To be Intimated Later

3. For details such as important dates, pre-bid meeting, detailed information, qualification and eligibility criteria, visit website **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**. for downloading of RFB (under Local Government Department)

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Ludhiana Smart City Limited,
5497

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH
NOTICE INVITING e-Tender

The Hospital Engineer (Const.), PGIMER Chandigarh invites on behalf of the Director PGIMER, Chandigarh online Item rate bids from the enlisted contractors of appropriate class of CPWD/Department of Posts/BSNL/Railways/M.E.S./Chandigarh Administration/ CHB/MC Chandigarh/State PWD's/HUDA/PUDA/State Electricity Board & Corporations dealing in Civil works on Two bid system (Eligibility & Financial Bid) for the following works:-

1.NIT No: PGI/Engg./Const./2019/85: Name of Work: Modification in Psychiatry Outpatient, Block-A, Level-2 in New OPD Block, PGIMER, Chandigarh. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 6.69 Lakh. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 13,500/-. **Period of Completion:** One Month.
2.NIT No: PGI/Engg./Const./2019/86: Name of Work: Addition & Alteration in Seminar Room of Operation Theatre area at Level-V in Nehru Hospital, PGIMER, Chandigarh.(Civil work only) **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 17.64 Lakh, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 35,500/-, **Period of Completion:** 15 days.

Last date and time of submission of bid	Last date and time of submission of Original Earnest Money	Date and time of opening of Eligibility bid
04.06.2019 upto 4.00 PM	07.06.2019 upto 3.00 PM	07.06.2019 at 3.30 PM

The Original EMD as scanned & uploaded shall be deposited physically by all the intending bidders in the office of H.E. (Const.) as per above schedule failing which the bid shall be treated as invalid.

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website: **www.tenderwizard.com/PGIMER**, and official website of the PGIMER **www.pgimer.edu.in**. Press notice is also available on **www.eprocure.gov.in**. The Contractors are requested to get their firm registered on the website **www.tenderwizard.com/PGIMER** for participating in e-tendering process (helpdesk No. for registration- 09257209340, 08054628821) For any technical information Contact (0172-2755861, 7087008800).

HOSPITAL ENGINEER (CONST.)
000370

Punjab state Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Off.: PSEB H.O., The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813, website:- www.pspcl.in

O/o CE/MM, Room No.212, 2nd floor, Multi Story Building, PSPCL, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala Phone No. 091-175-2213047, Fax No. 091-175-2225024; Mob: 96461-19383, 96461-11036, E-mail: apoconductors@gmail.com, apo-c@pspcl.in, e-tendering portal: https://pspcl.abcprocure.com

Tender Enquiry No. QQ-216/PSPCL/PO-C

Short Description	Procurement of 1,80,000 No. Pressure/ Gravity Die cast Aluminium alloy with 02 no. U-Bolt Dead End Clamps conforming to IS: 2486/1993 (with latest amendments, if any) and to PSEB's now PSPCL Drawing no, 120, complete with hot dip galvanized MS Strap, Nuts, Bolts, Washers etc. suitable to hold ACSR of sizes from 30-80 mm^2
Start date for down loading of Specification/ tender documents from PSPCL's web site https://pspcl.abcprocure.com	30.05.2019 at 11:00 AM
Last date for down loading of Specification/ tender documents from PSPCL 's web site https://pspcl.abcprocure.com	20.06.2019 upto 11:00 AM
Last date for Bid Submission	21.06.2019 upto 11:00 AM.
Bid Opening date	21.06.2019 at 11:30 AM

For detailed NIT & Tender specification please refer to **https://pspcl.abcprocure.com**.
Note:- It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official PSPCL website **www.pspcl.in**

Chief Purchase Officer/MM,
Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, Patiala
C-207/19
5512

Punjab state Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Off.: PSEB H.O., The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813, website:- www.pspcl.in

Tender Enquiry No. 250 Dt. 27.05.2019

Short description: Manufacturing, Testing, Supply, Delivery and commissioning of Submersible Pump Sets for Dewatering and Drainage System of UBDC Stage II Power Houses along with Dismantlement of existing Old VT Pumps.
Start date for downloading of Specification: 03.06.2019.
Date and time upto which tender can be downloaded: 01.07.2019 (11:00AM)
Date and time upto which tender shall be received: 02.07.2019(11:00 A.M)
Date and time of opening of tender : 02.07.2019 (11:30 AM)
EMD : @ 2% of Tender Value rounded off to a multiple of Rs. 10/- on the higher side subject to a min. of Rs. 10,000/- and a max. of Rs. 20 Lac.

It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official PSPCL e-tendering website. **https://pspcl.abcprocure.com**.

Tender Specification along with detailed terms and conditions can only be downloaded from Web-site: **https://pspcl.abcprocure.com**. Details regarding e-tendering is available on Website: **www.pspcl.in.**

All the prospective bidders are requested to get their digital signatures, register themselves on the Website: **https://pspcl.abcprocure.com** and get conversant with the process of on-line submission of tenders well in time so as to submit the tender by the due deadline. No request for extension in due date of tender opening on the above grounds shall be entertained.

CE/HYDEL PROJECTS, PSPCL, Patiala
C-208/19
C-5518

वन विभाग हिमाचल प्रदेश
कार्यालय वन वृत हमीरपुर

सार्वजनिक सूचना

अनुभव के आधार पर वन रक्षकों की भर्ती हेतु हमीरपुर वन वृत में शारीरिक दक्षता परीक्षा (Physical Efficiency Test) दिनांक 11.06.2019 से 22-06-2019 तक रखी गई है जिन अभ्यर्थियों ने इस भर्ती के लिए आवेदन किया है उन्हें सूचित किया जाता है कि उनके एडमिट कार्ड वन विभाग की वैबसाईट **www.forp.hp.gov.in** पर अपलोड कर दिये है अतः उनसे अनुरोध है कि वह अपने एडमिट कार्ड उपरोक्त वैबसाइट से डाउनलोड कर लें । जिन अभ्यर्थियों ने आफलाइन (offline) आवेदन किया है उनके एडमिट कार्ड / बुलावा पत्र डाक द्वारा भेज दिए गए है । अगर उन्हें ये 06-06-2019 तक प्राप्त नही होते है तो वह अरण्यपाल वन वृत हमीरपुर के कार्यालय दूरभाष नं० 01972-223217 पर सम्पर्क कर सकते है । इन अभ्यर्थियों (off line) के एडमिट कार्ड/ बुलावा पत्र वैबसाइट से भी डाउनलोड किए जा सकते है । इसके लिए इनका ID (Mob. Number) और Password (date of birth) है । अभ्यर्थियों से अनुरोध है कि उनके आवेदन पत्र नं०/ रोल नं० के आगे दर्शाई गई तिथि को राजकीय तकनीकी महाविद्यालय मैदान बदू (हमीरपुर) (Govt. Polytechnic College, Baru, Hamirpur) में सुबह 7.30 बजे हाजिर हों अगर कोई अभ्यर्थी बिना प्रवेश पत्र व उसमे वर्णित दस्तावेजों व शर्तों के आता है तो उसे शारीरिक दक्षता परीक्षा में शामिल नही किया जाएगा:-

क्रम संख्या	आवेदन पत्र/ रोल नं०	दिनांक
1	1500001 to 1500802	11.06.2019
2	1500803 to 1501736	12.06.2019
3	1501737 to 1502662	13.06.2019
4	1502663 to 1503588	14.06.2019
5	1503589 to 1504513	15.06.2019
6	1504514 to 1505440	18.06.2019
7	1505441 to 1506366	19.06.2019
8	1506367 to 1507293	20.06.2019
9	1507294 to 1508219	21.06.2019
10	1508220 to 1509147	22.06.2019

नोटः- 1. जब अभ्यर्थी (P.E.T.) के लिए आये तो वह अपने 3 नवीनतम पासपोर्ट साईज (Recent Passport Size) फोटो व अन्य सम्बन्धित वैध प्रमाण पत्र की सत्यापित प्रतियां व मूल प्रतियां भी साथ लाये जिसके बारे मे एडमिट कार्ड मे विस्तारपूर्वक शर्तों सहित लिखा गया है ।
2. यदि उक्त शारीरिक जांच एवं दक्षता परीक्षण निर्धारित तिथि को पूरी नहीं होती है तो यह प्रक्रिया पूर्ण होने तक अगले दिन भी जारी रहेगी ।

अरण्यपाल,
हमीरपुर वन वृत
0181

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htworld

COUNTRIES ACROSS THE GLOBE PROHIBIT SELECTIVE ABORTION. THE US SHOULD DO THE SAME.
› MIKE PENCE, US vice-president

photooftheday

An Afghan security officer stands guard as seized drugs and alcohol burn on the outskirts of Jalalabad. More than 14 tonnes of opium, heroin, hashish and alcoholic drinks seized by officials during six months of operations were set ablaze. AFP

shortstories

3 INDIANS CHARGED IN MILLION-DOLLAR FRAUD SCHEME IN US

NEW YORK: Three Indians have been charged in a million-dollar fraud scheme in the US in which they remotely accessed computers belonging to senior citizens without authorisation, caused the machines to malfunction and lured the victims' into purchasing phony computer repair services. Gunjit Malhotra, 30, Gurjeet Singh 22 and Jas Pal 54, have each been charged with one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, and one count of conspiracy to access a protected computer in furtherance of fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison. PTI

Man sets himself on fire near White House

WASHINGTON: A man set himself on fire near the White House on Wednesday, the Secret Service said, adding that the individual was receiving first aid. The incident took place shortly after noon on the Ellipse - south of the president's residence - near 15th Street and Constitution Avenue, the Secret Service said on Twitter. "Secret Service personnel are on scene assisting @NatlParkService and @usparkpolicepio in rendering first aid," it said. AFP

Panel of politicians slams Zuckerberg, Sandberg

OTTAWA: A panel of politicians from Canada and other nations slammed Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and Sheryl Sandberg for ignoring subpoenas to appear at a hearing on protecting privacy. The panel adopted a motion to serve them with a summons to appear. AFP

Sri Lanka signs port deal with India and Japan

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka has signed a deal with India and Japan to develop a deep-sea container terminal amid increasing forays by China. The three countries will build the East Container Terminal at the Port of Colombo. Sri Lanka's Port Authority said around 70% of the Colombo port's transshipment business is India-related while Japan had cooperated since the 1980s to develop the port's container terminals. PTI

Key UK review to help hire more Indian professionals

LONDON: A major review of shortage in various professions in the UK has recommended adding new jobs and expanding others in a list of occupations that allows easier recruitment of Indians and other non-EU professionals. The review was done by the Migration Advisory Committee of the UK Home Office. HTC

inthenews

WILL CONNOLLY

Australian teen who egged a senator donates $69,000 to Christchurch attack survivors

1. The 17-year-old egged Fraser Anning in March. The incident prompted people to dub him the "Egg Boy" as he was flooded with donations to pay his legal expenses, the BBC reported
2. Anning had caused fury for saying Muslim migration was to blame for the Christchurch shootings that killed 51 people. He was formally censured by Australia's senate for his "appalling" remarks
3. Connolly had confronted the senator from behind as he gave a press conference in Melbourne on March 16. Footage of the clash showed Anning physically retaliating before his supporters tackled the teen.

Bolton, Tehran trade barbs

'LAUGHABLE' Tehran rejects US NSA's claim that Iran was behind ship attacks

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

ABU DHABI/TEHRAN/LONDON: US President Donald Trump's national security adviser (NSA) said on Wednesday there was "no reason" for Iran to back out of its nuclear deal with world powers other than to seek atomic weapons.

John Bolton also claimed that the alleged sabotage of four oil tankers off the coast of the UAE came from naval mines placed "almost certainly by Iran".

"There's no doubt in anybody's mind in Washington who's responsible for this," Bolton said in a reference to Iran.

Iran rejected the accusation. "Making such laughable claims... is not strange" coming from the US, foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said.

"Mr Bolton, other warmongers and chaos seekers should know that the strategic patience, high vigilance and complete defensive readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran... will prevent the fulfilment of their evil desires for chaos in the region," he added.

TRUMP'S PEACE PLAN WILL FAIL, SAYS IRGC

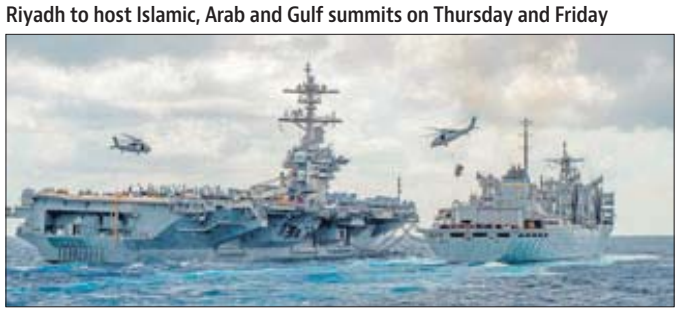
Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards said on Wednesday that Washington's Israeli-Palestinian peace plan was doomed to fail.

Trump's team, headed by his son-in-law Jared Kushner, is set to unveil the plan in late June.

The IRGC said the only solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was the "withdrawal of Zionists from the occupied lands, and the return of Palestinian refugees to hold free elections".

Tensions overshadow talks

Riyadh to host Islamic, Arab and Gulf summits on Thursday and Friday



USS Abraham Lincoln (left) conducts a replenishment-at-sea with a combat support ship. AFP

SCHEDULE OF SUMMITS

May 30	: ARAB LEAGUE
May 30	: GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council)
May 31	: OIC (Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation)

NO WORD FROM IRAN YET

The three upcoming summits in Mecca, Islam's holiest city, allow US ally Riyadh the chance to present unified Islamic, Arab and Gulf fronts against its arch rival Tehran. Iran has not yet confirmed whether it will attend the meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), of which it is a member

RIVAL QATAR INVITED

Qatar has been invited by Saudi Arabia to attend Thursday's two summits: Arab League and GCC. Saudi, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt have imposed a boycott on Qatar since June 2017 over charges that Doha supports terrorism. Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim al-Thani received an invitation from Saudi King Salman al-Saud

CRITICAL STAGE

Tensions surrounding Iran reached a critical point when two Saudi oil tankers, among four vessels, were the targets of acts of sabotage off the UAE coast this month, and Iran-aligned Yemeni rebels stepped up drone attacks on the kingdom - one of which resulted in the temporary shutdown of a major oil pipeline

AMERICAN RESPONSE

Washington reinstated sanctions against Tehran and decided to deploy 1,500 more troops in West Asia amid attacks on oil facilities. The US Central Command already has 60,000 to 80,000 troops in the area. US President Donald Trump's move to sell $8.1 billion in arms to Saudi Arabia and other allies has fuelled the tensions

WARNING FROM TEHRAN

To put pressure on US, Iran has threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz, through which 35% of the world's seaborne oil passes

"Unity and coordination of positions are necessary at this critical time. Riyadh is qualified to play that role."
ANWAR GARGASH, UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs

Special counsel Robert Mueller exits after speaking at the US justice department in Washington. BLOOMBERG

'Charging Trump was not an option'

Yashwant Raj
yashwant.raj@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: In his first public remarks in two years of leading the Russia meddling probe, US special counsel Robert Mueller said on Wednesday that government policy and principles prevented him from considering criminally charging President Donald Trump and he declined to clear him of a crime.

"Charging the president with the crime was not an option that we could consider," he said. "Under longstanding department policy, a president cannot be charged with a federal crime."

He was referring to a justice department policy that bars a sitting US president from being charged criminally.

Summarising his 448-page report, the special counsel said his team found "insufficient evidence" to charge Trump or anyone in his campaign team of conspiring with Russian meddling, which he stated clearly took place, but did not reach the same determination on the questions of whether or not the US president tried to obstruct justice.

"If we had confidence that the president clearly did not commit a crime, we would have said so," Mueller said. "We did not, however, make a determination as to whether the president did commit a crime."

Mueller took no questions and told reporters that his probe is over. He said he is "formally closing the special counsel's office and... I am resigning from the department of justice to return to private life... this will be the only time I will speak to you in this manner".

On the issue of testifying before congress - as has been sought by Democratic lawmakers - he said any testimony he gives will not go beyond the report he had submitted.

Trump, who probably watched the remarks aired live by most news channels, tweeted, "Nothing changes from the Mueller Report. There was insufficient evidence and therefore, in our Country, a person is innocent. The case is closed! Thank you."

TROUBLE FOR BORIS JOHNSON

Brexit 'lies' land PM contender in court

Prasun Sonwalkar
prasun.sonwalkar@hindustantimes.com

LONDON: Former UK foreign secretary Boris Johnson, the favourite to replace Theresa May as prime minister, was on Wednesday summoned by the Westminster Magistrates Court to face accusations of misconduct in public office over claims he lied during the 2016 EU referendum.

The crowdfunded legal case was brought against Johnson for claiming that the UK paid £350 million per week to Brussels as part of his pro-Brexit appeal to voters.

Johnson faces three allegations of misconduct in public office, between February 21, 2016 and June 23, 2016 (until the referendum), and April 18, 2017 to May 3, 2017 during the midterm polls.

Judge Margot Coleman said, "The allegations which have been made are unproven accusations and I do not make any findings of fact. Having considered all the relevant factors, I am satisfied that this is a proper case to issue the summons as requested for the three offences as drafted.

"The charges are indictable only. This means the proposed defendant will be required to attend this court for a preliminary hearing, and the case will then be sent to the crown court for trial. The charges can only be dealt with in the crown court."

The development is likely to damage Johnson's prospects in the forthcoming Conservative Party leadership contest, which will be triggered after May resigns on June 7. There is also speculation that he may drop out of the race. He is among several candidates for the post.

Pak airspace ban on Indian flights extended to June

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani authorities have decided to extend a ban on commercial flights to and from India using its airspace until June 15. The ban was originally set to last until the end of May.

Losing heavily on overflying charges, Pakistani officials say they are keen to remove airspace restriction for airlines flying to and from India, provided New Delhi decreases army build-up on the border between the two neighbouring countries.

In February, the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority announced the closure of the country's airspace for commercial flights.

Hundreds of commercial and cargo flights are affected every day, according to officials.

Pakistan lies in the middle of a vital aviation corridor. Routes that run through it on a north-south axis are not affected. HTC

EYE ON PAKISTAN

Blasphemy issue: Mobs torch Hindu-owned shops

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ISLAMABAD: Violent protests erupted in Phulhadiyon area of Mirpurkhas in Sindh province after a Hindu veterinary doctor, Ramesh Kumar, was accused of blasphemy.

Although the doctor was arrested on Monday, extremists were angry and set fire to Hindu-owned shops in the area and burned tyres on the roads.

The police registered a blasphemy case against the doctor who was taken into custody as there was fear that he may be harmed by the mob.

Kumar was accused of blasphemy after a man alleged that he had dispensed medicines wrapped in paper that he claimed "had Quranic verses printed on them".

A MUSLIM CLERIC CLAIMED WITHOUT EVIDENCE THAT THE ARRESTED HINDU DOCTOR RAMESH KUMAR HAD BURNT PAGES OF THE QURAN.

The man who had received these medicines for his livestock informed a local cleric, Mohammad Ishaq Nohri, who registered a complaint with Phuladiyon police in Sindhri police station, said Mirpurkhas DIG Saqib Ismail Memon. Nohri claimed he found damaged pages of Islamic books at the vet's clinic.

As word spread about the incident, riots broke out in the area, according to Memon. A mob burned down the doctor's shop, which belonged to his brother.

PASHTUN MP ACCUSES OFFICIALS OF LYING

Parliamentarian Moshin Dawar, a member of the Pashtun Protection Movement, has accused authorities of lying about a violent clash between Pashtun activists and security forces over the weekend.

He disputed claims by the military that activists assaulted the military during a protest near a checkpoint along the Afghan border on Sunday, saying security forces fired into the unarmed crowd. Dawar claimed that at least 13 people were killed by the firing.

(With inputs from agencies)

BOEING 737 MAX 8

Long before air crash, pilot warned of danger

Bloomberg
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WASHINGTON: An Ethiopian Airlines pilot told senior managers at the carrier months before one of its Boeing 737 MAX jets crashed that more training and better communication to crew members was needed to avert a repeat of a similar disaster involving a Lion Air flight.

According to emails and documents reviewed by Bloomberg News, the pilot in December urged his superiors to bolster training on a 737 MAX flight-control feature so crews would be better prepared for what the Lion Air pilots encountered in October before plunging into the Java Sea, killing all aboard.

"It will be a crash for sure," if pilots struggling with a malfunction of Boeing's flight-control system on the 737 MAX also encountered, for example, a cockpit warning that they were flying too close to the ground, the pilot, Bernd Kai von Hoesslin, wrote in a December 13 email.

On March 10, an Ethiopian Airlines plane operated by two other pilots crashed minutes after take-off from Addis Ababa, killing 157.

While the crash played out differently from how von Hoesslin described, he accurately foresaw the chaos and peril of multiple cockpit warnings that pilots dealt with during the March crash. Von Hoesslin's communications add another layer to the competing narratives that have shaped the public's view of the 737 MAX crisis - and of who's most responsible for what went wrong.

In 418 pages of previously unreported correspondence and documents he sent to airline managers, von Hoesslin cited a number of concerns he said needed to be addressed relating to maintenance, pilot rest and operational procedures.

Venezuela talks begin in Oslo

Agence France-Presse
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OSLO: Talks between Venezuela's government and opposition on ending months of crisis were underway in Norway, but Washington insisted that the only item for discussion should be President Nicolas Maduro's removal.

US-backed opposition leader Juan Guaido, who more than 50 countries recognize as interim president, had been leading a push to oust leftist firebrand Maduro, who presides over a crumbling economy.

But the opposition agreed to come to the table under Norwegian auspices after an army uprising coupled with street protests, which Guaido hoped would deal decisive blow, instead fizzled out a month ago. Norwegian diplomats had said that the two sides would meet this week in Norway in their first face-to-face meeting since Guaido claimed power in January, without specifying a date or venue. Sources close to the process told AFP that the talks were taking place in Oslo. The Norwegian foreign ministry declined to comment.

Nicolas Maduro REUTERS

Maduro, while describing the opposition as "extremist" and working on behalf of the United States, promised to make an effort to resolve the crisis.

"We are going to be showing our very best good faith... to be able to find, based on the platform the parties agreed on, peaceful, democratic solutions to help overcome Venezuela's conflict," Maduro said in a televised address on Monday. The US has refused to speak to Maduro on anything but logistical matters, calling his leadership illegitimate. While not rejecting the talks in Oslo, the United States stood firm in its stance.

"We note the talks in Norway. As we have repeatedly stated, the United States believes the only thing to negotiate with Nicolas Maduro is the conditions of his departure," state department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus told reporters in Washington.

"While previous efforts to negotiate have failed ...we hope that the talks in Oslo will focus on the departure of Maduro as a precondition for progress."

DHAKA BOILS

Protesters in Dhaka demand justice for Nusrat Jahan Rafi, who was set on fire for refusing to drop harassment charges. AP

B'desh charges 16 for burning girl alive

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

DHAKA: Bangladesh police were set to file charges against 16 people, including the headmaster of an Islamic seminary, over the shocking murder of a 19-year-old girl burned to death.

The killing of Nusrat Jahan Rafi last month sparked protests across the South Asian nation, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina promising to prosecute all those involved.

Rafi was lured to the rooftop of the Islamic seminary she attended where her attackers asked her to withdraw a sexual harassment complaint filed with police against the head teacher.

When she refused, she was doused in kerosene and set on fire. She died five days later, triggering outrage. Her death highlighted alarming rise in sexual harassment cases in the country.

Bangladesh's Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) said they would file the charge sheet in a court against the 16 people, including two girls.

PBI lead investigator Mohammad Iqbal said the principal of the Sonagazi Islamia Senior Fazil Madrasa Siraj Ud Doula where Rafi was a student ordered the murder from jail.

Rafi had gone to police in late March to report the alleged sexual harassment against the teacher, and a leaked video shows the local police station chief registering her complaint but dismissing it as "not a big deal".

Iqbal said at least five people including three of Rafi's classmates, had tied her up with a scarf before setting her on fire. The plan was to pass the incident off as a case of suicide.

Rafi suffered 80% burns and died in hospital on April 10. But she recorded a video before her death, repeating her allegations against the principal.

Britain 'freezes' foreign politician's luxury homes worth £80 million

LONDON: Three luxury homes in London worth over £80 million belonging to an unidentified foreign politician have been "frozen" under a new anti-corruption and anti-money laundering provision, the National Crime Agency (NCA) said on Wednesday.

Politicians from various countries own property in London and elsewhere in the UK, bought mostly via offshore entities.

Such individuals are called PEPs (political exposed persons) and are usually not named in investigations. "Freezing" of the three homes in prime locations is the NCA's second such action under the Unexplained Wealth Order (UWO) provision. The first was against two London properties believed to belong to jailed Azerbaijani banker Jahangir Hajiyev and his wife Zamira Hajiyeva, who spent millions of pounds in luxury store Harrods, court documents revealed.

Some individuals under investigation may have entered the UK under the Tier 1 (investors visa), used by over 75 Indians, including fugitive Nirav Modi and their dependents since 2009.

Anti-corruption campaigners raised concerns over checks conducted before granting the visa.

The latest action prompted campaign group Transparency International to call for an urgent review of the source of wealth of all foreigners granted the visa, also called the 'golden visa', which allows individuals to migrate to the UK with at least £2 million. HTC

SEEKING UTOPIA

Hungary to build $1.1bn green-powered town from scratch

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BUDAPEST: Hungary is planning to create a green-powered town with jobs and housing for thousands on a barren strip of Danube flood plain.

The 1 billion-euro ($1.1 billion) Hegyeshalom-Bezenye project in northwest Hungary will be the size of about 500 football pitches and have full amenities such as schools and shopping facilities, said co-developers EON and German property company FAKT on Tuesday. Vegetables will be grown under glass where scrubland is today.

The carbon-neutral town will draw mainly on solar and biogas power and will create 5,000 permanent jobs in the greenhouse venture, Nikolai Ulrich, a board member of FAKT, said by phone. The property company is partnering with EON, builder KESZ Group and the Hungarian government on the venture.

The sweeping infrastructure and horticultural project underlines "how a scrap of land and vision can create a green business and community venture of scale," said Ulrich.

When complete, Hegyeshalom-Bezenye will include about 1,000 homes, a restaurant, hotel, rail station, shopping facilities as well as schools and training units. The project embeds a sustainable water management policy that aims to avoid lowering the area's water table, said Ulrich. Cooling will be supplied via geothermal plants.

Also, the site will host Europe's largest inland fishery, cultivating salmon, bass and sea bream.

The sun rises above the landscape near Hahot, Hungary. AP/FILE

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shortstories

US put India in its currency watch list in May 2018. MINT

US REMOVES INDIA FROM ITS CURRENCY WATCH LIST

WASHINGTON: The US on Tuesday removed India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners, citing steps being taken by New Delhi which addressed some of the Trump administration's major concerns. For the first time, the US placed India in its currency monitoring list of countries in May 2018 with potentially questionable foreign exchange policies. Switzerland is the other nation that has been removed by the US on Tuesday from its currency monitoring list which among others include China, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam. "India has been removed from the monitoring list in this report, having met only one out of three criteria—a significant bilateral surplus with the US—for two consecutive reports," the treasury department said in its latest semi-annual report.

Huawei to ask US court to throw out federal ban

SHENZHEN: Huawei said on Wednesday the tech giant will ask a US court to throw out US legislation that bars federal agencies from buying its products. The company was due to file the motion for summary judgment on Tuesday (Wednesday in China), said Song Liuping, the firm's legal officer, in a statement carried by Chinese state broadcaster CCTV. "The bill directly determines that Huawei is guilty and imposed a large number of restrictions on Huawei," Song was quoted as saying. The tech giant filed suit against the US bill in March, saying at the time that the US Congress had failed to provide evidence to support its restrictions on Huawei products.

First time in 5 yrs, domestic air traffic growth falls in Apr

NEW DELHI: India's domestic air traffic registered first negative growth rate in more than five years in April, mainly due to the demise of Jet Airways, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said on Wednesday. The country was one of the fastest growing domestic aviation markets in the world for the past many months. The IATA, a grouping of around 290 airlines, said following a sustained period of strong double-digit RPK growth, the India domestic market recorded its first negative growth rate in April since January 2014. Revenue Passenger Kilometre (RPK) is a measure of passenger volumes. "After a sustained period of very strong growth, RPKs in the domestic India market are 0.5% lower than their year-ago level.

M&M Q4 profit declines 20% to ₹849 crore

MUMBAI: Home grown auto firm Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) on Wednesday reported a 19.85% decline in stand-alone profit after tax to ₹848.81 crore for the fourth quarter of 2018-19. The company had posted a profit of ₹1,059.09 crore in the corresponding period of 2017-18, it said. Revenue from operations rose to ₹14,035.16 crore during the quarter as against ₹13,307.88 crore in the fourth quarter of 2017-18. Tractor sales were at 56,903 units in the fourth quarter, compared with 66,885 units, a fall of 15%. Shares of M&M ended 0.25% up at ₹672.25 apiece on BSE.

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Modi may roll out public Wi-Fi hotspots project

CONNECTING INDIA Plan includes networking of 500,000 public Wi-Fi hotspots

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to announce the networking of 500,000 public Wi-Fi hotspots across India's cities and villages, two people familiar with the matter said, so users can sign up with one hotspot operator and connect to hotspots of any other operator while on the move, similar to mobile roaming.

The project is expected to boost digital connectivity, shift a big chunk of internet traffic from mobile networks to cheaper and faster Wi-Fi networks, ease network congestion and potentially bring down call drops.

"In the first phase, 500,000 hotspots will be brought under this architecture immediately and these will be inter-operable across various telecom operators, internet service providers, mobile virtual network operators and common service centres. Users can be on-boarded through a single click," said the first of the two people, both of whom spoke under condition of anonymity.

Inter-operability essentially means a mobile subscriber of Airtel can use a Wi-Fi hotspot run by Jio or any other service provider after buying a sachet-size internet voucher and opting for a one-time authentication at the Wi-Fi access point. These data sachets would work across the country but the bill would be payable to the subscriber's own service provider. At the back-end, the service providers will settle the revenue to be share based on the data used at the hotspot.

"The PM may announce this on the oath-taking day itself. The intention is to increase the number to one million hotspots by the end of 12 months from the date of announcement of roll out," the second person said.

The intention of the project is to increase the number to one million hotspots by the end of 12 months from the date of announcement of roll out. MINT

THE PROJECT MAY BOOST DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY, SHIFT A BIG CHUNK OF INTERNET TRAFFIC FROM MOBILE NETWORKS TO FASTER WI-FI NETWORKS

Users who cannot afford monthly internet recharge packs but want to use small amounts of data for short periods will also benefit from this plan. It is also expected to create jobs as these public data offices (PDOs), similar to public call offices (PCOs), would buy bulk bandwidth from telecom service providers (TSPs) or internet service providers and resell data packs. In fact, the national digital communications policy, which was approved by the Cabinet in September, has aimed to deploy 5 million public Wi-Fi hotspots by 2020 and 10 million by 2022 through a National Broadband Mission. Globally, Wi-Fi has become central for internet access as it can be deployed at relatively low costs. The cost per megabyte of deploying Wi-Fi access infrastructure is substantially lower than for 3G or 4G mobile broadband networks.

In April 2018, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India had submitted a report to the department of telecommunications suggesting an architecture for these hotspots, which the Telecom Commission, the highest decision making authority at the department of telecommunications, accepted in May. The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) since then has been working with various government agencies to put in place a framework which would be security-proof and robust.

IDBI BANK PLANS TO SELL MUTUAL FUND BUSINESS

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MUMBAI: IDBI Bank Ltd, in which Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) acquired a 51% stake in January, has started the process of selling its mutual fund business, said two persons aware of the development.

"IDBI Bank has appointed ICICI Securities Ltd to advise it on a 100% sale of its mutual fund business, IDBI Asset Management Ltd and IDBI MF Trustee Co. Ltd. The bank has invited expression of interest from buyers by June 10," said one of the people mentioned above, requesting anonymity as he is not authorized to speak with the media.

The mutual fund business of the debt-laden lender has assets under management (AUM) of more than ₹9,000 crore, said the second person mentioned above, also requesting anonymity.

"Mutual fund businesses are generally valued at 4-5% of their assets under management . So, the sale of the business could fetch the bank ₹360-450 crore," he said. An email sent to IDBI Bank did not elicit any response till press time.

The sale of the mutual fund business was necessitated as the bank's new owner, LIC, has its own mutual fund business and regulators were not in favour of letting them run the same business under two different entities, he said.

For the quarter ended December 31, the bank's loss widened to ₹4,185 crore, increasing almost three times from a loss of ₹1,524 crore in the same period last year.

The bank's gross non-performing assets (NPAs), however, improved slightly to 29.67% in the third quarter from 31.78% in the July-September period. Net NPAs stood at 14% against 17.30% in the preceding quarter. On Wednesday, shares of IDBI Bank closed at ₹37 apiece, down by 2.5% on the BSE.

IFC India head Jun Zhang.

IFC leads $222 mn funding round in Cholamandalam

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MUMBAI: International Finance Corp. (IFC), the private-sector investment arm of the World Bank, has led a $222 million debt investment round in Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd, the company said in a statement.

This is IFC's third investment in Cholamandalam after the 2010 and 2014 funding rounds.

While IFC invested $92 million from its own account, the remaining was syndicated from UAE-based First Abu Dhabi Bank ($50 million); National Bank of Ras Al-Khaimah PJSC ($20 million); Japan's largest bank MUFG Bank Ltd ($50 million); and Taiwan's CTBC Bank Co. Ltd ($10 million).

This is the first such dollar-syndicated deal since January 2019, when the Reserve Bank of India permitted non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to tap into the offshore credit market, the statement added.

"Supporting productive asset financing NBFCs is part of our financial inclusion strategy because it offers income opportunities and an escape from poverty to low-income households," said Jun Zhang, IFC country head, India. "Cholamandalam's wide reach among small road transport operators and MSMEs makes it the right partner for us to reach these underserved segments."

Founded in 1978, Cholamandalam Investment's core business is to provide commercial vehicle finance and loan against properties. Besides, the company also offers home loans, SME loans, investment advisory services, stock broking and a variety of other financial services to customers. Considering, nearly half of its clients are in low-income states and 80% of them are first-time buyers or drivers-turned-owners, the Chennai-based NBFC plans to use the funds to finance micro and small borrowers for expanding further in existing states and in rural and semi-urban pockets.

"IFC's strong commitment to the NBFC space and support in helping us access credit from foreign investors will reinforce the important role played by the NBFC sector in providing last-mile credit. This arrangement, led by IFC, has helped Cholamandalam tap a new investor base for its borrowings at competitive rates, which will support its growth plans," said Arun Alagappan, executive director, Cholamandalam.

SpiceJet to add 8 more planes from grounded Jet Airways

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MUMBAI: SpiceJet Ltd, which added its 100th aircraft in May, has inducted 22 Boeing planes that were withdrawn from grounded airline Jet Airways (India) Ltd's fleet by lessors, and plans to add eight more such planes in the next two weeks, a top company official said.

"In the next fortnight, we expect to add another eight Boeing 737 (Next Generation) NG which were being operated by Jet Airways," Kiran Koteshwar, chief financial officer (CFO) of SpiceJet, said in an interview. "We didn't incur any additional capex on these aircraft."

The 30 Boeing 737 NG planes that were earlier operated by Jet Airways are being added to SpiceJet's fleet on short-term leases, with a maximum lease tenure of 24 months, Koteshwar said.

"The capacity vacated by Jet Airways had to be filled by someone else. Mathematically, we have advanced our expansion programme, which was supposed to happen in 2021 to 2019, by inducting the new capacity," he added.

Spicejet expects the additional capacity to cater to higher demand during the April-June quarter, considered the busy season for air travel due to summer holidays. "Our increased capacity will help us cater to the higher demand during the June quarter," said Koteshwar.

Spicejet expects the additional capacity to cater to higher demand during the April-June quarter. MINT

Alongside, the airline also expects to get all its grounded 737 MAX planes back in operation by July end, Koteshwar said. "Going by the guidance given by Boeing, the general sense is all necessary work has been done in this regard and regulatory permissions are being awaited. We are confident that it will take a maximum of two months for the entire certification process to be done," Koteshwar added.

"The plan is to eventually replace all Boeing 737 planes with more fuel efficient Boeing 737 Max planes," Koteshwar said. "Once the Max programme normalizes (Boeing 737 Max are allowed to fly), Max aircraft will replace all NG's in the next 18-24 months."

The airline's current fleet consists of 68 Boeing 737 (including 13 Boeing 737 Max planes), 30 Bombardier Q-400s and two B737 freighters. Indian aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, had in March grounded all Boeing 737 MAX aircraft operating in India, in line with similar moves across the world, following a crash involving Ethiopian Airlines, which came within a few months after a similar crash involving Indonesian carrier Lion Air's plane.

SpiceJet is also evaluating the low-cost model to fly to long-haul international destinations. "We are definitely looking at the low cost, long haul since it's one clear opportunity that exists in the market now. We are studying all options before us," he said.

Boeing 737 MAX may not fly for months

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NEW DELHI: The worldwide grounding of Boeing Co.'s 737 MAX is taking its toll on airlines and it will be months before the plane returns to service, the head of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said.

Boeing's fastest-selling aircraft, grounded by regulators after fatal crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia, won't resume flights until at least 10 to 12 weeks from now, Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's chief executive officer (CEO), said on a call with reporters Wednesday.

"We are preparing a meeting between regulators, the aircraft manufacturer and the operators to make an assessment of the situation," de Juniac said.

BOEING'S 737 MAX WON'T RESUME FLIGHTS UNTIL AT LEAST 10 TO 12 WEEKS FROM NOW, ALEXANDRE DE JUNIAC, IATA'S CEO SAID

"But it is not in our hands. It's in the hands of regulators."

IATA represents some 290 airlines, or more than 80% of total air traffic.

The group will hold its annual meeting in Seoul this weekend, in the biggest gathering of airline and plane-company executives since the Boeing tragedies in October and March.

De Juniac's bleak assessment echoes the cautious stance adopted by aviation authorities on the timeline for the MAX's possible return.

European regulators, assessing proposed changes to the MAX, plan to scrutinize the jet's entire flight-control system before they approve a return to the skies, while US aviation regulators said they won't rush the matter.

Indonesia, one of the biggest markets for the plane, signalled it may keep the jet parked until next year.

"The regulators aren't on the same page," de Juniac said in a phone interview. "Otherwise they'd have a similar timeline, a similar set of measures."

Airlines, regulators and Boeing will meet in five to seven weeks to try and set a common timeline on when the MAX could return to service and how trust could be restored, de Juniac said in the interview.

While the location has yet to be finalized, IATA would like to see a single regulator taking the call on airworthiness to avoid "useless complexity and additional costs," he said.

Boeing, meanwhile, told SpiceJet Ltd the 737 Max should be back in the air by July, signalling a quicker return for the plane than many expect.

The Indian budget carrier is one of the biggest buyers of the jet.

"The timeline communicated to us based on their experience is July—end of June basically," SpiceJet's chief financial officer (CFO) Kiran Koteshwar said in an interview.

"We are expecting it to be July."

Representatives for Boeing in India didn't comment.

China steps up threat to deprive US of rare earths

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BEIJING: China has indicated that it could use its total control over the strategic resource of rare earths in the escalating trade war with the US with a flagship Communist Party of China (CPC) mouthpiece warning the US not to "underestimate China's ability to fight the trade war."

The editorial in *People's Daily*, the CPC's flagship newspaper, follows an official from the National Development Reform Commission (NDRC), China's top planning body, saying at a press conference on Tuesday: "You asked whether rare earths will become China's countermeasures against the US. What I can tell you is that if anyone wants to use products made of China's rare-earth exports to contain China's development, the people of Ganzhou and across China will not be happy with that."

Another editorial by official news agency, *Xinhua*, said: "China has reiterated its stand in promoting multilateralism and tried to avoid a trade war that hurts public interests. But if necessary, China has plenty of cards to play." Following the statement and editorials, shares of China's rare earth-related firms rallied significantly on Wednesday

China dominates global supply chains of rare earths, a group of 17 elements used in production in a huge number of sectors, including oil refining, high-tech products ranging from flat-screen TVs to lasers and military equipment.

Chinese President Xi Jinping. REUTERS FILE

"The country accounted for at least 71% of mined output last year, with the percentage for processed rare earth compounds even higher, and the US sourced 80% of its rare earth imports from China from 2014 to 2017, according to statistics from the US government," the nationalistic tabloid, *Global Times* said.

Bloomberg quoted a *People's Daily* editorial, saying it included a rare Chinese phrase that means "don't say I didn't warn you."

According to the news agency, the specific wording was used by the paper in 1962 before China went to war with India, and "those familiar with Chinese diplomatic language know the weight of this phrase," the *Global Times*, said in an article last April. An export ban on rare earths is a powerful weapon if used in the China-US trade war. Nevertheless, China will mainly use it for defense. It is not the first choice of China's offensive weaponry, the *GT* said.

"By making unilateral moves to contain technological development of other countries, the US seems to have overlooked one fact: the international supply chain is so intertwined that no economy could thrive on it's own," the *Xinhua* editorial said.

According to the US Geological Survey, from 2014 to 2017 the US imported 80% of its rare earth compounds and metals from China.

"Along with the technological revolution and industrial evolution, rare earths are expected to be applied in more areas, and their strategic value will become more prominent, said the official. China has reiterated its stand in promoting multilateralism and tried to avoid a trade war that hurts public interests," it added.

"But if necessary, China has plenty of cards to play."

ArcelorMittal cuts Europe production amid weak demand

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LONDON: ArcelorMittal fell the most in two years after announcing that it's further cutting steel production across its European plants to cope with weak demand and rising imports.

The world's largest steelmaker will reduce primary production in France, Germany and Spain, according to a statement on Wednesday. It's the second time this month ArcelorMittal has announced output cuts. In total, it could affect up to 10% of the company's steel production from the European Union.

The shares lost as much as 7.3%, the biggest intraday drop since May 2017. The stock traded at €13.55 as of 2.47pm in Amsterdam. Steelmakers Thyssenkrupp AG, Voestalpine AG and Kloeckner & Co. lost more than 2%.

The reductions are needed to balance the market in Europe, said analysts at Jefferies International Ltd.

"This is again a hard decision for us to have taken but given the level of weakness in the market, we feel it is the prudent course of action,' said Geert van Poelvoorde, the chief executive officer for the company's flat products division in Europe. 'This will be a temporary measure that will be reversed when market conditions improve.' European steelmakers have been hit by a slump in demand from Germany's auto industry and competition from cheap imports.

NO STOCK AWARDS

Google CEO Pichai says no to a fat paycheck

Bloomberg
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SAN FRANCISCO: Sundar Pichai was, for years, one of the world's highest-paid corporate executives. Now he's facing the opposite reality: No big paychecks at all.

The Google chief executive officer (CEO) hasn't received an equity award in more than two years. A key reason is that Pichai turned down a big new grant of restricted stock in 2018 because he felt he was already paid generously, according to a person familiar with the decision.

It's unclear how much he passed up. But another giant payday—on top of hundreds of millions of dollars in previous awards—could have sparked a new round of controversy for the mild-mannered executive.

Technology companies are being increasingly blamed for all sorts of societal ills—including rising income inequality. Since getting the top job in 2015 for his engineering prowess, Pichai has had to address these concerns, while juggling a host of other politically charged issues.

Sundar Pichai. REUTERS

"He may have looked at these numbers and said: 'I've had enough'—or he might just be trying to manage the optics of his pay," said David Larcker, a professor who researches corporate governance at Stanford Graduate School of Business.

The board of Google parent Alphabet Inc. is scheduled to revisit the CEO's pay later this year, said the person, who asked not to be identified discussing private matters. By then, almost all Pichai's previous stock awards will have vested. That makes him an anomaly among US corporate leaders, and is even raising questions about what's next for the 46-year-old.

"Clearly there's very little retentive effect left for Pichai,' said Fabrizio Ferri, an associate professor at the University of Miami who studies executive pay. A Google spokeswoman declined to comment, and said the Alphabet board won't comment either. The company and its directors have said nothing publicly about the CEO leaving any time soon. Pichai has never mentioned moving on either.

Google is known for its willingness to pay lavishly to attract and keep talented employees in the executive suite and beyond. Top bosses receive almost all of their compensation in the form of restricted shares.

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ICC WORLD CUP 2019

shortstories

World Cup skippers met the Queen ahead of a garden party at the Buckingham Palace. THE ROYAL FAMILY

VIRAT KOHLI'S WAX STATUE UNVEILED AT LORD'S

LONDON: Madame Tussauds on Wednesday unveiled India captain Virat Kohli's statue at Lord's to mark the launch of the ICC World Cup. The wax statue will be on display at Madame Tussauds from Thursday until July 15—remaining at the museum for the duration of the tournament. Steve Davies, General Manager at Madame Tussauds London, said: "Cricket fever is set to sweep the nation in the coming weeks so what better way to unveil our new figure of Virat Kohli than with the help of our neighbours at Lord's. Pictured for the first time at Lord's, the statue is dressed in the official India kit as well as shoes and gloves donated by Kohli himself.

Hope backs West Indies to get 500 in ODIs

LONDON: West Indies have the firepower to post the first 500 total in one-day internationals, top-order batsman Shai Hope said ahead of the World Cup. England boast of the top ODI score of 481/6 that they posted against Australia last year in Nottingham, while Australia's 417/6 against Afghanistan in 2015 is the highest total in the history of World Cup. Wicketkeeper-batsman Hope smashed 101 off 86 balls and Andre Russell lived up to his big-hitting reputation with a breezy 25-ball 54 as the Caribbeans amassed 421 in Tuesday's warm-up match against New Zealand. "It is a goal we can try to achieve at some point," Hope said.

Pak awarded 2020 Asia Cup, likely at neutral venue

KARACHI/NEW DELHI: The next edition of the Asia Cup could also be UAE-bound with Pakistan given the hosting rights in 2020, as organising it in its own country will cast doubts on India's participation owing to diplomatic tensions. The Asian Cricket Council in its meeting in Singapore on Tuesday awarded the continental meet, to be held in T20 format, to Pakistan, which will most likely organise it in the neutral venues of the UAE, its team's 'home' since the 2009 terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team bus.

todayontv

CRICKET

WORLD CUP
3.00pm: England v South Africa; live on Star Sports 1&HD 1

TENNIS

FRENCH OPEN
2.30pm: Live on Star Sports 3; Star Sports Select 2 & SHD 2

FOOTBALL

U-20 WORLD CUP
9.30pm: New Zealand v Uruguay; **12.00am (Friday):** USA v Qatar; live on Sony Ten 2 & HD

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
11.30pm: Turkey v Greece; live on Sony Ten 1 & HD

Underachievers get flag-off rights

OPENER England and South Africa have come close to World Cup glory but theirs have been a story of heartbreak

England captain Eoin Morgan (right) in a training session with teammates on Wednesday ahead of their World Cup opening match against South Africa at the Oval. GETTY IMAGES

HT@ WORLDCUP

SOMSHUVRA LAHA

LONDON: England football manager Gareth Southgate was in the house on Wednesday, to regale the England cricket team with his journey, provide inspiration, give a lowdown on how a dressing room reacts to victories, defeats and—most importantly—handle expectation. He should know. This is the man who made his country fall in love with its football team again.

Even though England bowed out in the semi-finals last year, it was still their best performance at a World Cup since 1990, and the manner in which Southgate's team played revitalised English football. There are parallels here for the English cricket team; they too are a resurgent side, playing a breathtaking game after making sweeping changes in the last few years. And as hosts, they are the centre of some intense expectations. Cricket is on the decline in the country, and England, who have never won the World Cup, and last made the final in 1992, is expected to not just win it this time, but also make the game relevant again for fans in Britain.

Is this World Cup England's to lose? Most definitely. Are South Africa underdogs in this World Cup? Probably. These would have been unthinkable propositions two decades ago. Such has been the nature of cricket in recent years that it has prompted a reversal of prediction for two teams that have the most unwanted history in the World Cup. In keeping with the tradition of starting with a bang (read: possible upset), the ICC too must have thought why not start with them?

It would be a first-up test of England's World Cup mettle, to prove the one-sided results against Pakistan were not fluke and ensure the brilliant streak at home isn't gone to waste. With a balanced side at their disposal and Morgan given a long rope to get used to captaincy, it's time for them to get cracking. From being a side that had made to three World Cup finals to one that forsook one-day cricket in favour of Test success to the current status of being the No 1 ODI side, England's transformation into an aggressive unit is palpable.

In the longer run of the tournament, Morgan wants to win the Cup to endorse England's coming of age. And he won't take anything less than a winning start against South Africa. Easier said than done though, given England had last beaten South Africa in a World Cup in 2011. These are but obvious challenges England have to overcome. Morgan knows that.

"We would like to be at a stage where we're in and around this position right now on a consistent basis. Because when you look at other teams around the world that have consistently competed for World Cups like Australia and India, in particular, they find themselves they are all the time and it's not by fluke," said Morgan at the pre-match press conference.

If England have wholeheartedly embraced the hype, South Africa are comfortable with the unfamiliar tag of underdogs. Without AB de Villiers, without Dale Steyn in the first game, this is as low profile a South Africa team that can be in a World Cup. Faf du Plessis is a hardworking batsman, an honest captain. He neither has the aura of Hansie Cronje nor the talent of de Villiers. He will promise you hard-earned results, probably not with the dominance South Africa were previously known for, but he will get you there. So even if South Africans might hold it against him for losing an ODI series to India last year, he knows form leading up to the World Cup counts for nothing.

Cronje came to realise it when Allan Donald stumbled to cross over in 1999. And then, at home, four years later, they got a simple D/L par scoresheet calculation wrong. If it's an ICC event, South Africa discover ways to lose. Not to forget how even the elements have conspired against them. Till the rain rule put together an impossible and unfair target of 22 runs in one ball, Kepler Wessels had almost led a young South Africa to their first World Cup final in 1992. Aware of all this and more, du Plessis is happy letting other teams be in the focus.

A pragmatic approach, almost to the extent of being unsentimental about the World Cup's worth to South Africa, is behind du Plessis's philosophy. "Cricket is a very important aspect of all of our lives, but it's not everything. You know, life, there's a lot bigger things than winning and losing games of cricket. And that, perhaps, has changed for me. The fact is that I'm no longer desperate. I want to win cricket games but I don't need to win them," said du Plessis.

"I think as a team, hopefully that can filter through, because no one taught me that four, five years ago, playing in these events, and hopefully that gives the guys on the rest of the team just a little bit more of a relaxedness to them; that the absolute worst-case scenario, you don't make it, and that's okay, life will go on. And if players are a little bit more free, and can just play their best version of themselves, then that's great. That's all I'm looking for."

These are wise words, stuff a World Cup greenhorn like Lungi Ngidi or Kagiso Rabada might want to fill their ears with before going out to the field. And du Plessis is bent on keeping it that way, as low key and informal as possible. "It's a case of making sure that we have a really good time together, because that's when you are most relaxed. When you are intense and desperate, I think that's when you make mistakes," he said.

The 12th edition of the World Cup kicks off with two schools of thought pitted against each other. On one side are an unfamiliar South Africa—the underdogs who are quietly sure about their ability. And on the fast lane are England who just want to keep pushing their boundaries. Only time will tell who has chosen the right approach to winning this World Cup.

PERFORMANCE IN WORLD CUP

		Won	Lost	Tied	N/R	Success%
South Africa	55	35	18	2		65.45
England	72	41	29	1	1	58.33

For brave new ODI world, embrace T20 cricket

N Ananthanarayanan
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NEW DELHI: It could not have gone any more wrong, because back in the 2015 World Cup, England could hardly get anything right.

After being dumped out in the group stage, Eoin Morgan, skipper of that dejected England team, was convinced fearless cricket was the only remedy. The glimpse of England's new resolve, with Morgan at the helm, was a robust 408 in the big win over New Zealand in the first game after the World Cup. Morgan's diktat to England batsmen: embrace IPL over everything.

As the 10 teams face off for the third World Cup since the inaugural World T20 in 2007, and the launch of the IPL the next year, T20 flavour is expected all over the 50-over tournament.

England, the No 1 ODI team, own the top two scores in the format since they decided to bring T20 into ODIs—481 versus Australia last year and 444 against Pakistan in 2016—and they have spoken about breaching the 500-mark at their home World Cup.

Since the last World Cup, England have scored 300 or more in 37 of 88 matches, breaching 400 four times. Overall, teams have made a massive scoring jump since the 2015 World Cup. From 1971, when ODIs first began, till 2015, teams had crossed the 300 mark 487 times, losing only 79 times after scoring that much. In stark contrast, teams have scored 300 or more 180 times in just the last 4 years, and have lost 48 times despite scoring so many runs.

Opener Jonny Bairstow has acknowledged how IPL games have shaped his game. "I genuinely loved the IPL," he said during the recent series sweep over Pakistan when he hit a 93-ball 128. "You're able to learn different things from different coaches and players. Getting used to playing under pressure and with expectation can only be a good thing."

David Warner (692) and Bairstow were the top scorers for Sunrisers Hyderabad this IPL season, sharing in four century opening stands. Bairstow aggregated 445 runs in 10 games, and was one of four batsmen in the top 10 to have a 150-plus strike rate (157.24).

Jos Buttler, who owes his England comeback last year to IPL success, blasted an awe-inspiring 110 not out off 55 balls batting at No 5 against Pakistan. Morgan has been a great finisher.

India's squad shows T20 influence with all-rounders Hardik Pandya, Vijay Shankar, Kedar Jadhav and Ravindra Jadeja easing concerns over not picking a proper No 4 batsman. No 1 ODI bowler Jasprit Bumrah is an IPL product. England's Barbados-born Jofra Archer, fast-tracked into their World Cup team based on his IPL performance, has spoken about not just technique honed with the Rajasthan Royals, but playing in front of huge crowds in IPL helping him handle pressure better.

On Tuesday, West Indies amassed 421 in their big warm-up win over New Zealand with the game producing 751 runs.

Sachin Tendulkar, whose hitting through the line and paddle sweeps made him the ODI leader of the previous era, acknowledges that T20 has added vigour to one-day cricket.

"Batsmen are prepared to take more chances. (In T20), they would look to put pressure on the bowlers. Batsmen have practised those shots in the (T20) nets, and field restrictions allow them to do it (in ODIs).

"For an outsider the shot may look a bit risky, but when a batsman has practised that shot, he is confident," Tendulkar says.

T20 makes playing innovative shots part of muscle memory. Look at Chris Gayle and Andre Russell, back in the West Indies team entirely on the back of their T20 'open and shut' heroics.

Former Test batsman and seasoned coach, Pravin Amre, now with Delhi Capitals, says batsmen now practise shots 360 degrees in the nets, and carry that skill into ODIs.

"The (ODI) finishing role is like how you essentially play T20," he says. "For ODIs, the only big adjustment you need as a team is keep wickets in hand. The challenge is that break in the scoring momentum during middle overs when an extra fielder outside the 30-yard circle means you can't take chances. But today, thanks to T20 experience, batsmen can score more than 100 runs in the last 10 overs."

Buttler came into bat only in the 36th over when he scored his 110 versus Pakistan.

T20 conditioning has meant that batsmen now play all their innovative shots throughout the ODI innings; it's no longer mere consolidation after the first powerplay phase if wickets are intact.

"Skills have improved," says former South African all-rounder Lance Klusener. "It's just the awareness as a batsman, of what needs to be done."

Coaches too have moved with the times, and 'innovative' shots are now being mainstreamed into the playbook—the days when a switch-hit belonged solely to Kevin Pietersen and the 'scoop' to Tillakaratne Dilshan are gone.

For India, Shikhar Dhawan encapsulates the bridging of T20 and ODI that will be on show at the World Cup. The Delhi Capitals opener began slowly this IPL season, but anchored the innings to help the team reach their first play-offs after seven years.

"Shikhar finished the top-scorer for us," says Amre, "and he has a phenomenal ODI record in England. He likes those conditions, and bounce on the pitch."

Jos Buttler's England career has prospered thanks to his stints with the Indian Premier League. AFP

KL Rahul. REUTERS

Rahul's batting a positive, form of Rohit, Shikhar not a worry: Virat

Press Trust of India
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CARDIFF: Virat Kohli, who is happy with KL Rahul's timely hundred at No 4 slot is not worried with the patchy form of Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma in the two World Cup warm-up games.

The skipper gave enough indications that Rahul has sealed his spot at No 4 with a 99-ball 108 against Bangladesh in the final warm-up game.

"The biggest positive was the way KL (Rahul) batted at No 4. Everyone knows their roles. It is important that he gets the runs as he is such a class player," Kohli said of Rahul after India's big win in their final World Cup warm-up game against Bangladesh. MS Dhoni scored a 78-ball 113.

The two senior openers didn't get the kind of practice they would have liked before the first game against South Africa on June 5 in Southampton.

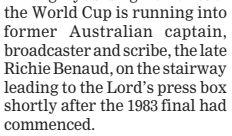
Dhawan had scores of 1 and 2 while Sharma scored 2 and 19 against New Zealand and Bangladesh.

"We have had two good challenges in the two games while batting first. Shikhar and Rohit are quality players, they become stars in ICC events. Ideally, we would have liked to chase today (Tuesday). I understand if guys don't get going right away in this format. In warm-up games, at times, you don't get the motivation especially because the amount of cricket that we play. But I am glad with what we got out of these two games," Kohli said in defence of the opening duo.

He also praised wrist spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal, who picked six wickets between them.

Information transfer has narrowed gap between rivals

@CRICKETWALLAH



AYAZ MEMON

Among my abiding memories of the World Cup is running into former Australian captain, broadcaster and scribe, the late Richie Benaud, on the stairway leading to the Lord's press box shortly after the 1983 final had commenced.

I was a trifle late in reaching the match and was greeted by a joyous roar— distinctly Caribbean in flavour—steaming past snooty stewards at Grace Gates. "I'll still give you 66-1 on an India win," he said enticingly as we bumped into each other.

These were the odds at the start of the tournament too, and in a two-horse race seemed illogical in the extreme. I thought Benaud was being foolish, but chickened out from taking him on for two reasons.

Primarily, I am not a betting person. Moreover, one team simply did not inspire confidence. Irrespective of the extraordinary odds, it seemed a hopeless wager to make. The rest is history.

But this piece is not another reminiscence of India's sensational victory in 1983, rather to highlight how the World Cup has been won by less fancied teams.

Take 1975. The favourites were England and Australia. West Indies were still to be the world-beaters that dominated the sport for over 15 years. With a clutch of exciting young talent, supported by some seasoned pros under Clive Lloyd, the team went through excruciating times to win the first title.

Against Pakistan, West Indies were on the mat having lost nine wickets and still needing 64 runs to win before Deryck Murray and Roberts saw them home in a nerve-wracking partnership.

In the final, they were reduced to 50-3 before 39-year-old Rohan Kanhai joined Lloyd, the two putting on 144 runs to turn the match on its head.

The brilliant, big stars of West Indies cricket as we identify them—Richards, Greenidge, Kallicharan, Julien, Roberts—were rookies then. West Indies were favourites in 1979 and won, but at their zenith in 1983 lost to India.

PULLING OFF A COUP

In 1987, BCCI top guns NKP Salve, Jagmohan Dalmiya and IS Bindra pulled off a coup (with not a little help from PCB president Air Marshal (retd) Nur Khan) to get the World Cup to the sub-continent. India and Pakistan were joint favourites, but there were several twists and turns in the story.

T20 LEAGUES HAVE ALLOWED FREQUENT INTERMINGLING OF PLAYERS, MAKING STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES MORE EASILY UNDERSTOOD.

Assigned to cover the Pakistan leg, I saw the home team march imperiously to the semis where they were stunned by Australia. The despondency that enveloped the Gaddafi Stadium that evening is vivid in memory.

Pakistan's players were scheduled to take a chartered flight that night to Mumbai, where the second semis was to be played, and with the Indian team, proceed to Calcutta for their anticipated clash in the final.

No Pakistani took the flight from Lahore, which enabled me to find a seat and watch India play England the next day. As it happened, India were shocked at the Wankhede by an England side that showed more tactical nous.

In the final, though, England were humbled by the young Australian team under Allan Border, signalling a resurrection in international cricket. Yet, Australia, having toppled West Indies as the world's best team by 1990, were not to win the World Cup again till 1999.

In 1992, Pakistan had virtually crashed out of the tournament mid-way through when weather came to their rescue against England.

This stroke of luck saw the tide turn; they went from strength to strength and beat New Zealand in the semis, and then England in the final.

In 1996, India were favourites playing at home, followed by Australia. Both these teams were stumped (one in the semis, the other in the final) by a strong-willed Sri Lanka that combined intrepidity with the off-beat tactic of opening with two pinch-hitters.

In 1999 and 2003, South Africa were joint favourites with Australia, but failed to reach the final in either tournament, losing close matches to earn themselves the tag of chokers.

CHANGE IN PATTERN

The pattern since 1999 would suggest the World Cup has become less mercurial. Favourites Australia have won in 2003, 2007 and 2015, India in 2011 when playing at home. Yet, the 12 edition which commences today is perhaps the most open.

Speedier transfer of information—of players and tactics—has narrowed the gap between teams.

T20 leagues have allowed frequent intermingling of players, making strengths and weaknesses of opponents more easily understood, reducing the gap further.

Consider what transpired last week. Top-ranked England were beaten by Australia, second favourites India were beaten by New Zealand, who in turn were blown away by West Indies, and Pakistan were humbled by Afghanistan.

These were all warm-up matches, of course, but suggestive that this could be a topsy-turvy World Cup. So, make your pick at your risk. I am happy to remain a non-betting man.

The writer is a senior cricket journalist. View are personal

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Best of luck from Women in Blue

The India women's one-day team talk of their favourite moments from past men's World Cups

Shalini Gupta
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When Virat Kohli & Co will be fighting it out in England for the World Cup, the Indian women's cricket team will be polishing their game at a training camp at home. After a hard day's work, they are sure to gather in the evenings to watch India's progress. They will be hoping that the men in blue not only reach the final—just the way they did in the 2017 Women's World Cup, also in England, where they lost to the home team—but also win it. Speaking to HT, 11 members of the Indian women's ODI squad pick their favourite moments from past men's World Cups, and their second favourite team—after India—to win this one.

CRICKET IS A FUNNY GAME

Mithali Raj, 36, ODI captain

My father is a very dedicated cricket fan. I grew up watching matches on TV with him at home. World Cup matches were always special. The 1996 World Cup was happening at home, I was 14, and there was this buzz and hype about it. I clearly remember watching the India-Pakistan quarter-final with my father. Ajay Jadeja had played well for India in the slog overs batting first. Then the Pakistan openers, Saeed Anwar and Aamir Sohail, were swatting our bowlers all around the park in Bangalore. I was really nervous and praying for a breakthrough. Sohail hit Venkatesh Prasad for a four through the covers and said something nasty to him. The next ball, Prasad clean bowled him. I was dancing after that and celebrating. I remember my father telling me, "cricket is a funny game". The next year I was in the India women's World Cup probables. It felt unbelievable back then.

If not India, then: England

HEARTBREAKER

Jhulan Goswami, 36, right-arm fast

The first World Cup I watched was way back in 1992, when it was first played in coloured clothing with white balls. We would wake up early morning to see the matches taking place in Australia. I was 10 years old, and I went crazy about cricket. The most profound memory I have is from 1996, when India lost to Sri Lanka in the semi-final in Kolkata.

I remember we were all—my father, mother, younger brother and sister—watching the game at home on a small TV. Sachin Tendulkar was playing well and India were cruising. Suddenly he got out and a few wickets fell. India were in trouble when it turned ugly at the Eden Gardens. People started throwing stuff at players on the ground. It was heartbreaking to see a crying Vinod Kambli walking out from the ground. We did not even eat dinner that evening.

If not India, then: England

WHEN DHONI HIT THAT SIX....

Smriti Mandhana, 22, T20 captain

I was 14 when India reached the final of the 2011 World Cup. I saw the game between India and Sri Lanka on TV with my father and brother at home. When MS Dhoni hit that winning six, lofting Nuwan Kulasekara over long-on, we all went berserk. Earlier, I would hear stories about India winning the World Cup in 1983. It felt great to be able to see India do it again in 2011. This made me more determined to become a professional cricketer and play for India one day. That image of Dhoni hitting the winning six will always be alive in my mind. I hope India do it again in England under Virat Kohli. He can do it for India.

If not India, then: Australia

I WAS DANCING IN THE STANDS!

Taniya Bhatia, 21, wicket-keeper

My all time favourite World Cup moment happened during the semi-final between India and Pakistan in Mohali back in 2011, when Zaheer Khan took last man standing Misbah-ul-Haq's wicket to bowl out Pakistan. I was at the stadium, and I was dancing in the stands! I was 12 or 13 and anticipating India's win to reach the final. The fact that it was my home ground made it more special. Sachin Tendulkar was given 4 or 5 lifelines during that game. When India won, Mohali and Chandigarh erupted in joy. People were there on the streets in their cars with India flags till late night. Beating Pakistan is always special and if it's the World Cup, it's superb. I am hoping India beat Pakistan again at the 2019 World Cup and the ritual continues.

If not India, then: West Indies

ELECTRIC SCENES IN MUMBAI

Jemimah Rodriques, 18, right-hand bat

I cannot ever forget MS Dhoni hitting that six and winning the 2011 World Cup. I was 10 years old and remember celebrating the win with my family and friends in the neighbourhood. My love for the sport grew after that title triumph. The scenes were electric in Mumbai that night.

I think Rohit Sharma will be a cricketer to watch out for in the upcoming World Cup. He is going to do well and win matches for India.

If not India, then: England

KLUSENER WAS MY HERO

Shikha Pandey, 30, all-rounder

It was incredible when India defeated Pakistan in the 2003 World Cup in South Africa (in the group stage). I was 13 and I had started understanding the game better by then, and the kind of fearless cricket India played in that particular match was great. I will never forget that six Sachin hit over backward point off Shoaib Akhtar. I actually started following cricket in 1999, the previous World Cup. I wouldn't miss any of the South Africa's games. I would give up playing with my friends in those summer holiday evenings just to watch Shaun Pollock and Lance Klusener play. Klusener was my hero back then. I would imitate his bowling action and his mannerisms while batting a lot.

If not India, then: New Zealand.

HOPE DHONI WINS US CUP

Veda Krishnamurthy, 26, right-hand bat

MS Dhoni hitting the ball for a six and winning the World Cup for India was the best World Cup moment for me. I watched the match on TV with my family. After a long time, the World Cup was taking place in India and everyone was anticipating India's triumph. Obviously India winning was the best thing that day. I remember celebrating, I burst crackers. Though I have gone into a no-cracker rule after that day, but that day was special. Hoping Dhoni does something similar to this and wins us the Cup again!

If not India, then: England

ROHIT SHARMA CAN WIN GAMES ALL BY HIMSELF

Harleen Deol, 20, All-rounder

Yuvraj Singh had a superb 2011 World Cup. When he and MS Dhoni were batting in the final against Sri Lanka, I was really hoping and praying that Yuvi hits the winning runs. But when a finisher like Dhoni is on strike, he likes to do the honours himself. My cousins and me had gathered at my house in Mohali to watch the final. As soon as Dhoni hit that shot over long on, the look on his face said it all. It has to go down as the best moment in the history of sport in India. With a batsman like Virat Kohli at the helm, India will be the team to watch out for this time. Rohit Sharma will be crucial too; he can win a games for India all by himself.

If not India, then: Australia

SPINNERS WILL BE KEY FOR INDIA

Radha Yadav, 19, left-arm spinner

Dhoni hitting the six at Wankhede against Sri Lanka in the 2011 final has to be my favourite. The way Gautam Gambhir and Dhoni were batting it looked like India would re-create history on that day. England might have good fast bowling conditions, but I think spinners will play a crucial role in the middle overs. Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal's partnership will be a key for India. They can both bat as well.

If not India, then: England

MS Dhoni's winning six at Wankhede in 2011 is a vivid memory for most in the India women's team.
MOHIT SUNEJA

THIS TIME FOR DHONI

Poonam Yadav, 27, leg-spinner

The scenes after India beat Sri Lanka in the 2011 World Cup at the Wankhede ground in Mumbai are still very much alive in my mind. The way man-of-the-tournament Yuvraj Singh said that he wanted to win the World Cup for Sachin Tendulkar, and then the whole team lifting Sachin on their shoulders was fantastic. I got very emotional watching that on TV. The way the Indian team won it for Sachin back in 2011, now the Virat-led team should be doing that for MS Dhoni, who will be playing his last World Cup.

If not India, then: Australia

INDIA, SA ARE FAVOURITES

Ekta Bisht, 33, left-arm spinner

Even though South Africa has been a great side since 1992 World Cup, they have had dismal outings in the World Cups held in the past. The way they lost in the 2015 world cup to New Zealand was heart-breaking. The run out mix-up between Allan Donald and Lance Klusener in the 1999 World Cup semi-final against Australia is still fresh in my mind. I've always felt for them, and I want India to win, but I want South Africa to do well.

If not India, then: South Africa

KIWIS BEST AT BOWLING OPENING OVERS

The New Zealand bowling attack is the meanest in the first 10 overs or Powerplay 1, according to data crunched by analytics firm CricViz. Surprisingly, Afghanistan come out on top in the other two Powerplays.

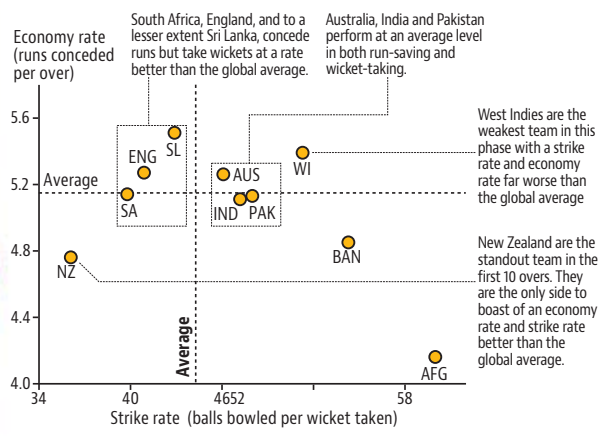
CricViz took a look at the 10 teams at the World Cup and all the games they played against each other since the 2015 World Cup up to May 1, 2019. Data on bowling performances was taken, mainly that related to the economy rate and the strike rate.

While the economy rate deals with how many runs a bowler gives away on an average in an over, strike rate is how often a bowler takes a wicket, and is measured in balls per wicket.

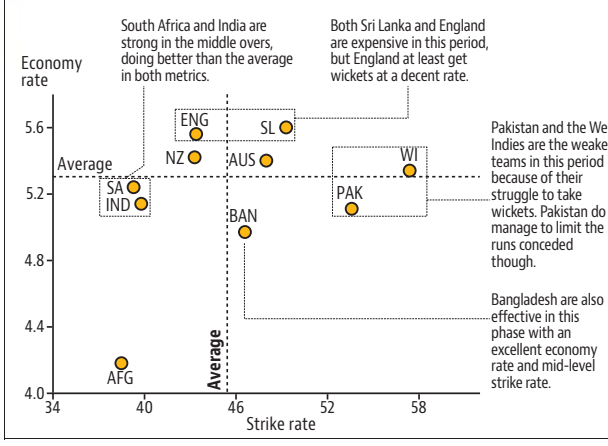
Basically, in the charts below, the lower a team's strike rate (the further to the left) and the lower its economy rate (the further to the bottom), the better the team has bowled in the past four years.

Tim Southee (left) and Trent Boult lead the Kiwi attack.

POWERPLAY 1 (Overs 1-10)



POWERPLAY 2 (Overs 11-40)



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The details of the secured assets intended to be enforced by the bank, in event of non-payment of the full liabilities as stated herein above, are stated here under :-

Name of Account and Account No.	Details of Property	Balance O/s (Amt. in Rs.)	Recorded Intt. (Amt. in Rs.)	Total Outstanding (Amt. In Rs.)	Date of NPA
1. Sh.Anil Babbar Moh-Bhagatpura, Phagwara Distt. Kapurthala (Punjab)-144401 B/o G T Road, Phagwara 00576015005293	Equitable Mortgage Built up Property measuring 1.50 Marla bearing Unit No-B-XXIV/1112 situated in the revenue Estate of Moh-Sulfian Phagwara, Tehsil-Phagwara . Distt. Kapurthala Sale Deed No. 644 Dated 12.05.2016. Sh. Anil Babbar S/o Kewal Krishan is the owner and mortgager of this land measuring 1.5 Marla Sh. Anil Babbar S/o Kewal Krishan Mortgaged with Bank vide Registered Mortgage no. 644 dated 12-05-2016 Bounded as under:- East: Chowk/13'; West: P/o Prem Kumari3'; North: P/o Sardari Lal/20'; South : Street/20.	4,33,637.16	76,192.58	5,12,829.74	29.08.2017
2. Mr.Kewal Krishan / Mr.Sarabjit Mohalla Tibba Wala, Tehsil – Phillaur, Jalandhar (punjab) B/o Apra, Distt.Jalandhar 07625015004005.	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Property measuring 5 Marla, Situated at village Apra, Distt.Jalandhar, standing in the name of Kewal Krishan S/o Nama Ram vide Vasika No. 1866 Dt.29.11.1991.bounded as under:- East: Gali; West : House of Koki; North: House of Pali South : House of Shinda.	5,48,647.13	1,26,727.00	6,57,374.13	31.03.2018
3. (i).Brij Bala W/o Late Gurbaksh Singh(Borrower) (ii). Sh.Rajinder Kumar Deol S/o Gurbaksh Singh (Co- Borrower) House No. 165/3A Kamal Vihar Jalandhar	Equitable mortgage Of Residential Property Measuring 3 Marla 112.5 Sq Ft (207 sq ft per marla) E.i area of 733.5 Sq ft out of 07 Marla Belonging of Brij Bala W/o Late Gurbaksh Singh as per Sale Deed 6036 Dated 12.11.2013 Hadbast No. 221 , Village Chuggiti Jalandhar Comprises in the Khasra No. 2103/792-793,794 Min 796 min ,811,812,813 Min 814,815,816 Min. Bounded By: - East: Raveena; West : Road No. 20; North: Plot No. 73 A Mangal Singh; South : Ramaining Portion of plot no 74A	6,43,048.51	20,757.00	6,63,805.51	30.04.2019

The above account has been running unsatisfactory for quite some time and you are, therefore, in default as you have failed to take steps to regularize /adjust your account in respect of such debt as stated herein above. In view of the said default, above mentioned accounts has been classified as a non-performing asset by the Bank in the circumstances, the Bank have decided to recall the advance granted to you in terms of Section 13(2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. All of the above Accounts are, therefore, now required to discharge in full the bank's liabilities with up to date interest as per the details mentioned above within a period of 60 days from the date of the notice failing which the bank shall take necessary action for enforcement of the secured assets to realize its dues.

Date : 30-05-2019 Place : Jalandhar Authorized Officer : Oriental Bank of Commerce

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
RAJINDRA HOSPITAL PATIALA
NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS

Tender Notice No. 7356 **Dated 28.05.2019**

Sealed quotations are invited from the reputed firm's original manufacturers/ authorized dealers on or before dated 21-06-2019 up to 11-30 AM for the "AMC of Medical gas Pipeline System Vaccum & Air and Oxygen Manifold in Nusery wing and in Various wards or deptts. of different make". Quotations will be opened same day at 12-00 Noon. Other details can be taken from the Rajindra Hospital, Patiala. Rates approved/ agreed upon will be valid for-01/07/2019 to 30/06/2020 (One Year).

Detailed terms/ conditions of the notice inviting quotations refer to website **www.rajindrahospitalpatiala.com.**

Sd/-
(Dr.Rajan Kumar Singla)
4979 Medical Superintendent, Rajindra Hospital Patiala

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
PWD B&R BRANCH
NOTICE INVITING ON-LINE BIDS

TENDER NOTICE NO. 01 **DATED 27.05.2019**

On behalf of Governor of Punjab Executive Engineer, Construction Division No.2, PWD B&R Br, Jalandhar Cantt invites bids from eligible bidders enlisted under "All Buildings works" category with PWD (B&R) for the work falling under his jurisdiction detailed in the following table :-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Availability of Tender online from	Last date and time of submission of Tender online
1	Interior Finishing works inside Food Court at Jang-e-Azadi Memorial, Kartarpur	27.05.2019 to 10.06.2019	10.06.2019 – 05.00 PM

*For detailed terms and conditions refer to web site **http://eproc.punjab.gov.in**.
*Corrigendum if any will only be issued on website **http://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
4981 Construction Division No. 2, PWD (B&R) Branch, Jalandhar Cantt

SHIMLA JAL PRABANDHAN NIGAM LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING E- PROCUREMENT TENDER

PH No. 0177-2650313
mail eesdmc01@gmail.com

Online bids are invited by the Additional General Manager Sewerage SJPNL Tutikandi Shimla- 4, District Shimla (H.P) on the behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from contractors/firms of qualified and experienced contractors/firm.

S. No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost	E/money	Time	Cost of form
1.	Design, supply, construction, installation, testing and commissioning of Sewage Treatment Plants 2 MLD at Dhalli based on Advanced modern SBR technology and all contingent civil, electrical, mechanical, piping and instrumentation works with three months trial run including Three-year defect liability period and Upgradation of Existing STP 0.76 MLD at Dhalli, Shimla and on commissioning of all works operation & maintenance of entire system for 7 years.	13,66,21,000/-	13,66,210/-	18 Month	10000/-
2.	Design, supply, construction, installation, testing and commissioning of Sewage Treatment Plants 5.20 MLD at Malyana based on Advanced modern SBR technology and all contingent civil, electrical, mechanical, piping and instrumentation works with three months trial run including Three year defect liability period and Upgradation of Existing STP 1.3 MLD at Malyana, Shimla and on commissioning of all works operation & maintenance of entire system for 7 years.	22,40,26,000/-	22,40,260/-	18 Month	10000/-
3.	Design, supply, construction, installation, testing and commissioning of Sewage Treatment Plant 14.20 MLD at Lalpani based on Advanced modern SBR technology and all contingent civil, electrical, mechanical, piping and instrumentation works with three months trial run including Three year defect liability period and Upgradation of Existing STP 5.8 MLD at Lalpani, Shimla and on commissioning of all works operation & maintenance of entire system for 7 years.	42,48,51,000/-	42,48,510/-	18 Month	10000/-

The Key dates for e-tender are as under:

a	Date of online Publication	From 28-05-2019 at 10.00 AM
b	Downloading of e-tender documents	From 28-05-2019 at 10.00 AM upto 26-06-2019 at 11.00 AM
c	Date of submission of e- tender	From 28-05-2019 at 10.00 AM upto 26-06-2019 at 11.00 AM
d	Physical submission of EMD and cost of tender documents	Upto 26-06-2019 at 11.00 A.M
E	Date of opening of bids:-	27-06-2019 at 11.30 AM
F	Cover-1 Eligibility Criteria	On 26-06-2019 at 11.30 AM
G	Cover-2 Financial Bid	Shall be intimated separately
	Site Visit	At 11.00 AM dated 29-05-2019 to 11-06-2019 along with the Assistant Engineer/ Concerned Junior Engineer, Sewerage Sub Division SJPNL Shimla 171004.
	Pre-bid meeting	On 12-06-2019 at 3.30 PM in the chamber of Managing Director cum CEO SJPNL US Club Shimla 171001

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website **https://hptenders.gov.in**

Additional General Manager,
Sewerage SJPNL Tutikandi, Shimla 171004.
0045 **HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK**

PUNJAB STATE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala- 147001)
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033814 www.pstcl.org

O/o SE/Plg. & Commn., M: 96461-18769, www.pstcl.org E-mail: se-planning@pstcl.org, ase-ts8@pstcl.org

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited through e-tendering for the supply of the following material as per tender specifications STQ-8034:-

Tender Notice Description & Quantity	5-star, 1.5/T window-type Air Conditioners with stabilizers (Excluding installation and civil works) = 40 Nos.
EMD	Rs. 28,000/-
Last Date for Downloaling of Tenders	02.07.2019 upto 11.30 Hrs
Last date of Receipt of tenders	04.07.2019 upto 11.00 Hrs
Last date of Opening of tenders	04.07.2019 at 11.30 Hrs

1. Detailed Specification may be downloaded from PSTCL e-tendering web site **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/nicgep/app**.
2. It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official PSTCL, website **www.pstcl.org**.

Sd/-
5482 SE/Plg. & Commn., PSTCL, Patiala

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda
ROSARB 191, Adarsh Nagar, Bhagwan Mahavir Marg, Jalandhar.
Ph.: 0181-5009736, E-mail: sarjal@bankofbaroda.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-AUCTION SALE OF SECURED IMMOVEABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS & ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 Read with provision to Rule-8(6) of the Security enforcement Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrowers and Guarantors in particular that the under mentioned properties mortgaged to Bank of Baroda, the Physical possession of which had been taken by the respective Authorised Officers of the Bank under section 13 (4) of the Act, will be sold through e-Auction as per the terms mentioned below for the recovery of Bank's outstanding dues with applicable interest, charges and costs etc.
The property described below will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS and WHATEVER THEIR IS BASIS" under the Rule No. 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules (hereinafter referred to as the Rules):-

Branch	Borrower	Proprietor	Guarantor	Description of Immoveable/ Movable Property	Nature of Property	Date of Demand Notice U/s 13 (2)	Dues	Reserve Price	EMD Date & time of deposit	EMD Collection Account	Mode of Payment of EMD	IFSC Code	Date and Time of Commencement of e-Auction	Time of e-Auction	Minimum Bid Increment Amount	Name of the contact person and contact number
ROSARB	M/s Avtar Shoes (Prop. Sh. Avtar Singh) Shop No. 28, New Market, Model Town, Jalandhar.	Sh. Avtar Singh S/o Sh. Kartar Singh R/o H. No. 11/2, Guru Nagar, Near Mithapur Road, Jalandhar	Sh. Nirmal Singh S/o Sh. Kartar Singh R/o H. No. 11/2, Guru Nagar, Near Mithapur Road, Jalandhar	Mortgage of Property located at H. No. 11/2, Abadi Guru Nagar, Near Mithapur Chungi, Jalandhar comprised in Khasra No. 21277/4913 vide registered Sale Deed No. 3810 dated 24.07.1989, executed before sub Registrar Jalandhar. Bounded as under:- East : Road, West : Others, North : Others, South : Road.	Residential property	07.12.2015	20,76,165/-	60,02,000/- Lacs	6,00,200 02.07.19 05.00PM	60460015181219	RTGS/ NEFT	BARB0SARJAL (Fifth Character in zero)	04.07.2019	11.00 AM to 01.00 PM	20,000	Yog Raj 9691161006

For further details and Terms & Conditions, please visit: https://bob.auctiontiger.net.
Date: 29.05.2019 Place : Jalandhar AUTHORISED OFFICER

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Nadal, Federer in cruise mode while Tsitsipas sweats it out

FRENCH OPEN Swiss legend and Spaniard win in straight sets while women's 2nd seed Pliskova eases past Kucova

Agencies
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

PARIS: Roger Federer breezed into the third round of the French Open for the 15th time on Wednesday by seeing off German lucky loser Oscar Otte, while 11-time champion Rafael Nadal and Stefanos Tsitsipas also progressed.

The 37-year-old Federer held off a persistent world number 144 Otte, saving all four break points he faced in a 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 win on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Next up for the 20-time Grand Slam title winner is a clash with Norway's Casper Ruud who put out Italian 29th seed Matteo Berrettini 6-4, 7-5, 6-3.

"The Grand Slams are incredible. You can meet a player who qualified who (you) have not heard of before," said Federer, who last played at Roland Garros in 2015. "It was difficult, he really played a great match."

Federer's only French Open trophy came in 2009, and 10 years on he faces a daunting task to grab a second, potentially needing to beat Tsitsipas, Nadal and world number one Novak Djokovic in order to come out on top.

He was on his game against Otte, though, breaking once in each set and serving strongly.

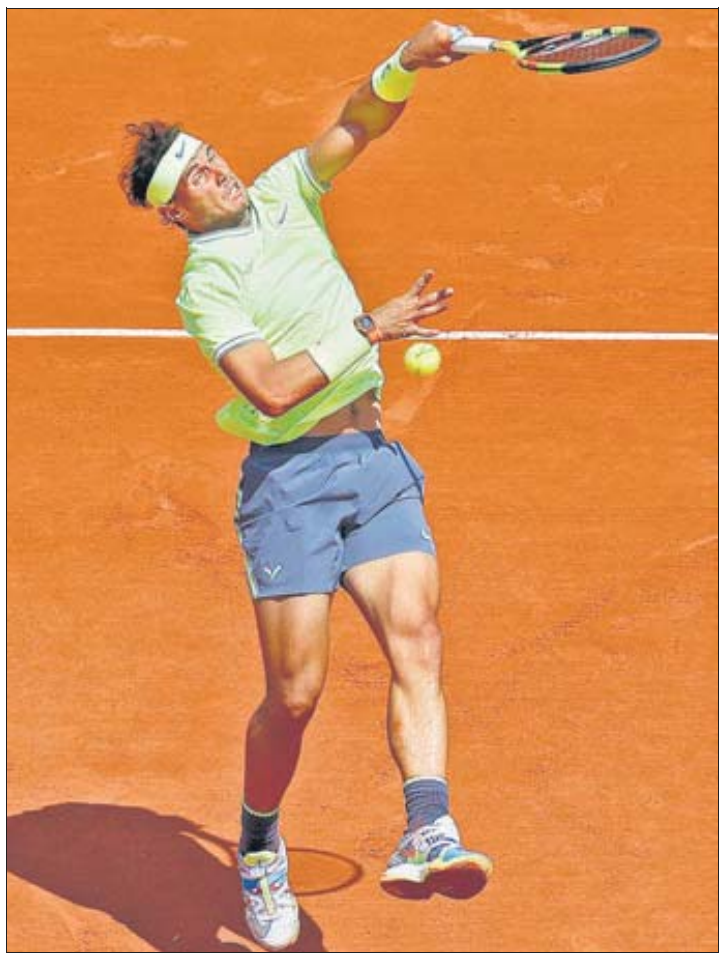
Nadal continued the strong start to his bid for a record-extending 12th title with a comfortable victory over German qualifier Yannick Maden.

The 32-year-old Nadal was in near total control against world number 114 Maden bar some nervy moments in the third set, winning 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

The 17-time major champion will play Belgian 27th seed David Goffin in the last 32.

"He (Maden) is a good player. He had already won four matches so was full of confidence," said Nadal, whose Roland Garros win-loss record now reads an incredible 88-2.

"For me it was an important victory." The Spaniard wasted little time in wrapping up the first two sets on Court Suzanne Lenglen.



▪ Rafael Nadal goes for an overhead return against German qualifier Yannick Maden during their second round match at the French Open on Wednesday. The world No. 2 won 6-1, 6-2, 6-4. REUTERS

Maden may have briefly allowed himself to dream of an outrageous upset when he twice broke to level at 3-3 and then 4-4 in the third set, but Nadal put him back in his place with two quick games to seal victory.

Nadal appears to be hitting form at just the right time, after following three consecutive semi-final defeats on clay with the Italian Open title before arriving in Paris.

He finished the match with 43 winners against just 23 unforced errors.

TSITSIPAS STRUGGLES

Greek star Tsitsipas did not have things all his own way against Bolivia's Hugo Dellien on Court Simonne Mathieu, but managed to grind out a 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, 7-5 victory on his fourth match point.

The sixth seed, who beat Federer en route to the Australian Open semi-finals earlier this year, will take on Serbia's Filip Krajinovic in his maiden appearance in the third round.

"Once I got myself into the right mindset, things seemed to flow my way," said 20-year-old Tsitsipas. "And from there, winning the set 6-0 was good confidence boost for me."

Elsewhere on Wednesday, 2015 champion Stan Wawrinka showed that he can not be ruled out of contention with an impressive 6-1, 6-4, 6-0 success against in-form Chilean Cristian Garin. Japan's Kei Nishikori overcame a sluggish start to see off local favourite Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 4-6 6-4 6-4 6-4.

SVITOLINA THROUGH

Ukrainian Elina Svitolina will face 2016 champion Garbine Muguruza in the women's third round after the ninth seed's compatriot Kateryna Kozlova pulled out of the tournament before their match with a viral infection.

Spain's Muguruza, seeded 19th this year, eased to a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Swede Johanna Larsson to advance. Svitolina, a two-time French Open quarter-finalist, had beaten seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams in her opening tie.

Second seed Karolina Pliskova also clinched a straight-sets win in round two, beating Slovakia's Kristina Kucova 6-2, 6-2 to set up a tie with Croatian 31st seed Petra Martic.

Last year's runner-up Sloane Stephens cruised through with a 6-1, 7-6 (7/3) win over Sara Sorribes Tormo on Court Philippe Chatrier.

SHARAN WINS

Divij Sharan and Marcelo Demoliner registered a hard fought win over Marton Fucsovics and Roberth Lindstedt in the men's doubles first round. The Indo-Brazilian combine beat the Hungarian-Swede duo of Fucsovics and Lindstedt 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 in a match lasting one hour 48 minutes.

Manu wins Tokyo Olympics quota, ends in 4th place

NEW DELHI: Taking her place next to coach Jaspal Rana, Manu Bhaker could afford a smile. Though she missed a World Cup bronze by just 0.1 point, the teenager sealed a 2020 Tokyo Olympics quota for India in 10m women's air pistol at the Munich World Cup on Wednesday.

It had been playing on the mind of 17-year-old Bhaker as she had failed to book a Tokyo Olympics quota in three qualifying events prior to Munich World Cup. Not one to hold herself back, Bhaker was reduced to tears each time she missed an opportunity in the finals. Two days back, in Munich, she came very close to winning a quota in 25m pistol when she was in joint lead after the six series, but her pistol malfunctioned and she was eliminated in fifth place.

▪ Manu Bhaker

Bhaker qualified for the 10m air pistol finals in third place with a score of 582. In the finals, she finished fourth with a score of 201 after 20 shots. Olympic and world champion Anna Korakaki of Greece won gold with a score of 241.4. China's Qian Wei got silver (239.6) and Kim Minjung of Korea (22.8) bronze. The 24-shot final saw close competition among the top four and Bhaker stayed in the mix. She opened with a score of 50.4 after the first series of five shots. Bhaker stepped up with a 10.8 in the 14th shot and moved to third place with a 10.0 in the 16th shot, nosing ahead of Qian by 0.2. Eventually, Bhaker's score of 201.0 fetched her fourth position.

Since Korakaki, who won gold, and Minjung, who finished third, have already secured quota places, the two slots went to Bhaker and Qian. It was India's seventh Olympics quota. Apurvi Chandela and Anjum Moudgil (women's 10m air rifle), Saurabh Chaudhary and Abhishek Verma (men's 10m air pistol), Divyansh Panwar (men's 10m air rifle) and Rahi Sarnobat (25m pistol) are the other shooters who have won quota places for India so far. HTC

CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION : ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Press e-TENDER NOTICE

Percentage rate e-tenders are invited under two bid system by the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. 2 on behalf of President of India from the eligible enlisted firms class A and B enlisted with the Chandigarh Administration/ Municipal Corporation, Chd./ CPWD /State PWDs of Punjab & Haryana and Himachal Pradesh and their board & Corporation having valid Electrical Contractor License issued by any Govt. Deptt of States/ Centre for the execution of following work can be downloaded/ Uploaded from the website at **http://www.etenders.chd.nic.in/**

S. No.	NIT No.	Name of Work & Location	Estimated cost put to tender	Earnest money	Time of completion	Last date and time for online submission of tender	Time & date of opening of tender
1.	E2/19/73	Replacement of old Al. wiring, switchgear, replacement of campus lights with LED lights and ceiling fans etc. in Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School Khuda Alisher UT Chd.	Rs. 8,12,411/-	Rs. 16,300/-	02 months	07.06.2019 Upto 02.30 P.M.	07.06.2019 At 03.00 P.M.

Executive Engineer,
Electrical Division No.2, Chandigarh

TENDER NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

Online tenders on percentage rate basis (above or below or at par the DNIT amount) for the below mentioned works are hereby invited from the Eligible Co.op L&C Societies enlisted with Principal Department i.e P.W.D B&R (For Civil Works) as per Pb.Govt. Notification No.76/52/79-C-1(5)4342 dated 02.10.2014 and contractors enlisted in PUDA/Central/State Government Departments and Reputed firms in the field for the appropriate class and category (Civil Works Only)

Sr. No.	Name of the Works	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money
1.	Cleaning of roads at Urban Estate Phase-3 Part-1 and 2 Bathinda for the period from 01-07-2019 to 31-03-2020	Rs. 13.19 Lacs	Rs. 26,400/- (To be submitted Online through RTGS/ NEFT Mode Only
2.	Cleaning of roads at Urban Estate Phase-4 & 5, Bathinda for the period from 01-07-2019 to 31-03-2020	Rs. 14.73 Lacs	Rs. 29,500/- (To be submitted Online through RTGS/ NEFT Mode Only

Tender Processing Fee: As mentioned on Portal		Period of Completion:- 09 Months		
Online availability of tender for bidding		Last date and time for submission of online bids	Date & time of opening of technical bids in O/o Superintending Engineer, BDA, Bathinda	
From	To	10.06.2019 upto 05.00 PM	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
31.05.2019	10.06.2019		11.06.2019 at 11.00 AM	after evaluation of Technical Bids

1. For detailed terms and conditions of the notice inviting bids refer to our website **www.eproc.punjab.gov.in.**
2. For any clarification/difficulty regarding e-tendering process contact on 0172-2970263, 2970284, 4184406

Divisional Engineer (C-1)
BATHINDA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BDA COMPLEX, BHAGU ROAD, BATHINDA-151001
5524

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htcity

CHANDIGARH

John Abraham feels reading comments on yourself can make one fall sick

I'M DISASTROUS AT SOCIAL MEDIA

John Abraham
PHOTO: RAAJESSH KASHYAP/HT

Sangeeta Yadav

John Abraham loves to hibernate, at least when it comes to social media. Unlike most other actors, he prefers to maintain a low profile and gets active only when he has a film up for release or when he has to talk about a cause close to his heart. A self-professed animal lover, John says, he "loves to use social media to post about animals". Last seen in Romeo Akbar Walter this year, the actor admits it's a "conscious choice" to not post anything and everything on social media but use it very discreetly to "draw positivity and goodness around". The 46-year-old, who is currently recovering from an injury he suffered while shooting for his next, Pagalpanti, reveals why social media isn't his thing, especially when it comes to sharing about his personal life. Excerpts:

Unlike your colleagues in the film industry, you are barely active on social media. Why?
My primary focus is my craft — acting. I aim to do more good, credible work. I need to keep improving every day, learn something and better myself. I don't see how social media could contribute to my internal growth and acting. Of course, it helps to connect with people, but I like to stay connected with people offline.

Why do you maintain that you won't post anything about your personal life on social media?
That's because I'm disastrous at it. I don't say things just to make a statement or news or in a bid to start a fad in the industry. Also, I don't feel the pressure of making a statement online. I'm okay doing nothing on social media.

What would you say about others who are constantly giving a peek into their lives through such platforms?
It is unfortunate how, for most actors, the virtual world has become real. Everyone is busy creating their virtual identity and giving constant updates on their lives instead of working on the craft. Also, some people do get influenced and try to become what they are not. But I'm very clear that for me, the real world is the touch-and-feel world, not the virtual world.

One thing about social media that bothers you the most?
There is more negativity than positivity. Though celebrities are the centre of attention on the internet and have a huge fan following, if you read comments about yourself for half an hour, you'd probably fall sick.

What about trolls? Have they kept you away?
I don't even look at them. If I do read once in a while, I don't take them seriously because people who're criticising you have no face, and probably fake their identity, too. I never feel the urge to reply. They can say whatever they want to.

Actor Shahid Kapoor in the song, Tujhe Kitna Chahne Lage, from his upcoming film

PHOTO: HTCS

Kabir Singh's latest song presents Shahid's new look

Ever since the teaser, trailer and first song of the upcoming film, Kabir Singh, were released, they have been well-received by the audience. And actor Shahid Kapoor's portrayal of the title role has a lot to do with that. The actor is being applauded for his sheer intensity and performance.

After unveiling the film's first song, Bekhayali, which has already become a love anthem for the new generation, the makers, T-Series and Cine1 Studios, are all geared up to reveal the film's second song that will be released tomorrow.

The new song, Tujhe Kitna Chahne Lage, will showcase Shahid in a new look, altogether. In fact, it's after a long time that viewers will see Shahid in a clean-shaven avatar. This persona of Shahid will complete the actor's three diverse looks in this Sandeep Reddy Vanga-directed film.

> Shahid will appear in a never-seen-before avatar in Kabir Singh.
> **BHUSHAN KUMAR**, PRODUCER

The producers of the film are excited to unveil this new look to the audience. "Shahid will appear in a never-seen-before avatar in Kabir Singh," says producer Bhushan Kumar. Producer Murad Khetani adds, "Shahid has moulded his different looks according to the character."

Producer Ashwin Varde concludes by saying, "This new look is a bonanza for all his fans."

Kabir Singh is a T-Series and Cine1 Studios presentation. Starring Shahid Kapoor and Kiara Advani, the film is directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga and produced by Bhushan Kumar, Murad Khetani, Krishan Kumar and Ashwin Varde. It releases on June 21.

HTC

Ellen DeGeneres
PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

STOP PRESS

ELLEN DEGENERES RECOUNTS ASSAULT BY HER STEPFATHER

Comedian-host Ellen DeGeneres has recalled being sexually assaulted as a teen, by her stepfather. In an upcoming episode of David Letterman's show, My Next Guest Needs No Introduction, she said it started after her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, reports cnn.com. "He told me when (my mom) was out of town that he'd felt a lump in her breast and needed to feel my breasts," she recalled. "I'm angry at myself, I was too weak to stand up...I was 15 or 16," DeGeneres said. **IANS**

HUMA QURESHI JOINS ZACK SNYDER'S ARMY OF THE DEAD

Actor Huma Qureshi has boarded the cast of filmmaker Zack Snyder's next directorial, Army of the Dead. The 32-year-old joins Dave Bautista in the project, which will mark Snyder's return to directing after a gap of two years, a streaming platform has announced. **PTI**

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DAILY HOROSCOPE

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019

Astrologer Prem Kumar Sharma can be contacted at: Delhi: 011-47033152, 40532026 (Sat to Mon): Panchkula: 91-172-2562832, 2572874 (Tues to Thurs); Mumbai: 09223376963 (Last week of every month)

YOU SHARE YOUR BIRTHDAY WITH

CeeLo Green: The American singer-songwriter, known for songs such as Crazy, Forget You and Smiley Faces, turns 44 today.

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20)

Minor health issues might make you feel low. A loan not being paid in time might cause you some trouble. Your competence and outgoing nature is likely to draw attention of those who matter to you on the professional front. On the family front, excellent bonding with parents will encourage you to share even your personal thoughts and desires. Some of you might find it difficult to commute to work today.

Love Focus: Not getting positive response from someone you have a crush on might be upsetting. You may need to move on.

Lucky Number: 6 Lucky Colour: Grey

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 20)

A treatment prescribed needs to be followed to maintain good health. You are likely to achieve stability on your financial front. Distractions can make you lose your focus at work and can pose problems in undergoing an important training. A lot of encouragement from the family is in store for those wanting to do something different. A train journey will be like never before because of the wonderful company.

Love Focus: Developing feelings for someone will get you on cloud nine. But are you sure it's love or just infatuation?

Lucky Number: 8 Lucky Colour: Forest Green

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUN 21)

Health remains perfect as you stay abreast with your exercise and fitness regime. You need to be extra careful in planning something important on the financial front. Help from a friend or associate might prove huge in sharing an official workload and completing it successfully. Someone in the family may advice you on something important, so don't reject it out of hand. Today, it is better not to discuss or deal in any property matter.

Love Focus: Special attention received from someone is likely to make you feel extra special about yourself.

Lucky Number: 22 Lucky Colour: Blue

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

You are likely to enjoy good health today. Mounting expenses can compel you to search for newer ways of making money. You are likely to struggle to keep pace at work. You are enjoying a good phase of life with family at present and will continue to do so. The wanderlust within you will get wings to fly as a new travelling opportunity comes your way. Booking a flat in the best location will make you content.

Love Focus: For young lovebirds, popping the question at the right time is important if you don't want to go through a rejection.

Lucky Number: 18 Lucky Colour: Lemon

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG 23)

Eating right is the key to your good health and will keep you keep fit and energetic. You will have enough to buy a thing that is expensive. Those aspiring for a promotion or raise might have difficulty in achieving their objective. This is the best time to go forth and grasp something that has been eluding you previously in your social circle. A new place is likely to be explored by some.

Love Focus: Nothing much happening on romance front might dishearten you. But remember your true goal.

Lucky Number: 1 Lucky Colour: Light Yellow

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEPT 23)

Keeping cool and calm even in stressful situations will help retain peace of mind. Money might pose some problem today and might let you restrain from over spending. You will feel most satisfied with something that you have achieved on the professional front. A favour done by someone in the family needs to be reciprocated quickly. Some urgent task might keep you occupied and disturbed during a vacation.

Love Focus: Lover will be at your beck and call, so you are likely to enjoy a wonderful time today.

Lucky Number: 15 Lucky Colour: Crimson

LIBRA (SEPT 24 - OCT 23)

Reaping the benefits of good diet and fitness is likely as you get back to shape. Extra money can tempt you to indulge in luxury. Too much work may compel you to devote some extra hours. You are likely to realise that not devoting enough time towards family has its detriments. Bad roads and too much traffic jam are likely to make you go crazy on the road today. A property by inheritance cannot be ruled out for some.

Love Focus: Closeness to a colleague or class fellow can turn into a budding romance for some.

Lucky Number: 2 Lucky Colour: Peach

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 22)

Health remains satisfactory today. You may find yourself in a dilemma on the financial front – to splurge with friends to remain in their circle or save money and become odd one out. Professional front remains critical as an important file goes missing. Hosting a party just to meet friends and relations is possible. Cancelling a much awaited official tour abroad may come as a great setback for some.

Love Focus: Strong emotional bonds with someone you have a liking for can culminate into a long-term relationship.

Lucky Number: 11 Lucky Colour: Lemon

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23 - DEC 21)

A changed diet may not have the desired effect on your shape, so try avoiding it. Earnings need to be invested wisely or you may end up dissipating them. A good initiative taken on the work front will aid you in future. Being unduly harsh to a family member will spoil everyone's mood. Taking undue pressure regarding a long journey will not be good for you at all. Focusing on property might not be possible today.

Love Focus: Foul mood of lover may need to be countered fast to avoid any escalation.

Lucky Number: 17 Lucky Colour: Navy Blue

CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN 21)

Barring some minor concerns, health remain fine today. Wealth may come to you from various sources. At work, something entrusted to you will be completed with utmost efficiency. On the family front, the eligible might have to wait till they get lucky in finding their life partner. Those looking at peace and tranquillity might take a break and go on a vacation. Property front remains moderate without much ado.

Love Focus: Those in long-distance relationships are likely to face trouble in their paradise.

Lucky Number: 3 Lucky Colour: Rosy Brown

AQUARIUS (JAN 22 - FEB 19)

Being conscious about what you eat and drink is the need of the hour. You might need to be level-headed, where finances are concerned to cater for rainy day. You are likely to swim with the tide on the professional or academic front. Your burning desire to get ahead is likely to be motivated by family. Chance of going abroad on an official tour cannot be ruled out. A property you were positive about might not fetch you enough.

Love Focus: Love life remains satisfactory as you focus on other things that are equally important and hold significance in your life.

Lucky Number: 9 Lucky Colour: Magenta

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20)

Don't implement anything unless you are certain of its financial implications. You will put in the required efforts on the professional front to reap rich rewards. Meeting people in the social circle whose company you enjoy is likely to become a reality soon. A good opportunity to visit a childhood friend living in a different city may come true for some. You are also likely to earn good returns on the property front today.

Love Focus: Those of you feeling unlucky in love should not lose heart as something positive is going to happen soon.

Lucky Number: 4 Lucky Colour: Violet

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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY LEVEL★★★★★

7		1		2				
					3		6	7
			8				9	4
3			6				7	
	1						2	
	4				5			8
1	3				6			
8	7		3					
				1		8		9

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9X9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

SCRAMBLE - 3101

Solve the four anagrams and move one letter to each square to form four ordinary words

KPEEO
CEEIN
NRSUGP
GINOGK

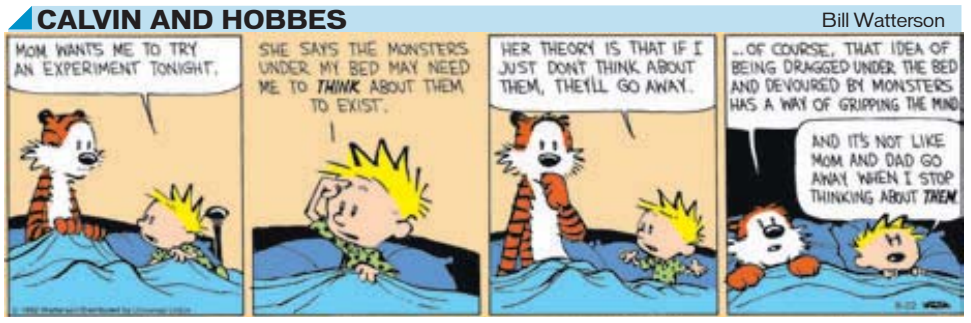
Now arrange the letters marked with an asterisk (*) to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing words as indicated.

If you're __ through hell, __ __
- Churchill (5,...,4,5) (one word twice)

SCRAMBLE SOLUTION: Peeoe, niece, sprung, gingko
ANSWER: If you're **going** through hell, **keep going** - Churchill

CALVIN AND HOBBES

Bill Watterson



MATHDOKU

Place numbers into the puzzle cells so that each row and column contains each of the digits from 1 to 5. No number is to be repeated in any row or column. Each bold-outlined cells contain a hint of a number and one of the mathematical symbols + x - /. The number is the result of the operation represented by the symbol to the digits contained.

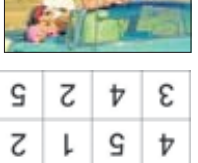
SOLUTION SUDOKU

6	2	5	7	1	4	8	3	9
8	7	4	3	9	2	6	5	1
1	3	9	5	8	6	7	4	2
9	4	6	2	7	5	3	1	8
5	1	7	9	3	8	4	2	6
3	8	2	6	4	1	9	7	5
2	5	3	8	6	9	1	7	4
4	9	8	1	5	3	2	6	7
7	6	1	4	2	9	5	8	3

SOLUTION MATHDOKU

3	4	2	5	1
4	5	1	2	3
2	3	5	1	4
1	2	3	4	5
5	1	4	3	2

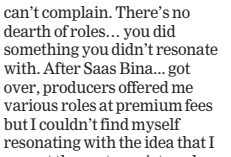
DID YOU KNOW?



The song Yeh Dil Na Hota Bechara from 1967's Dev Anand-starrer Jewel Thief was sampled from the theme of 1957's The Bridge on the River Kwai.

'If not protagonist, won't do the show'

Rishabh Suri



Television has for long been called a women-centric medium, and rightfully so because the stories revolve around female characters. Also, daily soaps cater to homemakers, according to the popular notion. Actor Ravi Dubey, however, believes that male characters, too, have a considerable role to play.

"TV has been my bread and butter for 16-17 years. I am very discreet with my projects and take up only those I believe in, whether it was the initial phase of my career or now. My take on TV is in sync with the kind of commitments I have been a part of. I am lucky I was part of awesome shows such as Saas Bina Sasural, which did really well, or Ranbir Rano, which had both the guy's and the girl's name in the title. Also, I have got to be the protagonist, not just the lead. You set some rules for yourself," says Ravi, who has of late been busy with producing Punjabi films and hosting reality shows.

Unlike people who criticise a show after taking it up, he says, "You signed up for it, now you can't complain. There's no dearth of roles... you did something you didn't resonate with. After Saas Bina... got over, producers offered me various roles at premium fees but I couldn't find myself resonating with the idea that I am not the protagonist, and, hence, didn't associate with them." He goes on to add, "Four years later, Jamai Raja happened. It was a disruptive show, in the sense that it had a man in the centre. Jamia Raja didn't do well just in Hindi but was remade in Bangla, Odiya and Arabic, and was dubbed in Indonesia, Germany and Thailand, where it became very popular as well."

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Here's why Taylor turns off social media comments

Singer Taylor Swift, who turns 30 this December, has made it clear that she will not put up with sexist interview questions.

During an interview, a reporter asked Swift if she felt like settling down and having children later this year.

To this, Swift replied, "I really do not think men are asked that question when they turn 30. So, I'm not going to answer that question now."

According to Fox News, the singer also explained what turning a decade older meant to her. "I hear others say that one in his thirties no longer has as much stress and anxiety in life as in my twenties. And I can join in the observation that we are in our twenties looking to gain experience, try things out, fail, make mistakes," the Love Story and Shake It Off singer said.

Swift, who had earlier this year written a piece in a UK magazine about her learnings from interacting on online platforms, also discussed the pitfalls of social media.

"Social media can be great, but it can also inundate your brain with images of what you aren't, how you're failing, or who is in a cooler locale than you at any given moment," Swift said.

"One thing I do to lessen this weird insecurity laser beam is to turn off comments. That way, I'm showing my friends and fans updates on my life,
but I'm training my brain to not need the validation of someone telling me how I look. I'm also blocking out anyone who
might feel the need to tell me to 'go die in a hole ho' while I'm having my coffee at nine in the morning," she added.

She also revealed that since social media has contaminated her views and private life, she now keeps her romance with actor Joe Alwyn (The Favourite, 2018) private.

"For too long, the projected opinions of strangers affected how I viewed my relationship. Whether it was the general internet consensus of who would be right for me, or what they thought was 'couples goals' based on a picture I posted on Instagram. That stuff isn't real. For an approval seeker like me, it was an important lesson to learn to have my own value system of what I actually want," the singer added. **ANI**

Taylor Swift says that for far too long, the opinions of strangers affected how she viewed her relationships

PHOTO: STEVE MARCUS/REUTERS

MOVIES IN TRICITY

PICCADILY SQUARE: CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh Amritsar
Chandigarh Punjabi 10:00AM 12:05PM 02:15PM 04:25PM 06:35PM 08:45PM 10:55PM
Muklawa Punjabi 10:05AM 12:15PM 02:30PM 04:45PM 07:05PM 09:15PM 11:25PM
India's Most Wanted 10:15AM 03:15PM 08:15PM
De De Pyaar De 12:45PM 05:45PM 10:45PM

CINEPOLIS TDI MALL JAGAT: CHANDIGARH

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Muklawa Punjabi 10:00AM 02:35PM 05:35PM 08:10PM 10:45PM
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India's Most Wanted 11:55AM 05:05PM 11:05PM

PVR: ELANTE CHANDIGARH

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Dil Diyan Gallan Punjabi 12:50PM
Brightburn (A) English 03:30PM 11:20PM
Avengers: Endgame (3D) English 07:50PM
John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum (A) English 08:30PM

PVR: ELANTE 4DX CHANDIGARH

Aladdin (4DX) English 10:00AM 06:05PM
Pokemon Detective Pikachu (4DX) English 12:50PM
John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum (A) (4DX) English 03:15PM
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PVR: CENTRA, CHANDIGARH

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Aladdin (3D) English 12:00PM 08:35PM
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WAVE: CITY EMPORIUM MALL

Aladdin (3D) Hindi 09:45AM 05:50PM
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PVR: CITY CENTRE MALL, CHANDIGARH

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Muklawa Punjabi 12:30PM 05:30PM 10:30PM
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VR: PUNJAB, MOHALI

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Muklawa Punjabi 12:30PM 05:30PM 10:30PM
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CINEPOLIS: BESTECH SQUARE, MOHALI

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Brightburn (A) English 03:20PM 08:10PM
PM Narendra Modi 05:25PM
John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum (A) English 10:15PM

CARNIVAL: PARAS MALL, ZIRAKPUR

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Aladdin (3D) English 05:30PM
India's Most Wanted 10:05AM 12:30PM 05:15PM 10:00PM
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FUN CINEMAS: REPUBLIC MALL, CHANDIGARH

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India's Most Wanted 12:30PM 03:05PM 08:35PM 10:40PM
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INOX: DHILLON PLAZA, ZIRAKPUR

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India's Most Wanted 09:50AM 03:05PM 05:40PM 11:00PM
De De Pyaar De 12:25PM 08:15PM

INOX: NH22 MALL, AMRAVATI ENCLAVE, PANCHKULA

Chandigarh Amritsar
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India's Most Wanted 12:35PM 05:40PM 10:45PM
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RAJHANS CINEMAS: PANCHKULA

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PM Narendra Modi 05:30PM

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WHEN A BACHELOR PAD BECAME A FAMILY HOME

Neil Nitin Mukesh with wife Rukmini and daughter Nurvi (inset)
PHOTO: VIRAL BHAYANI

Neil Nitin Mukesh reveals how parenthood has transformed his house and his lifestyle

Rishabh Suri

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/NEILNITINMUKESH

I magine you get yourself the best bachelor/bachelorette pad made, are all set to move in, and on the very day you are supposed to shift, you get engaged! And subsequently, it becomes a 'family home'. This is actor Neil Nitin Mukesh's story, and he's happy as he reveals to us, "Life has changed for me completely after becoming a father, in a good way. I was telling my wife Rukmini the other day that I had just finished the interiors of my bachelor pad, and as luck would have it, the day it was completed, I got engaged! Ever since then, it's become a family home."

The couple was blessed with a baby girl, Nurvi Neil Mukesh, in September last year. "Now I have a pram," Neil continues, "bottles of milk, baby toys and a girl who has got pink all around, so it's nothing like a bachelor pad. It's quite contradictory to the taste of interiors I had got done."

"Getting out at night with friends and telling them 'I have a deadline to get back home, I have my baby'... it's a little bit of a responsibility on myself. I am more concerned about myself as a parent. There's some nervousness, too. It's part and parcel of being a dad. I still can't digest it... it's like I have got a new buddy in town!"

And his daily routine has also undergone a massive change.

"There are late nights, waking up and babysitting, preparing milk, and changing diapers is part of my daily routine. She's keeping me on my toes, and quite demanding in that sense," adds Neil, whose last film outing was Golmaal Again (2017).

His next is the big-budget multilingual film Saaho, and apart from that, he has two more films lined up for release.

"Besides Saaho, I have my first home production, Bypass Road, which I've written and my brother is directing. Then, I have another film, Firrkie, which is in post-production stage right now."

▪ rishabh.suri@htlive.com

'BEGGED MAKERS OF ANGREZI MEDIUM TO LET ME AUDITION'

Juhi Chakraborty

While it's mostly the newcomers who have to audition for a role and established names skip the process, it somehow doesn't work like that for Radhika Madan. The actor prefers auditions over landing a role directly.

"I would want to audition for every project that I do. You cannot be perfect for every character as every project is different. You cannot expect the producer to make that gamble," she says.

The actor will be seen next in Irrfan and Kareena Kapoor Khan-starrer Angrezi Medium. Radhika feels auditioning is the only way that new actors like her can bag good roles. "I begged the makers to let me audition despite the film being offered to someone else."

PHOTO: HTCS

Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif in a still from the song, Chashni

A musical journey

Salman Khan's much awaited movie, Bharat, is all set to release on June 5. The Ali Abbas Zafar directorial promises to be an entertainer embedded in the soulful journey of a man and his nation. An Eid release, Bharat will show Salman in six different avatars, ranging from a young circus champion to a 60-year-old man who sports grey hair, which is reflective of the journey the film promises. The movie's songs have managed to strike a chord among the audiences. The music of the film has been composed by the musician duo, Vishal-Shekhar, who have let the essence of the country breathe in the tracks.

While the first song, Slow Motion, in the backdrop of a circus, showcases Disha Patani's sizzling chemistry with Salman; the second track, Aithey Aa, set against a wedding background, is a celebratory tune. There is also the romantic number, Chashni, featuring Katrina Kaif. Zinda, another song from the film, has become the marching anthem of the season, along with Turpeya. Each song brings a different journey, and the soulfulness of the album is what makes Bharat stand out.

"The response to the music has been extremely positive. This is my third collaboration with Vishal-Shekhar and Irshad Kamil (lyricist) and we are very happy with the response the songs have received. Now, a lot of people are going for remixes rather than creating original music. But, after seeing the response Bharat's songs have got, we are only determined to work harder and create better melodies in our coming ventures," says Ali.

The upcoming film is a period drama, written and directed by Ali Abbas Zafar. Bharat is produced by Atul Agnihotri, Alvira Agnihotri, Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar, under the banner of Reel Life Production Pvt Ltd and Salman Khan Films, and is presented by T-Series.

HTC

'DARK FATE IS A FAST WHITE-KNUCKLE RIDE'

James Cameron says the upcoming instalment in the Terminator franchise is grimmer and grittier than its predecessors, and they are hoping to get an R-rating for it.

The 64-year-old is producing the new film, called Dark Fate. Directed by Tim Miller, it will retcon the events of the last three instalments.

Cameron considers the film to be a direct sequel to 1991's Terminator 2: Judgement Day.

"The whole story takes place in 36 hours. It's not this kind of grandiose, complex story. It's just very focused on the characters, it's very now, it's very present and it's just a fast white-knuckle ride," he added.

PTI

'Whatever I wear, I don't make a fool of myself'

Shreya Mukherjee

Those who follow Neena Gupta on Instagram would agree that the actor's fashion sense is on point. Even at 62, nothing stops her from experimenting with her looks.

"That's me... I love experimenting with different styles. Also, the event or occasion I'm attending makes me think [about] what I should wear," says Neena, asserting that her "personal style has evolved over the years".

With a daughter like Masaba, who is an acclaimed fashion designer, Neena definitely is spoilt for choices. "Besides my own sense of style, Masaba is someone who gives me ideas and tips. That's a plus. She makes me wear her designs quite often, so that way I am sorted. If she is shopping, she will send me photos and ask if I want something. I do the same," shares the Badhaai Ho (2018) actor.

Neena is quick to add that there are phases in terms of style that she goes through quite often. "There would be times I just want to wear salwar kameez and then there are sari days. There are also days when I want to wear pants, jeans, dresses... but, whatever I do and wear, I make sure I don't make a fool of myself," says Neena, who has always been "very open" to new age fashion.

And that's why women her age often compliment Neena on her style sense and some even call her a fashion inspiration. "It feels really special when people look up to you. I think it's very important to dress according to your body and age. That makes a lot of difference," says Neena, and continues, "You should be able to carry whatever you wear, so, confidence is essential. Right now, I'm in that phase where I want to wear jeans and tucked-in shirts, but I can't because I have a tummy."

▪ shreya.mukherjee@htlive.com

Forest Hill Golf and Country Club: Ray of hope for tricity golf lovers

PHOTO: HTCS

With rising enthusiasm for golf among people, the membership queues at elite golf clubs is getting longer and longer. In fact, obtaining membership for a couple of golf clubs in Chandigarh has become as long as waiting to get citizenship of a nation.

However, people of tricity wouldn't have to wait much longer now as one of North India's leading golf destinations Forest Hill Golf and Country Club brings a ray of hope for the golf lovers of tricity.

Forest Hill Golf and Country Club is opening limited permanent memberships for individuals, service persons, NRIs/ foreign nationals/diplomats and corporates. Nestled in the foot hills of picturesque Shivaliks, a round of golf here is a unique experience. The multi-purpose modern nine-hole, par-36 golf range is the only one of its kind.

An all weather high-tech driving range provides the golfers an enriching practice and warm-up sessions. The clubhouse comprises a multi-cuisine restaurant, which offers a great place to enjoy good food and special moments with your family and friends in the cool, serene and soothing environment.

As a member, one can enjoy first-class amenities and benefits at Forest Hill Golf and Country Club and beyond that are unmatched in the industry. They can enjoy access to the endless golf and clubhouse facilities, adventure activities and great family outdoors.

One of tricity's premium Golf clubs, Forest Hill Golf and Country Club aims to encourage people to participate and enjoy the club's wonderful facilities at every opportunity. The golf and country club is offering honorary memberships to some of its elite members who are associated with the group from a long time.

The memberships are limited to 100 members each under individuals as well as service person categories, 50 members under NRIs/ foreign nationals/diplomats category and 20 members under a category aimed for the corporates.

The memberships are subject to the approval by the club's screening committee and the last date to apply for the membership is June 30, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL BRIG SAHIB SINGH SANDHU AT 8283060501

The long night is coming: Kit checks into therapy after GoT

The end of Game of Thrones seems to have hit Kit Harington hard as the actor has checked into a rehabilitation centre to receive treatment for stress, exhaustion and alcohol use.

According to PageSix, the 32-year-old checked into a luxury health retreat in Connecticut, US, weeks before the finale aired on May 19. He played Jon Snow across eight seasons on the epic fantasy show.

Harington has been undergoing cognitive behavioural therapy, meditating, and practising other psychological exercises to better cope with the stress.

"The end of GoT really hit Kit hard... He realised, 'This is it, this is the end'. It was something they had all worked so hard on for so many years. He had a moment of 'what next?' He's in the clinic predominantly for stress and exhaustion and also alcohol. His wife Rose (Leslie) is being extremely supportive. Everyone close to him really wanted him to get some rest. Right now, he just needs peace and quiet," a source close to the actor told the outlet.

Harington's rep said that the actor has "decided to utilise this break in his schedule as an opportunity to spend some time at a wellness retreat to work on some personal issues".

The actor had previously admitted that he had to resort to therapy to deal with his character's brief death in the show, which he said was his darkest time.

"I felt I had to feel that I was the most fortunate person in the world, when actually, I felt very vulnerable. I had a shaky time in my life around there — like I think a lot of people do in their 20s," the actor had told Variety recently.

"That was a time when I started therapy, and started talking to people. I had felt very unsafe, and I wasn't talking to anyone. I had to feel very grateful for what I have, but I felt incredibly concerned about whether I could even f***ing act," he had added.

PTI

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We're meeting about it: Reese Witherspoon on Legally Blonde 3

Reese Witherspoon
PHOTO: JOEL RYAN/AP

Actor Reese Witherspoon has given an update on the third instalment of her Legally Blonde franchise.

During her appearance on the Ellen Show, Witherspoon said the team is still discussing the film. "We're meeting about it. I mean, we're definitely talking about it. I don't know. Do you guys want to see 'Legally Blonde 3'?" Witherspoon asked the audience.

"I mean, it's sort of about women being underestimated and I think it's a good idea — that things have changed, but not that much has changed!" she added.

The 43-year-old actor had kick-started the series with 2001's Legally Blonde, where she played the idealistic Elle Woods who follows her boyfriend to Harvard Law School in order to win him back.

A sequel, titled Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde, was released in 2003 and saw Elle travel to Washington, D.C. to fight against animal testing.

In June last year, Witherspoon had announced that she will be reprising her role in a threequel, which would hit the theatres on Valentine's Day in 2020.

Witherspoon's production company is expected to produce the film. **PTI**

A still from the movie Legally Blonde

A SHOT OF TEQUILA HELPS ALBA FILM LOVE SCENES

Jessica Alba
PHOTO: WILLY SANJUAN/AP

'It's disgusting most of the time,' Jessica Alba said of the scenes

Actor Jessica Alba says it's weird doing love scenes and that she has to take a tequila shot beforehand. The actor, 38, opened up about the topic on a podcast alongside husband Cash Warren, 40.

She cited two Hollywood actors she has worked with to illustrate the point, reports dailymail.co.uk. "I think Pierce Brosnan and Bruce Willis are very attractive gentlemen... but it's like, weird," said Alba, who worked with Brosnan in 2014's Some Kind of Beautiful, and with Willis in 2005's Sin City.

The mother-of-three differentiated between a romantic encounter in one's personal life, and one on a film set in which "nothing about it is alone in a room", and can go on for 15-16 hours.

"When you're choosing to want to be with someone in that way... it's very intimate," Alba said. "You're breathing on someone, it's all there, you're smelling the skin...you wanna choose whom you're doing that with, and you gotta really like, pretend."

The actor said that "sometimes it's days and days of the same thing, and you have to recreate that moment every time, recreate the peak of your intimacy from this angle and that angle and this angle and that angle ... and by the way, everyone's right here." The Dear Eleanor (2016) actor said she has to take tequila shots prior to such encounters. "I'm gonna say I'm unprofessional, 100% because I feel like really good entertainment people don't have to do that," she explained. **IANS**

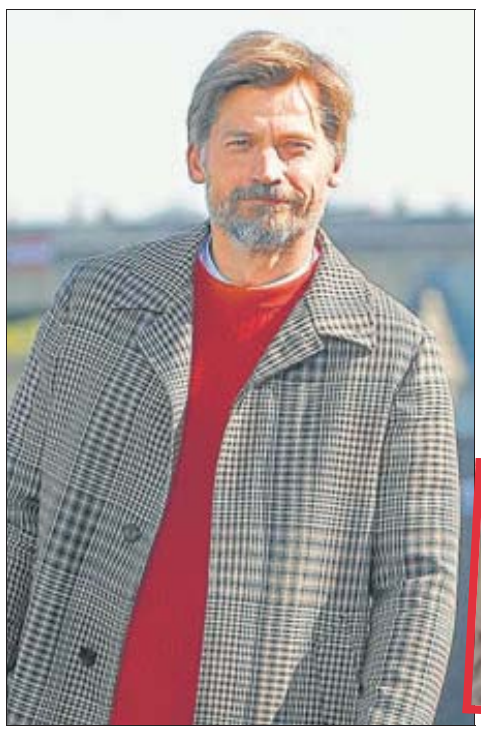
'First X-Men movie led by women is coming at the right time'

Sophie Turner
PHOTO: DANNY MOLOSHOK/REUTERS

Actor Sophie Turner, who plays the role of mutant Jean Grey in the upcoming film, X-Men: Dark Phoenix is shocked by the fact, that none of the earlier movies in this popular franchise were led by women. During an interview, the 23-year-old actor finds it "incredible" the film will give a "less important" role to men. "All the female characters in this movie are the strongest characters. We have a female protagonist, a female antagonist, all while the female protagonist is also somewhat of an antagonist. And it's all about her relationships, Jean's relationship with the females throughout this movie, which is really very interesting," she says and adds, "None of the women in this movie is subservient to a man, which is incredible. It's crazy to think that this is kind of the first X-Men movie led by women. That's really exciting to me and especially to Jessica. It comes at exactly the right time as well."

The film also stars James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, Nicholas Hoult, Tye Sheridan, Alexandra Shipp, Kodi Smit-McPhee, Evan Peters, and Jessica Chastain. **HTC**

GoT's Nikolaj wants an Arya Stark spin-off show



Nikolaj Coster-Waldau PHOTO: MICHEL EULER/AP

Game of Thrones star Nikolaj Coster-Waldau says he wants Maisie Williams' Arya Stark to feature in her own spin-off of the hit series. The actor, who played Jaime Lannister in the epic fantasy drama, said he is rooting for the faceless warrior as she embarks on her journey to the west of Westeros in the season finale.

"That episode, it was amazing! I really thought it was a great ending. And Arya!" Coster-Waldau said in an Instagram video. The 48-year-old actor also gave a nod to the in-the-works prequel, tentatively titled The Long Night, and the viral online petition to redo the series with "competent writers". "I know they're doing all these prequels, but what about the sequel? With Arya? How about — I'm just throwing something out here — how about a petition? An online petition that they do a sequel with Arya Stark," he added.

Meanwhile, the network's programming president Casey Bloys has confirmed that a Game of Thrones spin-off based on Arya Stark is not on HBO's list of potential sister shows. "I don't want to take characters from this world that they did beautifully and put them off into another world with someone else creating it. I want to let it be the artistic piece they've got. That's one of the reasons why I'm not trying to do the same show over," he told The Hollywood Reporter. **PTI**

A still from the show GoT featuring Maisie Williams as Arya Stark

Bridget Jones 4? 'If they call me, I'll go running'

A still fromBridget Jones's Baby

Renee Zellweger says she would love to reprise her iconic role as Bridget Jones in the fourth follow-up in the series. The actor said she would want to see what the character is up to after she got a somewhat fairytale ending in the most recent Bridget Jones's Baby (2016). "(It could be) 'Bridget Jones: The Menopause'," Zellweger, 50, joked. "No, I know Helen's (Fielding) written the book, and I love this character. So, I mean, if they call me, I'll go running," she said in an appearance on The Talk.

Based on Helen Fielding's book series, the first two films in the franchise are — Bridget Jones's Diary (2001) and Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason (2004). The author's Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy, which was published in 2013, is yet to be adapted for the screen. **PTI**

Renée Zellweger
PHOTO: TASIA WELLS/AFP

Patty frustrated about Wonder Woman 1984's delay

A still from Wonder Woman; Right: Patty Jenkins
PHOTO: WILLY SANJUAN/AP

Director Patty Jenkins says the wait for Wonder Woman 1984 has been "frustrating".

The release of the follow-up to 2017's DC hit Wonder Woman, fronted by Gal Gadot, was pushed back from a November 2019 release to June 5, 2020.

According to DigitalSpy, a video of Jenkins is doing the rounds in which she can be heard saying how she jokingly once said she wanted the film to be out in summer 2020.

"I can't wait! I can't believe — it's so funny, for all the entire time that we were making the movie, I was lobbying. They were wanting to move it up much earlier. And I was like 'You guys, it's got to be the summer of 2020, like it's got to be!' And that was what I always wanted "And now, I've just screened a version of the film and I'm like 'Oh my God, can we move it back up again?' I'm dying to release this film! But of course it's good and it's fine, but it's frustrating to have to wait," she says in the clip.

Wonder Woman 1984 also stars Chris Pine, Kristin Wiig, Pedro Pascal, with Connie Nielsen and Robin Wright in supporting their roles. **PTI**

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Here's how to be industry-ready

TECHNOPHILIA Colleges and industry are working together to structure new curricula, including courses in artificial intelligence, blockchain, IoT to help students upskill and make them employable soon after graduating from college

Vanessa Viegas
vanessa.viegas@htlive.com

In the field of software engineering, it's hard to be industry-ready. Developing technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), data analytics, big data and blockchain are making advancements at a pace colleges may find hard to keep up with.

This gap between industry and academia used to render most engineering graduates unemployable, pushing them to scout for upskilling courses over and above the four years of engineering. But that is slowly changing. Colleges and industry are collaborating to streamline the software engineering curriculum. Many now offer comprehensive courses in emerging technologies, both at the BTech and MTech levels.

The Indian Institute of Technology - Hyderabad (IIT-H) offers a full-fledged BTech programme in artificial intelligence (AI) starting in July. Around 20 students can take the programme through the JEE-Advanced route.

For the 2018-19 academic year colleges such as the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES) and Sri Ramaswamy Memorial Institute of Science and Technology (SRM) started offering specialisations in emerging technologies. The former offers AI and machine learning, DevOps, Big Data. The latter offers specialisations in AI, cloud computing, cyber security and internet of things (IoT).

> Was aware that analytics was poised to be the next big thing. A specialisation in business analytics has helped me upskill and compete in an industry that is defined by change, knowledge and adaptability.
>
> ABHINAV KALRA, 28, post-graduate student at the Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon

Graduates, who've missed the chance, can now study these specialised courses at the post-graduate level too. The Great Lakes Institute of Management in Gurgaon, for instance, started offering artificial intelligence and machine learning specialisations last year. UPES also offers an MTech in computer science engineering with a special focus on business analytics, cyber security and forensics, AI and ML. The Aegis school of business in Mumbai, Symbiosis International University in Pune and Chandigarh University offer courses on emerging technologies too.

The gap between industry and academia renders most engineering graduates unemployable, pushing them to scout for upskilling courses over and above the four years of engineering.

"Today, computer science and engineering are not just about syntax and coding, they link computing machines and humans," says Dr B Amutha, professor and head, computer science and engineering at SRM. "We want to create a culture of learning and prepare our students for the industry."Today most specialisation courses are offered in collaboration with the industry. "The IT sector has defined skill-sets that will been needed for the coming decade," says Dr. Manish Prateek, Dean, School of Computer Science, UPES.

This year in addition to the programmes mentioned, SRM has started a new programme with TCS on computer science and business systems.

IIT-H is in conversation with multinationals such as Microsoft, Intel and Nvidia to industry tie-ups. IBM has collaborated with as many as 50 software engineering institutes including Chandigarh University, UPES, GITAM University and SRM to contribute to courses. UPES, on the other hand, has roped in Xebia IT architects India to introduce two new full-time BTech programmes with specialisations in DevOps and Big Data.

"Site visits, technical talks and industry experts can help us with becoming industry-ready," says Garishma Virk, 20, a BTech computer science student specialising in DevOps at UPES. "Our seniors who had computer science without these specialisations have no clue about these technologies we are studying now."

Abhinav Kalra, 28, who's pursuing his post-graduate degree in Business Analytics at Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon says the courses are a great head-start for the jobs to come. "I was aware that analytics was poised to be the next big thing," he says. "A specialisation has helped me upskill myself and compete in an industry that is defined by change, knowledge and adaptability."

FUTURE PREP

Critics worry that an increased input from industry will replace education, and analytical next-level thinking with a set of instructions on how to become an office drone. But experts say the key is in the kind of collaborations colleges initiate.The AI programme at IIT Hyderabad aims to provide a holistic view to students. But more importantly, it seeks to highlight the ethical impact of AI and its technologies on areas such as privacy, bias and related issues, which will be a key component of the BTech programme.

"It is important that students be sensitised to these things at the graduate level. It is imperative they are cognisant of the impact of the technology they develop," says Dr Vineeth N. Balasubramanian, associate professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT-Hyderabad.

Besides, courses that do not keep pace with a fast-changing field risk become so theoretical that they're out of touch with everyday tech and usage. "Students are required to have a vision for the future to create and sustain businesses that are driven by innovation, technology and automation," says Dr Bappaditya Mukhopadhyay, professor at the Great Lakes Institute.

WHO recognises 'burn-out' as a medical condition

Agence France-Presse
letterschd@hindustantimes.com

The World Health Organization has for the first time recognised "burn-out" in its International Classification of Diseases (ICD), which is widely used as a benchmark for diagnosis and health insurers.

The decision, reached during the World Health Assembly in Geneva, which wraps up on Tuesday, could help put to rest decades of debate among experts over how to define burnout, and whether it should be considered a medical condition.

In the latest update of its catalogue of diseases and injuries around the world, WHO defines burn-out as "a syndrome conceptualised as resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed."

It said the syndrome was characterised by three dimensions: "1) feelings of energy depletion or exhaustion; 2) increased mental distance from one's job, or feelings of negativism or cynicism related to one's job; and 3) reduced professional efficacy."

"Burn-out refers specifically to phenomena in the occupational context and should not be applied to describe experiences in other areas of life," according to the classification.The updated ICD list, dubbed ICD-11, was drafted last year following recommendations from health experts around the world, and was approved on Saturday.

"This is the first time" burnout has been included in the classification, WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic told reporters.

VIDEO GAMING WAS ALSO RECOGNISED AS AN ADDICTION AND WAS LISTED ALONGSIDE GAMBLING, DRUGS

The ICD-11, which is to take effect in January 2022, contains several other additions, including classification of "compulsive sexual behaviour" as a mental disorder, although it stops short of lumping the condition together with addictive behaviours.

It does however for the first time recognise video gaming as an addiction, listing it alongside gambling and drugs like cocaine.

The updated list removes transgenderism from its list of mental disorders.

The updated list removes transgenderism from its list of mental disorders.

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Keeping up with tech changes

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN One way for software engineers to stay apace of new technology is to upgrade skills and ready for jobs that do not exist at present but will in future

Narayan Mahadevan
htspecialprojects@hindustantimes.com

With the advent of technology in today's world, there is an increasing amount of speculation regarding the number of jobs that will be lost to AI and other emerging tech.

Processes are increasingly becoming computerised, and skills that previously worked are rendered ineffective, because tech can do the same thing in a fraction of the time.

The World Economic Forum's The Future of Jobs 2018 report states that 75 million jobs could be made redundant by 2022, but in the same time 133 million new roles could emerge.

Imagine walking into work, with all the knowledge you've gained over the years, but instead of your mind, having a computer application complete your task efficiently.

In such a situation, it is not just your expertise in the subject, but your skills pertaining to the technology that will matter more.

This is a bit of a helpless situation for those who don't know which skillset needs to be upgraded, or whether they have them to begin with.

It is here that a nudge in the right direction could save millions from being put out of a job, as well as helping them prepare to adopt new processes, which will help them fill the new jobs that are created.

Several industries have already been affected, or are supposed to be affected by way of new technological processes taking over job functions. These include, but are not limited to, online travel portals, tax software, newspapers, language translation, traditional television networks, secretaries, phone operators, and executive assistants.

Professionals with modern technology related skills are likely to make this transition with ease, as opposed to those with only technical knowledge.

Job opportunities are making a shift from 'old economy' jobs to emerging tech jobs. Since technology will be part of almost every industry, there is a great need to work on professional skills in emerging tech.

In an age of accelerated innovations, both workers and employees will have to make shifts in skills and investment in technology accordingly.

THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM'S FUTURE OF JOBS 2018 REPORT STATES THAT 75 MILLION JOBS COULD BE MADE REDUNDANT BY 2022

There is definitely a rise in technology across industries, but there are several jobs specific to emerging tech that are growing in numbers.

According to a list by Forbes, the top 10 emerging tech jobs include the likes of blockchain developers, machine learning engineers and specialists, application sales executives and data science specialists.

Sure enough, there are a number of career opportunities on the rise for those in the emerging tech industry. However, seeking these opportunities is not enough. It involves a lot of hard work, since there is a huge gap in skills in terms of what is required for these jobs versus what is available with current talent.

The current graduates have more theoretical knowledge, but there is less focus on varying coding scenarios, mentorship and simulation.

In India alone, 1.5 million engineers graduate each year, and less than 0.5 percent of these are directly employable. HT FILE

Recent studies suggest that, in India alone, 1.5 million engineers graduate each year, and less than 0.5 percent of these are directly employable.

LACK OF CODING SKILLS A PROBLEM

This is largely due to a lack of confidence in coding and relevant skill sets, which 31 percent of women and 26 percent of men stated in a recent internal study.

According to the same study, with over 1108 engineers across India, this lack of confidence was attributed by a majority to the lack of hands-on coding experience (62 percent women and 38 percent men).

This was followed by the absence of line projects, low time and focus on coding, and outdated syllabus (reported by an average of 50 percent of the participants).

There are a number of methods to deal with this existing gap. But once one has spent years on learning and training, it is hard to think of the "what else?" factor. Here is where learning based on the Maker Concept comes into play.

The concept focuses on practical skills in coding and experiential learning as methods to bring aspiring professionals up-to-speed with current industry demands and standards to make them job-ready.

This learning based on the Maker Concept, when paired with mandate-based hiring, is the optimal solution for job aspirants and companies too. It is as an effective solution to bridge the skills gap, and companies get the best talent tailored as per their requirements.

Being in a simulated environment with constant mentorship enables engineering graduates to learn independently. They are able to pull through a number of different scenarios, as will be required in the professional realm of the future.

With this form of learning, engineering graduates will be able to code effectively and cope with the dynamics of the emerging tech industry in their current roles, as well as adapt to the roles of the future.

The author is co-founder of Bridgelabz, a company that aims to bridge the employment gap for engineering students.

'Entrepreneurship education is key to a start-up ecosystem'

Satya Rajan Acharya
letters@hindustantimes.com

India has always had a rich culture of entrepreneurship which is evident from the number of family businesses that operated in pre-Independent India and thrived over a period of four to five decades till the country gained its freedom.

The creation of enterprises continued, albeit on a slower pace and confined to only few communities known primarily for their risk-taking abilities.

These communities, with trading mind-set, believed in short-term profit generation and never looked at scaling up their businesses.

However, later in the years post-Independence, entrepreneurial enthusiasm took a dip as government chose to take control of manufacturing facilities and basic financial services.

The technology boom of late '90s and early 2000 again fuelled the entrepreneurship boom as government had taken various steps to withdraw their role from regulating private businesses.

Since technology boom, the entrepreneurship vigour has continuously been on the uptrend as the millennials and Generation Z build up an innovation-based economy that promises sustainable growth solution. The Government of India's initiative of 'Start-up India' and commitment to improve country's ranking in 'Ease of Doing Business' globally since last few years have fastened this movement, thereby catapulting the economy into a higher growth zone.While, initially the failure rate of start-ups was high due to reasons such as inadequate funding, inviability of business idea and meagre opportunities in terms of reach to target markets, the scenario is changing gradually.As stakeholders of start-up ecosystem come together to help start-ups grow and survive the onslaught of early turbulence, India is increasingly becoming an ideal start-up hub.

Academic institutions play a vital role in shaping up the start-up ecosystem in any country. The thriving start-up culture in the country in the last decade has brought a disruption in entrepreneurial education.

For the last few years, premier management and technical institutions have started focusing on entrepreneurial aspects, thereby nurturing their students' dream of enterprise creation.

However, not many institutions focus on providing a full-fledged entrepreneurship course for students.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Development Institute of India (EDII) is perhaps the first institute in India that pioneered the concept of entrepreneurship education, way back in early 1980s.

So far, 1,486 students have graduated from the institute with a 78 percent success rate either in new enterprise creation or diversification of family business. Entrepreneurship education creates the base of a strong start-up ecosystem as it addresses the fundamental issues before the idea is born.

However, along with education, the ecosystem also requires strong research creation that focuses on filling the gaps of availability of trained educators, researchers, business consultants and resource persons in entrepreneurship at higher learning institutions or professional organisations, government departments or industry in India.The cadre of academicians thus created, will raise the standard of education and research, thereby ensuring wider acceptance of entrepreneurship as a career option in the society.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Development Institute of India has also taken an initiative in this regard by launching an entrepreneurship doctoral programme in the country. As an academic stakeholder of start-up ecosystem, the main objective is to groom potential scholars in various facets of entrepreneurship and encourage inter-disciplinary studies in management research. The entrepreneurial research tends to intensify the efforts put in by other stakeholders in the eco-system viz – private equity players, academicians, industry mentors, angel investors and incubation centres.

Innovation is already a corner-stone for most of the entrepreneurs in India as is evident from a recent report by Global Entrepreneurship Monitor.

According to GEM report India is one of the top countries with highest rate (47%) of prevalence of innovation among entrepreneurs.Despite this, not many innovations see light of the day as they lack basic empirical research.

This is evident from the number of projects that come out of engineering and technical institutes of India every year, but do not get translated into a tangible business idea.

The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, is working in the direction of converting engineering projects into business ideas. It has launched an institutional mechanism - The NewGen Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (NewGen IEDC).

Under this, the Department of Science and Technology is helping educational institutions to develop institutional mechanism to create entrepreneurial culture in Science & Technology (S&T) academic institutions and to foster techno-entrepreneurship for generation of wealth and employment by S&T persons. Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India is the only coordinating agency for this project of Department of Science and Technology.The central government is contemplating extending its support to over 2,500 projects from 40 academic institutions over a period of five years, which began two years ago.This entire mechanism is dependent on insightful research to create new enterprises.

However, this mechanism cannot alone revive research. Academic institutions will have to take the ownership and shoulder the responsibility of generating scholars and business consultants that assist the start-ups in converting their ideas into business in least possible time and highest possible success ratio.

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Female CEOs greatly outnumbered

THINGS MUST CHANFE While women enter American companies at roughly the same rate as men, experts say their ranks grow thinner at each step up the corporate ladder

Associated Press
letterschd@hindustantimes.com

The few women who are CEOs of the largest U.S. companies typically make more money than their male counterparts but aren't close to the top of the leaderboard for pay packages.

The median pay package for female CEOs in the 2018 fiscal year was $12.7 million, compared with $11.2 million for men, according to data analyzed by Equilar for The Associated Press. That reflects a raise of $680,000 for the same group of female CEOs from a year before, versus a raise of $540,000 for the men. Median means half were larger, and half were smaller.

Still, of the 340 companies included in the analysis, only 19 were run by women. Plus, there is not a single woman on the overall list of the top 20 most highly paid CEOs. The top earner there — Discovery CEO David Zaslav — earned a pay package worth almost six times that of the most highly paid female CEO — Mary Barra of General Motors. She ranks 30th on the list overall.

Barra tops the list of female CEOs with a pay package valued at nearly $21.9 million, unchanged from the prior year. Lockheed Martin CEO Marillyn Hewson came in second with a compensation valued at $21.5 million, up 7% from the prior year.

And General Dynamics CEO Phebe Novakovic rounded out the top three with a compensation package worth $20.7 million.

The AP's CEO compensation study, conducted by Equilar, includes pay data for 340 executives at S&P 500 companies who have served at least two full consecutive fiscal years at their respective companies and filed proxy statements during the traditional period of Jan. 1 to April 30.

While women enter U.S. companies at roughly the same rate as men, experts say their ranks grow thinner at each step up the corporate ladder.

There are a number of reasons for this, including unconscious bias, lack of mentorship, people hiring in their own image and more.

This leaves few women in the pipeline to take the top seat when the time comes.

Catalyst, a nonprofit organization that focuses on women in business, said that only three times in history has a woman succeeded another woman as chief executive at a public traded company.

"The rarity of these women, they are so exceptional," said Alison Cook, a professor of management at Utah State University who researches gender and diversity in the workplace.

"Not that some of these men aren't exceptional also ... but these women have to be so incredible to have made it this far."

Comparing men's pay to women's as a group is a bit unfair, statistically speaking. The sample size is much smaller for women so any change among that group has an outsized impact.

Lorraine Hariton, CEO of Catalyst, said that while the numbers appear discouraging year over year, gains are being made in the long run.

Women are becoming slowly more prevalent in CEO roles and pay is gradually becoming more commensurate. For example, the recently released list of Fortune 500 companies includes more women than ever before, 33, but largely due to appointments made in the past 12 months, according to Fortune magazine.

And women are also incrementally becoming more common on the boards of companies, which helps usher in more women to executive leadership.

"It's a gradual trend in the right direction but much slower than what we would like to see." Hariton said.

Hariton and Cook also both agree that the recent #metoo movement has helped raise awareness of the issue and brought more men into the conversation, in some cases spurring companies to look more closely and address their own practices.

Additionally, Hariton said research shows consumers increasingly expect companies and CEOs to act on environmental and social issues, including diversity.

"Companies need to address this not just because it is the right thing to do but to remain competitive," Hariton said. "Consumers are demanding it."

THE RECENT #METOO MOVEMENT HAS HELPED RAISE AWARENESS OF THE ISSUE AND BROUGHT MORE MEN INTO THE CONVERSATION

Scope of career growth in the logistics industry

Abhishek Bansal
letterschd@hindustantimes.com

The logistics industry is one of the foremost drivers of economic growth and development. Currently, the Indian logistics industry provides employment to more than a million people. Internet penetration, growth in ecommerce segment and technology deployment in the sector will continue to drive employment opportunities in the industry.

INTERNET PENETRATION

The increasing use of internet by the Indians for commercial purposes has transformed the way business is done, giving an unprecedented thrust to the e-commerce industry.

And with the growth of e-commerce industry, as the need for rapid delivery services is growing, so is the logistics industry too - growing by leaps and bounds; thus, creating new job opportunities in logistics sector.

In the immediate future, growth in e-commerce segment will be driven the rapid internet penetration in tier 2 and tier 3 cities in India.

This same prediction holds good for logistics industry too signifying emergence of new markets and new employment opportunities for the sector.

GROWTH IN E-COMMERCE SEGMENT

The entire ecommerce market is expected to grow by 50% in 2019. Seeing the growth trends, we can forecast that during the peak Diwali season in 2019, the number of riders required for the ecommerce segment alone would be about 1,20,000; a clear 50% increase from the 80,000 riders who worked during the same time in 2018.

Food delivery segment is the sunrise segment within the ecommerce pie.

As more and more Indians continue to adopt the practice of ordering-in food, the employment opportunities in logistics will continue to rise. The food delivery segment alone employs 2,00,000 delivery boys. The segment is expected to grow by a whopping 80% leading to employment opportunities for additional 1.6 lakh delivery persons.

On the whole, we are looking at a requirement of an additional 2.5 lakh delivery persons in the entire e-commerce segment – a number almost double the current ~3 lakh delivery persons currently gainfully employed in the industry.

TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT

The introduction of technology-based mediations in the logistics sector is also progressively opening up more and more employment opportunities.

Also, taking the importance of the sector into consideration, various steps are being taken to manage the industry. Technology is bringing transparency, immediacy and instant connectivity to and otherwise cluttered and chaotic industry. For example, internet enables tracking systems for LCVs and other vehicles making it possible to reduce time lags in deliveries and utilize the resources efficiently. Technology also aggregates and connects opportunities with human resources making it a win-win proposition for businesses, customers and delivery and logistics partners.

This creates a direct positive impact on the number of employment opportunities created and opportunities availed in the logistics sector, as also seen at Shadowfax where our deliveries partners have increased by 5X in the last year alone.

The sector is modernizing rapidly for a more unbiased talent management, strengthening gender diversification and is embracing new technologies for faster growth.

The industry is undergoing massive digital transformations and is adopting cognitive technologies, artificial intelligence algorithms, Internet of Things and analytics and augmented reality etc. To meet these demands the sector requires technological talent pool for new skill-sets to run and operate along with the rising technologies.

The author is Co-Founder & CEO, Shadowfax

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Heralding changes in the CA world

EMBRACE THE CHANGE The role of a CA is evolving to assume newer responsibilities in a dynamic global environment

CA Prafulla P Chhajed
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Chartered accountancy is dynamic, challenging and a rewarding profession and is growing progressively to include various value added services in the wide panorama of services offered. The CAs play a crucial role in society promoting reliable information, both in public and private domains.

It is perhaps the only professional degree in the Commerce stream which is recognized worldwide.

In the highly competitive global environment, the role of CAs is crucial for businesses to flourish in the 21st century. In past years, there has been a marked shift towards strategic decision making and entrepreneurial roles that add value beyond traditional financial reporting.

The role of a CA is evolving to assume newer responsibilities in a dynamic global environment. Therefore, the need of the hour is to innovate as per the requisites of the contemporary business environment and accordingly upgrade the curriculum and education system of chartered accountancy course.

Keeping the future global business competencies in mind, the ICAI formulated the New Scheme of Education and Training which was upgraded, revised and refined keeping in mind the global requirements and this aligned with international education standards. Today, the focus is on specialization.

New age professionals are the ones delivering qualitative services in one specific area along with additional knowledge about the other related areas.

New age professionals are the ones delivering qualitative services in one specific area along with additional knowledge in other areas.

Electives in the emerging areas like risk management, international taxation, financial and capital markets, global financial reporting standards have been introduced in the curriculum to prepare the coming generation of CAs as experts, specializing in their chosen respective areas.

Chartered accountancy is a dynamic, challenging and rewarding profession. Because of several opportunities available to CAs both in traditional areas like accountancy, audit, taxation and finance and relatively new areas like information technology, strategic management etc. this course has become very popular amongst students."

Leveraging technology, the education delivery systems of ICAI have also been revamped with the initiation of e-Pathshala, live virtual classes.

The interactive system provides quality learning experience to the students through delivery of live or recorded lectures on anytime anywhere basis over internet and provision for a separate question answer sessions.

Today, Indian chartered accountants are holding eminent positions and have an impressive presence throughout the globe.

Many MNCs as well as KPOs prefer Indian CAs for their expertise in IFRS, international taxation, international trade laws and accounting in IT environment etc. Interestingly, ICAI members are also joining non-core areas and excelling in them. This is possible on account of holistic training that c omplements the theoretical education.

After completion of CA course, professional opportunities are available in various fields such as internal audits, financial reporting, advisory services, insolvency professionals, forensic auditing, registered valuers and more.

Some of the new areas wherein CAs are providing their services are financial and investment advisers, risk management specialists, management and organization analysts, information technology services, training and development specialists and HR specialists.

CAs are technically equipped to act as management consultants and play a vital role in assisting business and industry in the use of their resources, increase their efficiency and achieve the objectives.

Management advisory services such as financial management, planning, financial policy determination and business policy rendered by CAs reflects their expertise in diverse areas.

The dynamic changing global business environment continuously keeps throwing up challenges for accounting professionals.

Therefore new emerging areas of interest for CA professionals now include Cryptocurrency, Smart Contracts, Blockchain, forensic Audit, Data Analytics, Cyber Security, Artificial Intelligence and Insolvency. Qualified Chartered Accountants are well versed with a thorough knowledge of both business and accountancy, effectively opening the doors to a career in any sector of the economy.

Chartered accountancy education also provides opportunity to pursue higher studies, CA qualification (with Graduation) is recognized by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) as equivalent to Post Graduate degree in commerce or allied discipline for pursuing Ph.D. programme. 111 institutions (103 Universities, 6 IIMs and IIT Mumbai & Madras) have so far recognized Chartered Accountancy qualification for pursuing Ph.D. programme.

The Union Government has identified the accountancy and finance services as one of the 12 champion sectors. In the international arena as well, ICAI is playing a proactive role to position brand Indian CA.

Opportunities galore are being witnessed for CAs professional even on global pedestal. With the 12 MRA/MoUs in place, Indian CAs can now easily obtain global qualification of 5 bodies by fulfilling certain conditions.

Efforts are being made for mutual recognition agreements with maximum foreign accounting institutes which is the first step for promotion of export of accountancy services in the overseas market.

The Indian CA is a rare combination of knowledge, perseverance and integrity coupled with the acumen of analytical skill and the ability to perform and deliver under pressure.

Comprehensive and rigorous job training and a very tough and high standard examination ensures that only those people who possess very high level of knowledge, intelligence, experience and command on the subjects covered by chartered accountancy are able to qualify as chartered accountant.

The making of a CA ensures a very deep-rooted knowledge, coupled with a commitment to work hard.

The author is President, ICAI

Nine ways to help children learn community involvement

Meenal Arora
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Experiences in the real world can teach children a lot more than what a conventional classroom set up entails. For them to experience well-rounded education, it is important to go beyond the text books and familiarize them to social situations. While society is a common part of a child's life, incorporating conscious efforts at maximising his/ her involvement in it can reap long term benefits.

A community activity can be anything that is done for the good of communities or society in general. It could range from initiating cleanliness programmes to distributing relief to the homeless. When you involve the child early in community activities, he/ she develops a more contextualized understanding of fellow humans and their perceptions.

For impactful learning, parents and teachers must introduce and demonstrate real-life situations that are simple to understand and execute, yet impactful in imparting life lessons to children. According to child development experts, following are the nine ways to teach kids about community involvement:

CURATE LIST OF PROBLEMS TO SOLVE
The UN's sustainable development goals, covering issues like quality education, gender equality and climate action gives a very relevant list of ideas for services to work on. Go through the goals with children and see which ones pique their interest. Together with the children, you can brainstorm, take up a goal, formulate a linear project and apply it in your community. Find organizations or NGOs in the area that specialize in the issue and see if you can collaborate with them to further their cause.

EXPOSE THEM TO DIFFERENT CAUSES
Give children a wide variety of options to select the causes or volunteer activities that they want to indulge in. While they participate in the cause, they come to discover their strengths and acquire industry-relevant skills and interests. Even when working on one cause, each child acquires a unique skill set, which he/ she is uniquely good at. For instance, within a cleanliness campaign, while some students can be on the frontline of the task, others could be better at executing tasks behind the scenes.

ENLIGHTEN THEM ABOUT STAKEHOLDERS
Make sure that you present every aspect of the concerned cause, including different stakeholders and beneficiaries, so that children can look at it with all possible perspectives and empathise with them. This will enable them to apply their understanding and engage in meaningful action that's outward-focused and balanced. This will make them better equipped to come up with creative solutions.

MEASURE QUALITY OVER QUANTITY
It is always wiser to measure the impact rather than counting the number of hours spent on a task. Instead of assigning children with a minimum number of hours of community service per month, it is better to look at the impact of their work. Furthermore, it's important for children to engage in community involvement that fosters their own learning. The aim is to actually deliver on the stated project and foster sincerity and commitment in children.

DISCUSS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AT HOME
Knowingly or unknowingly, parents play an important role in teaching children about community engagement. If they make conscious efforts at doing so, it can be highly effective in instilling community values in them. By talking with their kids about what concerns the community and how their learning can be employed in furthering people's interests, they can lead family activities that are in some way directed towards social good, giving the children a live example to live by.

LINKING PROJECT AND CURRICULUM
To bridge the gap between the academic curriculum and real-world problem solving, you need to integrate social projects and academic content. This leads to the formation of the greatest synergy of community engagement and learning experiences and aligns learning goals and community engagement goals. Without this integration, student learning and community impact can be limited.

USE SCHOOLS' ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS Schools can use big annual events to encourage students to celebrate in a way to contribute to a larger cause, like planting trees or sweeping streets on a cleaning campaign or a simple visit to an old age home. When you replace meaningless and lavish celebrations with such social practices, students successfully learn community engagement.

INCULCATE GRATEFULNESS IN STUDENTS
Children should also be reminded to be grateful for what people around them do for their community. Simple acts of kindness that make the service members-like policemen or gatekeepers feel appreciated, can form an active component in teaching community involvement.

TAKE CLASSROOM OUTDOORS
Build two-way partnerships between the school and the wider community, including local organizations and business, by taking the classroom outdoors. Use the local environment and community as practical learning resources, and encourage parents and community organizations to participate in solving common issues. Make the school a model for a sustainable community to act as a learning hub and role model for children.

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Here are some fast-changing HR trends

CATCH UP Organisations are swearing by 'employees first, customers second' motto, B-Schools would do well to catch up

Nilesh Gaikwad
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With the world, scrutinizing an organization's ability to reinvent itself & stay relevant, HR is seeing a massive restructuring. There is no doubt that the role of HR within an organization has evolved since the turn of this millennium. As against the pre-globalization times, today there is a greater interaction between an organization's 'human resource' and its HR department. Technological advances have blasted their way into the HR function. Employers are striving hard to provide gender equality, company culture, employee-engagement, work-life balance etc. in order to remain the first choice of top talent. Retreating from the customer-centric approach, organizations are swearing by the 'Employees first, Customers Second' motto. Thus, 'Employee' has replaced Customer to become the epicenter of today's businesses.

This article will discuss current trends in the HR domain that will help organizations evolve through this Employee-first approach:

EMPLOYER BRANDING AND RECRUITMENT MARKETING

Finding and retaining the best talent remains the biggest challenge for organizations even today. Talent Leaders in various industries are emphasizing on getting Employer Branding right, more than ever. Recruitment has evolved into a two-way street wherein Employers are seen wooing the best talents. This in turn has led to the evolution of recruitment marketing. Today's workforce wants to be associated with a brand rather than a company.

A prospective recruit can source company information from multiple avenues. An increase in such points of interactions has necessitated streamlined approach in recruiting the right talent.

Every organization is fully committed to either develop or source the latest HRMS. In a digital environment, anything that can be measured, will be measured! Metrics formulated portray brand of an organization. Smart Recruitment Management Systems ensure that HR spend more time on qualitative tasks like interviewing the right prospects. Tasks like preliminary screening and shortlisting are managed by the system itself, which saves precious time. HRMS provides real-time information. Thus, the organization is able to communicate its brand with a greater clarity, attract the best and maintain uniformity of recruited talent. This in turn will ensure greater productivity.

SOCIAL MEDIA RECRUITMENT & BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS

With a majority of the workforce present on at least one Social Media(SM) platform, employers can no longer ignore it. The information shared on such platforms allows an HR to learn about a prospect even before having their first interaction. Having said that, Social Media Hiring is not replacing the HRMS but supplementing its activities. SM has also evolved with time.

Most of these platforms are now offering much more services, increasing user engagement. From being a networking platform for professionals, LinkedIn has transformed into a content sharing system. The information shared by recruits and recruiters alike, is being analyzed to find the perfect fit. Algorithms are used to match the Job Descriptions with the right audience on SM.

Recruitment of mid-management to CXO positions are outsourced to specialists of Behavioral Analysis. With the ability to import profiles from various Social Media platforms, HRMS tools are sitting on a huge cache of data.

Tools that can analyze facial expressions and voice modulations are being embedded into the HRMS to give more insights to the recruitment team. For Example: Behavioral Analysis can be used to predict when an employee is expected to search for a change, thus ensuring the employer is quick to find a replacement.

VR & AR AIDED APPLICATIONS

In addition to Recruitment, HR covers other resource development activities like Learning & Development. Applications of VR & AR within this field is huge. Through VR, candidates can go through scenario-based problems to understand the clarity in their actions. Responses to such tests will help the HR select the right candidate for the job. In turn, candidates get to confirm their understanding of the role. VR is an ideal tool to develop awareness about sexual harassment, racial discrimination and other sensitive topics.

New recruits can be onboarded through VR even before their first-day of joining. Virtual Office visits can help them know more about their workplace. Alternatively, VR & AR can supplement the training manuals. Employees can learn to operate complex machinery through Virtual Machines. The possibilities are endless. Thus, the overall Employee experience improves while cost factor remains low in comparison to human solutions. The biggest advantage of VR is its ease in scaling up. Organizations can effect an overall improvement in talent acquisition, continuous employee learning solutions, connectivity across offices in different regions and develop personalized workspace environment for their employee.

AI & ML IMPROVING HR OPERATIONS

Increasingly, call centers are being replaced by chat-bots. AI & ML can provide similar benefits to the HR industry. Again, this technology is meant to assist rather than replace the human intervention.

Day-to-day operations like leave requests, talent acquisition processes, training needs etc. can benefit from the use of AI's cognitive skills. Help desk and Grievance management can be optimized with the help of AI. Annual appraisals and performance evaluation are another set of processes that will benefit from AI intervention.

AI can provide insights into the employee performance through behavioral analysis and rate their achievements. Additionally, organizations can use AI to track periodic performances, identify red-flags and course correct. In time, the entire employee lifecycle will be managed through AI in a more effective manner.

USE OF DATA ANALYTICS, BIG DATA SCIENCE

As discussed earlier, Social Media is a treasure trove of data. The HR department itself stores employee data which goes mostly unused. Applications of Data Analytics & Big Data are playing an important role in helping a company understand its future employees.

At the same time, analytical tools can map data related to training, productivity, employee satisfaction etc.

This can be further used to define practical KPIs for the various job profiles. Using all of these applications, HR can be more agile, target the right metric and improve its overall employee satisfaction. Thus, HR can transform itself from an operational to a strategic partner for the organization's success.

The author is Country Manager, EDHEC Business School

The many emerging career opportunities in the fintech sector

Ashish Nayyar
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Across India and around the world, the fintech sector is revolutionising financial services and democratising industries that have remained unchanged and unchallenged for decades. Fintech businesses are leveraging new technologies such as machine learning and the cloud to create products and services that have the potential to transform the lives of billions of people globally. By 2020, the global fintech sector is expected to be worth over $45bn.

In turn, this has created more competition forcing established institutions and traditional incumbents to examine their business models and technology stacks. Some have chosen to partner with big tech companies – e.g. Apple and Goldman Sachs, Amazon and JP Morgan, etc. – whilst others have opted for smaller, nimbler players. However, all recognise that as the competitive dynamics within the industry shift, so do the dynamics between cities, regions and nations, and the most crucial component that will separate the wheat from the chaff is the talented people who work for these organisations.

Looking at the fintech scene in India today, it's incredible and the innovation coming out of the country is unbelievable. According to EY's 'FinTech Adoption Index 2017', India now sits second in the world, only behind China, in the adoption of fintech services across various industry sectors. In fact, over half of Indian consumers claim to have used more than two fintech products in the last six months. The analysis also indicates that India will lead the global fintech sector in years to come, with several factors driving this trend. These include high demand from Indian consumers for new and personalised digital experiences, as well as the positive results following the completion of India's new architecture for financial services that is inspiring further innovation in fintech. Not to mention, its unrivalled youth demographic which is rapidly growing and becoming increasingly digital-native. In fact, by the end of 2017, over 465m people in India were internet users and smartphone penetration surpassed 64 percent in 2018. Yet despite this, 40 percent of India's population remains unbanked, and more than 80 percent of payments are made in cash, so the opportunity to plug this gap with fintech is huge.

By 2020, the global fintech sector is expected to be worth over $45bn. MINT/FILE

However, in order to drive the innovation that will help solve problems around payments, lending, personal finance management, saving, investment, etc. businesses need capital. Back in the UK, there is almost no capital to start a business and get it off the ground. So, getting angel and seed funding is still pretty hard. Once you reach Series A level, then you have got funding kicking in from Series B onwards. In India, it's a different story: you get angel, seed, Series A, B readily. It's a much deeper capital market. India is also a high-growth market which makes it even more attractive to investors. You only need to look at the large number of unicorns being born in the country, and the depth of people who have the entrepreneurial drive to establish businesses there, to see why it is considered to be one of the most exciting markets in the world.

Deloitte has found that Indian fintech is one of top five markets by value of capital funding and investments in the sector with over $2bn of funding in 2017 and 2018. According the Deloitte, the opportunity for fintech lies in expanding the market, shaping customer behaviour, and effecting long term changes in the financial industry, with India remaining one of the largest markets where the structural enablers and fintechs have come together. Combination of steady economic growth with low penetration of financial services and availability of supporting infrastructure such as internet data access, smartphones along with utility infrastructure including Aadhaar based authentication and India Stack capabilities have providing the required impetus to India's FinTech sector.

As a result, huge global brands such as Mastercard have announced that they will make very significant investments in the country, starting with a $1bn investment delivered over the next five years. This funding from Mastercard will be used to build its first data processing centre outside the US and a services hub and will be set up to focus on developing and delivering other value-added services such as authentication, tokenisation, cybersecurity and intelligence solutions and data analytics.

The tech relationship between the UK and India is also set to strengthen, with the last year seeing Prime Ministers Modi and May launch the UK-India Tech Partnership which aims to identify and pair British and Indian tech businesses with one another, as well as venture capital firms, universities and others. Furthermore, 2018 saw the launch of the UK-India Tech Alliance which gives the trade associations from both countries (TechUK and NASSCOM) the chance to work more closely together.

With all these factors considered, it comes as no surprise that there is a huge amount of emerging and promising career options in the fintech sector, whether you're starting out in the industry or looking for more senior positions.

Since our launch in September 2015, OakNorth has become one of Europe's fastest-growing fintechs by assets, valuation, profits and revenue and since inception, the group has secured over $1bn from leading investors, including: Clermont Group, Coltrane, EDBI of Singapore, GIC, Indiabulls, NIBC, Toscafund, and SoftBank's Vision Fund.

With over 250 people working in our offices in Gurugram and Bengaluru, India is our biggest market in terms of headcount and we plan to scale it to over 600 by the end of 2019. Our India team is critical to our operations and the ongoing success of the business and are at the core of our credit skills, as well as helping us drive the roadmap for our technology development and data science evolution.

The author is Managing Director, India - OakNorth

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Here are seven ways in which AI will impact future workplaces

DISRUPTION As AI becomes more integrated into our work environment, it will impact employers and employees differently

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AI will hold the potential to completely transform workplace design. Getty Images/iStockphoto

To the pessimist, AI is associated with terrifying and dystopian scenarios, where machines replace (and eventually overtake) humans. To the optimist, AI is an amazing tool that, when used appropriately, can drastically improve the way that humans work and live.

As AI starts to become more integrated into our work environments, it's worth exploring the different ways in which it will the transform the workplace as we know it.

MANAGING VOLATILITY AND FORECASTING SPACE

AI is both a cause of the problem and a potential part of the solution.

As a cause, AI is resetting how we think about human labour. At this point in time, very few people really know how AI will impact organisations or how quickly AI will replace, modify or destroy jobs. Business leaders are confronted with the challenge of unpredictable future headcounts and traditional rules of thumb for forecasting labour needs are no longer valid.

As AI platforms become more sophisticated, they will eventually start managing workflows and job creation in organisations (they already are in some leading organisations). Ultimately, these platforms will be better equipped than humans to understand headcount volatility and predict long-term trends, allowing for smarter real estate strategies. AI will not stop unpredictability – just help us understand and manage it better.

So, AI is causing us headcount headaches today, but it will take time before AI steps in to help sort out the problem it has created. Until then the current market offers two approaches: Managing volatility within an organisation's lease (through unassigned desks, hot-desking or activity-based working), which accommodates minor, localised headcount fluctuations; and managing it outside the lease ('space as a service' whereby core leased space is supplemented by short and/or long-term access to serviced offices or enterprise co-working solutions).

ORGANISING OUR DAILY LIFE

The most obvious and immediate transformation of our work lives through AI will likely be the personal organiser. We joke today about the clumsiness and inadequacy of our personal digital assistants and their voice recognition. That will change rapidly as the next generation of consumer 'organiser' products enters the market.

Expect few complaints when AI personal assistants can reliably organise your diary, book meetings, submit expense claims, or even suggest courses of action. This technology will start with basic tasks – but over time we will become increasingly reliant on AI partners to make our work lives simpler, enabling us to focus on what we are most passionate about.

CRE will play a critical role, since AI personal assistants will need to connect into smart building technology and services. More than ever, the CRE function needs to work with IT to get the technology right. Compliance will also be critical as this next wave of technology will bring a horde of personal data privacy issues. The challenge will be to create a system that dramatically improves user experience and reduces worker stress, while ensuring that personal data is protected.

ORGANISING PEOPLE

In today's workplace, we are moving from the traditional model of desk allocation to employee self-organisation. We now live in a world where many of us work within fluid structures, interacting with colleagues across geographies as often as those in the same office. Unassigned desk environments are gaining in popularity because they enable self-organisation – allowing people to choose how, where, and with whom they want to work.

Self-organisation unleashes incredible potential for innovation; but it has also created new problems. For instance, hot desking can be very effective for those who work independently of others, while being detrimental to employees working in interdependent physical teams.

Real-time occupancy management is the key to solving this challenge. The AI concierge of the future will align workplace resources with the real-time demands of individuals and teams needing to work together, helping determine the optimum use of physical space. This platform will map out our work preferences and allocate seating accordingly, creating a seamless experience for all employees. Eventually it will understand inefficiencies in work processes and identify ways to enhance individual and team productivity.

AI AS OUR WORKPLACE CONCIERGE

The challenge every business faces today is how to attract and retain talent. In this highly competitive landscape, workplace experience is fast becoming a key differentiator. How will AI help enhance the employee experience?

Firstly, AI-predicted maintenance and automated repairs will ensure a more productive and healthy workplace, with machines and equipment breaking down less frequently. AI platforms will also provide employees with concierge services – from ordering lunch to running errands. As they learn more about us, AI platforms will start to anticipate our needs before we are even aware of them.

More importantly, AI will become integral to our well-being. Our personal health devices will connect to our AI assistants, who can then assess when we are tired, stressed or just needing a break. Based on this information, they can automatically schedule breaks, keep an eye on our snacking, and find opportunities for us to be active – managing our well-being more effectively than we ever could.

WILL WE WORK IN COCKPITS?

As AI becomes more sophisticated, it holds the potential to completely transform workplace design. What will these offices of the future look like? Will we end up working in virtual environments, sitting in cockpits with headsets and goggles?

Since humans like to connect with real, tangible environments, the widespread adoption of virtual reality seems implausible. However, augmented reality (AR), which enhances physical experiences instead of replacing them, is likely to emerge as a workplace trend.Imagine a world where we are constantly talking to our AI assistants and computers. This might make our work environment unbearably noisy – unless we use augmented audio reality (AAR) headphones. With AI-enabled headphones, we could individually turn up or down the volume of the people working around us; quietening the noisy guy at the desk next door, making it easier to hear other colleagues. Or we could simply descend into pure silence.Microsoft have recently brought to market technology that automatically identifies separate voices and transcribes meetings. Start-up company Nura have created noise-cancelling headphones where users can specifically turn the ability to hear voices on or off. Combine the two technologies and AI- enabled Audio AR headphones could be on the market sooner than you think. For those using visual AR headsets, visual privacy in open-plan spaces will become a breeze. Our virtual computer monitors will only be visible if we choose to share them with colleagues (also wearing headsets) and AR will enable us to build virtual partitions all around us when we need to block out distractions. In this sense, it will become possible to retreat into a private capsule or cockpit at work and send your avatar to your meetings!

WELCOME TO YOUR "WORKPLACE SKIN"

Humans are naturally territorial and like to personalise the places that they live and work with familiar objects and pictures. If AR (combined with AI) becomes prevalent, the virtual personalisation of workplaces could become a reality.

AI technology will be able to map a person's physical surroundings and overlay decorative colour schemes and familiar virtual objects in real time — in the same way gamers buy 'skins' for their characters. Our AI assistant might even predict our moods, understand the type of work we are doing and adjust our personalised environments to suit.

Augmented reality is still a novelty for us, and it might be hard to imagine ourselves walking around wearing clunky headsets; but with the fields of AR, spatial computing and the emerging 3D worldwide web exploding right now, the clunky headsets are starting to look like Ray-bans and this technology could be brought to workplaces sooner than we think.

SAFETY IN THE VIRTUAL WORKPLACE

If we start working in a hybrid environment, where AR headsets blur the distinction between physical and virtual reality, what new risks might we face?

Will the virtual images obscure the physical — leaving us prone to trip, collide into each other or walk into walls? Will noise-cancelling headphones create the risk of people becoming unaware of impending danger? Will we need to build rooms within future workplaces that are "safe zones" for using AR technology? On the other hand, it seems just as likely that our AR headsets will have built-in sensors and that our personal AI assistants will warn us of impending danger.

Either way, new jobs will need to be invented to manage the potential hazards of a hybrid work environment. It's easy to imagine that in the future there will be people tasked specifically with regulating any health and safety issues that may arise in augmented work environments.

As AI weaves itself into the fabric of our everyday lives, it will have a profound impact on our workplace — from the way we manage our daily well-being to how we interact with our colleagues. While AI will arguably make technology less obtrusive, it will nonetheless be omnipresent in our lives. In an AI-driven world, managing information and stimulation overload will become critical for our sanity, health and happiness.AI will certainly make our home and work life much easier; but for all its benefits, it cannot replace human connection. Learning how to regularly "unplug" from technology will be key to our overall well-being. While technology will obviously be central to our future experience at work, non-digital spaces for creating communities, taking time to think and relax will be essential.

The author is Senior Director, Workplace Strategies, CBRE Asia Pacific

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6 PAGES

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019

WEATHER

Thu 30	Fri 31	Sat 1
Clear	Clear	Clear
Max 43°C	Min 44°C	Max 44°C
Min 25°C	Min 26°C	Min 26°C

Sunset Thursday at 7:18pm
Sunrise Friday at 5:22am

Humidity Max: 43% Min: 10%

Yesterday's temp: Max 42.4°C Min 24.4°C

HUMANITY ABOVE ALL

KIDNEY SWAP IN MOHALI UNITES HINDU COUPLE FROM BIHAR, MUSLIM FAMILY FROM KASHMIR »p2

DEBRIS CESS ON CARDS

CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE POLICY, TO BE TABLED IN MC HOUSE, PROPOSES MALBA PROCESSING CESS DURING APPROVAL OF BUILDING PLAN »p3

wordofwisdom

BEST FOOT FORWARD

LISTEN TO YOUR CONSCIENCE AND YOU WILL LIVE WITH NO REGRET, SAYS FORMER PUNJAB DGP PC DOGRA »p4

EASY WIN FOR CITY EVES IN HOCKEY

CHANDIGARH OUTCLASSES MADHYA PRADESH 6-0 IN THE 9TH HOCKEY INDIA SUB-JUNIOR WOMEN'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP »p6

shortstories

WOMAN SEXUALLY HARASSED AT ATM KIOSK IN SEC 32

CHANDIGARH: A 24-year-old woman was allegedly sexually harassed by a security guard and some men at an ATM kiosk in Sector 32 on Wednesday. A resident of Sector 33, she was waiting for her turn to withdraw money when the accused allegedly passed lewd comments and made physical advances towards her. When they did not budge, she called the police control room and lodged a complaint. Police have launched a manhunt after registering a case. **HTC**

Chandigarh MC House meet moved to Friday

CHANDIGARH: The Chandigarh municipal corporation's monthly General House meeting that was scheduled on Thursday has been deferred to Friday. Sources said MP Kirron Kher, who is an ex-officio member of the House, and mayor Rajesh Kalia will be attending Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony in New Delhi on Thursday, leading to the postponing of the meeting. It will start at 11am on Friday. **HTC**

Tenders floated for dump ground, bicycle on rent

CHANDIGARH: The Chandigarh Smart City Limited has invited tenders for removal of 5 lakh tonnes of garbage at the Dadumajra dumping ground. A total of ₹40 crore is likely to be spent on the project. The bids have also been invited for eight other projects under the Smart City Mission. The total value of the nine projects is nearly ₹240 crore and the bids are to be submitted by the first week of July. »P3

debate of the week

CRIME IN TRICITY

HOW TO END GANGSTER CULTURE?

Gangsters have free run of the tricity. What steps can residents take to force authorities to take action against them to rid Chandigarh, Panchkula and Mohali completely of crime? **Write tochandigarh@hindustantimes.com by May 31.**

Encroachments around airport: Panel formed under chief secy

HIGH COURT ACTS TOUGH Committee headed by Punjab top bureaucrat tasked with creating record of authorised and illegal structures within 100m of airport, oversee GMADA and MC's demolition drive

HT Correspondent
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CHANDIGARH: With the local authorities passing the buck and not taking action against violators, the Punjab and Haryana high court on Wednesday constituted a panel headed by the Punjab chief secretary to deal with illegal constructions within 100 metres of Chandigarh international Airport.

The committee has been tasked with creating a record of all authorised and illegal constructions within this area, with specific details of the owner and extent of encroachment if any, and oversee the demolition of illegal structures by Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) and the local civic body.

A status report has been sought by July 21.

The order was passed during resumed hearing of a 2015 petition filed by the Mohali Industries Association on deficiency of requisite infrastructure at the airport.

The panel will also comprise the Mohali deputy commissioner, GMADA chief administrator, executive officer of the Zirakpur municipal council and an officer nominated by the Indian Air Force.

The chief secretary has been asked to nominate other officials, if he deems it fit.

LOCAL COURTS TOLD NOT TO ENTERTAIN PLEAS

The court clearly said that it would now be the responsibility of the chief secretary to ensure demolitions, and issued directions to trial courts of Chandigarh and Mohali not to entertain any plea that raises a dispute about the area in question. Meanwhile, the high court registrar was directed to place all petitions, if filed, pertaining to this area before this bench.

Earlier, appearing for the Centre, assistant solicitor general Chetan Mittal had shown to the court, through photographs and imaginary, how the encroachments had taken place since 2011. Mittal had also expressed concern over multistorey buildings coming up in Zirakpur area.

"Air Force might not have that much of a problem. The main problem will be in the case of commercial planes, if constructions are not regulated. One incident, and we lose the airport," he said.

The Zirakpur MC, too, had stated that 348 structures with illegal constructions had been identified. However, court was of the view that the construction could not have taken place without the connivance of MC officials, and constituted the panel.

A demolition drive was carried out near the airport's boundary wall in Pabhat village, Zirakpur, following the HC orders in October 2018. HT FILE

whatcourtsaid

> MC Zirakpur is trying to throw dust in our eyes... If need be we will dissolve MC. We won't spare.
> ON FAILURE TO ACT AGAINST ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTIONS

> We will catch hold of two people: chief secretary and executive officer (Zirakpur). You (MC) are taking us for granted.
> IF NEW CONSTRUCTIONS ARE REPORTED

ZIRAKPUR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL FACES THE HEAT

- During the hearing, the Zirakpur MC admitted that it was its responsibility to check illegal constructions. Its lawyer argued that teams have been set up for round-the-clock vigil.
- However, court was not satisfied with the response and observed that without the connivance of officials, construction can't happen.
- "Are your beat officers moving in the area with eyes open or closed," the bench said, adding that any untoward incident would bring the airport to a closure. At one point, court said that it would be forced to go out and inspect the area itself. The court warned that if fresh construction is reported, the executive officer would have to face the music.
- On the claims that no illegal construction was taking place, the court asked the Zirakpur EO: "Shall we direct chief secretary to look into your affairs."

19-yr-old stabbed to death by drunk friends in Balongi

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MOHALI: A 19-year-old youth was allegedly stabbed to death by his friends following a heated argument after they met to consume liquor at a vacant plot in Balongi on Tuesday night, police said on Wednesday. The reason behind the murder is not yet clear.

Victim Sunny Paswan, who had dropped out of school after Class 10, had come from Uttar Pradesh to stay with his parents in Ambedkar Colony, Balongi, two months back, said police.

"Around 10pm, his friends Amit and Duleep called him outside. The family says Sunny was reluctant to go, but the duo insisted," said an investigating official. Sunny reportedly told his family not to wait for him as he was going to sleep at a friend's place. The three were later joined by two others, identified as Chander Dadu and Vivek, and the five had several rounds of drinks at a vacant plot of TDI Group near Ambedkar Colony, probe revealed.

REASON NOT CLEAR

What happened thereafter is not clear. Sunny was stabbed twice in his back and stomach, said an official, privy to the matter on the condition of anonymity. "The reason is yet to be ascertained. However, before he was attacked, a heated argument took place," he said.

Sunny's father, Makkurtan Paswan, has alleged that Amit and Duleep are habitual troublemakers and have been found on the wrong side of the law earlier too.

Police have registered a case under Sections 302 (murder) and 34 (acts done by several persons with common intention) of Indian Penal Code (IPC) against the accused, who are absconding. Cops also seized a couple of items related to the case from the crime spot.

Sunny Paswan was stabbed twice, in back and stomach.

> They all were drinking alcohol at a vacant plot near Ambedkar Colony in Balongi. Before the attack, there was a heated argument.
> INVESTIGATING OFFICIAL

WOMENSCIENTISTSINTRICITY

BRINGING ORDER FROM CHAOS

A rising number of women are opting for career in science and research. Many of them are blazing new trails with their scientific ingenuity and inventions. Featured second in the 10-part series on women scientists of the tricity is Sudeshna Sinha of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali. One of the inventors of chaos computing, she says it has the potential to create advanced generations of computing machines. »P3

MERCURY CROSSES 42 DEGREES IN CITY, TO RISE FURTHER

- With maximum temperature reaching 42.4°C on Wednesday, it was the hottest day of the year so far
- "The sky will remain clear, leading to a steady rise in mercury in coming days," said the weatherman.
- With maximum temperature likely to increase by two to three degrees, heatwave conditions are expected in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh, later this week.
- Heatwave is declared when maximum temperature is between five and six degrees above normal temperature for that period. At 42.4°C, it was three degrees above normal on Wednesday

BEAT THE HEAT: A boy taking a dip in the swimming pool at Chandigarh Press Club, Sector 27, to seek respite from the scorching sun on Wednesday. KARUN SHARMA/HT

AFTERMATH OF SURAT TRAGEDY

Coaching centres in Sec 34, 47 found ill-equipped too

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CHANDIGARH: The fire department is set to issue notices to at least five coaching institutes after inspections in Sectors 34 and 47 on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, at least 40 institutes were put on notice and asked to get fire safety no-objection certificate (NOC) within 30 days in Sectors 8, 11, 17, 24 and 25 besides the Industrial Area, Phase 2. The inspections are being carried out following the Surat tragedy, wherein around 20 students attending a coaching institute were killed in a blaze at a commercial complex on May 24.

Checking was conducted at various institutes, including IBS Institute, Gyan College of Competition and CHR Group in Sector 34 and Sinha Institute and Mind Swift Academy in Sector 47, on Wednesday afternoon.

"The institutes were found to be ill-equipped. At IBS Institute, which is located on the first floor, corridors had been converted into classrooms," said Baljinder Singh, fire official of the Sector 32 station.

Singh said the remaining coaching institutes in Sector 34 will be checked on Thursday. Hindustan Times had found a number of violations at Sector 34 — a coaching hub — during a reality check carried out a day after the Surat tragedy.

Meanwhile, the fire department is preparing a report to send notices to the coaching institutes inspected on Wednesday.

THE ACTION

The notices will be served under Section 133 (order for removal of unlawful obstruction or nuisance from any public place, etc) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). Those put on notice on Tuesday had been asked to get a fire safety NOC within 30 days. If they fail to do so, they are liable to be sealed besides facing suitable action under law.

Those put on notice included Chanakya IAS Academy in Sector 8, Chemistry Coaching Circle of Dr Sangeeta Khanna and Jurist Academy in Sector 24, Abhimanu IAS Study Group, Raj Malhotra's IAS Academy and ALS IAS Academy in Sector 25, and Allen institute in the Industrial Area, Phase 2. Officials had claimed that violations included inadequate emergency exits and partitions made of flammable material.

TO BE SERVED NOTICES TO GET FIRE SAFETY NOC WITHIN 30 DAYS, MORE INSPECTIONS IN SECTOR 34 TODAY

20 NOTICES IN MOHALI IN 2 DAYS

MOHALI: The Mohali fire department has issued notices to around 20 coaching institutes in Phases 3B2, Balongi and Shahimajra for violations, in the past two days.

"All of the institutes inspected were found violating the norms and lacking firefighting equipment," said assistant divisional fire officer Mohali Krishan Lal.

Mohali fire officer Karma Chand Sood said the coaching centres were in a dilapidated condition. "They didn't have emergency exits, staircases were blocked, electrical wires were hanging loosely in the open and even firefighting equipment was lacking," he said.

"We have directed owners of the coaching centres to get the fire safety NOC within 10 days or face action," he said. More inspections are to follow. **HTC**

Dhanas man gets 5-year jail for sexual assault on minor

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CHANDIGARH: A local court on Wednesday awarded five-year imprisonment to a 35-year-old man for sexual assault on a 16-year-old girl.

Kishan Pal, 35, a labourer from Dhanas, was found guilty under Section 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 10 (aggravated sexual assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act even as the FIR had mentioned Section 12 (sexual harassment) of the latter act.

The court also imposed a fine of ₹1.5 lakh on him.

The case dates back to July 28, 2018. The minor told her mother that Pal used to show her lewd pictures and videos, and upon resisting, he would beat her up and commit "wrong acts". He allegedly also threatened her with dire consequences if she confided in anyone. Following this, the mother along with a paralegal volunteer visited the woman and child helpline centre and lodged a complaint.

During the trial, the defence counsel alleged the mother wanted to marry the accused, and when he refused, she concocted a false story. However, after the arguments, court held Pal guilty.

UT hikes dearness allowance by 6%

CHANDIGARH: The UT administration on Wednesday increased the dearness allowance (DA) for government employees, including those on deputation from Punjab, by 6%. A notification in this regard was issued after the approval from UT administrator VP Singh Badnore.

The DA enhancement is for both employees and pensioners. Employees of aided schools and colleges are also covered. Deputationists from Punjab have been included in anticipation of a hike in the state.

The allowance has been increased from 148% to 154%, an increase of 6%, with effect from January 1, 2019. The employees will get the enhanced DA from next month and the arrears will also be given. DA is a cost of living adjustment allowance paid to mitigate impact of inflation. **HTC**

HEINOUS CRIME

25-year-old gets life term for killing wife

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MOHALI: The court of additional district and sessions judge Harpreet Kaur on Wednesday awarded life imprisonment to a 25-year-old resident of Zirakpur for killing his wife in February last year.

The court has also imposed a fine of ₹20,000 on him.

According to police, Tony bludgeoned his wife, Radha, 24, to death with a hammer following a heated argument over some issue at their residence in Adarsh Nagar, Zirakpur, in February 2018.

Later, he surrendered himself before police.

ZIRAKPUR MAN HAD BLUDGEONED WIFE TO DEATH AFTER HEATED ARGUMENT IN FEB 2018, LATER SURRENDERED

The couple was married for eight years and had five children, said sources.

On the complaint of the victim's father, Gurdiyal Singh, the accused, who worked as a labourer, was booked under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code by the Zirakpur police.

The hammer used in the crime was also seized from the crime spot, said police.

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₹35,000 stolen from locked house of govt official in P'kula

PROBE BEGINS PWD official was at work when thieves entered from a window

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PANCHKULA: Thieves struck at the locked house of a Chandigarh sub-divisional officer (SDO) in Sector 4, Panchkula, when he was at work, police said on Wednesday.

Makhan Lal Goyal, 40, who is posted with the public works department, told the police that he had left for work around 9am while his domestic help locked the house and left around 11am on Tuesday.

When Goyal returned at 7pm, he found the window and the door of his bedroom, which has access from the rear, open, and the house ransacked.

Investigating official assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Malkeet Singh said the complainant claimed that thieves took ₹35,000 from his bag kept on the bed. "Investigation has been initiated in the matter. The complete list of stolen items is yet to be received from the complainant," the ASI added.

Based on the complaint, a case was registered under Sections 380 (theft in dwelling house, etc) and 454 (lurking house-trespass or house-breaking in order to commit offence punishable with imprisonment) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) at the Sector-5 police station.

GOODS WORTH ₹30K STOLEN IN PINJORE

Thieves struck at a house in Pinjore and decamped with cash and valuables worth ₹30,000, police said on Wednesday.

Complainant Shambhu Lal, who lives in Delhi, told the police that he had rented his house in Dharampur Colony in Pinjore and had kept several belongings in a room for himself.

Lal told the police that his tenant Anil Kumar called him in the morning and said that the door of his room was broken open and everything ransacked.

Investigating official sub-inspector Anant Ram said Lal came from Delhi in the evening and found ₹8,000 cash, 250 grams of silver, a camera and other valuables missing.

Based on Lal's complaint, police have registered a case under sections 380 (theft) and 457 (lurking house-trespass) of the Indian Penal Code, and initiated further investigation.

MANIMAJRA MAN ROBBED OF ₹2,500, MOBILE PHONE BY CO-PASSENGERS IN AUTO-RICKSHAW

TRIO ATTACKED 43-YEAR-OLD WITH SHARP-EDGED WEAPON, ALSO TOOK HIS PASSPORT

CHANDIGARH: A 43-year-old man was allegedly robbed of ₹2,500 and his mobile phone by his co-passengers in an auto-rickshaw on late Tuesday night.

The victim, Davinder Kumar of Manimajra, who works as a car driver for a Sector 27 resident, claimed that he had boarded an auto for Tribune Chowk from Kishangarh, and was joined by three other men.

However, on reaching near the railway light point, the auto driver took a wrong turn, one of the men took out a sharp-edged weapon from his pocket and attacked him on the head, and the other two took his passport, money, wallet and other articles from his pocket.

Based on Kumar's complaint, a case was registered under Sections 392 (voluntarily causing hurt in committing robbery) and 34 (acts done by several persons, in furtherance with common intention) of the Indian Penal Code against the unidentified persons at the IT Park police station. HTC

TWO SUICIDES REPORTED IN AMBALA IN A DAY

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AMBALA: Two separate cases of suicide were reported in Ambala on Wednesday. In the first case, Manoj Kumar, 18, of Mall Road in Ambala Cantonment, ended his life by hanging himself from a ceiling fan in his house.

As per sources, Manoj was under mental stress while his parents were unaware of the reason that made their son take such an extreme step. Ambala SHO, inspector Satish Kumar said police have initiated proceedings under Section 174 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). The actual reason of suicide has not yet been ascertained and police will make the further enquiry on Thursday," he said.

In another case, Kamaljit alias Kinra, 33, hanged himself to death in Naneola village of Ambala. On investigation, police recovered a suicide note from the spot in which the deceased had framed allegations of harassment against some persons.

On the complaint of Gurjant Singh, Kamaljit's brother, a case under Section 306 and 34 of the IPC was registered against Amarjit Singh, Deepa, Jaswant Singh, Gurnam Singh, and Pardeep, at Naggal police station, Ambala.

MY CITY MY VOICE

HEAVY VEHICLES POSE THREAT TO COMMUTERS

Despite rise in casualties caused by overloaded trucks and autos in city's industrial area, no action has been taken by the UT State Transport Authorities to check the same. Heavy materials like metal sheets, iron rods, marble slabs, bricks, sand and heavy machinery are transported in trucks without tying them properly or taking any precautionary measures. This poses risks to the lives of other commuters on the road. The UT traffic police officials are also not taking adequate steps in this regard. They don not check heavy vehicles for their capacity and permit to carry heavy loads. No strict action is being taken on the vehicles emitting black smoke and violating pollution norms. Despite the ban, use of modified vehicles and diesel auto-rickshaws is common in the city. There are many cases of riding without wearing helmet, triple riding and crossing at wrong signals that go unnoticed. The authorities should be held accountable for such reckless and non-responsive attitude.

Deepak Arora, Chandigarh

OFFICIAL'S TAKE

Traffic police PRO said the traffic police can be informed by calling on 100 or 1073 so that timely action could be taken against offenders. Alternatively, a clear picture of the vehicle's registration number can be sent to the traffic police's Twitter or Facebook page, or on the traffic police WhatsApp number 9779580985 along with the time and place of offence.

SWACHHTA CAMPAIGN FAR FROM REALITY IN MOHALI

A big billboard installed at the entrance to Rose Garden, 3B1, Mohali, exhorted people to take a step forward and make our 'green city, clean city, my dream city', swachh. However, the billboard has now been shifted inside the garden. Ironically, the garden has only two small dustbins in dilapidated condition, as a result of which the area is littered. At least 12 to 15 robust dustbins need to be placed in the garden for it to stay clean. Another hoarding in 3B2 market here said, 'keep waste with you till you find a dustbin'. But there are no dustbins available. Only the eatery owners have kept open drums outside their shops for waste disposal. The municipal corporation has not provided any garbage bins and there is a heap of litter scattered over the area. Mohali MC's sloganeering is fine but it should be supplemented with some ground work as well.

Tejinder Singh Kalra, Mohali

MAYOR'S TAKE

Mohali mayor Kulwant Singh said he will direct the concerned officers to look into the issue and sorted it at the earliest.

VEHICLES GETTING DAMAGED BY UNPRUNED TREES

Tall trees in Phase 9 here have not been trimmed for almost 25 years. They shed leaves, pollen and fruits damaging the property of residents. People cannot even park their cars on roads due to the fear of them getting dirty and damaged. While fallen tree trunks destroys property, pollen dust colours our clothes and the flooring of the house.

Amanndeep Singh, Mohali

MAYOR'S TAKE

Mohali mayor Kulwant Singh said he will direct the officials of the horticulture department to look into the matter.

LET'S SPEAK OUT AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE, TOGETHER

The Hindustan Times My City My Voice campaign offers residents of Chandigarh, Panchkula and Mohali a platform to highlight and share cives issue concerning them. Whether it's bad roads, non-functional streetlights, ill-maintained parks or poor garbage disposal, HT will act as the sounding board and will bring you the response of the authorities concerned. Help us help you.

Send us your write-up/content and high-resolution photos to myvoice@hindustantimes.com

Promoted, Chandel now city's 15th DSP

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CHANDIGARH: The UT administration on Wednesday promoted inspector Dilsher Singh Chandel to the rank of deputy superintendent of police (DSP), making him the city's 15th DSP.

Chandel's juniors Gurmukh Singh and Sita Devi were also promoted on ad hoc basis before the model code of conduct came into force, but were officially pinned with the police rank by director general of police (DGP) Sanjay Baniwal on Wednesday.

The UT has 23 posts of DSPs. As per the present arrangement, 12 posts are for promotee officers drawn from Chandigarh police and eight for DANIPS cadre officers. As of three other posts – two are ex cadre posts and one of non-executive officer.

A CONTROVERSIAL DSP

Chandel, who joined the force on April 3, 1989, as an assistant sub inspector (ASI), rose through the ranks gradually. However, his road to promotion as DSP was marred with controversy after an inquiry was initiated against him under former Chandigarh DGP Tajender Singh Luthra. It was alleged that Chandel took ex-India leave for three months without informing the department about it. He was later given clean chit by the department.

Chandel along with Gurmukh had also moved a contempt petition in the Punjab and Haryana high court alleging non-compliance of a December 2018 order of the court to the UT police to relieve three DANIPS cadre DSP rank officials with immediate effect to join their new assignments. On February 11, the UT police had issued the orders in the backdrop of the high court directions ordering UT administration to promote two inspectors to DSPs within 20 days. Home secretary Rajiv Gauba was also made party in the case which led to swift action on the directions of the court.

REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM POLL DUTY

HC stays termination order of Verka plant employee

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VERKA GM HAD ISSUED TERMINATION ORDERS FOR WOMAN WHOSE MEDICAL REPORT WAS DUE FROM PGIMER

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab and Haryana high court has stayed the termination order of junior assistant of Verka milk plant, Mohali, who had sought exemption from Lok Sabha election duty citing health issues.

The petitioner, Gurvinder Kaur, had landed inn soup when she had written to sub-divisional magistrate (SDM)-cum-assistant returning officer, Kharar, for exempting her from election duty as a polling officer on health grounds.

Kaur, a diabetic, had stated that she had been suffering from cancer, and had undergone an operation for removal of a tumour from her head recently.

The SDM, while accepting her request on May 6, had recommended to her employer that since Kaur had vision only in one eye, and was hard of hearing too, she was not physical fit for government duty, and that she be considered for premature retirement from service.

The petition said the general manager (GM) of the Verka milk plant, acting upon the SDM's orders, first sent her for a medical checkup before the Mohali chief medical officer, who opined that she had defective vision, but referred her to the PGIMER, Chandigarh, for checkup of her hearing. But before the PGIMER, Chandigarh, could release a report, the GM issued her termination order on May 21, with one-month salary in lieu of notice period under the non-common cadre rules.

Kaur had told court that she had been working for 36 years, and was due to retire in November 2020. It was argued that the GM did not form any independent opinion about her unfitness, and acted merely on the direction of the SDM, who had overstepped his jurisdiction by asking the employer to consider her case for premature retirement. It was also stated that the GM acted in violation of Section 20 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which prohibits from dispensing with services of any disabled employee on ground of such disability acquired during the service.

The court of justice TS Dhindsa, while staying the termination order, sought a response from different stakeholders by July.

Sampat Nehra

Extortion case: Gangster Sampat Nehra sent to judicial custody

CHANDIGARH: A day after gangster Sampat Nehra was remanded to three-day police custody in an attempt-to-murder case of December 2016, he was produced before the court of chief judicial magistrate (CJM) Abhishek Phutela and sent to 14 days of judicial custody in an extortion case of April 2018.

The case dates back to April 17, 2018, when Nehra was booked under Section 384 (extortion) of the Indian Penal Code on the complaint of Ashwani Kumar, a resident of Sector 2, Chandigarh. Kumar said he had got a call from someone who introduced himself as Nehra and demanded ₹3 crore to be handed over to two of his group members. Kumar said when he expressed his inability to arrange such a huge amount, the caller threatened him with dire consequences.

Booked in many other cases in Punjab and Haryana and Chandigarh, Nehra was lodged in Patiala jail. The Chandigarh police took his custody after getting production warrants and will be investigating the cases. HTC

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Bovine menace: Kharar civic body gets state nod to build cattle pound

Idrees Bukhtiyar
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MOHALI: The Kharar municipal council got approval from the department of local bodies, Punjab, to build a cattle pound on Tuesday.

"We got the approval for establishment of a cattle pound after the issue was taken up by all the councillors in a House meeting in January," said Kharar municipal council executive officer Rajesh Sharma.

"A resolution was passed to take up the matter with the department of local bodies, but the demand of the council was put on hold as model code was in force due to Lok Sabha elections," he added.

"The pound will be built on the rear of Shivjot Enclave, Kharar, on 17 acres of land. The budget of the project will be set only after the tendering of the project is completed," Sharma said.

"The pound is expected to be completed by the end of September this year," he said.

Kharar residents have been up in arms against the municipal council for failing to address stray cattle menace. HT FILE

GRAPPLING WITH MENACE

Kharar residents have been up in arms against the municipal council for failing to address the menace of stray cattle in the area.

"The menace seems to be unstoppable and growing every day. The authorities are doing little to control it," said Parminder Singh, president of Prime City Residents' Welfare Society, Kharar.

"Most cows and buffalos constantly eat food from the garbage and attack people," said Manoj Soni, vice-president of TDI Residents' Association.

Kulwinder Singh, a resident of Shivalik Extension, said, "Most of these animals have been abandoned by their owners, but they do not understand the trouble they create for others."

PERIL ON ROADS

In December last year, Bhushan Singh Rana, 25, of Dera Bassi, had lost his life after his bike collided with a stray cattle that had darted across a road.

KK Yadav made secretary of rural development

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MERGER OF 13 VILLAGES INTO CIVIC BODY BEHIND APPOINTMENT

CHANDIGARH: Due to the merger of 13 villages in the Chandigarh rural area which falls under the MC (municipal corporation), MC commissioner Kamal Kishore Yadav has been appointed as the secretary of rural development and panchayats, in place of Ajay Kumar Singla, the previous secretary.

Also, MC additional commissioner Anil Kumar Garg has been appointed as the director of rural development and panchayats in place of Radhika Singh, the erstwhile director.

Gangsters enter into scuffle at Panchkula court, one injured

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PANCHKULA: Enmity between two gangs reached the Panchkula district court in Sector 1, when an undertrial belonging to Bhupi Rana gang was thrashed by five other undertrials associated with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang following a brawl on Wednesday.

Officials privy to the investigation said all six men, Satbir Gujjar of Dera Bassi, Ranpreet Singh of Banur, Manpreet of Landran, Mandeep of Chandigarh and Devender Kumar of Badona village in Panchkula, of Lawrence Bishnoi gang and Rakesh of Bhupi Rana group, were brought from Ambala jail to be produced in the court.

Police said as per initial probe, the five reportedly thrashed Rakesh and even hit his head several times on the iron bars of the lockup at the district court.

Sector 5 station house officer (SHO) inspector Ram Pal said the accused were taken to the civil hospital in Sector 6 for medical examination where Rakesh also underwent treatment.

Officials said the attack was the result of a fallout between Gagan, a member of Lawrence Bishnoi gang , and Bhupi Rana.

A case under Sections 186 (obstructing public servant), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 353 (assault) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code was registered against the accused at Sector 5 police station.

HUMANITY ABOVE ALL

Kidney swap in Mohali unites Hindu couple from Bihar, Muslim family from Kashmir

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CHANDIGARH: They travelled for 24 hours, crossing the boundaries of religion and region, and saved each other's lives. By sharing kidneys, a Hindu and a Muslim family from Bihar and Kashmir, have proved that humanity is the first religion.

Patient Abdul Aziz Nazar and his wife came from Kashmir, and Manjula Kumari and her husband arrived from Bihar, and took shelter in a gurdwara before being operated upon at a private hospital in Mohali.

Nazar, 53, is a carpenter from Kareri village in Baramulla district of J&K. Being the sole earning member of the family, he ignored the swelling in his feet, but it worsened and the diagnosis revealed a kidney ailment.

He was put on dialysis around one and a half years ago, thrice a week, costing ₹7,000 each time.

"Transplant was the only solution. My wife Shazia Begum was ready to donate, but our blood groups did not match," he said. His son searched on the internet and got the couple registered for 'kidney swap' programme at Fortis Hospital in Mohali.

"In August, we got a call from the hospital that they had found a donor. As I had to arrange ₹8 lakh for the transplant, I delayed the operation, which later took place in December," he said.

Nazar's donor was a Hindu—Sujit Kumar, a 46-year-old ex-employee of the Indian Air Force. Kumar was also looking for a kidney donor for his wife Manjula Kumari, and he too had registered for the same programme.

Sujit Kumar and Manjula from Bihar and (right) Abdul Aziz Nazar and Shazia Begum from Kashmir. Under the kidney swap programme, Abdul got a kidney from Sujit and Manjula got a kidney from Shazia. KARUN SHARMA/HT

Under the kidney swap programme, Nazar got a kidney from Kumar, and in return Kumar's wife Manjula got a kidney from Shazia Begum.

'RELIGION DOESN'T DISCRIMINATE'

When asked if he did not have any objection to the donor being Hindu, Nazar said, "Religion never teaches us to discriminate."

Talking about her illness, Manjula said in January 2018, she complained of weakness, swelling in feet and decline in hunger. Within a month, she was on dialysis, and two months later, doctors recommend a transplant.

Her husband was ready to donate his kidney but their blood groups didn't match. That's when they started searching for other transplant options and came across the hospital's app. In September, the couple got a call from the hospital and on October 22, they got to know who their donors will be.

'ALL ARE ONE'

"I am from defence services and for us, there is no Hindu or Muslim. All are one. So, the thought never crossed my mind that who is donating kidney to my wife or who I will donate to," Kumar said.

On December 3, Dr Priyadarshi Ranjan conducted four surgeries on Abdul, Shazia, Sujit and Manjula, in a single day. The two recipients have been given new lives and for them "kindness is the only religion."

Living in a gurdwara, they have exchanged numbers and invited each other to their home towns. "We are happy as we have got a new family," beams Nazar.

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Fee hike planned for multilevel parking too

ON MC MEET AGENDA If the proposal is cleared, people will pay ₹20 for four-wheeler, ₹10 for two-wheeler for first 4 hours at Sector 17

Vivek Gupta
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CHANDIGARH: Apart from the parking sites in commercial areas, now, the commuters will have to foot an expensive bill to utilise the multilevel parking in Sector 17 also. The facility that came up at cost of ₹21 crore has a capacity of 1,000 vehicles including 600 four-wheelers.

PROPOSED RATES

If the municipal corporation clears the agenda in the House meeting on Friday, people will be paying ₹20 for four-wheeler, ₹10 for two-wheeler for first four hours at the multilevel parking, following which the flat rates of ₹40 and ₹20, respectively will be applicable. Similar rates are proposed for other sites.

Despite the rates being higher for parking lots elsewhere, the charges at the multilevel parking were ₹2 for two-wheeler and ₹5 for four-wheeler. The rates were kept low because it did not see the influx of vehicles as was hoped since its launch in 2016.

The MC had thought that low rates will help in better utilisation of the facility. It even worked well as the number of vehicles in the three levels of the underground parking started increasing. But, the MC seems to have changed its policy on pricing by proposing higher parking rates now.

'HIGH OPERATIONAL COST FOR MAINTENANCE'

Justifying the proposal for higher rates, an MC official requesting anonymity said, the higher rates were proposed because operational cost involved in managing the facility is huge. "The parking is spread over three levels which means that a contractor will have to deploy separate manpower at each floor apart from incurring expenditure on other facilities," said the official.

The facility that came up at a cost of ₹21 crore has a capacity of 1,000 vehicles, including 600 four-wheelers. HT FILE

> If MC increases the rates, chances of the people utilising the facility will decrease as there is no incentive in parking vehicle far from the main Sector 17 complex.
> RK GARG, RTI activist

However, the residents are not in favour of the hike. RTI activist RK Garg said, people were using the multilevel parking due to low rates. "If MC increases the rates, chances of the people utilising the facility will decrease as there is no incentive in parking vehicle far from the main Sector 17 complex. MC should revert to old rates."

CONG MUM ON ISSUE

Meanwhile, Congress which during the elections had attacked the BJP-led municpal corporation for mismanaging the parking lots is keeping silent on the issue.

However, a senior party leader condemned it saying that if Congress wants to be a serious contender for 2021 municipal elections, it should fight tooth-and-nail such moves.

"Instead of sitting on the matter, the Congress workers should have protested against the hike in parking charges just months after reducing it due to their election compulsion," he said.

C&D WASTE POLICY

Civic body to charge debris cess during approval of building plans

HT Correspondent
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CHANDIGARH: Going by the construction and demolition (C&D) waste policy to be tabled for approval in MC General House meet on Friday, the residents will be charged malba processing cess during the approval of building plans. The cess money will be used to run the civic body's C&D waste processing plant in Industrial Area. The plant will produce things like gravel, tiles, paver blocks out of malba.

As per the draft bylaws, cess will be charged at ₹16 per square feet, per storey, on any kind of renovation and reconstruction of residential, commercial, institutional or government building in Chandigarh.

The fee is ₹2 per square feet, per storey, for construction of new buildings, which is comparatively less since not much demolition waste or malba is generated in new constructions.

Without payment of this cess, approval for construction will not be given. However, those paying the cess can take the processed material of same cost from the processing plant at their own transportation expense within one year of paying the cess and can use it in its construction activities.

An official said that if a building owner is doing a renovation on 500 square feet of area, his total cess will be ₹8,000. "The owner can take away processed material of same value after showing receipt," said the official.

WHY THIS POLICY?

Chandigarh generates over 100 tonnes of waste which is being illegally thrown mostly across the green belts in southern sectors. The new rules put onus on residents to transport their construction waste or malba to the plant site. A fine of ₹5,500 for of throwing malba elsewhere has been already notified.

While residents are free to use their private vehicle to send their malba to the plant, the MC vehicles will also be available but on chargeable basis. As per the draft, MC will charge ₹1,000 per tipper per trip to collect the debris subject to condition that the total waste should be a minimum of 18-20 tonnes.

Nod to e-auctioning of Night Food Street, increase in eatable rates

HT Correspondent
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CHANDIGARH: The municipal corporation (MC) approved the e-auctioning and 50% hike in existing rates of eatables at Night Food Street (NFS) in Sector 14 during its finance and contract committee (F&CC) meeting on Tuesday.

With hike in rates, the monthly rent of kiosks at NFS has been increased from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh along with other terms and conditions. The market — closed in February after expiry of license period of the contractor — is likely to open in a month's time.

It will have four kiosks serving Punjabi, Chinese and North Indian cuisines along with bakery items. Non-vegetarian food will not be served on NFS.

During the meeting, it was decided that a nominal amount of ₹100 will be charged for booking of the dharamshalas in villages under MC jurisdictions.

Other than that, MC has approved a bore tubewell in lieu of an abandoned tubewell at Sector 61 at an estimated cost of ₹30.41akh.

It has also approved issuance of soap, mustard oil and gur to field staff/sewermen working in several departments.

Regarding the agenda item for maintenance of big park/garden, the members decided that a detailed agenda will be discussed in the next F&CC meeting.

The MC was planning to involved NGOs for maintenance of big parks. The civic body also gave a nod to hire an NGO to run the cremation ground in Industrial Area that is currently laying defunct. A budget of ₹4.42lakh has also been approved to fix MS railing in front of SCO 47 to 164 and SCO 121 and 188-200 in brick wall in Sector 34-A.

The civic body has also approved ₹8 lakh for construction and repair of the existing jogging track near the newly-constructed underpass along Jan Marg/Rose Garden in Sector 16.

RATE CARD

The monthly rent of kiosks has been increased from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh

EATABLE	EXISTING	PROPOSED
Puri channa	₹25	₹35
Cutlets	₹20	₹30
Spring rolls	₹25	₹40
Veg momos	₹20	₹40
Chilly paneer	₹55	₹85
Chilly mushroom	₹35	₹55
Veg noodles	₹30	₹45
Veg fried rice	₹35	₹55
COMBO MEALS		
Fried rice-manchurian	₹70	₹100
Fried rice- Chop Suey	₹65	₹95
Noodles-manchurian	₹65	₹95
Noodles-Chop Suey	₹65	₹95

MINIMUM WAGES RAISED BY ₹273 PER MONTH

HT Correspondent
chandigarh@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH: Rates for minimum wages for different category of employees have been increased by ₹273 per month.

The half yearly cost of living index numbers of Chandigarh centre for industrial workers issued by Labour bureau, Shimla, for October, 2018 to March, 2019 are ₹1,599, ₹1,593.7, ₹1583.2, ₹1,604.3, ₹1604.3 and ₹1,614.8 respectively.

Consequently, the average cost of living index numbers as on March 31, 2019 is ₹1,600. The previous average cost of living index number was ₹1,561 points for the quarter ending September 30, 2018. The increase in average cost of living index number is 39 points.

For the period from April 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019, the minimum monthly wage for unskilled workers is ₹10,047; for semi-skilled-II is ₹10,197; semi-skilled-I is ₹10,297; skilled-II is ₹10,497; skilled-I is ₹10,722; highly skilled ₹11,122; for class III (staff) ₹10,322; class-II (staff) ₹10,472; and class-I (staff) ₹10,832.

WOMEN SCIENTISTS IN TRICITY

SUDESHNA SINHA, SCIENTIST AT IISER, MOHALI

The woman who brought order in computing from chaos

MRS MARVEL

She came up with the revolutionary technique of chaos computing, which has the potential to create advanced generations of computing machines

Aakriti Sharma
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CHANDIGARH: How can weather, an unpredictable phenomenon, be linked to the creation of a generation of future computer processors? For scientist Sudeshna Sinha, 57, who works in the area of non-linear physics, it can. Studying chaotic behaviour in natural states such as weather has helped her create systems from the lessons learnt.

One of the inventors of the revolutionary technique of chaos computing, Sinha says it has the potential to create advanced generations of computing machines.

A professor at the department of physical sciences at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) since 2009, Sinha stumbled upon the concept of chaotic computing in 1997 when she met physicist William Ditto of the University of Florida at a conference in Bengaluru.

According to chaos theory in mathematics, within the randomness of chaotic complex system are underlying patterns, repetition and self-organisation. Nonlinear dynamics in physics studies systems governed by complex equations. Weather is considered to be a non-linear system, which means it often appears chaotic and unpredictable, but its behaviour is not random. This led Ditto and Sinha to reason that if they could construct a circuit that behaved in a chaotic manner, they could harness the richness of the patterns embedded in "chaos" for the design of more flexible computing devices.

STUMBLING UPON A UNIQUE IDEA

Awarded the BM Birla Prize for Physics in 1998 for outstanding scientists below the age of 40 when she was working at the Institute of Mathematical Science, Chennai, Sinha has always been fascinated by nature, always curious about its working, wanting to incorporate its lessons in her research.

"I don't see life as any other person and that goes for any scientist in this field as they understand the reasons and logic behind it," Sinha says. A postgraduate from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur with a PhD from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, Sinha has also been elected fellow at The World Academy of Sciences, Trieste, Italy.

Starting her career as a visiting scientist to Condensed Matter Group, International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, in March 1990, the biggest high for Sinha has come from realising that her chaos computing idea was unique. "To know that I had an idea which no one had stumbled upon, which had the potential to go far, were moments when I felt I could have danced all night."

TESTED FOR POTENTIAL

Talking about her journey, Sinha says even in the course of research one makes mistakes – it is an occupational hazard. "But the point is to be extremely rigorous and not be in a rush to publish and publicise results unless everything is cross-checked carefully," she says.

Inspired by the life and research of German mathematician Emmy Noether and Austrian-Swedish physicist Lise Meitner, Sinha says, "I admire those researchers who manage to balance broad-based productivity with the single-minded pursuit of challenging the big problems."

Born and brought-up in West Bengal, Sinha did her schooling from Loreto Convent School, Asansol. "My parents were liberal. They did not have problem with my pursuing science for studies and a career. I was lucky in times like that because when I went to IIT Kanpur, we were only five girls in the batch of 60 students. Seeing women in science was not as common."

Talking about her time as a student at the top science institutes of the country, she says, "Ratios didn't matter, our professors were always supportive and we were tested for our potential and not gender." However, balancing a family and a career is tough, says Sinha, who is married to a mathematics professor at IISER Mohali. "When it is time to get faculty position from post-doctoral, it coincides with the time to have babies. For some it's hard to get back. This automatically gives a push to male colleagues with regard to getting top positions."

Sinha took eight months off work after having her daughter and thinks it was "good timing" as she already had a position.

A movie buff and science fiction fan, Sinha also indulges in sketching and watercolour painting. With Amitav Ghosh's Calcutta Chromosome her favourite novel, she also loves reading Rabindranath Tagore and Satyajit Ray apart from the research journals.

NEXT: MANJIT KAUR, scientist, CERN

FEATHERS IN HER CAP

Elected fellow of the Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore, 2010, Elected fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, 2014, Awarded the JC Bose National Fellowship, 2015, Elected fellow of the World Academy of Science (TWAS), Trieste, 2018

By the way:

- Sinha is a movie buff and loves watching science fiction
- She finds her inspiration in Emmy Noether and Lise Meitner

tricitytoday

MAY 30, 2019

CONFERENCE ON ELECTION VERDICT

A conference titled 'Decoding 2019 Elections Verdict' will be organised by the Institute for Development and Communication (IDC), Chandigarh. The former chief election commissioner of India SY Quraishi, professor at University of Missouri-Columbia, Paul Wallace, and political analyst Pramod Kumar will be present on the occasion.

Where: IDC conference hall, Sector 38A, Chandigarh, **When:** 10am

BOOK LAUNCH

The book on The Great March of Democracy: Seven Decades of India's Elections edited by Dr SY Quraishi and published by Penguin Vintage will be launched.

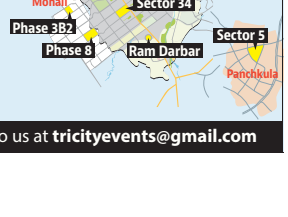
Where: Conference Hall, Institute for Development and Communication (IDC), Sector 38 A, Chandigarh, **When:** 10.00am

APNI MANDI

CHANDIGARH: Sector 34, Ram Darbar

MOHALI: Sector 56, Phase 3B2, Phase 8

PANCHKULA: Sector 5



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DELAY IN PAYMENT OF LOI

GMADA's heavy fine leaves allottees fuming

Hillary Victor
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MOHALI: Five years on, the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority's failure to give possession of residential plots under the IT City housing scheme and, to add salt to the wound, the imposition of heavy fine on the delay in the payment of letter of intent (LOI) has left the 753 allottees fuming.

The allottees alleged that as per the brochure, Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) was to give LOI in August 2018, instead they gave the letter in October.

GMADA also promised to give the possession in December last year, but neither did they hold draw of lots for plot number nor gave the possession.

A Sector-70 resident, requesting anonymity said, "My payment was delayed by just nine days and they imposed a penalty of ₹40,000, which I paid it. They are acting like private builders and are now telling us that the possession will take another three months."

Estate officer GMADA Rohit Gupta said, "Till now, we were waiting for the model code of conduct to be lifted and now we will be giving the possession. As far as fine is concerned, GMADA is charging as per the norms only."

Another allottee, Gurdeep Singh said, "If they say that they are following the brochure guidelines, why didn't they give us the LOI in August ? Even though mostly allottees have paid the full amount for the plots but, there is no information on when we will get the possession."

Former president Shailander Anand of Mohali Property Consultants Association (MPCA) said "GMADA is violating the guidelines of the apex court as they can take payment but cannot impose fine unless the possession is given."

THE SCHEME

- GMADA had launched the scheme in April 2018 and offered 753 residential freehold plots, measuring 100 to 500 sq yd at the rate of ₹25,000 per sq yd.
- The IT city is spread over 1,722 acre in Sector 66-B, 82-A, Sector 83-A and 101-A adjoining the international Airport Road.
- The first housing scheme under the IT City was launched in February 2014, wherein 325 residential plots were allotted at ₹23,500 sq yd.
- The second scheme was launched in July 2016, wherein 750 plots were allotted at ₹20,000 per sq yd. The last scheme was launched in April last year.

Six illegal structures razed in Khuda Ali Sher

HT Correspondent
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CHANDIGARH : An anti-encroachment drive was carried out in Khuda Ali Sher on Wednesday.

Six under-construction houses were razed in the drive led by sub-divisional magistrate (Central) Nazuk Kumar.

The semi-built constructions were outside the premises of Lal Dora village and hence being illegal, were demolished.

POLICE PRESENT

About 15 police personnel were present during the drive which started at 10:30am and continued till 11:30am. Despite opposition from some local residents, the drive went off peacefully.

Though the illegal construction came up during the period of the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections, the administration conducted the anti-encroachment drive only after the end of the elections.

The reason being that the matter could have taken the shape of a political issue, if taken up during the elections.

Tenders floated for dumping ground, bicycle on rent projects

HT Correspondent
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CHANDIGARH: The Chandigarh Smart City Limited has invited tenders for removal of legacy garbage to the tune of 5 lakh tonnes at the Dadumajra dumping ground.

A total of ₹40 crore is likely to be spent on the project. The bids have also been invited for eight other projects which are being mooted under the Centre's Smart City Mission.

The total value of all nine projects is nearly ₹240 crore and the bids for all the projects are to be submitted by first week of July. MC commissioner KK Yadav, who is also CEO of Chandigarh Smart city Limited, said, the department is confident to execute the projects with in one to two years and make the city better for residents.

Apart from the dumping ground project, bids for public bicycle rent project have also been invited.

As many as 600 cycle dock stations will be set up under the project to make city cycle-friendly and motivate the residents to use cycle as an alternate mode of transportation. The project was floated earlier but no private player placed the bid, forcing Chandigarh administration to render it again.

TOTAL VALUE OF ALL NINE PROJECTS UNDER SMART CITY MISSION IS NEARLY ₹240 CRORE AND THE BIDS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY

A tender has also been floated for setting up of an animal carcass incineration plant at Dadumajra at an estimated cost of ₹1.8 crore to properly dispose of the dead animals.

On an average, 10 large and 30 small animals are disposed of in an arbitrary manner daily in the city, leading to foul smell.

At the animal carcass disposal plant, the dead animals will be incinerated with the PNG/LPG in a hygienic and environmental-friendly way.

OTHER PROJECTS

Among other key projects is the ₹140 crore round-the-clock water supply project in Manimajra, which if executed successfully will take the city closer to its dream of having uninterrupted water supply.

Along with it, the project to install 13,700 smart water meters in Manimajra at an estimated cost of ₹24 crore too has been tendered.

A ₹15-crore tender has been floated to set up e-governance project where all municipal services such as fire no objection certificate, horticulture, water supply, sewerage connection, booking of community halls, birth and death certificate and online building plan approval of the estate office, the municipal corporation and the Chandigarh Housing Board will be available online.

The other projects include converting five government schools into smart schools at ₹5 crore, streamlining the distribution of recycled sewerage water at ₹5 crore and mapping of underground piping system at ₹9 crore.

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Appoint wardens on seniority basis, says PU teachers' body

TRANSPARENCY PUTA feels pick-and-choose method is detrimental and unfair

Srishti Jaswal
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CHANDIGARH : In a letter addressed to vice-chancellor Raj Kumar, Panjab University Teachers' Association (PUTA) has requested to address the issue of 'appointment of hostel wardens on the basis of seniority as per last year's practice to avoid arbitrariness.'

In the letter, PUTA says the applications have already been invited from eligible teachers. "The process is supposed to be completed by the end of this month, but strangely the appointments have not been made till date when the university is about to close for summer vacation after two days," the letter reads.

"The hostel wardens may be appointed without following the principle of seniority, in an arbitrary manner. Such a step would be extremely detrimental in view of the fact that last year, PUTA raised this issue and pressed upon the authorities to appoint wardens on the basis of seniority among the applicants, which was adopted and all appointments of wardens were made solely on the principle of seniority in a transparent manner," it further reads.

PUTA requested the V-C "to complete the task of appointment of wardens on the principle of seniority without any further delay." PU V-C, however, was unavailable for comments citing a busy schedule.

> While judging who is the best fit, seniority is given preference, along with capability. Many of the applicants are already chairpersons, how will they devote time?
> EMANUAL NAHAR, DSW, PU

PUTA president Rajesh Gill said, "This is a prerogative of the V-C as per university calendar. However, last year we changed the norms and appointments were carried out on seniority basis, not pick and choose."

A POST WITH BENEFITS

A committee comprising dean student's welfare (DSW) as chairman, PUTA president and DSW (women) appoints the wardens. Gill said, "This is a prestigious appointment for assistant professors. The warden doesn't just have administrative powers but also financial powers."

DSW Emanual Nahar said, "Around 18 applications have been submitted the dean university instructions (DUI) office for boys' hostel warden position, out of which two will be selected; and around 6 for the girls' hostel warden position, out of which one will be selected. We are expecting that a decision might be taken tomorrow."

He said, "While judging who is the best fit, seniority is given preference, while other things are also taken into consideration like the capability of the teacher or if the teacher can devote time for this role. Many of the applicants are already chairpersons, how will they devote time?"

Inter-department transfer policy to be reworked in UT

HT Correspondent
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CHANDIGARH: The UT administration has started the process of reformulating the inter-departmental transfer policy. BL Sharma, secretary, personnel department, in a meeting held on Wednesday asked the department officials to rework the policy, which has been strongly contested by employees for the last four years.

Under the controversial transfer policy formulated in 2015, the UT administrator had framed it with respect to group A, B, C, officials of the administration.

The first phase of transfers of 340 employees had invited criticism and a challenge in the central administrative tribunal (CAT) for the UT administration. CAT later quashed the policy.

The plea of the administration against the CAT order was dismissed by the Punjab and Haryana high court in 2018.

In the recently concluded general elections also, the transfer policy became a poll issue.

WAY AHEAD ON THE POLICY

In the first stage, the implications of the orders on the policy by the high court (HC) and CAT will be examined. In conjunction with it, the feedback of employees will be taken on the policy and its working.

The UT personnel department will also estimate the impact of a changed policy on the careers of the employees.

A list of people affected by the policy will be prepared by the heads of each department.

"I have asked the department officials to study the policy in the light of the high court and central administrative tribunal order on the issue. Also, we were facing certain issues with the implementation of the policy so we will be reworking it.

"The employees will be taken on board. We don't want to make changes before understanding the implications the changes might bring on the employees," said Sharma.

Oil tanker collides with canter on GT Road, catches fire

AMBALA: Two heavy vehicles—a tanker filled with flammable ethanol and a canter loaded with plywood—caught fire after they collided on GT Road near Ambala City on Wednesday.

The drivers of both the vehicles escaped unhurt and are absconding, police said. The fire was so severe the police had to stop the traffic on one side of the highway, fearing the tanker might blast.

Police said, due to collision between tanker of Gopal Oil Carrier Private Limited company and the plywood canter, both on their way towards Punjab from Ambala, the tanker caught fire and the oil leak led to the fire in canter. As many as five fire tenders were deployed. HTC

WORDSOFWISDOM PC DOGRA

Listen to your conscience and you will live with no regrets

BEST FOOT FORWARD Former Punjab DGP PC Dogra believes in leading from the front and earning respect by giving it first. He says subordinates look up to a leader who takes the rightful stand and serves without any self-interest

Yojana Yadav
yyadav@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH: Former director general of Punjab Police PC Dogra, 79, sums up his career in the Indian Police Service and the Indian Army with a simple life lesson: Never go against your conscience.

"If you want to serve the country, join the defence forces. If you want to ensure instant justice to the poor, join the police," says Dogra, a 1968-batch Punjab-cadre IPS officer.

He had taken emergency commission in the army in 1963. "In the army, there is no place for *sho-sha* (superficiality). You need to be sincere in your efforts and work hard. Though competition is tough and the job demanding, there is camaraderie and team work," he says.

"Life in the police is different from the regimented environment of the defence forces. Here, we deal with people from different sections of society. The idealism at the time of joining the police often gets diluted because of power, pelf and other compulsions. It's best to stay true. Then there are no regrets," he says.

Ask him the challenges of life in khaki and he jokes: "The biggest fear or punishment for a policeman is transfers."

TAKE RIGHTFUL STAND

Leading any disciplined force is an honour and the police service involves dealing directly with the powers that be. "Personnel look up to a leader who takes a rightful stand. Politicians don't interfere when they see there is no self-interest," he says.

Dogra says he developed leadership qualities at a young age. Though he comes from a humble background from Sattowali village in Jammu's Ranbir Singh Pura tehsil, he was a bright student with oratory skills that stood him in good stead as he joined student politics in college.

"I studied at the Municipal Board High School in Batala where teachers spent extra hours coaching bright students for free. All they wanted was the name of their institution to shine," he says.

"Society has given me a lot. My education was supported by scholarships. I'm indebted to the principal who left instructions that I could study in his office after school since my home didn't have power supply." Dogra went on to top Gurdaspur district in Class 10.

"I have fond memories of Bhim Sen, my English teacher, whom I would run to greet when he used to walk along the canal. We respected teachers like parents," he says.

SPIRIT TO SERVE

Dogra was a teenager when he joined the Dainik Prarthna Sabha's youth wing. "My mentor, Mahashay Gokal Chand ji, would discuss national issues on long walks as early as 4am. With charity, he set up a college, a hospital and an old age home besides ashrams," he says, adding he imbibed the spirit to serve from him.

Dogra joined the non-medical course at Baring Union Christian College in Batala but developed socialist leanings. He was influenced by nationalist leaders such as Vinobha Bhave and Jaya Prakash Narayan. "I joined Sikh National College in Qadian where I was elected student union leader despite 80% of students being Sikhs. A section of students wanted me to step down as I was a Hindu face but I refused and won hands down," he says.

He was pursuing masters in English at Government College, Hoshiarpur, when a teacher suggest he join the armed forces. "Even before the written test, we were interviewed and shortlisted by then 11 Corps commander Lt Gen TB Henderson Brooks in Jalandhar."

On the police front, he says, "Proactive and honest policing is all that works. No politician or influence can sway a strong resolve. Rather, it is respected."

Dogra went on deputation to the Central Bureau of Investigation as deputy inspector general and was called back to Punjab when militancy was at its peak. He served as IG, Border Security Force, in Jammu and Kashmir before he became IG (intelligence), BSF. He took charge as Punjab DGP in 1997 and retired in 1999.

CITY CONNECT

"Chandigarh is still the best place to settle down in India. It's a metro without the distances and pollution. *Yahan apnapan zyada hai* (There is more bonding here) and it's well-connected," he says, adding there's nothing he would want to change about the city. "The traffic congestion is people's creation and should be addressed," he adds.

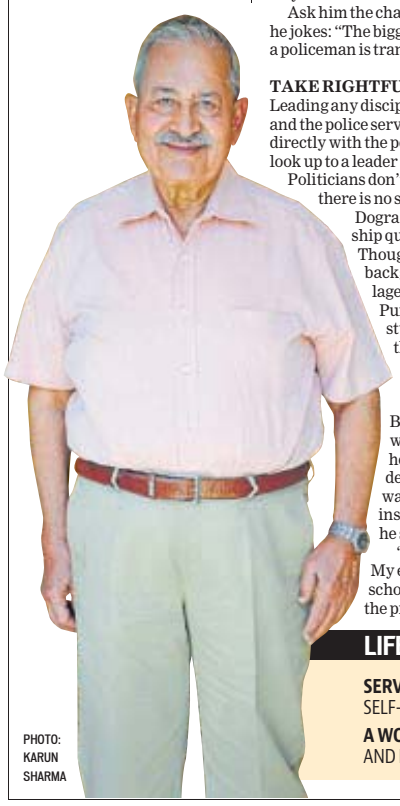

PHOTO: KARUN SHARMA

LIFE LESSONS

SERVE SOCIETY. DON'T LET SELF-INTEREST COME IN THE WAY

A WORTHY LEADER IS COURAGEOUS AND PATIENT

THINGS MAY BE INCONVENIENT BUT DON'T BE VINDICTIVE

JOIN THE FORCES. IT'S THE BEST WAY TO SERVE THE NATION

CCPCR, edu dept celebrate World No Tobacco Day and Int'l Children's Day

HT Correspondent
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CHANDIGARH: With an aim to create a child-friendly city, Chandigarh Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CCPCR) in collaboration with the education department celebrated World No Tobacco day and International Children's Day by organising poster making, slogan writing and theatrical competitions for children of city schools on Wednesday.

Various government and private schools across the city participated in the programme, with 26 teams performing plays on drug abuse, POCSO and child labour, here at Government Model Senior Secondary School in Sector 18.

Adviser to the administrator Manoj Kumar Parida, secretary education BL Sharma and director of social welfare Navjot Kaur attended the programme.

Parida appreciated initiatives taken by CCPCR to make students aware about child abuse.

Renowned theatre artist of Chandigarh, Sudesh Sharma, appreciated the performances and offered free training of theatre to school children. Chairperson CCPCR, Harjinder Kaur, said sensitising the whole society about child abuse was a huge challenge but with such events, a strong safety net could be built.

Students performing during a theatrical competition organised by the Chandigarh Commission for Protection of Child Rights at Government Girls Model Senior Secondary School in Sector 18, Chandigarh, on Wednesday. KARUN SHARMA/HT

Fix contractor's responsibility for Mohali MC works: Minister

HT Correspondent
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MOHALI: Punjab cabinet minister Balbir Singh Sidhu reviewed the status of various development works and schemes of Mohali on Wednesday.

The review was done during a meeting held at the municipal corporation (MC) office in which representatives of the Mohali Industries Association and MC officials were present.

The meeting was attended by the MC commissioner Bhupinder Pal Singh, MC joint commissioner Kanu Thind, Mohali Industrial Association executive chairman Anurag Aggarwal, president Vogesh Sagar, secretary Rajeev Gupta, vice-president (V-P) IS Chabbra and joint secretary Vijay Chawla.

ASKS OFFICIALS TO ARRANGE EXTRA EQUIPMENT TO TACKLE WATER SHORTAGE

The Mohali Industries Association representatives demanded for the development of infrastructure including parks, roads, garbage dumps and the construction of foot bridges in Industrial Area, Phase 8. Issues including sewage system sanitation, water shortage and stray cattle menace were also discussed.

Sidhu instructed the officials to expedite the development works so that the works be completed on time. He added that the contractor's responsibility should be fixed for maintenance works.

"There is no dearth of funds with the state government for development works and Mohali should be set as an example of industrial revolution in the state as well as the nation," he said.

ASSOCIATION TO BEAUTIFY CITY PARKS

He told the officials that the city parks will be handed over to the Mohali Industrial Association for beautification and instructed the MC commissioner to appoint two nodal officers for the purpose.

Sidhu ordered the MC officials to spray water on garbage in order to avoid the hovering of flies and mosquitoes over garbage dumps. He further told the officials to arrange extra equipments like Borewell water motors to tackle water shortage and expedite the Kajauli water works project.

SAND MINING

PANCHKULA DC PULLS UP TASK FORCE OFFICIALS

HT Correspondent
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PANCHKULA : A day after police booked two persons for allegedly carrying out illegal sand mining in Bhanu village near Ramgarh, Chandimandir, the Panchkula deputy commissioner (DC) Balkar Singh on Wednesday once again directed the task force teams at the sub-division levels to keep a vigil.

On Monday, a team of mining department had conducted an inspection in the Bhanu village and found illegal mining being carried out over one acre of land at a village farm. On May 9, the teams were constituted under sub-divisional magistrates (SDM) of Panchkula and Kalka, during a meeting.

Singh said, "The officials have been directed to take immediate action against those indulging in illegal activities, and violating rules and regulations."

He further said prompt administrative action will be taken if any negligence is noticed on part of the officials.

A monthly meeting will be conducted by the task force team, wherein a report of the raids conducted, cases registered and action taken will be reviewed, said the district commissioner.

The sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) was made the chairman of the teams, while district mining officer were chosen as the member secretary in both the sub-divisions, Panchkula and Kalka.

As many as 27 cases have been registered in the district so far this year, while around 40 cases of illegal sand mining were reported during last year. A majority of the cases were reported from Chandimandir, Barwala, Pinjore and Raipur Rani areas of the district.

MOST OF THE 27 ILLEGAL CASES REPORTED SO FAR ARE FROM BARWALA, PINJORE, RAIPUR RANI AND CHANDIMANDIR.

schoolnotes

SMD LITTLE CHAMP SCHOOL

Fresher's party organised

PANCHKULA: SMD Little Champ Smart School organised a fresher's party on Wednesday. Harsirat Kaur and Kabir Kathpalia were appointed as head boy and head girl respectively. The students participated in various activities and the winners were felicitated with prizes by principal Deepika.

ASHIANA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Investiture ceremony

CHANDIGARH: Ashiana Public School, Sector 46-A, organised it's investiture ceremony for the academic session 2019-20 on Wednesday. Samarth Sabharwal and Tamanna Aggarwal were appointed as the head boy and head girl. Jagjot Singh and Muskan Sehgal were appointed as deputy head boy and deputy head girl respectively. Director Lalita Prakash and principal Monika Sharma congratulated the new student council.

SRI GURU HARKRISHAN SCHOOL

Workshop on emotional intelligence

CHANDIGARH: Sri Guru Harkrishan Senior Secondary Public School ,Sector 40-C, organised a workshop on emotional intelligence for the teachers on Wednesday . The resource person was Himani Mittal Singh from Maduban Publications. She interacted with teachers on realising their inner strength overcoming emotional problems that hamper mental peace. The emphasis was on maintaining a balance between personal and professional life.

ST JOSEPH'S SR SEC SCHOOL

Student excels in declamation contest

CHANDIGARH: Shreya Chawla of St Joseph's Senior Secondary School , Sector-44D, secured the first position and a cash award of ₹1500 at an inter-school declamation contest on the harmful effects of tobacco. The contest was organised by Sahayta Charitable Welfare Society, as a part of an awareness drive.

SAUPIN'S SCHOOL

Student clinches gold in chess championship

PANCHKULA: Jalaj Goyal of Class 9 from the Saupin's School secured a gold medal in the under-15 category at the 10th Panchkula District Chess Championship held at The British School. He also represented the school at a state level chess tournament.

KNOWLEDGE BUS GLOBAL SCHOOL

Fire safety drill

MOHALI : The Knowledge Bus Global School organised a fire safety drill on Wednesday . It's aim was to educate students on how to respond appropriately in case a fire breaks out.The speaker on the occasion was fire safety consultant Arvind Batara . He shared simple and easy steps to follow safety tips, explained the functioning of fire extinguisher and spoke about the do's and don'ts incase of a fire.

Students and teachers at the investiture ceremony of the Ashiana Public School in Sector 46A, Chandigarh, on Wednesday. HT PHOTO

ST VIVEKANAND MILLENNIUM

3-day talent programme

PANCHKULA: St Vivekanand Millennium School is organising a three-day programme with the objective of enhancing the talents of students. Activities included poetry, public speaking, craft, cooking without gas, and acting were organised.

VR MOHAN DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL

Splash pool activity

MOHALI : A splash pool activity was organised at Col VR Mohan DAV Public School. A variety of activities was organised for the students for holistic growth and development of their motor skills.

BHAVAN VIDYALAYA

National integration camp

PANCHKULA: A group of six students from Classes 9 and 10 from Bhavan Vidyala, Sector 15, attended the national integration camp at Bhavan's Vidyasharam, Jaipur. They interacted with students from other regions of the country and learnt about their culture, custom, traditions, heritage and religion.

KIDS 'R' KIDS SCHOOL

Disaster management workshop

CHANDIGARH: A workshop on disaster management was organised at Kids 'R' Kids School, Sector 42- C. Survival skills required in case of calamities like earthquakes, floods, landslides and severe storms were explained to the students . Remedies in case of emergencies like poisoning, snake bites, fainting, and nose bleeds were also explained.

DAV SCHOOL, PANCHKULA

Talent contest held

PANCHKULA: DAV School, Sector 8, organised a talent contest in association with Saz Production for the students between the ages of 3-12. The students walked the ramp and impressed the judges and audiences.

GOLDEN BELLS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Badminton championship

MOHALI: Students of Golden Bells Public School, Sector-77, excelled in the 6th State Amateur Ball Badminton Championship which was held in Amritsar. As many as 18 teams participated from 11 districts of all over Punjab. The students secured second position in the junior group and fourth position in the senior group. Four students have been selected for National Championship at Manipur.

NEW INDIA SCHOOL

Investiture ceremony

PANCHKULA: New India Senior Secondary School organised it's investiture ceremony on Wednesday . The newly elected members of the student council were announced and they were conferred with badges and flags. The members took an oath to perform their duties to the best of their abilities. Director Sharda Gupta congratulated the members.

ANKUR SCHOOL

Summer camp

CHANDIGARH: Ankur School organised a summer camp which commenced on Wednesday. Activities like painting, cooking, dance, music, theatre, personality development, spoken English, yoga, aerobics and table tennis were organised.

SWAMI RAM TIRTHA SCHOOL

Investiture ceremony

MOHALI: Swami Ram Tirtha Smart School organised the investiture ceremony for the academic session 2019-20. The event was presided over by the director and principal .Head boy Jaskirat Singh Bedi, head girl Bhawana and sports captain Utkarsh Jaryal and other members of the student council took an oath which was administered by the director and they were conferred with badges.

SHARDA SARVHITKARI SCHOOL

Special morning assembly

CHANDIGARH: A special morning assembly was conducted at Sharda Sarvhitkari Model Senior Secondary School, Sector 40-D, where students of Classes 4 and 5 presented a programme on the theme 'respect your elders'. Director BS Kanwar distributed prizes and trophies to the students who secured above 85% in CBSE Class 10 examinations.

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shortstories

PU CET (PG) EXAM: JUNE 4 LAST DATE TO FILL FORMS

CHANDIGARH: The Panjab University (PU) issued a notice that candidates who had deposited their fee for PU CET (PG) entrance test 2019 but could not complete their forms should contact Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Computer Centre, PU, to complete forms by June 4, 4pm. Candidates should bring a scanned photograph along with a scan of their signature in a pen drive along with a fine of ₹500. **HTC**

June 6 last date for PU golden chance exam

CHANDIGARH: PU has extended the last date of applying for golden chance for all professional courses/undergraduate/postgraduate courses to complete the degree (compartments/re-appear/improvement/additional subject), to June 6. The exams will be held in June 2019. **HTC**

Contact programme concludes at Dev Samaj

CHANDIGARH: The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) team of Dev Samaj College of Education, Sector 36-B, organised an extended contact programme for students of the post graduate diploma in higher education, which concluded after 10 days on Wednesday. **HTC**

70-year-old labourer killed, two injured in Ambala building crash

HT Correspondent
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AMBALA : One labourer died and two others were injured after a building collapsed in Gita Nagar area of Ambala City in the wee hours of Wednesday, the police said.

The deceased was identified as Jagtar Singh, 70, of Una, Himachal Pradesh, and the injured were identified as brothers Ajay Kumar Vishwa and Vijay Kumar Vishwa of Darjeeling, West Bengal.

Police said five labourers—Jagtar Singh, his wife Sawarn Kaur, Ajay Kumar, Vijay Kumar and Santosh Kumar—were sleeping when a portion of the cold store collapsed at around 4am on Wednesday.

After getting an alert from locals, a fire team reached the spot and carried out rescue operation. Jagtar Singh, Ajay Kumar and Vijay Kumar were rushed to the civil hospital in Ambala City. The doctors declared Jagtar brought dead and the two injured were referred to Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, (PGIMER) Chandigarh, police said. Swaran Kaur and Santosh escaped unhurt.

The ruins of the building that collapsed in Gita Nagar area of Ambala City in the wee hours of Wednesday. HT PHOTO

The owner of the cold store, Naresh, said "Few days ago, I had lodged a complaint at Baldev Nagar police station that the building is in a shambles and the people should stay away from it. The building had developed cracks. Even then, the labourers came last night and slept there," he said.

SHO Subhash Chand said, "We had visited the site three days ago after receiving a complaint, and alerted the people to vacate the place. We have initiated inquest proceedings under Section 174 of the Code of Criminal Procedure."

OWNER HAD LODGED A COMPLAINT THAT THE BUILDING WAS IN SHAMBLES AND PEOPLE SHOULD BE PROHIBITED FROM USING IT

41-yr-old man killed in Pinjore hit-and-run

HT Correspondent
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PANCHKULA : A 41-year-old man was killed after a rashly driven car hit him in Pinjore on Tuesday.

Police said the victim, Rajesh, a native of Uttar Pradesh who was residing in Nava Nagar village in Pinjore, was a daily wager working at a godown in the village.

One of his neighbours and colleague, Rajnath, who was accompanying him at the time of the incident, told the police that they along with one Kallu used to live in the godown.

"We three had gone to have food at a dhaba nearby at around 9pm. We were crossing the main road when a rashly driven Maruti Swift car coming from Baddi hit Rajesh, leaving him injured," Rajnath told the police.

Police officials said while the accused car driver managed to flee from the spot, the victim was rushed to the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, where he succumbed to his injuries late at night.

> We three had gone to have food at a dhaba nearby around 9pm. We were crossing the main road when a rashly driven Maruti Swift car coming from Baddi hit Rajesh.
> RAJNATH, victim's colleague

DERA BASSI MAN BOOKED

Investigating official assistant sub-inspector Balbir Singh said following the accident, passersby gathered at the spot and the complainant noted the registration number of the car – HR-70C-7667, which belongs to Satpal Singh, alias Satnam, a resident of Gulmohar Extension, Dera Bassi.

A case was registered against Satpal Singh under Sections 279 (rash driving) and 304A (causing death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) at the Pinjore police station.

TRUCK DRIVER ELECTROCUTED TO DEATH

HT Correspondent
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PANCHKULA: A 38-year-old tipper truck driver died in a mishap in Pinjore on Wednesday after the truck's hydraulic switch malfunctioned causing it to touch the high tension wires.

The deceased has been identified as Jagtar Singh of Paploha village in Pinjore. Police said when Jagtar tried to repair the switch, it got earthed and he was reportedly electrocuted. The incident took place near a petrol pump on the Nalagarh-Charnia road.

Investigating official, assistant sub-inspector Jaswinder Singh said Singh had asked a mechanic to change the tyre and before that could be done, the rear side of the tipper got raised automatically and touched the high tension wires, due to malfunctioning of the hydraulic switch. "When the victim touched the tipper while taking out the tool box from it, he got electrocuted," he added.

Singh died on the spot while the vehicle also got damaged in the fire. Police have initiated inquest proceedings.

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Top seed Anirudh rallies to semifinals

AITA CHAMPIONSHIP Outclasses Yashasvi Balhara 6-4, 4-6, (12-10) in a keenly-fought boys U-14 quarterfinal contest

HT Correspondent
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ZIRAKPUR: Top seed Anirudh Sangra outclassed Yashasvi Balhara 6-4, 4-6, (12-10) in a keenly-fought boys U-14 quarterfinal contest during the ongoing All India Tennis Association Talent Series under-12 and under-14 championship at Roots Tennis Academy in Zirakpur on Wednesday.

After claiming first set 6-4, Anirudh lost the second set 4-6 to Yashasvi and the score levelled at 1-1. Playing in the deciding set, both Anirudh and Yashasvi played top-class tennis in a bid to win the match.

After winning 10 games, Yashasvi lost the 11th and 12th game and lost the match to Anirudh. With this win, Anirudh booked his berth in the boys u-14 semifinals.

In another hard-fought clash, Umang Singh Cogi outplayed Satvik Singla 3-6, 7-5, (10-3) to enter the semifinals. After losing the first set 3-6, Umang made a strong comeback in the match and won the second set 7-5 to level the score 1-1.

Umang took the third set and the match. Fourth seed Aarush Sharma overpowered Varchasva 6-3, 1-6, (11-9) in another tough match. Aarush won the first set 6-3 but lost the second one 1-6 to Varchasva. In the third set, Aarush came back strongly and bagged it 11-9.

Third seed Arnav Malik beat Keshav Dangi 6-2,3-6,(10-5) in the last boys u-14 quarterfinal match to enter the last four stage.

Playing in the boys U-12 quarterfinals, Hruhaan Soni edged past Siddardh Mohan 1-6, 6-4, (10-5) in a tough battle. Rushil Bakshi rattled Laksh 1-6,6-1,(10-6) in another match. In lop-sided matches, third seed Sanidhya Dhar beat Shorya Jishtu 6-3, 6-0 while second seed Simardeep Singh blanked Abhinav Sangra 6-0, 6-0 to storm into the semifinals.

In the girls U-14 pre-quarterfinals, top seed Ananya Dogra outclassed Nandini Agarwal 6-2, 7-5, Ivleen Kaur overpowered Akshdha Sharma 6-2,6-1 and Bhumika Gupta ousted Ajenika Puri 6-1,6-0 to surge ahead. Chhavi Saini tasted win against Jaya Kapoor 6-2,6-2, Isheeta Midha beat Khushi 6-3,6-2, Kashvi defeated Diya Chaudhary 7-5, 6-3 and second seed Sia Mahajan pipped Shrawasti 6-2,6-1 to advance into the quarterfinals.

Krittika Katoch got the better of Nandini Agarwal 7-6(2), 6-1 while Inaaya Mittal beat Niharika Moudgil 6-3, 7-6(5) in the girls U-12 quarterfinals.

In other matches, Shrawasti edged past Khushi Dangi 6-1, 6-0 and Chhavi Saini defeated Jaya Kapoor 6-4, 0-6, (10-7) in a hardly-fought game to move ahead in the tournament.

Sanidhya Dhar and (right) Krittika Katoch in action during their matches played in the AITA Talent Series championship at Roots Tennis Academy in Zirakpur on Wednesday. SUSHIL PRAJAPATI/HT

IN THE GIRLS U-14 PRE-QUARTERFINALS, TOP SEED ANANYA DOGRA OUTCLASSED NANDINI AGARWAL 6-2, 7-5 TO SURGE AHEAD

BOYS AND GIRLS RESULTS

Boys' under-14 (Quarterfinals): Anirudh Sangra bt Yashasvi Balhara 6-4, 4-6, (12-10); Umang Singh Cogi bt Satvik Singla 3-6, 7-5,(10-3), Aarush Sharma (4) bt Varchasva 6-3,1-6,(11-9), Arnav Malik (3) bt Keshav Dangi 6-2,3-6,(10-5);

Boys' under-12 (Quarterfinals): Hruhaan Soni bt Siddardh Mohan 1-6, 6-4,(10-5), Sanidhya Dhar(3) bt Shorya Jishtu 6-3,6-0, Rushil Bakshi bt Laksh 1-6,6-1,(10-6), Simardeep Singh (2) bt Abhinav Sangra 6-0,6-0;

Girls' under-14 (Pre-quarterfinals): Ananya Dogra (1) bt Nandini Agarwal 6-2, 7-5, Ivleen Kaur bt Akshdha Sharma 6-2,6-1, Bhumika Gupta bt Ajenika Puri 6-1,6-0, Chhavi Saini bt Jaya Kapoor 6-2,6-2, Isheeta Midha bt Khushi 6-3,6-2, Kashvi bt Diya Chaudhary 7-5, 6-3, Sia Mahajan (2) bt Shrawasti 6-2,6-1;

Girls' under-12 (Quarterfinals): Krittika Katoch bt Nandini Agarwal 7-6(2), 6-1, Inaaya Mittal bt Niharika Moudgil 6-3, 7-6(5), Shrawasti bt Khushi Dangi 6-1, 6-0, Chhavi Saini bt Jaya Kapoor 6-4, 0-6, (10-7).

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Easy victory for Chandigarh eves

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HISAR: Chandigarh outclassed Madhya Pradesh by 6-0 on the third day of the 9th Hockey India Sub-Junior Women's National Championship (A Division) held at Hisar on Wednesday.

Hockey Jharkhand, Hockey Him, Hockey Odisha and Hockey Haryana also registered comfortable wins.

Earlier, Hockey Jharkhand put up a stellar performance beating Hockey Coorg 25-0. Rajni Kerketta's seven (6', 10', 26', 28', 34', 38', 58), Deepika Soreng's five (11', 12', 22', 24', 25') and Pramodni Lakra's four goals (47', 52', 53', 59') highlighted Hockey Jharkhand's dominating display where they managed to score 10 goals in the second quarter.

Riding on two-goal efforts from Preeti (5', 29') and Suman (39', 54'), Hockey Chandigarh beat Hockey Madhya Pradesh 6-0.

Hockey Him handed Assam Hockey their second defeat in as many days beating them 4-0. Hockey Him opened up a three-goal lead in the first nine minutes of the game via Manisha (6'), Tannu (7') and Sejal (9'). The scoreline remained as it is until last quarter when Hockey Him added one more to their name through Tamanna Yadav in the 46th minute as the game ended 4-0 in their favour.

Riding on three goals scored in the 3rd and 4th quarter Hockey Odisha beat Hockey Karnataka 3-0. None of the teams could find the back of the net in the first two quarters. Just three minutes into the third, Sumi Mundari scored Hockey Odisha's first.

The lead was doubled at the stroke of the 3rd quarter via Rasmi Kishan. Sumi Mundari scored her second and team's third in the 55th minute as Hockey Odisha sealed the 3-0 win.

In a match where goals came thick and fast, Hockey Haryana beat Hockey Bihar 22-0. The bulk of the scoring was done by Deepika who scored seven goals (8', 14', 30', 31', 33', 47', 50) and Monu (20', 21, 24', 37', 47') as Hockey Haryana didn't give any respite to Hockey Bihar.

In matches played later in the evening on Tuesday, Hockey Bhopal beat Assam Hockey 2-0. A goal apiece from Poonam Pal (9') and Shivani Kumar (19') was enough for Hockey Bhopal to see through their opponents in the match. Hockey Punjab beat Hockey Bihar 5-0 riding on Captain Karmanpreet Kaur's four goals (34', 37' 51', 56').

RESULTS

Hockey Chandigarh beat Hockey Madhya Pradesh 6-0

Hockey Jharkhand beat Hockey Coorg 25-0

Hockey Him beat Assam Hockey 4-0

Hockey Odisha beat Hockey Karnataka 3-0

Hockey Haryana beat Hockey Bihar 22-0

CHANDIGARH'S JANNIA LOSES TO ANANYA

MUMBAI: lad Veer Chotrani and Delhi's Sankalp Anand put it across higher-ranked opponents to enter the boys under-19 final of the Southern Slam junior squash, a SRFI national five-star event here Wednesday. In the girls under-19 section, Ananya Dabke of Mumbai, pulled off an upset win over second-seeded Jannia Singh for a spot in the final.

The match between Chotrani and second-seeded Yash Fadte of Goa witnessed high quality squash with the latter rallying after trailing 1-2 before winning in five games. After starting strongly, the Mumbai player lost his way as Fadte played in a solid manner.

Chotrani, however, regained his composure to register a 11-5, 10-12, 8-11, 12-10, 11-7 win.

The lanky Sankalp played consistently to upstage No.1 seed Utkarsh Baheti 5-11, 11-8, 11-7, 12-10. In the girls under-19 event, left-hander Sanya Vats, the top seed had it easy over local girl Rathika Suthanthira Seelan, winning 11-8, 11-4, 11-8.

The talanted Dabke stole the show with a 11-7, 11-4, 11-3 demolition of the No.2 seed Jannia Singh.

Former Indian cricketer and Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association director, Vikram Rathour during a coaching session in Lucknow. HT PHOTO

Rathour backs Afghanistan to show their mettle in World Cup

HT Correspondent
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LUCKNOW: Former India opener Vikram Rathour has alerted all top teams, including 2011 champions Team India, against an energetic Afghanistan side at the World Cup, starting Thursday in England. He feels that Afghanistan have the ability to surprise any team, and they look determined.

"They are a wonderful side and some of their players have already proved their worth in world cricket.

If they get going, they can surprise any side in English conditions," Rathour said while training youngsters during a camp at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Stadium in Lucknow on Tuesday.

"All the teams, including India, should be careful against the Afghans.

Being first-timers at the World Cup, they are an excited bunch and they have the mental setup to give their best as they have nothing to lose.

"They have some terrific spinners in their ranks, and if they get suitable conditions, they will be tough to handle for any side," added Rathour, who played six Tests and 7 ODIs from 1996 to 1997 and scored more than 11,000 runs in first-class cricket at an average of 49.66 in 146 matches.

> All the teams, including India, should be careful against the Afghans. Being first-timers at the World Cup, they are an excited bunch and they have the mental setup to give their best
> VIKRAM RATHOUR, former cricketer

Admiring the capability to Virat Kohli as skipper as well as a batsman, former Punjab batsman Rathour said that fans at the World Cup shouldn't judge Kohli's leadership with the showing of his side, Royal Challengers Bangalore, in the IPL.

"IPL is an altogether different ball game whereas the World Cup is something different. He (Kohli) has been a wonderful batsman and a leader too. MS Dhoni is the backbone of the Indian team and the two have the ability to handle all kinds of situation and pressure."

He refused to accept that India wasn't in good form, especially after losing the practice match to New Zealand.

"That's just a practice match and nothing else. We shouldn't form an opinion about the team with the result of the practice match. They are professionals and know how and what to do to win."

Rathour, who is also a former national selector, opined that KL Rahul was the best option to bat at No 4.

"A specialist at this slot could have been better, and even if not then Rahul is the best option available for this. Vijay Shanker has the advantage of being a bowler also, and I do believe that seamers will have an upper hand in England.

"Consistency would be the only good thing for a side winning the World Cup, and India have it in them to regain the trophy. Three seamers and two spinners should be in the playing XI in early matches," said Rathour.

He said that England being the hosts had the best chance to win their maiden World Cup.

"They have been doing well in all forms of the game and playing on the home turf would be the added advantage.

Predicting the winner is difficult as Australia have always been the favourtites, whereas West Indies, New Zealand are strong teams and above all Pakistan has the capability to surprise anybody."

HERO JUNIOR LEAGUE

Minerva Punjab FC lads overpower Bengaluru FC in final to emerge champs

HT Correspondent
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CHANDIGARH: Minerva Punjab won their fourth Hero Junior League title in a row, beating fellow finalists Bengaluru FC in the final at the Kalyani Stadium in West Bengal, on Wednesday.

Bengaluru FC entered the final beating Kerala Blasters FC 2-0 in the semifinals.

The Bengaluru outfit had scored 87 goals in 12 matches of the tournament without conceding a single goal. Minerva Punjab FC had beaten Shillong Lajong FC 2-0 to enter their fourth consecutive final.

India junior internationals Himanshu Jangra and Maheson Singh scored the two second-half goals for Minerva, who not only retained their title but also ended the 12-match winning streak of giants Bengaluru FC.

Both the sides headed into the tunnel with the scores tied at 0-0 on the stroke of half-time. Minerva coach Harpreet Singh's half-time pep talk seemed to have worked fine as Minerva came out firing all cylinders.

A couple of minutes after the restart, Jangra broke free of the defence and slotted it past the keeper to put Minerva in the lead.

That gave them more impetus, and it took them around another 20 minutes to double their lead.

INDIA JUNIOR INTERNATIONALS HIMANSHU JANGRA AND MAHESON SINGH SCORED THE TWO SECOND-HALF GOALS FOR VICTORS MINERVA

Minerva kept the composure to see off the game while Bengaluru FC's frustration grew which saw their striker being sent off for dissenting against the referee. The match finished with a scoreline of 2-0.

A cross from the right was headed onto a bar, before Maheson's header on the rebound was blocked by Bengaluru keeper Dipesh Chauhan.

However, Maheson was alert and nodded another rebound into the goal.

In the end, those two goals were enough to take the side from Chandigarh to their fourth successive Hero Junior League victory.

Minerva Punjab FC and Bengaluru FC players toil to take control of the match during the Hero Junior League final at at the Kalyani Stadium in West Bengal, on Wednesday. (Below) Victors Minerva Punjab FC in a jubilant mood after clinching the title. HT PHOTOS

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4 PAGES

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019

weather

HIGH 43.2°C LOW 26.3°C

FORECAST: MAINLY CLEAR SKY

Sunset on Thursday 7:23pm

Sunrise on Friday 5:24am

CONGRESS LEADER RAISES QUESTIONS OVER WORKING OF MAYOR BALKAR SANDHU »p3

MAN HURT AS CAR CRASHES INTO TRUCK »p4

BASKETBALL TOURNEY KICKS OFF

DGSG SCHOOL SECURE WIN OVER DORAHA BASKETBALL ACADEMY »p2

City sizzles at 43.2° Celsius, no respite from heat in sight

IT'S HOT Maximum temp 4 degrees above normal, may breach 45°C by weekend

HT Correspondent
ludhiana@hindustantimes.com

LUDHIANA: There seems to be no respite from the scorching heat with the maximum temperature soaring to 43.2 degrees on Wednesday, four degrees above normal.

Even the night temperature on Tuesday was recorded at 26.3 degrees, two notches above normal.

According to officials at the School of Climate Change and Agricultural Meteorology, Punjab Agricultural University, the mercury is set to rise further in the next couple of days.

Agro-meteorologist KK Gill said the week could end with the maximum temperature touching 45 degrees, highest in May. Before this, the highest temperature in May was recorded at 44.4 degrees in 2018.

On onset of monsoon, Gill said monsoon was expected to hit Kerala by May 25, but there could be a delay of five days. According to the past records, Punjab receives monsoon rains one month after Kerala. "But this correlation can differ this year, as the rising heat is favourable for monsoon," she said.

Gill said the intense heat was harmful for humans, animals as well as crops: "Farmers are advised to irrigate their fields regularly." Residents should also take caution to not step out between 12pm and 3pm, when the heat was the highest, she said, adding that even if not thirsty, one should consume lots of water at regular intervals. Even animals should be kept in shade and made to drink a lot of water, she said.

»HELP BIRDS BEAT THE HEAT P3

Women use dupattas to shield themselves against the harsh sun on the Punjab Agricultural University campus in Ludhiana on Wednesday. GURPREET SINGH/HT

shortstories

STRAY CATTLE CONTINUE TO RULE THE ROADS

LUDHIANA: The death of 20-year-old Keshav Verma has brought to light the lackadaisical attitude of the municipal corporation (MC) authorities in dealing with the rising stray cattle menace in the city. A stray animal claimed the life of Keshav while he was trying to avoid crashing into the animal and collided his car with a truck coming from the opposite direction on the Ludhiana-Ferozepur highway here on Monday. Residents of a city with a population of 20 lakh are left with no option, but to put their lives at stake every day while commuting, with stray cattle roaming freely on the already congested roads and highways. »P4

NGT panel tells MC to remove garbage along Buddha Nullah

LUDHIANA: A meeting of the monitoring committee of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) was held in Chandigarh on Wednesday and the Ludhiana municipal corporation (MC) was told to remove the garbage dumped alongside the Buddha Nullah and install CCTV cameras at certain points of the nullah to keep a check on the dumping of garbage into and on the sides of the nullah. To begin with, the MC has already identified a stretch from the Chand Cinema to the Shiv Puri Puli to remove garbage and a cleanliness drive was organised at the stretch on Tuesday night. »P3

debate of the week

GREEN INITIATIVE

HOW TO STOP PLASTIC POLLUTION?

Already battling with air and water pollution, the city of Ludhiana has another ugly side to it— increasing plastic pollution. A ban on polythene bags imposed by the Punjab government remains on paper even as plastic has invaded residents' lives while posing a grave risk to the environment. Plastic is not only a threat to the life of bovines who ingest them in the search of food, it also chokes the drainage system and causes water pollution. What steps should be taken to control the alarming situation?

Send your inputs in 150 to 200 words with your contact information to ludhiana@hindustantimes.com by June 2.

BOY SODOMISED AT MADRASA, TEACHER BOOKED

HT Correspondent
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LUDHIANA: A day after a 12-year-old boy was allegedly sodomised at a madrasa in Behlolpur village, Machhiwara, police booked his substitute teacher on Wednesday.

The accused has been identified as Mohammad Asjad of Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

He was booked on the statement of the victim's father. The complainant told the police that his son used to visit the madrasa established in the village. On Tuesday evening, he was bleeding when he returned home. On being coaxed, he revealed that his teacher sodomised him and threatened him to remain mum about the matter, following which he rushed his son to the hospital.

Police officials privy to the case said the teacher at the madrasa had deputed Asjad as his substitute as he was going to be away for a few days.

Inspector Ramaninderjit Singh, SHO, Machhiwara police station, said a case under Section 377 (sodomy) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code had registered against the accused, who was currently at large. Efforts are on to arrest him.

Woman held for murdering husband, paramour at large

HT Correspondent
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BLUDGEONED HIM TO DEATH AS HE DID NOT LET HER RETURN TO HER PARAMOUR AFTER ATTENDING HER SON'S LAST RITES, SAY POLICE

LUDHIANA: Three days after a 45-year-old man was bludgeoned to death at his house in Manewal village, Machhiwara, police arrested his wife for the murder on Tuesday night, while her paramour and another aide managed to escape.

Investigators said the woman, Paramjit Kaur, 43, and her paramour Nizamuddin used a washing bat to bludgeon to death her husband Sukhdev Singh. The washing bat has been recovered following Kaur's disclosure.

Inspector Ramaninderjit Singh, station house officer (SHO), Machhiwara police station, said the woman revealed during interrogation that her husband was a drug addict. Therefore, she left him two years ago to live with Nizamuddin of Karnal, Haryana.

Two months ago, her son Dilpreet Singh died due to renal failure, following which she returned to Manewal for the last rites. Thereafter, Sukhdev did not allow her to return to Nizamuddin. The latter came to the village on May 23 to pick her up, but Sukhdev was adamant against letting her go.

Therefore, Paramjit and Nizamuddin hatched a conspiracy to kill Sukhdev and involved another accomplice in the crime.

On May 25, when Sukhdev was lying in the house in an inebriated condition, the accused hit Sukhdev with a washing bat.

After he died, they changed his blood-soaked clothes. As neighbours started coming in, they claimed that Sukhdev slipped in drunken stupor and hit his head against the corner of the bed. Locals then informed the police, prompting the woman and her accomplices to flee the scene. Following investigation, police arrested Paramjit on Tuesday.

The SHO said the trio was facing charges under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code. Paramjit was produced before a court on Wednesday and sent to two-day police custody.

Jewellery shop worker decamps with 276gm gold from workshop

HT Correspondent
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LUDHIANA: The Division 8 police on Wednesday booked a jewellery worker for fleeing with 276gm gold from a workshop.

Complainant Ajmer Singh of Sector 32-A, Chandigarh Road, stated that he owned a jewellery shop named "SP Jewellers" on College Road. He had employed Sheikh Asgar Ali a year ago for making jewellery.

On April 15, he handed him 276 gm gold. "On April 20, Ali disappeared without any information. When I checked the box in which he used to keep jewellery, I found an iron piece and two magnets," said Ajmer, adding that he could not trace Ali since.

Assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Harjit Singh, who is investigating the case, said a case under Section 381 (theft by clerk or servant of property in possession of master) of the Indian Penal Code had been registered, and a manhunt was on to arrest the accused.

RPF ARRESTS MAN WITH THREE TELECOM BATTERIES

LUDHIANA: Railway Protection Force (RPF), Ludhiana, arrested a man after recovering three batteries used in telecommunication work from his possession on Wednesday.

The accused was identified as Sunil Kumar of Chowkiman village, Ludhiana.

RPF in-charge inspector Anil Kumar said a team comprising sub-inspector Dharamveer Singh, head constable Paramjeet Singh and constable Hakam Singh conducted a raid at Mullanpur yard and apprehended the accused.

Sunil had stolen two batteries of 2 volt (V) and 200 Ampere hour (Ah) each from an optical fibre communication hut in Mullanpur.

COPS ARRESTED THE ACCUSED, SUNIL KUMAR, FOLLOWING A RAID AT MULLANPUR YARD

Another battery of 12V and 100 Ah was recovered from the house of the accused after his disclosure during questioning. He said he had stolen the third battery from Baddowal on May 27, the inspector said, adding that the three batteries cost ₹7,500 approximately.

A case under Section 3 of the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act has been registered. HTC

OWL AND OUT

A spotted owlet appears as curious as this shutterbug, who found him peeping out of a tree trunk's hollow on the PAU campus. Having adapted to living in cities, the bird lives in hollows of trees or in cavities of buildings and rocks. GURPREET SINGH/HT

REALITY CHECK AFTER SURAT FIRE TRAGEDY

Vital in rescue operations, lone responder vehicle defunct for years

Harsimran Singh Batra
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LUDHIANA: Learning no lesson from multiple fire tragedies in Ludhiana that have claimed several lives, including those of firefighters, the municipal corporation (MC) has failed to equip its fire wing with a functional rescue responder vehicle.

The solitary rescue responder vehicle available with the Ludhiana fire brigade is lying defunct at the Haibowal fire station for years.

Used to rescue people trapped in buildings on fire, the vehicle is equipped with first-aid kit, cutters, ropes, life ring to save drowning victims, and a firefighting suit, used to protect rescuers while moving through flames, which has also turned obsolete.

The vehicle also has an inbuilt generator used to power up its lights for firefighting in the night. In absence of facilities offered by the vehicle, firefighters use torches or car headlights to douse flames in the dark, and carry other utilities by loading them in the fire tenders.

A fire wing staffer, requesting anonymity, said the rescue responder vehicle was lying defunct for over a decade, and no effort was made to repair it. "If it is returned to use, we can use it to even store oxygen cylinders and stretchers for rescue operations.

The defunct rescue responder vehicle parked at the Haibowal fire station in Ludhiana. The vehicle is equipped with first-aid kit, cutters, ropes, life ring to save drowning victims, and a firefighting suit, to protect rescuers while moving through flames. HT PHOTO

A few fire tenders and other equipment are also lying in a dilapidated condition, but authorities have failed to pay heed to their importance," he added.

Recently two firefighters were injured after they fell from the first floor while dousing flames in a factory situated in Focal Point.

With no rescue responder or ambulance available, the injured were carried in private vehicles or the fire tenders with no medical aid.

Four fire fighters also suffered burn injuries while dousing flames in Vijay Nagar in 2017.

CLAIMS ONLY ON PAPER

Despite tall claims to upgrade the infrastructure of the fire brigade, not a single project has been initiated at the ground level.

Multiple proposals and requests by the fire brigade, including purchase of hydraulic ladder, upgrade of fire tenders and filing of vacant posts, have remained only on paper. Neither the municipal corporation (MC) nor the local bodies department has acted on the requests.

Even local bodies minister Navjot Singh Sidhu had promised to upgrade the fire brigade after a plastic factory collapsed near Suffiyan Chowk, claiming lives of 16 people, including nine firefighters, in November 2017. But nothing changed.

Meanwhile, the fire wing staff continue to put in their best efforts to fight fires despite unavailability of adequate staff and infrastructure, undaunted by even losing their colleagues in the plastic factory fire.

Mayor Balkar Sandhu had recently announced that MC had decided to purchase fire safety suits for firefighters, but the tender has yet to be floated.

Assistant divisional fire officer (ADFO) Bhupinder Singh said they had already written to the higher authorities to repair the machinery, including the defunct rescue responder vehicle. Further, the MC was also considering purchase of a hydraulic ladder, used to rescue people from high-rise buildings.

IN ABSENCE OF FACILITIES OFFERED BY THE VEHICLE, FIREFIGHTERS USE TORCHES OR CAR HEADLIGHTS TO DOUSE FLAMES IN THE DARK, AND CARRY OTHER UTILITIES IN FIRE TENDERS

Fire ravages material at yarn factory, hosiery waste godown

LUDHIANA: Separate fire incidents were reported from a sealed yarn factory near Samrala Chowk, and a hosiery waste godown in Ghora Colony on Tuesday night.

No one was hurt as both units were closed when the fires broke out. As the fire started in the yarn factory, flames soon spread to the adjoining factory through a skylight.

Sub-fire officer Maninder Singh said a bank notice pasted outside the yarn factory revealed that it was sealed. Though no one was hurt as the factory was sealed, the material inside was gutted. The fire was controlled before it could cause major damage to the adjoining factory, he added.

Fire station officer Shristi Nath said at the godown in Ghora Colony, hosiery waste and cotton was reduced to ashes. Fire officials said reason behind both the fire incidents was uncertain.

THIRD FIRE AT TAJPUR LANDFILL IN MAY

Another fire broke out at the main garbage dump of the municipal corporation (MC) on Tajpur Road, third in May. The private company staff deputed at the landfill said presence of highly combustible methane gas in the garbage caused spontaneous fires. Fire brigade officials said the flames were controlled in around an hour. HTC

CRACKDOWN ON NEXUS

Not prescribing generic medicines to pain civil hospital doctors

Mohit Khanna
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LUDHIANA: In a crackdown on the nexus between government doctors and pharmacists, the Punjab health department has decided to a maintain a database of doctors, who do not prescribe generic medicines to patients at civil hospitals.

Amit Kumar, managing director, Punjab Health System Health Cooperation, and project director, National Health Mission, said the pharmacist at each civil hospital in the state will keep a log of medicines being prescribed by the doctors.

"We will monitor the log. If discrepancies are found, the doctor concerned will be told to show cause," said Kumar, while responding to complaints that except for a handful of chemists located around the civil hospital, several medicines prescribed by doctors were not available at any other medical store across the city.

The official was in Ludhiana to inaugurate the revamped Jan Aushadhi Kendra, a pilot project kick-started from the district to provide medicines at affordable prices. The centre had been lying out of use for the past 10 years. A total of 25 such centres will be inaugurated at various civil hospitals across the state.

What kind of services are we offering to society if the needy patients have to spend their entire savings only on buying medicines?
AMIT KUMAR, MD, Punjab Health System Health Cooperation

"Nearly 350 medicines are available at the revamped Jan Aushadhi Kendra, and the number will be increased gradually. We had carried out a trial run of the project and received an encouraging response. In a few days, the sale of medicines witnessed a threefold rise," said Kumar.

While interacting with senior medical officers and other health officials at the civil hospital, Kumar said a meeting was also conducted to discuss the decline of the government health sector. "What kind of services are we offering to society if the needy patients have to spend their entire savings only on buying medicines? I reiterate that the doctors who prescribe generic medicine will be suitably rewarded," he said.

DOCTORS DIFFER

Dr Avinash Jindal at the civil hospital, said two NGOs, namely Nikhil and Ek Noor Charitable Trust, were providing free medicines to underprivileged patients at the hospital.

"In such a scenario, who will buy medicines from Jan Aushadhi Kendra?" asked Dr Jindal. Dr Malkit Singh said the sale at Jan Aushadhi centres will not increase till medicines were offered for free. Countering the doctors, Kumar said if patients were receiving medicines for free, the sale at Jan Aushadhi centres would not have seen a threefold rise.

Meanwhile, Dr Rohit Rampal highlighted the shortage of doctors and paramedical staff at the hospital.

Regarding the status of the probe in the wrong blood transfusion case, Kumar said the probe report will be submitted soon.

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Class 11 admissions: Non-medical stream students' top choice at meritorious school

COUNSELLING Out of 74 students, 54 were allotted non-medical, seven medical and 15 commerce

HT Correspondent
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LUDHIANA: The non-medical stream remained the most preferred option among the students who attended the third day of counselling session for admission to Class 11 of the meritorious schools of the state on Wednesday.

Out of the total 74 students who attended the counselling session conducted by The Society for Promotion of Quality Education for Poor and Meritorious Students on the third day in Ludhiana, 54 were allotted non-medical, seven medical and 15 commerce streams.

The non-medical and commerce seats in the top schools of Bathinda and Patiala were filled up by 2.30pm.

Bhavna Mehta who scored 82.31% in PSEB Class 10 board exams, said she was interested in robotic engineering.

"Non-medical is always the first choice, especially among girl students. I have been noticing this trend from the last five years ever since the counselling for the top schools has begun," said management information system (MIS) coordinator Vishal.

Students attending counselling at Senior Secondary Residential School for Meritorious Students in Ludhiana on Wednesday. GURMINDER SINGH/HT

The meritorious schools, a pet project of the previous SAD-BJP government, earlier admitted only those students who secured 80% marks in Class 10.

10 MERITORIOUS SCHOOLS IN THE STATE PROVIDE FREE EDUCATION AND ACCOMMODATION TO BRIGHT STUDENTS

Students scoring minimum 70% (general category) and 65% (SC/ST category) had appeared for the CET on April 21 and in Ludhiana 1,108 students took the test at three examination centres. There are 10 meritorious schools in the state with 500 seats each that provide free education and accommodation to bright students and prepare them for the entrance examinations of prestigious institutes of engineering, management, law and medicine within and outside the state.

The students will be allocated seats in any of 10 meritorious schools after counselling. Admission process will start from May 31.

SUB-JUNIOR BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

DGSG Public start campaign on winning note

HT Correspondent
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LUDHIANA: Boys of DGSG Public School won over Doraha Basketball Academy during District Sub-Junior Basketball Championship that kicked off at Guru Nanak Stadium in Ludhiana on Wednesday.

The players, aged below 12, put all efforts to get basket on every attempt but were found struggling with the ball, making repeated fouls.

In the 40-minute match between DGSG Public School and Doraha Basketball Academy, DGSG began the game with their five experienced players who earned first four points for the team within the first minute.

After getting a lead of 4-0, the five players were brought back and DGSG Public School coach gave a chance to the newcomers who proved stronger than Doraha players.

DGSG Public School ended the first half with a lead of 12-4 and continued to overpower Doraha in the second half.

Till the final whistle, DGSG Public School was leading with 22 points while Doraha cagers could add only six points on the board.

FOUR MATCHES ON DAY ONE

As many as four matches were played on the first day. In boys category, Baba Isher Singh Public School won over Doraha Public School 28-21.

In girls category, Khalsa Girls Senior Secondary School clinched victory over Baba Isher Singh Public School 35-16, and Baba Isher Singh Club bagged victory over DCM Presidency School 29-20.

Players in action during a match between DGSG Public School and the Doraha Basketball Academy at the Guru Nanak Stadium in Ludhiana on Wednesday. GURMINDER SINGH/HT

ROBOTEX INDIA 2019

200 students showcase mettle at regional meet

HT Correspondent
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LUDHIANA: "Two years ago, we discovered that our son was suffering from dyslexia, a learning disorder that involves difficulty in reading due to problems in identifying speech sounds. His IQ is 121, but he gets stressed with academics," said Robotex India 2019 participant Mohit's father Rajesh Sharma.

Mohit Sharma, a Class 8 student of Kundan Vidya Mandir, was among the 200 students who participated in Robotex India 2019 regional championship held at BCM Arya Model Senior Secondary School, Model Town, on Wednesday.

The championship is being organised at six locations of India, including Delhi, Ludhiana, Indore, Pune, Rajkot and Mumbai. "We want to know if there is a way that can help him focus on robotics without putting his future at stake," said Mohit's mother Geetika Sharma, who was there to cheer up Mohit, along with her husband Rajesh Sharma who operates an import-export business.

Soham Talwar, 14, a student of Sacred Heart Convent School, who was taking part in the Lego Line Following Robot category of the championship, said he had participated in the Robofest 2016 held in Bangalore.

"In the Robofest-2016, I participated in the dance competition wherein the role play was to be carried out with the help of robotics and I stood 4th at the national-level," said Talwar.

Students taking part in Robotex India 2019 regional championship at BCM Arya Model Senior Secondary School, Shastri Nagar, in Ludhiana on Wednesday. HT PHOTO

As many as 200 students of different schools across the city, including DAV Public School, Sat Paul Mittal School, Kundan Vidya Mandir, Bal Bharati Public School, Shivalik Public School, Convent School Sarabha Nagar and DCM Presidency School took part in the championship. The regional winners will participate in the national-level championship that will be held in July.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, THE FUTURE

With the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) deciding to introduce artificial intelligence as an optional subject in Class 6, the schools and parents whose children are interested in artificial intelligence (AI) are looking for ways to get their wards involved in various robotics competitions.

"AI is the future, robotic surgery has become very common these days," said Devendra Parmar, Robotics Technical Advisor.

"The aim of conducting such events is to develop scientific temper among students at an early age," he added.

Fire and evacuation mock drill at mall

LUDHIANA: A mass fire and evacuation mock drill was conducted at the Pavilion Mall here on Wednesday to enhance the safety awareness among people and apprise them of the steps to be taken at the time of emergency. Officials from the fire brigade were also present on the spot to spread awareness among the public.

During the drill, people were told not to move inside the mall. An announcement was made on the public address (PA) system to evacuate the building. All the showroom owners were also instructed to evacuate the building through fire staircases along with their customers and assemble near the flag post area for head count. Store managers had provided the head count status to CEO (security) following which the mall operation was resumed. HTC

Cricket trials at UT school on June 1

CHANDIGARH: The Mahajan School of Cricket, near IT Park, is going to conduct the trials on June 1 for U-12, U-14, U-16 and U-19 girls and boys for the 2019-20 session at 3:00 pm. Interested players should reach along with their age proofs at Mahajan Cricket Ground on June 1. The selected players will attend a coaching camp under guidance of qualified coaches. For further inquiries, Gurjyot Singh can be contacted at 9878523738. HTC

RASAM PAGRI

Late Smt. Kamlawanti Jain

(1930 - 2019)

We inform you with profound grief that our respected mother (MATA JI) Smt. Kamlawanti Jain W/O Late Shri Dharam Parkash Jain left for her heavenly abode peacefully on 29th May 2019.

RASAM PAGRI will be held on **30th May 2019, Thursday at Guru Nanak Dev Bhawan Auditorium,** Firozepur Road, Near Bharat Nagar Chowk, Ludhiana at **11:00 AM**

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughter in laws
Komal Kumar & Kanchan Jain
Nirmal Kumar & Rita Jain
Anil Kumar & Sunita Jain

Grand Son & Daughter in laws
Kuntal Raj & Kirti Jain
Tarun & Shweta Jain
Varun & Bhumika Jain

Grand Son in laws & Daughters
Manish & Nidhi Jain
Deepak & Vidhu Jain
Sunil & Ruchi Jain
Vineet & Niti Jain
Nikhil & Shruti Jain
Abhishek & Harshita Jain

Great Grand Children
Pulkit, Bhavya, Nivisha, Pratham, Manan, Ria, Rishit, Falit, Prachit, Kainaa, Prishaa, Aarushi, Avika, Pritish, Kiyaan, Aarnav, Vardaan, Waaris.

Management, Staff & Workers

DUKE NEVA VENUS

educationnotes

YOGA SESSION AT BCM SCHOOL

LUDHIANA: A yoga session was conducted at BCM School, Basant Avenue. Students were apprised of various breathing exercises and were advised to practice these exercises regularly. Principal Vandna Shahi emphasised on the benefits of yoga.

KCW inaugurates student research centre

LUDHIANA: Khalsa College for Women, Civil Lines, established a student research centre which has conducted a 5-day workshop on 'Project report writing and using Microsoft Office Excel for statistical analysis' that will conclude on Saturday. The students of business administration and Association For Research and Advanced Studies are taling part. The objective of the workshop is to inculcate research orientation among the students and gear them for the preparation of their project reports in their final year of graduation. Principal Mukti Gill congratulated the IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell) team who established the centre.

Darshan Academy organises summer camp

LUDHIANA: Darshan Academy conducted a 7-day summer camp that concluded on Wednesday.The camp was organised for the students of Classes 1 to 8 wherein participants took part in activities such as dance, yoga, skating, music, cooking, basketball, table tennis, martial arts, personality grooming and cricket. The school also organised special yoga and meditation camps for parts.

PCTE commerce students bag top spots in PTU exams

LUDHIANA: The Bcom students PCTE Group of Institutes bagged top positions in the Punjab Technical University (PTU) semester examinations. In Bcom (professional) second semester, Muskan and Saumya secured first rank with 9.17 SGPA, Pushpinder Kaur stood second with 9 SGPA, while Chandan Sadana stood fourth with 8.83 SGPA. The director general congratulated the position holders.

Green Land Convent organises social science quiz

LUDHIANA: Green Land Convent School, New Subhash Nagar, organised a social science quiz to enhance the knowledge of students and promote academic development. There were eight teams and the quiz comprised various rounds, including fact-based, buzzer, audio, visual, rapid fire and identification of famous personalities. Priyansh Thakur, Shivansh, Mohit Kumar, Nitin Kumar Rana, Neha, Jaspreet Kaur and Kawaljeet Garima secured the first position.

Students during a cleanliness drive at New BCM Kindergarten School on Wednesday. HT PHOTO

Magic show at Peace Public

LUDHIANA: A summer camp has been organised by Peace Public School. The camp commenced on Monday with a magic show and dance performance.A variety of activities have been lined up which will address the areas of interest of all students.

Play competition and poem recitation at DAV

LUDHIANA: A role play competition was organised at DAV Public School,Pakhowal Road, on Tuesday for the students of Class 3. The students played the role of different popular cartoon characters and recited poems.The actors used a variety of props to make their roles expressive.The first position was jointly shared by Mishti and Bhuvi . The students of Class 5 participated in poem recitation competition wherein Kyna secured the first position. Principal Satwant Kaur Bhullar congratulated the winners.

GGSPS organises movie trip

LUDHIANA: Guru Gobind Singh Public School (GGSPS) organised a movie trip for the students on Wednesday. Students watched 'Aladdin' in 3D. Coordinator Archana Srivastav planned the entire trip. Teachers of the primary and middle wing accompanied the students. Students were served popcorns and soft drinks. Principal Manjit Kaur Makkar lauded the efforts of the teachers.

Learning activities at BVM School, Kitchlu Nagar

LUDHIANA: BVM, Kitchlu Nagar, has conducted workshops on dance, music, cooking, mastering English, creative artwork, personal grooming, taekwondo, computer networking and power yoga for its students. Principal Neelam Mittar said workshops help students recognise and polish their talents.

Summer workshops at BVM, Chandigarh Road

LUDHIANA: BVM School, Chandigarh Road, has organised summer workshops from May 29 to June 7 for the students of Classes 1 to 12. Students are taking part in activities such as dance, art and craft, personality development, musical harmony, bhangra and zumba. Yoga sessions and spiritual sessions are also being conducted.

Lemonade party for students at DCM Presidency School

LUDHIANA: DCM Presidency School, Elementary Campus, organised a lemonade party to motivate children to drink homemade drinks in summers, and keep themselves hydrated.The teachers demonstrated the preparation of lemonade.

Cooking without fire contest at UK International

LUDHIANA: UK International School,Dharamkot, conducted an inter-house cooking without fire contest on Wednesday. Students came dressed in colourful house dresses and prepared different dishes. Principal Rajvinder Kaur said the aim of conducting the competition was to spread awareness about nutritious food.

Investiture ceremony at Delhi Public School

LUDHIANA: Delhi Public School, Khanna, held its investiture ceremony on Wednesday.The newly elected members of the council were conferred badges and sashes by chairman DS Bains , principal Mukherjee and headmistress Neha Rattan. Aashutosh Shahi and Kismat Kaur were elected the head boy and head girl. Mehtab Singh and Shachi Gupta were elected the deputy head boy and the deputy head girl. The sports captain, house captains, prefects and the members of the editorial board took the oath of office. The principal congratulated the office bearers. The ceremony concluded with the national anthem.

Int'l Public students shine in dance contest

LUDHIANA: Two students of International Public Senior Secondary School, Sandhu Nagar, brought laurels to the school. Kushal Anand won the gold medal in the 7-day national hip hop dance competition held in Goa and will represent India at the international-level in the USA. Ishat Sharma bagged the bronze medal at the international handball championship held in Spain. Principal Suman Arora congratulated the students.

Green Grove conducts co-scholastic activities

LUDHIANA: Green Grove Public School organised a summer camp which commenced on Wednesday. The first day commenced with morning prayers and a morning assembly which included a formal welcome to the students.Principal Suzy George addressed everyone.President JPS Jolly and chairperson Satinderjeet Kaur Jolly emphasised on the importance of such activities.

Gobindgarh Public School organises induction ceremony

LUDHIANA: Gobindgarh Public School organised an induction ceremony for the academic session 2019-20. Ayush Kapoor and Pahulpreet Kaur were elected as head boy and head girl. As many as 48 students were delegated responsibilities of the school council.

Cleanliness drive at New BCM kindergarten

LUDHIANA: New BCM Kindergarten School, Basant Avenue, organised a cleanliness drive for the LKG students on Wednesday. Teachers stressed on the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi on cleanliness and hygiene.

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Fissures in Congress again over mayor's working

Harsimran Singh Batra
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LUDHIANA : Complaining against non-functional streetlights in old city areas, Congress leader and former councillor Parminder Mehta has raised questions over the unwillingness of mayor Balkar Singh Sandhu to check corruption in the light branch of the municipal corporation (MC).

It is not for the first time that the mayor has come under flak over his working from within his party circles. Earlier, Congress MLA (East) Sanjay Talwar had also criticised working of the mayor during the general House meeting of the MC in February.

Talwar and the mayor were at loggerheads over the action, which was demanded by Talwar against the dyeing units dumping industrial waste into the sewer lines. The MLA had also raised a demand for complete information about allotment of advertisement contract and sewer men working in the wards.

Now, Mehta has alleged that maintenance contractors were not repairing the streetlights and have further sublet the work to another contractor, who had been earlier blacklisted by the MC. The streetlights had been lying defunct in many parts of the city, especially in the old city areas, and residents were raising a hue and cry over the same, alleged Mehta.

He said that he had complained to the mayor several times as the MC officials, who are hand in gloves with the contractors, had failed to take action against the contractors to whom a huge amount was paid as maintenance fee. But, the mayor has failed to take any action, which raises questions over his unwillingness to take action against the alleged corrupt officials in the light branch and contractors.

Mehta also suggested that the MC should conduct a survey of streetlights repaired by the contractors before releasing any payment to them.

Initially a Congressman, Mehta left the party ahead of the assembly elections in 2017 and joined the BJP. He returned to the Congress ahead of the recently held Lok Sabha elections.

The MC has allotted the maintenance work to contractors in the city till the time the LED streetlights project is completed. Following the completion of the project, the maintenance of LED lights will be the responsibility of the Tata company, which is taking up the project in the city.

On his part, mayor Balkar Sandhu said that Mehta was levelling baseless allegations and if he had any proof he should come forward with it.

HUNGER STRIKE THREAT OVER RAJIV STATUE

Terming former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi his idol, district Congress general secretary Rajiv Guglani has urged the mayor to properly maintain the statue of the former PM at Salem Tabri, failing which, he said, he will launch a hunger strike. In a memorandum given to the mayor, Guglani flayed the MC for not properly maintaining the idol. "When I went to pay my respects to Gandhi on his death anniversary on May 21, it was really sad to see the idol in a state of neglect," he said.

NGT panel tells MC to remove garbage along Buddha Nullah

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LUDHIANA: A meeting of the monitoring committee of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) was held in Chandigarh on Wednesday and the Ludhiana municipal corporation (MC) was told to remove the garbage dumped alongside the Buddha Nullah and install CCTV cameras at certain points of the nullah to keep a check on the dumping of garbage into and on the sides of the nullah.

To begin with, the MC has already identified a stretch from the Chand Cinema to the Shiv Puri Puli to remove garbage and a cleanliness drive was organised at the stretch on Tuesday night. The MC officials said that garbage would be removed from the stretch and plants grown.

The committee gave the MC time till June 30 to develop the stretch. The MC has also been told to clean the sludge accumulated in sewer treatment plants (STPs). Member of the monitoring committee Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal said the MC had been given time till June 30 to develop the stretch selected by the MC. The monitoring committee would also be inspecting the spot. After the work on the identified stretch was completed, the MC would then clean the entire area of the nullah within the MC limits in phases. The panel, headed by justice Pritam Pal Singh (retd), has been set up to monitor pollution in water bodies of the state.

A 3-year action plan was earlier submitted to the NGT for reducing pollution in the nullah. The committee had also visited Ludhiana on May 1 and had slammed the MC and the Punjab Pollution Control Board for doing nothing to reduce pollution in Buddha Nullah.

TRIBUNAL MONITORING COMMITTEE ALSO ASKS MC TO INSTALL CCTV CAMERAS AT CERTAIN POINTS TO KEEP CHECK ON DUMPING OF WASTE INTO AND ON THE SIDES OF THE NULLAH

FOOD PROCESSING PLANT

Cong leaders, DC inspect site ahead of Capt's visit

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LUDHIANA: Congress leaders and senior officials of the administration on Wednesday visited the site in Saijjo Majra and Rattipur near Samrala in the district where chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh will lay the foundation stone of a food processing plant on Thursday.

The leaders and the officials, who visited the site to inspect the preparations, included member of Parliament (MP) from Fatehgarh Sahib constituency Dr Amar Singh, political secretary to CM Captain Sandeep Singh Sandhu, Samrala MLA Amrik Singh Dhillon, deputy commissioner Pradeep Kumar Agrawal, senior superintendent of police (SSP), Khanna, Gursharanjeet Singh Grewal and other senior officials.

The plant is being promoted by CN-IFFCO Private Limited, a joint venture of India's leading cooperative, the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), and Spain's food processing company, Congelados de Navarra (CN Corp).

> The project, besides benefiting over 10,000 farmers of the region, will also generate direct and indirect employment for more than 2,500 people.
> PRADEEP KUMAR AGRAWAL, DC

ADC, Khanna, Jaspal Singh, sub-divisional magistrate (SDM), Samrala, Miss Geetika Singh, besides several other senior officials, were also present.

Thousands of residents of the area are expected to attend the function, for which grand preparations have been made. Agrawal said the project was being facilitated under the state government's "Invest Punjab" policy.

The project, besides benefiting over 10,000 farmers of the region, would generated direct and indirect employment for more than 2,500 people, he said.

The deputy commissioner said this state-of-the-art plant, spread over an area of 55 acres, would be constructed at an initial investment of around ₹550 crore and commence production within next 2 years, he added.

He said the plant would have a processing capacity of 80,000 MTs per annum and produce individual quick-freezing vegetables, French fries and potato snacks. The raw vegetables required for the plant would be procured locally (within a radius of 150 kms from the plant) thereby benefiting farmers of the region.

With a focus on training farmers, implementation of modern technology and know-how (of CN Corp and IFFCO) the project would boost the overall infrastructure within the agro-economic ecosystem of the region thereby contributing positively to the gross domestic product of Punjab, the deputy commissioner said.

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Help birds beat the searing heat

BEING HUMAN Wildlife centre of vet university provides ways to help birds stay cool this summer

HT Correspondent
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LUDHIANA : In view of the rising heat, the wildlife centre of Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU) has released an advisory listing out the ways to help birds in the searing heat.

Wildlife centre in-charge Dr Kirti Dua said, "While birds have some ways to keep cool, we should help them avoid the heat."

"Keep water in earthen basins in shady areas for birds to drink and take bath. On hot days, this water may evaporate quickly, so regularly check the containers to keep them filled. Plantation of native trees and shrubs will help provide shade and shelter to these birds," Dr Dua said.

The centre in-charge also called on the people to opt for plants that provided natural food source to the birds. "Provide good nutritional food for the birds and opt for seeds that do not spoil quickly.

"Do not throw away watermelon and muskmelon seeds in the dustbin. They can be placed outside at a shady place where birds can eat them. If you find a baby bird out of its nest, don't pick it up or bring it indoors. In almost all cases, its parents remain nearby and know their best on how to take care of their young one. But make sure free roaming dogs and cats stay away from young birds," Dr Dua said.

Experts suggest keeping water in earthen basins for bird to drink and take bath in during summer days. HT FILE PHOTO

> Provide good nutritional food for the birds and opt for seeds that do not spoil quickly. Don't throw away watermelon and muskmelon seeds. They can be placed outside at a shady place.
> Dr KIRTI DUA, GADVASU wildlife centre in-charge

BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE IN BIRDS

He also said that during the most sweltering summer days, birds showed some physical and behavioural characteristics that helped them beat the heat. They did not have sweat glands but their rapid respiration rate and panting by opening their bills (just like dogs) allows greater heat dissipation.

"On hot days, birds are less active due to intensive heat and can be found comforting themselves in shady areas, particularly near water sources and low to the ground," Dr Dua said.

Stray cattle continue to rule the roads in city

Harvinder Kaur
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LUDHIANA : The death of 20-year-old Keshav Verma has brought to light the lackadaisical attitude of the municipal corporation (MC) authorities in dealing with the rising stray cattle menace in the city.

A stray animal claimed the life of Keshav while he was trying to avoid crashing into the animal and collided his car with a truck coming from the opposite direction on the Ludhiana-Ferozepur highway here on Monday.

Residents of a city with a population of 20 lakh are left with no option, but to put their lives at stake every day while commuting, with stray cattle roaming freely on the already congested roads and highways.

The number of strays continues to rise since farmers of adjoining villages also set the old and unproductive animals free on the roads.

The cattle-lifting project, started by the MC last year, has also failed to yield any result. Last year in May, the civic body purchased its own vehicle for lifting stray cattle from the roads at a cost of ₹20 lakh.

As per information, the MC is yet to start the cattle-lifting work using the vehicle. While the stray cattle have been a nuisance to the commuters all over the city, some of the areas where the stray cattle are found in large numbers include Chandigarh Road, Samrala Chowk, Bahadur Ke Road, Shivpuri Chowk, Basti Jodhewal, Cheema Chowk, Tajpur Road and Jalandhar Bypass.

> DESPITE COLLECTING OVER ₹30 LAKH EVERY MONTH AS COW CESS, THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION HAS FAILED TO LIFE STRAY CATTLE FROM ROADS

GAUSHALAS IN CITY

There are currently eight gaushalas in various areas of the city, including one on Hambran Road, Pracheen Gaushala, Kakowal Road, Bahadur K Road, Jamalpur Road, Sector 39, Chandigarh Road, Bhairo Munna Gaushala and Tibba Road.

Pertinently, out of eight gaushalas in the city, the gaushala on the Hambran Road is the only one empanelled with the municipal corporation.

The MC collects over ₹30 lakh every month as cow cess, but the civic body is still not taking steps to lift stray cattle from the roads and rehabilitating them at cow shelters.

The cow cess was implemented by the government in June 2016. Consumers are levied cess on several items, including India-made foreign liquor, purchase of four-wheelers, electricity and oil tankers.

MC senior veterinary officer YP Singh said , "We generate over ₹25 lakh as cow cess every month out of which ₹10 lakh is sent to the cowshed while the rest of the amount is kept with the municipal corporation treasury."

State animal welfare officer Dr Sandip Jain said, "The registration of dairy cattle should be made mandatory by the animal husbandry department and strict action needs to be taken against any farmer, who abandons his cattle on the road."

Telu Ram Bansal, Mullanpur Dakha council chief, said, "The problem of stray cattle exists everywhere in the country. Though on our end, we are currently taking care of around 500 cattle in our cowshed without any government aid and providing them regular fodder and medical aid."

Commuters manoeuvring through stray cattle on Tajpur Road in Ludhiana. HT PHOTO

21-year-old students severely hurt after car crashes into carrier truck

LUDHIANA : A 21-year-old college student suffered severe injuries after his car rammed into a carrier truck that took a sharp turn on Chandigarh Road on Wednesday.

The impact of the collision was so strong that the car got mangled. After the accident, driver of the truck fled, leaving his vehicle on the road. The victim, identified as Sheebu of Chandigarh Road, was rushed to a private hospital.

Following the mishap, traffic on the road remained affected for over an hour.

Ishwar Colony police post in-charge assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Surjit Singh Saini said that Sheebu was coming from Samrala side in a Hyundai i20 grand car. As he reached near Focal Point on Chandigarh Road, driver of the carrier truck took a sharp turn following which Sheebu crashed his vehicle into it. A case was registered against the unidentified driver of the truck under Sections 279 (rash driving) and 338 (causing grievous hurt) of the IPC. HTC

Mangled remains of the car after the accident on the Chandigarh Road on Wednesday. HT PHOTO

'POWER HIKE A REWARD FOR PUNJABIS WHO VOTED FOR CONG'

LUDHIANA : Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and party spokesperson Mahesh Inder Singh Grewal has lambasted the ruling Congress for burdening the people of the state with another hike in power tariff.

The former Punjab minister said that the unprecedented hike was a return gift of the Congress government to the people of the state soon after the results of the Lok Sabha elections were declared. He said since the Congress came to power in the state in 2017, it has increased the power tariff for over a dozen times.

The SAD leader said that the uncalled-for power hike has disturbed the budget of consumers as the burgeoning electricity bill has broken the back of common man. Grewal also pointed out that the hike has ruined the state's industry, which has become totally uncompetitive with the industry in neighbouring states, where the industry is paying a far lower power tariff. HTC

US varsity invites CMCH doctor as visiting scholar

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LUDHIANA: A doctor of the Christian Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) has been invited as the visiting scholar to Rector Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre of Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, USA.

Badyal, who is convener of the Medical Council of India (MCI), will be supported by the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER), USA. Dr Badyal said that there was an immediate need for all medical colleges to develop skill and simulation labs as needed by the new curriculum for MBBS programmes starting in 2019. As per the new curriculum, skill labs are mandatory in each medical college, which include computer and non-computer based simulations, low fidelity simulations such as task trainer arms or simulated body parts as well as medium and high fidelity simulations such as whole body manikins with haptic feedback.

Badyal was recently included as a member of the MCI expert group for implementation of competency based UG curriculum and uploading of yearly time table on the respective college websites.

'FACULTY BEING TRAINED'

He said that ,presently, the faculty in medical colleges was being trained for implementation of the new curriculum for the upcoming MBBS batch, scheduled to begin in August. CMCH principal Dr Jeyaraj D Pandian said the medical college has been using simulations in medical education for a long time and training doctors in using simulations through training programmes.

Fire safety: 40 coaching institutes put on notice in UT

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CHANDIGARH: At least 40 coaching institutes were served notices for lacking fire preparedness during an inspection in the central division and Industrial Area of Chandigarh on Tuesday.

The checking was carried out early in the morning by sub-divisional magistrate (SDM, central) Nazuk Kumar along with a team of fire department and estate office in Sectors 8, 11, 17, 24 and 25. Another inspection was carried out by the fire department in the Industrial Area, Phase 2.

The move comes days after around 20 students attending a coaching institute were killed in a blaze at a commercial complex in Surat, Gujarat.

"Majority of the institutes were found to be violating fire safety norms," said the SDM, after the inspection.

The institutes have been served notices under Section 133 (order for removal of unlawful obstruction or nuisance from any public place, etc) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

> Majority of the institutes were found violating fire safety norms.
> NAZUK KUMAR, SDM (central)

VIOLATIONS GALORE

Those put on notice include Chanakya IAS Academy in Sector 8, Chemistry Coaching Circle of Dr Sangeeta Khanna and Jurist Academy in Sector 24, Abhimanu IAS Study Group, Raj Malhotra's IAS Academy and ALS IAS Academy in Sector 25, and Allen institute in the Industrial Area, Phase 2.

Kumar said violations included limited emergency exits and partitions made of flammable material. "Electricity meters prone to fires have been installed at emergency exits. Almost all the institutes in Sector 24 and 25 were found to be ill-equipped," she said.

Chief fire officer Anil Garg said: "In many institutes, front windows were covered with grilles, which act as a hinderance during rescue operations. In some institutes, fire extinguishers and overhand water tanks were found missing."

30 DAYS TO GET NOC

All the institutes have been asked to get a fire safety no-objection certificate (NOC) within 30 days. "If they fail to do so, they are liable to be sealed besides facing suitable action under law," said the SDM.

At present, a list of 40 institutes has been made, but a comprehensive list is being prepared for inspections. Officials said checking will be carried out in Sector 34, a major hub of coaching institutes, in coming days.

FOETUS FOUND

18-year-old girl arrested from Dera Bassi

DERABASSI: Three days after a fully developed male foetus was found in a toilet flush tank at the Dera Bassi civil hospital, police on Tuesday evening arrested an 18-year-old girl from the workers' quarters at a factory in the area.

Dera Bassi SHO Vikramjeet Singh said the girl was identified after scanning the hospital's CCTV footage. She studies in a private institute in the area, while her parents work in a factory. The IO said the girl had developed relationship with a boy while she was studying in Class 12 in Lucknow, UP. During her visit to the hospital, she was accompanied by her father and a woman neighbour. However, even they didn't know about her pregnancy, said police.

Following excessive bleeding, she threw the foetus in the toilet, said investigating officials. After the arrest, police got her medical examination conducted. HTC

Syndicate adjourned for 2 hours at PU

CHANDIGARH: It was another day of high drama at Panjab University as the syndicate meeting on Tuesday remained adjourned for nearly two hours.

Vice-chancellor Raj Kumar did not want to recommend extension of one year in tenures of dean students' welfare (men) Emanual Nahar, DSW (women) Neena Capalash and associate DSW Ranjan Kumar even though the syndicate unanimously recommended it.

Sources said even the agenda was revised in the morning itself. Earlier, the meeting was to discuss the extension in tenure of the three officials but the revised agenda was on appointment of three new officials, but the V-C did not have any names.

The terms of the three officials were to end on May 31, 2019.

The syndicate has recommended one year's extension to the three and the final nod will be taken by the senate.

The syndicate further decided that the three will continue on the same posts till the senate's decision.

The V-C said he did not want to recommend their extension and wanted new appointments but the syndicate unanimously wanted otherwise. Sources said the V-C pleaded with the syndicate to listen to him.

Sources said the V-C came to terms with the decision but there was a stalemate over the officials' continuing till the senate's decision and the meeting was adjourned for nearly two hours.

20 SENATORS WRITE FOR SPECIAL MEETING

Around 20 senators have written for convening a special meeting to review the transfer of a principal from Swami Ganga Giri Janata Girls College, Raikot, to Arya College, Ludhiana, that they think is not as per rules.

Earlier, 19 senators had written to convene a special meeting and the syndicate had rejected it. The senators had once again asked to fix the date. HTC

DEFICIENT SERVICES

Firm told to pay ₹2L to Zirakpur man

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CHANDIGARH : The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum has asked a company to refund over ₹2 lakh to a Zirakpur man due deficiency in services. Complainant Mojahid Mokim Ahmad, 40, had filed a complaint against DHFL, Sector 22-A, Chandigarh.

In August 2018, the complainant had applied for a loan of ₹10.3 lakh from the firm to buy a house through its agent Sukhwinder Singh, who had assured of the loan approval in 10 days. The complainant gave all the documents with 11 cheques as security. He also paid ₹2,900 and ₹5,900 as processing fee.

It was stated that the opposite party before disbursing the loan also issued a daily order from the account of the complainant for September, October and November, 2018, without his consent.

When the complainant contacted the firm, it said no loan was disbursed and only instalments are being deducted from his account. The opposite party also stated that the loan has not been approved to him. The complainant requested to refund the amount deducted, but to no avail. He alleged that due to non-disbursal of loan, the complainant could not get executed his sale deed and suffered a loss of ₹2 lakh. The complaint filed for a refund of ₹1 lakh and a compensation of ₹10 lakh.

> AHMAD PROVIDED ALL DOCUMENTS ALONG WITH 11 SECURITY CHEQUES BUT THE FIRM SAID NO LOAN HAD BEEN DISBURSED

However, the opposite party said that nowhere did they state that the amount will be approved within 10 days, adding that they requested many times for the original sale deed from the complainant, but he did not provide the same as he had misplaced it. The forum ordered refund of ₹51,411 to the complainant and ₹2 lakh as compensation for causing financial loss and harassment and litigation cost of ₹10,000.

Captain gives nod to Patiala ring road project

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PATIALA: With an aim to decongest Patiala, Punjab chief minister (CM) Captain Amarinder Singh gave an in-principle approval for the construction of a ring road around the city, connecting Sirhind road and Bhadson road, leading up to Nabha road till Sangrur. The decision was taken during a meeting in Chandigarh on Wednesday.

The CM has asked principal secretary public works department (buildings and roads), Hussan Lal, to immediately take up the pending issues related to Patiala Ring Road project with the Union ministry of road transport and highways to ensure timely completion of the project.

During the meeting with the PWD officials in UT, the CM also gave nod to another ring road project that will connect Sirhind road to the industrial zone. He sanctioned another 200-ft wide small southern ring in the South-East direction of Patiala, connecting Rajpura road with the southern bypass and Sanaur road, as per the master plan.

Captain underlined the importance of creating a network of ring roads around major cities.

Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh holding a meeting with PWD development officials in Chandigarh on Wednesday. HT PHOTO

He said that it was imperative to divert non-city traffic to the outskirts to ease out the vehicular movement in the inner city roads.

"In the master plan, the concept of ring roads was conceived in view of future growth trends due to urbanisation, economic growth, synchronisation with planned development, and for smooth and safe movement of city and external traffic," he said.

A spokesperson said that the Union minister of road transport and highways has already agreed to consider construction of ring roads around major cities including Sangrur, Bathinda, Jalandhar, Patiala, Mohali, Chandigarh and Ludhiana.

"The state government has also given its consent to bear 50% cost on account of land acquisition. The cost of construction, including 50% acquisition cost, will be borne by the Union ministry," the spokesperson added.

A district-level committee was constituted to suggest possible ring road alignments to the state-level committee. The state panel includes additional chief secretary (ACS, revenue), ACS (housing and urban development), principal secretary (finance) and secretary public works (B&R) as members for assessing land acquisition and project feasibility.

The district level committee was formed under the chairmanship of Patiala deputy commissioner Kumar Amit, and had chief administrator of Patiala Development Authority (PDA), district town planner, Patiala municipal commissioner and executive engineer central works division as it's members.

The state-level committee was mandated to recommend suitable alignments to the Union ministry of road transport and highways.

The meeting was attended by Punjab housing and urban development minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, PWD minister Vijay Inder Singla, media advisor to CM Raveen Thukral, ACS finance Kalpna Mittal Baruah, principal secretary to CM Tejveer Singh, principal secretary housing and urban development A Venu Prasad, principal secretary PWD Hussan Lal, Patiala DC Kumar Amit, CA Patiala PDA Surbhi Malik and CTP Punjab Gurpreet Singh as well.

Chandigarh open swimming tourney from June 8

CHANDIGARH: A Chandigarh Open Swimming Competition, in association with Speedo India, will be organised at the All-Weather Swimming Pool, Sector 23, from June 8 to 9.

The championship will be organised in various age groups.

The winners will be given attractive cash vouchers.

Interested swimmers can confirm their entries at the Sector 23 All-Weather Swimming Pool before June 5.

A swimmer can participate in maximum of three events and the entry fee will be R300 for three events. HTC

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John Abraham feels reading comments on yourself can make one fall sick

I'M DISASTROUS AT SOCIAL MEDIA

John Abraham
PHOTO: RAAJESSH KASHYAP/HT

Sangeeta Yadav

John Abraham loves to hibernate, at least when it comes to social media. Unlike most other actors, he prefers to maintain a low profile and gets active only when he has a film up for release or when he has to talk about a cause close to his heart. A self-professed animal lover, John says, he "loves to use social media to post about animals". Last seen in Romeo Akbar Walter this year, the actor admits it's a "conscious choice" to not post anything and everything on social media but use it very discreetly to "draw positivity and goodness around". The 46-year-old, who is currently recovering from an injury he suffered while shooting for his next, Pagalpanti, reveals why social media isn't his thing, especially when it comes to sharing about his personal life. Excerpts:

Unlike your colleagues in the film industry, you are barely active on social media. Why?
My primary focus is my craft — acting. I aim to do more good, credible work. I need to keep improving every day, learn something and better myself. I don't see how social media could contribute to my internal growth and acting. Of course, it helps to connect with people, but I like to stay connected with people offline.

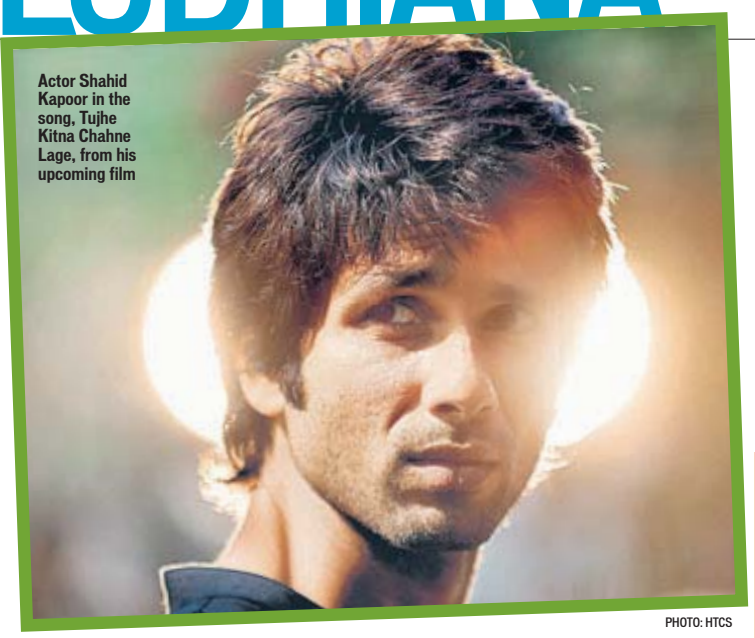
Why do you maintain that you won't post anything about your personal life on social media?
That's because I'm disastrous at it. I don't say things just to make a statement or news or in a bid to start a fad in the industry. Also, I don't feel the pressure of making a statement online. I'm okay doing nothing on social media.

What would you say about others who are constantly giving a peek into their lives through such platforms?
It is unfortunate how, for most actors, the virtual world has become real. Everyone is busy creating their virtual identity and giving constant updates on their lives instead of working on the craft. Also, some people do get influenced and try to become what they are not. But I'm very clear that for me, the real world is the touch-and-feel world, not the virtual world.

One thing about social media that bothers you the most?
There is more negativity than positivity. Though celebrities are the centre of attention on the internet and have a huge fan following, if you read comments about yourself for half an hour, you'd probably fall sick.

What about trolls? Have they kept you away?
I don't even look at them. If I do read once in a while, I don't take them seriously because people who're criticising you have no face, and probably fake their identity, too. I never feel the urge to reply. They can say whatever they want to.

LUDHIANA



Actor Shahid Kapoor in the song, Tujhe Kitna Chahne Lage, from his upcoming film

PHOTO: HTCS

Kabir Singh's latest song presents Shahid's new look

Ever since the teaser, trailer and first song of the upcoming film, Kabir Singh, were released, they have been well-received by the audience. And actor Shahid Kapoor's portrayal of the title role has a lot to do with that. The actor is being applauded for his sheer intensity and performance.

After unveiling the film's first song, Bekhayali, which has already become a love anthem for the new generation, the makers, T-Series and Cine1 Studios, are all geared up to reveal the film's second song that will be released tomorrow.

The new song, Tujhe Kitna Chahne Lage, will showcase Shahid in a new look, altogether. In fact, it's after a long time that viewers will see Shahid in a clean-shaven avatar. This persona of Shahid will complete the actor's three diverse looks in this Sandeep Reddy Vanga-directed film.

> Shahid will appear in a never-seen-before avatar in Kabir Singh.
> **BHUSHAN KUMAR**, PRODUCER

The producers of the film are excited to unveil this new look to the audience. "Shahid will appear in a never-seen-before avatar in Kabir Singh," says producer Bhushan Kumar. Producer Murad Khetani adds, "Shahid has moulded his different looks according to the character."

Producer Ashwin Varde concludes by saying, "This new look is a bonanza for all his fans."

Kabir Singh is a T-Series and Cine1 Studios presentation. Starring Shahid Kapoor and Kiara Advani, the film is directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga and produced by Bhushan Kumar, Murad Khetani, Krishan Kumar and Ashwin Varde. It releases on June 21.

HTC

Ellen DeGeneres
PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

STOP PRESS

ELLEN DEGENERES RECOUNTS ASSAULT BY HER STEPFATHER

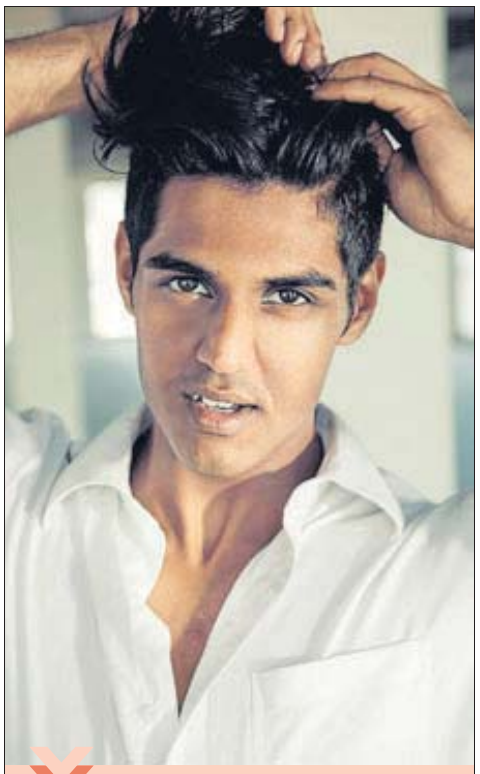
Comedian-host Ellen DeGeneres has recalled being sexually assaulted as a teen, by her stepfather. In an upcoming episode of David Letterman's show, My Next Guest Needs No Introduction, she said it started after her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, reports cnn.com. "He told me when (my mom) was out of town that he'd felt a lump in her breast and needed to feel my breasts," she recalled. "I'm angry at myself, I was too weak to stand up...I was 15 or 16," DeGeneres said. **IANS**

HUMA QURESHI JOINS ZACK SNYDER'S ARMY OF THE DEAD

Actor Huma Qureshi has boarded the cast of filmmaker Zack Snyder's next directorial, Army of the Dead. The 32-year-old joins Dave Bautista in the project, which will mark Snyder's return to directing after a gap of two years, a streaming platform has announced. **PTI**

We need more Indian origin storytellers: Divyansh Sharma

Abhinav Verma



At just 22, Delhi-born Divyansh Sharma has won more than 30 awards at various film festivals across the world for his first directorial venture, Graffiti. Divyansh, who lives in Los Angeles (US) wrote, directed, acted, and edited the short film, which is about a spoken word artist trying to come to terms with the loss of a loved one. Excerpts:

What was the idea behind Graffiti?
Actors are always asked to dig deep into our personal memories to channel emotions. To put these memories on display seemed selfish to me because those memories are just as much ours as the person we made them with. I thought spoken word would be a great medium to explore this idea. So, I birthed Michael Dawson, a spoken word artist who can only write about the woman he loved who had passed away. The project ended up tackling more universal themes, such as love, moving on, and forgiveness.

The perception of Indians in the acting community seems to be a rigid one. Why is that so and how can the stereotype be broken?
I think the sentiment of this question goes way beyond the Indian community. There's a whole movement going on with African American storytelling in Hollywood, with a simple idea — we cannot expect a white man to tell a story about the African American experience. Similarly, we cannot expect an accurate representation of Indians from non-Indian writers in Hollywood. Unless we have more Indian origin writers telling their stories, we will always be pigeonholed into Appu from The Simpsons. It's like Gandhi's quote: Be the change you wish to see in the world.

What are the challenges you have faced so far?
The biggest challenge so far has been being seen as a choice for more than just an Indian character.

> We can't expect an accurate representation of Indians from non-Indian writers in Hollywood. Unless we have more Indian origin writers telling their stories, we will always be pigeonholed into Appu from The Simpsons.
> **DIVYANSH SHARMA** ACTOR-FILMMAKER

What's your opinion on the concept of social justice and the rise of political correctness in movies?
I feel like people are inherently smart and we are open to ideas as long as we communicate them with respect and care. That's really what it comes down to: respect for other people's ideals and choices without sacrificing belief and faith in yours. And the beauty of art is that it is always open to interpretation, and as times change, art changes and ages with it.

Any plans for Bollywood? Tell us about your favourite Bollywood actor and movies.
I love to tell stories and if there is a story I am right for, I would gladly offer my services. I love Aamir Khan's work. Dangal was amazing. Indian cinematic storytelling has found a new voice on streaming services as well. Sacred Games was one of my favourite series, and Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Saif Ali Khan's work in it was nothing short of brilliant.

'At the end, it's about your voice'

Rishabh Suri

Singer Papon believes in quality over quantity. Maybe this is why he has been slow when it comes to playback singing for Bollywood films. Moh Moh Ke Dhaage (Dum Laga Ke Haisha; 2015) and Kyun (Barfi!; 2012) remain his best known songs.

He tells us, "I've come a long way. And there's one thing that has always stuck: Do something if you are sure you will do a good job, and if you connect with it. It should be something of your taste and challenge you. You should not [just be] interested in increasing numbers and take up anything that comes your way. There's a sense of pride there. That's why I do less."

Papon got into mainstream Bollywood music with Jiyein Kyun from Dum Maaro Dum in 2011. Times have changed drastically, and one of the changes has been how for musicians, singers specifically, good appearance has also become a priority, apart from singing well.

We ask Papon, whose latest project is a song about river conservation for a web series, whether he feels the same, and he says, "I don't believe in that. You won't find a seasoned musician doing that. It's more with the newcomers. The reason for that is they want to break into the market. It's definitely momentary. But at the end of the day, if your voice itself doesn't have soul or your music doesn't have what's required, it'll fade away."

Talking about the new song, he says, "I see beautiful rivers turning gray, loaded with pollution. If we won't save it, we won't be leaving anything for our kids."

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Papon's latest project is a song about river conservation for a web series

I begged the makers of Angrezi Medium to let me audition: Radhika

Juhi Chakraborty

There are times when an actor gets offered a role or bags it through someone's reference. And while it's mostly the newcomers who have to audition for a role and established names skip the process, it somehow doesn't work like that for actor Radhika Madan. The actor prefers auditions over landing a role directly.

"I would want to audition for every project that I do. I think the reason why some actors don't audition is because of ego. They feel 'I have done so much work, can't they see it'. But, you cannot be perfect for every character as every project is different. You cannot expect the producer to make that gamble," she says.

The actor, who has auditioned for both her films — Pataakha and Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota (both 2018) — will be seen next in the Irrfan- and Kareena Kapoor Khan-starrer Angrezi Medium. She adds, "I love auditioning — the entire process. I don't know why it is such a taboo in the industry. I know people who don't audition, I request them to do it. You feel like you have earned the role when you get it after an audition."

And Radhika feels auditioning is the only way that new actors like her can bag good roles in films and make a mark eventually. In fact, she says for her third film, where she plays Irrfan's onscreen daughter , "I begged the makers to let me audition despite the film being offered to someone else."

She reveals, "Because of my role in Pataakha, where I played a village girl and put on 10kg, they [makers of Angrezi Medium] couldn't imagine me in the role. My team kept begging them to take my audition, and eventually I got the role."

juhi.chakraborty@htlive.com

Radhika Madan debuted in Bollywood with Pataakha (2018) PHOTO: FOTOCORP

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DAILY HOROSCOPE

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019

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YOU SHARE YOUR BIRTHDAY WITH

CeeLo Green: The American singer-songwriter, known for songs such as Crazy, Forget You and Smiley Faces, turns 44 today.

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20)

Minor health issues might make you feel low. A loan not being paid in time might cause you some trouble. Your competence and outgoing nature is likely to draw attention of those who matter to you on the professional front. On the family front, excellent bonding with parents will encourage you to share even your personal thoughts and desires. Some of you might find it difficult to commute to work today.

Love Focus: Not getting positive response from someone you have a crush on might be upsetting. You may need to move on.

Lucky Number: 6 Lucky Colour: Grey

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 20)

A treatment prescribed needs to be followed to maintain good health. You are likely to achieve stability on your financial front. Distractions can make you lose your focus at work and can pose problems in undergoing an important training. A lot of encouragement from the family is in store for those wanting to do something different. A train journey will be like never before because of the wonderful company.

Love Focus: Developing feelings for someone will get you on cloud nine. But are you sure it's love or just infatuation?

Lucky Number: 8 Lucky Colour: Forest Green

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUN 21)

Health remains perfect as you stay abreast with your exercise and fitness regime. You need to be extra careful in planning something important on the financial front. Help from a friend or associate might prove huge in sharing an official workload and completing it successfully. Someone in the family may advice you on something important, so don't reject it out of hand. Today, it is better not to discuss or deal in any property matter.

Love Focus: Special attention received from someone is likely to make you feel extra special about yourself.

Lucky Number: 22 Lucky Colour: Blue

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

You are likely to enjoy good health today. Mounting expenses can compel you to search for newer ways of making money. You are likely to struggle to keep pace at work. You are enjoying a good phase of life with family at present and will continue to do so. The wanderlust within you will get wings to fly as a new travelling opportunity comes your way. Booking a flat in the best location will make you content.

Love Focus: For young lovebirds, popping the question at the right time is important if you don't want to go through a rejection.

Lucky Number: 18 Lucky Colour: Lemon

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG 23)

Eating right is the key to your good health and will keep you keep fit and energetic. You will have enough to buy a thing that is expensive. Those aspiring for a promotion or raise might have difficulty in achieving their objective. This is the best time to go forth and grasp something that has been eluding you previously in your social circle. A new place is likely to be explored by some.

Love Focus: Nothing much happening on romance front might dishearten you. But remember your true goal.

Lucky Number: 1 Lucky Colour: Light Yellow

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEPT 23)

Keeping cool and calm even in stressful situations will help retain peace of mind. Money might pose some problem today and might let you restrain from over spending. You will feel most satisfied with something that you have achieved on the professional front. A favour done by someone in the family needs to be reciprocated quickly. Some urgent task might keep you occupied and disturbed during a vacation.

Love Focus: Lover will be at your beck and call, so you are likely to enjoy a wonderful time today.

Lucky Number: 15 Lucky Colour: Crimson

LIBRA (SEPT 24 - OCT 23)

Reaping the benefits of good diet and fitness is likely as you get back to shape. Extra money can tempt you to indulge in luxury. Too much work may compel you to devote some extra hours. You are likely to realise that not devoting enough time towards family has its detriments. Bad roads and too much traffic jam are likely to make you go crazy on the road today. A property by inheritance cannot be ruled out for some.

Love Focus: Closeness to a colleague or class fellow can turn into a budding romance for some.

Lucky Number: 2 Lucky Colour: Peach

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 22)

Health remains satisfactory today. You may find yourself in a dilemma on the financial front – to splurge with friends to remain in their circle or save money and become odd one out. Professional front remains critical as an important file goes missing. Hosting a party just to meet friends and relations is possible. Cancelling a much awaited official tour abroad may come as a great setback for some.

Love Focus: Strong emotional bonds with someone you have a liking for can culminate into a long-term relationship.

Lucky Number: 11 Lucky Colour: Lemon

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23 - DEC 21)

A changed diet may not have the desired effect on your shape, so try avoiding it. Earnings need to be invested wisely or you may end up dissipating them. A good initiative taken on the work front will aid you in future. Being unduly harsh to a family member will spoil everyone's mood. Taking undue pressure regarding a long journey will not be good for you at all. Focusing on property might not be possible today.

Love Focus: Foul mood of lover may need to be countered fast to avoid any escalation.

Lucky Number: 17 Lucky Colour: Navy Blue

CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN 21)

Barring some minor concerns, health remain fine today. Wealth may come to you from various sources. At work, something entrusted to you will be completed with utmost efficiency. On the family front, the eligible might have to wait till they get lucky in finding their life partner. Those looking at peace and tranquillity might take a break and go on a vacation. Property front remains moderate without much ado.

Love Focus: Those in long-distance relationships are likely to face trouble in their paradise.

Lucky Number: 3 Lucky Colour: Rosy Brown

AQUARIUS (JAN 22 - FEB 19)

Being conscious about what you eat and drink is the need of the hour. You might need to be level-headed, where finances are concerned to cater for rainy day. You are likely to swim with the tide on the professional or academic front. Your burning desire to get ahead is likely to be motivated by family. Chance of going abroad on an official tour cannot be ruled out. A property you were positive about might not fetch you enough.

Love Focus: Love life remains satisfactory as you focus on other things that are equally important and hold significance in your life.

Lucky Number: 9 Lucky Colour: Magenta

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20)

Don't implement anything unless you are certain of its financial implications. You will put in the required efforts on the professional front to reap rich rewards. Meeting people in the social circle whose company you enjoy is likely to become a reality soon. A good opportunity to visit a childhood friend living in a different city may come true for some. You are also likely to earn good returns on the property front today.

Love Focus: Those of you feeling unlucky in love should not lose heart as something positive is going to happen soon.

Lucky Number: 4 Lucky Colour: Violet

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If not a protagonist, Ravi Dubey says he won't do the show

Rishabh Suri

Television has for long been called a women-centric medium, and rightfully so because the stories revolve around female characters. Also, daily soaps cater to homemakers, according to the popular notion. Actor Ravi Dubey, however, believes that male characters, too, have a considerable role to play.

"TV has been my bread and butter for 16-17 years. I am very discreet with my projects and take up only those I believe in, whether it was the initial phase of my career or now. My take on TV is in sync with the kind of commitments I have been a part of. I am lucky I was part of awesome shows such as Saas Bina Sasural, which did really well, or Ranbir Rano, which had both the guy's and the girl's name in the title. Also, I have got to be the protagonist, not just the lead. You set some rules for yourself," says Ravi, who has of late been busy with producing Punjabi films and hosting reality shows.

Unlike people who criticise a show after taking it up, he says, "You signed up for it, now you can't complain. There's no dearth of roles... you did something you didn't resonate with. After Saas Bina... got over, producers offered me various roles at premium fees but I couldn't find myself resonating with the idea that I am not the protagonist, and, hence, didn't associate with them."

He goes on to add, "Four years later, Jamai Raja happened. It was a disruptive show, in the sense that it had a man in the centre. Jamia Raja didn't do well just in Hindi but was remade in Bangla, Odiya and Arabic, and was dubbed in Indonesia, Germany and Thailand, where it became very popular as well."

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					3		6	7
			8				9	4
3			6				7	
	1						2	
	4				5			8
1	3				6			
8	7		3					
				1		8		9

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9X9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

SCRAMBLE - 3101

Solve the four anagrams and move one letter to each square to form four ordinary words

KPEEO
CEEIN
NRSUGP
GINOGK

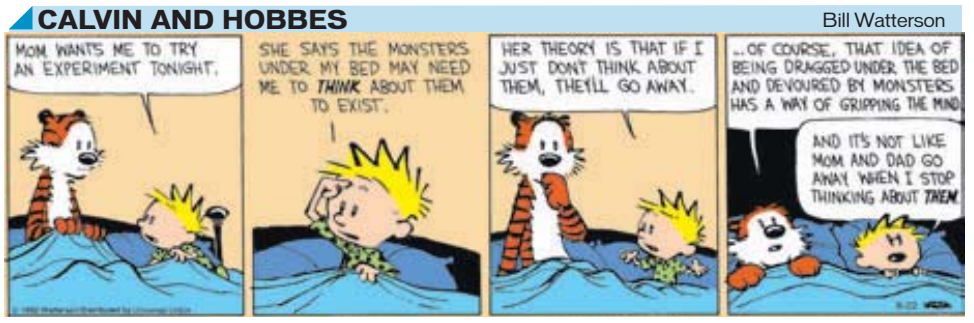
Now arrange the letters marked with an asterisk (*) to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing words as indicated.

If you're __ through hell, __ __
- Churchill (5,..,4,5) (one word twice)

SCRAMBLE SOLUTION: Pekoe, niece, sprung, gingko
ANSWER: If you're **going** through hell, **keep going** - Churchill

CALVIN AND HOBBES

Bill Watterson



MATHDOKU

Place numbers into the puzzle cells so that each row and column contains each of the digits from 1 to 5. No number is to be repeated in any row or column. Each bold-outlined cells contain a hint of a number and one of the mathematical symbols + x - /. The number is the result of the operation represented by the symbol to the digits contained.

DID YOU KNOW?

The song Yeh Dil Na Hota Bechara from 1967's Dev Anand-starrer Jewel Thief was sampled from the theme of 1957's The Bridge on the River Kwai.

SOLUTION SUDOKU

9	3	8	4	1	7	5	2	6
1	5	6	2	9	3	4	7	8
2	4	7	6	8	5	9	3	1
8	1	3	9	5	2	7	6	4
6	2	5	8	7	4	1	9	3
4	9	1	7	3	6	2	8	5
3	8	2	5	6	9	4	1	7
5	6	9	1	4	8	3	5	2
7	7	4	3	2	1	6	4	9

SOLUTION MATHDUKU

3	4	2	5	1
4	5	1	2	3
2	3	5	1	4
1	2	3	4	5
5	1	4	3	2

Here's why Taylor turns off social media comments

Singer Taylor Swift, who turns 30 this December, has made it clear that she will not put up with sexist interview questions.

During an interview, a reporter asked Swift if she felt like settling down and having children later this year.

To this, Swift replied, "I really do not think men are asked that question when they turn 30. So, I'm not going to answer that question now."

According to Fox News, the singer also explained what turning a decade older meant to her. "I hear others say that one in his thirties no longer has as much stress and anxiety in life as in my twenties. And I can join in the observation that we are in our twenties looking to gain experience, try things out, fail, make mistakes," the Love Story and Shake It Off singer said.

Swift, who had earlier this year written a piece in a UK magazine about her learnings from interacting on online platforms, also discussed the pitfalls of social media.

"Social media can be great, but it can also inundate your brain with images of what you aren't, how you're failing, or who is in a cooler locale than you at any given moment," Swift said.

"One thing I do to lessen this weird insecurity laser beam is to turn off comments. That way, I'm showing my friends and fans updates on my life,
but I'm training my brain to not need the validation of someone telling me how I look. I'm also blocking out anyone who
might feel the need to tell me to 'go die in a hole ho' while I'm having my coffee at nine in the morning," she added.

She also revealed that since social media has contaminated her views and private life, she now keeps her romance with actor Joe Alwyn (The Favourite, 2018) private.

"For too long, the projected opinions of strangers affected how I viewed my relationship. Whether it was the general internet consensus of who would be right for me, or what they thought was 'couples goals' based on a picture I posted on Instagram. That stuff isn't real. For an approval seeker like me, it was an important lesson to learn to have my own value system of what I actually want," the singer added.

ANI

Taylor Swift says that for far too long, the opinions of strangers affected how she viewed her relationships

PHOTO: STEVE MARCUS/REUTERS

MOVIES ON TV

HBO

How To Train Your Dragon at 1145

EDITOR'S PICK

1145 How To Train Your Dragon
1320 Transformers: Dark of The Moon
1613 Shooter
1823 Mission Impossible - Fallout
2100 Ready Player One
2329 No Strings Attached

STAR MOVIES

Men in Black II at 1907

1031 Cars 3
1223 Avengers: Age of Ultron
1501 The Expendables 3
1723 The Hills Have Eyes 2
1907 Men in Black II
2050 Deadpool 2

WB

The Exorcist at 1031

1031 The Exorcist
1204 IP Man 3
1350 Collateral Damage
1535 Unaccompanied Minors
1703 Armour of God II
2100 Chips

UTV MOVIES

Shola Aur Shabnam at 2000

1100 Mr Bechara
1400 Dashing Jigarwala 2
1700 Thalaivaa The Leader
2000 Shola Aur Shabnam

&pictures

Golmaal – Fun Unlimited at 1043

1043 Golmaal – Fun Unlimited
1352 Loafer
1650 Time Story
2000 Singam 3
2305 Hollow Man

ZEE CINEMA

Shiva The Super Hero at 0935

0935 Shiva The Super Hero
1207 Phir Hera Pheri
1525 Welcome
1842 Rogue
2100 Surya The Soldier
2345 Tabahi Zulm Ki

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WHEN A BACHELOR PAD BECAME A FAMILY HOME

Neil Nitin Mukesh with wife Rukmini and daughter Nurvi (inset)
PHOTO: VIRAL BHAYANI

Neil Nitin Mukesh reveals how parenthood has transformed his house and his lifestyle

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/NEILNITINMUKESH

Rishabh Suri

Imagine you get yourself the best bachelor/bachelorette pad made, are all set to move in, and on the very day you are supposed to shift, you get engaged! And subsequently, it becomes a 'family home'. This is actor Neil Nitin Mukesh's story, and he's happy as he reveals to us, "Life has changed for me completely after becoming a father, in a good way. I was telling my wife Rukmini the other day that I had just finished the interiors of my bachelor pad, and as luck would have it, the day it was completed, I got engaged! Ever since then, it's become a family home."

The couple was blessed with a baby girl, Nurvi Neil Mukesh, in September last year. "Now I have a pram," Neil continues, "bottles of milk, baby toys and a girl who has got pink all around, so it's nothing like a bachelor pad. It's quite contradictory to the taste of interiors I had got done. Getting out at night with friends and telling them 'I have a deadline to get back home, I have my baby'... it's a little bit of a responsibility on myself. I am more concerned about myself as a parent. There's some nervousness, too. It's part and parcel of being a dad. I still can't digest it... it's like I have got a new buddy in town!"

And his daily routine has also undergone a massive change. "There are late nights, waking up and babysitting, preparing milk, and changing diapers is part of my daily routine. She's keeping me on my toes, and quite demanding in that sense," adds Neil, whose last film outing was Golmaal Again (2017).

His next is the big-budget multilingual film Saaho, and apart from that, he has two more films lined up for release.

"Besides Saaho, I have my first home production, Bypass Road, which I've written and my brother is directing. Then, I have another film, Firrkie, which is in post-production stage right now."

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Series creator James Cameron and (below) Gabriel Luna in a still from Terminator: Dark Fate, the seventh film in the franchise

'DARK FATE IS A FAST WHITE-KNUCKLE RIDE'

Filmmaker James Cameron says the upcoming instalment in the Terminator franchise is grimmer and grittier than its predecessors, and they are hoping to get an R-rating for it.

The 64-year-old is producing the new film, called Dark Fate. Directed by Tim Miller (Deadpool, 2016), it will retcon the events of the last three instalments — Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (2003), Terminator Salvation (2009) and Terminator Genisys (2015).

Cameron considers the film to be a direct sequel to 1991's Terminator 2: Judgement Day. "I think, tonally, what makes this a direct sequel to T1 and T2 is as much about the tone as it is about the narrative: It's R rated, it's grim, it's gritty, it's fast, it's intense, it's very linear," the filmmaker said.

"The whole story takes place in 36 hours. It's not this kind of grandiose, complex story. It's just very focused on the characters, it's very now, it's very present and it's just a fast white-knuckle ride," he added. **PTI**

Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif in a still from the song, Chashni

PHOTO: HTCS

A musical journey

Salman Khan's much awaited movie, Bharat, is all set to release on June 5. The Ali Abbas Zafar directorial promises to be an entertainer embedded in the soulful journey of a man and his nation. An Eid release, Bharat will show Salman in six different avatars, ranging from a young circus champion to a 60-year-old man who sports grey hair, which is reflective of the journey the film promises. The movie's songs have managed to strike a chord among the audiences. The music of the film has been composed by the musician duo, Vishal-Shekhar, who have let the essence of the country breathe in the tracks.

While the first song, Slow Motion, in the backdrop of a circus, showcases Disha Patani's sizzling chemistry with Salman; the second track, Aithey Aa, set against a wedding background, is a celebratory tune. There is also the romantic number, Chashni, featuring Katrina Kaif. Zinda, another song from the film, has become the marching anthem of the season, along with Turpeya. Each song brings a different journey, and the soulfulness of the album is what makes Bharat stand out.

"The response to the music has been extremely positive. This is my third collaboration with Vishal-Shekhar and Irshad Kamil (lyricist) and we are very happy with the response the songs have received. Now, a lot of people are going for remixes rather than creating original music. But, after seeing the response Bharat's songs have got, we are only determined to work harder and create better melodies in our coming ventures," says Ali.

The upcoming film is a period drama, written and directed by Ali Abbas Zafar. Bharat is produced by Atul Agnihotri, Alvira Agnihotri, Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar, under the banner of Reel Life Production Pvt Ltd and Salman Khan Films, and is presented by T-Series. **HTC**

'Whatever I wear, I don't make a fool of myself'

Shreya Mukherjee

Those who follow Neena Gupta on Instagram would agree that the actor's fashion sense is on point. Even at 62, nothing stops her from experimenting with her looks.

"That's me... I love experimenting with different styles. Also, the event or occasion I'm attending makes me think [about] what I should wear," says Neena, asserting that her "personal style has evolved over the years".

With a daughter like Masaba, who is an acclaimed fashion designer, Neena definitely is spoilt for choices. "Besides my own sense of style, Masaba is someone who gives me ideas and tips. That's a plus. She makes me wear her designs quite often, so that way I am sorted. If she is shopping, she will send me photos and ask if I want something. I do the same," shares the Badhaai Ho (2018) actor.

Neena is quick to add that there are phases in terms of style that she goes through quite often. "There would be times I just want to wear salwar kameez and then there are sari days. There are also days when I want to wear pants, jeans, dresses... but, whatever I do and wear, I make sure I don't make a fool of myself," says Neena, who has always been "very open" to new age fashion.

And that's why women her age often compliment Neena on her style sense and some even call her a fashion inspiration. "It feels really special when people look up to you. I think it's very important to dress according to your body and age. That makes a lot of difference," says Neena, and continues, "You should be able to carry whatever you wear, so, confidence is essential. Right now, I'm in that phase where I want to wear jeans and tucked-in shirts, but I can't because I have a tummy."

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I love experimenting with different styles. Also, the event or occasion I'm attending makes me think [about] what I should wear.
NEENA GUPTA ACTOR

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/NEENA_GUPTA

The long night is coming: Kit checks into therapy after GoT

The end of Game of Thrones seems to have hit Kit Harington hard as the actor has checked into a rehabilitation centre to receive treatment for stress, exhaustion and alcohol use.

According to PageSix, the 32-year-old checked into a luxury health retreat in Connecticut, US, weeks before the finale aired on May 19. He played Jon Snow across eight seasons on the epic fantasy show.

Harington has been undergoing cognitive behavioural therapy, meditating, and practising other psychological exercises to better cope with the stress.

"The end of GoT really hit Kit hard... He realised, 'This is it, this is the end'. It was something they had all worked so hard on for so many years. He had a moment of 'what next?' He's in the clinic predominantly for stress and exhaustion and also alcohol. His wife Rose (Leslie) is being extremely supportive. Everyone close to him really wanted him to get some rest. Right now, he just needs peace and quiet," a source close to the actor told the outlet.

Harington's rep said that the actor has "decided to utilise this break in his schedule as an opportunity to spend some time at a wellness retreat to work on some personal issues".

The actor had previously admitted that he had to resort to therapy to deal with his character's brief death in the show, which he said was his darkest time.

"I felt I had to feel that I was the most fortunate person in the world, when actually, I felt very vulnerable. I had a shaky time in my life around there — like I think a lot of people do in their 20s," the actor had told Variety recently.

"That was a time when I started therapy, and started talking to people. I had felt very unsafe, and I wasn't talking to anyone. I had to feel very grateful for what I have, but I felt incredibly concerned about whether I could even f***ing act," he had added. **PTI**

Kit is undergoing cognitive behavioural therapy, meditating, and other psychological exercises to better cope with stress

IT'S BEING SAID THAT THE ACTOR IS HAVING A 'WHAT NEXT?' MOMENT AFTER THE END OF THE SHOW. HE UNDERWENT SIMILAR STRESS WHEN HIS CHARACTER ON THE SHOW BRIEFLY DIED

PHOTO: FOTOCORP

Why a supernatural show was the 'best choice' for Debina

Sangeeta Yadav

Actor Debina Bonnerjee, who was last seen playing an antagonist in Santoshi Maa in 2017 after which she went on a small break, is gearing up for her comeback with a supernatural show.

"I thought that instead of doing something serious, I would rather do something that the audience wants to watch, and it will get more TRPs, too. Considering how supernatural shows have become such a big hit on television that many are even coming up with seasons two and three, I thought it was the best choice," says Debina.

While many actors slam the genre, Debina feels there is a "huge liberty to enact" in these shows. "Unlike any other daily soap, here, you can act differently in different kind of situations. The characters look hot yet dangerous. It catches the imagination of the people watching the show and the suspense keeps them on the edge, guessing."

Many a times there have been complaints of an overdose of supernatural shows, with the public calling them irrelevant and not relatable. To this, the actor says, "TV is still considered to be the biggest mode of entertainment, especially in tier 2 and tier 3 cities. We can't forget that audience, and for them, the supernatural genre make for the best entertainment."

However, she is quick to add, "For today's youth and those glued to the web, TV's content is very backward. They would rather watch Game of Thrones, Kingdom, and Korean and British dramas as the digital space provides international exposure to entertainment."

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Instead of doing something serious, I'd rather do something that the audience wants to watch, and it'll get more TRPs, too.
DEBINA BONNERJEE ACTOR

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We're meeting about it: Reese Witherspoon on Legally Blonde 3

Reese Witherspoon
PHOTO: JOEL RYAN/AP

Actor Reese Witherspoon has given an update on the third instalment of her Legally Blonde franchise.

During her appearance on the Ellen Show, Witherspoon said the team is still discussing the film. "We're meeting about it. I mean, we're definitely talking about it. I don't know. Do you guys want to see 'Legally Blonde 3'?" Witherspoon asked the audience.

"I mean, it's sort of about women being underestimated and I think it's a good idea — that things have changed, but not that much has changed!" she added.

The 43-year-old actor had kick-started the series with 2001's Legally Blonde, where she played the idealistic Elle Woods who follows her boyfriend to Harvard Law School in order to win him back.

A sequel, titled Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde, was released in 2003 and saw Elle travel to Washington, D.C. to fight against animal testing.

In June last year, Witherspoon had announced that she will be reprising her role in a threequel, which would hit the theatres on Valentine's Day in 2020.

Witherspoon's production company is expected to produce the film. **PTI**

A still from the movie Legally Blonde

A SHOT OF TEQUILA HELPS ALBA FILM LOVE SCENES

Jessica Alba
PHOTO: WILLY SANJUAN/AP

'It's disgusting most of the time,' Jessica Alba said of the scenes

Actor Jessica Alba says it's weird doing love scenes and that she has to take a tequila shot beforehand. The actor, 38, opened up about the topic on a podcast alongside husband Cash Warren, 40.

She cited two Hollywood actors she has worked with to illustrate the point, reports dailymail.co.uk. "I think Pierce Brosnan and Bruce Willis are very attractive gentlemen... but it's like, weird," said Alba, who worked with Brosnan in 2014's Some Kind of Beautiful, and with Willis in 2005's Sin City.

The mother-of-three differentiated between a romantic encounter in one's personal life, and one on a film set in which "nothing about it is alone in a room", and can go on for 15-16 hours.

"When you're choosing to want to be with someone in that way... it's very intimate," Alba said. "You're breathing on someone, it's all there, you're smelling the skin...you wanna choose whom you're doing that with, and you gotta really like, pretend."

The actor said that "sometimes it's days and days of the same thing, and you have to recreate that moment every time, recreate the peak of your intimacy from this angle and that angle and this angle and that angle ... and by the way, everyone's right here." The Dear Eleanor (2016) actor said she has to take tequila shots prior to such encounters. "I'm gonna say I'm unprofessional, 100% because I feel like really good entertainment people don't have to do that," she explained. **IANS**

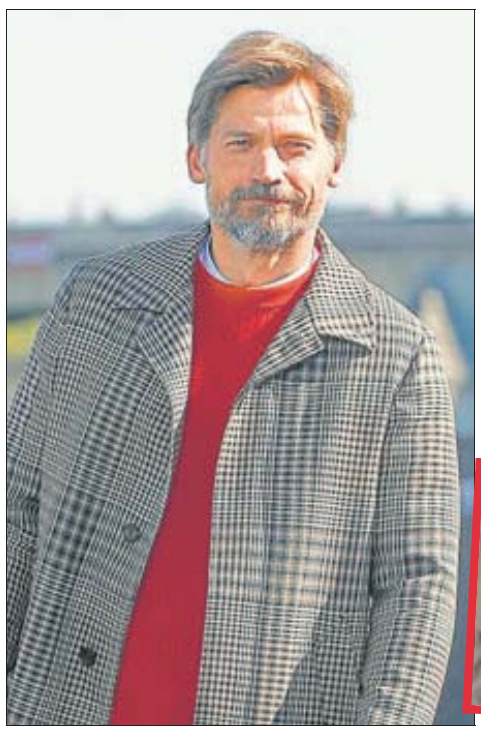
'First X-Men movie led by women is coming at the right time'

Sophie Turner
PHOTO: DANNY MOLOSHOK/REUTERS

Actor Sophie Turner, who plays the role of mutant Jean Grey in the upcoming film, X-Men: Dark Phoenix is shocked by the fact, that none of the earlier movies in this popular franchise were led by women. During an interview, the 23-year-old actor finds it "incredible" the film will give a "less important" role to men. "All the female characters in this movie are the strongest characters. We have a female protagonist, a female antagonist, all while the female protagonist is also somewhat of an antagonist. And it's all about her relationships, Jean's relationship with the females throughout this movie, which is really very interesting," she says and adds, "None of the women in this movie is subservient to a man, which is incredible. It's crazy to think that this is kind of the first X-Men movie led by women. That's really exciting to me and especially to Jessica. It comes at exactly the right time as well."

The film also stars James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, Nicholas Hoult, Tye Sheridan, Alexandra Shipp, Kodi Smit-McPhee, Evan Peters, and Jessica Chastain. **HTC**

GoT's Nikolaj wants an Arya Stark spin-off show



Nikolaj Coster-Waldau PHOTO: MICHEL EULER/AP

Game of Thrones star Nikolaj Coster-Waldau says he wants Maisie Williams' Arya Stark to feature in her own spin-off of the hit series. The actor, who played Jaime Lannister in the epic fantasy drama, said he is rooting for the faceless warrior as she embarks on her journey to the west of Westeros in the season finale.

"That episode, it was amazing! I really thought it was a great ending. And Arya!" Coster-Waldau said in an Instagram video. The 48-year-old actor also gave a nod to the in-the-works prequel, tentatively titled The Long Night, and the viral online petition to redo the series with "competent writers". "I know they're doing all these prequels, but what about the sequel? With Arya? How about — I'm just throwing something out here — how about a petition? An online petition that they do a sequel with Arya Stark," he added.

Meanwhile, the network's programming president Casey Bloys has confirmed that a Game of Thrones spin-off based on Arya Stark is not on HBO's list of potential sister shows. "I don't want to take characters from this world that they did beautifully and put them off into another world with someone else creating it. I want to let it be the artistic piece they've got. That's one of the reasons why I'm not trying to do the same show over," he told The Hollywood Reporter. **PTI**

A still from the show GoT featuring Maisie Williams as Arya Stark

Bridget Jones 4? 'If they call me, I'll go running'

A still fromBridget Jones's Baby

Renee Zellweger says she would love to reprise her iconic role as Bridget Jones in the fourth follow-up in the series. The actor said she would want to see what the character is up to after she got a somewhat fairytale ending in the most recent Bridget Jones's Baby (2016). "(It could be) 'Bridget Jones: The Menopause'," Zellweger, 50, joked. "No, I know Helen's (Fielding) written the book, and I love this character. So, I mean, if they call me, I'll go running," she said in an appearance on The Talk.

Based on Helen Fielding's book series, the first two films in the franchise are — Bridget Jones's Diary (2001) and Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason (2004). The author's Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy, which was published in 2013, is yet to be adapted for the screen. **PTI**

Renée Zellweger
PHOTO: TASIA WELLS/AFP

Patty frustrated about Wonder Woman 1984's delay

A still from Wonder Woman; Right: Patty Jenkins
PHOTO: WILLY SANJUAN/AP

Director Patty Jenkins says the wait for Wonder Woman 1984 has been "frustrating".

The release of the follow-up to 2017's DC hit Wonder Woman, fronted by Gal Gadot, was pushed back from a November 2019 release to June 5, 2020.

According to DigitalSpy, a video of Jenkins is doing the rounds in which she can be heard saying how she jokingly once said she wanted the film to be out in summer 2020.

"I can't wait! I can't believe — it's so funny, for all the entire time that we were making the movie, I was lobbying. They were wanting to move it up much earlier. And I was like 'You guys, it's got to be the summer of 2020, like it's got to be!' And that was what I always wanted "And now, I've just screened a version of the film and I'm like 'Oh my God, can we move it back up again?' I'm dying to release this film! But of course it's good and it's fine, but it's frustrating to have to wait," she says in the clip.

Wonder Woman 1984 also stars Chris Pine, Kristin Wiig, Pedro Pascal, with Connie Nielsen and Robin Wright in supporting their roles. **PTI**

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John Abraham feels reading comments on yourself can make one fall sick

I'M DISASTROUS AT SOCIAL MEDIA

John Abraham
PHOTO: RAAJESSH KASHYAP/HT

Sangeeta Yadav

John Abraham loves to hibernate, at least when it comes to social media. Unlike most other actors, he prefers to maintain a low profile and gets active only when he has a film up for release or when he has to talk about a cause close to his heart. A self-professed animal lover, John says, he "loves to use social media to post about animals". Last seen in Romeo Akbar Walter this year, the actor admits it's a "conscious choice" to not post anything and everything on social media but use it very discreetly to "draw positivity and goodness around". The 46-year-old, who is currently recovering from an injury he suffered while shooting for his next, Pagalpanti, reveals why social media isn't his thing, especially when it comes to sharing about his personal life. Excerpts:

Unlike your colleagues in the film industry, you are barely active on social media. Why?
My primary focus is my craft — acting. I aim to do more good, credible work. I need to keep improving every day, learn something and better myself. I don't see how social media could contribute to my internal growth and acting. Of course, it helps to connect with people, but I like to stay connected with people offline.

Why do you maintain that you won't post anything about your personal life on social media?
That's because I'm disastrous at it. I don't say things just to make a statement or news or in a bid to start a fad in the industry. Also, I don't feel the pressure of making a statement online. I'm okay doing nothing on social media.

What would you say about others who are constantly giving a peek into their lives through such platforms?
It is unfortunate how, for most actors, the virtual world has become real. Everyone is busy creating their virtual identity and giving constant updates on their lives instead of working on the craft. Also, some people do get influenced and try to become what they are not. But I'm very clear that for me, the real world is the touch-and-feel world, not the virtual world.

One thing about social media that bothers you the most?
There is more negativity than positivity. Though celebrities are the centre of attention on the internet and have a huge fan following, if you read comments about yourself for half an hour, you'd probably fall sick.

What about trolls? Have they kept you away?
I don't even look at them. If I do read once in a while, I don't take them seriously because people who're criticising you have no face, and probably fake their identity, too. I never feel the urge to reply. They can say whatever they want to.

AMRITSAR

Actor Shahid Kapoor in the song, Tujhe Kitna Chahne Lage, from his upcoming film

PHOTO: HTCS

Kabir Singh's latest song presents Shahid's new look

Ever since the teaser, trailer and first song of the upcoming film, Kabir Singh, were released, they have been well-received by the audience. And actor Shahid Kapoor's portrayal of the title role has a lot to do with that. The actor is being applauded for his sheer intensity and performance.

After unveiling the film's first song, Bekhayali, which has already become a love anthem for the new generation, the makers, T-Series and Cine1 Studios, are all geared up to reveal the film's second song that will be released tomorrow.

The new song, Tujhe Kitna Chahne Lage, will showcase Shahid in a new look, altogether. In fact, it's after a long time that viewers will see Shahid in a clean-shaven avatar. This persona of Shahid will complete the actor's three diverse looks in this Sandeep Reddy Vanga-directed film.

> Shahid will appear in a never-seen-before avatar in Kabir Singh.
> **BHUSHAN KUMAR**, PRODUCER

The producers of the film are excited to unveil this new look to the audience. "Shahid will appear in a never-seen-before avatar in Kabir Singh," says producer Bhushan Kumar. Producer Murad Khetani adds, "Shahid has moulded his different looks according to the character."

Producer Ashwin Varde concludes by saying, "This new look is a bonanza for all his fans."

Kabir Singh is a T-Series and Cine1 Studios presentation. Starring Shahid Kapoor and Kiara Advani, the film is directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga and produced by Bhushan Kumar, Murad Khetani, Krishan Kumar and Ashwin Varde. It releases on June 21.

HTC

Ellen DeGeneres
PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

STOP PRESS

ELLEN DEGENERES RECOUNTS ASSAULT BY HER STEPFATHER

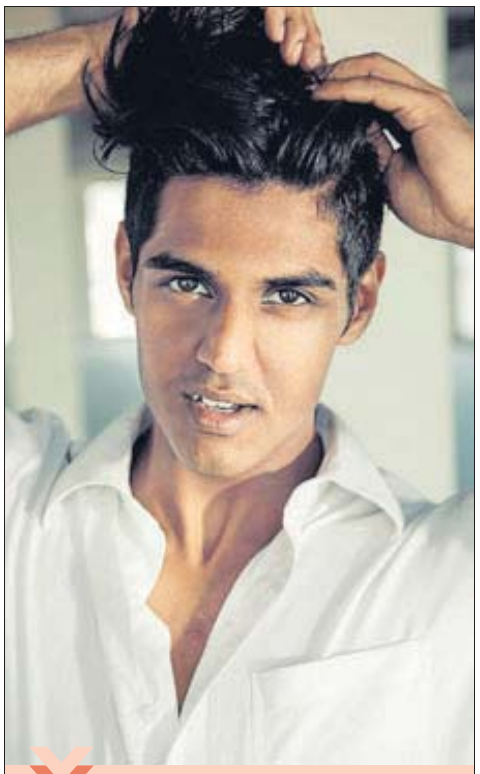
Comedian-host Ellen DeGeneres has recalled being sexually assaulted as a teen, by her stepfather. In an upcoming episode of David Letterman's show, My Next Guest Needs No Introduction, she said it started after her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, reports cnn.com. "He told me when (my mom) was out of town that he'd felt a lump in her breast and needed to feel my breasts," she recalled. "I'm angry at myself, I was too weak to stand up...I was 15 or 16," DeGeneres said. **IANS**

HUMA QURESHI JOINS ZACK SNYDER'S ARMY OF THE DEAD

Actor Huma Qureshi has boarded the cast of filmmaker Zack Snyder's next directorial, Army of the Dead. The 32-year-old joins Dave Bautista in the project, which will mark Snyder's return to directing after a gap of two years, a streaming platform has announced. **PTI**

We need more Indian origin storytellers: Divyansh Sharma

Abhinav Verma



At just 22, Delhi-born Divyansh Sharma has won more than 30 awards at various film festivals across the world for his first directorial venture, Graffiti. Divyansh, who lives in Los Angeles (US) wrote, directed, acted, and edited the short film, which is about a spoken word artist trying to come to terms with the loss of a loved one. Excerpts:

What was the idea behind Graffiti?
Actors are always asked to dig deep into our personal memories to channel emotions. To put these memories on display seemed selfish to me because those memories are just as much ours as the person we made them with. I thought spoken word would be a great medium to explore this idea. So, I birthed Michael Dawson, a spoken word artist who can only write about the woman he loved who had passed away. The project ended up tackling more universal themes, such as love, moving on, and forgiveness.

The perception of Indians in the acting community seems to be a rigid one. Why is that so and how can the stereotype be broken?
I think the sentiment of this question goes way beyond the Indian community. There's a whole movement going on with African American storytelling in Hollywood, with a simple idea — we cannot expect a white man to tell a story about the African American experience. Similarly, we cannot expect an accurate representation of Indians from non-Indian writers in Hollywood. Unless we have more Indian origin writers telling their stories, we will always be pigeonholed into Appu from The Simpsons. It's like Gandhi's quote: Be the change you wish to see in the world.

What are the challenges you have faced so far?
The biggest challenge so far has been being seen as a choice for more than just an Indian character.

> We can't expect an accurate representation of Indians from non-Indian writers in Hollywood. Unless we have more Indian origin writers telling their stories, we will always be pigeonholed into Appu from The Simpsons.
> **DIVYANSH SHARMA** ACTOR-FILMMAKER

What's your opinion on the concept of social justice and the rise of political correctness in movies?
I feel like people are inherently smart and we are open to ideas as long as we communicate them with respect and care. That's really what it comes down to: respect for other people's ideals and choices without sacrificing belief and faith in yours. And the beauty of art is that it is always open to interpretation, and as times change, art changes and ages with it.

Any plans for Bollywood? Tell us about your favourite Bollywood actor and movies.
I love to tell stories and if there is a story I am right for, I would gladly offer my services. I love Aamir Khan's work. Dangal was amazing. Indian cinematic storytelling has found a new voice on streaming services as well. Sacred Games was one of my favourite series, and Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Saif Ali Khan's work in it was nothing short of brilliant.

'At the end, it's about your voice'

Rishabh Suri

Singer Papon believes in quality over quantity. Maybe this is why he has been slow when it comes to playback singing for Bollywood films. Moh Moh Ke Dhaage (Dum Laga Ke Haisha; 2015) and Kyun (Barfi!; 2012) remain his best known songs.

He tells us, "I've come a long way. And there's one thing that has always stuck: Do something if you are sure you will do a good job, and if you connect with it. It should be something of your taste and challenge you. You should not [just be] interested in increasing numbers and take up anything that comes your way. There's a sense of pride there. That's why I do less."

Papon got into mainstream Bollywood music with Jiyein Kyun from Dum Maaro Dum in 2011. Times have changed drastically, and one of the changes has been how for musicians, singers specifically, good appearance has also become a priority, apart from singing well.

We ask Papon, whose latest project is a song about river conservation for a web series, whether he feels the same, and he says, "I don't believe in that. You won't find a seasoned musician doing that. It's more with the newcomers. The reason for that is they want to break into the market. It's definitely momentary. But at the end of the day, if your voice itself doesn't have soul or your music doesn't have what's required, it'll fade away."

Talking about the new song, he says, "I see beautiful rivers turning gray, loaded with pollution. If we won't save it, we won't be leaving anything for our kids."

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Papon's latest project is a song about river conservation for a web series

I begged the makers of Angrezi Medium to let me audition: Radhika

Juhi Chakraborty

There are times when an actor gets offered a role or bags it through someone's reference. And while it's mostly the newcomers who have to audition for a role and established names skip the process, it somehow doesn't work like that for actor Radhika Madan. The actor prefers auditions over landing a role directly.

"I would want to audition for every project that I do. I think the reason why some actors don't audition is because of ego. They feel 'I have done so much work, can't they see it'. But, you cannot be perfect for every character as every project is different. You cannot expect the producer to make that gamble," she says.

The actor, who has auditioned for both her films — Pataakha and Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota (both 2018) — will be seen next in the Irrfan- and Kareena Kapoor Khan-starrer Angrezi Medium. She adds, "I love auditioning — the entire process. I don't know why it is such a taboo in the industry. I know people who don't audition, I request them to do it. You feel like you have earned the role when you get it after an audition."

And Radhika feels auditioning is the only way that new actors like her can bag good roles in films and make a mark eventually. In fact, she says for her third film, where she plays Irrfan's onscreen daughter , "I begged the makers to let me audition despite the film being offered to someone else."

She reveals, "Because of my role in Pataakha, where I played a village girl and put on 10kg, they [makers of Angrezi Medium] couldn't imagine me in the role. My team kept begging them to take my audition, and eventually I got the role."

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Radhika Madan debuted in Bollywood with Pataakha (2018) PHOTO: FOTOCORP

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DAILY HOROSCOPE

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019

Astrologer Prem Kumar Sharma can be contacted at: Delhi: 011-47033152, 40532026 (Sat to Mon): Panchkula: 91-172-2562832, 2572874 (Tues to Thurs); Mumbai: 09223376963 (Last week of every month)

YOU SHARE YOUR BIRTHDAY WITH

CeeLo Green: The American singer-songwriter, known for songs such as Crazy, Forget You and Smiley Faces, turns 44 today.

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20)

Minor health issues might make you feel low. A loan not being paid in time might cause you some trouble. Your competence and outgoing nature is likely to draw attention of those who matter to you on the professional front. On the family front, excellent bonding with parents will encourage you to share even your personal thoughts and desires. Some of you might find it difficult to commute to work today.

Love Focus: Not getting positive response from someone you have a crush on might be upsetting. You may need to move on.

Lucky Number: 6 Lucky Colour: Grey

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 20)

A treatment prescribed needs to be followed to maintain good health. You are likely to achieve stability on your financial front. Distractions can make you lose your focus at work and can pose problems in undergoing an important training. A lot of encouragement from the family is in store for those wanting to do something different. A train journey will be like never before because of the wonderful company.

Love Focus: Developing feelings for someone will get you on cloud nine. But are you sure it's love or just infatuation?

Lucky Number: 8 Lucky Colour: Forest Green

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUN 21)

Health remains perfect as you stay abreast with your exercise and fitness regime. You need to be extra careful in planning something important on the financial front. Help from a friend or associate might prove huge in sharing an official workload and completing it successfully. Someone in the family may advice you on something important, so don't reject it out of hand. Today, it is better not to discuss or deal in any property matter.

Love Focus: Special attention received from someone is likely to make you feel extra special about yourself.

Lucky Number: 22 Lucky Colour: Blue

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

You are likely to enjoy good health today. Mounting expenses can compel you to search for newer ways of making money. You are likely to struggle to keep pace at work. You are enjoying a good phase of life with family at present and will continue to do so. The wanderlust within you will get wings to fly as a new travelling opportunity comes your way. Booking a flat in the best location will make you content.

Love Focus: For young lovebirds, popping the question at the right time is important if you don't want to go through a rejection.

Lucky Number: 18 Lucky Colour: Lemon

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG 23)

Eating right is the key to your good health and will keep you keep fit and energetic. You will have enough to buy a thing that is expensive. Those aspiring for a promotion or raise might have difficulty in achieving their objective. This is the best time to go forth and grasp something that has been eluding you previously in your social circle. A new place is likely to be explored by some.

Love Focus: Nothing much happening on romance front might dishearten you. But remember your true goal.

Lucky Number: 1 Lucky Colour: Light Yellow

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEPT 23)

Keeping cool and calm even in stressful situations will help retain peace of mind. Money might pose some problem today and might let you restrain from over spending. You will feel most satisfied with something that you have achieved on the professional front. A favour done by someone in the family needs to be reciprocated quickly. Some urgent task might keep you occupied and disturbed during a vacation.

Love Focus: Lover will be at your beck and call, so you are likely to enjoy a wonderful time today.

Lucky Number: 15 Lucky Colour: Crimson

LIBRA (SEPT 24 - OCT 23)

Reaping the benefits of good diet and fitness is likely as you get back to shape. Extra money can tempt you to indulge in luxury. Too much work may compel you to devote some extra hours. You are likely to realise that not devoting enough time towards family has its detriments. Bad roads and too much traffic jam are likely to make you go crazy on the road today. A property by inheritance cannot be ruled out for some.

Love Focus: Closeness to a colleague or class fellow can turn into a budding romance for some.

Lucky Number: 2 Lucky Colour: Peach

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 22)

Health remains satisfactory today. You may find yourself in a dilemma on the financial front – to splurge with friends to remain in their circle or save money and become odd one out. Professional front remains critical as an important file goes missing. Hosting a party just to meet friends and relations is possible. Cancelling a much awaited official tour abroad may come as a great setback for some.

Love Focus: Strong emotional bonds with someone you have a liking for can culminate into a long-term relationship.

Lucky Number: 11 Lucky Colour: Lemon

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23 - DEC 21)

A changed diet may not have the desired effect on your shape, so try avoiding it. Earnings need to be invested wisely or you may end up dissipating them. A good initiative taken on the work front will aid you in future. Being unduly harsh to a family member will spoil everyone's mood. Taking undue pressure regarding a long journey will not be good for you at all. Focusing on property might not be possible today.

Love Focus: Foul mood of lover may need to be countered fast to avoid any escalation.

Lucky Number: 17 Lucky Colour: Navy Blue

CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN 21)

Barring some minor concerns, health remain fine today. Wealth may come to you from various sources. At work, something entrusted to you will be completed with utmost efficiency. On the family front, the eligible might have to wait till they get lucky in finding their life partner. Those looking at peace and tranquillity might take a break and go on a vacation. Property front remains moderate without much ado.

Love Focus: Those in long-distance relationships are likely to face trouble in their paradise.

Lucky Number: 3 Lucky Colour: Rosy Brown

AQUARIUS (JAN 22 - FEB 19)

Being conscious about what you eat and drink is the need of the hour. You might need to be level-headed, where finances are concerned to cater for rainy day. You are likely to swim with the tide on the professional or academic front. Your burning desire to get ahead is likely to be motivated by family. Chance of going abroad on an official tour cannot be ruled out. A property you were positive about might not fetch you enough.

Love Focus: Love life remains satisfactory as you focus on other things that are equally important and hold significance in your life.

Lucky Number: 9 Lucky Colour: Magenta

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20)

Don't implement anything unless you are certain of its financial implications. You will put in the required efforts on the professional front to reap rich rewards. Meeting people in the social circle whose company you enjoy is likely to become a reality soon. A good opportunity to visit a childhood friend living in a different city may come true for some. You are also likely to earn good returns on the property front today.

Love Focus: Those of you feeling unlucky in love should not lose heart as something positive is going to happen soon.

Lucky Number: 4 Lucky Colour: Violet

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If not a protagonist, Ravi Dubey says he won't do the show

Rishabh Suri

Television has for long been called a women-centric medium, and rightfully so because the stories revolve around female characters. Also, daily soaps cater to homemakers, according to the popular notion. Actor Ravi Dubey, however, believes that male characters, too, have a considerable role to play.

"TV has been my bread and butter for 16-17 years. I am very discreet with my projects and take up only those I believe in, whether it was the initial phase of my career or now. My take on TV is in sync with the kind of commitments I have been a part of. I am lucky I was part of awesome shows such as Saas Bina Sasural, which did really well, or Ranbir Rano, which had both the guy's and the girl's name in the title. Also, I have got to be the protagonist, not just the lead. You set some rules for yourself," says Ravi, who has of late been busy with producing Punjabi films and hosting reality shows.

Unlike people who criticise a show after taking it up, he says, "You signed up for it, now you can't complain. There's no dearth of roles... you did something you didn't resonate with. After Saas Bina... got over, producers offered me various roles at premium fees but I couldn't find myself resonating with the idea that I am not the protagonist, and, hence, didn't associate with them."

He goes on to add, "Four years later, Jamai Raja happened. It was a disruptive show, in the sense that it had a man in the centre. Jamia Raja didn't do well just in Hindi but was remade in Bangla, Odiya and Arabic, and was dubbed in Indonesia, Germany and Thailand, where it became very popular as well."

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7		1		2				
					3		6	7
			8				9	4
3			6				7	
	1						2	
	4				5			8
1	3				6			
8	7		3					
				1		8		9

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9X9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

SCRAMBLE - 3101

Solve the four anagrams and move one letter to each square to form four ordinary words

KPEEO
CEEIN
NRSUGP
GINOGK

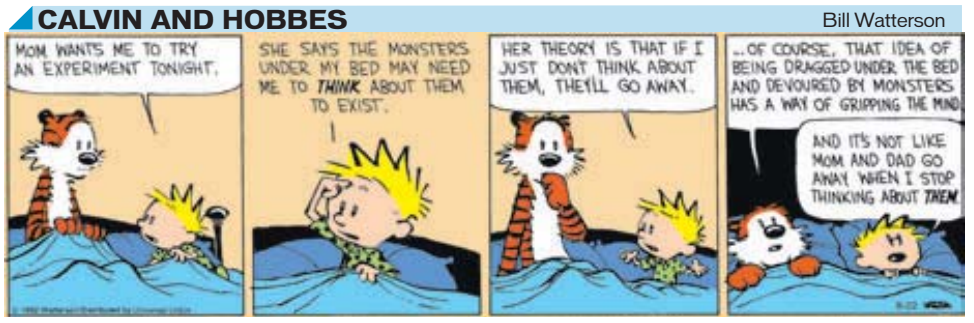
Now arrange the letters marked with an asterisk (*) to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing words as indicated.

If you're __ through hell, __ __
- Churchill (5,..,4,5) (one word twice)

SCRAMBLE SOLUTION: Pekoe, niece, sprung, gingko
ANSWER: If you're **going** through hell, **keep going** - Churchill

CALVIN AND HOBBES

Bill Watterson



MATHDOKU

Place numbers into the puzzle cells so that each row and column contains each of the digits from 1 to 5. No number is to be repeated in any row or column. Each bold-outlined cells contain a hint of a number and one of the mathematical symbols + x - /. The number is the result of the operation represented by the symbol to the digits contained.

DID YOU KNOW?

The song Yeh Dil Na Hota Bechara from 1967's Dev Anand-starrer Jewel Thief was sampled from the theme of 1957's The Bridge on the River Kwai.

SOLUTION SUDOKU

9	3	8	4	1	7	5	2	6
1	5	6	2	9	3	4	7	8
2	4	7	6	8	5	9	3	1
8	1	3	5	7	2	6	4	9
6	2	5	8	3	9	7	1	4
3	8	9	7	6	4	2	5	1
4	9	1	3	5	6	8	9	2
5	6	4	9	2	8	3	6	7
7	6	2	1	4	5	8	3	9

SOLUTION MATHDUKU

3	4	2	5	1
4	5	1	2	3
2	3	5	1	4
1	2	3	4	5
5	1	4	3	2

Here's why Taylor turns off social media comments

Singer Taylor Swift, who turns 30 this December, has made it clear that she will not put up with sexist interview questions.

During an interview, a reporter asked Swift if she felt like settling down and having children later this year.

To this, Swift replied, "I really do not think men are asked that question when they turn 30. So, I'm not going to answer that question now."

According to Fox News, the singer also explained what turning a decade older meant to her. "I hear others say that one in his thirties no longer has as much stress and anxiety in life as in my twenties. And I can join in the observation that we are in our twenties looking to gain experience, try things out, fail, make mistakes," the Love Story and Shake It Off singer said.

Swift, who had earlier this year written a piece in a UK magazine about her learnings from interacting on online platforms, also discussed the pitfalls of social media.

"Social media can be great, but it can also inundate your brain with images of what you aren't, how you're failing, or who is in a cooler locale than you at any given moment," Swift said.

"One thing I do to lessen this weird insecurity laser beam is to turn off comments. That way, I'm showing my friends and fans updates on my life,
but I'm training my brain to not need the validation of someone telling me how I look. I'm also blocking out anyone who
might feel the need to tell me to 'go die in a hole ho' while I'm having my coffee at nine in the morning," she added.

She also revealed that since social media has contaminated her views and private life, she now keeps her romance with actor Joe Alwyn (The Favourite, 2018) private.

"For too long, the projected opinions of strangers affected how I viewed my relationship. Whether it was the general internet consensus of who would be right for me, or what they thought was 'couples goals' based on a picture I posted on Instagram. That stuff isn't real. For an approval seeker like me, it was an important lesson to learn to have my own value system of what I actually want," the singer added.

ANI

Taylor Swift says that for far too long, the opinions of strangers affected how she viewed her relationships

PHOTO: STEVE MARCUS/REUTERS

MOVIES ON TV

HBO

How To Train Your Dragon at 1145

EDITOR'S PICK

1145 How To Train Your Dragon
1320 Transformers: Dark of The Moon
1613 Shooter
1823 Mission Impossible - Fallout
2100 Ready Player One
2329 No Strings Attached

STAR MOVIES

Men in Black II at 1907

1031 Cars 3
1223 Avengers: Age of Ultron
1501 The Expendables 3
1723 The Hills Have Eyes 2
1907 Men in Black II
2050 Deadpool 2

WB

The Exorcist at 1031

1031 The Exorcist
1204 IP Man 3
1350 Collateral Damage
1535 Unaccompanied Minors
1703 Armour of God II
2100 Chips

UTV MOVIES

Shola Aur Shabnam at 2000

1100 Mr Bechara
1400 Dashing Jigarwala 2
1700 Thalaivaa The Leader
2000 Shola Aur Shabnam

&pictures

Golmaal – Fun Unlimited at 1043

1043 Golmaal – Fun Unlimited
1352 Loafer
1650 Time Story
2000 Singam 3
2305 Hollow Man

ZEE CINEMA

Shiva The Super Hero at 0935

0935 Shiva The Super Hero
1207 Phir Hera Pheri
1525 Welcome
1842 Rogue
2100 Surya The Soldier
2345 Tabahi Zulm Ki

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WHEN A BACHELOR PAD BECAME A FAMILY HOME

Neil Nitin Mukesh with wife Rukmini and daughter Nurvi (inset)
PHOTO: VIRAL BHAYANI

Neil Nitin Mukesh reveals how parenthood has transformed his house and his lifestyle

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/NEILNITINMUKESH

Rishabh Suri

Imagine you get yourself the best bachelor/bachelorette pad made, are all set to move in, and on the very day you are supposed to shift, you get engaged! And subsequently, it becomes a 'family home'. This is actor Neil Nitin Mukesh's story, and he's happy as he reveals to us, "Life has changed for me completely after becoming a father, in a good way. I was telling my wife Rukmini the other day that I had just finished the interiors of my bachelor pad, and as luck would have it, the day it was completed, I got engaged! Ever since then, it's become a family home."

The couple was blessed with a baby girl, Nurvi Neil Mukesh, in September last year. "Now I have a pram," Neil continues, "bottles of milk, baby toys and a girl who has got pink all around, so it's nothing like a bachelor pad. It's quite contradictory to the taste of interiors I had got done. Getting out at night with friends and telling them 'I have a deadline to get back home, I have my baby'... it's a little bit of a responsibility on myself. I am more concerned about myself as a parent. There's some nervousness, too. It's part and parcel of being a dad. I still can't digest it... it's like I have got a new buddy in town!"

And his daily routine has also undergone a massive change. "There are late nights, waking up and babysitting, preparing milk, and changing diapers is part of my daily routine. She's keeping me on my toes, and quite demanding in that sense," adds Neil, whose last film outing was Golmaal Again (2017).

His next is the big-budget multilingual film Saaho, and apart from that, he has two more films lined up for release.

"Besides Saaho, I have my first home production, Bypass Road, which I've written and my brother is directing. Then, I have another film, Firrkie, which is in post-production stage right now."

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Series creator James Cameron and (below) Gabriel Luna in a still from Terminator: Dark Fate, the seventh film in the franchise

'DARK FATE IS A FAST WHITE-KNUCKLE RIDE'

Filmmaker James Cameron says the upcoming instalment in the Terminator franchise is grimmer and grittier than its predecessors, and they are hoping to get an R-rating for it.

The 64-year-old is producing the new film, called Dark Fate. Directed by Tim Miller (Deadpool, 2016), it will retcon the events of the last three instalments — Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (2003), Terminator Salvation (2009) and Terminator Genisys (2015).

Cameron considers the film to be a direct sequel to 1991's Terminator 2: Judgement Day. "I think, tonally, what makes this a direct sequel to T1 and T2 is as much about the tone as it is about the narrative: It's R rated, it's grim, it's gritty, it's fast, it's intense, it's very linear," the filmmaker said.

"The whole story takes place in 36 hours. It's not this kind of grandiose, complex story. It's just very focused on the characters, it's very now, it's very present and it's just a fast white-knuckle ride," he added. **PTI**

Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif in a still from the song, Chashni

PHOTO: HTCS

A musical journey

Salman Khan's much awaited movie, Bharat, is all set to release on June 5. The Ali Abbas Zafar directorial promises to be an entertainer embedded in the soulful journey of a man and his nation. An Eid release, Bharat will show Salman in six different avatars, ranging from a young circus champion to a 60-year-old man who sports grey hair, which is reflective of the journey the film promises. The movie's songs have managed to strike a chord among the audiences. The music of the film has been composed by the musician duo, Vishal-Shekhar, who have let the essence of the country breathe in the tracks.

While the first song, Slow Motion, in the backdrop of a circus, showcases Disha Patani's sizzling chemistry with Salman; the second track, Aithey Aa, set against a wedding background, is a celebratory tune. There is also the romantic number, Chashni, featuring Katrina Kaif. Zinda, another song from the film, has become the marching anthem of the season, along with Turpeya. Each song brings a different journey, and the soulfulness of the album is what makes Bharat stand out.

"The response to the music has been extremely positive. This is my third collaboration with Vishal-Shekhar and Irshad Kamil (lyricist) and we are very happy with the response the songs have received. Now, a lot of people are going for remixes rather than creating original music. But, after seeing the response Bharat's songs have got, we are only determined to work harder and create better melodies in our coming ventures," says Ali.

The upcoming film is a period drama, written and directed by Ali Abbas Zafar. Bharat is produced by Atul Agnihotri, Alvira Agnihotri, Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar, under the banner of Reel Life Production Pvt Ltd and Salman Khan Films, and is presented by T-Series. **HTC**

'Whatever I wear, I don't make a fool of myself'

Shreya Mukherjee

Those who follow Neena Gupta on Instagram would agree that the actor's fashion sense is on point. Even at 62, nothing stops her from experimenting with her looks.

"That's me... I love experimenting with different styles. Also, the event or occasion I'm attending makes me think [about] what I should wear," says Neena, asserting that her "personal style has evolved over the years".

With a daughter like Masaba, who is an acclaimed fashion designer, Neena definitely is spoilt for choices. "Besides my own sense of style, Masaba is someone who gives me ideas and tips. That's a plus. She makes me wear her designs quite often, so that way I am sorted. If she is shopping, she will send me photos and ask if I want something. I do the same," shares the Badhaai Ho (2018) actor.

Neena is quick to add that there are phases in terms of style that she goes through quite often. "There would be times I just want to wear salwar kameez and then there are sari days. There are also days when I want to wear pants, jeans, dresses... but, whatever I do and wear, I make sure I don't make a fool of myself," says Neena, who has always been "very open" to new age fashion.

And that's why women her age often compliment Neena on her style sense and some even call her a fashion inspiration. "It feels really special when people look up to you. I think it's very important to dress according to your body and age. That makes a lot of difference," says Neena, and continues, "You should be able to carry whatever you wear, so, confidence is essential. Right now, I'm in that phase where I want to wear jeans and tucked-in shirts, but I can't because I have a tummy."

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I love experimenting with different styles. Also, the event or occasion I'm attending makes me think [about] what I should wear.
NEENA GUPTA ACTOR

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/NEENA_GUPTA

The long night is coming: Kit checks into therapy after GoT

The end of Game of Thrones seems to have hit Kit Harington hard as the actor has checked into a rehabilitation centre to receive treatment for stress, exhaustion and alcohol use.

According to PageSix, the 32-year-old checked into a luxury health retreat in Connecticut, US, weeks before the finale aired on May 19. He played Jon Snow across eight seasons on the epic fantasy show.

Harington has been undergoing cognitive behavioural therapy, meditating, and practising other psychological exercises to better cope with the stress.

"The end of GoT really hit Kit hard... He realised, 'This is it, this is the end'. It was something they had all worked so hard on for so many years. He had a moment of 'what next?' He's in the clinic predominantly for stress and exhaustion and also alcohol. His wife Rose (Leslie) is being extremely supportive. Everyone close to him really wanted him to get some rest. Right now, he just needs peace and quiet," a source close to the actor told the outlet.

Harington's rep said that the actor has "decided to utilise this break in his schedule as an opportunity to spend some time at a wellness retreat to work on some personal issues".

The actor had previously admitted that he had to resort to therapy to deal with his character's brief death in the show, which he said was his darkest time.

"I felt I had to feel that I was the most fortunate person in the world, when actually, I felt very vulnerable. I had a shaky time in my life around there — like I think a lot of people do in their 20s," the actor had told Variety recently.

"That was a time when I started therapy, and started talking to people. I had felt very unsafe, and I wasn't talking to anyone. I had to feel very grateful for what I have, but I felt incredibly concerned about whether I could even f***ing act," he had added. **PTI**

Kit is undergoing cognitive behavioural therapy, meditating, and other psychological exercises to better cope with stress

IT'S BEING SAID THAT THE ACTOR IS HAVING A 'WHAT NEXT?' MOMENT AFTER THE END OF THE SHOW. HE UNDERWENT SIMILAR STRESS WHEN HIS CHARACTER ON THE SHOW BRIEFLY DIED

PHOTO: FOTOCORP

Why a supernatural show was the 'best choice' for Debina

Sangeeta Yadav

Actor Debina Bonnerjee, who was last seen playing an antagonist in Santoshi Maa in 2017 after which she went on a small break, is gearing up for her comeback with a supernatural show.

"I thought that instead of doing something serious, I would rather do something that the audience wants to watch, and it will get more TRPs, too. Considering how supernatural shows have become such a big hit on television that many are even coming up with seasons two and three, I thought it was the best choice," says Debina.

While many actors slam the genre, Debina feels there is a "huge liberty to enact" in these shows. "Unlike any other daily soap, here, you can act differently in different kind of situations. The characters look hot yet dangerous. It catches the imagination of the people watching the show and the suspense keeps them on the edge, guessing."

Many a times there have been complaints of an overdose of supernatural shows, with the public calling them irrelevant and not relatable. To this, the actor says, "TV is still considered to be the biggest mode of entertainment, especially in tier 2 and tier 3 cities. We can't forget that audience, and for them, the supernatural genre make for the best entertainment."

However, she is quick to add, "For today's youth and those glued to the web, TV's content is very backward. They would rather watch Game of Thrones, Kingdom, and Korean and British dramas as the digital space provides international exposure to entertainment."

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Instead of doing something serious, I'd rather do something that the audience wants to watch, and it'll get more TRPs, too.
DEBINA BONNERJEE ACTOR

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We're meeting about it: Reese Witherspoon on Legally Blonde 3

Reese Witherspoon
PHOTO: JOEL RYAN/AP

Actor Reese Witherspoon has given an update on the third instalment of her Legally Blonde franchise.

During her appearance on the Ellen Show, Witherspoon said the team is still discussing the film. "We're meeting about it. I mean, we're definitely talking about it. I don't know. Do you guys want to see 'Legally Blonde 3'?" Witherspoon asked the audience.

"I mean, it's sort of about women being underestimated and I think it's a good idea — that things have changed, but not that much has changed!" she added.

The 43-year-old actor had kick-started the series with 2001's Legally Blonde, where she played the idealistic Elle Woods who follows her boyfriend to Harvard Law School in order to win him back.

A sequel, titled Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde, was released in 2003 and saw Elle travel to Washington, D.C. to fight against animal testing.

In June last year, Witherspoon had announced that she will be reprising her role in a threequel, which would hit the theatres on Valentine's Day in 2020.

Witherspoon's production company is expected to produce the film. **PTI**

A still from the movie Legally Blonde

A SHOT OF TEQUILA HELPS ALBA FILM LOVE SCENES

Jessica Alba
PHOTO: WILLY SANJUAN/AP

'It's disgusting most of the time,' Jessica Alba said of the scenes

Actor Jessica Alba says it's weird doing love scenes and that she has to take a tequila shot beforehand. The actor, 38, opened up about the topic on a podcast alongside husband Cash Warren, 40.

She cited two Hollywood actors she has worked with to illustrate the point, reports dailymail.co.uk. "I think Pierce Brosnan and Bruce Willis are very attractive gentlemen... but it's like, weird," said Alba, who worked with Brosnan in 2014's Some Kind of Beautiful, and with Willis in 2005's Sin City.

The mother-of-three differentiated between a romantic encounter in one's personal life, and one on a film set in which "nothing about it is alone in a room", and can go on for 15-16 hours.

"When you're choosing to want to be with someone in that way... it's very intimate," Alba said. "You're breathing on someone, it's all there, you're smelling the skin...you wanna choose whom you're doing that with, and you gotta really like, pretend."

The actor said that "sometimes it's days and days of the same thing, and you have to recreate that moment every time, recreate the peak of your intimacy from this angle and that angle and this angle and that angle ... and by the way, everyone's right here." The Dear Eleanor (2016) actor said she has to take tequila shots prior to such encounters. "I'm gonna say I'm unprofessional, 100% because I feel like really good entertainment people don't have to do that," she explained. **IANS**

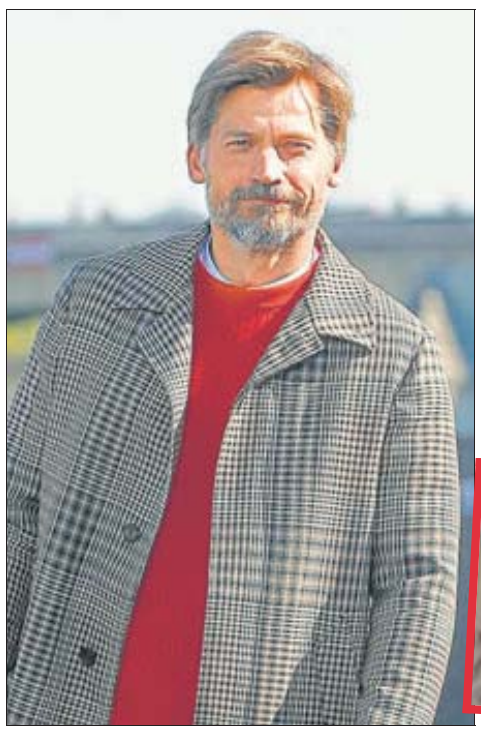
'First X-Men movie led by women is coming at the right time'

Sophie Turner
PHOTO: DANNY MOLOSHOK/ REUTERS

Actor Sophie Turner, who plays the role of mutant Jean Grey in the upcoming film, X-Men: Dark Phoenix is shocked by the fact, that none of the earlier movies in this popular franchise were led by women. During an interview, the 23-year-old actor finds it "incredible" the film will give a "less important" role to men. "All the female characters in this movie are the strongest characters. We have a female protagonist, a female antagonist, all while the female protagonist is also somewhat of an antagonist. And it's all about her relationships, Jean's relationship with the females throughout this movie, which is really very interesting," she says and adds, "None of the women in this movie is subservient to a man, which is incredible. It's crazy to think that this is kind of the first X-Men movie led by women. That's really exciting to me and especially to Jessica. It comes at exactly the right time as well."

The film also stars James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, Nicholas Hoult, Tye Sheridan, Alexandra Shipp, Kodi Smit-McPhee, Evan Peters, and Jessica Chastain. **HTC**

GoT's Nikolaj wants an Arya Stark spin-off show



Nikolaj Coster-Waldau PHOTO: MICHEL EULER/AP

Game of Thrones star Nikolaj Coster-Waldau says he wants Maisie Williams' Arya Stark to feature in her own spin-off of the hit series. The actor, who played Jaime Lannister in the epic fantasy drama, said he is rooting for the faceless warrior as she embarks on her journey to the west of Westeros in the season finale.

"That episode, it was amazing! I really thought it was a great ending. And Arya!" Coster-Waldau said in an Instagram video. The 48-year-old actor also gave a nod to the in-the-works prequel, tentatively titled The Long Night, and the viral online petition to redo the series with "competent writers". "I know they're doing all these prequels, but what about the sequel? With Arya? How about — I'm just throwing something out here — how about a petition? An online petition that they do a sequel with Arya Stark," he added.

Meanwhile, the network's programming president Casey Bloys has confirmed that a Game of Thrones spin-off based on Arya Stark is not on HBO's list of potential sister shows. "I don't want to take characters from this world that they did beautifully and put them off into another world with someone else creating it. I want to let it be the artistic piece they've got. That's one of the reasons why I'm not trying to do the same show over," he told The Hollywood Reporter. **PTI**

A still from the show GoT featuring Maisie Williams as Arya Stark

Bridget Jones 4? 'If they call me, I'll go running'

A still fromBridget Jones's Baby

Renee Zellweger says she would love to reprise her iconic role as Bridget Jones in the fourth follow-up in the series. The actor said she would want to see what the character is up to after she got a somewhat fairytale ending in the most recent Bridget Jones's Baby (2016). "(It could be) 'Bridget Jones: The Menopause'," Zellweger, 50, joked. "No, I know Helen's (Fielding) written the book, and I love this character. So, I mean, if they call me, I'll go running," she said in an appearance on The Talk.

Based on Helen Fielding's book series, the first two films in the franchise are — Bridget Jones's Diary (2001) and Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason (2004). The author's Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy, which was published in 2013, is yet to be adapted for the screen. **PTI**

Renée Zellweger
PHOTO: TASIA WELLS/AFP

Patty frustrated about Wonder Woman 1984's delay

A still from Wonder Woman; Right: Patty Jenkins
PHOTO: WILLY SANJUAN/AP

Director Patty Jenkins says the wait for Wonder Woman 1984 has been "frustrating".

The release of the follow-up to 2017's DC hit Wonder Woman, fronted by Gal Gadot, was pushed back from a November 2019 release to June 5, 2020.

According to DigitalSpy, a video of Jenkins is doing the rounds in which she can be heard saying how she jokingly once said she wanted the film to be out in summer 2020.

"I can't wait! I can't believe — it's so funny, for all the entire time that we were making the movie, I was lobbying. They were wanting to move it up much earlier. And I was like 'You guys, it's got to be the summer of 2020, like it's got to be!' And that was what I always wanted "And now, I've just screened a version of the film and I'm like 'Oh my God, can we move it back up again?' I'm dying to release this film! But of course it's good and it's fine, but it's frustrating to have to wait," she says in the clip.

Wonder Woman 1984 also stars Chris Pine, Kristin Wiig, Pedro Pascal, with Connie Nielsen and Robin Wright in supporting their roles. **PTI**

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John Abraham feels reading comments on yourself can make one fall sick

I'M DISASTROUS AT SOCIAL MEDIA

John Abraham
PHOTO: RAAJESSH KASHYAP/HT

Sangeeta Yadav

John Abraham loves to hibernate, at least when it comes to social media. Unlike most other actors, he prefers to maintain a low profile and gets active only when he has a film up for release or when he has to talk about a cause close to his heart. A self-professed animal lover, John says, he "loves to use social media to post about animals". Last seen in Romeo Akbar Walter this year, the actor admits it's a "conscious choice" to not post anything and everything on social media but use it very discreetly to "draw positivity and goodness around". The 46-year-old, who is currently recovering from an injury he suffered while shooting for his next, Pagalpanti, reveals why social media isn't his thing, especially when it comes to sharing about his personal life. Excerpts:

Unlike your colleagues in the film industry, you are barely active on social media. Why?
My primary focus is my craft — acting. I aim to do more good, credible work. I need to keep improving every day, learn something and better myself. I don't see how social media could contribute to my internal growth and acting. Of course, it helps to connect with people, but I like to stay connected with people offline.

Why do you maintain that you won't post anything about your personal life on social media?
That's because I'm disastrous at it. I don't say things just to make a statement or news or in a bid to start a fad in the industry. Also, I don't feel the pressure of making a statement online. I'm okay doing nothing on social media.

What would you say about others who are constantly giving a peek into their lives through such platforms?
It is unfortunate how, for most actors, the virtual world has become real. Everyone is busy creating their virtual identity and giving constant updates on their lives instead of working on the craft. Also, some people do get influenced and try to become what they are not. But I'm very clear that for me, the real world is the touch-and-feel world, not the virtual world.

One thing about social media that bothers you the most?
There is more negativity than positivity. Though celebrities are the centre of attention on the internet and have a huge fan following, if you read comments about yourself for half an hour, you'd probably fall sick.

What about trolls? Have they kept you away?
I don't even look at them. If I do read once in a while, I don't take them seriously because people who're criticising you have no face, and probably fake their identity, too. I never feel the urge to reply. They can say whatever they want to.

MALWA

Actor Shahid Kapoor in the song, Tujhe Kitna Chahne Lage, from his upcoming film

PHOTO: HTCS

Kabir Singh's latest song presents Shahid's new look

Ever since the teaser, trailer and first song of the upcoming film, Kabir Singh, were released, they have been well-received by the audience. And actor Shahid Kapoor's portrayal of the title role has a lot to do with that. The actor is being applauded for his sheer intensity and performance.

After unveiling the film's first song, Bekhayali, which has already become a love anthem for the new generation, the makers, T-Series and Cine1 Studios, are all geared up to reveal the film's second song that will be released tomorrow.

The new song, Tujhe Kitna Chahne Lage, will showcase Shahid in a new look, altogether. In fact, it's after a long time that viewers will see Shahid in a clean-shaven avatar. This persona of Shahid will complete the actor's three diverse looks in this Sandeep Reddy Vanga-directed film.

> Shahid will appear in a never-seen-before avatar in Kabir Singh.
> **BHUSHAN KUMAR**, PRODUCER

The producers of the film are excited to unveil this new look to the audience. "Shahid will appear in a never-seen-before avatar in Kabir Singh," says producer Bhushan Kumar. Producer Murad Khetani adds, "Shahid has moulded his different looks according to the character."

Producer Ashwin Varde concludes by saying, "This new look is a bonanza for all his fans."

Kabir Singh is a T-Series and Cine1 Studios presentation. Starring Shahid Kapoor and Kiara Advani, the film is directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga and produced by Bhushan Kumar, Murad Khetani, Krishan Kumar and Ashwin Varde. It releases on June 21.

HTC

Ellen DeGeneres
PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

STOP PRESS

ELLEN DEGENERES RECOUNTS ASSAULT BY HER STEPFATHER

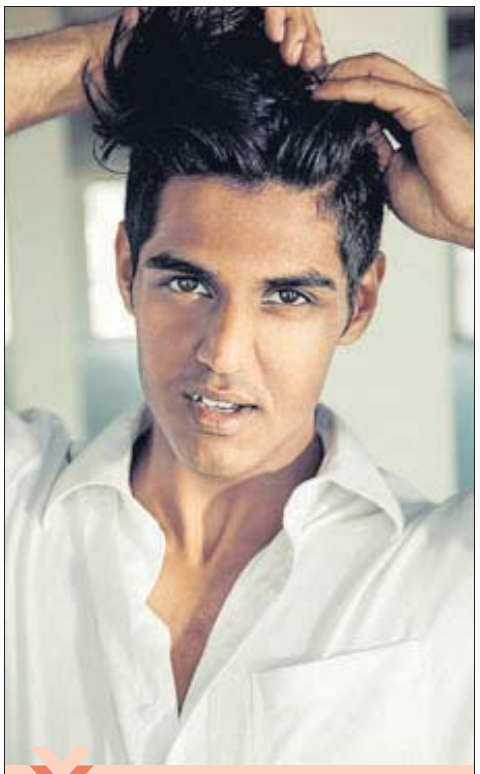
Comedian-host Ellen DeGeneres has recalled being sexually assaulted as a teen, by her stepfather. In an upcoming episode of David Letterman's show, My Next Guest Needs No Introduction, she said it started after her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, reports cnn.com. "He told me when (my mom) was out of town that he'd felt a lump in her breast and needed to feel my breasts," she recalled. "I'm angry at myself, I was too weak to stand up...I was 15 or 16," DeGeneres said. **IANS**

HUMA QURESHI JOINS ZACK SNYDER'S ARMY OF THE DEAD

Actor Huma Qureshi has boarded the cast of filmmaker Zack Snyder's next directorial, Army of the Dead. The 32-year-old joins Dave Bautista in the project, which will mark Snyder's return to directing after a gap of two years, a streaming platform has announced. **PTI**

We need more Indian origin storytellers: Divyansh Sharma

Abhinav Verma



At just 22, Delhi-born Divyansh Sharma has won more than 30 awards at various film festivals across the world for his first directorial venture, Graffiti. Divyansh, who lives in Los Angeles (US) wrote, directed, acted, and edited the short film, which is about a spoken word artist trying to come to terms with the loss of a loved one. Excerpts:

What was the idea behind Graffiti?
Actors are always asked to dig deep into our personal memories to channel emotions. To put these memories on display seemed selfish to me because those memories are just as much ours as the person we made them with. I thought spoken word would be a great medium to explore this idea. So, I birthed Michael Dawson, a spoken word artist who can only write about the woman he loved who had passed away. The project ended up tackling more universal themes, such as love, moving on, and forgiveness.

The perception of Indians in the acting community seems to be a rigid one. Why is that so and how can the stereotype be broken?
I think the sentiment of this question goes way beyond the Indian community. There's a whole movement going on with African American storytelling in Hollywood, with a simple idea — we cannot expect a white man to tell a story about the African American experience. Similarly, we cannot expect an accurate representation of Indians from non-Indian writers in Hollywood. Unless we have more Indian origin writers telling their stories, we will always be pigeonholed into Appu from The Simpsons. It's like Gandhi's quote: Be the change you wish to see in the world.

What are the challenges you have faced so far?
The biggest challenge so far has been being seen as a choice for more than just an Indian character.

> We can't expect an accurate representation of Indians from non-Indian writers in Hollywood. Unless we have more Indian origin writers telling their stories, we will always be pigeonholed into Appu from The Simpsons.
> **DIVYANSH SHARMA** ACTOR-FILMMAKER

What's your opinion on the concept of social justice and the rise of political correctness in movies?
I feel like people are inherently smart and we are open to ideas as long as we communicate them with respect and care. That's really what it comes down to: respect for other people's ideals and choices without sacrificing belief and faith in yours. And the beauty of art is that it is always open to interpretation, and as times change, art changes and ages with it.

Any plans for Bollywood? Tell us about your favourite Bollywood actor and movies.
I love to tell stories and if there is a story I am right for, I would gladly offer my services. I love Aamir Khan's work. Dangal was amazing. Indian cinematic storytelling has found a new voice on streaming services as well. Sacred Games was one of my favourite series, and Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Saif Ali Khan's work in it was nothing short of brilliant.

'At the end, it's about your voice'

Rishabh Suri

Singer Papon believes in quality over quantity. Maybe this is why he has been slow when it comes to playback singing for Bollywood films. Moh Moh Ke Dhaage (Dum Laga Ke Haisha; 2015) and Kyun (Barfi!; 2012) remain his best known songs.

He tells us, "I've come a long way. And there's one thing that has always stuck: Do something if you are sure you will do a good job, and if you connect with it. It should be something of your taste and challenge you. You should not [just be] interested in increasing numbers and take up anything that comes your way. There's a sense of pride there. That's why I do less."

Papon got into mainstream Bollywood music with Jiyein Kyun from Dum Maaro Dum in 2011. Times have changed drastically, and one of the changes has been how for musicians, singers specifically, good appearance has also become a priority, apart from singing well.

We ask Papon, whose latest project is a song about river conservation for a web series, whether he feels the same, and he says, "I don't believe in that. You won't find a seasoned musician doing that. It's more with the newcomers. The reason for that is they want to break into the market. It's definitely momentary. But at the end of the day, if your voice itself doesn't have soul or your music doesn't have what's required, it'll fade away."

Talking about the new song, he says, "I see beautiful rivers turning gray, loaded with pollution. If we won't save it, we won't be leaving anything for our kids."

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Papon's latest project is a song about river conservation for a web series

I begged the makers of Angrezi Medium to let me audition: Radhika

Juhi Chakraborty

There are times when an actor gets offered a role or bags it through someone's reference. And while it's mostly the newcomers who have to audition for a role and established names skip the process, it somehow doesn't work like that for actor Radhika Madan. The actor prefers auditions over landing a role directly.

"I would want to audition for every project that I do. I think the reason why some actors don't audition is because of ego. They feel 'I have done so much work, can't they see it'. But, you cannot be perfect for every character as every project is different. You cannot expect the producer to make that gamble," she says.

The actor, who has auditioned for both her films — Pataakha and Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota (both 2018) — will be seen next in the Irrfan- and Kareena Kapoor Khan-starrer Angrezi Medium. She adds, "I love auditioning — the entire process. I don't know why it is such a taboo in the industry. I know people who don't audition, I request them to do it. You feel like you have earned the role when you get it after an audition."

And Radhika feels auditioning is the only way that new actors like her can bag good roles in films and make a mark eventually. In fact, she says for her third film, where she plays Irrfan's onscreen daughter , "I begged the makers to let me audition despite the film being offered to someone else."

She reveals, "Because of my role in Pataakha, where I played a village girl and put on 10kg, they [makers of Angrezi Medium] couldn't imagine me in the role. My team kept begging them to take my audition, and eventually I got the role."

juhi.chakraborty@htlive.com

Radhika Madan debuted in Bollywood with Pataakha (2018) PHOTO: FOTOCORP

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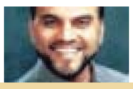
THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019



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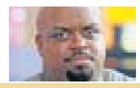

CeeLo Green: The American singer-songwriter, known for songs such as Crazy, Forget You and Smiley Faces, turns 44 today.

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20)

Minor health issues might make you feel low. A loan not being paid in time might cause you some trouble. Your competence and outgoing nature is likely to draw attention of those who matter to you on the professional front. On the family front, excellent bonding with parents will encourage you to share even your personal thoughts and desires. Some of you might find it difficult to commute to work today.

Love Focus: Not getting positive response from someone you have a crush on might be upsetting. You may need to move on.

Lucky Number: 6 Lucky Colour: Grey

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 20)

A treatment prescribed needs to be followed to maintain good health. You are likely to achieve stability on your financial front. Distractions can make you lose your focus at work and can pose problems in undergoing an important training. A lot of encouragement from the family is in store for those wanting to do something different. A train journey will be like never before because of the wonderful company.

Love Focus: Developing feelings for someone will get you on cloud nine. But are you sure it's love or just infatuation?

Lucky Number: 8 Lucky Colour: Forest Green

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUN 21)

Health remains perfect as you stay abreast with your exercise and fitness regime. You need to be extra careful in planning something important on the financial front. Help from a friend or associate might prove huge in sharing an official workload and completing it successfully. Someone in the family may advice you on something important, so don't reject it out of hand. Today, it is better not to discuss or deal in any property matter.

Love Focus: Special attention received from someone is likely to make you feel extra special about yourself.

Lucky Number: 22 Lucky Colour: Blue

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

You are likely to enjoy good health today. Mounting expenses can compel you to search for newer ways of making money. You are likely to struggle to keep pace at work. You are enjoying a good phase of life with family at present and will continue to do so. The wanderlust within you will get wings to fly as a new travelling opportunity comes your way. Booking a flat in the best location will make you content.

Love Focus: For young lovebirds, popping the question at the right time is important if you don't want to go through a rejection.

Lucky Number: 18 Lucky Colour: Lemon

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG 23)

Eating right is the key to your good health and will keep you keep fit and energetic. You will have enough to buy a thing that is expensive. Those aspiring for a promotion or raise might have difficulty in achieving their objective. This is the best time to go forth and grasp something that has been eluding you previously in your social circle. A new place is likely to be explored by some.

Love Focus: Nothing much happening on romance front might dishearten you. But remember your true goal.

Lucky Number: 1 Lucky Colour: Light Yellow

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEPT 23)

Keeping cool and calm even in stressful situations will help retain peace of mind. Money might pose some problem today and might let you restrain from over spending. You will feel most satisfied with something that you have achieved on the professional front. A favour done by someone in the family needs to be reciprocated quickly. Some urgent task might keep you occupied and disturbed during a vacation.

Love Focus: Lover will be at your beck and call, so you are likely to enjoy a wonderful time today.

Lucky Number: 15 Lucky Colour: Crimson

LIBRA (SEPT 24 - OCT 23)

Reaping the benefits of good diet and fitness is likely as you get back to shape. Extra money can tempt you to indulge in luxury. Too much work may compel you to devote some extra hours. You are likely to realise that not devoting enough time towards family has its detriments. Bad roads and too much traffic jam are likely to make you go crazy on the road today. A property by inheritance cannot be ruled out for some.

Love Focus: Closeness to a colleague or class fellow can turn into a budding romance for some.

Lucky Number: 2 Lucky Colour: Peach

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 22)

Health remains satisfactory today. You may find yourself in a dilemma on the financial front – to splurge with friends to remain in their circle or save money and become odd one out. Professional front remains critical as an important file goes missing. Hosting a party just to meet friends and relations is possible. Cancelling a much awaited official tour abroad may come as a great setback for some.

Love Focus: Strong emotional bonds with someone you have a liking for can culminate into a long-term relationship.

Lucky Number: 11 Lucky Colour: Lemon

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23 - DEC 21)

A changed diet may not have the desired effect on your shape, so try avoiding it. Earnings need to be invested wisely or you may end up dissipating them. A good initiative taken on the work front will aid you in future. Being unduly harsh to a family member will spoil everyone's mood. Taking undue pressure regarding a long journey will not be good for you at all. Focusing on property might not be possible today.

Love Focus: Foul mood of lover may need to be countered fast to avoid any escalation.

Lucky Number: 17 Lucky Colour: Navy Blue

CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN 21)

Barring some minor concerns, health remain fine today. Wealth may come to you from various sources. At work, something entrusted to you will be completed with utmost efficiency. On the family front, the eligible might have to wait till they get lucky in finding their life partner. Those looking at peace and tranquillity might take a break and go on a vacation. Property front remains moderate without much ado.

Love Focus: Those in long-distance relationships are likely to face trouble in their paradise.

Lucky Number: 3 Lucky Colour: Rosy Brown

AQUARIUS (JAN 22 - FEB 19)

Being conscious about what you eat and drink is the need of the hour. You might need to be level-headed, where finances are concerned to cater for rainy day. You are likely to swim with the tide on the professional or academic front. Your burning desire to get ahead is likely to be motivated by family. Chance of going abroad on an official tour cannot be ruled out. A property you were positive about might not fetch you enough.

Love Focus: Love life remains satisfactory as you focus on other things that are equally important and hold significance in your life.

Lucky Number: 9 Lucky Colour: Magenta

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20)

Don't implement anything unless you are certain of its financial implications. You will put in the required efforts on the professional front to reap rich rewards. Meeting people in the social circle whose company you enjoy is likely to become a reality soon. A good opportunity to visit a childhood friend living in a different city may come true for some. You are also likely to earn good returns on the property front today.

Love Focus: Those of you feeling unlucky in love should not lose heart as something positive is going to happen soon.

Lucky Number: 4 Lucky Colour: Violet

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DIFFICULTY LEVEL*****

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					3		6	7
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	4				5			8
1	3				6			
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				1		8		9

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9X9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

SCRAMBLE - 3101

Solve the four anagrams and move one letter to each square to form four ordinary words

KPEEO
CEEIN
NRSUGP
GINOGK

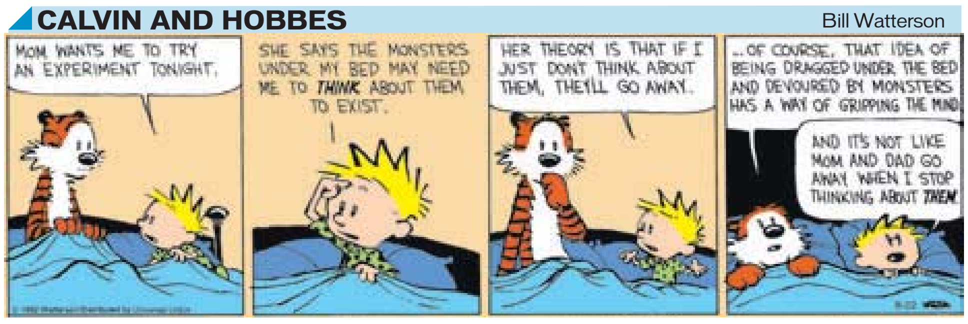
Now arrange the letters marked with an asterisk (*) to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing words as indicated.

If you're __ through hell, __ __
- Churchill (5,..,4,5) (one word twice)

SCRAMBLE SOLUTION: Pekoe, niece, sprung, gingko
ANSWER: If you're **going** through hell, **keep going** - Churchill

CALVIN AND HOBBES

Bill Watterson



MATHDOKU

5×		24×		
	5+		4+	9+
9+		8+		
	12+			4+
		7+		

Place numbers into the puzzle cells so that each row and column contains each of the digits from 1 to 5. No number is to be repeated in any row or column. Each bold-outlined cells contain a hint of a number and one of the mathematical symbols + x - /. The number is the result of the operation represented by the symbol to the digits contained.

DID YOU KNOW?

The song Yeh Dil Na Hota Bechara from 1967's Dev Anand-starrer Jewel Thief was sampled from the theme of 1957's The Bridge on the River Kwai.

SOLUTION SUDOKU

7	6	1	4	2	9	5	8	3
4	9	8	1	5	3	2	6	7
2	5	3	8	6	7	1	9	4
3	8	2	6	4	1	9	7	5
5	1	7	9	3	8	4	2	6
9	4	6	2	7	5	3	1	8
1	3	9	5	8	6	7	4	2
8	7	4	3	9	2	6	5	1
6	2	5	7	1	4	8	3	9

SOLUTION MATHDUKU

5	1	4	3	2
1	2	3	4	5
2	3	5	1	4
4	5	1	2	3
3	4	2	5	1

If not a protagonist, Ravi Dubey says he won't do the show

Rishabh Suri

Television has for long been called a women-centric medium, and rightfully so because the stories revolve around female characters. Also, daily soaps cater to homemakers, according to the popular notion. Actor Ravi Dubey, however, believes that male characters, too, have a considerable role to play.

"TV has been my bread and butter for 16-17 years. I am very discreet with my projects and take up only those I believe in, whether it was the initial phase of my career or now. My take on TV is in sync with the kind of commitments I have been a part of. I am lucky I was part of awesome shows such as Saas Bina Sasural, which did really well, or Ranbir Rano, which had both the guy's and the girl's name in the title. Also, I have got to be the protagonist, not just the lead. You set some rules for yourself," says Ravi, who has of late been busy with producing Punjabi films and hosting reality shows.

Unlike people who criticise a show after taking it up, he says, "You signed up for it, now you can't complain. There's no dearth of roles… you did something you didn't resonate with. After Saas Bina… got over, producers offered me various roles at premium fees but I couldn't find myself resonating with the idea that I am not the protagonist, and, hence, didn't associate with them."

He goes on to add, "Four years later, Jamai Raja happened. It was a disruptive show, in the sense that it had a man in the centre. Jamia Raja didn't do well just in Hindi but was remade in Bangla, Odiya and Arabic, and was dubbed in Indonesia, Germany and Thailand, where it became very popular as well."

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Here's why Taylor turns off social media comments

Singer Taylor Swift, who turns 30 this December, has made it clear that she will not put up with sexist interview questions.

During an interview, a reporter asked Swift if she felt like settling down and having children later this year.

To this, Swift replied, "I really do not think men are asked that question when they turn 30. So, I'm not going to answer that question now."

According to Fox News, the singer also explained what turning a decade older meant to her. "I hear others say that one in his thirties no longer has as much stress and anxiety in life as in my twenties. And I can join in the observation that we are in our twenties looking to gain experience, try things out, fail, make mistakes," the Love Story and Shake It Off singer said.

Swift, who had earlier this year written a piece in a UK magazine about her learnings from interacting on online platforms, also discussed the pitfalls of social media.

"Social media can be great, but it can also inundate your brain with images of what you aren't, how you're failing, or who is in a cooler locale than you at any given moment," Swift said.

"One thing I do to lessen this weird insecurity laser beam is to turn off comments. That way, I'm showing my friends and fans updates on my life, but I'm training my brain to not need the validation of someone telling me how I look. I'm also blocking out anyone who might feel the need to tell me to 'go die in a hole ho' while I'm having my coffee at nine in the morning," she added.

She also revealed that since social media has contaminated her views and private life, she now keeps her romance with actor Joe Alwyn (The Favourite, 2018) private.

"For too long, the projected opinions of strangers affected how I viewed my relationship. Whether it was the general internet consensus of who would be right for me, or what they thought was 'couples goals' based on a picture I posted on Instagram. That stuff isn't real. For an approval seeker like me, it was an important lesson to learn to have my own value system of what I actually want," the singer added.

ANI

Taylor Swift says that for far too long, the opinions of strangers affected how she viewed her relationships
PHOTO: STEVE MARCUS/REUTERS

MOVIES ON TV

HBO

How To Train Your Dragon at 1145 — EDITOR'S PICK

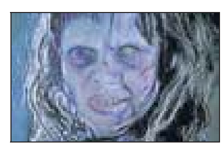
1145 How To Train Your Dragon
1320 Transformers: Dark of The Moon
1613 Shooter
1823 Mission Impossible - Fallout
2100 Ready Player One
2329 No Strings Attached

STAR MOVIES

Men in Black II at 1907

1031 Cars 3
1223 Avengers: Age of Ultron
1501 The Expendables 3
1723 The Hills Have Eyes 2
1907 Men in Black II
2050 Deadpool 2

WB



The Exorcist at 1031

1031 The Exorcist
1204 IP Man 3
1350 Collateral Damage
1535 Unaccompanied Minors
1703 Armour of God II
2100 Chips

UTV MOVIES

Shola Aur Shabnam at 2000

1100 Mr Bechara
1400 Dashing Jigarwala 2
1700 Thalaivaa The Leader
2000 Shola Aur Shabnam

&pictures

Golmaal – Fun Unlimited at 1043

1043 Golmaal – Fun Unlimited
1352 Loafer
1650 Time Story
2000 Singam 3
2305 Hollow Man

ZEE CINEMA

Shiva The Super Hero at 0935

0935 Shiva The Super Hero
1207 Phir Hera Pheri
1525 Welcome
1842 Rogue
2100 Surya The Soldier
2345 Tabahi Zulm Ki

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WHEN A BACHELOR PAD BECAME A FAMILY HOME

Neil Nitin Mukesh with wife Rukmini and daughter Nurvi (inset)
PHOTO: VIRAL BHAYANI

Neil Nitin Mukesh reveals how parenthood has transformed his house and his lifestyle

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/NEILNITINMUKESH

Rishabh Suri

Imagine you get yourself the best bachelor/bachelorette pad made, are all set to move in, and on the very day you are supposed to shift, you get engaged! And subsequently, it becomes a 'family home'. This is actor Neil Nitin Mukesh's story, and he's happy as he reveals to us, "Life has changed for me completely after becoming a father, in a good way. I was telling my wife Rukmini the other day that I had just finished the interiors of my bachelor pad, and as luck would have it, the day it was completed, I got engaged! Ever since then, it's become a family home."

The couple was blessed with a baby girl, Nurvi Neil Mukesh, in September last year. "Now I have a pram," Neil continues, "bottles of milk, baby toys and a girl who has got pink all around, so it's nothing like a bachelor pad. It's quite contradictory to the taste of interiors I had got done. Getting out at night with friends and telling them 'I have a deadline to get back home, I have my baby'... it's a little bit of a responsibility on myself. I am more concerned about myself as a parent. There's some nervousness, too. It's part and parcel of being a dad. I still can't digest it... it's like I have got a new buddy in town!"

And his daily routine has also undergone a massive change. "There are late nights, waking up and babysitting, preparing milk, and changing diapers is part of my daily routine. She's keeping me on my toes, and quite demanding in that sense," adds Neil, whose last film outing was Golmaal Again (2017).

His next is the big-budget multilingual film Saaho, and apart from that, he has two more films lined up for release.

"Besides Saaho, I have my first home production, Bypass Road, which I've written and my brother is directing. Then, I have another film, Firrkie, which is in post-production stage right now."

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Series creator James Cameron and (below) Gabriel Luna in a still from Terminator: Dark Fate, the seventh film in the franchise

'DARK FATE IS A FAST WHITE-KNUCKLE RIDE'

Filmmaker James Cameron says the upcoming instalment in the Terminator franchise is grimmer and grittier than its predecessors, and they are hoping to get an R-rating for it.

The 64-year-old is producing the new film, called Dark Fate. Directed by Tim Miller (Deadpool, 2016), it will retcon the events of the last three instalments — Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (2003), Terminator Salvation (2009) and Terminator Genisys (2015).

Cameron considers the film to be a direct sequel to 1991's Terminator 2: Judgement Day. "I think, tonally, what makes this a direct sequel to T1 and T2 is as much about the tone as it is about the narrative: It's R rated, it's grim, it's gritty, it's fast, it's intense, it's very linear," the filmmaker said.

"The whole story takes place in 36 hours. It's not this kind of grandiose, complex story. It's just very focused on the characters, it's very now, it's very present and it's just a fast white-knuckle ride," he added.

PTI

Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif in a still from the song, Chashni

PHOTO: HTCS

A musical journey

Salman Khan's much awaited movie, Bharat, is all set to release on June 5. The Ali Abbas Zafar directorial promises to be an entertainer embedded in the soulful journey of a man and his nation. An Eid release, Bharat will show Salman in six different avatars, ranging from a young circus champion to a 60-year-old man who sports grey hair, which is reflective of the journey the film promises. The movie's songs have managed to strike a chord among the audiences. The music of the film has been composed by the musician duo, Vishal-Shekhar, who have let the essence of the country breathe in the tracks.

While the first song, Slow Motion, in the backdrop of a circus, showcases Disha Patani's sizzling chemistry with Salman; the second track, Aithey Aa, set against a wedding background, is a celebratory tune. There is also the romantic number, Chashni, featuring Katrina Kaif. Zinda, another song from the film, has become the marching anthem of the season, along with Turpeya. Each song brings a different journey, and the soulfulness of the album is what makes Bharat stand out.

"The response to the music has been extremely positive. This is my third collaboration with Vishal-Shekhar and Irshad Kamil (lyricist) and we are very happy with the response the songs have received. Now, a lot of people are going for remixes rather than creating original music. But, after seeing the response Bharat's songs have got, we are only determined to work harder and create better melodies in our coming ventures," says Ali.

The upcoming film is a period drama, written and directed by Ali Abbas Zafar. Bharat is produced by Atul Agnihotri, Alvira Agnihotri, Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar, under the banner of Reel Life Production Pvt Ltd and Salman Khan Films, and is presented by T-Series.

HTC

'Whatever I wear, I don't make a fool of myself'

Shreya Mukherjee

Those who follow Neena Gupta on Instagram would agree that the actor's fashion sense is on point. Even at 62, nothing stops her from experimenting with her looks.

"That's me... I love experimenting with different styles. Also, the event or occasion I'm attending makes me think [about] what I should wear," says Neena, asserting that her "personal style has evolved over the years".

With a daughter like Masaba, who is an acclaimed fashion designer, Neena definitely is spoilt for choices. "Besides my own sense of style, Masaba is someone who gives me ideas and tips. That's a plus. She makes me wear her designs quite often, so that way I am sorted. If she is shopping, she will send me photos and ask if I want something. I do the same," shares the Badhaai Ho (2018) actor.

Neena is quick to add that there are phases in terms of style that she goes through quite often. "There would be times I just want to wear salwar kameez and then there are sari days. There are also days when I want to wear pants, jeans, dresses... but, whatever I do and wear, I make sure I don't make a fool of myself," says Neena, who has always been "very open" to new age fashion.

And that's why women her age often compliment Neena on her style sense and some even call her a fashion inspiration. "It feels really special when people look up to you. I think it's very important to dress according to your body and age. That makes a lot of difference," says Neena, and continues, "You should be able to carry whatever you wear, so, confidence is essential. Right now, I'm in that phase where I want to wear jeans and tucked-in shirts, but I can't because I have a tummy."

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> I love experimenting with different styles. Also, the event or occasion I'm attending makes me think [about] what I should wear.
> **NEENA GUPTA** ACTOR

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/NEENA_GUPTA

The long night is coming: Kit checks into therapy after GoT

The end of Game of Thrones seems to have hit Kit Harington hard as the actor has checked into a rehabilitation centre to receive treatment for stress, exhaustion and alcohol use.

According to PageSix, the 32-year-old checked into a luxury health retreat in Connecticut, US, weeks before the finale aired on May 19. He played Jon Snow across eight seasons on the epic fantasy show.

Harington has been undergoing cognitive behavioural therapy, meditating, and practising other psychological exercises to better cope with the stress.

"The end of GoT really hit Kit hard... He realised, 'This is it, this is the end'. It was something they had all worked so hard on for so many years. He had a moment of 'what next?' He's in the clinic predominantly for stress and exhaustion and also alcohol. His wife Rose (Leslie) is being extremely supportive. Everyone close to him really wanted him to get some rest. Right now, he just needs peace and quiet," a source close to the actor told the outlet.

Harington's rep said that the actor has "decided to utilise this break in his schedule as an opportunity to spend some time at a wellness retreat to work on some personal issues".

The actor had previously admitted that he had to resort to therapy to deal with his character's brief death in the show, which he said was his darkest time.

"I felt I had to feel that I was the most fortunate person in the world, when actually, I felt very vulnerable. I had a shaky time in my life around there — like I think a lot of people do in their 20s," the actor had told Variety recently.

"That was a time when I started therapy, and started talking to people. I had felt very unsafe, and I wasn't talking to anyone. I had to feel very grateful for what I have, but I felt incredibly concerned about whether I could even f***ing act," he had added.

PTI

Kit is undergoing cognitive behavioural therapy, meditating, and other psychological exercises to better cope with stress

> IT'S BEING SAID THAT THE ACTOR IS HAVING A 'WHAT NEXT?' MOMENT AFTER THE END OF THE SHOW. HE UNDERWENT SIMILAR STRESS WHEN HIS CHARACTER ON THE SHOW BRIEFLY DIED

PHOTO: FOTOCORP

Why a supernatural show was the 'best choice' for Debina

Sangeeta Yadav

Actor Debina Bonnerjee, who was last seen playing an antagonist in Santoshi Maa in 2017 after which she went on a small break, is gearing up for her comeback with a supernatural show.

"I thought that instead of doing something serious, I would rather do something that the audience wants to watch, and it will get more TRPs, too. Considering how supernatural shows have become such a big hit on television that many are even coming up with seasons two and three, I thought it was the best choice," says Debina.

While many actors slam the genre, Debina feels there is a "huge liberty to enact" in these shows. "Unlike any other daily soap, here, you can act differently in different kind of situations. The characters look hot yet dangerous. It catches the imagination of the people watching the show and the suspense keeps them on the edge, guessing."

Many a times there have been complaints of an overdose of supernatural shows, with the public calling them irrelevant and not relatable. To this, the actor says, "TV is still considered to be the biggest mode of entertainment, especially in tier 2 and tier 3 cities. We can't forget that audience, and for them, the supernatural genre make for the best entertainment."

However, she is quick to add, "For today's youth and those glued to the web, TV's content is very backward. They would rather watch Game of Thrones, Kingdom, and Korean and British dramas as the digital space provides international exposure to entertainment."

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> Instead of doing something serious, I'd rather do something that the audience wants to watch, and it'll get more TRPs, too.
> **DEBINA BONNERJEE** ACTOR

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John Abraham feels reading comments on yourself can make one fall sick

I'M DISASTROUS AT SOCIAL MEDIA

John Abraham
PHOTO: RAAJESSH KASHYAP/HT

Sangeeta Yadav

John Abraham loves to hibernate, at least when it comes to social media. Unlike most other actors, he prefers to maintain a low profile and gets active only when he has a film up for release or when he has to talk about a cause close to his heart. A self-professed animal lover, John says, he "loves to use social media to post about animals". Last seen in Romeo Akbar Walter this year, the actor admits it's a "conscious choice" to not post anything and everything on social media but use it very discreetly to "draw positivity and goodness around". The 46-year-old, who is currently recovering from an injury he suffered while shooting for his next, Pagalpanti, reveals why social media isn't his thing, especially when it comes to sharing about his personal life. Excerpts:

Unlike your colleagues in the film industry, you are barely active on social media. Why?
My primary focus is my craft — acting. I aim to do more good, credible work. I need to keep improving every day, learn something and better myself. I don't see how social media could contribute to my internal growth and acting. Of course, it helps to connect with people, but I like to stay connected with people offline.

Why do you maintain that you won't post anything about your personal life on social media?
That's because I'm disastrous at it. I don't say things just to make a statement or news or in a bid to start a fad in the industry. Also, I don't feel the pressure of making a statement online. I'm okay doing nothing on social media.

What would you say about others who are constantly giving a peek into their lives through such platforms?
It is unfortunate how, for most actors, the virtual world has become real. Everyone is busy creating their virtual identity and giving constant updates on their lives instead of working on the craft. Also, some people do get influenced and try to become what they are not. But I'm very clear that for me, the real world is the touch-and-feel world, not the virtual world.

One thing about social media that bothers you the most?
There is more negativity than positivity. Though celebrities are the centre of attention on the internet and have a huge fan following, if you read comments about yourself for half an hour, you'd probably fall sick.

What about trolls? Have they kept you away?
I don't even look at them. If I do read once in a while, I don't take them seriously because people who're criticising you have no face, and probably fake their identity, too. I never feel the urge to reply. They can say whatever they want to.

JALANDHAR

Actor Shahid Kapoor in the song, Tujhe Kitna Chahne Lage, from his upcoming film

PHOTO: HTCS

Kabir Singh's latest song presents Shahid's new look

Ever since the teaser, trailer and first song of the upcoming film, Kabir Singh, were released, they have been well-received by the audience. And actor Shahid Kapoor's portrayal of the title role has a lot to do with that. The actor is being applauded for his sheer intensity and performance.

After unveiling the film's first song, Bekhayali, which has already become a love anthem for the new generation, the makers, T-Series and Cine1 Studios, are all geared up to reveal the film's second song that will be released tomorrow.

The new song, Tujhe Kitna Chahne Lage, will showcase Shahid in a new look, altogether. In fact, it's after a long time that viewers will see Shahid in a clean-shaven avatar. This persona of Shahid will complete the actor's three diverse looks in this Sandeep Reddy Vanga-directed film.

> Shahid will appear in a never-seen-before avatar in Kabir Singh.
> **BHUSHAN KUMAR**, PRODUCER

The producers of the film are excited to unveil this new look to the audience. "Shahid will appear in a never-seen-before avatar in Kabir Singh," says producer Bhushan Kumar. Producer Murad Khetani adds, "Shahid has moulded his different looks according to the character."

Producer Ashwin Varde concludes by saying, "This new look is a bonanza for all his fans."

Kabir Singh is a T-Series and Cine1 Studios presentation. Starring Shahid Kapoor and Kiara Advani, the film is directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga and produced by Bhushan Kumar, Murad Khetani, Krishan Kumar and Ashwin Varde. It releases on June 21.

HTC

Ellen DeGeneres
PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

STOP PRESS

ELLEN DEGENERES RECOUNTS ASSAULT BY HER STEPFATHER

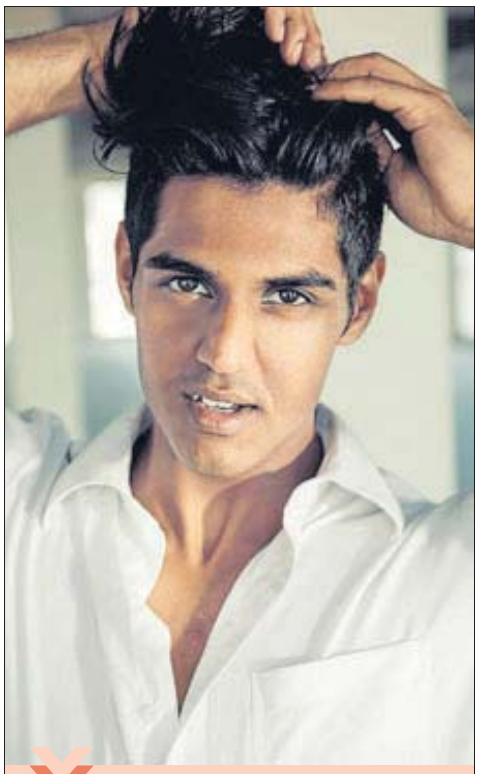
Comedian-host Ellen DeGeneres has recalled being sexually assaulted as a teen, by her stepfather. In an upcoming episode of David Letterman's show, My Next Guest Needs No Introduction, she said it started after her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, reports cnn.com. "He told me when (my mom) was out of town that he'd felt a lump in her breast and needed to feel my breasts," she recalled. "I'm angry at myself, I was too weak to stand up...I was 15 or 16," DeGeneres said. **IANS**

HUMA QURESHI JOINS ZACK SNYDER'S ARMY OF THE DEAD

Actor Huma Qureshi has boarded the cast of filmmaker Zack Snyder's next directorial, Army of the Dead. The 32-year-old joins Dave Bautista in the project, which will mark Snyder's return to directing after a gap of two years, a streaming platform has announced. **PTI**

We need more Indian origin storytellers: Divyansh Sharma

Abhinav Verma



At just 22, Delhi-born Divyansh Sharma has won more than 30 awards at various film festivals across the world for his first directorial venture, Graffiti. Divyansh, who lives in Los Angeles (US) wrote, directed, acted, and edited the short film, which is about a spoken word artist trying to come to terms with the loss of a loved one. Excerpts:

What was the idea behind Graffiti?
Actors are always asked to dig deep into our personal memories to channel emotions. To put these memories on display seemed selfish to me because those memories are just as much ours as the person we made them with. I thought spoken word would be a great medium to explore this idea. So, I birthed Michael Dawson, a spoken word artist who can only write about the woman he loved who had passed away. The project ended up tackling more universal themes, such as love, moving on, and forgiveness.

The perception of Indians in the acting community seems to be a rigid one. Why is that so and how can the stereotype be broken?
I think the sentiment of this question goes way beyond the Indian community. There's a whole movement going on with African American storytelling in Hollywood, with a simple idea — we cannot expect a white man to tell a story about the African American experience. Similarly, we cannot expect an accurate representation of Indians from non-Indian writers in Hollywood. Unless we have more Indian origin writers telling their stories, we will always be pigeonholed into Appu from The Simpsons. It's like Gandhi's quote: Be the change you wish to see in the world.

What are the challenges you have faced so far?
The biggest challenge so far has been being seen as a choice for more than just an Indian character.

> We can't expect an accurate representation of Indians from non-Indian writers in Hollywood. Unless we have more Indian origin writers telling their stories, we will always be pigeonholed into Appu from The Simpsons.
> **DIVYANSH SHARMA** ACTOR-FILMMAKER

What's your opinion on the concept of social justice and the rise of political correctness in movies?
I feel like people are inherently smart and we are open to ideas as long as we communicate them with respect and care. That's really what it comes down to: respect for other people's ideals and choices without sacrificing belief and faith in yours. And the beauty of art is that it is always open to interpretation, and as times change, art changes and ages with it.

Any plans for Bollywood? Tell us about your favourite Bollywood actor and movies.
I love to tell stories and if there is a story I am right for, I would gladly offer my services. I love Aamir Khan's work. Dangal was amazing. Indian cinematic storytelling has found a new voice on streaming services as well. Sacred Games was one of my favourite series, and Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Saif Ali Khan's work in it was nothing short of brilliant.

'At the end, it's about your voice'

Rishabh Suri

Singer Papon believes in quality over quantity. Maybe this is why he has been slow when it comes to playback singing for Bollywood films. Moh Moh Ke Dhaage (Dum Laga Ke Haisha; 2015) and Kyun (Barfi!; 2012) remain his best known songs.

He tells us, "I've come a long way. And there's one thing that has always stuck: Do something if you are sure you will do a good job, and if you connect with it. It should be something of your taste and challenge you. You should not [just be] interested in increasing numbers and take up anything that comes your way. There's a sense of pride there. That's why I do less."

Papon got into mainstream Bollywood music with Jiyein Kyun from Dum Maaro Dum in 2011. Times have changed drastically, and one of the changes has been how for musicians, singers specifically, good appearance has also become a priority, apart from singing well.

We ask Papon, whose latest project is a song about river conservation for a web series, whether he feels the same, and he says, "I don't believe in that. You won't find a seasoned musician doing that. It's more with the newcomers. The reason for that is they want to break into the market. It's definitely momentary. But at the end of the day, if your voice itself doesn't have soul or your music doesn't have what's required, it'll fade away."

Talking about the new song, he says, "I see beautiful rivers turning gray, loaded with pollution. If we won't save it, we won't be leaving anything for our kids."

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Papon's latest project is a song about river conservation for a web series

I begged the makers of Angrezi Medium to let me audition: Radhika

Juhi Chakraborty

There are times when an actor gets offered a role or bags it through someone's reference. And while it's mostly the newcomers who have to audition for a role and established names skip the process, it somehow doesn't work like that for actor Radhika Madan. The actor prefers auditions over landing a role directly.

"I would want to audition for every project that I do. I think the reason why some actors don't audition is because of ego. They feel 'I have done so much work, can't they see it'. But, you cannot be perfect for every character as every project is different. You cannot expect the producer to make that gamble," she says.

The actor, who has auditioned for both her films — Pataakha and Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota (both 2018) — will be seen next in the Irrfan- and Kareena Kapoor Khan-starrer Angrezi Medium. She adds, "I love auditioning — the entire process. I don't know why it is such a taboo in the industry. I know people who don't audition, I request them to do it. You feel like you have earned the role when you get it after an audition."

And Radhika feels auditioning is the only way that new actors like her can bag good roles in films and make a mark eventually. In fact, she says for her third film, where she plays Irrfan's onscreen daughter , "I begged the makers to let me audition despite the film being offered to someone else."

She reveals, "Because of my role in Pataakha, where I played a village girl and put on 10kg, they [makers of Angrezi Medium] couldn't imagine me in the role. My team kept begging them to take my audition, and eventually I got the role."

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Radhika Madan debuted in Bollywood with Pataakha (2018) PHOTO: FOTOCORP

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DAILY HOROSCOPE

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019

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YOU SHARE YOUR BIRTHDAY WITH

CeeLo Green: The American singer-songwriter, known for songs such as Crazy, Forget You and Smiley Faces, turns 44 today.

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20)

Minor health issues might make you feel low. A loan not being paid in time might cause you some trouble. Your competence and outgoing nature is likely to draw attention of those who matter to you on the professional front. On the family front, excellent bonding with parents will encourage you to share even your personal thoughts and desires. Some of you might find it difficult to commute to work today.

Love Focus: Not getting positive response from someone you have a crush on might be upsetting. You may need to move on.

Lucky Number: 6 Lucky Colour: Grey

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 20)

A treatment prescribed needs to be followed to maintain good health. You are likely to achieve stability on your financial front. Distractions can make you lose your focus at work and can pose problems in undergoing an important training. A lot of encouragement from the family is in store for those wanting to do something different. A train journey will be like never before because of the wonderful company.

Love Focus: Developing feelings for someone will get you on cloud nine. But are you sure it's love or just infatuation?

Lucky Number: 8 Lucky Colour: Forest Green

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUN 21)

Health remains perfect as you stay abreast with your exercise and fitness regime. You need to be extra careful in planning something important on the financial front. Help from a friend or associate might prove huge in sharing an official workload and completing it successfully. Someone in the family may advice you on something important, so don't reject it out of hand. Today, it is better not to discuss or deal in any property matter.

Love Focus: Special attention received from someone is likely to make you feel extra special about yourself.

Lucky Number: 22 Lucky Colour: Blue

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

You are likely to enjoy good health today. Mounting expenses can compel you to search for newer ways of making money. You are likely to struggle to keep pace at work. You are enjoying a good phase of life with family at present and will continue to do so. The wanderlust within you will get wings to fly as a new travelling opportunity comes your way. Booking a flat in the best location will make you content.

Love Focus: For young lovebirds, popping the question at the right time is important if you don't want to go through a rejection.

Lucky Number: 18 Lucky Colour: Lemon

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG 23)

Eating right is the key to your good health and will keep you keep fit and energetic. You will have enough to buy a thing that is expensive. Those aspiring for a promotion or raise might have difficulty in achieving their objective. This is the best time to go forth and grasp something that has been eluding you previously in your social circle. A new place is likely to be explored by some.

Love Focus: Nothing much happening on romance front might dishearten you. But remember your true goal.

Lucky Number: 1 Lucky Colour: Light Yellow

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEPT 23)

Keeping cool and calm even in stressful situations will help retain peace of mind. Money might pose some problem today and might let you restrain from over spending. You will feel most satisfied with something that you have achieved on the professional front. A favour done by someone in the family needs to be reciprocated quickly. Some urgent task might keep you occupied and disturbed during a vacation.

Love Focus: Lover will be at your beck and call, so you are likely to enjoy a wonderful time today.

Lucky Number: 15 Lucky Colour: Crimson

LIBRA (SEPT 24 - OCT 23)

Reaping the benefits of good diet and fitness is likely as you get back to shape. Extra money can tempt you to indulge in luxury. Too much work may compel you to devote some extra hours. You are likely to realise that not devoting enough time towards family has its detriments. Bad roads and too much traffic jam are likely to make you go crazy on the road today. A property by inheritance cannot be ruled out for some.

Love Focus: Closeness to a colleague or class fellow can turn into a budding romance for some.

Lucky Number: 2 Lucky Colour: Peach

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 22)

Health remains satisfactory today. You may find yourself in a dilemma on the financial front – to splurge with friends to remain in their circle or save money and become odd one out. Professional front remains critical as an important file goes missing. Hosting a party just to meet friends and relations is possible. Cancelling a much awaited official tour abroad may come as a great setback for some.

Love Focus: Strong emotional bonds with someone you have a liking for can culminate into a long-term relationship.

Lucky Number: 11 Lucky Colour: Lemon

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23 - DEC 21)

A changed diet may not have the desired effect on your shape, so try avoiding it. Earnings need to be invested wisely or you may end up dissipating them. A good initiative taken on the work front will aid you in future. Being unduly harsh to a family member will spoil everyone's mood. Taking undue pressure regarding a long journey will not be good for you at all. Focusing on property might not be possible today.

Love Focus: Foul mood of lover may need to be countered fast to avoid any escalation.

Lucky Number: 17 Lucky Colour: Navy Blue

CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN 21)

Barring some minor concerns, health remain fine today. Wealth may come to you from various sources. At work, something entrusted to you will be completed with utmost efficiency. On the family front, the eligible might have to wait till they get lucky in finding their life partner. Those looking at peace and tranquillity might take a break and go on a vacation. Property front remains moderate without much ado.

Love Focus: Those in long-distance relationships are likely to face trouble in their paradise.

Lucky Number: 3 Lucky Colour: Rosy Brown

AQUARIUS (JAN 22 - FEB 19)

Being conscious about what you eat and drink is the need of the hour. You might need to be level-headed, where finances are concerned to cater for rainy day. You are likely to swim with the tide on the professional or academic front. Your burning desire to get ahead is likely to be motivated by family. Chance of going abroad on an official tour cannot be ruled out. A property you were positive about might not fetch you enough.

Love Focus: Love life remains satisfactory as you focus on other things that are equally important and hold significance in your life.

Lucky Number: 9 Lucky Colour: Magenta

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20)

Don't implement anything unless you are certain of its financial implications. You will put in the required efforts on the professional front to reap rich rewards. Meeting people in the social circle whose company you enjoy is likely to become a reality soon. A good opportunity to visit a childhood friend living in a different city may come true for some. You are also likely to earn good returns on the property front today.

Love Focus: Those of you feeling unlucky in love should not lose heart as something positive is going to happen soon.

Lucky Number: 4 Lucky Colour: Violet

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If not a protagonist, Ravi Dubey says he won't do the show

Rishabh Suri

Television has for long been called a women-centric medium, and rightfully so because the stories revolve around female characters. Also, daily soaps cater to homemakers, according to the popular notion. Actor Ravi Dubey, however, believes that male characters, too, have a considerable role to play.

"TV has been my bread and butter for 16-17 years. I am very discreet with my projects and take up only those I believe in, whether it was the initial phase of my career or now. My take on TV is in sync with the kind of commitments I have been a part of. I am lucky I was part of awesome shows such as Saas Bina Sasural, which did really well, or Ranbir Rano, which had both the guy's and the girl's name in the title. Also, I have got to be the protagonist, not just the lead. You set some rules for yourself," says Ravi, who has of late been busy with producing Punjabi films and hosting reality shows.

Unlike people who criticise a show after taking it up, he says, "You signed up for it, now you can't complain. There's no dearth of roles... you did something you didn't resonate with. After Saas Bina... got over, producers offered me various roles at premium fees but I couldn't find myself resonating with the idea that I am not the protagonist, and, hence, didn't associate with them."

He goes on to add, "Four years later, Jamai Raja happened. It was a disruptive show, in the sense that it had a man in the centre. Jamia Raja didn't do well just in Hindi but was remade in Bangla, Odiya and Arabic, and was dubbed in Indonesia, Germany and Thailand, where it became very popular as well."

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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY LEVEL★★★★★

7		1		2				
					3		6	7
			8				9	4
3			6				7	
	1						2	
	4				5			8
1	3				6			
8	7		3					
				1		8		9

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9X9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

SCRAMBLE - 3101

Solve the four anagrams and move one letter to each square to form four ordinary words

KPEEO
CEEIN
NRSUGP
GINOGK

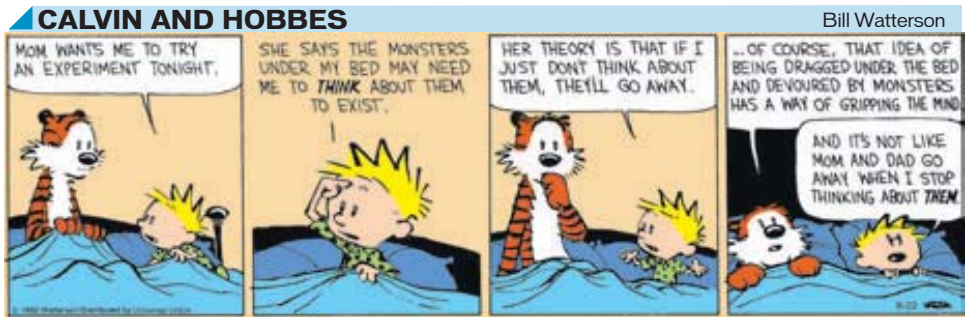
Now arrange the letters marked with an asterisk (*) to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing words as indicated.

If you're __ through hell, __ __
- Churchill (5,..,4,5) (one word twice)

SCRAMBLE SOLUTION: Pekoe, niece, sprung, gingko
ANSWER: If you're **going** through hell, **keep going** - Churchill

CALVIN AND HOBBES

Bill Watterson



MATHDOKU

Place numbers into the puzzle cells so that each row and column contains each of the digits from 1 to 5. No number is to be repeated in any row or column. Each bold-outlined cells contain a hint of a number and one of the mathematical symbols + x - /. The number is the result of the operation represented by the symbol to the digits contained.

DID YOU KNOW?

The song Yeh Dil Na Hota Bechara from 1967's Dev Anand-starrer Jewel Thief was sampled from the theme of 1957's The Bridge on the River Kwai.

SOLUTION SUDOKU

6	2	5	7	1	4	8	3	9
8	7	4	3	9	2	6	5	1
1	3	9	5	8	6	2	4	7
9	4	6	2	7	5	3	1	8
5	1	7	9	3	8	4	2	6
3	8	2	6	4	1	9	7	5
2	5	3	8	6	7	1	9	4
4	9	8	1	5	3	7	6	2
7	6	1	4	2	9	5	8	3

SOLUTION MATHDUKU

3	4	2	5	1
4	5	1	2	3
2	3	5	1	4
1	2	3	4	5
5	1	4	3	2

Here's why Taylor turns off social media comments

Singer Taylor Swift, who turns 30 this December, has made it clear that she will not put up with sexist interview questions.

During an interview, a reporter asked Swift if she felt like settling down and having children later this year.

To this, Swift replied, "I really do not think men are asked that question when they turn 30. So, I'm not going to answer that question now."

According to Fox News, the singer also explained what turning a decade older meant to her. "I hear others say that one in his thirties no longer has as much stress and anxiety in life as in my twenties. And I can join in the observation that we are in our twenties looking to gain experience, try things out, fail, make mistakes," the Love Story and Shake It Off singer said.

Swift, who had earlier this year written a piece in a UK magazine about her learnings from interacting on online platforms, also discussed the pitfalls of social media.

"Social media can be great, but it can also inundate your brain with images of what you aren't, how you're failing, or who is in a cooler locale than you at any given moment," Swift said.

"One thing I do to lessen this weird insecurity laser beam is to turn off comments. That way, I'm showing my friends and fans updates on my life,
but I'm training my brain to not need the validation of someone telling me how I look. I'm also blocking out anyone who
might feel the need to tell me to 'go die in a hole ho' while I'm having my coffee at nine in the morning," she added.

She also revealed that since social media has contaminated her views and private life, she now keeps her romance with actor Joe Alwyn (The Favourite, 2018) private.

"For too long, the projected opinions of strangers affected how I viewed my relationship. Whether it was the general internet consensus of who would be right for me, or what they thought was 'couples goals' based on a picture I posted on Instagram. That stuff isn't real. For an approval seeker like me, it was an important lesson to learn to have my own value system of what I actually want," the singer added.

ANI

Taylor Swift says that for far too long, the opinions of strangers affected how she viewed her relationships

PHOTO: STEVE MARCUS/REUTERS

MOVIES ON TV

HBO

How To Train Your Dragon at 1145

EDITOR'S PICK

1145 How To Train Your Dragon
1320 Transformers: Dark of The Moon
1613 Shooter
1823 Mission Impossible - Fallout
2100 Ready Player One
2329 No Strings Attached

STAR MOVIES

Men in Black II at 1907

1031 Cars 3
1223 Avengers: Age of Ultron
1501 The Expendables 3
1723 The Hills Have Eyes 2
1907 Men in Black II
2050 Deadpool 2

WB

The Exorcist at 1031

1031 The Exorcist
1204 IP Man 3
1350 Collateral Damage
1535 Unaccompanied Minors
1703 Armour of God II
2100 Chips

UTV MOVIES

Shola Aur Shabnam at 2000

1100 Mr Bechara
1400 Dashing Jigarwala 2
1700 Thalaivaa The Leader
2000 Shola Aur Shabnam

&pictures

Golmaal – Fun Unlimited at 1043

1043 Golmaal – Fun Unlimited
1352 Loafer
1650 Time Story
2000 Singam 3
2305 Hollow Man

ZEE CINEMA

Shiva The Super Hero at 0935

0935 Shiva The Super Hero
1207 Phir Hera Pheri
1525 Welcome
1842 Rogue
2100 Surya The Soldier
2345 Tabahi Zulm Ki

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WHEN A BACHELOR PAD BECAME A FAMILY HOME

Neil Nitin Mukesh with wife Rukmini and daughter Nurvi (inset)
PHOTO: VIRAL BHAYANI

Neil Nitin Mukesh reveals how parenthood has transformed his house and his lifestyle

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/NEILNITINMUKESH

Rishabh Suri

Imagine you get yourself the best bachelor/bachelorette pad made, are all set to move in, and on the very day you are supposed to shift, you get engaged! And subsequently, it becomes a 'family home'. This is actor Neil Nitin Mukesh's story, and he's happy as he reveals to us, "Life has changed for me completely after becoming a father, in a good way. I was telling my wife Rukmini the other day that I had just finished the interiors of my bachelor pad, and as luck would have it, the day it was completed, I got engaged! Ever since then, it's become a family home."

The couple was blessed with a baby girl, Nurvi Neil Mukesh, in September last year. "Now I have a pram," Neil continues, "bottles of milk, baby toys and a girl who has got pink all around, so it's nothing like a bachelor pad. It's quite contradictory to the taste of interiors I had got done. Getting out at night with friends and telling them 'I have a deadline to get back home, I have my baby'... it's a little bit of a responsibility on myself. I am more concerned about myself as a parent. There's some nervousness, too. It's part and parcel of being a dad. I still can't digest it... it's like I have got a new buddy in town!"

And his daily routine has also undergone a massive change. "There are late nights, waking up and babysitting, preparing milk, and changing diapers is part of my daily routine. She's keeping me on my toes, and quite demanding in that sense," adds Neil, whose last film outing was Golmaal Again (2017).

His next is the big-budget multilingual film Saaho, and apart from that, he has two more films lined up for release.

"Besides Saaho, I have my first home production, Bypass Road, which I've written and my brother is directing. Then, I have another film, Firrkie, which is in post-production stage right now."

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Series creator James Cameron and (below) Gabriel Luna in a still from Terminator: Dark Fate, the seventh film in the franchise

'DARK FATE IS A FAST WHITE-KNUCKLE RIDE'

Filmmaker James Cameron says the upcoming instalment in the Terminator franchise is grimmer and grittier than its predecessors, and they are hoping to get an R-rating for it.

The 64-year-old is producing the new film, called Dark Fate. Directed by Tim Miller (Deadpool, 2016), it will retcon the events of the last three instalments — Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (2003), Terminator Salvation (2009) and Terminator Genisys (2015).

Cameron considers the film to be a direct sequel to 1991's Terminator 2: Judgement Day. "I think, tonally, what makes this a direct sequel to T1 and T2 is as much about the tone as it is about the narrative: It's R rated, it's grim, it's gritty, it's fast, it's intense, it's very linear," the filmmaker said.

"The whole story takes place in 36 hours. It's not this kind of grandiose, complex story. It's just very focused on the characters, it's very now, it's very present and it's just a fast white-knuckle ride," he added.

PTI

Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif in a still from the song, Chashni

PHOTO: HTCS

A musical journey

Salman Khan's much awaited movie, Bharat, is all set to release on June 5. The Ali Abbas Zafar directorial promises to be an entertainer embedded in the soulful journey of a man and his nation. An Eid release, Bharat will show Salman in six different avatars, ranging from a young circus champion to a 60-year-old man who sports grey hair, which is reflective of the journey the film promises. The movie's songs have managed to strike a chord among the audiences. The music of the film has been composed by the musician duo, Vishal-Shekhar, who have let the essence of the country breathe in the tracks.

While the first song, Slow Motion, in the backdrop of a circus, showcases Disha Patani's sizzling chemistry with Salman; the second track, Aithey Aa, set against a wedding background, is a celebratory tune. There is also the romantic number, Chashni, featuring Katrina Kaif. Zinda, another song from the film, has become the marching anthem of the season, along with Turpeya. Each song brings a different journey, and the soulfulness of the album is what makes Bharat stand out.

"The response to the music has been extremely positive. This is my third collaboration with Vishal-Shekhar and Irshad Kamil (lyricist) and we are very happy with the response the songs have received. Now, a lot of people are going for remixes rather than creating original music. But, after seeing the response Bharat's songs have got, we are only determined to work harder and create better melodies in our coming ventures," says Ali.

The upcoming film is a period drama, written and directed by Ali Abbas Zafar. Bharat is produced by Atul Agnihotri, Alvira Agnihotri, Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar, under the banner of Reel Life Production Pvt Ltd and Salman Khan Films, and is presented by T-Series.

HTC

'Whatever I wear, I don't make a fool of myself'

Shreya Mukherjee

Those who follow Neena Gupta on Instagram would agree that the actor's fashion sense is on point. Even at 62, nothing stops her from experimenting with her looks.

"That's me... I love experimenting with different styles. Also, the event or occasion I'm attending makes me think [about] what I should wear," says Neena, asserting that her "personal style has evolved over the years".

With a daughter like Masaba, who is an acclaimed fashion designer, Neena definitely is spoilt for choices. "Besides my own sense of style, Masaba is someone who gives me ideas and tips. That's a plus. She makes me wear her designs quite often, so that way I am sorted. If she is shopping, she will send me photos and ask if I want something. I do the same," shares the Badhaai Ho (2018) actor.

Neena is quick to add that there are phases in terms of style that she goes through quite often. "There would be times I just want to wear salwar kameez and then there are sari days. There are also days when I want to wear pants, jeans, dresses... but, whatever I do and wear, I make sure I don't make a fool of myself," says Neena, who has always been "very open" to new age fashion.

And that's why women her age often compliment Neena on her style sense and some even call her a fashion inspiration. "It feels really special when people look up to you. I think it's very important to dress according to your body and age. That makes a lot of difference," says Neena, and continues, "You should be able to carry whatever you wear, so, confidence is essential. Right now, I'm in that phase where I want to wear jeans and tucked-in shirts, but I can't because I have a tummy."

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> I love experimenting with different styles. Also, the event or occasion I'm attending makes me think [about] what I should wear.
> **NEENA GUPTA** ACTOR

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/NEENA_GUPTA

The long night is coming: Kit checks into therapy after GoT

The end of Game of Thrones seems to have hit Kit Harington hard as the actor has checked into a rehabilitation centre to receive treatment for stress, exhaustion and alcohol use.

According to PageSix, the 32-year-old checked into a luxury health retreat in Connecticut, US, weeks before the finale aired on May 19. He played Jon Snow across eight seasons on the epic fantasy show.

Harington has been undergoing cognitive behavioural therapy, meditating, and practising other psychological exercises to better cope with the stress.

"The end of GoT really hit Kit hard... He realised, 'This is it, this is the end'. It was something they had all worked so hard on for so many years. He had a moment of 'what next?' He's in the clinic predominantly for stress and exhaustion and also alcohol. His wife Rose (Leslie) is being extremely supportive. Everyone close to him really wanted him to get some rest. Right now, he just needs peace and quiet," a source close to the actor told the outlet.

Harington's rep said that the actor has "decided to utilise this break in his schedule as an opportunity to spend some time at a wellness retreat to work on some personal issues".

The actor had previously admitted that he had to resort to therapy to deal with his character's brief death in the show, which he said was his darkest time.

"I felt I had to feel that I was the most fortunate person in the world, when actually, I felt very vulnerable. I had a shaky time in my life around there — like I think a lot of people do in their 20s," the actor had told Variety recently.

"That was a time when I started therapy, and started talking to people. I had felt very unsafe, and I wasn't talking to anyone. I had to feel very grateful for what I have, but I felt incredibly concerned about whether I could even f***ing act," he had added.

PTI

Kit is undergoing cognitive behavioural therapy, meditating, and other psychological exercises to better cope with stress

> IT'S BEING SAID THAT THE ACTOR IS HAVING A 'WHAT NEXT?' MOMENT AFTER THE END OF THE SHOW. HE UNDERWENT SIMILAR STRESS WHEN HIS CHARACTER ON THE SHOW BRIEFLY DIED

PHOTO: FOTOCORP

Why a supernatural show was the 'best choice' for Debina

Sangeeta Yadav

Actor Debina Bonnerjee, who was last seen playing an antagonist in Santoshi Maa in 2017 after which she went on a small break, is gearing up for her comeback with a supernatural show.

"I thought that instead of doing something serious, I would rather do something that the audience wants to watch, and it will get more TRPs, too. Considering how supernatural shows have become such a big hit on television that many are even coming up with seasons two and three, I thought it was the best choice," says Debina.

While many actors slam the genre, Debina feels there is a "huge liberty to enact" in these shows. "Unlike any other daily soap, here, you can act differently in different kind of situations. The characters look hot yet dangerous. It catches the imagination of the people watching the show and the suspense keeps them on the edge, guessing."

Many a times there have been complaints of an overdose of supernatural shows, with the public calling them irrelevant and not relatable. To this, the actor says, "TV is still considered to be the biggest mode of entertainment, especially in tier 2 and tier 3 cities. We can't forget that audience, and for them, the supernatural genre make for the best entertainment."

However, she is quick to add, "For today's youth and those glued to the web, TV's content is very backward. They would rather watch Game of Thrones, Kingdom, and Korean and British dramas as the digital space provides international exposure to entertainment."

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> Instead of doing something serious, I'd rather do something that the audience wants to watch, and it'll get more TRPs, too.
> **DEBINA BONNERJEE** ACTOR

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We're meeting about it: Reese Witherspoon on Legally Blonde 3

Reese Witherspoon
PHOTO: JOEL RYAN/AP

Actor Reese Witherspoon has given an update on the third instalment of her Legally Blonde franchise.

During her appearance on the Ellen Show, Witherspoon said the team is still discussing the film. "We're meeting about it. I mean, we're definitely talking about it. I don't know. Do you guys want to see 'Legally Blonde 3'?" Witherspoon asked the audience.

"I mean, it's sort of about women being underestimated and I think it's a good idea — that things have changed, but not that much has changed!" she added.

The 43-year-old actor had kick-started the series with 2001's Legally Blonde, where she played the idealistic Elle Woods who follows her boyfriend to Harvard Law School in order to win him back.

A sequel, titled Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde, was released in 2003 and saw Elle travel to Washington, D.C. to fight against animal testing.

In June last year, Witherspoon had announced that she will be reprising her role in a threequel, which would hit the theatres on Valentine's Day in 2020.

Witherspoon's production company is expected to produce the film.

PTI

A still from the movie Legally Blonde

A SHOT OF TEQUILA HELPS ALBA FILM LOVE SCENES

Jessica Alba
PHOTO: WILLY SANJUAN/AP

'It's disgusting most of the time,' Jessica Alba said of the scenes

Actor Jessica Alba says it's weird doing love scenes and that she has to take a tequila shot beforehand. The actor, 38, opened up about the topic on a podcast alongside husband Cash Warren, 40.

She cited two Hollywood actors she has worked with to illustrate the point, reports dailymail.co.uk. "I think Pierce Brosnan and Bruce Willis are very attractive gentlemen... but it's like, weird," said Alba, who worked with Brosnan in 2014's Some Kind of Beautiful, and with Willis in 2005's Sin City.

The mother-of-three differentiated between a romantic encounter in one's personal life, and one on a film set in which "nothing about it is alone in a room", and can go on for 15-16 hours.

"When you're choosing to want to be with someone in that way... it's very intimate," Alba said. "You're breathing on someone, it's all there, you're smelling the skin...you wanna choose whom you're doing that with, and you gotta really like, pretend."

The actor said that "sometimes it's days and days of the same thing, and you have to recreate that moment every time, recreate the peak of your intimacy from this angle and that angle and this angle and that angle ... and by the way, everyone's right here." The Dear Eleanor (2016) actor said she has to take tequila shots prior to such encounters. "I'm gonna say I'm unprofessional, 100% because I feel like really good entertainment people don't have to do that," she explained.

IANS

'First X-Men movie led by women is coming at the right time'

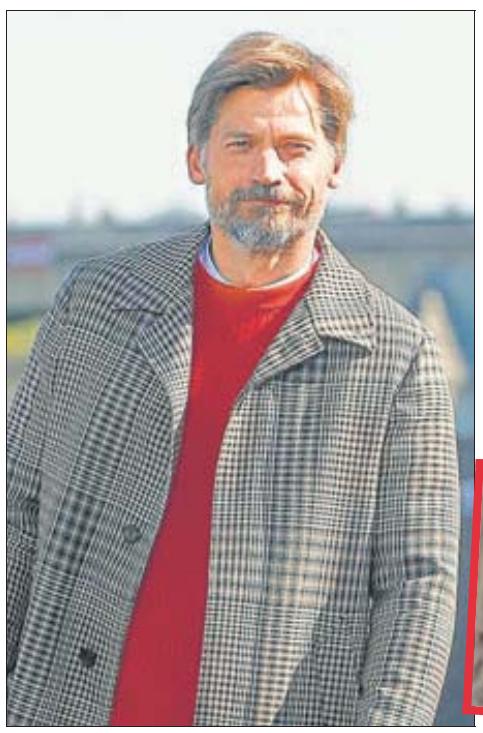
Sophie Turner
PHOTO: DANNY MOLOSHOK/ REUTERS

Actor Sophie Turner, who plays the role of mutant Jean Grey in the upcoming film, X-Men: Dark Phoenix is shocked by the fact, that none of the earlier movies in this popular franchise were led by women. During an interview, the 23-year-old actor finds it "incredible" the film will give a "less important" role to men. "All the female characters in this movie are the strongest characters. We have a female protagonist, a female antagonist, all while the female protagonist is also somewhat of an antagonist. And it's all about her relationships, Jean's relationship with the females throughout this movie, which is really very interesting," she says and adds, "None of the women in this movie is subservient to a man, which is incredible. It's crazy to think that this is kind of the first X-Men movie led by women. That's really exciting to me and especially to Jessica. It comes at exactly the right time as well."

The film also stars James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, Nicholas Hoult, Tye Sheridan, Alexandra Shipp, Kodi Smit-McPhee, Evan Peters, and Jessica Chastain.

HTC

GoT's Nikolaj wants an Arya Stark spin-off show



Nikolaj Coster-Waldau PHOTO: MICHEL EULER/AP

Game of Thrones star Nikolaj Coster-Waldau says he wants Maisie Williams' Arya Stark to feature in her own spin-off of the hit series. The actor, who played Jaime Lannister in the epic fantasy drama, said he is rooting for the faceless warrior as she embarks on her journey to the west of Westeros in the season finale.

"That episode, it was amazing! I really thought it was a great ending. And Arya!" Coster-Waldau said in an Instagram video. The 48-year-old actor also gave a nod to the in-the-works prequel, tentatively titled The Long Night, and the viral online petition to redo the series with "competent writers". "I know they're doing all these prequels, but what about the sequel? With Arya? How about — I'm just throwing something out here — how about a petition? An online petition that they do a sequel with Arya Stark," he added.

Meanwhile, the network's programming president Casey Bloys has confirmed that a Game of Thrones spin-off based on Arya Stark is not on HBO's list of potential sister shows. "I don't want to take characters from this world that they did beautifully and put them off into another world with someone else creating it. I want to let it be the artistic piece they've got. That's one of the reasons why I'm not trying to do the same show over," he told The Hollywood Reporter.

PTI

A still from the show GoT featuring Maisie Williams as Arya Stark

Bridget Jones 4? 'If they call me, I'll go running'

A still fromBridget Jones's Baby

Renee Zellweger says she would love to reprise her iconic role as Bridget Jones in the fourth follow-up in the series. The actor said she would want to see what the character is up to after she got a somewhat fairytale ending in the most recent Bridget Jones's Baby (2016). "(It could be) 'Bridget Jones: The Menopause'," Zellweger, 50, joked. "No, I know Helen's (Fielding) written the book, and I love this character. So, I mean, if they call me, I'll go running," she said in an appearance on The Talk.

Based on Helen Fielding's book series, the first two films in the franchise are — Bridget Jones's Diary (2001) and Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason (2004). The author's Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy, which was published in 2013, is yet to be adapted for the screen.

PTI

Renée Zellweger
PHOTO: TASIA WELLS/AFP

Patty frustrated about Wonder Woman 1984's delay

A still from Wonder Woman; Right: Patty Jenkins
PHOTO: WILLY SANJUAN/AP

Director Patty Jenkins says the wait for Wonder Woman 1984 has been "frustrating".

The release of the follow-up to 2017's DC hit Wonder Woman, fronted by Gal Gadot, was pushed back from a November 2019 release to June 5, 2020.

According to DigitalSpy, a video of Jenkins is doing the rounds in which she can be heard saying how she jokingly once said she wanted the film to be out in summer 2020.

"I can't wait! I can't believe — it's so funny, for all the entire time that we were making the movie, I was lobbying. They were wanting to move it up much earlier. And I was like 'You guys, it's got to be the summer of 2020, like it's got to be!' And that was what I always wanted "And now, I've just screened a version of the film and I'm like 'Oh my God, can we move it back up again?' I'm dying to release this film! But of course it's good and it's fine, but it's frustrating to have to wait," she says in the clip.

Wonder Woman 1984 also stars Chris Pine, Kristin Wiig, Pedro Pascal, with Connie Nielsen and Robin Wright in supporting their roles.

PTI

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4 PAGES

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019

weather

HIGH 44°C LOW 26°C

FORECAST: CLEAR SKY

Sunset on Thursday 7:18pm

Sunrise on Friday 5:22am

IF NOT A PROTAGONIST'S CHARACTER, RAVI DUBEY SAYS HE WON'T DO THE SHOW »htcity p4

'AT THE END, IT'S ABOUT YOUR VOICE' »htcity p3

I'M DISASTROUS AT SOCIAL MEDIA: JOHN

SAYS READING PEOPLE'S COMMENTS CAN MAKE ONE SICK »htcity p3

shortstories

LAST DATE FOR PU GOLDEN CHANCE TEST IS JUNE 6

CHANDIGARH: The PU has extended the last date of golden chance given to all professional courses/undergraduate/post-graduate courses to complete the degree (compartments/reappear/improvement/additional subject), from May 20 to June 6. The examinations will be held in June 2019. **HTC**

Extended contact event ends at Dev Samaj College

CHANDIGARH: The IGNOU team of Dev Samaj College of Education, organised an extended contact programme for students of the post graduate diploma in higher education, which concluded after 10 days on Wednesday. IGNOU regional director Anil K Dimri, assistant regional directors Nurul Hasan and Savita Panwar, and college principal Agnese Dhillon were present on the occasion. Students participated in interactive sessions, discussions and field trips during the programme. Participants and academic counsellors also gave their feedback towards the session's end. **HTC**

CCPCR observes No Tobacco Day

CHANDIGARH: The Chandigarh Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the education department celebrated World No Tobacco day with poster-making, slogan-writing and theatrical competitions for children on Wednesday. Government and private schools students participated in the programme, with 26 teams performing plays on drug abuse, POCSO Act and child labour. **HTC**

Punjabi varsity seeks ₹120 cr as bailout package from state

FINANCIAL CRISIS In its budgetary allocation for 2019-20, the university had proposed a budget of ₹717 crore against an income of ₹344 crore; the deficit is pegged at ₹373 crore

Navrajdeep Singh

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PATIALA: With it's financial crisis soaring day-by-day, the Punjabi University, Patiala, is seeking a monetary bailout package of ₹120 crore from the Punjab government in order to stabilise the condition of its exchequer.

For this, the university is planning to prepare a detailed proposal and send it to the state government at the earliest. The monetary crisis can be gauged from the fact that the expected expenditure this year was calculated to be more than double of the total expected income.

In its budgetary allocation for 2019-2020 financial year, the university had proposed a budget of ₹717 crore, against an income of ₹344 crore. The deficit was pegged at ₹373 crore. Moreover, presently, the university has an overdraft of ₹132 crore, which is expected to touch ₹150 crore by the end of this year.

The state government had provided two one-time grants of ₹100 crore each in the past two years to improve the financial condition of the university.

Vice-chancellor (V-C) Prof BS Ghuman said that another grant-in-aid of ₹120 crore will help the university in large scale to release the financial burden.

The university is planning to prepare a detailed proposal and send it to the state government for approval. HT FILE

"Earlier financial aids from state government helped in reviving university finances. Another onetime fund will bring back varsity's financial condition back on track," V-C Ghuman said.

He added that they have discussed the matter with finance committee of the university and the finance department will prepare a detailed proposal at the earliest.

"We are hopeful that the state government will provide required funds," Ghuman said.

Last year, in an attempt to bail the varsity out from the financial crunch, the state government had increased the annual grant of the university from ₹88 crore to ₹93.37 crore. Even in this year's annual budget, state finance minister Manpreet Singh Badal had announced a 6% increase in the annual grant for the varsity.

FOCUS BACK ON OWN FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The university's focus is back on banking upon its own income generation resources, mainly funds collected from admissions.

In the upcoming academic session, the varsity officials are putting in sincere efforts to increasing admissions in all courses on campus and at the satellite institutions including neighbourhood campuses and regional centres.

This is for the first time that the V-C is himself monitoring the admission process.

"We have thoroughly worked out a plan in past three months and come up with strategies to improve admissions in all courses. We have changed the syllabus of professional courses and made them employability-centric. We are approaching schools and social media for admissions," Ghuman said.

He added that in order to produce skilled professionals, the department has taken feedback from companies that carried out placements in the past two years, regarding the performance of students so that capacity building programmes can be carried out accordingly.

Of the total proposed income of ₹344 crore in 2019-2020 financial year, the university is expecting to generate ₹226 crores from its own resources, mainly examination fee, university tuition fee, funds and security amounts of students, fee collection from distance education courses, registration and revaluation fee and other fees.

Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh addressing a meeting with public works department officials in Chandigarh on Wednesday. HT PHOTO

Captain gives nod to Patiala ring road construction plans

HT Correspondent

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PATIALA: With an aim to decongest Patiala, Punjab chief minister (CM) Captain Amarinder Singh gave an in-principle approval for the construction of a ring road around the city, connecting Sirhind road and Bhadson road, leading up to Nabha road till Sangrur. The decision was taken during a meeting in Chandigarh on Wednesday.

The CM has asked principal secretary public works department (buildings and roads), Hussan Lal, to immediately take up the pending issues related to Patiala Ring Road project with the Union ministry of road transport and highways to ensure timely completion of the project.

During the meeting with the PWD officials in UT, the CM also gave nod to another ring road project that will connect Sirhind road to the industrial zone. He sanctioned another 200-ft wide small southern ring in the South-East direction of Patiala, connecting Rajpura road with the southern bypass and Sanaur road, as per the master plan.

Captain underlined the importance of creating a network of ring roads around major cities. He said that it was imperative to divert non-city traffic to the outskirts to ease out the vehicular movement in the inner city roads.

"In the master plan, the concept of ring roads was conceived in view of future growth trends due to urbanisation, economic growth, synchronisation with planned development, and for smooth and safe movement of city and external traffic," he said.

A spokesperson said that the Union minister of road transport and highways has already agreed to consider construction of ring roads around major cities including Sangrur, Bathinda, Jalandhar, Patiala, Mohali, Chandigarh and Ludhiana.

"The state government has also given its consent to bear 50% cost on account of land acquisition. The cost of construction, including 50% acquisition cost, will be borne by the Union ministry," the spokesperson added.

A district-level committee was constituted to suggest possible ring road alignments to the state-level committee. The state panel includes additional chief secretary (ACS, revenue), ACS (housing and urban development), principal secretary (finance) and secretary public works (B&R) as members for assessing land acquisition and project feasibility.

The district level committee was formed under the chairmanship of Patiala deputy commissioner Kumar Amit, and had chief administrator of Patiala Development Authority (PDA), district town planner, Patiala municipal commissioner and executive engineer central works division as it's members.

The state-level committee was mandated to recommend suitable alignments to the Union ministry of road transport and highways.

The meeting was attended by Punjab housing and urban development minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, PWD minister Vijay Inder Singla, media advisor to CM Raveen Thukral, ACS finance Kalpna Mittal Baruah, principal secretary to CM Tejveer Singh, principal secretary housing and urban development A Venu Prasad, principal secretary PWD Hussan Lal, Patiala DC Kumar Amit, CA Patiala PDA Surbhi Malik and CTP Punjab Gurpreet Singh as well.

Four traffic cops suspended for extorting money from commuters

HT Correspondent

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INSTEAD OF ISSUING CHALLANS TO THE VIOLATORS, THE ACCUSED TRAFFIC COPS USED TO TAKE CHARGE ₹200-500 FROM THEM

PATIALA: Four traffic police officials, including the Patiala traffic in-charge, have been suspended for allegedly harassing commuters and extorting money from them.

The suspended traffic cops include traffic in-charge, inspector Karnail Singh; assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Swaran Singh; and head constables Bhupinder Singh and Gursharan Singh.

Patiala senior superintendent of police (SSP) Mandeep Singh Sidhu said that they received numerous complaints against the ASI and both the head constables regarding the three being involved in corrupt activities and harassing commuters in the names of fine for traffic violations. "The trio used to setup checkposts with speed radar to keep check on overspeeding vehicles on the Patiala- Sangrur bypass. Instead of slapping fines against violators, the said traffic police personnel used to take ₹200-500 from each one of them," the SSP said.

SSP Sidhu said that in order to catch them red-handed, a special team of police personnel, led by an inspector-level officer, were sent on a sting operation.

"The traffic cops signalled the team to stop on the bypass and demanded money from them. At this, the police (in civvies) arrested and brought them to the district police headquarters," the SSP added.

Meanwhile, the SSP said that traffic in-charge Karnail Singh was also suspended owing to lack of supervision.

"Despite repeated complaints, he was deploying the same personnel again and again on speed radar duty. An inquiry has been ordered against all suspended personnel," SSP said.

He added that we have asked SP (traffic) Satvir Singh and deputy superintendent of police (DSP) Manvir Singh for written explanation on their lack of supervision.

NOT A FIRST

On February 19, three traffic cops, including an assistant sub-inspector (ASI), were suspended with immediate effect for allegedly seeking ₹100 bribe at traffic signals.

The action was taken following a Facebook post by Manjit Kaur Aulakh, widow of Punjabi writer Ajmer Singh Aulakh, of Mansa, who had written that she and her colleague were mentally harassed by the Patiala traffic police when they were travelling from Mohali to Mansa, via Patiala. She had claimed that the deployed traffic cops had demanded ₹100 from them for no reason.

PU-CET: Applicants can complete filling forms by June 4

HT Correspondent

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CHANDIGARH: Candidates, who had deposited their fee for Panjab University common emtrance test (CET) for post-graduate (PG) entrance test-2019 well in time but could not complete their forms online, can contact the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Computer Centre, Panjab University (PU), Chandigarh, to complete their forms up to June 4 till 4pm.

Candidates should also bring a scanned photograph along with a scan of their signature in a pen drive along with a fine of ₹500.

From hereon, no further communication in this regard will be entertained.

Man gets 5-yr jail for sexual assault

HT Correspondent

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CHANDIGARH: A local court on Wednesday awarded five-year imprisonment to a 35-year-old man for sexual assault on a 16-year-old girl.

Kishan Pal, 35, a labourer from Dhanas, was found guilty under Section 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 10 (aggravated sexual assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act even as the FIR had mentioned Section 12 (sexual harassment) of POCSO.

The court also imposed a fine of ₹1.5 lakh on him.

The case dates back to July 28, 2018. The minor told her mother that Pal used to show her lewd pictures and videos, and upon resisting, he would beat her up and commit "wrong acts". He allegedly also threatened her with dire consequences if she confided in anyone.

Following this, the mother along with a paralegal volunteer visited the woman and child helpline centre and lodged a complaint. During trial, the defence counsel alleged the mother wanted to marry the accused, and when he refused, she concocted a false story. However, after the arguments, court held Pal guilty.

Goods worth ₹30,000 stolen from a house

CHANDIGARH: Thieves struck at a house here and decamped with cash and valuables worth ₹30,000 on Wednesday. Shambhu Lal, of Delhi, told the police that he had rented his house and had kept some belongings in a room.

His tenant Anil Kumar called him and said that the door of his room was broken and everything was ransacked. SI Anant Ram said Lal came from Delhi and found ₹8,000 cash, 250gm silver, a camera and other valuables missing. Based on Lal's complaint, police have registered a case under Sections 380 (theft) and 457 (lurking house-trespass) of the Indian Penal Code, and initiated investigation. **HTC**

NABHA FARMER ENDS LIFE BY JUMPING INTO CANAL, 2 BOOKED

HT Correspondent

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NABHA: A 55-year-old farmer from Bhadson in Nabha has allegedly committed suicide by jumping into a canal near Chirnarthal village.

Police found the body from Agroha in Haryana on Tuesday.

They also recovered a suicide note after which, the cops have booked two men, hailing from Uttar Pradesh, for abetment to suicide.

Bhadson station house officer (SHO) Jaigpal Singh said that the deceased owned land in Uttar Pradesh. He and the accused — Rajvir Singh and Gurpreet Singh, of Pawaaiya village in Sahjaan distict of UP — were fighting litigation in multiple cases.

In the suicide note, the deceased claimed that the accused had framed fake cases against him and had extorted ₹4 crore from him by threatening him and his nephew.

The SHO said that investigation is on and a case has been registered under Section 306 (abetment of suicide) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) against both the accused on the basis of the suicide note and a complaint filed by the deceased's son, Harinder Singh.

Police said that a postmortem was conducted and the reports are awaited.

YELL-OH SHELTER

Commuters driving past an Amaltas tree on a sunny afternoon in Patiala on Wednesday. BHARAT BHUSHAN/HT

19-year-old stabbed to death by friends

MOHALI: A 19-year-old youth was allegedly stabbed to death by his friends following a heated argument after they met to consume liquor at a vacant plot in Balongi on Tuesday night, police said on Wednesday. The reason behind the murder is not yet clear.

Victim Sunny Paswan, who had dropped out of school after Class 10, had come from Uttar Pradesh to stay with his parents in Ambedkar Colony, Balongi, two months back, said police.

"Around 10pm, his friends Amit and Duleep called him outside. The family says Sunny was reluctant to go, but the duo insisted," said an investigating official. Sunny reportedly told his family not to wait for him as he was going to sleep at a friend's place.

The three were later joined by two others, identified as Chander Dadu and Vivek, and the five had several rounds of drinks at a vacant plot of TDI Group near Ambedkar Colony, probe revealed. What happened thereafter is not clear. Sunny was stabbed twice in his back and stomach, said an official, privy to the matter on the condition of anonymity. "The reason is yet to be ascertained. However, before he was attacked, a heated argument took place," he said.

Sunny's father, Makkurtan Paswan, has alleged that Amit and Duleep are habitual troublemakers and have been found on the wrong side of the law earlier too. Police have registered a case under Sections 302 (murder) and 34 (acts done by several persons with common intention) of Indian Penal Code (IPC) against the accused, who are absconding. Cops also seized a couple of items related to the case from the crime spot. **HTC**

Appoint wardens on seniority basis, say PU teachers' union

Srishti Jaswal

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CHANDIGARH: In a letter addressed to vice-chancellor Raj Kumar, Panjab University Teachers' Association (PUTA) has requested to address the issue of 'appointment of hostel wardens on the basis of seniority as per last year's practice to avoid arbitrariness.'

In the letter, PUTA says the applications have already been invited from eligible teachers. "The process is supposed to be completed by the end of this month, but strangely the appointments have not been made till date when the university is about to close for summer vacation after two days," the letter reads.

"The hostel wardens may be appointed without following the principle of seniority, in an arbitrary manner. Such a step would be extremely detrimental in view of the fact that last year, PUTA raised this issue and pressed upon the authorities to appoint wardens on the basis of seniority among the applicants, which was adopted and all appointments of wardens were made solely on the principle of seniority in a transparent manner," it further reads.

Panjab University Teachers' Association requested the V-C "to complete the task of appointment of wardens on the principle of seniority without any further delay." PU V-C, however, was unavailable for comments citing a busy schedule.

PUTA president Rajesh Gill said, "This is a prerogative of the vice-chancellor as per the university calendar. However, last year we changed the norms and appointments were carried out on the basis of seniority instead of pick and choose."

A POST WITH BENEFITS

A committee comprising dean student's welfare (DSW) as chairman, PUTA president and DSW (women) appoints the wardens. Gill said, "This is a prestigious appointment for teachers at the level of assistant professors as they come into the power circle. The warden doesn't just have administrative powers but also financial powers."

Dean student's welfare Emanual Nahar said, "Around 18 applications have been submitted the dean university instructions (DUI) office for boys' hostel warden position, out of which two will be selected; and around 6 for the girls' hostel warden position, out of which one will be selected. We are expecting that a decision might be taken tomorrow."

He said, "While judging who is the best fit for the role, seniority is given preference, while other things are also taken into consideration like the capability of the teacher or if the teacher can devote time for this role. Many of the applicants are already chairpersons, how will they devote time?"

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Syndicate remains adjourned for 2 hours over term of PU DSWs

DIVIDED HOUSE The V-C didn't want to extend tenures of the three deans of student welfare, wanted new appointments instead

Arshdeep Arshi
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CHANDIGARH: It was another day of high drama at Panjab University as the syndicate meeting on Tuesday remained adjourned for nearly two hours.

Vice-chancellor Raj Kumar did not want to recommend extension of one year in tenures of dean students' welfare (men) Emanual Nahar, DSW (women) Neena Capalash and associate DSW Ranjan Kumar even though the syndicate unanimously recommended it.

Sources said even the agenda was revised in the morning itself. Earlier, the meeting was to discuss the extension in tenure of the three officials but the revised agenda was on appointment of three new officials, but the V-C did not have any names.

The terms of the three officials were to end on May 31, 2019.

The syndicate has recommended one year's extension to the three and the final nod will be taken by the senate. The syndicate further decided that the three will continue on the same posts till the senate's decision.

The V-C said he did not want to recommend their extension and wanted new appointments but the syndicate unanimously wanted otherwise. Sources said the V-C pleaded with the syndicate to listen to him.

Sources said the V-C came to terms with the decision but there was a stalemate over the officials' continuing till the senate's decision and the meeting was adjourned for nearly two hours.

The members later said the syndicate was superior to the V-C and the V-C could not choose to ignore what had been decided by the syndicate.

FEE WAIVER FOR TRANSGENDERS

The syndicate had earlier decided to remove the condition of not holding a protest for full fee waiver to the transgender students. On Tuesday, the syndicate decided to have the same rules on scholarships for transgender students as for other students.

Syndic HS Dua said the condition of asking for an affidavit whether the transgender students live with their parents should be removed. A committee was formed to review the examination fee and other charges for 2019-20.

SYNDICATE TO CONTINUE WITH DISAFFILIATION NOTICE TO LUDHIANA'S SDP COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

HT Correspondent
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CHANDIGARH: Panjab University syndicate on Tuesday decided to continue with the disaffiliation notice to SDP College for Women, Ludhiana, which was served around a week ago.

The syndicate also proposed to instate university representatives in the management of Devki Devi Jain Memorial College for Women and Atam Vallabh Jain College, of Ludhiana, for smooth functioning of the institutes.

The discussion on reports filed by the inspection committees on mass irregularities and exploitation of teaching and non-teaching staff at the three colleges was first taken up in the syndicate meeting held in February.

The colleges were asked to submit replies on non-compliance with conditions. SDP College had submitted a reply saying PU was harassing them. A letter was sent to the college that these allegations were wrong.

The college was then sent a disaffiliation notice under regulation 11.1. The replies of other two colleges were discussed in the syndicate meeting on Tuesday.

In the senate meeting on Sunday, senators said SDP College even dismissed some of the teaching staff and it was threatening others along with non-teaching staff.

The syndicate members felt that the case of SDP College for Women was different from the other two and they decided to continue with the notice served to the college.

IRREGULARITIES IN MANAGEMENT

In SDP College for Women, an inspection committee found that no guideline of PU/Directorate of Public Instructions (Colleges)/University Grants Commission (UGC) was being followed. Salary of the staff had not been paid for the last six months and annual increments were denied for the past three years.

In Atam Vallabh Jain College, the inspection panel found irregularities in DA (dearness allowance), house rent allowance, provident fund (PF) and salary of the staff.

In Devki Devi Jain Memorial College, the panel found irregularities in maternity leave, pay scale, house rent allowance, among other things.

A syndicate member said, "We decided to go ahead with the notice served to the Ludhiana college which may lead to disaffiliation."

The members said the idea is not to stop the colleges' working but wherever there is scope for improvement, the university should help them bring things in order.

20 SENATORS WRITE FOR SPECIAL MEETING

Around 20 senators have written for convening a special meeting to review the transfer of a principal from Swami Ganga Giri Janata Girls College, Raikot, to Arya College, Ludhiana, that they think is not as per rules.

Earlier, 19 senators had written to convene a special meeting and the syndicate had rejected it. The senators had once again asked to fix the date.

The syndicate decided it was not possible to hold special meetings for various reasons including financial ones.

Punjab education minister OP Soni (centre) honouring a teacher at the Punjab School Education Board office in Phase 8, Mohali, on Tuesday. HT PHOTO

Principals, teachers honoured for good results in PSEB Class 10, 12

HT Correspondent
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MOHALI: Punjab education minister OP Soni on Monday honoured teachers and principals of the department for giving excellent results in the Sangrur and Ludhiana districts for Classes 10 and 12 of the Punjab School Education Board (PSEB).

> Apart from teaching ethical values, teachers must make sure students take part in extra curricular activities.
> OP SONI, Punjab education minister

Speaking at the function held at PSEB office here, the minister said good results played an important role in building the future of the students. The teachers apart from teaching ethical values to the students must make sure the students took part in extra curricular activities, he said.

He said vacant posts should be filled soon, and the department had fulfilled most of the demands of teachers' unions.

Praising education secretary Krishan Kumar, he said the officer had worked hard to bring the best results. Others present on the occasion included director general Mohammad Tayaib, PSEB vice-chairman Baldev Sachdeva and SCERT director Inderjeet Singh.

Talking to media, the minister said, "We will not spare the guilty helper-cum-conductor who raped a four-year-old girl in Dhuri town in Punjab's Sangrur district." The rape took place on May 26 triggering protests by against the school management and the local administration.

Fresh status report sought by July 17

bmw murder
AKANSH SEN CASE

HT Correspondent
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CHANDIGARH: The Punjab and Haryana high court on Tuesday sought a fresh status report from the UT police on the probe in the Akansh Sen murder case.

Sen, a relative of former Himachal Pradesh chief minister Virbhadra Singh, was allegedly run over by a BMW car following a brawl in Sector 9 on February 9, 2017. Harmehtab Singh Rarewala, grandson of former chief minister Gian Singh Rarewala, and Balraj Singh Randhawa, son of a former sarpanch of Fatehgarh Sahib, are accused in the case.

The status report, filed by UT police counsel Gautam Dutt in a sealed cover, was presented during the resumed hearing of a petition by Randhawa's mother Ramanjit Kaur seeking CBI probe. The report was sealed again after perusal, and a fresh one was sought by July 17, the next date of hearing. Dutt also informed the court that the trial in the case against Harmehtab will be concluded by June 4.

The UT had recommended probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe in April 2018. However, the request was turned down, and now a UT police SIT is probing the case.

In February this year, the CBI had told the high court that a red corner notice has been issued against Randhawa. The red corner notice is issued by Interpol apprising the member countries about a wanted person. In India, CBI deals with issuing of red corner notices against offenders, wanted in different states. As per the police, Randhawa has fled abroad.

Gangster Sampat Nehra sent to 3-day custody

CHANDIGARH: In an attempt to murder case, gangster Sampat Nehra on Tuesday was produced in the district court that sent him to a three-day police custody. Nehra was brought on production warrants from Patiala jail.

The case dates back to December 31, 2016, when an FIR under Sections 341, 307, 34 of the IPC and Sections 25, 27, 54, 59 of the Arms Act was registered against him.

The complainant Sandeep Singh, a Mohali resident, said while going to Manimajra to buy spare parts of JCB machine, he noticed the accused and his aides following his car. Fearing an attack, he tried to escape the area but was attacked with pistol, rods and sticks, Singh alleged. He said though Nehra shot a bullet but it hit his car and he managed to run away from the spot and hid in transport BDC, Sector 26.

Police, on investigation, recovered one bullet shell from the spot. Later the police arrested Sudhir Kumar from Kaithal on December 31, 2016; Shiv Narain from Panipat on January 2, 2017; Vijay Kumar from Panipat on January 2, 2017. From them, weapons used in offence were also seized. The matter will come up for hearing on May 30. HTC

Schedule for admission into UT colleges revised

HT Correspondent
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CHANDIGARH : UT education department on Tuesday finalised the admission schedule for various city colleges.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) declared the results for Class 12 on May 2 while those of Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) were declared on May 7, after which the directorate of higher education started deliberation on admissions.

The forms for admissions to various centralised courses will be released on June 4. The last day for applying to city colleges will be June 26. In line with last year, this year too, online centralised admissions for BCom, BBA, BCA, BSc (medical) and BSc (non-medical), BSc (microbial) and BSc (biotechnology) will be conducted in 11 city colleges.

For admissions to humanities courses, individual colleges will release subject wise cutoffs for BA.

Revised admission schedule

Approved by the directorate of higher education, here is the revised schedule for admission into city colleges:

Release of prospectus:	Last date of filling up of forms:	Display of provisional merit list:
June 4	June 26	June 30
Notification of discrepancies:	**Display of final merit list:**	**For sports certificate gradation:**
July 2	July 6	June 27 & 28, 9am onward, at GGDSD College, Sector 32

Non-issue of admit cards in govt art college leads to students' protest

CHANDIGARH: A high drama was witnessed outside the Government College of Art, Sector 10-C, on Tuesday as students locked the college main gate to protest against the administration for not issuing admit cards to them despite Panjab University (PU) having already done so.

A student of the college Gurinder Singh said, "Because of the authorities, students might lose an entire year."

College superintendent said 10 first year students and two final year students have very low attendance, and cannot be allowed to sit for the exam. HTC

THREE HELD FOR GANGRAPE OF 19-YR-OLD

HT Correspondent
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MOHALI: Two days after three youths were booked for gangraping a 19-year-old girl in Kharar, police on Tuesday arrested the trio, Karanveer Singh, 21, of Sirhind, Kamaljot Singh, 22, and Gurwinder Singh, 22, of Bassi Pathana, from Fatehgarh Sahib.

Police said the accused were on one-day police remand and will be presented before a court on Wednesday.

The victim, a student of a college in Fatehgarh Sahib, had alleged that she knew one of the accused, who took her to Ansal Orchard, a housing society in Kharar, on March 23, where the other two accused were staying. She alleged they gave her a soft drink laced with a sedative and gangraped her.

On the basis of a zero FIR registered at Fatehgarh Sahib, the Kharar police had booked the trio under Section 376-D (gangrape) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

GMCH-32 to take over Sector 48 civil hospital

Munieshwer A Sagar
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CHANDIGARH : The Chandigarh administration has decided to bring the newly constructed civil hospital in Sector 48 under the Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), Sector 32.

Stating that the administration wants better health care services in the city, UT adviser Manoj Kumar Parida, said, "The GMCH will soon shift four of its departments to the 100-bed civil hospital, which help expand GMCH capacity and make the civil hospital functionally effective."

Parida said in order to not affect the functioning of the medical college, the departments of psychology, ENT (ear-nose-throat), dermatology and radiology will be shifted to the civil hospital, expectedly by the end of June.

Built at an estimated cost of ₹28 crore on a 1.73-acre plot, the civil hospital was planned to cater to the medical needs of southern part of the city. Inaugurated in March this year, the four-storey building spread over 1,20,000 sq ft has provisions for parking in basement, OPD, labs, doctor's room, chemist shop, paramedical facilities etc.

Earlier the UT health department was to run the civil hospital, but with appointments of 80 new doctors held up with the Union health ministry for several months now, the administration was to choose between the GMCH and the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) to take over the facility. Finally, after rounds of meetings with the two institutions, the administration finalised the GMCH.

WHAT'S ON THE CARDS

- GMCH will get additional strength of 100 beds under its charge
- The college will be able to increase postgraduate seats by 50 and super-specialty seats by two
- The Sector 48 facility will get doctors and staff, fresh recruitment for which has been held up with the Union ministry of health for several months

BOOST TO GMCH

Parida said with the 100-bed facility becoming the part of GMCH, the latter will be able to fulfil the requirement of 750 beds to be able to increase the number of post-graduate (PG) and super specialty (MD) seats in the college.

GMCH, in fact, required an additional 60 beds as per the guidelines of the Medical Council of India, and will now be able to increase PG seats by 50 and MD seats by two.

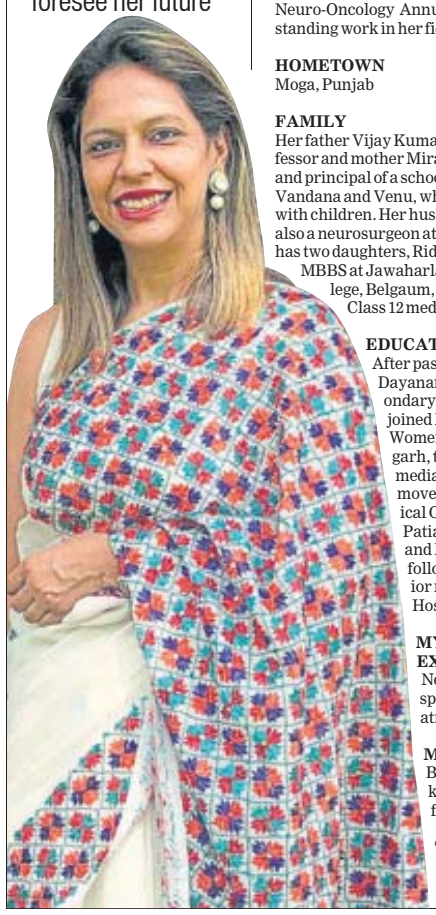
Moreover, the area adjacent to the civil hospital has faculty houses, hostels of the paramedical staff and nurses, which will be useful for the GMCH.

MADE IN CHANDIGARH

VAISHALI SURI, 47, NEUROPATHOLOGIST

It's a perfect city that gave me a platform to widen my horizons

DOC ON CALL An MCM DAV College for Women alumna, this neuropathologist says studying in Chandigarh enabled her to foresee her future



WORK
An eminent neuropathologist from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Dr Vaishali Suri has made significant contributions in the field of neuro-oncology. Her primary work is related to the development of comprehensive approaches to understanding the biology of paediatric central nervous system (CNS) tumours and to establish markers to enable their early diagnosis and prognostication. Dr Suri has more than 200 publications in national and international journals. She has been honoured with the Dr NC Nayak Award for Talented Young Pathologist, Herbert Cross Gold Medal and Indian Society for Neuro-Oncology Annual Award for outstanding work in her field.

HOMETOWN
Moga, Punjab

FAMILY
Her father Vijay Kumar Sood is a retired professor and mother Mira Sood is the owner and principal of a school. She has two sisters Vandana and Venu, who are happily married with children. Her husband Dr Ashish Suri is also a neurosurgeon at AIIMS. The couple has two daughters, Ridhi, who is studying MBBS at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Belgaum, and Asmita, who is a Class 12 medical student.

EDUCATION
After passing Class 10 from Dayanand Model Senior Secondary School, Moga, Dr Suri joined MCM DAV College for Women, Sector 36, Chandigarh, to complete her intermediate studies. Then she moved to Government Medical College and Hospital, Patiala, to pursue an MBBS and MD in pathology; and followed it up with a senior residency at GB Pant Hospital, New Delhi.

MY AREA OF EXPERTISE
Neuropathology with special interest in paediatric brain tumour.

MY SECRET SAUCE
Believe in yourself and keep going, things will find their way.

THE MANTRA OF SUCCESS IN YOUR PROFESSION
Get married to your work. Make sure you are 100% dedicated with not even 1% distraction. If you love your work and stay focused, there's nothing that can stop you from becoming successful.

THE TURNING POINT
There are two major turning points in my life. The first was moving to Chandigarh: The city brought me in touch with reality, it gave me a platform to widen my horizons, and to foresee my future. Another turning point was getting married: My husband has always supported me and helped me become a better professional.

WHAT I OWE TO CHANDIGARH
I was very raw when I moved to this city. Chandigarh helped me grow as a person. It helped me develop my personality and establish individuality.

THINGS I LIKE TO DO WHEN I VISIT CHANDIGARH
I usually visit the city to attend medical conferences. When I am in Chandigarh, I make sure I meet my friends and other city-based professionals. I enjoy eating out and go shopping. I love buying saris from here.

HOW HAS THE CITY CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?
Chandigarh hasn't changed much. It still has the same warmth it had 20 years ago. The flavour and charm of the place is still intact. The city is complete in itself, you will find everything here. Back in time, if I had an opportunity, I would have loved to settle here.

THE CHANGE I WOULD WANT TO SEE IN THE CITY
How do you change something that is already perfect? I want Chandigarh to stay as it is. However, we should focus on maintaining the heritage and class the city has.

THE BEST ADVICE I'VE EVER GOT
My guru Swami Vedanta Nand Maharaj advised me not to ignore work as it gave me bread and butter. He said one should never be arrogant of one's achievements but be grateful to God for showering kindness. The game of destiny is stronger than our existence, he said.

MY ADVICE TO YOUNGSTERS IN MY FIELD
This is the time to work hard and achieve all your dreams! If you deviate now, you will be lost. Life's journey is long. If you are diligent and focused in present, you will reap the benefits all your life.

AS TOLD TO RIBHA SOOD

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John Abraham feels reading comments on yourself can make one fall sick

I'M DISASTROUS AT SOCIAL MEDIA

John Abraham
PHOTO: RAAJESSH KASHYAP/HT

Sangeeta Yadav

John Abraham loves to hibernate, at least when it comes to social media. Unlike most other actors, he prefers to maintain a low profile and gets active only when he has a film up for release or when he has to talk about a cause close to his heart. A self-professed animal lover, John says, he "loves to use social media to post about animals". Last seen in Romeo Akbar Walter this year, the actor admits it's a "conscious choice" to not post anything and everything on social media but use it very discreetly to "draw positivity and goodness around". The 46-year-old, who is currently recovering from an injury he suffered while shooting for his next, Pagalpanti, reveals why social media isn't his thing, especially when it comes to sharing about his personal life. Excerpts:

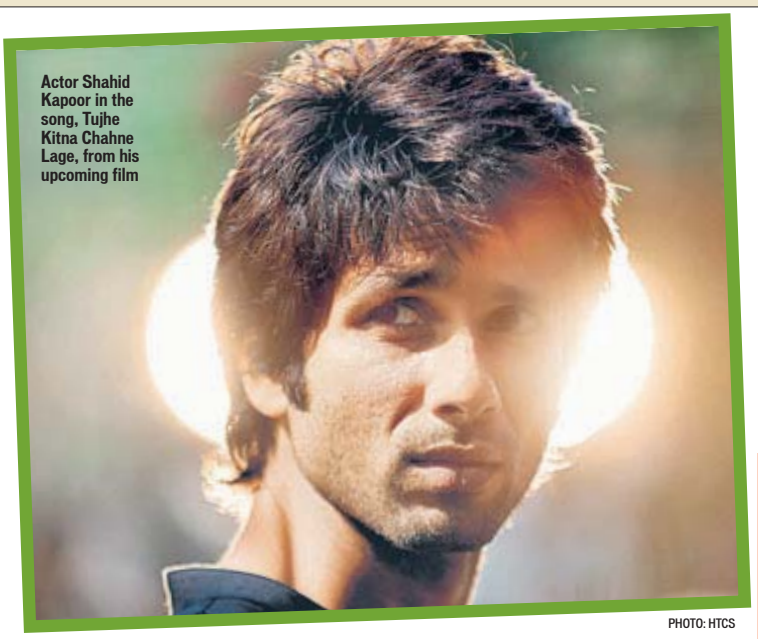
Unlike your colleagues in the film industry, you are barely active on social media. Why?
My primary focus is my craft — acting. I aim to do more good, credible work. I need to keep improving every day, learn something and better myself. I don't see how social media could contribute to my internal growth and acting. Of course, it helps to connect with people, but I like to stay connected with people offline.

Why do you maintain that you won't post anything about your personal life on social media?
That's because I'm disastrous at it. I don't say things just to make a statement or news or in a bid to start a fad in the industry. Also, I don't feel the pressure of making a statement online. I'm okay doing nothing on social media.

What would you say about others who are constantly giving a peek into their lives through such platforms?
It is unfortunate how, for most actors, the virtual world has become real. Everyone is busy creating their virtual identity and giving constant updates on their lives instead of working on the craft. Also, some people do get influenced and try to become what they are not. But I'm very clear that for me, the real world is the touch-and-feel world, not the virtual world.

One thing about social media that bothers you the most?
There is more negativity than positivity. Though celebrities are the centre of attention on the internet and have a huge fan following, if you read comments about yourself for half an hour, you'd probably fall sick.

What about trolls? Have they kept you away?
I don't even look at them. If I do read once in a while, I don't take them seriously because people who're criticising you have no face, and probably fake their identity, too. I never feel the urge to reply. They can say whatever they want to.



Actor Shahid Kapoor in the song, Tujhe Kitna Chahne Lage, from his upcoming film

PHOTO: HTCS

Kabir Singh's latest song presents Shahid's new look

Ever since the teaser, trailer and first song of the upcoming film, Kabir Singh, were released, they have been well-received by the audience. And actor Shahid Kapoor's portrayal of the title role has a lot to do with that. The actor is being applauded for his sheer intensity and performance.

After unveiling the film's first song, Bekhayali, which has already become a love anthem for the new generation, the makers, T-Series and Cine1 Studios, are all geared up to reveal the film's second song that will be released tomorrow.

The new song, Tujhe Kitna Chahne Lage, will showcase Shahid in a new look, altogether. In fact, it's after a long time that viewers will see Shahid in a clean-shaven avatar. This persona of Shahid will complete the actor's three diverse looks in this Sandeep Reddy Vanga-directed film.

> Shahid will appear in a never-seen-before avatar in Kabir Singh.
> **BHUSHAN KUMAR**, PRODUCER

The producers of the film are excited to unveil this new look to the audience. "Shahid will appear in a never-seen-before avatar in Kabir Singh," says producer Bhushan Kumar. Producer Murad Khetani adds, "Shahid has moulded his different looks according to the character."

Producer Ashwin Varde concludes by saying, "This new look is a bonanza for all his fans."

Kabir Singh is a T-Series and Cine1 Studios presentation. Starring Shahid Kapoor and Kiara Advani, the film is directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga and produced by Bhushan Kumar, Murad Khetani, Krishan Kumar and Ashwin Varde. It releases on June 21.

HTC

Ellen DeGeneres
PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

STOP PRESS

ELLEN DEGENERES RECOUNTS ASSAULT BY HER STEPFATHER

Comedian-host Ellen DeGeneres has recalled being sexually assaulted as a teen, by her stepfather. In an upcoming episode of David Letterman's show, My Next Guest Needs No Introduction, she said it started after her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, reports cnn.com. "He told me when (my mom) was out of town that he'd felt a lump in her breast and needed to feel my breasts," she recalled. "I'm angry at myself, I was too weak to stand up...I was 15 or 16," DeGeneres said. **IANS**

HUMA QURESHI JOINS ZACK SNYDER'S ARMY OF THE DEAD

Actor Huma Qureshi has boarded the cast of filmmaker Zack Snyder's next directorial, Army of the Dead. The 32-year-old joins Dave Bautista in the project, which will mark Snyder's return to directing after a gap of two years, a streaming platform has announced. **PTI**

Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif in a still from the song, Chashni

PHOTO: HTCS

A musical journey

Salman Khan's much awaited movie, Bharat, is all set to release on June 5. The Ali Abbas Zafar directorial promises to be an entertainer embedded in the soulful journey of a man and his nation. An Eid release, Bharat will show Salman in six different avatars, ranging from a young circus champion to a 60-year-old man who sports grey hair, which is reflective of the journey the film promises. The movie's songs have managed to strike a chord among the audiences. The music of the film has been composed by the musician duo, Vishal-Shekhar, who have let the essence of the country breathe in the tracks.

While the first song, Slow Motion, in the backdrop of a circus, showcases Disha Patani's sizzling chemistry with Salman; the second track, Aithey Aa, set against a wedding background, is a celebratory tune. There is also the romantic number, Chashni, featuring Katrina Kaif. Zinda, another song from the film, has become the marching anthem of the season, along with Turpeya. Each song brings a different journey, and the soulfulness of the album is what makes Bharat stand out.

"The response to the music has been extremely positive. This is my third collaboration with Vishal-Shekhar and Irshad Kamil (lyricist) and we are very happy with the response the songs have received. Now, a lot of people are going for remixes rather than creating original music. But, after seeing the response Bharat's songs have got, we are only determined to work harder and create better melodies in our coming ventures," says Ali.

The upcoming film is a period drama, written and directed by Ali Abbas Zafar. Bharat is produced by Atul Agnihotri, Alvira Agnihotri, Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar, under the banner of Reel Life Production Pvt Ltd and Salman Khan Films, and is presented by T-Series.

HTC

'At the end, it's about your voice'

Rishabh Suri

Singer Papon believes in quality over quantity. Maybe this is why he has been slow when it comes to playback singing for Bollywood films. Moh Moh Ke Dhaage (Dum Laga Ke Haisha; 2015) and Kyun (Barfi!; 2012) remain his best known songs.

He tells us, "I've come a long way. And there's one thing that has always stuck: Do something if you are sure you will do a good job, and if you connect with it. It should be something of your taste and challenge you. You should not [just be] interested in increasing numbers and take up anything that comes your way. There's a sense of pride there. That's why I do less."

Papon got into mainstream Bollywood music with Jiyein Kyun from Dum Maaro Dum in 2011. Times have changed drastically, and one of the changes has been how for musicians, singers specifically, good appearance has also become a priority, apart from singing well.

We ask Papon, whose latest project is a song about river conservation for a web series, whether he feels the same, and he says, "I don't believe in that. You won't find a seasoned musician doing that. It's more with the newcomers. The reason for that is they want to break into the market. It's definitely momentary. But at the end of the day, if your voice itself doesn't have soul or your music doesn't have what's required, it'll fade away."

Talking about the new song, he says, "I see beautiful rivers turning gray, loaded with pollution. If we won't save it, we won't be leaving anything for our kids."

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Papon's latest project is a song about river conservation for a web series

We need more Indian origin storytellers, says Divyansh

Abhinav Verma

At just 22, Delhi-born Divyansh Sharma has won more than 30 awards at various film festivals across the world for his first directorial venture, Graffiti. Divyansh, who lives in Los Angeles (US) wrote, directed, acted, and edited the short film, which is about a spoken word artist trying to come to terms with the loss of a loved one. Excerpts:

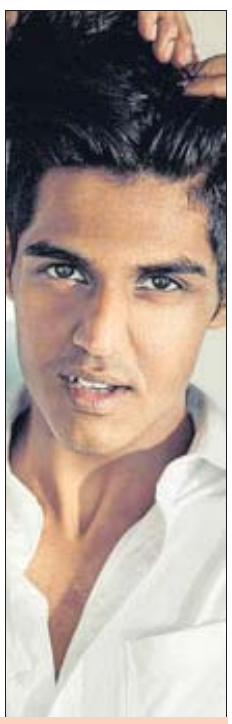
What was the idea behind Graffiti?
Actors are always asked to dig deep into our personal memories to channel emotions. To put these memories on display seemed selfish to me because those memories are just as much ours as the person we made them with. I thought spoken word would be a great medium to explore this idea. So, I birthed Michael Dawson, a spoken word artist who can only write about the woman he loved who had passed away. The project ended up tackling more universal themes, such as love, moving on, and forgiveness.

The perception of Indians in the acting community seems to be a rigid one. Why is that so and how can the stereotype be broken?
I think the sentiment of this question goes way beyond the Indian community. There's a whole movement going on with African American storytelling in Hollywood, with a simple idea — we cannot expect a white man to tell a story about African American experience. Similarly, we cannot expect an accurate representation of Indians from non-Indian writers in Hollywood. Unless we have more Indian origin writers telling their stories, we will always be pigeonholed into Appu from The Simpsons. It's like Gandhi's quote: Be the change you wish to see.

What are the challenges you have faced so far?
The biggest challenge so far has been being seen as a choice for more than just an Indian character.

What's your opinion on the concept of social justice and the rise of political correctness in movies?
I feel like people are inherently smart and we are open to ideas as long as we communicate them with respect and care. That's really what it comes down to: respect for other people's ideals and choices without sacrificing belief and faith in yours. And the beauty of art is that it is always open to interpretation, and as times change, art changes and ages with it.

Any plans for Bollywood? Tell us about your favourite Bollywood actor and movies.
I love to tell stories and if there is a story I am right for, I would gladly offer my services. I love Aamir Khan's work. Dangal was amazing. Indian cinematic storytelling has found a new voice on streaming services as well. Sacred Games was one of my favourite series, and Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Saif Ali Khan's work in it was nothing short of brilliant.



> We can't expect an accurate representation of Indians from non-Indian writers in Hollywood. Unless we have more Indian origin writers telling their stories, we will always be pigeonholed into Appu from The Simpsons.
> **DIVYANSH SHARMA** ACTOR-FILMMAKER

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DAILY HOROSCOPE

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019

Astrologer Prem Kumar Sharma can be contacted at: Delhi: 011-47033152, 40532026 (Sat to Mon): Panchkula: 91-172-2562832, 2572874 (Tues to Thurs); Mumbai: 09223376963 (Last week of every month)

YOU SHARE YOUR BIRTHDAY WITH

CeeLo Green: The American singer-songwriter, known for songs such as Crazy, Forget You and Smiley Faces, turns 44 today.

ARIES
(MAR 21 - APR 20)

Minor health issues might make you feel low. A loan not being paid in time might cause you some trouble. Your competence and outgoing nature is likely to draw attention of those who matter to you on the professional front. On the family front, excellent bonding with parents will encourage you to share even your personal thoughts and desires. Some of you might find it difficult to commute to work today.

Love Focus: Not getting positive response from someone you have a crush on might be upsetting. You may need to move on.

Lucky Number: 6 Lucky Colour: Grey

TAURUS
(APR 21 - MAY 20)

A treatment prescribed needs to be followed to maintain good health. You are likely to achieve stability on your financial front. Distractions can make you lose your focus at work and can pose problems in undergoing an important training. A lot of encouragement from the family is in store for those wanting to do something different. A train journey will be like never before because of the wonderful company.

Love Focus: Developing feelings for someone will get you on cloud nine. But are you sure it's love or just infatuation?

Lucky Number: 8 Lucky Colour: Forest Green

GEMINI
(MAY 21 - JUN 21)

Health remains perfect as you stay abreast with your exercise and fitness regime. You need to be extra careful in planning something important on the financial front. Help from a friend or associate might prove huge in sharing an official workload and completing it successfully. Someone in the family may advice you on something important, so don't reject it out of hand. Today, it is better not to discuss or deal in any property matter.

Love Focus: Special attention received from someone is likely to make you feel extra special about yourself.

Lucky Number: 22 Lucky Colour: Blue

CANCER
(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

You are likely to enjoy good health today. Mounting expenses can compel you to search for newer ways of making money. You are likely to struggle to keep pace at work. You are enjoying a good phase of life with family at present and will continue to do so. The wanderlust within you will get wings to fly as a new travelling opportunity comes your way. Booking a flat in the best location will make you content.

Love Focus: For young lovebirds, popping the question at the right time is important if you don't want to go through a rejection.

Lucky Number: 18 Lucky Colour: Lemon

LEO
(JULY 23 - AUG 23)

Eating right is the key to your good health and will keep you keep fit and energetic. You will have enough to buy a thing that is expensive. Those aspiring for a promotion or raise might have difficulty in achieving their objective. This is the best time to go forth and grasp something that has been eluding you previously in your social circle. A new place is likely to be explored by some.

Love Focus: Nothing much happening on romance front might dishearten you. But remember your true goal.

Lucky Number: 1 Lucky Colour: Light Yellow

VIRGO
(AUG 24 - SEPT 23)

Keeping cool and calm even in stressful situations will help retain peace of mind. Money might pose some problem today and might let you restrain from over spending. You will feel most satisfied with something that you have achieved on the professional front. A favour done by someone in the family needs to be reciprocated quickly. Some urgent task might keep you occupied and disturbed during a vacation.

Love Focus: Lover will be at your beck and call, so you are likely to enjoy a wonderful time today.

Lucky Number: 15 Lucky Colour: Crimson

LIBRA
(SEPT 24 - OCT 23)

Reaping the benefits of good diet and fitness is likely as you get back to shape. Extra money can tempt you to indulge in luxury. Too much work may compel you to devote some extra hours. You are likely to realise that not devoting enough time towards family has its detriments. Bad roads and too much traffic jam are likely to make you go crazy on the road today. A property by inheritance cannot be ruled out for some.

Love Focus: Closeness to a colleague or class fellow can turn into a budding romance for some.

Lucky Number: 2 Lucky Colour: Peach

SCORPIO
(OCT 24 - NOV 22)

Health remains satisfactory today. You may find yourself in a dilemma on the financial front – to splurge with friends to remain in their circle or save money and become odd one out. Professional front remains critical as an important file goes missing. Hosting a party just to meet friends and relations is possible. Cancelling a much awaited official tour abroad may come as a great setback for some.

Love Focus: Strong emotional bonds with someone you have a liking for can culminate into a long-term relationship.

Lucky Number: 11 Lucky Colour: Lemon

SAGITTARIUS
(NOV 23 - DEC 21)

A changed diet may not have the desired effect on your shape, so try avoiding it. Earnings need to be invested wisely or you may end up dissipating them. A good initiative taken on the work front will aid you in future. Being unduly harsh to a family member will spoil everyone's mood. Taking undue pressure regarding a long journey will not be good for you at all. Focusing on property might not be possible today.

Love Focus: Foul mood of lover may need to be countered fast to avoid any escalation.

Lucky Number: 17 Lucky Colour: Navy Blue

CAPRICORN
(DEC 22 - JAN 21)

Barring some minor concerns, health remain fine today. Wealth may come to you from various sources. At work, something entrusted to you will be completed with utmost efficiency. On the family front, the eligible might have to wait till they get lucky in finding their life partner. Those looking at peace and tranquillity might take a break and go on a vacation. Property front remains moderate without much ado.

Love Focus: Those in long-distance relationships are likely to face trouble in their paradise.

Lucky Number: 3 Lucky Colour: Rosy Brown

AQUARIUS
(JAN 22 - FEB 19)

Being conscious about what you eat and drink is the need of the hour. You might need to be level-headed, where finances are concerned to cater for rainy day. You are likely to swim with the tide on the professional or academic front. Your burning desire to get ahead is likely to be motivated by family. Chance of going abroad on an official tour cannot be ruled out. A property you were positive about might not fetch you enough.

Love Focus: Love life remains satisfactory as you focus on other things that are equally important and hold significance in your life.

Lucky Number: 9 Lucky Colour: Magenta

PISCES
(FEB 20 - MAR 20)

Don't implement anything unless you are certain of its financial implications. You will put in the required efforts on the professional front to reap rich rewards. Meeting people in the social circle whose company you enjoy is likely to become a reality soon. A good opportunity to visit a childhood friend living in a different city may come true for some. You are also likely to earn good returns on the property front today.

Love Focus: Those of you feeling unlucky in love should not lose heart as something positive is going to happen soon.

Lucky Number: 4 Lucky Colour: Violet

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If not a protagonist, Ravi Dubey says he won't do the show

Rishabh Suri

Television has for long been called a women-centric medium, and rightfully so because the stories revolve around female characters. Also, daily soaps cater to homemakers, according to the popular notion. Actor Ravi Dubey, however, believes that male characters, too, have a considerable role to play.

"TV has been my bread and butter for 16-17 years. I am very discreet with my projects and take up only those I believe in, whether it was the initial phase of my career or now. My take on TV is in sync with the kind of commitments I have been a part of. I am lucky I was part of awesome shows such as Saas Bina Sasural, which did really well, or Ranbir Rano, which had both the guy's and the girl's name in the title. Also, I have got to be the protagonist, not just the lead. You set some rules for yourself," says Ravi, who has of late been busy with producing Punjabi films and hosting reality shows.

Unlike people who criticise a show after taking it up, he says, "You signed up for it, now you can't complain. There's no dearth of roles... you did something you didn't resonate with. After Saas Bina... got over, producers offered me various roles at premium fees but I couldn't find myself resonating with the idea that I am not the protagonist, and, hence, didn't associate with them."

He goes on to add, "Four years later, Jamai Raja happened. It was a disruptive show, in the sense that it had a man in the centre. Jamia Raja didn't do well just in Hindi but was remade in Bangla, Odiya and Arabic, and was dubbed in Indonesia, Germany and Thailand, where it became very popular as well."

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7		1		2				
					3		6	7
			8				9	4
3			6				7	
	1						2	
	4				5			8
1	3				6			
8	7		3					
				1		8		9

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9X9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

SCRAMBLE - 3101

Solve the four anagrams and move one letter to each square to form four ordinary words

KPEEO
CEEIN
NRSUGP
GINOGK

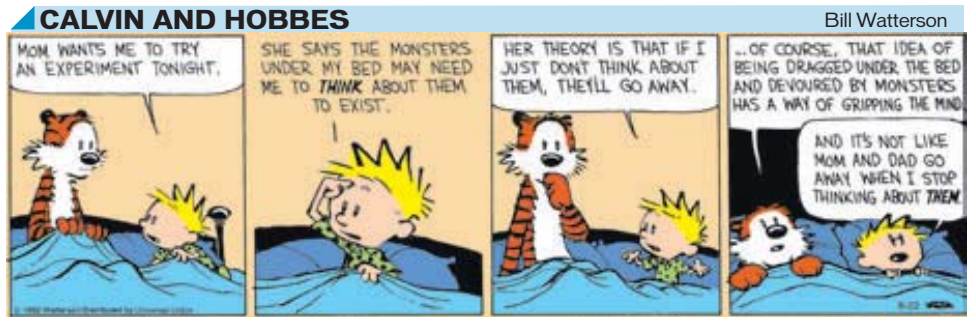
Now arrange the letters marked with an asterisk (*) to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing words as indicated.

If you're __ through hell, __ __
- Churchill (5,..,4,5) (one word twice)

SCRAMBLE SOLUTION: Pekoe, niece, sprung, gingko
ANSWER: If you're **going** through hell, **keep going** - Churchill

CALVIN AND HOBBES

Bill Watterson



MATHDOKU

Place numbers into the puzzle cells so that each row and column contains each of the digits from 1 to 5. No number is to be repeated in any row or column. Each bold-outlined cells contain a hint of a number and one of the mathematical symbols + x - /. The number is the result of the operation represented by the symbol to the digits contained.

DID YOU KNOW?

The song Yeh Dil Na Hota Bechara from 1967's Dev Anand-starrer Jewel Thief was sampled from the theme of 1957's The Bridge on the River Kwai.

SOLUTION SUDOKU

9	3	8	4	1	7	5	2	6
1	5	6	2	9	3	4	7	8
2	4	7	8	6	5	3	1	9
8	1	3	9	5	2	6	4	7
6	9	4	7	3	8	2	5	1
7	2	5	6	4	1	9	8	3
3	8	9	1	7	4	5	6	2
4	6	2	5	8	9	1	3	7
5	7	1	3	2	6	8	9	4

SOLUTION MATHDUKU

3	4	2	5	1
4	5	1	2	3
2	3	5	1	4
1	2	3	4	5
5	1	4	3	2

Here's why Taylor turns off social media comments

Singer Taylor Swift, who turns 30 this December, has made it clear that she will not put up with sexist interview questions.

During an interview, a reporter asked Swift if she felt like settling down and having children later this year.

To this, Swift replied, "I really do not think men are asked that question when they turn 30. So, I'm not going to answer that question now."

According to Fox News, the singer also explained what turning a decade older meant to her. "I hear others say that one in his thirties no longer has as much stress and anxiety in life as in my twenties. And I can join in the observation that we are in our twenties looking to gain experience, try things out, fail, make mistakes," the Love Story and Shake It Off singer said.

Swift, who had earlier this year written a piece in a UK magazine about her learnings from interacting on online platforms, also discussed the pitfalls of social media.

"Social media can be great, but it can also inundate your brain with images of what you aren't, how you're failing, or who is in a cooler locale than you at any given moment," Swift said.

"One thing I do to lessen this weird insecurity laser beam is to turn off comments. That way, I'm showing my friends and fans updates on my life,
but I'm training my brain to not need the validation of someone telling me how I look. I'm also blocking out anyone who
might feel the need to tell me to 'go die in a hole ho' while I'm having my coffee at nine in the morning," she added.

She also revealed that since social media has contaminated her views and private life, she now keeps her romance with actor Joe Alwyn (The Favourite, 2018) private.

"For too long, the projected opinions of strangers affected how I viewed my relationship. Whether it was the general internet consensus of who would be right for me, or what they thought was 'couples goals' based on a picture I posted on Instagram. That stuff isn't real. For an approval seeker like me, it was an important lesson to learn to have my own value system of what I actually want," the singer added.

ANI

Taylor Swift says that for far too long, the opinions of strangers affected how she viewed her relationships

PHOTO: STEVE MARCUS/REUTERS

MOVIES ON TV

HBO

How To Train Your Dragon at 1145

EDITOR'S PICK

1145 How To Train Your Dragon
1320 Transformers: Dark of The Moon
1613 Shooter
1823 Mission Impossible - Fallout
2100 Ready Player One
2329 No Strings Attached

STAR MOVIES

Men in Black II at 1907

1031 Cars 3
1223 Avengers: Age of Ultron
1501 The Expendables 3
1723 The Hills Have Eyes 2
1907 Men in Black II
2050 Deadpool 2

WB

The Exorcist at 1031

1031 The Exorcist
1204 IP Man 3
1350 Collateral Damage
1535 Unaccompanied Minors
1703 Armour of God II
2100 Chips

UTV MOVIES

Shola Aur Shabnam at 2000

1100 Mr Bechara
1400 Dashing Jigarwala 2
1700 Thalaivaa The Leader
2000 Shola Aur Shabnam

&pictures

Golmaal – Fun Unlimited at 1043

1043 Golmaal – Fun Unlimited
1352 Loafer
1650 Time Story
2000 Singam 3
2305 Hollow Man

ZEE CINEMA

Shiva The Super Hero at 0935

0935 Shiva The Super Hero
1207 Phir Hera Pheri
1525 Welcome
1842 Rogue
2100 Surya The Soldier
2345 Tabahi Zulm Ki

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